

Baptist Herald

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE



"I'm a Cameroons' Boy!"

November
27
1958

Number 24

■ Centenary Jubilee of
Victoria, Africa

■ 75th Anniversary of
Board of Missions

March



• More than 400 members of the Church of the Brethren, joined by members from India, Nigeria, and Ecuador, and friends in Germany, celebrated the 250th anniversary of the church with special ceremonies in Kassel, Schwarzenau and Berleburg, Germany, from August 2-7. The church, which now has about 250,000 members in the United States, had its beginning in Schwarzenau in 1708.

• Youth for Christ International will hold its 4th annual Mid-Winter Convention, Dec. 2-4, 1958, at the Sovereign Hotel in Chicago, according to Dr. Ted W. Engstrom, president of the organization. The main feature of the convention program will be the launching of the organization's 15th anniversary "Miracle Year" program for 1959. Several hundred Youth for Christ workers from the United States and Canada will attend the convention.

• A 30-year old Protestant missionary in Paraguay was speared and killed by savage Morro Indians of the Chaco, Paraguay, whom he was trying to win to Christianity. The victim, Rev. Cornelius Isaak of Fernheim, served under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. He and several fellow missionaries were attempting to establish friendly contact with the Morros, who have terrorized other Indians and Mennonite colonists in the northwestern part of the country.

—The Watchman-Examiner

• For the thirteenth consecutive year the National Association of Evangelicals is providing worship material for the World Day of Prayer for churches desiring a service with a Bible-centered emphasis. The World Day of Prayer is scheduled for February 13, 1959. "Let Your Light So Shine . . ." is the title of the booklet being offered. The theme emphasizes Christian witnessing. The title is taken from the words of Jesus as recorded in the gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5, verse 16. The material has been prepared by Dr. Merrill C. Tenney, Dean of the Graduate School of Wheaton College, with an introduction by Dr. Armin Gesswein, chairman of the Spiritual Life Commission of the NAE and well-known for his revival-prayer conferences.

• A famous old London, England, church in the Strand—St. Clement Danes, whose bells ring out the nursery rhyme "Oranges and Lemons"—is now restored to fresh beauty. It has been dedicated to the Royal Air Force and many of the other flying forces in the world. The new organ is the gift of the U.S. Third Air Force and at the entrance to the church is a "book of remembrance" with the names of

16,000 U. S. airmen who died in the last war. The English Speaking Union of Atlanta, Ga., has given the "Atlanta stone"—a circle of pink Georgia marble at the top of the crypt stairway. Christopher Wren built St. Clement Danes in 1681, Grinling Gibbons did the carvings and Samuel Johnson worshipped there regularly. It is one of the many Wren churches in London now restored after war damage.

—Christian Century

• More than 50 years of working together in nation-wide Christian programs was symbolized on Oct. 12 in the cornerstone-laying of The Interchurch Center in New York City for the National Council of Churches. Expertly wielding a silver trowel, President Eisenhower smoothed the mortar on the cornerstone of the new 19-story building as 30,000 people looked on. The brilliant October sun flashed on

(Continued on page 16)



Baptist Briefs

• **Dr. Lord at Furman.** Dr. F. Townley Lord, former president of the Baptist World Alliance, is on the faculty of Furman University at Greenville, S. C., this fall, after resigning his long pastorate at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London. A farewell service at Bloomsbury, with British and other Baptists from the continent participating, bid Dr. and Mrs. Lord farewell as they left for America. Dr. Lord was at one time editor of *The Baptist Times*, London.

• **Baptist Chaplains Named.** Chaplain Frank A. Tobey has recently been nominated by President Eisenhower as chief of U. S. Army chaplains. Mr. Tobey, who is an American Baptist, will succeed Chaplain Patrick J. Ryan, a Roman Catholic, who will retire November 1 after 30 years of service. Chaplain Tobey, has been deputy chief of Army Chaplains since 1954. Chaplain Robert P. Taylor, a Southern Baptist minister who survived the World War II Bataan death march in the Philippines, was named deputy chief of U. S. Air Force chaplains.

• **Danish Convention Merges.** The Danish Baptist General Convention of America, organized in 1910 to unite Danish-speaking churches which have been established in the midwest and along the Pacific coast, has merged with the American Baptist Convention. Leaders pointed out that it has been rare in recent years for services to be conducted in Danish and that many of the 83-member churches had al-

ready united with the American Convention. Assets of the Danish conference were presented to the Baptist Union of Denmark and to five organizations of the American Convention.

• **Baptists in New Zealand.** Dr. Lawrence A. North, general secretary of the Baptist Union of New Zealand, reports that the past five years have seen a marked advance in Baptist work in New Zealand. The number of churches has increased from 105 to 127 and the membership from 11,000 to 13,000. Nine new churches were welcomed at the 1958 Assembly. The college is steadily increasing the number of students in training for the ministry and missionary service. A new residential wing is being added to the building at a cost of 20,000 pounds.

• **Anniversary at Denain, France.** The Baptist church at Denain, France, Jules Thobois, pastor, recently observed its 100th anniversary. Greetings were brought by Henri Vincent, president of the French Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches, whose father, Francois, and grandfather had both been pastors of the church. The historical sketch was presented by George Rousseau, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Walter E. Woodbury of Pennsylvania, who is touring Europe under auspices of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies.

• **Evangelism Stressed in Nigeria.** The Nigerian Baptist Convention, representing 44,205 members of 336 organized churches and 638 preaching stations reported a total of 6,378 baptisms last year. This is one baptism for every seven church members. In its 45th annual session at Lagos, the Convention voted that the Convention evangelistic emphasis for next year be placed upon establishing new preaching stations and churches and that every organized church be asked to establish at least one preaching station during the year. It also adopted

(Continued on page 17)

VICTORIA JUBILEE

This issue commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of Victoria, Africa, by the Baptist missionary, Alfred Saker. From Dec. 7 to 14, 1958 this Jubilee will be celebrated in the Cameroons with a week of festive meetings. Don't miss any of the special Centennial articles in this number. EDITOR.

Editorial

A New Chapter Begins

With this issue, the "Baptist Herald" begins a new chapter in its 36 year ministry. By action of the General Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, the printing of the "Baptist Herald" has been "farmed out" to an outstanding publishing house. The first step in the liquidation of our printing establishment in Cleveland, Ohio, has been taken.

This is really cause for encouragement. We believe that it is a step forward in keeping with progress and with the trend in modern printing practices. Most of the large publications and religious journals of today are published by professional printing concerns. This makes for economy in the long run, for greater variety in the preparation of the magazine, and for improved efficiency in its ministry.

The "Baptist Herald" has been very fortunate in securing the services of the Herald Book and Printing Concern of Newton, Kansas, as its new publisher. This printing establishment is dedicated to high spiritual objectives with a national reputation for efficient management and outstanding printing work. It is a Christian establishment, serving Mennonite Conferences, Schools, Hospitals and other Mennonite institutions. Dr. Frank H. Woyke, Mr. Arthur Schwerin and the editor have been impressed by the up-to-date plant which we visited, by the wonderful spirit shown by the staff of 30 men and women, and by the genial spirit and administrative leadership of its business manager, Mr. G. H. Willms.

The "Baptist Herald" will be in good company at this Newton printing house. You will probably be surprised at the roster of religious publications that are prepared by the Herald Book and Printing Company. It includes "The Sword of the Lord" edited by John R. Rice, "Action" by the United Evangelical Association, "Baptist Digest" by the Kansas State Southern Baptist Convention, "Covenanter Witness" by the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Mennonite Weekly Review, Sunday School literature of the George Fox Press (Quakers), Voice of Evangelical Methodism, and the Kansas Conference Bulletin of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The "Baptist Herald" joins these outstanding publications in finding a new printing home in Kansas.

The two story building of the Herald Book and Printing Company, where the biweekly "Baptist Herald" is published, stands at the corner of Sixth and Poplar Streets in Newton. Across the street is the pretentious edifice of the First Baptist Church. In other directions, you will see Newton's City Hall and the Y.M.C.A. It's an important street corner in Newton where the Lord's business is taken seriously.

The "Baptist Herald" bids a fond farewell to our publishing house in Cleveland, Ohio, and its staff of faithful workers there who have labored on its pages for more than 30 years. But with keen anticipation of a greater printing glory and of an enlarged ministry, we move to our new printing headquarters in Newton, Kansas. Already we feel at home among new Christian friends!

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Alfred Saker, God's Drum-beater in the Cameroons

Victoria, called the second most beautiful harbor in the world, was founded by Saker in 1858, in the Name of Christ and to the glory of God!

By Dudley Reeves of the Cameroons Protestant College, Bali, Africa



Elias Tubuoh, a Christian teacher of our Cameroons Baptist Mission, beats on an African drum, calling the people to the true worship of Jesus Christ

It is exactly a hundred years since the founding of Victoria in the Southern Cameroons. For it was in August 1858 that the Rev. Alfred Saker, a pioneer missionary in the Baptist Missionary Society, founded the community of Victoria out of the thickly forested West African coast that lay twenty miles across from the Spanish-controlled island of Fernando Po.

Concerning the advantages of Ambas Bay, which the new settlement overlooked, Saker wrote highly: "No inhabitants, a rich country, the finest bay on the coast, deep water . . . a bay with nearly two miles of beach without a storm wave."

Here Saker envisaged a coaling-station and a trading port for British ships, if Her Majesty's Government agreed, and here Saker established his settlement for harassed Christians.

PERSECUTION OF BAPTISTS

It was not by choice that Saker shipped some of his congregation of liberated slaves from Fernando Po Island to the mainland in 1858, and bought from the local African chiefs a strip of land some twelve miles long around Ambas Bay. The evacuation of the Fernando Po Christians was necessitated by the arrival in the island of six Jesuit priests and a Spanish Governor-General.

Within a week of their arrival the priests began to invade the homes of the Baptist Christians. Worse still, on behalf of the Spanish Crown the governor issued a proclamation declaring that "the religion of this colony is that of the Roman Catholic Church, as the only one in the kingdom of

Spain, with the exclusion of any other; and no other religious profession is tolerated or allowed, but that made by the missionaries of the afore-said Catholic religion."

On the island were about a thousand ex-slaves, nearly all of whom attended the Baptist Mission chapel and 120 of whom were adult church members. Although the Spanish decree was unexpected and intolerant and in contradiction with an earlier proclamation, the African Christians remained calm and law-abiding, and with the missionaries they resorted to God in prayer.

But on the rejection of their petition to the governor against the new law of "no toleration," they resolved upon action. Threatened by banishment and denied all freedom of worship, the missionaries left Fernando Po with more than fifty African Christians for the mainland.

VICTORIA TODAY

This year, as Victoria celebrates its centenary, the township of perhaps 10,000 people, which has grown from Saker's settlement, can look back on 30 years of German occupation (1884-1915) and 43 years of British administration since then. It can now boast of several good buildings and a once famous botanical garden. Recently its first public library was opened.

Victoria has been called the second most beautiful harbor in the world and certainly, as seen from the sea, it looks attractive against the impressively green background of the Cameroons Mountain, an active volcano 13,350 feet high which last erupted in 1954. Alfred Saker himself was in the

first party to scale the mountain in 1862.

The North American Baptists, the Swiss Basel Presbyterians, the Roman Catholics, the Apostolic Church and the Jehovah's Witnesses all have meeting places in Victoria. Ironically enough, it is the Roman Catholics, responsible for driving the Baptists to the mainland in 1858, who probably exert the greatest missionary influence today in the Southern Cameroons. Not only do they have 100 missionaries in the country and claim to have 73,000 adherents, but they manage more schools than any other agency. Comparable figures for the North American Baptists are 41 missionaries and 17,000 church members.

MISSIONARY HARDSHIPS

The events which led Saker to found a colony for the "African pilgrim fathers" at Victoria were not the only adverse circumstances that confronted him in his 32 years as a missionary. Even before arriving in Africa via Jamaica in 1844, he had experienced an attack of fever and the hardships of an uncomfortably tedious voyage. Arrived at Fernando Po, the Sakers discovered their personal belongings had not yet come from London.

A few months later the Baptist Missionary Society's committee in London was warned to expect Saker's death by fever. One by one Saker's fellow-missionaries died in that unhealthy climate. Saker himself lost two children in Africa, his only son included. Certainly "White Man's Grave" was an apt designation for that disease-ridden coast.

Fierce tornadoes were frequent.

Heavy rains drenched one to the skin. Dampness and white ants ruined the wooden buildings. The sun was sometimes not seen for seven weeks on end. The temperature sometimes soared to 128 degrees, and the passage from Fernando Po to the mainland could always be tricky or dangerous.

Saker was delayed by Africans, to whom time meant nothing. He was kept awake at night by thieving natives. He was murderously attacked by the chiefs who kept jujus that demanded human sacrifices, chiefs who had been the middlemen between the African slave-hunters and the European slave-buyers. One chief, who personally attacked Saker, later became a Christian.

THREATS TO LIFE

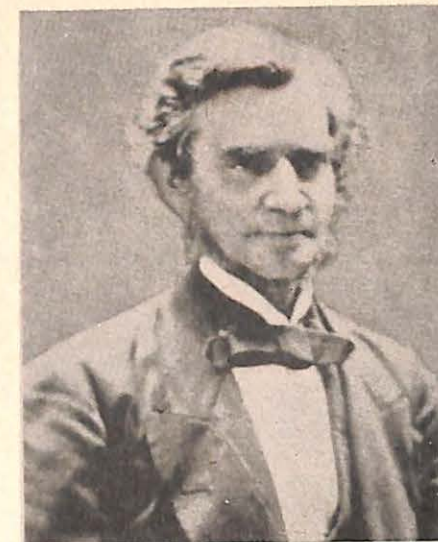
Once, during a period of anarchy after a chief's death, warriors intent on mission loot nearly killed Saker by splitting his door with a thrown tomahawk. On another occasion, during a tribal war, thick iron plates had to be fixed on the mission windows to prevent the entry of bullets.

On a third occasion, Saker coolly worked on while an angry chief fired his cannon in an attempt to level the mission walls. However, the cannon, overcharged with gunpowder, burst on its firers!

Two further difficulties were the lack of help in the home and the lack of food. Baby food was particularly hard to procure, and once a boat had to be sent forty miles to fetch vegetables. For months at a stretch Saker drank only water or sugar and water, and in the dry seasons water had to be fetched from a mile away.

Saker also knew loneliness and separation from his wife and family, as well as the pain of not receiving letters and needed supplies of clothing and medicines for month after month, owing to the infrequent arrival of ships from England. Furloughs for Saker were few and far between, and then usually only of four or five months' duration.

In addition to personal hardships,



Alfred Saker, Baptist missionary in Africa and founder of the city of Victoria in the Cameroons.

Saker had the care of the churches. At times the Cameroonian converts would be called on to suffer persecution for their Lord. Once, a Baptist Christian was captured and sold as a slave, and two women were tortured to the point of insanity.

From all these hazards Alfred Saker emerged triumphantly faithful. His wife was no less brave and persevering. They were handicapped on all sides, but they never denied their Lord. They were knocked down, but never knocked out! Whether alone or together, they endured all that a vicious combination of a deadly climate, enervating fevers, food shortages and hostile natives could produce. For they knew in Whom they trusted, and they knew to Whom they belonged!

With great energy Saker threw himself into the necessary tasks of erecting mission houses, chapels and schools, and of making the thousands of bricks required for them. On his first attempt, he made 500 bricks in a day and once he cast nearly a thousand quadrats for the printing office in two days. Bricklayer, carpenter, smith, doctor, translator, preacher, teacher—he was all by turns.

In the early years Saker made language study his special work. By 1872 the entire Bible had been translated into Duala. With tremendous joy Saker was able to write, "The great work of years is now completed, and I feel as a bird, long imprisoned, liberated at last."

After four and a half years in the Cameroons Saker baptized the first Cameroons' Christian. When he left Africa for the last time in 1876 in an emaciated condition, there were many African Christians to carry on by telling others the Good News of Jesus.

What was the secret of Saker's success? He himself said, "I have maintained the rule not to do anything that I could safely leave to others," but there is more to it than that. He was a man of determination and courage. "I cannot move from my purpose till my work is done." He was a man of action impelled by love. "I want to go onward, onward, and tell the tale of love."

He was a man of spiritual wisdom. "To me it has ever been that the spiritual work is to get at the heart of the individual man." He was a man of expectant prayer. "What can I do? Despond? No! Do as we have often done—seek Divine aid." He was a man of sympathetic tenderness, as his daughter testified: "Yet it was in the inner circle of his home that the tenderness of his character was best revealed."

SAKER'S FAITH

Faults he undoubtedly had, but essentially Saker was a man of vision and faith. Ponder his closing words to a Scottish Conference in the closing months of his life: "If the African is a brother, shall we not give him some of our bread and a draught of our water? Oh! that I had another life to go out there. The field is white there; the multitudes are in darkness still. It is the Son of God calling on us to go forth and preach the Gospel to every creature, and we have the promise that he will be with us unto the end. May his blessing be on you and on them!"



The little mission chapel in the forest or jungle shines with the glory of the Gospel of Christ as nationals make a beaten path to its services and Christian preachers proclaim "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Centenary of Victoria Baptist Church

By Flavius Martin, an Outstanding African Leader of the Victoria Baptist Church.

Recently I walked with Chief Carr to "Brook Mount," now one of the most splendid spots in Victoria, situated along the "Marina," the busiest centre in Victoria. Alfred Saker, the pioneer missionary, the founder of Victoria, must have possessed a high sense of appreciation to have decided on so prominent a site designed to be a beacon, heralding the dawn of Christianity in the Cameroons.

Anyone on "Brook Mount" cannot fail to admire the beauty of the place. The sea stretches out in a wide expanse, with the island looming in the distance and ships streaming into the harbor. Flowers naturally adorn the compound, congested with houses, some of which are antiquated and old. Facing the road is the Basel Mission Book Depot, the central bookshop in the Cameroons with branches all over the country. "Brook Mount," once a Baptist station, is now a strong Basel Mission base.

ELDERLY CHIEF CARR

Chief Carr, presumably the oldest man in Victoria, claims to have seen Alfred Saker with the eyes of a boy. Yet he is physically virile and is a strong supporter of the church. He has the reputation of opening up "Newtown," now a prosperous growing section of Victoria, and his enthusiasm is manifested in the Newtown Baptist Church in which he serves as deacon. He appreciates the changes that he has seen these 100 years' span of his lifetime, but social changes he asserts have out-stripped the progress of the church. The man has known his triumphs and his disappointments. He has the honor of having been the first

native church teacher in charge of Bimbia Church, the first mission station in the Cameroons, now outgrown by Victoria.

A walk across the road from "Brook Mount" brings us to the Native Baptist Church, the mother church in the Cameroons, now a century old, the centenary of which will be celebrated in December, 1958. The church is as old as the town, the two being closely related, the town being an outgrowth of the church.

I am standing here with Mrs. Chris Burnley, one of the early Christians of our church. She is now exactly 82 years old, a tall, thin, physically strong, elderly woman with a confident and dignified comportment. Like Chief Carr, she made the acquaintance with Alfred Saker as a child. She speaks almost flawless English, having attended the first English School organized by the early missionaries to educate the people.

She has really baffled many by her succinct expressions and logical mind. The thirst for knowledge, having been planted, has been nurtured by natives with progressive outlook like the late Mr. Charles Steane who was proprietor and manager of Native Baptist School, now the Cameroons Baptist Mission School Newtown. Our Schools are changing to meet the needs of a growing society, and cope with its claims.

VICTORIA CHURCH

The original size and appearance of the church building have not been greatly altered, the site being jealously protected and preserved for historical purposes. This church has stood for "the first" of many things the Camer-

oons. Obviously we have our peculiar problems and failures but our successes stand out as manifestations of the stalwart faith and loyalty of our forefathers.

Firstly this church house was built by communal effort, a gesture of indigenous responsibility. From this base, evangelists were sent out to open up new mission stations like Bonjongo, Mapanja, near Victoria, and later Soppo, a strong thriving Baptist church. Some of these stations, however, have died due to neglect or forceful and concentrated Roman Catholic rivalry.

EVANGELISTIC TREKS

In more recent years, Pastor Burnley, supported entirely by the indigenous church has made evangelistic treks to the grasslands, about 300 miles inland, in the absence of motorable roads. Thus, Bamenda today, augmented by C.B.M. work, is a thriving, bubbling and prosperous mission field.

At the instance of the withdrawal of Alfred Saker's white team, the work fell solely on the shoulders of the converts themselves. They stood competition with other missions, intimidations from the German government and internal strife, but the Baptist faith was preserved and uplifted by these stalwart few.

For years, the work of God was held together, so to speak, by Mr. Fos Wilson, an untrained unordained minister, but well tried and well educated for his time. He was at once President of the Local Authority and leader of the church, relieved later on by Pastor Joseph Burnley, a product of Colvin

(Continued on page 24)

The Baptist Missionary Society of London, England, clearly defined its spiritual objective many years ago: "The great object of this Society is the diffusion of the knowledge of the religion of Jesus Christ throughout the whole world, beyond the British Isles, by the preaching of the Gospel, the translation and publication of the Holy Scriptures, and the establishment of Schools."

Baptist missionaries, from Alfred Saker to the present day, have held this as their aim. The existence of indigenous Baptist churches functioning in this land of the Cameroons, Africa, is evidence of their labors.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Perhaps the most singular influence of Baptists in the Cameroons was the founding of Victoria for the purpose of religious liberty. Religious liberty is a fundamental tenet of Baptist churches throughout the world, but this tenet gathered increased significance for the Baptists of Fernando Po one hundred years ago.

In 1858 Don Carlos Chacon, Governor General of Fernando Po, issued a proclamation to the effect that "The religion of this colony is that of the Roman Catholic Church, as the only one in the Kingdom of Spain, with the exclusion of any other; and no other religious profession is tolerated or allowed, but that made by the missionaries of the afore-said Catholic religion."

As a result of this proclamation, Baptists of Fernando Po under the leadership of the Rev. Alfred Saker, an English Baptist missionary, established a colony at Victoria, Cameroons, that they might "worship God without molestation." Alfred Saker became governor, and all rules, regulations and laws for the colony were made.

Among these laws there appears the following: "There shall be entire freedom in all that relates to the worship of the true God; and the word of God is hereby acknowledged to be the foundation of all our laws, and claims the obedience of our lives; that although we are now all of one mind in the essentials of Christian worship, yet should there come among us persons of differing opinions as to Christian worship or duty, all shall equally share in our freedom of worship, as well as in our protection."

The colony grew under toil and hardships and prospered. David Livingstone said in high tribute of the work of Alfred Saker that it was "in my judgment, the most remarkable work on the African coast."

THE WAR YEARS

On July 14, 1884 the Germans occupied Kamerun and English Baptists were no longer welcome in the territory. All the work of the Baptists was then sold to the Basel Mission of Switzerland (now the Presbyterian Church of the Cameroons) who carried on with the proclamation of the Gos-



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHAPEL

A Spiritual Day—Day has come to the Cameroons of Africa. One missionary calls it "the race to capture men's souls." Another says that "we are in the midst of a great harvest." Here at the Baptist Church of Victoria, Africa, as the Centenary Jubilee of the city is celebrated, the Gospel of Christ is still preached with accompanying spiritual power!

Baptists in Victoria

Baptists through the missionary, Alfred Saker, founded Victoria in 1858, for "Freedom of Religion and the Blessings of Christ."

By Rev. Ben Lawrence, Supervisor of Schools of the Cameroons Baptist Mission

pel. The Victoria Native Baptist Church within two years separated from the Basel Mission because of differences in church government and some doctrinal beliefs.

In 1891 an American Baptist missionary, Rev. August Steffens, under the auspices of the German Baptist Missionary Society of Germany once again commenced active Baptist missionary endeavor in the Cameroons. This work expanded and grew, having its principal center at Great Soppo near Buea until the Second World War. As a result of this war, Baptists of Germany were not welcome in the Cameroons and the Baptist work suffered greatly during the war years, having only three American missionaries to carry on the work in cooperation with the native pastors and evangelists.

At the close of the war, the North American Baptist Missionary Society took up the Baptist endeavor and rapid expansion has taken place. Prior to the war Baptists had only one main station in Victoria Division. Now there are three. Baptists, however, have concentrated their efforts in the grassfields where there are seven main stations.

BAPTIST WORK TODAY

Baptist work in the Cameroons in terms of statistics is represented by:

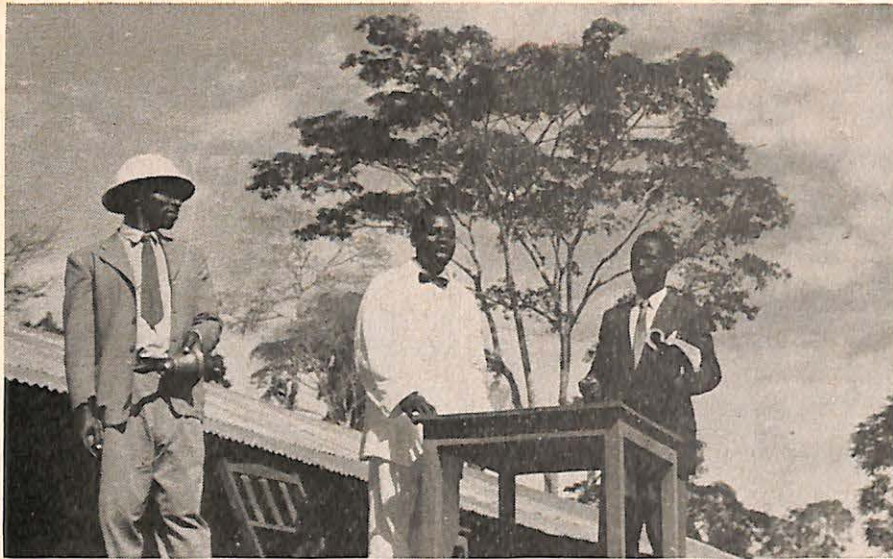
Churches	280
Adult membership	15,557
Schools	65
Missionaries	40
Hospitals	1
Leper Settlements	1
Dispensaries	2
Teacher Training Center	1
Bible Training Center	1

In the Victoria Division we have 46 churches with a membership of 3,703. We also have 18 schools. Nine missionaries are serving Christ in this area.

Baptists in the Cameroons today hold the same objectives as they did one hundred years ago when they founded Victoria. Today they support the people of the Cameroons in their efforts toward self-determination and would encourage them to remember the motivating factors in the founding of Victoria—"Freedom of Religion and the Message of Christ."



An African sunset over the waters of the harbor of Victoria in the Southern Cameroons. Here at this coast Alfred Saker, Baptist missionary, founded the city of Victoria in 1858.



Rev. S. B. Nfomi, (right with open Bible), preaching on "Repentance" in the open air meeting at the Kumba Bible Conference assisted by two other Baptist leaders.

Rev. "Budzi" Nfomi

Pastor of the Historic Native Baptist Church of Victoria, Africa, and President of the Cameroons Baptist Convention.

By Rev. Ben Lawrence

The Reverend S. B. Nfomi was nearly finished with his open air message of "Repentance" at the Kumba Bible Conference when one listener said to another, "Dis man he no da fear talk dis God Palava!" (This man preaches the Word of God without fear and with boldness!)

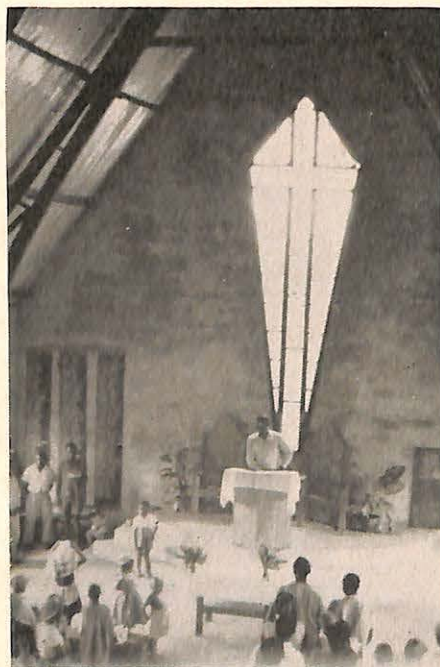
Fearless preaching of the Word, consecration to our Lord and Saviour, a meek and humble spirit and a broad winning smile have heaped responsibility and accomplishment on Pastor Nfomi.

BAPTIST SCHOOLS

He started life in a village not far from our Ndu mission station. When he was old enough, he entered our Christian Day School at Ndu and, during his studies there, he came to know Christ as his Saviour. After completing the course at Ndu, he entered our Mbem Bible School in 1950. During 1951 he was sent to Ogbomoshu Baptist Seminary in Nigeria where he remained for one year.

On returning, he served as a teacher for about six months, but finally became the Church Teacher at the Binka Baptist Church in 1952. In 1953 he became the Youth worker of the Ndu Field until he entered the third year course at our Bible Training Centre at Ndu in January 1954. At this time he married Miriam Ntalla, and they now have two children.

During 1955 and 1956 Pastor Nfomi served in the Ndu Field as evangelist and short term Bible School organizer. During these two years, "Budzi" Nfomi became well known for his pointed Gospel messages and his winning smile. His ability to play football, to play the



Rev. S. B. Nfomi in the pulpit of the Kumba Baptist Church with the beautiful "Window of the Cross" in the background.

Centenary Celebration Theme

at Victoria, Africa
from Dec. 7-14, 1958

"CHRIST, THE HOPE OF
THE CAMEROONS"

The center of the religious services for the week will be a large tent pavilion erected next to the Victoria Native Baptist Church. (See picture of church on page 7).

The Cameroons Baptist Convention will hold its annual sessions during this same week with Rev. S. B. Nfomi, president, in charge.

if Reverend Nfomi had received his training in the United Kingdom. He was surprised and much impressed to hear that he was trained inside Nigeria and by and large at our Bible Training Centre at Ndu.

At the close of 1956 when the Victoria Native Baptist Church was in search of a pastor, he was extended a call. After some deliberation he accepted the call, left his home at Ndu in the cold grasslands, and departed for hot and humid Victoria to pastor the oldest and most difficult congregation in the Cameroons.

Pastor Nfomi has told of the fear he had in his heart as he stood in the pulpit on the first Sunday of his ministry at Victoria, but also how God has provided courage for each difficulty as it has come since that time.

CONVENTION PRESIDENT

Simultaneously with his call to the Victoria Church, he was elected by the Cameroons Baptist Convention held at Soppo in December, 1956 to be their President for the coming year.

The Lord has blessed both of these ministries. The Victoria Native Baptist Church has revived its program of Christian effort and witness, has begun a remodeling program and has given evidence of Christian growth and maturity in its leadership among the coastal churches.

The convention has selected Pastor Nfomi for a second term and they now plan their biggest function ever, as a convention, to be held during the Centenary Week at Victoria. Pastor Nfomi's leadership of the convention has brought about the establishment of an effective program of missions, the beginnings of an active youth organization for boys within the convention, Boy's Brigade, and has awakened a general interest in the larger organization of "Baptists" in the Cameroons. Pray for Reverend "Budzi" Nfomi, his family, his church and his people that God will continue to bless and use them in his service!

BAPTIST HERALD

A Century of Baptist Schools

By Miss Ruby Salzman,
Missionary and Teacher
in the Cameroons, Africa

When the Rev. Alfred Saker and the Baptist Christians landed in Victoria in 1858 after expulsion from Fernando Po by the Roman Catholic dominated Spanish government, they founded Victoria on the principles of "Religious Freedom" and they opened a Baptist School in Victoria. This was the first school to be begun in the Cameroons. The teachers, until the German occupation, were Baptist missionaries from England.

During the German occupation, this school was replaced by a German government school. The Baptist Church, however, ran a "Sabbath School," similar to the "religious instruction" classes of today.

In 1941 when the British reoccupied the Cameroons, all German schools were closed and the English government once again opened an English School.

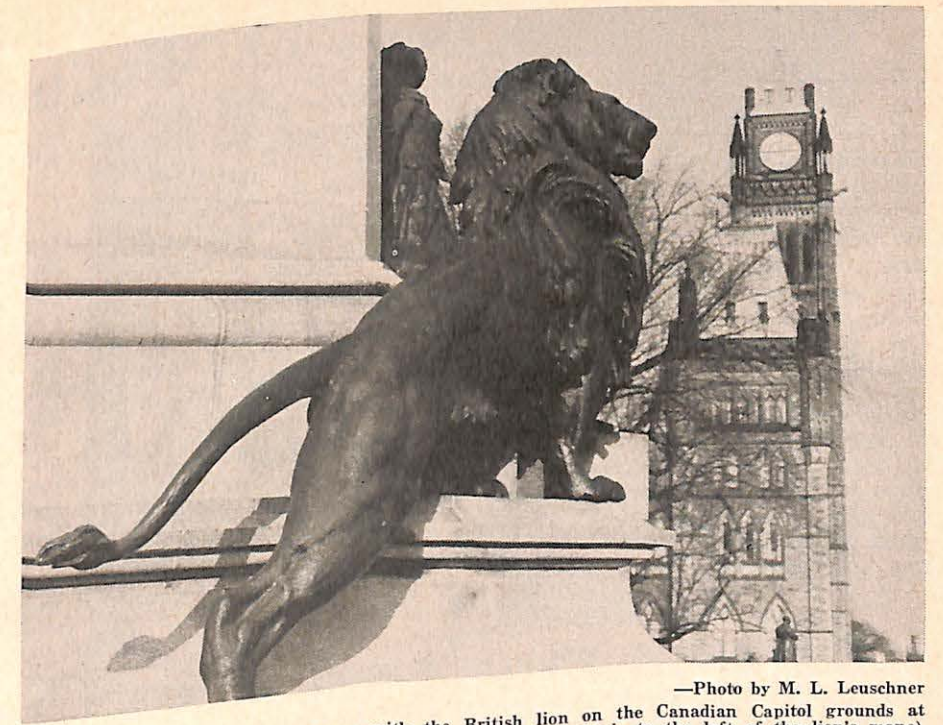
CENTENARY BAPTIST SCHOOL

In 1930 M. C. Steane retired from government service and opened what was called, "The Native Baptist School." This school continued under the managership of Mr. Steane until his death in 1942, at which time Chief Manga Williams took over the responsibilities. In 1948 Chief Manga Williams turned over the management of this school to the Cameroons Baptist Mission.

The school was then moved from the Victoria Native Baptist Church to new buildings on the Baptist Mission Station in Newtown. Today with the addition of the new Infants School called "Centenary Baptist School," in commemoration of the founding of Victoria, Victoria School has an enrollment of almost 500 children and a staff of fourteen teachers.

This is the brief history of the earliest school in the Cameroons. Many other schools have had a shorter but just as interesting a history. Among them are: Soppo, Bwonjongo, Mutengene, Tiko and others.

Most of the teachers serving in Baptist schools have been trained in the Government Teacher Training Centre



The imposing Queen Victoria statue with the British lion on the Canadian Capitol grounds at Ottawa, Canada. This memorial to Queen Victoria (her statue is to the left of the lion's mane) was prepared for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Lest We Forget . . .

England was at the peak of her power in the reign of Queen Victoria when the great literary figure, Rudyard Kipling, was invited to write a poem for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. His "Recessional" written for that occasion aroused a storm of controversy when it first appeared. Possibly no other poem, however, more aptly and stirringly expresses the burden of those who realize that the destinies of the nations are in the hands of God.

God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our far-flung battle line—
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies—
The Captains and the Kings depart—
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard—
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And, guarding, calls not thee to guard.
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy Mercy on thy People, Lord! Amen.

—Moody Monthly

at Kumba, but in 1954 our Baptist Mission opened its own Teacher Training Centre at Soppo. The new buildings of the Centre were completed in 1956. Their modern, attractive design and location on the road to the capitol

of the Cameroons is a welcome addition to the fast developing Southern Cameroons.

The atmosphere of this Centre,

(Continued on page 14)

Seventy-five Years of Missionary Outreach

By Rev. R. Schilke, General Missionary Secretary

In his book, "God's Guidance in Our Missionary History," Dr. Wm. Kuhn, for thirty years the general missionary secretary of the North American Baptist General Missionary Society, Inc., gave us a brief history of the Missionary Society over the fifty years of its existence. Another milestone in its history has been reached, and as we now look back upon seventy-five years, we can truly say with Samuel of old, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12). To God who guided the men and the work of the Society throughout these seventy-five years we give glory and honor and praise as we stand and pause before another "Ebenzer."

EARLY BEGINNINGS

At the seventh General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 25, 1883 the General Missionary Society of the German Baptist churches of North America was founded. Before that time, the Eastern and Western Conferences had their own respective missionary societies. The Western Conference had had such a Society since 1859, and the Eastern Conference since 1867. Missionary work and outreach were that of home missions and the founding of new churches. Both Societies cooperated very closely with the American Baptist Home Mission Society which matched dollar for dollar in its support for the eastern section and one and one-half dollars for every dollar for the western section.

In his autobiography, Rev. G. A. Schulte gives us a full account of the founding and early history of the General Missionary Society. Among the leading brethren, the idea prevailed

that separate missionary societies for the east and the west would not give strength and unity of spirit over the years and that a General Missionary Society should therefore be founded. At the annual sessions of the Eastern Conference at Hepburn, Pa. in 1881, this idea was expressed and a special committee was appointed to look into the matter.

The report of the committee was enthusiastically approved and steps were undertaken to present the idea to the Western Conference, which by that time had organized itself into three conferences: Central, Southwestern and Northwestern, but continued under its original missionary society. Rev. G. A. Schulte was asked to visit the west. He visited the Central Conference convening in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1882. Though he was cordially welcomed, he sensed that the brethren were not ready to enter into a free and full discussion regarding the forming of a General Missionary Society, and so he abstained from visiting the other two conferences that year.

The three conferences in the west, operating under one missionary society, had already formed a Board on which the three conferences were represented. This Board invited representatives of the Eastern Conference to its annual session meeting at Indianapolis, Indiana, in April, 1883. The merits of closer cooperation and unity between east and west were seen, and the idea of a General Missionary Society won more and more support. Articles in "Der Sendbote" appeared in favor of such a move. A constitution was drawn up and at the General Conference in Cleveland in 1883 the Gen-

eral Missionary Society was founded. The incorporation of this Society was effected in 1902 in the State of New York.

WORTHY PREDECESSORS

At the General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1883, Rev. J. C. Grimmel was elected as the first General Missionary Secretary of the General Missionary Society. He served until the fall of 1892. For the greater part of this period, he gave to the Society only a part time ministry since he was also pastor of the First German Baptist Church of Brooklyn, N. Y., since 1886. In 1892 he became editor of "Der Sendbote."

Rev. G. A. Schulte was elected General Missionary Secretary in 1892 and served until his death on March 19, 1916. The 24 years of his ministry coincided with a steady growth and development of our General Conference. Immigration brought with it greater opportunities among German-speaking people. New churches were organized among them. New chapels had to be built. New Conferences came into existence. During this period the General Missionary Society also began its foreign mission program in cooperation with other existing foreign mission societies. Thus seven missionaries were supported in the Cameroons of West Africa through the Neuruppin Mission of Germany, and five others were supported through the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society in India, China and Assam.

At the General Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in 1916, Rev. Wm. Kuhn was elected as General Missionary Secretary. For thirty years he served in that capacity with utmost devotion and consecration. Two World Wars brought much suffering to our people in Europe and afforded the Society an unforgettable relief ministry to thousands of refugees and immigrants. The period of his ministry saw a steady advance and growth, in home and foreign mission work.

DR. KUHN'S MINISTRY

In 1918 the Society resolved to forego the missionary subsidies coming from the American Home Mission Society and gratefully acknowledged the support and help in years past. Following World War I an aggressive missionary work on the continent of Europe was undertaken, and fifty mission workers in various countries of Europe were supported at the outbreak of World War II. In 1934 the Cameroons Baptist Mission became our own mission field in West Africa. That the guiding hand of God was in this move was soon evidenced by the world events of World War II. By 1946 the

number of missionaries in the Cameroons had grown to about twenty.

Dr. Kuhn's period of ministry also marked organizational advances in the work of our General Conference. Thus in 1934 the General Council was organized, which over the years has taken much of the work and responsibility which previously belonged to the General Missionary Society. In 1939 the Christian Training Institute at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, was founded which in its support and supervision came under the General Missionary Society until in 1949 it became in its status a cooperating organization of the General Conference. The change in language from German to English also brought about a change in name which was effected in 1942 from The General Missionary Society of the German Baptist Churches of North America to The North American Baptist General Missionary Society, Inc.

At the General Conference in Tacoma, Washington, in 1946, Rev. H. G. Dymmel was elected general missionary secretary upon the retirement of Dr. Wm. Kuhn. That same General Conference also elected Dr. Frank H. Woyke as its first full-time executive secretary of the General Council. Brother Dymmel served until 1950 when illness necessitated his resignation. His period of ministry marks the post war reconstruction period.

Most of the European mission field lay behind the iron curtain and only Austria was left as a mission field for us. The Baptists of Germany were unable to re-enter the Cameroons and so that mission field became ours more fully. In the home field a Spanish-American Mission was begun in the San Luis Valley of Colorado in 1944 and an Indian Mission in Alberta, Canada, in 1946. The total number of missionaries by 1950 increased to 41 as follows: Cameroons 29; Austria, 8; Spanish-American 2; Indian 2. The required annual budget for the Missionary Society increased from less than \$100,000 to over \$165,000. (This is not to be confused with the denominational budget).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Since the termination of Brother Dymmel's ministry came in mid-term of the triennial General Conference, the appointment of a successor became the responsibility of the General Missionary Committee. Rev. R. Schilke was appointed as general missionary secretary and took office with March 1951. At the next General Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1952 he was elected by the Conference.

What are the significant things that have transpired since the beginning of 1951? One writes with greater freedom about the work of others (even though the above is a brief sketch, since others have written two preceding articles) than about that which falls to one's own responsibility. But this latter period is to be covered by the writer, and I shall try to do this



At the 1949 General Conference held in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Rev. R. Schilke (left), (at that time pastor in Anaheim, Calif.) looks over the mission exhibit with Rev. Edmund Mittelstedt, Rev. Roy Seibel and Rev. George Hensel.

briefly and factually.

The General Missionary Society has further expanded under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. In 1951 a new venture of faith was made by beginning a mission work in Japan. Our Cameroons Mission has grown in all three phases of its ministry: in 1952 a leprosy mission was begun; in 1954 the Bible Training Center was expanded to a three-year course; in 1955 a Teacher Training Center was begun; and also in 1955 college work was entered in cooperation with Basel Mission.

In 1954 another Spanish-American field was undertaken in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In 1951 the Indian Mission was expanded to include a second Indian Reserve in Alberta, Canada, and in 1953 to include a third Indian Reserve in Saskatchewan, Canada. The total number of missionaries to date has increased to 76 as follows: Cameroons 46; Austria 13; Japan 9; Spanish-American 5; and Indian 3.

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

In addition, there are about 50 pastors in home mission churches who receive a salary subsidy. This latter work has been a very vital phase of missions throughout the history of the General Missionary Society. The reader will take notice from the above that home missions was the first mission of the Society. The total required annual budget of the Society has likewise increased to about \$300,000 (Again, this is not to be confused with the total denominational budget).

Other phases of missions have been added to the work of the General Missionary Society in recent years. In 1952 the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pa., gave a directive to the

General Missionary Society to undertake Church Extension work. Since then about \$280,000 have been raised specifically for Church Extension. By the spring of 1958 a total of 28 Church Extension projects benefitted through the fund, resulting in 23 new churches with a total membership of almost 2,200.

In 1955 following the General Conference in Waco, Texas, the movement of "God's Volunteers" had its beginning. Its first year of ministry fell into the season of 1956-1957. A group of six young people volunteers to do visitation evangelism and travels from church to church, giving about two weeks to each church. A director of "God's Volunteers" heads the work and serves as evangelist. The third season is well underway at the time of writing this article with all dates filled for the season.

PRESENT REORGANIZATION

The 32nd General Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1958 was an historic conference in many ways for our entire denominational constituency. The General Missionary Society is likewise affected by the reorganization which took place. Hitherto, the administrative body of the North American Baptist General Missionary Society, Inc., was known by the name of General Missionary Committee and was composed of representatives from the local conferences elected by their respective conference. It had a total of fifteen voting members. The General Conference elected only the general missionary secretary and the general treasurer.

The new name of the administrative body is now Board of Missions. The

(Continued on page 13)



Rev. R. Schilke, general missionary secretary (center, front row), meets with his 1953 General Missionary Committee and with guests and missionaries. Miss G. Remmler, office secretary and recording secretary for the Committee, is seated at Mr. Schilke's left.

A Trip to Newton, Kansas

By Dr. M. L. Leuschner, Editor of English Publications

We want to present to you the new printers of the "Baptist Herald." We have been "farmed out" to a well known printing firm in the city of Newton, Kansas. Our new "home" is the Herald Book and Printing Company, Inc., located at 131 West Sixth Street, Newton, Kansas.

It's a busy place with a distinctly Christian atmosphere. Linotype machines and presses of various kinds are constantly in use. In walking through the printing shop, you get the impression that the equipment is modern and capable of taking care of any kind of a printing job and that every foot of space is being used efficiently. A staff of 30 people is engaged at this establishment.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The "Baptist Herald" has joined a distinguished family of Christian publications, all of which are printed at the Herald Book and Printing Company and sent out from Newton, Kansas, to their subscribers. Tens of thousands of copies of John R. Rice's paper, "The Sword of the Lord," are printed here. "Action" of the National Association of Evangelicals is printed by this establishment and sent out as the "voice of evangelical Christianity in America." The "Baptist Herald" is similar in size and format to this sister publication.

In addition, the following other papers are printed here in Newton, Kansas: "Covenantal Witness" of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; "Baptist Digest" of the Southern Baptist Kansas State Convention; "The Mennonite Weekly Review"; Sunday School Lit-

erature of the George Fox Press (Quakers); "Voice of Evangelical Methodism," and the "Kansas Conference Bulletin" of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. That is a distinguished "family" of publications to

Company is located, seems to be an important center of town. Across the street from the "Herald" building is the First Baptist Church of Newton. In another direction is the Y.M.C.A., and in still another direction the City



Plans for printing the "Baptist Herald" at the Herald Book and Printing Company, Newton, Kansas, are discussed with Mr. G. H. Willms, president (left), Dr. M. L. Leuschner, editor (center), as Mr. A. P. Dick, plant manager (right), looks on.

which the Baptist Herald" has now been joined at this printing house.

Newton, Kansas, is a thriving, mid-western city of 15,000 population. The corner of Sixth and Poplar Streets, where the Herald Book and Printing

Hall. Those four buildings, engaged in these varied services, are certainly the strong pillars of any community!

MENNONITE COMPANY

The Herald Book and Printing Company is owned and operated by a group of men who are members of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church. They represent a denominational fellowship of 60,000 people in 260 churches. Their size is quite similar to our North American Baptist General Conference. The Mennonites are strong in this area of Kansas and surrounding states and have established an enviable reputation of fervency of witness and efficiency of service. This is typified also in the friendly and cooperative spirit shown to us by Mr. G. H. Willms, president of the company.

Kansas is known as the geographical center of the United States. This means that the "Baptist Herald" ought to reach many of our subscribers somewhat sooner than heretofore. At any rate, our publication will be dispatched promptly and efficiently from this printing house almost at the center of our great land. With the North American Baptist Seminary moving from Rochester, N.Y., to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and now with the "Baptist Herald" farmed out to this Kansas printing establishment, our denomina-



In this busy and Christian printing plant in Newton, Kansas, the "Baptist Herald" will be prepared by linotypists (seated at the machines), Mr. A. P. Dick, plant manager, and Miss Susie Wedel, the official proofreader (right).

RENEW Your Subscription

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tion has definitely moved westward, closer to the center of our conferences and churches.

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Every effort will be made by the editor and printing house to present a publication in the "Baptist Herald" which will be attractive in appearance, spiritually rich in content, and exciting with its variety of type for every reader to enjoy. This word to the wise ought to be sufficient to take care of your subscription renewal at once. It's going to be a wonderful publishing year ahead of us. You will not want to miss out on the many good things to be featured through the pages of the "Baptist Herald" in 1959.

It is also a good time, just before Christmas, to order a gift subscription for a friend or relative. We hope to go places and to launch out in some wonderful spiritual adventures in 1959, and we want YOU to enjoy these blessings with us through the pages of the "Baptist Herald."

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

(Continued from page 11)

name of the Society itself is unchanged. The membership of the Board of Missions is now composed as follows: each of the nine local conferences elects one representative; the General Conference continues to elect the general missionary secretary and the general treasurer, and in addition also elects three lay members at large. This constitutes a voting membership of fourteen. In addition the executive secretary and the four district secretaries are ex-officio members of the Board of Missions without voting rights. The Woman's Missionary Union also appoints one representative, though without voting rights.

The expansion of the work of the General Missionary Society has greatly increased its administrative responsibilities. In view of this, the reorganization also provided for a director of Evangelism and Church Extension, to whom the duties and responsibilities in the field of Evangelism and church extension will be referred but who will serve in the office under the

From the Professor's Desk

By Dr. Walter W. Wessel, Professor North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

What does the Bible mean when it says that God is a jealous God?

The teaching that God is a jealous God is found particularly in the Old Testament. As far back as the 20th chapter of Exodus, in connection with the second commandment (against images) and as a reason for its institution, is the statement, "for I the Lord your God am a jealous God." Exodus 34:14 declares, "For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God," and in the book of the prophet Zechariah the Lord himself says: "I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath."

The idea of God's jealousy is not lacking in the New Testament. In I Corinthians 10:22, Paul, in admonishing the Corinthians that they could not partake both of the Lord's cup and that of demons, adds, "Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy?" The clearest passage on this subject in the New Testament is found in James 4:6: "Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, 'He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us?'" (RSV).

The subject under discussion in this passage is the worldliness or "double-mindedness" of some of James' readers. To be a friend of the world is to be an enemy of God. James insists that God will not tolerate this divided allegiance on the part of a Christian because he is a jealous God. He simply will brook no rival!

It is important to recognize that such a phrase as "the jealousy of God"

direction of the general missionary secretary as the administrative head of the General Missionary Society. The Board of Missions appointed Evangelist Daniel Fuchs as this first director of Evangelism and Church Extension, and he will begin his ministry with January 1959.

SIGNIFICANT GOALS

Thus, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the General Missionary Society also marks the beginning of a new chapter in its organizational setup. Under the further guidance of God's Holy Spirit, we desire to move forward in every realm of missionary endeavor. The opportunities and demands are always greater than what can reasonably be carried out. Yet with God all things are possible.

In the next few years, we desire to strengthen our present mission fields at home and abroad. Evangelism and Church Extension will receive more attention. The simultaneous revival meetings in the early part of 1959 as

is an anthropomorphism, as is the ascription of any human emotion to God. The problem here is that in human relations jealousy usually involves malicious ill-will directed towards those who may be more fortunate or successful than we. However, it need not always have these overtones and may even be a positive good as in the case of a man who truly loves his wife and is thus "jealous" of any rival. This seems to be what both the Old and New Testaments have in mind when they speak of the jealousy of God. It is the jealousy of perfect love.

Especially in the Old Testament the relationship between God and his people is likened to that of a loving and chaste husband to his wife. The prophecies of Hosea and Jeremiah particularly stress this. And as a loving husband grieves over any unfaithfulness on the part of his wife, so the Lord grieves over the unfaithfulness of his people.

This conception of the jealousy of God is rooted in the idea of the sovereignty of God. Certainly some of the difficulty modern man has in ascribing jealousy to God stems from his lack of recognition of God's sovereignty. The Bible consistently teaches that God is in complete control of his world and of all who dwell therein. His sovereignty extends to all men, but he has special claims on his people, since he has both created and redeemed them. Thus he will not tolerate in them worldliness which is divided allegiance (James calls it doublemindedness). He is jealous of his people. But we must always remember that it is a jealousy of love.

part of the Baptist Jubilee Advance program will mark a good beginning in this phase of work. Our mission supported churches are being encouraged to strive for greater self-support in their program, and much needs to be done in this phase. Our various mission fields require more missionaries more fully to heed the Macedonian call and to win the lost to Christ. Already the Board of Missions has set a goal of 100 missionaries by 1964. May it please the Lord of the Harvest to hear and answer the prayers of his servants!

We shall not close our ears nor our eyes to new mission fields if the Lord so directs in the years that lie before us. A reorganization has been effected for the sole purpose of becoming more efficient and effective in every missionary outreach. Our prayer is that God may grant us an ever-expanding horizon and an ever greater vision of the need of the world for the Christ who can meet that need and whom we serve and proclaim.

By MRS. ALBERT REDDIE
President of the Women's Missionary Union

BLESSED ARE THE GRATEFUL

Cultivating the habit of gratitude reaches back into childhood for most people, when they were taught always to say, "Please" and "Thank you," the fundamentals of good manners. Perhaps saying, "Thank you," becomes so much a part of us that we say it automatically without feeling truly thankful in our hearts. Gratitude, like affection, must find expression to become the dynamic force that can transform a life.

Anyone who travels through our great land—the United States as well as Canada—sees a panorama of wealth and beauty unequalled anywhere in the world. In this land of America, to which the Pilgrim fathers brought their thirst for freedom and religious liberty, we live like kings, although perhaps we work like slaves. And yet, for all we have, we have been accused of being the most ungrateful people on earth. It is the persecuted immigrant who has found refuge in our land of plenty who often opens our eyes to the wonderful land which is ours, and to the priceless heritage of freedom, which we possess but which so often we fail to cherish.

In Deut. 8:10-14 we read: "And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you"—. And then follows a warning: "Take heed, lest you forget the Lord your God, by not keeping his commandments and his ordinances and his statutes which I command you this day . . . lest, when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them . . . you forget the Lord your God."

Perhaps at this Thanksgiving season, we would do well to take inventory of our attitudes. Do our lives really give expression to the gratitude we profess? Are we truly grateful? Not only for the simple blessings of life so freely given by an ever loving heavenly Father each day, but for the privilege of living in a land of freedom? Or have prosperous Americans and Canadians living in "goodly houses" forgotten God? Are we grateful enough for the priceless privilege of worshipping God as we choose?

It seems to me, if we really treasured our rich religious heritage, valued our churches for what they are, and the blessings they bring into our lives, we would never miss a service. We would be prompted by sheer gratitude to give so generously of our substance that no part of our denominational program would ever suffer for lack of

What Will "Baptist Men" Do for Me?

A Challenge to All Laymen by Mr. Herbert Stabbert of Anaheim Calif., Executive Vice-president of "Baptist Men."

The question is asked occasionally, "What will a men's organization do for me that I am not already getting from our regular church services?"

We will all readily admit that there is no substitute for the Sunday services and the midweek prayer meetings. However, it is also evident that the informal atmosphere in the meetings of a Brotherhood will tend to develop channels of activity that are rather impractical to carry out in the more formal services. What are some of these?

First, there is the opportunity for the expression of talent. It has been discovered that men are more prone to express themselves and take part when surrounded by men than when in the midst of a mixed group. Perhaps all of us have experienced this fact at those times during midweek prayer meetings when, on occasion, men meet by themselves. Thus, in like manner many men have come forth with hidden abilities displayed during the meetings of a Brotherhood, and these talents in turn dedicated to the entire church program.

A Brotherhood will also inspire men to be active for the cause of Christ. In what way? Consecrated men really want to do things for the church and in an active Brotherhood many opportunities come forth that will motivate such action. A Brotherhood can become the right arm for a pastor in a visitation program, or in a movement to encourage tithing and stewardship, or in banding together in a prayer circle, or in a program of building or renova-

tion of church property in those instances where such work is feasible and practical.

Second, there is the opportunity for the expression of talent. It has been discovered that men are more prone to express themselves and take part when surrounded by men than when in the midst of a mixed group. Perhaps all of us have experienced this fact at those times during midweek prayer meetings when, on occasion, men meet by themselves. Thus, in like manner many men have come forth with hidden abilities displayed during the meetings of a Brotherhood, and these talents in turn dedicated to the entire church program.

Third, there is the opportunity for the expression of talent. It has been discovered that men are more prone to express themselves and take part when surrounded by men than when in the midst of a mixed group. Perhaps all of us have experienced this fact at those times during midweek prayer meetings when, on occasion, men meet by themselves. Thus, in like manner many men have come forth with hidden abilities displayed during the meetings of a Brotherhood, and these talents in turn dedicated to the entire church program.

tion of church property in those instances where such work is feasible and practical.

Along with the desire to be active, that a Brotherhood will afford, is the matter of participation. Isn't it true that an activity is more interesting to one if he has had a hand in it? When one feels that he has had a share in the planning and development of any movement, he has a sense of belonging and accomplishment. Too often the program of a church is in the hands of a few, and a Brotherhood can be the training school so that more people will participate in the program and activities of the church.

Let us also remember the very important matter of Christian fellowship. There is no substitute for the genuine and wholesome fellowship that can exist among Christian men. Perhaps some of us are active in civic enterprises; others perhaps in business ventures and some in service clubs. All of these in one form or another offer fellowship, but do not give the sense of well being and satisfaction that one can receive while in fellowship with men who share that great common denominator, namely, Christ and for what he stands.

Thus, men, if we desire to find expression for our talents, to be active for the cause of Christ, to participate in the program of the church and if we wish to enjoy this unique fellowship, then let us support the men's organizations of our churches. The officers of "Baptist Men" urge you to take active steps in this matter.

CENTENARY OF SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 9)

though principally academic, has a definite spiritual and moral inclination, which is an important stabilizing factor in a changing culture. Although the Centre at Soppo caters principally to Baptist students, in keeping with their convictions of religious liberty which they have zealously safeguarded since their expulsion from Fernando Po, Baptists today admit other students into the Training Centre, allowing them freedom to worship as they so desire.

The Cameroons is a fast growing nation which is struggling with change and uncertainty. In this challenging situation, Baptists are expanding their educational facilities, determined to provide academic training, determined to explain the truth about God, and determined to safeguard the individual's right to worship God in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.

What's Happening

● Rev. Olland Cole, formerly pastor of the Pin Oak Creek Church, Mt. Sterling, Missouri, began his new pastorate at the First Baptist Church, Osseo, Mich., on October 12. This is a church of the American Baptist Convention. His new address is given elsewhere in this issue.

● The Rabbit Hill Baptist Church near Edmonton, Alta., has called Mr. Peter Schroeder, student in the Bible College of Edmonton's Christian Training Institute, as its regular pastor. He began his ministry there on Nov. 1st, succeeding Rev. Fred W. Pahl, now pastor of Edmonton's Lauderdale Church. Mr. Schroeder will continue his studies in the Bible College of the C. T. I. besides his pastorate at the church.

● The First Baptist Church of Leduc, Alta., has appointed Mr. Gene Hochhalter of Missoula, Montana, a student in the Bible School department of Edmonton's Training Institute, as its assistant pastor to Rev. Fred J. Knalson. Mr. Hochhalter's responsibility will be to serve the Clover Lawn Station, a mission of the church, at services and in visitation work. He is being licensed by the Leduc Church for this ministry at the Clover Lawn Station.

● Dr. Kenneth Jones, formerly medical missionary at the Bamenda New Hope Settlement in the Southern Cameroons, West Africa, is taking further studies in the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland, Oregon. He and his wife are members of the Trinity Baptist Church of Portland, of which Dr. John Wobig is the pastor. They are also serving the "Friendly Chapel" in the southwest section of Portland, which is sponsored by the Union Gospel Mission. They are giving spiritual leadership in this mission in a variety of ways and with great blessing to those attending.

● On Sunday, October 5, the Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, Alta., dedicated its new parsonage of living and dining rooms, 4 bedrooms, study, kitchen, bathroom and utility room. The total cost was \$10,000 excluding voluntary labor on the building. On Sunday, Sept. 28, the church observed its Harvest and Mission Festival with many visitors in attendance. Rev. Edward Hornbacher served as guest speaker. The offerings totalled \$1021. Recently the 5th sacred concert of the Central Baptist Church choir, Edmonton, Alta., was presented under the direction of Mr. Heinz Kleiber. Rev. Herbert Hiller of Edmonton, Alta., was the guest speaker. Rev. Otto A. Ertis is pastor of the Lethbridge Church.

● The Shroyer Road Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, held a ground breaking ceremony for its new educational wing on Sunday morning, Oct. 5. Rev. Hel-

mut H. Reimer, pastor, and Church School officials took part in the exercises. Work on the construction of the new educational unit has begun. On Sunday, Oct. 5, the church also took cognizance of Dr. H. von Berge's 87th birthday and wished him God's richest blessings for the pilgrimage of life ahead of him.

● The Southwood Park Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon, has announced that its pastor, Rev. Albert Wardin, recently resigned and that he is now serving the church as its interim minister. From June 8 to August 31 the church was served by Rev. Bruce Rich of the Bethany Church near Portland, Oregon, as summer pastor. He is a 1958 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

● The First Baptist Church of Selfridge, N. Dak., has extended a call to Rev. David Littke of Tampa, Florida. He has served in several North American Baptist pastorates, the last having been at Bison, Kansas. Mr. Littke has accepted the call from Selfridge and began his ministry there on November 2nd. Mrs. Littke will remain in Florida until the graduation of their youngest daughter from high school next June when she will join her husband in Selfridge, N. Dak. Mr. Littke is succeeding Rev. Bernard Edinger at this church.

● The Central Baptist Church of Edmonton, Alta., has opened a new mission in the area of Holyrood School at 79th Street and 94th Avenue. The first sessions of Sunday School and the morning worship service were held on Sunday, Oct. 5th. On the previous Saturday, 650 bulletins containing information about the new Mission Work and its spiritual objectives were distributed in the neighborhood. The Sunday morning services are continuing to be held in the auditorium of the Holyrood School. Rev. Herbert Hiller and Rev. E. P. Wahl are serving as the pastors of the Central Baptist Church and are giving leadership to this mission project.

● On Sunday, Oct. 5, a joint baptismal service was held by the First Baptist Church of Durham, Kansas, and the Strassburg Church near Marion, Kansas, in the Emmanuel Church of Marion. Nine converts were baptized by Rev. Norman Miller of the Durham Church and five converts by Rev. Charles Littman for the Strassburg

Church. On Rally Day at the Durham Church, the Sunday School totalled 127 persons. Twenty-six children were promoted. From Nov. 3 to 14, evangelistic services were held with Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Fritzke of West Fargo, N. Dak., bringing the messages and musical numbers.

● On the four Wednesday evenings in September, Rev. H. John Vanderbeck brought a series of studies on Christian and mental illness in the light of God's Word at the midweek services of the Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, California. The general theme was "Pathways to Peace." The four individual study themes were: Mental Illness Versus Health; The Brain and I; Demon Possession and Sin; and The Christian View. The services proved to be very popular and inspiring for the large audiences. On Sunday evenings, Mr. Vanderbeck is bringing a series on the Gospel of John entitled, "Walking With Christ."

● Four laymen and the pastor, Rev. Bernard Edinger, of the Grace Baptist Church, Gackle and Alfred, N. Dak., ran a Christian advertisement in the local paper during the "Grain Show" of the community. The ad called attention to the fact that the church is sowing "the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, cultivating the tender plant of youth and harvesting the fruits of the Spirit." An invitation to the church services was also included. Favorable comments were received by people of the community to these unique "Grain Show" ads.

● The First Baptist Church, Lorraine, Kansas, held its Harvest and Mission Festival on Sunday, Oct. 19, with Dr. Frank H. Woyke of Forest Park, Ill., executive secretary, as guest speaker. The missionary offerings at the services amounted to slightly more than \$10,000, all designated for our denominational work and mission fields. "Baptist Men" of the church were in charge of the evening service. Mr. William Sies, president, and other officers had arranged the program and musical numbers were rendered by a men's quartet and by Arthur Kruse, soloist. Rev. Harold W. Gieseke, pastor, is bringing his ministry at the Lorraine Church to a close on November 30. On January 1, 1959, he will officially assume his new position as general secretary of the denominational Board of Education and Publication.

● On Tuesday evening, Sept. 30, more than 1600 Albertans wished their premier, the Honorable E. C. Manning, a "Happy Birthday." The occasion was a birthday party held in the Jubilee Auditorium of Edmonton, Alta., to mark the premier's 50th birthday. It was not "a Social Credit celebration, but a province-wide, public birthday party in honor of a man who has devoted 23 years of his life to the public service," as stated by the Honorable Fred Colborne, master of ceremonies. A biographical booklet on Premier Manning's life was also distributed on

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Have You Renewed
Your Subscription to the
BAPTIST HERALD?

Sunday School Lessons

A TEACHING GUIDE

Date: December 7, 1958

Theme: Jesus' Matchless Power
Scripture: Mark 5:1-13

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: The power of Jesus Christ is more than a defensive power; it is an overcoming power.

INTRODUCTION: All of us are acquainted with the power of sin. We see it all around us. It is not only evident in drunkards, in thieves, in hoodlums and in murderers. Much of it is manifest in a more hypocritical form in the respectable neighborhoods, in the homes and in the churches. To some degree all of us have experienced the power of sin in our lives and the overwhelming sense of helplessness in trying to break its hold.

There is, first of all, the struggle with the power of past sin. It cannot be ignored; it cannot be erased; it cannot be forgotten. There is no human power capable of dealing with it. Only as we cry, "God be merciful unto me, a sinner," will we find forgiveness in the power of Christ's atoning love on the Cross.

After forgiveness, there is also the struggle with the sin that besets us daily. We feel too weak to perform the good and not strong enough to refrain from evil. (Romans 7:15-25). Deliverance is found only in total surrender to Christ and his power.

I. JESUS' MATCHLESS POWER OVER THE FORCES OF NATURE. Mark 4:36-41.

We feel like one of the saints who prayed for help while he reminded God, "Your sea is so great and my boat is so small." The important thing is not how big the sea is or how little our boat is. If Christ is with us in our frail boat, we need not be terrified of the sea. "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth" said Jesus, and there are therefore no natural or human circumstances beyond his control.

(Even though the above is not in our printed lesson, we wish to illustrate man's helplessness as he finds himself caught between the material forces without and the evil forces within.)

II. MAN'S POWERLESSNESS. Mark 5:1-7.

The phrases, "no man could bind him" and "neither could any man tame him," seem to indicate that super-human efforts were made to help and control this man in one way or another until all hope was lost. Therefore when Jesus appeared, he was afraid that more of this type of help would increase the suffering of his tormented mind and body. He wanted no more human experiments; he had them all.

III. JESUS' MATCHLESS POWER. Mark 5:8-13.

Jesus knew that this man did not

need more binding and taming, but cleansing and freedom. A mind possessed of evil spirits cannot be bound or tamed. The only cure is a new mind—the mind of Christ. The surprising thing is the gentleness which Jesus expressed in dealing with this type of violence. He does not refer to the man as a great sinner or a hypocrite. There is a marked difference in the way Jesus speaks to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23 and the way he speaks to this possessed and helpless creature. The Lord simply says, "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit," giving him hope for a new spirit. And in the question, "What is thy name?" he sees the promise of a new name.

A TEACHING GUIDE

Date: December 14, 1958

Theme: Jesus Shares His Ministry
Scripture: Mark 6:6b-13

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: Jesus not only had authority and taught with authority; he also knew how to delegate authority.

INTRODUCTION: The most tragic thing is to look out on all the spiritual and physical needs of the world and to realize how little time and help there are available to fulfill these needs. It must have been with a great heart of love and sympathy, and yet with a sense of helplessness, that Jesus "looked upon the multitude and was moved with compassion on them because they fainted, and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). What a great harvest field, and what a shortage of laborers!

Here is an opportunity for the most worthy service, the most rewarding service, and the most necessary service, but people are still more interested in being served than in serving. Many Christians are good at listening, at praying, at giving, yet they hesitate to go through the discipline of Christian training for greater service. There is no doubt that Christ needs your praying and your giving, but most of all he needs YOU. Share your possessions with Jesus as well as your life, and you will find that Christ has much more to share with you.

I. JESUS AS THE GREAT TEACHER. Mark 6:1-6.

Even the best and greatest teacher can do nothing where the mind and heart are closed. It must have been

S. S. LESSON EDITOR

The editor of this page, "Sunday School Lessons," is Rev. Bruno Schreiber, who lives at the address: 1026 S. Harvey, Oak Park, Illinois.

a great disappointment to Jesus to have his best friends and loved ones reject his work and his word. Beyond the fact that he was a carpenter, they saw nothing unusual in him. Because of their unbelief, even with all his power, Christ could do nothing.

But to those who were teachable, Jesus was the greatest Teacher. "Never man spake like this man" said the officers. (John 7:46). They were so spellbound by his words that they forgot their mission. "Heaven and earth shall pass away" said Jesus, "but my words shall never pass away" (Mark 13:31). Often it is easy to forget what others said. It is difficult to forget what Jesus said. Jesus' teaching does not merely change your intellectual and religious outlook; it changes your life!

II. JESUS' TEACHER TRAINING CLASS. Mark 6:7-11.

Never was there a more concentrated course for preparing men for the Gospel ministry. Not only did Jesus wish to impart Christian truth to his disciples; more than anything else he wished to impart his own Spirit. Phillips Brooks, who was a great teacher as well as a preacher, said: "The true method of teaching religion is where the personality of the teacher invades the personality of the scholar. The object of all Christian teaching is to bring Christ to men. Never teach a soft, easy Christianity. The easy faiths have been the weak faiths. It is easier to excite fanaticism than to build a quiet steadfast faith." This courageous kind of teaching demands courageous scholars!

III. THE MESSAGE AND MISSION OF THE TWELVE. Mark 6:12-13.

Jesus did not prepare his disciples to preach profound sermons and to deliver learned theological discourses. They were to minister to the immediate spiritual and physical needs of men—repentance and healing. The message was urgent! Souls were being lost! Therefore they were not to be hampered by unnecessary baggage, nor be concerned as to where to stay, nor waste too much time arguing with people who do not accept the Gospel.

MARCH OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 2)

the jewel-encrusted cross, placed near the stone, and on the scarlet, purple, blue and maroon velvet hoods of the robed clergymen who marched with civic and academic guests in slow procession to seats in front of the draped platform where the President stood. Ten thousand were seated along Riverside Drive. Speaking as chairman of the board of Morningside Heights Inc., where the new center is rising, David Rockefeller predicted that "475 Riverside Drive" will be an address known the world over. His father, John D. Rockefeller Jr., provided the block-square site for the building plus a gift of \$2,650,000 toward the 20 million dollars it will cost.

Ridgemont Church of Michigan Dedicates Its \$300,000 Edifice

By Margaret Stephens
of the Ridgemont Baptist Church,
East Detroit, Mich.



The newly dedicated building of the Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, Mich., with Rev. Otto Patzia and Rev. John Ziegler serving as pastors.

We of the Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, Mich., wish to share with you a few of the many blessings received during our church dedication services, which began on October 1, and extended through October 5, 1958. It is through much prayer and sacrifice that the Lord has enabled us to erect a larger and more beautiful "house of worship" for the furtherance of his Kingdom.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The Ridgemont Baptist Church, located in East Detroit, Michigan, is the former Conner Avenue Church of Detroit. In the year 1955, we, as a church, saw the need for expansion since our congregation was steadily increasing and space was constantly diminishing. We were unable to make any addition to the church building due to lack of property.

After much searching, a large section of land was purchased in East Detroit and, shortly after, the Conner Church proceeded with the construction of the Educational Unit of the present Ridgemont Baptist Church. Immediately after completion of the Educational Unit, the English division of our bilingual congregation, composed of German and English, was transferred to the new location in order to spread the Gospel of Christ in that area. Many families were separated because of the split congregation. Consequently, relying on faith alone, we ventured into erecting the new edifice for the purpose of reuniting as quickly as possible.

Although there were many controversies connected with the building program, including the sale of the Conner Church, blessings were not denied us for the Lord was always faithful to guide in all matters. With the aid of an able contractor, Mr. A. Semmler, a member of our church, the support by members with prayers and sufficient finances, the entire church

building was completed in April 1958 at an approximate cost of \$300,000 and the first services were held on Easter Sunday.

The entire church body awaited this day with great anticipation and it was an Easter Sunday filled with a double portion of gratitude to an ever loving and kind Savior, without whose help we would not have been able to accomplish such a great undertaking.

DEDICATION SERVICES

On Wednesday, October 1st, we began our dedication services with a powerful prayer meeting which inaugurated the success of the entire dedication festivities. Thursday evening was "Family Night," at which program all families present sat together. Movies and slides were shown by our pastor, Rev. O. Patzia, covering the complete building program from the ground breaking. Two guest speakers presided that evening in the persons of Rev. A. Braun of the First Baptist Church, Centerline, Michigan, and Rev. A. Luck of the Bethel Baptist Church, Windsor, Ontario.

The official dedication took place Friday evening. Many guest preachers conveyed their congratulations and many friends from our sister churches attended this event. The young people of Ridgemont held a banquet Saturday evening. Our assistant pastor, Rev. J. Ziegler, supplied the "Spiritual Food" at that function. Sunday was a day of great expectations, awaited by all. Rev. J. C. Gunst, denominational promotional secretary, who was guest of honor during our period of dedication, brought the message in both the German and English services on Sunday morning.

Various activities continued throughout the day. At the evening service, a musical program was rendered by all church choirs, including Rev. A. Luck's choir from Windsor. Mr. Gunst concluded these wonderful dedication serv-

ices by presenting a short but heart-stirring message at the close of Sunday evening's program.

THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Our dedication services will long be remembered. It is only through our Savior's grace and love that we have acquired a beautiful new church building and have already experienced such blessed times in Christian fellowship. We, the Ridgemont Baptist Church, the pastor, Rev. Otto Patzia and the assistant pastor, Rev. John Ziegler, hope and pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will continue to make us a blessing to all who enter our "house of worship" that we as church may grow, physically and spiritually, and that every individual member might be an ardent soul winner and shining light as we walk our daily path, until the day we see our Savior face to face.

BAPTIST BRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

a goal of at least 1200 churches and preaching stations by the time of the 50th anniversary meeting five years hence.

• **Seminary Heads Named.** Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, has elected Rev. Robert E. Naylor as president to succeed the late J. Howard Williams. Dr. Naylor, pastor of the Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, had been chairman of the seminary's board of trustees. A native of Oklahoma, he received a Master of Theology degree from Southwestern in 1932. Another Southern Baptist theological school, the Carver School of Missions and Social Work at Louisville, Ky., has installed Rev. Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., as its president. Mr. Brooks was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pensacola Florida, and is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

Plum Creek Church's 75th Anniversary

Report of Festive Days at the Plum Creek Baptist Church Near Emery, S. Dak., by Mrs. Bennie Fauth

The Plum Creek Baptist Church of Emery, S. Dak., celebrated its 75th anniversary from Oct. 11 to 13, with the theme, "Marks of a Living Church."

EARLY HISTORY

Among the people who immigrated and settled in the southern part of South Dakota in 1880 were a number of Baptists. These Christian people had worship services in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Mehlhoff. Rev. F. Reichle of the Emmanuel Creek Baptist Church, now Danzig, served these Christian people.

The field became too large for one pastor, so this group of Christians decided to organize a local church fellowship. On June 9, 1883, they organized as the Plum Creek German Baptist Church, with four stations, namely, Plum Creek, Bridgewater, Menno and Klum, and with 88 charter members. They were recognized on October 13, 1883 by our North American Baptist denomination.

A small church was built with Fred Beier as the supervisor and with the help of the members. It was dedicated on Oct. 17, 1883. Rev. J. C. Grimmel, the general mission secretary, was the guest speaker. Rev. H. L. Dietz of Milwaukee, Wis., served as moderator and Rev. F. Reichle from the Emmanuel Creek Church was the secretary. There was great joy, thanksgiving and Christian fellowship throughout the day. The joy of the Lord was their strength. "To Hold Forth the Word of Life" was their ambition and goal.

Through the years the Lord gave our church saintly pastors to lead and

feed this flock. The following men have served our church: Rev. J. Croeni, 1883-1885; Rev. J. Staub, 1885-1887; Rev. F. Muller, 1887-1889; Rev. C. Regier, 1889-1892; Rev. A. Liebig, 1892-1903; Rev. H. Hilzinger, 1904-1905; Rev. J. Pfeiffer, 1907-1913; Rev. W. Buening, 1913-1919; Rev. C. Dip-



Members of the Plum Creek Baptist Church and Sunday School, Emery, South Dakota, in attendance at the 1957 Thanksgiving Day service.

pel, 1921-1927; Rev. B. Luebeck, 1928-1930; Rev. E. Gutsche, 1930-1937; Rev. J. C. Kraenzler, 1938-1943; Rev. G. W. Rutsch, 1943-1950; Rev. A. Braun, 1951-1954; Rev. W. Potratz, 1954—.

The celebration began on Saturday evening with the anniversary banquet, which was held in the Pioneer Hall at

Freeman, S. Dak., with 320 people attending. Our pastor, Rev. W. Potratz was toastmaster. A highlight of the banquet was the viewing of a film which was taken about thirty years ago showing church activities of that day in the Dakota Conference and a young people's conference at our

church. It also brought back to us a number of the deceased, former pastors of the Plum Creek Church. God's presence was evident as Dr. M. L. Leuchner brought the keynote message on "Christ, Our Cornerstone."

SUNDAY'S FESTIVITIES

On Sunday a large crowd attended both the forenoon and afternoon services. Mrs. G. W. Rutsch of Sacramento, Calif., and Rev. A. Braun of Center Line, Mich., spoke in the Sunday School hour while Dr. Leuschner brought the message for the worship service on "A Christ Honoring People." Rev. G. W. Rutsch of Sacramento, Calif., brought the message on Sunday afternoon, "A Holy People." Pastors from eleven neighboring churches brought anniversary greetings and challenges to the church.

In the evening service Rev. J. C. Kraenzler of Sumner, Iowa, gave the message, "A United People." The anniversary choir and special groups brought messages in song at each service. Our Sunday mission offering amounted to \$627.07.

Tears of joy and gratitude flowed freely on Monday morning as members and former members spent an hour in testifying of the blessings that had come to them through this church. The message was brought by Rev. E.

(Continued on page 24)



Rev. Willis Potratz (3rd from left), pastor of the Plum Creek Baptist Church, Emery, S. Dak., and former pastors at the church's 75th anniversary program. Left to right: Rev. E. Gutsche, Rev. G. W. Rutsch, Rev. Willis Potratz, Rev. A. Braun, Rev. J. C. Kraenzler and Rev. B. Itterman.

Minnetrista Church at Its 100th Milestone

Report of the Centenary Jubilee of the Minnetrista Baptist Church, St. Bonifacius, Minn., by Mrs. Wm. F. Maas

It is a memorable experience for any church to reach the 100th milestone of its history. The Minnetrista Baptist Church of St. Bonifacius, Minn., is the first church of the Minnesota conference to observe its centennial.

It was in the year 1856 that several German families came to St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, from Dayton, Ohio. With a faith in God and a hope to succeed, they at once set out to build their homes, the lumber for which had to be hewn from the trees of the forest. In 1858 eight Baptists decided to organize themselves as a German Baptist Church.

PASTORS OF THE CHURCH

Much prayer and work preceded the plans for our centennial. The entire church sanctuary and church dining room have been completely redecorated, the kitchen remodeled and a new furnace installed.

The following have served our church as pastors: Rev. John Wendt, 1858-1876, and 1880-1883; Rev. F. Berndt, 1876-1878; Rev. C. Langlotz, 1883-1895; Rev. H. Bens, 1895-1801; Rev. F. H. Heinemann, 1901-1937; Rev. August Lutz, 1938-1947; Rev. Ralph Lutter, 1948-1952; and Rev. D. S. Wipf 1953-1957.

Friday evening, October 3rd, marked the opening of our centennial observance with a fellowship dinner. Choruses were sung, greetings and reminiscences were brought by the officers of the church organizations and members. The special musical numbers rendered were inspiring and one truly felt "How Great Thou Art." Edward Beise presented the Sunday School with a plaque. Rev. Thomas Harfst, our interim pastor, brought the message, "Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:1-11).

SUNDAY'S FESTIVITIES

Sunday we were happy to welcome former pastors, friends and neighbors to our centennial services. Our Sunday School met in the church auditorium. A Sunday School Bulletin Board given in memory of Elmer Thurk was dedicated.

At the morning worship service Dr. Martin L. Leuschner of Forest Park, Ill., brought a challenging message, "Go ye and learn what that meaneth" (Matthew 9:13). After the morning service, dinner was served in the church dining room.

In the afternoon congratulatory messages were read and we were pleased to hear from our former pastor, Rev. August Lutz. Personal greetings were extended by Rev. Ralph Lutter and Rev. David Guston, former pastors, by Rev. David Guston, former interim pastor, and other neighboring conference pastors.

Dr. Martin L. Leuschner brought an

A most colorful historical exhibit was shown at the Minnetrista Church's Centenary Jubilee, reviewing the church's history in the early days with remarkable effectiveness.

bers and friends of the Minnetrista Baptist Church was read.

Brother Edward Beise, who is 86 years old and our oldest member, led us in a German prayer which was unique as were two songs sung by the



Officers of the Minnetrista Baptist Church, St. Bonifacius, Minn., at its Centenary Jubilee festivities.

outstanding message on the "Blessings of Goodness" (Psalm 20). Through the beautiful stained glass window came rays of sunlight as if the Lord was giving his special blessing to his Word.

The Birthday Offering amounting to \$252 is to be used for Church Extension. "We give today that some new church might be born tomorrow."

CLOSING SONG FESTIVAL

The old time Song Fest which opened the evening service filled the church with unanimous praises to God. A congratulatory message from President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the mem-

mixed chorus, "Grosser Gott, wir loben Dich" and "Das Leben gleicht dem Sommertag."

We praise God for our interim pastor, Rev. Thomas Harfst, and his wife. During their ministry with us they have faithfully and earnestly proclaimed the word of God.

As we begin our second century, it may be that on some dark tomorrow when these glorious hours are but a fading afterglow, we will be confronted with problems. We know not what the future holds, but this we know, "Jesus Never Fails."



Sunday School teachers and officers of the Minnetrista Baptist Church, St. Bonifacius, Minn., with the interim pastor, Rev. Thomas Harfst, in the front row, center.

Our Denomination in ACTION

Pacific Conference

Sunday School Week, First Church, Lodi, Calif.

The Sunday School of the First Baptist Church, Lodi, Calif., is under the very able leadership of Mrs. Dorothy Dehr. A total of 63 officers and teachers are working faithfully to teach the Gospel to an enrollment of 596 persons, young and old. For three days prior to Sunday School Week, many of our officers and teachers were able to attend the Sunday School Fair at Turlock, Calif., sponsored by the Gospel Light Press.

Promotion Sunday began Sunday School Week at our church. Many boys and girls received their attendance pins. Three of our students have attained high honors for attendance. LaVonne Zimmerman received an eleven year pin; her sister, Wanda Zimmerman, received a ten year pin; and Douglas Woehl received a ten year pin.

On Sunday evening all teachers and officers were recognized, and our pastor, Rev. G. Rauser, gave us a challenging message. Wednesday evening found a majority of the teachers and officers in prayer meeting, and on Friday evening both old and new teachers and officers had a potluck dinner at the church. A fine program was prepared with Sheldon Clements, Youth For Christ Director for the Lodi-Stockton area, as guest speaker.

Mrs. Leonard Fischer, Reporter

Golden Wedding Anniversary At Elk Grove, Calif.

On Oct. 12 at the First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. John Fizer celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married Oct. 15, 1908. As the guests entered the church they signed the guest book, with Miss Grace Rauser in charge. Mrs. Ed Neher played "I Love You Truly" at the organ and the Wedding March was played as the honored couple was ushered to the platform by their daughter, Mrs. Martha Fizer Tillet, and their son, Delbert Fizer. Rev. W. W. Knauf then read Psalms 127 and congratulated Mr. and Mrs. John Fizer.

About 1947 they became members of the First Baptist Church of Elk Grove. A solo was sung by Mrs. John Wagemann. Master of ceremony was Mr. Frank Veninga. He stated Mr. and Mrs. Fizer have had 8 sons and daughters, of whom 6 are still living. For the last 22 years they have lived in the Elk Grove area. Those giving congratulations were Senior Deacon, Ed Schuh; Sunday School, Henry Rauser; Ladies' Missionary Society, Mrs. Ed Kammerer; Men's Fellowship, Ed Neher. The Men's Quartet sang "Beautiful Threads of Gold." A reading for the occasion was read by Mrs. Fred Heitzmann.

Mrs. Leonard Fandrich, Reporter

Youth Activities at First Church, Lodi, Calif.

The young people of the First Baptist Church, Lodi, Calif., under the leadership of Connie Locke as president, together with the other officers, are looking forward to another year of joy and blessing as they work for their Lord. The summer activities were climaxed with a swim party to which Temple Baptist, Elk Grove First and Willow Rancho young people were invited. The fall activities are in full swing. Many of our young people attend prayer meeting regularly. A good number belong to the choir. A Youth Choir of an average of 25 voices has been practicing for some time. An increasing number of them are teaching Sunday School classes, and many of them belong and attend weekly Bible Club meetings sponsored by the "Youth for Christ" of this area.

Recently several carloads of them traveled to Placerville for a day's work at Phil Thatcher's Youth Camp, a camp for delinquent boys and girls. This is a faith work and the young people donated a day's labor toward the improvement of the camp.

Mrs. Leonard Fischer, Reporter

Northwestern Conference

Baptist Church, Victor, Iowa Celebrates 55th Anniversary

The Baptist Church of Victor, Iowa, observed its 55th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 12. The nucleus of this group had its inception many years earlier, in fact, about 82 years ago. Growth of the early group was not rapid on account of the small German-speaking population in the rural community, and it remained a missionary church for a number of years.

Dr. George A. Lang, president of our Seminary at Sioux Falls, S. Dak., was guest speaker. We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Lang as well as other friends of the church to the services which were held morning and evening. Messages from the Word of God



Mr. and Mrs. John Fizer of Elk Grove, Calif., at their golden wedding anniversary celebration in the First Baptist Church of Elk Grove.

were entitled "Remember" and "For Times Like These" and brought to our hearts memories of blessings received in God's House over the years, as well as causing us to resolve prayerfully to look to our heavenly Father for continued direction in the years ahead.

Mrs. H. G. Folkerts, Reporter.

Iowa Association Sessions At Baileyville, Ill., Church

"Lord, Send the Old Time Power, O Lord, Our Faith Renew." These were the words sung with our voices and the prayer echoed in our hearts as the annual session of the Iowa Association convened in Baileyville, Illinois, Oct. 6 to 8.

The theme was chosen from Acts 1:8, dealing with the Holy Spirit and his function in our lives. Our guest speakers, Dr. F. H. Woyke, Missionary Earl Ahrens and Rev. J. C. Gunst, together with the local pastors presented challenging and inspirational messages.

Dr. Woyke also brought us an enlightening report on his trip to the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Switzerland in August. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Walter Grosser was guest speaker at the Laymen's Hour and on Wednesday afternoon the Women's Missionary Union program was held with Missionary Earl Ahrens bringing us a vivid picture of what we are doing on the mission field.

Rev. Emmanuel Wolff was elected moderator for the coming year with Rev. K. Marquardt, vice moderator, Rev. R. Dickau, secretary, and Louis Johnson as treasurer. It was unanimously voted to attend the Central Baptist Church of George, Iowa, for our 1959 Association.

Mrs. Fred Schmidt, Reporter

Central Conference

Reception for Church Missionary At Lansing, Mich.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 12, the Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, Mich., surprised its church missionary, Miss Bonnie Morgan, with a reception in recognition of her ten years of faithful and fruitful service rendered to the church.

Rev. Aaron Buhler conducted the evening service in the usual way, bringing his sermon, but suddenly he stopped and called Miss Morgan to the platform for some comment about the young people's work. Before she could start, he announced that the president of the Woman's Mission Circle would speak first. She did, announcing the occasion, and had Mrs. Pickett pin a corsage on her. Then followed a few brief remarks from Richard Jonak, president of the youth society; Mr. Dachtler, superintendent of the Sunday School; and Art Boldt, chairman of the Deacon Board.

Rudolph Kwast then presented her with a gift of money from the church and a set of books from the deacon

BAPTIST HERALD

Remember — Your Renewal to the BAPTIST HERALD.

board. This was followed by a time for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall attended by 300 persons.

—Rev. Ewald A. Roloff, Reporter

Dedication of Napier Parkview Church, Benton Harbor

The week of dedication services for the Napier Parkview Baptist Church of Benton Harbor, Mich., formerly the Clay Street Baptist Church, of which the Rev. William Hoover is pastor, was observed October 12-19.

The opening day was devoted to a missionary emphasis. Rev. Walter Sukut, missionary to Japan, emphasizing foreign missions and Rev. L. H. Broeker, pastor of the First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mich., represented the cause of home missions.

Open house was held Sunday afternoon at which time over 600 visitors were conducted through the building by a corps of competent guides trained to point out the salient features of the building.

The Allen organ recently installed in the church was dedicated Tuesday night. The guest organist was Don Husted, director of music at the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill.

Family Night was held on Wednesday. A total of 519 people taxed the capacity of the dining parlors of the church. Following the meal, colored slides were shown of the construction of the church from the first power shovel-ful of dirt dug out of the basement to the finished, decorated and landscaped church.

Rev. Edwin Miller, pastor of the Parma Heights Baptist church of Cleveland, Ohio, spoke Thursday at Sunday School and Youth Night. His challenging message was preceded by a dedication service in which all the organizations of the Sunday School and church were fully represented.

Community Night on Saturday again taxed the seating capacity of the dining parlors, with 464 people sitting down together for a sumptuous banquet. The pastor, presiding, introduced Mr. Wilbur Smith, mayor of Benton Harbor and acknowledged the indebtedness of the church to many prominent business men who were present as special guests.

Sunday, the final day, was filled to overflowing with good things. The speaker at its three services was Rev. J. C. Gunst of Forrest Park, Illinois. The actual dedication of the church occurred at the afternoon service, the third in the church's existence of 49 years. The associate pastor, the Rev. R. Shepley, offered the prayer of dedication.

Special music, instrumental and vocal, enhanced every service. The youth and adult choirs, as well as individuals, made frequent contributions in music.

The Napier Parkview Baptist church, located at the heart of a rapidly growing residential section of Benton Harbor, under the able leadership of its pastor, is God's provision for an increased and effective Christian ministry in this community.

R. Shepley, Reporter

November 27, 1958

Atlantic Conference

Sunday School Building Program Jamesburg, New Jersey

The First Baptist Church School of Jamesburg, New Jersey, "Sailed to Victory" on Rally Day, Sept. 28th, when reports revealed that we had gone over the top with a grand total of \$1109 given to our Sunday School Building Program. The Christian Knights Class was the first to sail into the harbor with \$100 toward the goal. The class with its capable teacher, Mrs. Marie Bradham, was rewarded with individual luminous crosses.

The contest boards were made by Mr. Edward Clinton and Mrs. Grace Epp. This is the second thousand dollars raised by the Sunday School to reduce the indebtedness on the S. S. wing. A new contest, "Reaching for the Moon," is planned to start soon.

Roger W. Schmidt, Reporter

Atlantic Conference Youth at Camp Greenkill, New York

This year's Atlantic Conference Camp at Camp Greenkill, Port Jarvis, N. Y., was a time of real blessing and joy for those who attended. Our staff was one of the best. Rev. Norman Klann of the Fleischmann Memorial Church, Philadelphia, Pa., was the dean of camp and with his wife, who served as camp nurse, were also kept in line by our daily court trials.

We had three classes each morning. Rev. Roy Seibel from our Seminary in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., led our thoughts into the mission field. The second class was on "Sacred Music" led by Rev. Roger Schmidt of Jamesburg, N. J. One thought that stayed with us was that music is just as much a part of our worship of God as the sermon. Our third class was led by Rev. Richard Sparling of Union City, N. J., on "Soul Winning." We also had a time for sports led by Mr. Sparling, a time for evening vespers, recreation, and a camp fire each day. Our total attendance for the week was 104.

Mrs. Margaret Briggs, Reporter



Miss Bonnie Morgan, church missionary for the Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, Mich., for the past ten years.

Northern Conference

Sunday School Contest, First-Church, Leduc, Alta.

We of the First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta, began our Sunday School Contest recently, which is to continue for six weeks. This is a contest in which any Sunday School in the world may enter. The main aim of this contest is to see how much we can boost our attendance during these six weeks. Our first Sunday opened with a record attendance of 230 in our Sunday School. We hope that it will increase in the weeks to come.

We had as our guest speaker the premier of our province, the Honorable E. C. Manning, who brought an inspiring missionary message. We trust that God will continue to bless us.

Mrs. Dennis Hammer, Reporter



The Christian Knights Class of the First Baptist Church, Jamesburg, N. J., winners in the Sunday School Building Project, with Mr. Robert Clinton, S. S. superintendent at the left, and Mrs. Marie Bradham, teacher, at the right.

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Atlantic CBYF Fall Conference At Bridgeport, Conn.

"Christ and You, Partners in Action" was the theme of the Atlantic CBYF Fall Conference held at the King's Highway Baptist Church, Bridgeport, Conn., October 11-12. Highlights of the week-end included a banquet Saturday evening, addressed by Rev. Robert Fuchs, and a mass rally Sunday afternoon at which Rev. Ernest Hoffmann was the speaker.

The conference began Saturday morning with a workshop opened by Mr. Henry Schell, CBYF President. Advisor, Rev. Richard Sparling, led the discussion on Christian ethics. Later the young people were taken on a tour of the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford. "Four Kinds of Fools" was the message at the banquet. Over 100 were present. During the time of fellowship which followed, slides of Camp Greenkill were shown and Mr. Andy Briggs recorded some incidents as re-enacted by the campers. A film, "Silent Witness," challenged high schoolers and adults to be faithful in their witness for Christ.

On Sunday morning Rev. Roger Schmidt brought a message on the prodigal son's elder brother. Rev. Ernest Hoffmann, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, N. Y., gave the final challenge of the week-end.

Janet Leeb, Reporter

Southwestern Conference

Pastor's Reception, Shell Creek Church, Columbus, Neb.

On Sept. 7 the Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, Neb., had the great joy to welcome its new pastor, Rev. Lyle Wacker, and family. Rev. R. Stading of the Cresten Baptist Church presided at the reception and introduced the program.

Expressions of welcome were given by our senior deacon, Sunday School superintendent, Junior and Senior C.B.Y.'s, and president of our Ladies' Missionary Society who in turn presented Mrs. Wacker with a corsage. Recitations and songs were also given by other members along with neighboring churches who also joined in giving their expressions of welcome by means of word and song.

In their response, Rev. and Mrs. Lyle Wacker pledged themselves to the work of the church in the community, and expressed their appreciation for the kindness shown them in various ways and for the pantry shower.

Following the services, refreshments were served in the church parlors.

Mrs. Allen Mohrmann, Church Clerk

Dakota Conference

Mission Circle Programs and Harvest Festival, Martin, N. D.

Members of the Baptist Church, Martin, N. Dak., are sharing the unique experience of traveling together as a church family since one of its members is the owner of the local school bus. Mr. Rheinhardt Brose has offered his bus as transportation to



Promotion Sunday exercises at the Grace Baptist Church, Hettinger, N. Dak., with Mr. Emil Fuchs, superintendent, in charge.

the Mission Circle for programs in neighboring churches. Thus far, a "Chorus-singing" group of about 40 passengers has traveled to present programs at the Rosenfeld, Lincoln Valley and Fessenden churches.

On Sept. 29, we dedicated our re-decorated and refurbished basement in a special thanksgiving service in connection with Harvest-Mission Festival. Many out-of-town guests shared in the consecration of the \$600 project. Reporting on the work of renewing the church facilities was a trustee of the church, Albert Feisel. Rev. Arnold Friez, pastor of the Rosenfeld Baptist Church, was the special speaker. A church dinner for everyone at noon was a part of the festive occasion, and we made good use of the new parlor facilities.

Mrs. Betty Kessler, Reporter.

Three Important Events at Gackle and Alfred, N. D.

Three important events are history at the Grace Baptist Churches of Gackle and Alfred, N. Dak., each with its own significance and blessing.

The Harvest Mission Festival services of the Alfred church were held Sept. 14 with Rev. Orville Meth of Venturia, N. Dak., preaching. An appreciative audience in the morning service and an overflow audience in the evening brought gifts to the Lord. On Sept. 21, Dr. George Lang, president of the Seminary at Sioux Falls, challenged the well-filled church with the need of evangelizing, at home and abroad, at the Grace Church of Gackle.

Sunday School week was celebrated

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at Grace Baptist Church of Gackle with a special "Family Night" on Thursday evening. The picture, "The Bible on the Table," was shown, and special recognition was given to complete families present in the service. The climaxing service of Sunday School Week was the Sunday School Rally Day program. No attendance records were broken, since a few weeks previous an attendance of 119 was recorded but, in spite of the hunting season, a round figure of 100 in Sunday School was recorded.

Bernard Edinger, Pastor

Harvest Festival and Youth Activities, McLaughlin, S. Dak.

On Sunday, Sept. 28, the First Baptist Church of McLaughlin, S. Dak., observed its annual Harvest Mission Day. The message, "Feeding The Multitude," was delivered by our guest speaker, Rev. Herbert Vetter of Isabel, S. Dak. Our Thanksgiving Offering amounted to \$1,945.35.

The Sunday School had a brief Promotion Program on Sept. 21. Several scholars received certificates of promotion. The school has eight classes besides a cradle roll. Andrew Bertsch is the superintendent with Reuben Friez as the assistant. The Senior C. B. Y. is growing in number. They meet twice a month prior to the worship services on Sunday evenings. Our pastor, Rev. E. Michelson, and Mr. Leo Friez are the advisors for this group.

The Junior C. B. Y. has again taken up its program of work for another course in Scripture memorization. The Bible verses are recited to the leaders: Mrs. Art Moser, Mrs. Alvin Grosch and Mrs. C. E. Aldinger. Paul Michelson is our president, and Rodney Strobel is vice-president. Judy Michelson, the secretary-treasurer, also serves as pianist. We have about 22 children in our Junior C. B. Y.

Mrs. C. E. Aldinger, Reporter.

Sunday School Week, Grace Church, Hettinger, N. D.

To start off Sunday School Week, the first Promotion Sunday was observed by the Grace Baptist Sunday School, Hettinger, N. Dak. The new teachers and officers were installed by the pastor, Rev. Iver Walker. Promotions were made by the superintendent, Mr. Emil Fuchs, and perfect attendance pins were awarded. Monday night was Visitation Night for the teachers and officers. Tuesday the teachers and officers met to plan the activities for the coming year.

Wednesday evening was Missions Night with Rev. Clemence Auch, missionary to Japan, as guest speaker. An offering was taken for our work in Japan. Thursday night was Fun, Food and Fellowship Night. The activities were planned for the entire family. The evening of games and lunch was climaxed with devotions led by the superintendent, Mr. Emil Fuchs. Friday night was designated as Family Stay-at-Home Night when families were encouraged to do things together and crown the evening with family devotions based on Deut. 6:1-12.

On Sunday, Oct. 5th, Rally Day was observed and the pastor brought a message on "Open Doors of Opportunity."

Iver Walker, Pastor

BAPTIST HERALD

Revival Time and Special Programs, Bismark, N. Dak.

The Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, N. Dak., held its yearly revival meetings from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2. A remarkable demonstration of renewed dedication by over one hundred people, young and old, must have been pleasing to the Lord. Among these were those, who on previous nights had accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, and those who declared themselves ready to join with our church. Also gratifying was the fact that after each evening service the majority of our people gladly remained for the so-called prayer fellowship sessions. Our evangelist, Rev. Daniel Fuchs, faithfully preached the Word. He also rejoiced the hearts of all with his well delivered children's stories. It was a joy to listen to this consecrated servant of the Lord. The love offering was \$465.67.

Friday night, after the revival meetings, was Mission Night. Our missionary, Miss Eleanor Weisenburger, of the Banso Hospital in the Cameroons, gave an illustrated lecture concerning the noble work that is being carried on.

Sunday, Oct. 26, was our Harvest and Mission Festival. Rev. A. Bibelheimer served as the guest speaker.

John E. Grygo, Pastor

South Dakota Association Sessions at Wessington Springs

The South Dakota Association met with the churches of Wessington Springs and Ebenezer, October 5-7. The theme of the sessions was, "Christ In My Life." The sessions began with a Sunday School Rally on Sunday afternoon and a Youth Rally in the evening. The speakers were Rev. L. Bienert, Youth Secretary, and Rev. Clemence Auch, Japan missionary.

Reports of the churches included that of 72 baptism and conversions. Our special interest was drawn to our new work in Rapid City. The new pastor, Rev. L. Weber, reported Sunday School attendance of 65 and an enrollment of 110. Our N. A. B. Nursing Home in Madison is now well established and filled to capacity. Our newest venture as an Association is the radio program, Chapel Cheer, heard weekly over station WNAX Yankton (570 KC) Sunday mornings at 7:15. Your response to this program can be made by writing to the station.

Officers elected for the coming year are: moderator, Rev. Willis Potratz of Plum Creek; vice-moderator, Rev. J. G. Benke of Madison; secretary, Rev. H. Effa of Chancellor; treasurer, Mr. Maynard Hoekman of Corona; radio committee-men, Rev. Elmer Buening, Parkston and Tripp, and Mr. Ray DeNeui of Chancellor.

"Baptist Men" of the Association are now organized through the leadership of Mr. Ray Lippert of Tripp. The following officers were elected: president, Mr. Albert Radel, Parkston; vice-moderator, Mr. Niel DeBoer, Madison; secretary, Mr. B. Terveen, Emery; treasurer, Mr. L. Jucht of Plum Creek. New officers for the Woman's Missionary Union are: president, Mrs. E. Kirstein, Wessington Springs; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. J. Terveen, Emery.

Rev. Elmer Buening, Reporter.

Rev. Elmer Buening, Reporter.

Rev. Elmer Buening, Reporter.

November 27, 1958

Obituary

(Obituaries are to be limited to about 150 words. A charge of five cents a line is made for all obituaries.)

MR. CLYDE McCracken of Ellsworth, Kansas

Mr. Clyde Tillman McCracken of Ellsworth, Kansas, was born Oct. 3, 1897 at Blue Eye, Mo., and passed away in Ellsworth, Kansas, on June 30, 1958. He was 60. In 1926, he married Miss Hettye Marvin Cox. To this union three children were born: Mrs. James Becker of Williamsville, Mo.; Rev. Donald D. McCracken, pastor of the Baptist Church of Concordia, Kansas; and Ann of the home. These with their mother now mourn the homegoing of a loving father and husband. One brother and three sisters also survive.

Mr. McCracken accepted Christ as his Savior as a young man and was baptized in the Immanuel Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla. At the time of his death, he was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Lorraine, Kansas. Funeral services were held from the church on July 2, 1958. Mr. Walter Schmidt read the Scripture and offered prayer. His pastor spoke on Heb. 11:16, "God . . . hath prepared for them a city."

First Baptist Church,
Lorraine, Kansas
HAROLD W. GIESEKE, Pastor

MR. WILLIAM KALK of Anamoose, North Dakota

Mr. William Kalk of Anamoose, N. Dak., was born May 8, 1882 in Cataloui, Romania. He came to Canada as a small boy with his parents. In 1896 he came to North Dakota and settled near Martin. At the age of 21 he was converted and was baptized by Rev. Robert Fenske and became a member of the Martin Baptist Church. In 1944 he joined the Anamoose Baptist Church and was a member until his passing.

He was married to Katherine Kaul in 1901. Four children were born to this union. His parents, his wife, 2 sons, 4 sisters and one brother preceded him in death. He entered the Home of the Aged in Bismarck, N. Dak., in 1957. He was in the hospital 6 months, and died Sept. 29, 1958 at the age of 76 years. He leaves to mourn one son, Albert, Seattle, Wash.; one daughter, Mrs. Freda Byland, also of Seattle; one sister, Mary Derman of Bismarck, N. Dak.; and one grandchild. The undersigned spoke words of comfort from Gen. 24:56.

Anamoose, North Dakota
ALBERT KROMBEIN, Pastor

MRS. MARIA WOLFF of Eureka, South Dakota

Mrs. Maria Wolff, nee Banek, of Eureka, S. Dak., passed away Oct. 2, 1958. She was born at South Russia, Oct. 5, 1876 and came with her parents to this country. On Oct. 14, 1894 she married John Wolff, which union the Lord blessed with nine children, three preceding the mother in death. In her 18th year she was converted, baptized by Rev. Gollinger, becoming a member of the Welsenburger Station, First Baptist Church, Eureka, S. Dak., where she remained a loyal member for 63 years.

Four years ago she became seriously ill, affecting her mind. Hulda, Mrs. G. Pfitzer, in whose home she lived, cared for her needs and comforts. She is mourned by the three sons and their families, four daughters and their families, three brothers, a large relationship, friends of her church and her neighbors, 20 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. The undersigned spoke words of hope, comfort and assurance based on Rev. 21:7.

Eureka, South Dakota
A. E. REEH, Minister

MISS ANNA MAIER of Martin, North Dakota

Miss Anna Maier of Martin, N. Dak., was born in Rumania on July 22, 1894. In 1908 she came to this country with her parents and settled on a homestead near Kief, N. Dak. In 1940 they moved to the Rosenfeld community and lived here until 1950 when they moved to a farm near Martin, N. Dak. In 1908 she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was baptized by Rev. B. Schlipf and was accepted as a member of the Rosenfeld Church. After the passing of her mother in 1911, Anna's life was dedicated to the care of her aged father to whom she remained faithful until the last. She went to be with the Lord on Oct. 13, 1958 while in the Trinity Hospital of Minot, N. Dak., at the age of 64 years, 2 months, and 21 days.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her aged father, Jacob, who is in a Nursing Home in Minot, and one brother, John, who is at home on the farm near Martin. Services were held from the Rosenfeld Church on Oct. 17 with Rev. A. M. Friez in charge. Rev. A. Voigt of Avon, S. Dak., former pastor of the church, spoke in German.

Rosenfeld Baptist Church
Anamoose, North Dakota

ARNOLD M. FRIEZ, Pastor

MRS. LYDIA STUECKLE of Phoenix, Arizona

Mrs. Lydia Stueckle, nee Moos of Phoenix, Arizona, was born on May 23, 1907, at Kulm, N. Dak. She spent her childhood and time of youth at Gackle, N. Dak. In 1926 she came to the coast with her parents who made their home at Dusty, Wash. She was married to Emil Stueckle on Oct. 25, 1927, and together they made their home on a farm near Dusty. During the time of her youth in North Dakota, she was converted in a revival meeting and joined the Congregational church. Three years ago Mr. and Mrs. Stueckle established their home in Phoenix, Arizona, because of her health. During the years of her illness, she suffered much pain, but was always patient and submissive to the way which the Lord had designed for her. She had the rare quality of making friends and keeping them over the years. She is survived by her husband, Emil Stueckle; three sisters: Mrs. Louise Meisch, Gackle, N. Dak.; Mrs. Margaret Schott, LaCrosse, Wash.; Mrs. Frieda Morasch, Colfax, Wash.; and one brother, Henry Moos, Colfax, Wash. Pastor Paul Quenzer of the Dusty Congregational Church and Pastor F. E. Klein officiated at the funeral service.

Colfax, Washington
By F. E. KLEIN, Correspondent

MR. DAVID GOGEL of Kelowna, British Columbia

Mr. David Gogel of Kelowna, B. C., was born Dec. 28, 1897 in South Russia. On Sept. 29th he quietly departed to be with the Lord in his home. He attained an age of 60 years and 9 months. On Dec. 26, 1920 he was united in holy matrimony with Olga Neb. To this union 9 sons and 3 daughters were born. Mr. Gogel came with his family to Canada in 1927 and settled down in the District of Serath, Sask. In 1943 they moved into vicinity of Regina, Sask., on the farm. In 1947 they came to Kelowna, B. C., and settled down in West Bank, B.C.

He leaves to mourn his beloved wife, Olga; 8 sons and 3 daughters, Water, Regina, Sask.; Herbert, Trochu, Alberta; David, West Bank, B. C.; Reinhold, Regina, Sask.; Mary (Mrs. Tiede) Edmonton, Alberta; Albert, Vancouver, B. C.; Lily, Regina, Sask.; Gerhard, Vancouver, B. C.; Joseph, Siegfried, and Rosie, Kelowna, B. C. He accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized by Rev. Strauch in South Russia and received into the fellowship of the Baptist church in 1921 at Liebenthal, South Russia.

Grace Baptist Church
Kelowna, B.C., Canada
E. H. NIKKEL, Pastor

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VICTORIA CENTENARY

(Continued from page 6)

Bay, England. Thus at the very inception our church has been blessed with a stable ministry.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION

It is true that, for nearly 25 years since the death of the late Pastor Burnley, we have failed to produce a native pastor, that within these years a schism has been caused ending up in the institution of a new church of the same faith, and financial difficulties have been strident but by and large we have stood the test well and we look forward with great hopes into the future.

The forthcoming Centenary Celebrations will bring us many joys, because this is the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Baptist church in Victoria and missionary effort in the Cameroons. It is a celebration which concerns us in particular and, in general, involves all missions, all the citizens of Victoria and the British Government. The church has set a target of 1,000 pounds, a huge sum indeed. It is hoped that a British Man O' war will take part in the celebrations as a special gesture of honor conferred on the town by Her Majesty, the Queen.

The last spot of interest I shall visit with you is the Health Office, an imposing building, situated opposite Ambas Bay. Here are housed the Medical Headquarters of the Cameroons. On the other side over the road is the establishment of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria and farther down the towering building of the Post Office.

I stood here recently with Mrs. Kate Martin, incidentally my grandmother, a grand old lady of 80 years, with an established reputation of a high Christian conduct, and blessed with a large family. I visited this place with her because this was a low rambling barn, called "Pincock's church" after the resident missionary Mr. Pincock. And so the church has grown from a humble beginning to a permanent establishment.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The end of one hundred years brings us to a time of retrospection and resolution, a time when we take stock of our success and our failures. As a church we have made progress within these years. We have kept our faith and we have managed our affairs with the advice of our missionary friends. Our number has remained fairly constant throughout.

Wherever possible, we have called for pastors from the grasslands to serve among our people, but only after our church members have acted as lay preachers and unordained leaders of our work. In spite of financial problems, our church is spiritually stable and we anticipate a growing clergy in the next era of our history.

1959 Annual

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PLUM CREEK CHURCH

(Continued from page 18)

Gutsche, Williston, N. Dak., on the subject, "A Prayerful People."

Greetings and challenges from former pastors and wives were given that afternoon. Rev. Bert Itterman, a former student pastor from Randolph, Minn., gave the message, "A Serving People." A duet by Mr. Braun and Mr. Itterman was greatly enjoyed.

ANNIVERSARY CLIMAX

Our anniversary came to a climax on Monday evening with Rev. A. Braun bringing the message, "A Watchful People." Rev. Leland Friesen of our neighboring Emery church ministered in song.

This has been a mountain top experience for us of the Plum Creek Church. We were truly happy to have all of the living former pastors return to share in the program and also that Dr. Martin Leuschner of Forest Park, Ill., could be with us.

We are thankful for our present, beloved pastor, Rev. W. Potratz, and family who helped make this anniversary a wonderful experience for all of us. May we too "hold forth the Word of life."

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 15)

this occasion. Premier Manning was one of the guest speakers at the North American Baptist General Conference in Edmonton last July in the same Jubilee Auditorium.

● The annual Family Night arranged by the Missionary Circle of the Baptist Church, Jeffers, Minn., was held on Wednesday evening, Oct. 1st, with Ono Van Gerpen, president, in charge. Miss Berneice Westerman, Cameroons missionary, was the guest speaker and also showed pictures of the mission field. The Scripture passage was read by Helen DeVries and prayer was offered by Florence Carlblom. The trio composed of Florence Bleeker, Maxine Courts and Gladys Wolf sang a special number, as reported by Helen DeVries, secretary.

● On Friday, Oct. 10, Rev. Edgar B. Wesner, pastor of the State Park Baptist Church, Peoria, Ill., participated in an interesting panel discussion in a program attended by the pastors of the Peoria area. The Peoria State Hospital had arranged for a series of lectures on the subject, "Feelings of Unworthiness." The panel, consisting of a psychiatric social worker, a clinical psychologist and Rev. Edgar B. Wesner, as a pastor, dealt with "Psychiatry and the Churches' Opportunity in Dealing with Feelings of Unworthiness." It was a most provocative and interesting meeting for the 60 pastors present. Mr. Wesner is hoping to complete his work for an M.A. degree in clinical psychology at Bradley University in Peoria in the spring of 1959.