# Baptist Herald

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE

DECEMBER 8, 1960



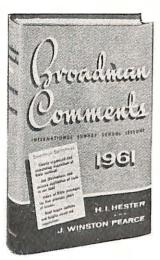
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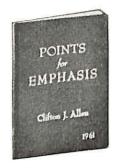
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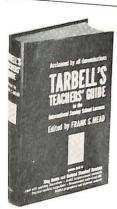
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# Editorial.

## His Name: Wonderful!

With matchless words the prophet Isaiah described the coming King and Savior of Israel. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

This prophetic word was wonderfully fulfilled in Christ born in Bethlehem. It excited the interest of the Magi from the East and brought the shepherds from the Judean hills to the manger to worship the Christ-child. It disturbed Herod, the king, and found the chief priests and scribes perplexed. Jesus in his life, lived in Palestine, and with his revelation of God's grace and love, was what his Name implies—"Wonderful!" He is just the same yesterday, and today, and forever. All the Christmas spotlights of attention must be focused on him and on his matchless Name-"Wonderful!"

> "Wonderful, wonderful Jesus! None can compare with thee! Wonderful, wonderful Jesus! fairer than all is he; Wonderful, wonderful Jesus! O how my soul loves thee! Fairer than all the fairest! Jesus art thou to me."

Christ was wonderful in his birth. There are a thousand shining facets to this truth. He was wonderful in his virgin birth. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." He was wonderful as the object of God's revelation to all mankind. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." His coming into the world in the Bethlehem manger staggers the human mind with its heavenly contrasts. This is clearly portrayed by Rev. John Binder in his Christmas sermon in this issue.

Rev. Richard Belsham in a message published in "The Evangelical Christian" some years ago stated: "Jesus was born King; the Son of David—heir to the throne; Son of Man—heir to the Kingdom; and Son of God—heir to all things. That child was unique; there was none before him, nor none since him, like unto him. History records none. and man knows none. Wonderful!"

Christ was also wonderful in his works. His witness to the world was to finish the works which the Father had given him to do. He ministered to others that they might see and know the goodness and power of God. These wonderful works followed him wherever he went. The blind received their sight. The lame walked. The lepers were cleansed. The deaf could hear, and the dead were raised up. And the most wonderful thing of all, the people had the Gospel preached unto them.

Our Christmas festivities will be especially bright with joy if we will acknowledge how WONDERFUL Christ is in his Person, living triumphantly and indwelling his disciples. His very name, Jesus, reveals that he came into the world to save men from their sins. As King of our lives, he has the right to assert his spiritual lordship over us every day of the year. Only his Presence in this Christmas season brings meaning and significance to these days. Christ is still the same today for you and for me-incomparable, divine, the fairest of all, almighty in redemptive power, WONDERFUL!

December 8, 1960

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# The Paradox of Christ's Coming

At Christ's first coming, we see humility enwrapping indescribable glory. The Son of God in a stable! What heavenly contrasts!

By Rev. John Binder, General Secretary of the Commissioned Baptist Youth Fellowship

OW STRANGELY the demption set forth. God, who is the gether: "For unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." We have heard and read these words so often that we have no sense of surprise. Nevertheless, as we pause a moment, we may realize that they might have seemed at first impossible and incredible. Was the manger a place for one sent from the most high God? A stable a place in which to expect to find a Savior? Could the Son of God be so humiliated?

#### STAGGERING CONTRASTS

Yet Christmas is never fully appreciated or understood until we see the wonder and mystery of the fact that those things were so. On one side, we have joy unbounded and immeasurable. On the other, we have sadness and sorrow, equally real and never entirely absent. This is precisely like all of life, a mingling of joy and sorrow.

At Christ's first coming, we see humility enwrapping indescribable glory. What staggering contrasts! The King of angels among the animals! The Son of God in a stable! The Maker of the universe in a manger! The angels sing "Glory to God" and the sheep "baa!" The shepherds and wise men come to worship and bow down; Herod seeks to murder! Good and evil are at work! There is a bright light and also the shadow of the coming cross hovers over it all.

Yet these paradoxical truths give reality and meaning to Christmas. For in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and in all that the life of Jesus was afterwards to reveal, there is the message that not only is there a God, but that God comes very near. To believe that God is above us is one thing. To believe that God is a strength sufficient for us is another and still more inspiring confidence. But to believe that God is not only almighty, that he is not only all-sufficient, but that he is God with us, God the near, the understanding and the intimate—that is best of

The eternal God coming down into human life is a stupendous truth to comprehend and cherish. We would naturally have expected the Son of God to come by some shaking of the earth and skies and that the world would focus its complete attention on him. But instead our expectations and pride are swept away by the immense simplicity of God. In this story of heavenly contrasts we have the Gospel of re-

words of two Scripture verses go to- source and meaning of all life, reveals himself in the little child coming unnoticed in the stable of the un-regarded town.

> A few years ago a baby was born into one of the royal families of Europe. Newspapers carried columns of descriptive matter, narrating all the details of the momentous event. It was heir to a royal throne. But when the Heir of all thrones, of all ages, and of all realms was born, the event was reported in two or three immortal sentences, painting an unforgettable picture of cattle and straw and a manger.

#### COMING OF CHRIST

We criticize the world for trying to keep Christ out of Christmas. That is legitimate. As Christians we try to put Christ into Christmas and that gives it meaning. But I wonder what kind of Christ we are trying to put into Christmas? Often the true Christ and wonderful reality of Christmas are smothered by sugary sentimentality, which gushes over the sweetly human, but misses the divine. For too many people, Christmas is identified with a vague goodwill, wishful-thinking, poorly worded greeting cards decorated with dear kittens, sweet little puppy dogs, bells and balloons. It is difficult to find good Christmas cards in which only the sweet child idea is presented.

The real wonder of Christmas is



Rev. John Binder of Forest Park, Illinois, the newly appointed general secretary of the CBY Fellowship.

more divine and lies deeper; the small mite in the manger is God Almighty! The majesty of God, infinite, all-powerful, judge eternal throned in splendor, is associated with poverty, littleness, helplessness, a stable and straw, sheep and shepherds, a hammer and nails, a crib and a cross.

Whenever I see these contrasting truths of Christ's coming-his glory as the Son of the Almighty God and his humiliation in not being accepted at the inn but having to be born in a stable-then it is that I am aware that there is "a hidden wisdom of God that man can never attain to." a wisdom nonetheless by which each of us can live without fear or distrust. There may be things that we can never know here and now, but for this very reason God sent us his Son, not to condemn us but to give life.

God became man in order to woo and win a lost world. Think of the avalanche of sin of the world from the past until now. No human power can stop it. Jesus comes as a babe to stop it-to establish righteousness-to build his holy Kingdom. The prophet says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). He is our Deliverer. He delivers from sin-from the guilt and the grief of it, from its pain, penalty and power.

#### CHRIST'S MINISTRY

Moreover, as it was in simplicity and lowliness that the life of Jesus began, so it was with simple people and in simple places that most of his work was done. If his life entered this world through a little door, so also it was through little doors that as a Man he went in and out. His friends were of the fishing fleet of Capernaum. The homes he knew were the homes of ordinary folk there in the fishing town. He dealt with people in their ordinary occupations. Much of what he did with people was to make them feel how worthwhile their work could be and to give them a new inspiration for what they had to do.

God, in Christ, has prepared for his people, even while they are here on earth, things more wonderful than the eye or ear of history has seen or heard, if they will only accept the meaning of his Christmas message. This Jesus Christ, the Son of God, wants to come into your life this Christmas season. Invite him in and let him prove himself

# Bethlehem and the Holy Child

Together with the thinkers, the workers, and the watchers, let us look toward Bethlehem this Christmastide, that our eyes also may "behold the King in his beauty!"

By Dr. Austen K. de Blois of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HE HOLY CHILD is lying now in Bethlehem's manger. The wondering world surveys the sacred scene. The prophecies of ancient times look unto Bethlehem. The prayers of all devout and faithful folk are centered there. The purposes of the undying ages reach fulfillment there. The hopes of many nations rest in the neverfading light of Bethlehem's joy.

O glorious gospel of the Christmas Child! The language of the Greeksmost perfect and most expressive of human tongues—waits to incarnate thy divine message. Roman law-most perfect of human schemes of legislation -waits to defend thy journeying ambassadors. Roman roads-most perfect method of communication in that early age-wait to convey the bearers of thy message to all tribes and peoples and

#### HEAVENLY HALLELUJAHS

Earth and the ages look towards Bethlehem. Yes, and heaven also; for an angel from the courts above and a chorus of attendant spirits sing their hallelujahs, and distant worlds are all athrill with expectation. So the universe attests the sweet splendor of his advent, and men and angels hail the unique, transcendent, pure, compelling, and divine character, the Christ of God.

The men of learning, the thinkers, look toward Bethlehem. Their sign is a glowing star. They look, and travel onward steadfastly, and come at last to the hill town and the inn. There they bow reverently. Their worship typifies the eternal submission of the highest wisdom to the spiritual and supernatural revelation.

Why did they come so far? Unrest and a vague expectancy were moving the minds of the people of the East at that time; so Tacitus and other writers tell us. It was widely prophesied that a new and great king was about to arise and would probably make his appearance in the land of Judea. So with the appearance of a new and brilliant star, and with the urging interest of these prophetic utterances in their minds, the Magi took their eager journey westward.

#### VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

It was a strange meeting, that of the wise men and the tiny Babe. It was surely a mysterious paradox, magnificence worshiping simplicity, strength worshiping weakness, dignity and station prostrate before lowliness, profundity at the shrine of innocence, age adoring infancy, Assyria and India



A photographic illustration from "The Salzburg Christmas Singers," an article appearing in the 1959 volume of CHRIST-MAS, published by the Augsburg House.

yielding place to Bethlehem and Galilee, the rich gifts of the Orient poured out at the feet of a Jewish child in a humble Judean khan.

Yet what deep significance lies in this visit. Eye of seer, mind of sage, genius of prophet never made a rarer or more precious discovery. The spell of the Child of Heaven, the progeny of the Eternal, compels the obeisance of these sturdy seekers after truth.

"Tis ever thus! At the age of twelve. in the temple, the teachers bow before him. At the beginning of his ministry the people marvel: "He speaks with authority!" On the transfiguration mount the law and the prophets yield their greatness to him. The soldiers, sent to seize him, come back emptyhanded: "Never man spoke like this man." Thus, also, the profoundest human wisdom, the broadest human culture, informed by the Spirit of God, has cast its crowns before him, "lost in wonder, love, and praise."

#### GOD'S REVELATION

The workers look toward Bethlehem. Their sign is an angel, their summons an angel-song. The star was a silent and far-away guide to those who dwelt in the silent places of wisdom, seeking to probe the mysteries of life. The burst of melody from the clear skies was a message of definite inspiration to humble shepherd souls, revealing the secret of the presence of the

Christ-child in the nearby town. They needed the Voice.

These shepherds are forerunners of the fishermen who became apostles, of the common people who "heard him gladly," of the millions of everyday folks who have pledged their lives to the One who lay in Bethlehem's man-

To the humble man God often seems far away, a mighty potentate, a righteous judge. But God in human form, God in Christ, babe and man, teacher and friend-how near he comes to us. Somehow, as the shepherds looked and worshiped, they understood God better. The needs of their hearts were somehow satisfied. So "they returned, glorifying and praising God."

The watchers look toward Bethlehem. Their sign is a divine sign, the breath of the Holy Spirit. We hear much in Christmas songs and sermons of the wise men and the star, and of the shepherds and the angel chorus, but we hear too little of the templesaints and the Holy Spirit. Yet the story is even more wonderful.

#### BEHOLD THE KING!

The shepherds have been watching their flocks by night. The wise men have been watching the nightly skies and stars. But Anna, the aged widow, has been watching in the house of God, departing not from it, serving God with fastings and prayers, night and day. And Simeon, the "just and devout man," has been watching and "waiting for the consolation of Israel," and the Holy Ghost was upon him. Their waiting eyes saw the salvation for which they had been longing, and they spoke of Christ's redemption to the people.

Together with the thinkers, the workers, and the watchers, let us look toward Bethlehem this Christmastide, that our eyes also may "behold the King in his beauty!"

I visited the Christmas shops With all their colors gay; I wandered up and down the aisles And, restless, turned away; For in that bustling Christmas throng I could not hear the angels' song.

CHRISTMAS CONTRAST

I visited a tiny church, And there I knelt to pray And heard the story told of old Of God's Son born this day The angels' song re-echoed then, Their song of "Peace—good will to men."

-W. M. Buehler

# Christmas Customs in Austria

Austria, one of our mission fields, continues many age-old, interesting customs of Christmastime.

By Dr. W. J. Appel of Vienna, Austria.

silent, and mountain and valley are covered with a blanket of white. Advent, ushering in the Christmas season in Austria, is a time for quiet thoughtfulness. In florist shop and family circle, Advent wreaths of pine and spruce are being readied. Hanging the Advent wreath is an old tradition

HE STORMS of late fall are which are recorded the sins and misdeeds of the children. From out of the darkness behind him, howling and bearing a heavy clanging chain, suddenly appears Krampus, a man dressed in black fur with a devil's mask over his head. On his back he carries a large basket in which to gather the children who have been naughty.



The "Gloecklers" on the streets of an Austrian town at Christmastime, ringing their bells which "are said to appease the evil spirits."

here in Austria. Decorated with red or purple ribbons and four candles, one for each of the four Sundays of Advent, the wreath is hung from the ceiling of the living room of every

The Advent candle is a symbol of Christ, whom we recognize as the Light of the world. Either father or mother arranges an Advent celebration for each Sunday. The family gathers under the wreath, father reads one of the Christmas stories from the Gospels on each of the four Advent Sundays, and the family unites in singing Christmas carols. One candle is lighted on the first Sunday of Advent, and another is lighted each Sunday until the final Sunday when all four candles are burning brightly.

#### FESTIVAL OF ST. NIKOLAUS

Following the first Advent Sunday comes the Festival of St. Nikolaus. On the evening before, there is great excitement among the children. Darkness has hardly set in when boys and girls with fast-beating hearts peer out of the windows. Suddenly a glare of light appears and a figure in gay custume carrying a lantern and a bishop's staff comes into view.

It is St. Nikolaus with his long, white beard reaching to his waist, carrying under his arm a large book in

St. Nikolaus distributes gifts to the good children: figs, nuts and dried fruit, which he carries in a sack. Krampus, at the command of St. Nikolaus, punishes the disobedient children with a whip.

On Christmas Eve, the family gathers about the table for the evening

meal of green pea soup or soup made of dried apples, the main dish consisting of fish, usually carp. As the night draws on, the ringing of a silver bell announces the beginning of the Christmas celebration. In silent awe, children stand before the candle-lighted Christmas tree decorated with Lebkuchen, Marzipan, guilded nuts, apples and oranges. Underneath the tree stands the traditional Christmas creche made of carved wood, setting forth the birth of Christ.

#### AGE-OLD CUSTOMS

Closeby stands the table spread with colorful gifts. Following presentation of the gifts, the father again reads the Christmas story and the family sings the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night," which was sung for the first time in the town of Oberndorf in Austria in the year 1818. Ofttimes the children accompany the singing with zither, guitar or piano.

The ringing of church bells on Christmas morning is a reminder of that far-off day when the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men," inviting young and old to a solemn, stately Christmas meditation.

After the service, following the ageold custom, family groups again gather in the homes for the traditional goose dinner. After an afternoon of happy fellowship, members and friends rejoice with the children as they gather about the candle-lighted Christmas tree in the church to witness the program presented by the children. The

(Continued on page 19)



Sunday School Christmas program at the Huetteldorf Baptist Church near Vienna,

# Christmas on the Indian Reserves

By Rev. P. R. Grabke, Indian Missionary on the Muscowpetung Reserve near Edenwold, Saskatchewan.

A VERY "Meyo Makosakesikaw" to all "Baptist Herald" readers comes from the Indian Reservations in Alberta and Saskatchewan, These words are the pronunciation for "Merry Christmas" in the Cree language.

The birth of Christ is beautifully expressed in Christmas carols which again will be sung the world over. Yet how much do the words expressed in these carols really mean to those who sing them. If all who sing of the Savior would receive and obediently follow him, then "peace and goodwill toward men" would become a reality.

Anxiety, frustration and fear dominate the world today. Who is really to blame for the absence of peace? Has Christ or have we as his followers failed in making his message of peace known? At this festive season with the shining array of Christmas hopes before us, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the vital task of presenting our Savior to all people.

#### A HOLY, HAPPY DAY

Upon our request, some Indians wrote an essay on the meaning of Christmas. The following are some quotations taken from those handed in. "I am 75 years of age," an Indian wrote. "Christmas meant nothing to us before the white man came."

Another stated: "Christmas is the time we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We exchange gifts and visit in different homes. The family gets together for a Christmas dinner. Sometimes we have turkey or chicken and the trimmings if we can afford them. It is so nice to come to the Chapel and hear the carols and Christmas hymns sung. And it is so wonderful to know that God gave us his only begotten Son to come to earth in such a humble way."

A young man said: "We hope to have a Christmas tree and put up a few decorations and exchange gifts with our friends. (This is a custom that is becoming popular in our Indian homes.) Then we look forward to the annual children's program at the Baptist Chapel. Usually there are plays, recitations and singing, followed by gifts of toys and clothing for which we want to thank our Baptist friends."

#### A HOLLOW DAY FOR SOME

To many of the Indians, Christmas will be just a "Hollow Day." There will be gaiety, laughter and drunkenness, but with them no worship of the Savior. For others it will be a holiday, a time to rest and visit.

Then there is another group, who because of your prayerful interest have come to regard Christmas as a Holy Day. With their missionaries, they will meditate upon the Gospel story, trac-

#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

in Cree (used by the Indians) and in German (used in Austria).

LY LAYPP6.

Gesegnete Weihnachten!

ing the life of Jesus from his lowly birth to his shameful death. Through the Word, they will journey with the Shepherds and the Wise Men as they visited the infant King, and then in glad consecration give themselves anew to their Lord and Master.

During this festive season will you remember to pray that more of our dear Indian people, through the faithfulness of fellow-Christians, will find the peace which the Savior so freely gives? Some have made their peace with God and are now able to worship and to adore their new-found King. They, too, are in need of your prayers.

#### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Your Indian missionaries on the Reservations will be engaged in the preparation of the Christmas program. As supplies permit, they will make up gifts of toys, candies and clothing which you so graciously have helped to provide. We remind you of the words of our Savior, "A cup of water given



Rev. and Mrs. P. R. Grabke, missionaries to the Indians on the Muscowpetung Reserve near Edenwold, Saskatchewan.

shall also receive its reward."

On behalf of our people, we thank you for making the true meaning of Christmas possible on the Reservations in Alberta and Saskatchewan, God bless you for your faithfulness, and again a very "Meyo Makosakesikaw" to you all.

#### **HOLY NIGHT**

Dusk, and the bells, deep-toned, Sending their echoes far, Snow and a moonlit trail-Among the stars-that Star.

Fragrance of spruce and pine, Laughter and joy and light. Friendships and love renewed-For it is Holy Night.

Just for a little space Sin is renounced in shame; All that is best in men Honors the Saviour's name.

Dusk, and the bells, deep-toned, Sending their echoes far, Snow and a moonlit trail-Among the stars—that Star. -Mary Joan Boyer

#### CHRISTMAS TIME

By Frederick H. Sterne

Christmas time is joy-time: The angel chorus sang. And rising through the rifted skies Their alleluias rang; They sang a song of Jesus, They sang a song of joy, For cradled in a manger Lay the Christmas Baby Boy.

Christmas time is joy-time: The shepherds came to see, And silently they worshiped him, God's holy mystery. Then, rising from the rustling straw With wonder all adaze, They lifted voices strong and clear In Christmas songs of praise.

Christmas time is joy-time, For Mary smiled to know The flutter of a baby hand As feather-light as snow, And joy was in the heart of God. Where Christmas joys begin, That Christ was born in Bethlehem, His remedy for sin.

Christmas time is joy-time: My heart is all bedight With Christmas bells and holly On this happy Christmas night. Oh that the world might know him! Oh that the world might sing A joyous Christmas carol Of the blessed Christmas King! -The Watchman-Examiner

# Christmas in the Home

By Mrs. Alwin R. Giegler, a Member of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park Illinois

house is the same as at yours—an exciting, busy season. With all the special activities at church, school and home, daily schedules are full. Because of the growing commercialism of Christmas, it is increasingly important that our home emphasize the true meaning of Christmas so that our children will be constantly reminded that Christmas is a religious season—the time that tells us "God . . . loved us and sent his Son."

Early in November mother and children go through the toy box taking out broken and outgrown toys. These are given to the Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries or some other organization which repairs them for distribution at Christmas. Friends of ours make this a family project in which all members help repair and repaint the toys for Christmas boxes for needy families in the community.

#### GIFTS FOR TEACHERS

Each Christmas gifts are made for the children's school teachers. Rather than purchasing a handkerchief for "teacher," the children make containers for "goodies." Oatmeal boxes or coffee cans can be covered with Contact or handmade wrapping paper. Older children can make the candy and cookies, while younger ones can decorate the cookies. One year our oldest son made planters out of plywood which, after the cookies had been enjoyed, could be filled with soil and plants. Nut bread made by mother, grandmother or older children has been given to the teachers. Children supplied attractive wrapping paper which was made by sponge painting on tissue paper, or finger painting on shelf paper. Gifts are appreciated more by the teachers if the children have actually had a share in preparing them.

Gifts for the family are a major item in Christmas preparation. The children heed the instruction, "Shop Early for Christmas." Weeks before THE DAY, gifts have been purchased, wrapped and put in their own Christmas box waiting for December 24 when they can be placed under the tree. As the children are growing older, they are learning that consolidation of finances with a brother or sister results in a more lasting gift for the recipient. In addition to making their "buying list." each child also makes a list of the gifts he would like to receive.

Where do the children get their money for gifts? Sometimes they earn it. Some years mother becomes a banker and each one opens a Christmas Savings Club, paying in a set amount (five cents to 50 cents per week), depending on the child's age, allowance

HRISTMASTIME at our is the same as at yours—an ey outside the home. About four weeks before Christmas, the children are given the money they have deposited.

The children not only purchase gifts, but also make presents for relatives. Among the items which have been made are pot holders, pin dishes formed out of moist clay and painted, aprons, painted recipe boxes and wooden letter holders.

#### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Decorating our tree is another way in which the children participate in Christmas preparations. Paper decorations—chains, stars, bells, snowflakes, etc.—are made by all. Blown egg shells painted and sprinkled with glitter also make interesting decorations for the tree. Suggestions and directions are available in many magazines.

Have you ever let your children make scenes on the windows of your home? As the ability of the children increases, they will make lovely silhouettes of the Nativity Scene—Mary, Joseph, the manger, the star, shepherds and wisemen. In place of the silhouette scenes, colored tempera paints can be applied with small pieces of sponges, giving the effect of art windows. Neighbors and those passing your home will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

For a number of years, several of our children have attended a Christian camp in the northern Wisconsin woods.



THE ALWIN GIEGLER FAMILY
Standing (front to back: Lois, Fred and
Carolyn Giegler (with flute): sitting on
piano bench: Helen, Ed (playing the
piano) and Dave Giegler.

Each year we order cones, pine branches and greens from a gift shop which the children visit during their stay in camp. At Christmas our home is fragrant with the odor of pines from the camp area and children speak of their friends, Christian counsellors and good times they had during the summer.

Christmas—a time of music! Our record player is in almost constant use filling our home with the Christmas carols—sung, or played on organ, bells or chimes. Even the youngest child becomes acquainted with the beautiful Christmas music which is our heritage. The piano holds a special Christmas music book during this season. It contains the Christmas carols very simply written, so that even the youngest piano player can enjoy "making music." After Christmas, this book is put away with decorations to be available next year.

In many churches the young people go carolling on Christmas Eve, but the younger children are deprived of the joy of serving others. Each Christmas Eve, early enough so even a four-year-old can participate, our family goes carolling in the neighborhood—to an old lady who lives alone, to grandma's house, to an old couple whose children and grandchildren live out-of-town. Of course, the children enjoy the cookies and candy which are given to them, but of greater value is the fact that they are thinking of others.

After using the trial and error method, we have found a plan which works for us. Gifts coming from out-of-town relatives are not kept for the big Christmas gift opening, but opened and enjoyed one by one for several days prior to Christmas. We have noticed that the children appreciate the gifts more and remember from whom they have been received. "Thank you" notes are written shortly after the gifts are opened. Variation is used in writing the notes. Sometimes they are done individually by each child, other times one sheet of paper is used for the giver and each child writes a short note on

#### FAMILY FESTIVITIES

For a number of years our family has met about 5 o'clock on December 24. After a simple buffet supper, using paper plates to eliminate dishwashing, we gather around the tree. Through our Sunday School curriculum, we are provided with a simple worship service. A candle, for which the child has made the holder out of moist clay, is lighted. By the light of the candle and the tree lights we sing a few carols, listen to a Christmas poem, enjoy an instrumental number by two of the children. Dad reads the Christmas

(Continued on page 19)

### Fall Convocation at the Christian Institute

Report of recent events at the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, by Professor A. Rapske.

THE STUDENTS of all three departments of the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, have arrived. The halls buzz with life. Young people, sincere and dedicated to their Lord, have come from as far west as Vancouver, British Columbia, and from as far east as New York City. A number of students are here for the first time.

There are so many adjustments to make. Merlin Traboulay, a high school student from Trinidad, had a great deal of difficulty adjusting to the Canadian food. It just was not spicy enough. There are new faces, new rules to learn and observe, and new teachers to study. Other students are old-timers. They have learned to take things in stride.

#### SEVENTY-FOUR STUDENTS

Twenty-six students are enrolled in the High School department, thirty in the Bible School department, and eighteen in the Theological Department.

The students came and the buildings had a new look. Dr. A. S. Felberg's experience as pastor of churches with building programs has given him an eye for improvement. The past summer was an extremely busy one. Dr. and Mrs. Felberg spent many hours planning and supervising the work that needed to be done. All dormitory rooms were re-decorated. Library facilities were improved and enlarged. New pulpit furniture was constructed, and new chairs were purchased for library and classroom.

There were many other improvements that will make the facilities more attractive and more comfortable. The library now offers the students some 4,200 volumes for study and research. The latest edition of "Encyclopedia Britannica" was given to the school. Other standard recent works have been purchased. Much hard work has been done and much money has been spent to provide the best possible facilities for the students who

#### INDUCTION OF REV. E. W. KLATT

The faculty too was strengthened. Rev. E. W. Klatt responded favorably to the call extended to him by the Board of Trustees. He came to serve as Professor of Practical Theology. He also holds the position of dean of men. Mr. Klatt is a graduate of our own seminary, and has been in the pastoral ministry for 22 years. His formal academic training includes the degrees: B. A., M. A., and B. D. Mr. Klatt's former activity in youth work provided a good background for his present tasks as counsellor of students.

The Board was fortunate to be able to secure again the services of Mr. Greenlees as principal of the High



Prof. E. W. Klatt at his induction into the faculty of the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta.

School. Two other qualified teachers assist him in teaching the necessary subjects.

Part-time faculty help had to be secured in order to handle all the courses that are offered in the Theological and Bible school departments. Pastors of our neighboring churches serve the school in this capacity.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 20, students, faculty, and friends of the school gathered at the McKernan Baptist Church for the fall convocation of the Christian Training Institute. Dr. Felberg introduced all the students to the congregation. It was a blessing just

to see these young people and to know that God had led them to come. Rev. A. Lamprecht, the host pastor, extended to students a hearty welcome and invitation to participate in the work of one of our seven denominational churches in Edmonton. Fitting choral selections were rendered under the leadership of Rev. E. Link.

The highlight of the evening came when Dr. Felberg, on behalf of the school, officially welcomed Rev. E. W. Klatt into the teaching position to which he had been called. The "youngest" faculty member then presented the message of the evening. He entitled it, "The Spiritual Minimum in Education." The emphasis of the message was upon faith in God as being essential to effective education.

The ladies of the McKernan Church served refreshments in the lower auditorium. This provided an opportunity for students to feel the warmth of Christian fellowship in Edmonton.

#### SERVICES OF STUDENTS

The new school year has well begun. If the observable results of student activity during the summer months is an indication, then it can be definitely said that the Christian Training Institute is meeting a need. Some students served in Church Extension projects under pioneer conditions, and others again rendered service in some of the largest churches in Alberta. In each case, their service was deeply appreciated.

There is an atmosphere of seriousness about the task at hand. Students and faculty alike feel a sense of stewardship toward the matter of training for Christian service. God has given us a task, and we intend, by his grace and in his strength, to do this task to the best of our ability.



NEW STUDENTS AT C.T.I.

New students enrolled for this school year in all of the three departments of the Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, Alberta



Every Christian needs to experience to the inner core the tranquillity and personal peace that the early Christians

A REFLECTION on what has made the greatest impression on my life and preaching during the past ten years can be an uncomfortable task for the serious-minded. The self in me would enjoy writing an optimistic account, but honesty compels me to be searching and realistic. The unfolding of life during the past ten years, as I have experienced it on both the East and West Coasts of the United States, has brought both sunshine and shadow, encouragements and warnings. All cannot be included in this article, nor the impressions included be considered in depth.

First, let me share a few shadows, and then the sunshine.

#### THE SHADOWS

1. The Lack of Personal Peace.

Nearly two thousand years after Christ's bequest of peace (John 14:27), the average Christian does not have peace. The anxieties and uncertainties that bedevil twentieth century Christians are in contrast to the inner core of tranquillity and assurance of Christians of the past. Emotional illness and the tranquilizer habit are becoming as common with Christians as non-Christians

I find that many Christians today do not have a positive peace, a solid inner strength which holds fast in the midst of personal turmoil and threat of universal catastrophe. It is not my purpose to diagnose this problem and propose a solution, but suffice to say that a self-pleasing and self-indulgent spirit never knows peace. A Biblical conception of God, emotionally feeling his saving love and doing what he wants one to do, will bring the feeling of acceptance and peace.

# Shadows and Sunshine Across My Life

Personal Reflections by Rev. Robert S. Hess, Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington

2. A Substitution for New Testament Christiantiu.

I am not convinced that all of modern evangelical Christianity is New Testament Christianity. Pious expressions are not enough. Witness the new and expensive churches, great evangelistic gatherings, numerous activities, largest church membership in history, and scores of thousands of professed conversions, but we do not witness any rise of moral and spiritual standards. The sad fact that standards are being lowered and spiritual apathy is deepening can not be winked at. The average American may be religious, but he is unwilling or unable to be a New Testament Christian.

It is easy to "believe" today. Faith is popular. But New Testament faith, as I understand it, produces repentance, conversion and obedience. The whole man is made over. I do not believe there is such a thing as genuine conversion without discipleship. Much of the religious revival and enthusiasm we see has not squarely faced the fact of sin and the cross in the light of the New Testament.

#### RELIGION OF WORDS

The deadly snare of Satan today is to make Christianity a religion of words and songs, but with very little moral action. Intellectual assent never made a Christian. A person cannot go on living the life he lived before he

This is the second of a series of articles by our pastors giving their impressions on life and the ministry during the past decade. Watch for the next article on Jan. 8, 1961.

met Jesus Christ. A personal encounter with God transforms a man. Worldly, listless, powerless lives today testify to an artificial Christianity.

3. Blight of Materialism. Since the Korean War, materialism. long on the ascendancy in the United States, has become a way of life. Selfindulgence is now an important part of American life. Too many Christians give the impression of being so comfortable in this world that Heaven cannot offer much more. We seem to be having such a good time here on earth that the prospect of death must not be thought of; and the "blessed hope" of Christ's return is disturbing.

#### OUR MATERIALISM

It is a burden of sorrow to me to behold in this fearful but challenging hour of history such a lack of stewardship that exists among us. When materialism captures so large a part of life, is it any wonder that God is not very real? We, the churches, must share in the responsibility for this moral disease in our society. Avarice and the love of money warp the soul; it hides God.

It is not pleasant to see Christians taken in by the values and pleasures of this passing world; to see church people believing or condoning false "isms," and unable to discern the truth and to live for high ideals. If the church is to be the voice of God in this confused world full of hate, the light by which men can find the Way, then it must recover New Testament stewardship. We must no longer give God the fag end of our time, energy and money. The world must see the Truth of God in dramatic conviction that will move mountains, the willingness to live or die; to sacrifice all for Christ.

4. Danger of Ministerial Profession-

The minister is not above certain real dangers. How easy it is to become a mere professional. The call, the glow of holy communion, the compassionate heart and the power of the Spirit can grow dim and cold in the midst of modern day pressures and demands. I insist the minister's study is not to be his office. He is essentially a spokesman of God, not a promoter, a counselor, a money-raiser, and a useful citizen. A minister is many things, yes, but his major role is to talk to God about men and to men for God.

The call of God to "the work of the ministry" is a high and holy calling. Being busy and business-like can not take the place of prayer, reading and meditation. Efficiency, cleverness, ability, loyalty to the machine are tragic substitutes for a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered ministry.

#### THE SUNSHINE

1. A Movement Toward Unity.

When I became a Christian 27 years ago, I soon became aware of conflicts and barriers between true Christians. Love for personalities, loyalty to specific interpretations, and abnormal devotion to the organization hid Christ. There wasn't much love manifested. All this greatly disturbed me.

I am a Baptist by choice. I am a "conservative" of the deepest dye on all the historic fundamentals. Nevertheless, I believe in Christian unity and fellowship with all who love Christ. I delight to see the removal of artificial barriers and a beginning of "togetherness" among Baptists, of which the Baptist Jubilee Advance is one illustration.

I find that many people, young Christians particularly, are not interested in the old divisions and contentions. There is a beautiful working fellowship among God's people when the great love of God sweeps away the false fences, and all eyes are on Christ.

2. The Effort to Make God's Word More Relevant.

A vast army of people believe the Bible but are confused about what it teaches and its role in a society like ours. Many unfamiliar and archaic phrases and over-used words are meaningless to the modern mind.

The Revised Standard Version and translations in modern speech are selling so well because people want the truth in the language which has meaning to them. Rewording the Gospel has given revived ears. When the Gospel is read, taught and preached in terms that compel attention, it means the salvation of the lost and the edification and blessing of believers.

I still use terms that ought to be discarded, but I'm learning to drop the big words and outworn phrases, and explain God's Word in terms all can understand. I expect this of the mechanic who repairs my car and the physician who cares for my family; likewise my people expect it of me.



Tacoma, Wash., photographed at the North American Baptist Seminary during last summer's Pastors' Conference.

That there is a need and a response for this and the application of God's healing Word to modern life can be seen in the great growth and wonderful results of the Yokefellow Groups. The effects are far-reaching.

3. A Realization that Science is Not

Man's faith has been shattered in the promise of science. The more technological advances are made, the more uncertain is human survival. It has, in some respects, become a mid-twentieth century nightmare.

Science can not tell mankind why he is here, resolve the sin problem, nor assure man's everlasting life. The Church has the paramount responsibility and the glory to be at the center of man's civilization and not a mere part of it. The Church has the perfect

answer to man's question of his destiny -the death, resurrection and return of Jesus Christ. It is indeed a glorious day when men are discovering that wisdom and technological wonders can be no suitable substitute for the living God.

4. Concern and Effort in the Area of Church Extension.

At least earnest, mission-minded Christians are discovering that when Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world," he did not say, Only the "foreign" field. For many years, very little was done in local outreach. The average church became a little island in a great sea of unchurched and unsaved humanity. Now we are overwhelmed by the urgent need of our own land. A total of 68,000,000 Americans are

(Continued on page 25)

The earth seemed full with evil and with shame,
Sin was exalted, goodness laughed to scorn;
Then into human need the Savior came—
A Child is Born!

A Child whose infant hand held peace on earth,
A Child whose manger cradled hope again;
Glad tidings of great joy were in that birth—
Good will to men!

God's Gift to men that first, glad Christmas Day,
God's Gift to each, God's Gift eternally.
Would we show thanks? Look up to Christ and pray:
Be born in me!

# Our Hymn Book

What we owe to those gifted in creating the harmonies of our faith.

By Dr. Gilbert Laws of Norwich, England, Pastor Emeritus of St. Mary's Baptist Church

N ENTERING a place of changing scenes of life," and "Our God, worship of the Free Church type the eye travels to the pulpit. On the pulpit bookboard there are two booksthe Bible and the hymn book. The first named is always and everywhere the same. The second changes from time to time and from place to place. The Bible is always the same because it is the Word of God and cannot be altered. The hymn book is the word of man and can be altered and improved as the needs of the time may

The Bible is the book by which God speaks to us. The hymn book, however, is the means by which we speak to God. By singing the hymns, which devout men and women have written for us, we offer our thanksgiving and praise to God for all his mercies. In some of the hymns we express ourselves in prayer to him and in promises of obedience. But whatever the precise nature of the hymns we sing, they all proceed from us to God. They are our answer to his Word. Our hymn book, therefore, is very much in the right place as a companion to the Bible in our public worship.

#### HYMN BOOK VARIATIONS

We can see, therefore, that from time to time our hymn books change. Hymn books are comparatively new aids to worship. At one time there were no hymns to sing. Praise was confined to the psalms, but not the prose version in the Bible. Many different writers made metrical versions of the psalms, so that they could be sung to the tunes of the short, common or long meters. These metrical psalms were much prized, and some of them are still found in our hymn book. Notable examples are "All people that on earth do dwell." "Before Jehovah's awful throne," "The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want," "Through all the our help in ages past.'

Ministers at first got into the way of composing hymns to be sung to psalm tunes at the end of their sermons. These hymns were given out, line by line, by the minister, and the precentor would raise a suitable tune which the people would sing. These hymns were subsequently collected and copied, so that in course of time particular congregations had their own collection of hymns. We must remember that when many of the people could not read, hymn books would have been of no use to them; hence the "lining out" of these manuscript hymns was the usual practice. There is a survival of this practice still in the reading of the first verse of the hymn when announced by the minister.

Later on ministers compiled hymn books for their congregations. These were often adopted and used by other congregations also. Examples are "Rippon's Selection" and C. H. Spurgeon's "Our Own Hymn Book." From this very incomplete account, it will be seen that a hymn book fills a larger place than some think in the life of a denomination. It has much to do with the formation of our ideas of divine truth. The frequent singing of the same praises molds our thoughts of God and duty, sin and forgiveness, consecration and service. A hymn may express better than we could do it by ourselves our repentance, our faith, our aspirations, our resolves.

#### DOCTRINAL TRUTHS

Beyond being a valuable aid to worship a good hymn book is a considerable body of divinity.

Christian teaching is a great system of related doctrines, and this important fact is duly regarded by compilers of our hymnals. Look at the Table of Contents in any good hymn book. See how the editor proceeds to group together the various sections in an orderly sequence. God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit come first. Then follow the Scriptures, Christian Experience, the Church, the Ordinances, the Commission to Evangelize, the Last Things and the Life to Come. Now this order is very much like the order adopted by theological writers, and our hymn book is worthy of serious study from the point of view of Christian doctrine. Ordinary believers owe more than they think to the hymns which have shaped much of their thinking on divine subjects.

In our own book the section on baptism is worthy of study. Some of the hymns there found are general. They express self-devotion to God in terms which could be used without reference to baptism. There are others. however, which have a doctrinal content which limits their use to the occasion of the immersion of believers.

New hymns which give faithful expression to Scriptural baptism would be very welcome, and here is a theme upon which anyone with the necessary gift would be well employed. The gratitude of many would flow to the author of a great baptismal hymn.

#### THE COMMON LANGUAGE

A modern hymn book is a wonderful testimony to the essential unity of all Christians.

In our own book only a small number of the hymns are by Baptist authors. Robert Robinson, Anne Steele, John Ryland, Benjamin Beddome, and, of course, John Bunyan are there, with some of our own day. But if we had no hymns to sing but those of our own people we should be very badly off indeed.

Like other denominations, however, we have been able to appropriate freely the hymns of the church in the widest significance of that word. Watts and Wesley, Doddridge and Toplady, Cowper and John Newton, have enriched the universal church with their productions in this realm, and when we and others sing their hymns we feel that they are speaking the common language of all who know the salvation of God.

Not only those outstanding writers of the evangelical school but others also have filled the pages of our own and similar hymnals. There are hymns of the Eastern Church whose human authors are forgotten. There are hymns by Roman Catholics of the middle ages, and of our own time. The hymns will be found alongside the hymns of the mystics they so greatly disliked. Noble hymns by great Angli-

(Continued on page 19)

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# Alberta Adventures for "God's Volunteers"

Report of "God's Volunteers" Team by Miss Faith Eichler of Erie, Pennsylvania

VOLUNTEERS" have come to the conclusion that the most difficult thing to do in this service of ministering in our different churches is to say "good-bye" to all the wonderful people whom we have met and with whom we have worked.

#### RABBIT HILL CHURCH

The campaign at the Rabbit Hill Baptist Church in South Edmonton, Alta., went very fast with the pastor, Rev. Edward Link. We continued our work of witnessing for Christ by knocking on doors in the city of Camrose and holding special services in the Fellowship Baptist Church, of which Rev. Oscar Fritzke is the pastor. We as a team were made especially happy one evening when so many people responded to a "popcorn" testimony meeting. It certainly does your heart good to see people stand up and give a few words for our Lord. We must remember, however, that evangelistic meetings are not the only place where we are to testify for Christ.

With a little tug of the heart we have said the last "good-bye" to some more friends whom we came to love in Christ while working at the Bridgeland Baptist Church in Calgary, Alta. These people have really been a terrific inspiration to us as we felt their enthusiasm. They came with us in our visitation in the evening and also in our canvassing of a new area in the afternoons. Laboring together with the minister, Rev. Rubin Herrmann, was also a wonderful experience and we all learned to appreciate him. He is doing such a tremendous work for the Lord in all humbleness of spirit.

#### CALGARY, ALBERTA

We are thankful for the training we received and have come to appreciate it more and more after each contact has been made. In some cases, it takes a little maneuvering just to get into the house! After a few minor comments about the weather and family, etc., we concentrate on the subject of their need of salvation or, in other cases, their coming back in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

In many instances, the circumstances are not just the best they could be and it is almost impossible to reach them at all. The least we can do, however, is to try and get the Gospel to them in almost any way we can, and it can only be done by the grace of God and your supporting us in prayer. Another matter which must be taken into consideration is the difference in personalities. It is very rare to deal with two people in the same way. However, the plan of salvation is always the same, for which we are thankful.



Volunteers" (left), and members of the team in front of the Christian Training Institute building.

Rev. Walter Hoffman, director of "God's A highlight during these past two weeks at the Bridgeland Church was the C. B. Y. group taking us to a place called Banff which is a beautiful resort in the Canadian Rockies, For some

of us it was a new experience to find ourselves all of a sudden surrounded by mountains and to-see such wonderful scenic sights. It will be a Saturday that will not be easily forgotten. A real thrill for all of us was when we all went swimming in the outdoor hotspring pool, while the onlookers stood around and watched while they were all bundled up in their winter apparel looking half frozen! (I think it was because they were!) It is still hard to "God's Volunteers" Prayer Helpers Are Needed!

Your Gifts of \$5.00 or more toward the work of "God's Volunteers" will be welcomed.

believe that all this was really possible as we experienced this Wonderland of God's handiwork!

#### "OUR SPIRITS ARE HIGH"

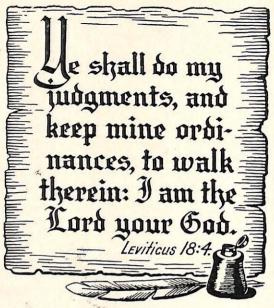
If you could have listened to the conversation being carried on as we left the city limits of Calgary, you would have heard statements such as: "It certainly is hard to leave, as we were just getting really to know them . . . Their concern for lost souls and enthusiasm was an inspiration to us. I can't get over how people can be so nice . . . . This wonderful fellowship among human beings can only be had by Christians!"

With these few quotations, you may have a small idea of the general attitude of "God's Volunteers" as we began another two weeks at the Mc-Kernan Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, Our spirits are high and the more we become involved in the visitation evangelism program, the more we come to love it and to receive many blessings as we give our own personal testimonies to these people who are actually thirsty for God's Word. Pray, therefore, that they will accept the "living water" as it is offered to them!



A REHEARSAL FOR GOD'S VOLUNTEERS

Prof. E. B. Link is instructing the "God's Volunteers" Team in a song. The team members are (left to right): Wayne Bibelheimer, Wilfred Weick, Jeanine Martinitz. Waltraud Spittka, Faith Eichler and Darlene Strobel.



# 18 Open Doors of Stewardship

The Challenge of the Baptist Jubilee Advance Pro-

gram by Dr. M. L. Leuschner, Promotional Secretary

NINETEEN MILLION Baptists in seven Baptist bodies are proclaiming 1961 as "a year of stewardship and enlistment." This important affirmation, in which we as North American Baptists are joining with other Baptists, is presented on the next

But we need to put wings on these truths in order to make them effective in our churches. We must undergird these truths with a program of action in which every North American Baptist will have a vital part. For this reason, we shall press on to definite objectives in stewardship, both as individuals and as churches during the coming year. These objectives are being dramatized as 18 OPEN DOORS in a leaflet that is being widely distributed in our churches. (If you have not seen a copy, write to our headquarters office for your leaflet).

#### STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVES

Let's look briefly at these objectives and consider the task that looms be-

- 1. We need to study our privileges and responsibilities of Christian stewardship. Study courses on this subject are to be held in all churches. We have set a goal of 5,000 people enrolled in 200 such courses. Certainly, that is a worthy objective if we mean business with our Lord!
- 2. In a program of stewardship and enlistment we must be informed Baptists, who are constantly disciplining ourselves in reading habits. Our objective is a total of 250 churches adopting the Every Family Subscription Plan of our Publication Society. In this connection, don't fail to read the "Stewardship Packet" which is available for 30 cents for the packet.
- 3. One of the primary stewardship responsibilities of every Christian is to read his Bible daily. Why not mark the important passages relating to stewardship in order to make them "unforgettable"?
- 4. The theme for next year really

is "Evangelism Through Stewardship." The two are interrelated. We believe that God wants at least 10,000 of our North American Baptists to enlist as personal workers for the ministry of evangelism in our churches.

5. Recruitment is the need of this age for our pastorless churches and fields. We have set a worthy goal of 25 new students in our Seminary and 15 in the Theological Department of our Christian Training Institute.

#### DEDICATED TALENTS

- 6. In every stewardship program, the use of our talents in Christ's service is especially important. Every one of us can find something to do in his Kingdom work. What blessings would come to our churches if 30,000 of our people would volunteer for some kind of service in the local church!
- 7. Our churches will be challenged to emphasize stewardship in their Watchnight, Week of Prayer and midweek services in 1961
- 8. Throughout the year, stewardship exhibits can be held in your church, the packets can be distributed and this Scriptural truth can be emphasized re-
- 9. Young people can be inspired to make memorable decisions for Christ and his service. We would like to see at least 500 young people making firsttime commitments to church-related vocations. Will you be among these 500 privileged young people?
- 10. In the program of stewardship for our Baptist homes, we have set up a goal of 10,000 Family Altars to be established in our homes. Is your home included among these that have God's blessing upon them?
- 11. All responsibilities of Scriptural stewardship lead us inevitably to the practise of tithing. It will not be easy for our people, in fact, this may be the most difficult objective to obtain. But we have set a goal of 20,000 North American Baptists who will agree to tithe at least for a year.
- 12. In 1961 every North American

Baptist should read and study President Frank Veninga's book, "My Account With God." We would like to see at least 200 stewardship classes using this as a textbook or churches studying the book at their midweek

#### GOALS IN GIVING

13. Our per capita giving as North American Baptists has been very noble. But there is more we can do for Christ! We have set a goal of 200 churches that will increase their giving by \$2.00 per capita to the cooperative work of North American Baptists.

14. In 1961 the theme or related theme of "Christian Stewardship" is to be used at our regional conference sessions. It will be emphasized strongly at the General Conference sessions in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

15. Church Extension is related to our task of stewardship. Every one of us must undergird this important ministry with our gifts and prayers. Our objective is 10,000 Church Extension volunteers who will pledge to contribute at least \$10.00 a year for new projects and fields.

16. This program of Christian stewardship should result in more conversions, baptisms and church members. This is God's call to us to record at least a net gain of 2,000 new members who should also be instructed in stewardship.

17. One of the programs of every Woman's Missionary Society should emphasize stewardship in the home during 1961.

18. Our business meetings need to become more Christian in spirit and in action. In these democratic meetings, the entire church should be quite active. We have set a goal of 50 per cent increase in attendance at your church's business meetings.

As the proclamation states, "stewardship is God's plan for rearing his children." He has his plans for everyone of us in 1961. Can we do less than setting these goals before us and our churches, and striving after them?

# A PROCLAMATION FOR 1961 THE YEAR OF STEWARDSHIP AND ENLISTMENT

WHEREAS seven Baptist recognition of the covenanted to participate in the Baptist Jubilee Advance tist bodies have agreed to major on one common WHEREAS these Baptist the Baptist Jubilee Advance, namely, 1959-1964,

where and significant a chievements have resulted from the 1959 emphasis on Cooperative Witness, and from AIM 1961 AS The YEAR OF STEWARD-SHIP AND ENLISTMENT, the shall be:

"I Will Be Faithful" hall be: And the purpose for which shall bap And the purpose for which shall Baptist to a new "To seek to lead every Christian stewardship" and deeper understanding of and commitment of shall be:

And the Scripture for which shall be:

And the Scripture for which shall be:

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2).

WE MUTUALLY AGREE that Christian stewardship includes the management of the total resources, both personal and material, with which men are entrusted by God, and that each participating convention will work out its own objectives and methods for impressing this ideal on the minds and hearts of its constituency.

of its constituency.

WE FURTHER RECOGNIZE the significance of numerical goals in leading men and women, boys and girls, to be better stewards of their material wealth, while acknowledging the fact that the giving of money and building of budgets while acknowledging the fact personality dedicated to God's service and consecrated to the task of making a Christian impact on every area of community, national, and world life.

MOREOVER WE JOIN IN AFFIRMING our conviction that stewardship can only be interpreted in the light of its spiritual nature, and that it is never to be construed as man's plan for raising money, but God's plan for rearing his children.

American Baptist Convention 

Baptist Federation of Canada National Baptist Convention of America National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. North American Baptist General Conference Seventh Day Baptist General Conference Southern Baptist Convention

- The 350th anniversary of the publication of the Authorised Version in 1611 will be celebrated next year in England. A joint committee of the British Council of Churches and of the British and Foreign Bible Society is preparing plans which will include a special service in Westminster Abbey on March 15 when the new English translation of the New Testament will be formally received. The service will include thanksgiving for the Authorised Version of 1611.
  - -The Baptist Times
- Little or no gain for the Christian missionary movement is foreseen, at least in the near future, when the autonomous French-African republic of Mauritania becomes independent in November, Article 2 of its constitution guarantees freedom of conscience, but the same article specifies that Islam is the state religion. This firm union of Church and State also is implied in the official name of the country-the Islamic Republic of Mauri-
- Balata, site of the Canaanite city of Schechem mentioned in the Old Testament as the place where Abraham pitched his tent under a great oak, is now being excavated by an expedition which is under the auspices of Drew University of Madison, New Jersey, and the McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago. Working in cooperation are the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Bollingen Foundation of New York. Professor George Ernest Wright of Harvard University is director of operations. -The Watchman-Examiner
- Veteran Missionary W. F. P. Burton, 74, says that cannibalism "is coming more and more into the open" in the new Republic of Congo. The minister was quoted in The Johannesburg Star as saying of cannibalism that it "has always been practiced in secret in the Congo, but now it's much more open." He said tribesmen practice two types of cannibalism—one for tribal sacrifice and the other to satisfy "just a craze for human flesh." The missionary, now living in Bulawayo, Northern Rhodesia, was stationed at an evangelistic mission at Mwanza Kazingu, a Baluba tribal area in the Congo's Kasai Province.
  - -The Standard
- A new \$92,000 national headquarters building will be constructed at Colorado Springs, Colo. by the Young Life movement. A spokesman for the group (an interdenominational evangelistic organization working among high school youth) said that present headquarters at Star Ranch, south of the city, are now inadequate. Young Life was organized in 1940 by the Rev.

- James C. Rayburn, a Presbyterian minister. Its headquarters have been at Star Ranch for 13 years. The Young Life staff numbers about 150 full-time employees, plus several hundred volunteers who specialize in the program of Christian education for high school youths.—The Baptist Standard
- Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship will hold its Sixth International Student Missionary Convention at the University of Illinois, Urbana, December 27-31, 1961, it has been announced by Missionary Director Eric S. Fife. The last such convention was held in 1957, when 3,000 students from all over the United States and from 47 foreign countries attended. At that time some 1,500 of them answered the challenge to give their lives to God for full-time Christian service. Purpose of the convention, which was first held at the

University of Toronto in 1946, is to present the needs of the world for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the present generation.

-The Watchman-Examiner

• Education Minister Badiudin Mahmud has announced at Colombo, Ceylon, that the government is planning to take over the state-assisted Christian schools in this predominantly Buddhist country. He declined to give details of the plan, however, saying that these will be worked out by a special committee to be established soon. "I propose that these schools be taken over in one day and we expect to do it by the end of the year," he added. For some years there has been a growing Buddhist campaign for the nationalization of all schools and social welfare agencies in the country.

# **Baptist Briefs**

- Soren Plans Visit to Europe. Dr. João F. Soren, president of the Baptist World Alliance and pastor of First Baptist Church in Rio de Janeiro, Braplans to make his first trip to Europe in 1962. He will visit several countries and take part in a conference of Baptists in Spain, reported The European Baptist magazine, published by The European Baptist Federation.
- Chile Relief Gets \$104,896. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (USA), has appropriated an additional \$104,896.49 for relief and rehabilitation in Chile in keeping with a request from their Chile mission to cope with the situation left by last May's devastating earthquakes. The money will be used to care for emergency human needs and rehabilitate Baptist work in the affected zone. Two-thirds of all the Baptists in Chile live in the earthquake area, and about 60 Baptist churches are located there. The Board had already sent \$16,529.47 in relief funds to Chile. Persons attending the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, contributed \$2,387.85.
- 1961 Southern Baptist Convention. Theme of the 1961 Southern Convention session at St. Louis, Mo., will be "My Church . . . Reaching Out" James E. Boyd of West Palm Beach, Fla., chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, has announced. The Scripture reference for the theme is found in Mark 1:38—"Let us go into the next towns . . . preach there also." W. H. Souther, associate professor of church administration at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary, will di-

- rect convention music. Tommy Lane. minister of music at Bellevue church, Memphis, Tenn., will assist him. Billy Graham will preach the Convention sermon on the opening night, May 23.
- Dr. Tinsley of Australia. Well known and greatly loved in Australia and in the fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. C. J. Tinsley entered into glory in April of this year. Greenwood Press, the publications department of the Australian Baptist Publishing House, has just released the biography of this great Australian Baptist. Known as "The Australian Spurgeon," C. J. Tinsley, after training in Spurgeon's College, London, returned to his native land and exercised a singular evangelistic ministry in one church, Stanmore a suburb of Sydney, for 47 years. The biography, written by a colleague, Rev. John Ridley, highlights the evangelistic purpose and passion of this notable pastor.
  - -The Watchman-Examiner
- Dr. Fouts, Seminary Professor, Dies. The Rev. William Mefford Fouts, for almost 40 years associated with the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, died Oct. 19. 1960. He was 73 years old. Funeral services were held in Chicago and interment was made in Keokuk, Iowa. Dr. Fouts taught Hebrew and related Old Testament subjects and served as registrar of the Seminary for many years. Dr. Fouts' personal library contained thousands of volumes. For several years prior to his retirement he wrote the expositions for adult teachers in the Baptist Leader.

# What's Happening

- Rev. and Mrs. M. Wolff of Auburn, Mich., have announced the birth of a daughter on Nov. 8 who has been named Edith Ann. Mr. Wolff is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Auburn, Mich.
- The Central Baptist Church of George, Iowa has extended a call to Mr. R. J. Thompson to which he has given a favorable reply. He is already on the field serving the church, having succeeded Rev. James A. Brygger. In a later issue we shall present more information about the new pastor in George, Iowa.
- It has been announced by the Bible Baptist Church of Detroit, Mich., that the services of its pastor, Rev. Cleo Foley, were brought to a close on Oct. 25. No further information was sent to the Forest Park headquarters office than this brief announcement. Mr. Foley had served as pastor of the Bible Baptist Church for less than a
- Miss Eleanor Schulert, Cameroons missionary since 1953, has presented her resignation recently to the Board of Missions. It was accepted by the Board, as reported by Dr. R. Schilke, effective Oct. 31. Miss Schulert had served as a missionary teacher in Soppo, Southern Cameroons. She will continue to reside in Detroit, Michigan, where she is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- On Nov. 16 Rev. and Mrs. Fred Holzimmer, Cameroons missionaries, and their two younger children, Miriam Sue and Barbara Kay, sailed on the "SS Queen Elizabeth" for England and later on another ship for Africa. They left their oldest daughter, Juanita Joy, in the United States to attend school. The Holzimmers hope to be on the Cameroons mission field in Africa prior to Christmas day.
- O It was a long awaited but joyous occasion on Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Glencullen Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, when 100 copies of the second edition of the NORTH AMERICAN HYMNAL were dedicated to the use of praise and worship to God. Rev. E. E. Seibold, pastor, wrote: "These attractive and rich looking hymnals have added dignity to the appearance of the sanctuary and have been accepted enthusiastically by the congregation. They were worth waiting for!"
- Rev. Arnold Koester, pastor of the Mollardgasse Baptist Church, Vienna, Austria, was called to his heavenly home on Oct. 28. He was 65 years of age. He had served as pastor of this influential Baptist church in Vienna for almost 32 years. Besides his widow, he leaves to mourn his departure 6 children: Mrs. Ursula Fuchs, Mrs.

#### CHRISTMAS, 1960

"Peace and good will," the angels "And where is peace?" men cry; But in the hearts of all God's own Good will and peace do lie.

And Christ is coming again Peace and good will to bring; When he shall reign, his kingdom come.

Then songs of peace we'll sing. -M. Winfred

Roswitha Matschinger, Sieglinde, Martin, Winfried and Knut Koester, Dr. W. J. Appel participated in the memorial service held on Nov. 3rd.

- The Baptist church of Baileyville, Ill., held a missionary Rally on Sunday, Oct. 30, with Rev. and Mrs. Asaph Tobert, missionaries in Nigeria under the Sudan Interior Mission. Mrs. Harold W. Gieseke of Chicago, Ill., a sister of Mr. Tobert, was also present and interrogated the Toberts at the afternoon service about the mission field and ministry. On Sunday evening, Nov. 13. Miss Burness Kampen of Forreston, Ill., a missionary in Africa on furlough, was the guest speaker, Rev. A. E. Van Kley is pastor of the church.
- The story on Alfred Saker, pioneer Cameroons missionary, and about the Nigeria stamp that honored the 100th anniversary of the founding of Victoria by Alfred Saker, which appeared originally in the "Baptist Herald" in November 1959, has been reprinted in about 20 different publications. The most recent publication was HORI-ZONS, a national Sunday School paper. for teen agers of the Church of the Brethren in its Oct. 20, 1960 issue which featured the story of the stamp over four full pages in its article, "The Man Nobody Could Discourage.'
- Rev. G. K. Zimmerman, Sunday School Union secretary, represented the NAB General Conference at the conference of Christian Education Executives Representing Cooperating

#### CHRISTMAS ISSUE

This is the first number of the 'Baptist Herald" in its 38 year history with a colored front cover. It is also "a bonus issue" with 28 pages. These special numbers in color will appear twice a year for the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is our way of expressing our gratitude to you for your faithfulness in subscribing to the "Baptist Herald" for yourselves and your friends. All of us associated with the Roger Williams Press want to wish you: A BLESSED AND JOYOUS CHRIST-MAS!

Editor

Baptist Bodies held in Nashville, Tennessee on Nov. 3 and 4. The conference sessions were held in the offices of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board under the chairmanship of Dr. Kenneth Cober of New York, N. Y. It was voted to hold the 1961 sessions of the conference in the NAB headquarters building in Forest Park, Ill., as reported by Mr. Zimmerman.

- On Sunday, Nov. 6, Dr. Louis R. Johnson, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, Ill., had the joy of welcoming 29 new members into the church's fellowship. Fourteen of these came by baptism and 15 by letter or statement. On that same Sunday afternoon. Open House was held. There were guided tours throughout the beautiful new church with refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall. The Sunday School has voted to purchase a bus for the transportation of children and adults to Sunday School and church.
- Dr. R. Schilke, general missionary secretary, has made the following important statement for all North American Baptists: "During the next few months a plebiscite will be held in the Cameroons of Africa to decide on the question whether the British Cameroons will gain its independence within the Federation of Nigeria or whether it will join the French Cameroons. We need to be much in prayer for our missionaries and for the people in the Cameroons in these very decisive weeks.'
- On Sunday, Oct. 23, the Sunday School of the Oak Street Church, Burlington, Iowa, held its Harvest and Mission Festival with a fine attendance of 389. The attendance at the morning church service that Sunday was 586. On Sunday evening, Nov. 20, Rev. Howard Johnson, pastor, baptized several persons on confession of their faith in Christ. David and Lorraine Gerdes have assumed the sponsorship of the Senior High CBY. The president of the Junior CBY is Jonathan Wittkamp with Louise and Elaine Schulze serving as the sponsors of this newly formed group.
- A church council met in Kitchener, Ontario on Nov. 4 with the members of the newly organized Salem Baptist Church. The denominational leaders present were Rev. William Sturhahn of Winnipeg, Manitoba, who served as the council's chairman; Rev. Daniel Fuchs of Forest Park, Ill.; and Rev. E. Wolff, Eastern District Secretary, The council voted favorably on a resolution recommending that the new church will be recognized at the next association session and also that every endeavor should be made in the meantime for this church group to be reunited with the other church in Kitchener, the Central Baptist Church.
- The Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., has announced the appointment of Dr. M. A. Darroch as

(Continued on page 26)

# We the Women

By MRS. ALBERT REDDIG President of the Woman's Missionary Union

#### CHRISTMAS CANDLES

HE traditional practices of Christmas forge a golden chain of memories year after year that makes this season of the year the brightest of all for children and adults alike. For most families, candles have a special significance in the scheme of things. As soon as a candle is lit, it comes alive and weaves its own magic spell.

One family I know makes it a practice to light a candle each night until a row of six candles is burning on Christmas Eve. Then each night thereafter one candle is extinguished so that by New Year's Eve the candles are all out—a signal for the dismantling of the Christmas tree and a beginning for the New Year. Each night as another candle is lit, hymns are sung, and favorite poems and Christmas stories are shared. Practices such as this give special meaning to our celebration of Christ's birth

The candles of Christmas speak of the One who said, "I am the Light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). When Christ came to earth as a little babe. the light of life was lighted by God himself. Through the centuries, this light has burned to show mankind the way back to God. There have been times when it burned very feebly, to be sure, but no one has ever been able to extinguish this light.

As Christians we are to show forth this wonderful light in all that we say and do. How the world needs to be guided by the light of Christ in all its misery and woe in our day! There are so many needs on every hand that can only be met and satisfied with Christian attitudes and the warmth of Christian love.

Henry Van Dyke points to the areas which need the Christian's light with this searching question:

#### CAN YOU KEEP CHRISTMAS?

"Are you willing . . . .

To stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing

To stop asking how many of your friends love you and ask yourself if you love them enough:

To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; To try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

To trim your lamp so that it will give

(Continued on page 26)

# Life for Men's Fellowships

By William F. Heine, President of the Forest Park Baptist Men's Fellowship, Forest Park, Illinois,

TA RALLY of the Baptist Men's Fellowship of the Central Conference, an outside lay speaker did what we normally would not expect him to do. We had invited him to give us an inspirational talk. Instead of catering to itchy ears, he had the Christian courage, almost literally, to dump us out cf our seats.

This man, the head of a pharmaceutical house of Indianapolis, Indiana, took of his valuable time to tell this group of men a few facts of life. The gist of his message was this: "Quit playing at Christianity. Grab hold of it or join the opposition. It promises and gives more of this world's goods."

#### THE POWER OF GOD

I must admit that his theme was unusual for this day, but whoever was touched by it was aware of a POWER. that felt like the end of a live wire.

Let me digress for a moment. Here was a man of high position, who at the present time sits in the council of our national defense program, who frank-

My help comether from the Lord,

heaven and earth.

which made

ly confessed that eight years ago he was a social alcoholic. He moved in business, social and Christian circles, doing everything—BUT—living!

The religious folk, whom he knew, never even hinted that Jesus gave men living water. They were too busy, differing with each other about methods, language, creeds, and personal backgrounds of their groups to indicate that they had any life themselves.

Then, one day, he met the real thing. He asked, "What is this thing that you have?" The answer he received went something like this. Since the day that I let God come into my life, everything IS DIFFERENT. Then the question naturally came: "How can these things be?" He got the same answer that Nicodemus, the religious man, got from Jesus. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit." It was this answer, straight-forward and direct, that made the difference in this man's life.

#### NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Men of our churches, the answer to the listless job that is being done by us is the same today as the day when Jesus spoke the words. You either have life, OR you DON'T. Just to let these words sink into one's consciousness creates quite a disturbing condition. "Shock" would be the word! A body that is dead can be made to twitch and move by applying a bolt of high voltage to it, but, never, no, never, can it make the body live, move and have its being as a live creature once more. It must have life to do that.

Shall we ask, "How can these things be?" The answer is always the same: "Unless a man is born ANEW, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven." We enliven, by getting New Life, and then sharing this with others!

### ENTIRELY NEW! MISSIONARY PICTURE PACKETS

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#### CHRISTMAS AT HOME

(Continued from page 8)

story from Luke 2 and leads in prayer. (When the children had learned the Christmas Story in the Scripture Memory Course, we had them repeat it rather than having it read by their father.)

Now the time has come for two of the children to pass out the gifts. After opening the presents, they have the fun of playing with the toys until hedtime.

Christmas morning, the children are out of bed early to continue playing with their new gifts. While the turkey is roasting, our family goes to church for the Christmas worship service. (The Christmas program presented by the Sunday School is held the Sunday preceding Christmas Day.) Together with other families we join in the familiar and loved Christmas carols. Together we worship the One who loved us so much that he gave his very best -his Son. Together we recall the words, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift" (II Corinthians 9:15-R. S. V.).

#### CHRISTMAS IN AUSTRIA

(Continued from page 6)

festivities close with the distribution of gifts to the children of the Sunday School

The celebration of Christmas, though language and living conditions may differ, is remarkably the same among believers; yet each country has its distinguishing traditions. In Austria, a predominantly Catholic country, many superstitious customs are practised.

#### "GLOECKLERLAUFEN"

In the Salzkammergut area the socalled "Gloecklerlaufen" still prevails. Groups of boys and men, numbering from twenty to thirty, parade the streets dressed in white shirts and trousers, with staffs in their hands and large cowbells suspended from their belts. Special attention is given to the enormous headdress, which is made of framework of various shapes, covered with colorful transparent paper permitting the glow from a lighted candle to shine through.

The bells of the Gloecklers, according to tradition, are said to appease evil spirits. The deeper meaning originally behind this custom has gradually been lost, and today the "Gloecklerlaufen" is little more than a spectacle.

#### **OUR HYMN BOOK**

(Continued from page 12)

can writers are included with some of the best revival songs of American evangelists.

Yet, when we sing with full hearts the divine praises, we do not ask who supplied the words which we so readily make our own, And when we sing the gospel appeal, or the gospel experience of conversion we do not ask who wrote:

### From the Professor's Desk

By Dr. Walter W. Wessel, Professor, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

was Paul's custom always to visit Jewish synagogues first. This, in my opinion, expresses: (1) that he needed his countrymen's support for his campaigns; (2) that he wished to keep good contact with God's own people: but also, (3) that he needed an ininterpreter. Am I right in this?

You are quite right when you say that Paul's custom, upon arrival in a new city or town, was first to visit the Jewish synagogue. Perhaps the most important reason for this is to be found in Paul's love for his fellowcountrymen which he expresses so movingly in Romans 10:1-3. He wanted to win them for Christ, Also, the synagogue had attracted numbers of Gentiles who were disillusioned with the religion of the Jews. These Gentiles were not Jewish proselytes. They rather constituted an interested "fringe" around the Jewish synagogues of the Hellenistic world. In the New Testament they usually are referred to as "God-fearers." Paul knew that they constituted his best prospects for the Christian Gospel. This certainly is one of the reasons why he always went to the synagogue first.

Now the last reason you suggest is possible, but we have no explicit mention of it in the New Testament. After the conquests of Alexander the Great, Greek did become the common (the Greek word is koine) language of the Mediterranean world. Of course, the small inland towns of the Hellenistic world spoke the language of the district, but if you follow Paul's journeys

Acts 17:2 seems to indicate that it in the Book of Acts you will discover that it was his habit usually to bypass these small towns and stop at the centers of population. These cities, for the most part, were Greek-speaking. People living in them had to know Greek in order to conduct their business affairs. Thus, when in these centers, Paul could do most of his preaching in Greek.

> When Paul, however, got away from the population centers of the Mediterranean coasts and back into the hinterland of Asia Minor, he probably needed an interpreter. Even in the Roman colony of Lystra, where we know from inscriptions that the Roman citizens of the colony used Latin (and the business was probably conducted in Greek), the native Anatolian population spoke the language of the district. 'The Gods have come down to us in the likeness of men" (Acts 14:11), they shouted in Lycaonian, in response to the miracle performed by Paul. Paul could have used an interpreter here, but there is no mention of one in the account, and there was no synagogue at Lystra.

Also, the miracle of speaking in tongues at Pentecost would seem to suggest that everyone in the Hellenistic world did not know Greek, However, it must also be remembered that the purpose of the tongues was not only to get the message across to these people, (many of whom spoke Greek in addition to their native dialects), but to underscore the fact that God was doing something very special on that

"O happy day that fixed my choice On thee my Saviour and my God. Well may this glowing heart rejoice, And tell its raptures all abroad."

We know that those who wrote the language we can make our own must have been our spiritual kinsmen. The best hymns have been written out of a spiritual experience by one gifted in the art of poetical expression. Between such a writer and others who have the same experiences without his skill there is an understanding which unites them. They have the key to each other's heart-the same joy and peace in believing. It is this kinship of spirit transcending all denominational separations which makes a good hymn book the most catholic expression of our common Christianity.



KEEP CHRIST IN YOUR CHRISTMAS!

19



A South American "senorita".

#### CHAPTER ONE

ORILLO LOPES was awakened by the crowing of a rooster just outside the bamboo wall, and the cluck-clucking of the hen under his bed. He yawned, stretched and arose. How good it felt to be home after his year of vigorous military service! He stepped outside and washed his face at the rough wooden bench on which stood the familiar wooden basin and earthen jar of cold water. Then he rinsed his mouth thoroughly and stepped into the kitchen where his mother already squatted by the fire.

Doña Marta, in her faded black calico dress, continued to suck maté from a silver tube while Zorillo dropped his lean body into a little Vshaped bench and waited for his turn. Slowly and deliberately the mother finished hers while she studied the handsome youth with her penetrating black eyes. Then she replenished the herbfilled, shiny brown gourd with scalding hot water from the little iron kettle that nestled in the ashes at her feet, and handed it to him.

"Bien, mi hijo," she began at last. "Well, my son, and what are your plans, now that you have finished your military service?"

"I am going to marry, Mamita, I am going to marry and settle down. I shall carry on the old trade of making saints for the faithful. Papito's old tools are still there, are they not? It is a good trade, and besides, it ought to bring good fortune. It is, to my way of thinking, a service to God Himself."

"It is a good plan, my son, a good plan. It is time for you to marry. What could be better than to choose a fine muchacha, strong and young, and bonito of course"-here the thin

# South American Romance

A Christian Novel by Mary McCombe Orr

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tle down to your father's old trade."

The smile faded into a sigh as Doña Marta glanced down at her drab mourning dress, for scarcely six months had passed since her life-companion had laid down his carving tools for the last time, and had gone the way of so many of his fellow Paraguayans-stabbed in a spur-of-the-moment quarrel.

Zorillo was careful to draw out the last drop of liquid from the gourd, then handed it back to his mother. She filled it slowly for herself and without speaking, put it to her mouth.

As she drew in the bitter but refreshing liquid, she contemplated her son with pleasure and pride. How fine he looked! His straight black hair was combed back neatly. His brown skin and dark eyes showed up his fine white teeth to advantage. He seemed to have inherited the best features from his Indian and Spanish forefathers. His year of military service had matured him, too. He was not only handsome, but was strong and healthy and a good

Oh, yes, he would succeed in the old trade. As far as marriage was concerned, he would have no trouble finding a good companion. Did not all the chicas vie for his attentions? And was not she, his mother, daily asking the saints to enable him to make the right choice that would result in a happy future for them all? Perhaps he had already made his choice! She looked quickly toward him again and tried to figure that out, but reached no solution. She didn't ask him. She would wait, and trust the Holy Virgin and the saints to give her son a happy marriage.

They spoke very little, but each was busy thinking while the maté went back and forth between them until both were satisfied. Then without rising from her tiny stool, Doña Marta poked the fire and pushed the burning ends of the three logs closer together. She replenished the kettle from a jar at her side, settled it on the now blazing fire, and brought it quickly to a boil. She then reached for the coffee pot and rinsed it, throwing the water on the mud floor. Not until the coffee was made and sweetened with heaping tablespoons of sugar from a tin kept right at hand, did she rise to her feet. From the low rafters she took down a large bag and extracted from it several hard buns, which she placed on an enameled plate on a bench. Two large cups were taken from nails driven into the wall, and filled with the steaming black coffee. Breakfast was ready.

After breakfast, Zorillo went into

face relaxed into a smile-"and set- his father's little workshop and set about sorting out the simple tools in preparation for beginning life as a maker of saints. He had worked for years with his father and was becoming quite skillful when the fatherland had called him for his obligatory military service. It would be fairly easy for him to begin where he left off, but he would miss his father at his side. Yes, he would have to get married. With Rosita at his side he would be happy-Rosita, the girl with the deep, sparkling eyes and round healthy cheeks, the long black braids and bright laughter.

With these thoughts running pellmell through his mind, Zorillo took down a beautifully carved crucifix from the wall, kissed it and crossed himself. Then he turned to a picture of San Miguel, the patron saint of the family, and invoked his blessing on the future. Quickly he finished setting the little workshop in order, and slipping his bare feet into his rope-soled slippers, went out to seek Rosita-and her father!

In the meantime Doña Marta lifted to her head the heavy basket she had prepared at dawn while the maté water was heating. It contained four large, live hens that had lain, feet tied, in a corner of the kitchen since the night before. Besides these, there were vegetables and mandioca from the plantation at the side of this little ranchito that was home to her and Zorillo. The fresh white mandioca had been pulled that morning. With pride she thought of her fine basket of wares, and tried to calculate mentally how much money they would bring

The load was heavy and the hens quarrelsome, but Doña Marta walked with unhesitating steps and kept the basket perfectly balanced as she made her way down the sandy street in her brown bare feet. There was something aristocratic about the tall, thin figure, held so straight, with head erect, while her two arms swung easily at her sides.

Now and again, she turned her head just slightly to greet a friend, usually another woman, equally laden, equally graceful, and bound in the same direction. Soon there was a fair-sized group of them and they chatted merrily and bantered good-naturedly as they hastened along toward the port of Encarnación.

"So your son is back," called Doña Celicia, robust and smiling, as she joined the group, "and is more handsome than ever! How tall he is, and strong! There's going to be a great rivalry among the muchachas. But I can guess who's going to get him.

That little Rosita is a lovely girl, and I think she has won Zorillo's heart already. Her hoeing went slowly yesterday afternoon, and with my own eyes I saw Zorillo wearing the path by her father's plantation a little deeper! Come now, Doña Marta, how would you like Rosita for a daughter-inlaw?

Doña Marta sighed. It was not a sigh of sadness, but rather one of hope, mixed with fear that she might be dreaming.

"Oh, that it might be so!" she exclaimed. "And by the grace of the Virgin it shall be! Rosita is a good girl, hardworking, and gay, and pretty. Surely the saints are answering my prayers for a happy marriage for my only son. Oh, I have said many, many prayers for this! And have I not made a promise to place a candle on every grave in the cemetery on the Day of the Dead? For five years I shall do it-and the price will be small for my

son's happiness!" Her heart was light and the day went well. The chatter seemed par-

ticularly gay as the women boarded the launch and lowered their baskets to rest while they crossed the great Paraná River. They joked and teased as certain smaller items, classifed by customs officials as "contraband," were slipped into hidden pockets in lieu of inspection on the Argentine side. They laughed and poked one another as they sought to help smooth out the unnatural bulges. As the noise of the motor died and the launch plowed to a stop, the group rose as one, and with a little aid from the launchmen, the heavy baskets were once more elevated and the stately Paraguayan women stepped up onto the dock. In a few minutes they had passed through customs and were on their way down the

street to the Posadas market. The long, hot day, with its haggling and bargaining, buying and selling went quickly. Toward evening the long-braided, long-skirted little band of women returned to the port, laden once more, but not as heavily as in the morning. When they embarked, they spent a great deal of time rearranging their purchases, this time with the Paraguayan customs in view. The legitimate imports were left in the baskets, the illegitimate things were frankly and publicly tucked into the secret compartments of their clothing until the meal was finished and it was from the launch much stouter than when they entered!

That night, over their supper of fresh, boiled mandioca and beef soup with corn meal dumplings, the day's happenings were recounted. Doña Marta told of her good day in the market, then listened happily while Zorillo told of his visit to Rosita's house and of how her father had given his consent to the young couple's marriage.

Both were intensely happy that their every wish was being fulfilled, but true to the characteristics of their nationality, they gave little outward sign of their emotions. In a matter-of-

December 8, 1960

Guarani Indian words mixed with Spanish, they discussed coming events until the meal was finished and it was time to retire.

Zorillo went to the little workshop and unfolded his catre, which was a kind of camp bed made of criss-crossed strips of rawhide on a wooden frame supported by crossed wooden legs. He then threw a rough blanket over it, pulled off his shoes, and was ready for bed. He did not sleep, however, until he had dreamed a few dreams of the future, and had thanked the saints for prospering his way so far.

In the kitchen Dona Marta washed her dusty brown feet in a wooden basin carved from a piece of tree trunk. She, too, thanked the Blessed Virgin for the day's good fortune, and was soon stretched out in slumber, happy on her rawhide bed under her thatched roof.

The making of the new home was simple, and the materials inexpensive. Zorillo alternately whistled and sang as he worked from day to day building another ranchito at the end of the small piece of ground that belonged to him and his mother. The frame was hand-sawn lumber. The walls were of clean, new bamboo from the forest; the roof, of course, was of thatch, and the floor of mud. How proud he was of his neat little home when it was finished!

But there was still the kitchen to be built. This was a separate hut, almost a smaller duplicate of the first, and the thoughtful young husband-to-be put up a few shelves, drove in a few nails and pegs of wood, and fastened to the ridgepole a long chain on which a pot or kettle could be hung above the fire.

A pestle and mortar, necessary articles in a Paraguayan housewife's equipment, also had to be made. Zorillo sawed off, at a height of about three feet, a dying tree that was conveniently near the kitchen. The top of the remaining stump was carved out like a basin, and a club-shaped pestle was made from the part which had been severed.

Now there was the matter of furniture. A wide catre must be constructed, and for this Zorillo managed to buy some strong canvas to use instead of the hard rawhide strips. Then he made a bench or two, and a large box to hold clothing. Little V-shaped benches were made for the kitchen, and even a table.

All this might have been accomplished within a few weeks, but Zorillo had to devote a good deal of his time each day to his profession. Even the images of saints, although they were in great demand and highly revered. brought in little money. And a man, Zorillo knew, must not only have a place to bring his bride, but a little money as well. First of all he must save enough to pay the priest. Then when that was set apart, he must save for a new pair of pants, a shirt and

fact way, and in their abrupt, brief, a jacket. He must wear a tie to his own wedding or substitute with a respectable scarf. His shoes, too, should be new. And last, he was responsible for the purchase of his bride's outfit. No wonder then that for several months Zorillo worked hard and faithfully, part time in the old workshop, part time out in the open under the fragrant orange trees.

Rosita was busy, too. Being engaged to be married did not excuse her from her father's plantation, nor from helping her mother wash the clothes of the rich folk. She also had to deliver the clothes, in smooth clean piles which she carried on her head, piles still warm from her mother's iron. In her spare time the hands that were accustomed to harder, rougher, heavier work, proved their skill in things delicate, as with diligence Rosita embroidered and crocheted little bits of finery with which to ornament her waiting bamboo home.

When Zorillo had earned enough to buy the flimsy white materials, Rosita's wedding garments had to be made. Her aunt Carolina, proud possessor of an ancient sewing machine, was the honored seamstress. She and the maiden spent many an hour together basting and trying on, that the all-important dress might be just right. The material was only a filmy cotton, but it was of purest white and abundant in quantity. The ankle-length dress that finally emerged was to Rosita's eyes unsurpassed in beauty. The veil also, although inexpensive, was lovely over her dark, lustrous hair. When Rosita tried on her entire outfit, which included white stockings and shoes, she was thrilled indeed with the picture that smiled shyly back at her from her mirror.

In Paraguay, as in most Latin American countries, to be recognized by the law, a marriage had to be legalized by a judge in a civil ceremony. Religious rites alone, whether Roman Catholic or Protestant, were not valid. But Rosita and Zorillo cared little about that. They could not afford two ceremonies, and the priest had told them that they must be married by him or not at all. The church wedding, he declared, was the only one recognized by God, and it was not necessary to comply with the laws of

To Zorillo and Rosita and their families, the natural, normal thing was to be married in the church alone, nor did they ever entertain, even for a moment, the thought that their marriage should be legalized.

The great day arrived at last. What hustling and bustling went on in the ranchitos! Doña Marta, her good friend Doña Celicia, Rosita's mother Angelica. the seamstress Carolina, and numerous other helpers were up early. They were awakened by the never-failing roosters. not at dawn, but long before that, for South American cocks crowed the world awake at about two o'clock in

(Continued on page 25)

# Sunday School Lessons

A TEACHING GUIDE

Date: December 18, 1960

Theme: THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11; Matthew 11:27-30

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: Jesus went to the deepest need of our hearts by suffering for us, so that now he feels and suffers with us in our trials and temptations.

INTRODUCTION: Last week we had a suggestion of the compassion of Christ incorporated in the promise of his coming. This week we go more deeply into the genuine and personal compassion of the Saviour. We become more fully aware that Jesus Christ has the capacity to feel, experience and suffer with every human being in every situation in which he may find himself.

The prophet Isaiah gives us an indication of how close God wants to be to his people. A king and ruler may be of a compassionate nature, but he would, of necessity, have to show his compassion through his servants. Jesus, however, is able to show his compassion by his presence. It is his nearness to every individual that brings comfort and blessing. In the words of Paul, the great gap between God and man was closed by the greatest of all acts of compassion: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13).

#### I. A COMPASSIONATE SERMON. Isaiah 61:1-4.

Whatever else is necessary to a good sermon, one thing we must all agree on is that it must have the unction of the Holy Spirit. Certainly, the Spirit of the Lord must motivate, fill and empower all witnessing that is done in his Name, whether it be teaching, preaching or writing.

The full impact of this sermon was not felt until it was preached by Jesus, the Anointed One. And then it drove the audience farther away from God rather than closer to him. The truth would have made them free but they chose to be bound by their own traditions.

#### II. A COMPASSIONATE TRANS-FORMATION, Isaiah 6:10-11

The prophet gives us a beautiful picture of the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Two of the most beautiful expressions in the Old Testament are "the garment of salvation" and "the robe of righteousness." To give a picture of salvation in all its beauty and glory, Isaiah also gives us the wonderful and miraculous process of growth.

#### OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

"It is easy to dodge our responsibilities, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our respon--Lord Stamp

We are to be a veritable garden of

The bride and bridegroom are not only symbols of purity and dress, but also symbols of love, joy and sacri-

III. A COMPASSIONATE INVITA-TION. Matthew 11:27-30.

There are many invitations which we turn down because we must of necessity be selective. Some are not worth the effort: some we do not have time for. But if an invitation would come from the president of the United States or from the queen of England, we would make every effort to attend and all other invitations would be rejected. Such an honor comes very seldom in a lifetime, and perhaps would not be repeated after having once rejected it.

The invitation, therefore, depends largely on the person who extends it. Do we fully realize that it is Jesus Christ who gives the invitation? The one who said, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father" and "All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth." No greater honor can come to us and no other invitation could ever be as rewarding.

#### A TEACHING GUIDE

Date: December 25, 1960

Theme: GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

THE CENTRAL THOUGHT: Jesus Christ came to establish a kingdom of love by putting love into men's hearts.

INTRODUCTION: This lesson constitutes the climax of God's greatness, in that God's greatest promise to man was fulfilled. But the wonderful truth about the birth of the Savior is that even after almost two thousand years it continues to be a glorious climax.

Every year as we approach the Christmas season, we feel as if we are receiving a "first time" blessing. Many Christians will testify to the fact that

#### 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.

the blessing actually increases with age. From a childish anticipation of gifts and food and tinsel, the Christian grows into a mature experience of the true meaning of Christmas. Beyond the gift under the tree, he sees the gift of love in the form of Jesus Christ; beyond the food on the table he sees the bread and water of life; beyond the glitter of the tinsel he sees the Light of the world. If Christmas is to mean anything to us, it must be a growing experience. The story is the same, the festivities are the same, but never let it be said that the Christian is the same.

#### I. THE CHRISTMAS REVELA-TION. Luke 2:8-14.

All the revelation in the Old Testament was fulfilled in the appearing of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem. What was so surprising was the fact that revelation, which was so often reserved for prophets, priests and kings in the Old Testament, was now given to common, ordinary shepherds in the New Testament. It was certainly an indictment on the priesthood and on the organized religion of the temple, God brushed aside high station and reserved his most precious message for those who were most faithfully engaged in doing their duty. Religious knowledge and education were not enough: there had to be faith, love and spiritual expectancy.

#### II. THE CHRISTMAS SEARCH. Luke 2:15-16.

There was no time to waste, no postponement of the adventure, no waiting for daylight. The shepherds, full of enthusiasm and joy, made hurried arrangements for the care of the sheep and went immediately to find the place where the Savior was born.

The name "Bethlehem" means "house of bread." No place could have been more appropriate, for Jesus later stood forth and said, "I am the bread

Seeking is important in every area of life, much more so in the realm of the spirit. Jesus made it a primary condition when he said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33).

#### III. THE CHRISTMAS PROCLA-MATION, Luke 2:17-20.

The shepherds were given a most wonderful revelation. They shared a glorious experience in visiting the Christ-child, but it would have been a spiritual calamity if they had kept it all to themselves. They were given the good news of the Savior's birth. They were told where to find him, but no directions were given as to what to do about it. God thought it unnecessary, because he expected those who received the good news to proclaim it. No doubt they were filled with so much joy that they told the story to all they met.

The natural sequence to receiving salvation is to proclaim salvation!

# Our Denomination in AETION

### Northern District

#### Pastor's Reception at Lauderdale Church, Edmonton, Alta.

On Sunday, October 2, during a special afternoon service the Lauderdale Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, and its friends officially welcomed their new pastor, Rev. Ernest Hahn, and family. Mr. Herbert Hoehne, who served our church faithfully while we were without a minister, acted as master of ceremonies for this service. Each organization of the church expressed a welcome with songs, recitations and musical numbers. Ministers and representatives of North American Baptist churches of Edmonton joined us in welcoming our new pastor. Rev. Ed Link favored us with two special numbers. The main speaker for this occasion was Dr. A. S. Felberg, president of the Christian Training Institute. At the close of the service we gathered in the basement of the church for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

To celebrate Thanksgiving Day, the Sunday School of our church presented a special programme on Sunday, October 9, during the evening service.
Hilda Schubert, Reporter

#### Sessions of the Central Alberta-Sask, Association

The annual sessions of the Central Alberta - Saskatchewan Association were held at the Temple Baptist Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta, from Oct. 27 to 30, with Rev. David Berg, Rev. Wm. Sturhahn and Miss Tina Schmidt from the Cameroons Mission Field as special speakers. The evening services were well attended and God blessed us, especially in the consideration of our theme, "WALKING WITH GOD." On Saturday evening the Tri-Union sponsored a special banquet and youth rally. The Association finished its annual sessions on Sunday morning with a large service in both the Grace and the Temple Baptist churches.

The annual Song Festival sponsored by the Tri-Union served as a wonderful conclusion to these days of great blessing. A number of important decisions were made at the sessions this year. The most important of these was to unite our Association with that of the Alberta Association, if it is acceptable to them and if a reasonable agreement can be reached.

Henry Schumacher, Reporter

### Central District

#### Baptismal Service, Dickinson County Church, Elmo, Kansas

On Sunday evening, Aug. 14, a baptismal service was held at the First Baptist Church of Dickinson County, Elmo, Kansas. The pastor, Rev. Gerald Neugebauer, officiated. Nine children were baptized and welcomed into the membership of the church. It is our



Baptismal group at the First Baptist Church of Dickinson County, Kansas, baptized by Rev. J. G. Neugebauer.

earnest prayer that these young people will grow steadfastly in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

A picture of the group is enclosed. Reading from left to right, on the back row, they are: Sandra Abeldt, Shirley Piper, Jerry Jacobson, Wayne Smyth, and Eddie Piper. On the front row are Sharon Sandow, Janis Piper, Kathy Linder and Dawn Linder.

Mrs. Earl Rhodes, Reporter

#### Five Generations in Baptist Church, Ashley, N. Dak.

An event of historical interest to the Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, North



FIVE GENERATIONS, ASHLEY, N. D.

Mr. Christian Fischer Sr., of Ashley, N. Dak., (aged 98 on Dec. 2, 1960) right, front; his son, Mr. C. C. Fischer, standing behind him: Mrs. Enoch Roth, a daughter of C. C. Fischer (left, back); her daughter, Mrs. Evangeline Moeckel (front, left); and her son, Timothy Scott Moeckel. The four adults are members of the Ashley Baptist Church.

Dakota, and community recently took place when Mr. Christian Fischer, senior member of the church, posed with members of four succeeding generations. Each one of these fine people are in church attendance, in the same church, every Sunday. All but the youngest are members. Mr. Fischer reached the age of 98 years on December 2. His sight and hearing are somewhat impaired, but his memory and faith are outstanding. We pray that Timothy will follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and great grandfather, who now serve as deacons, as was the elder Fischer. The church is fortunate to have these fine people active in the Lord's work. A. W. Bibelheimer, Pastor

#### Recognition of First Baptist Church, Leola, S. Dak.

That God's work is still going forward was again seen as on October 17 a Council of Delegates from the Aberdeen, Eureka, and Herreid, S. D., and Ashley, Lehr, Venturia and Wishek, N. D. churches met in the new edifice of the Leola church, (a station of the Eureka church), to consider the propriety of that church becoming a self governing body. With the Rev. Alfred Weisser of the Herreid Baptist Church serving as moderator, the Council went on record to approve the doctrinal position of the Leola Church and to recommend its recognition as a

self governing body.

The name will be THE FIRST BAP-TIST CHURCH OF LEOLA, and the Rev. A. E. Reeh of the Eureka Church will continue to serve as pastor for the present time. A most delicious supper was served by the ladies of the Leola Church and a very fine program followed with each church represented offering congratulations. Several good musical numbers were rendered, and the evening's congratulatory message was brought by Dr. Martin L. Leuschner, editor of the "Baptist Herald." May God's richest blessings rest upon this new church organization.

Julius Gall, Clerk

#### Pastor's Reception by Immanuel Church, Kenosha, Wis.

Recently the Immanuel Baptist Church of Kenosha, Wis., held a reception for its new pastor, Rev. Milton W. Zeeb. Neighboring churches and their pastors were invited at which Rev. John Binder, CBYF general secretary, preached the induction sermon. A social hour was held in the lower auditorium where the presentation, "This Is Your Life" was arranged by Mrs. Dorothy White. Mr. Zeeb and his family came to us from their recent appointment in Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Both Mr. and Mrs. Zeeb studied at the Christian Training Institute. He also attended the Multnomah School of the Bible in Portland, Oregon, He received his Bachelor of Arts degree at Lewis and Clark College of Portland and the Bachelor of Divinity degree at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls. While in South Dakota he

served as student pastor at the Trinity Baptist Church of Sioux Falls.

A farewell dinner was also given in honor of Rev. Edgar Klatt and his family who left the Kenosha church after several years of service to be-come Professor of Theology at the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton, Alberta.

Hertha Behr, Reporter

#### Sessions of the Northern North Dakota Association

Great and marvelous were the days of our Northern North Dakota Association at our Jamestown Church (Oct. 20-23). All who were in attendance were greatly blessed and encouraged. Our theme for the association was "Born to Produce" based on the word found in James 3:17. All who gave their assigned messages did an excellent and thorough work which touched the souls of all who were present. Our guest speakers were Dr. M. L. Leuschner, Rev. J. C. Gunst and Missionary Geraldine Glasenapp. Each did a wonderful presentation of the glories of our Lord and Master, as they presented his claims upon all who claim his Name in salvation.

We found that our churches had a good year of activity and we were able to note a slight increase of personnel, in spite of the losses that were of necessity. We praise the Lord for the many baptisms and additions to the churches. Our Jamestown Church which came to us at our last Association was our host. She was an excellent host to delegates and friends. We count it a privilege to have this church with us as a group of Baptist churches. We travel next year for our Associa-tion to the First Baptist Church in Minot. We too had the honor of receiving this Church with us last year. We are looking forward to God's blessings during the next year.

We elected for our next year the following officers: moderator, Rev. E. R. Oster, McClusky; vice-moderator, Rev. Gordon Voegele, Underwood; secretary, Rev. John Benham, Minot; and treasurer, Mr. Jake Ekhert, Martin. It is our prayer that we shall again be able to fulfill the desires of our Lord during the year before us.

E. R. Oster, Association Clerk & Reporter

#### Sessions of the Oklahoma Association at Shattuck

The Oklahoma Association of North American Baptist churches convened with the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck, Okla., Oct. 27-28. Rev. Frank Veninga, president of our Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was the guest speaker. His splendid messages and reports of our Seminary and denominational efforts were greatly appreciated. The theme for the Association was: "The Church's Responsibility In Education" based on II Timothy 2:2. This theme was given due consideration in the opening message by Rev. M. De Boer and in the five messages delivered by Rev. Frank Veninga. Additional messages were delivered by Rev. Leon Bill on "The Purpose of Prayer," Rev. Jack Block on "Power In Prayer," and Rev. Kenneth Unruh on "Hindrances to Prayer."

The reports from the churches were encouraging. One has dedicated a new



Woman's Missionary Society of the Swain Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, California.

church, one is building an educational unit and another is thinking about erecting an educational unit. The weather was fine, the fellowship was grand, and the spiritual feasting was sublime. The officers of the Association are: moderator, pastor of the host church; secretary, Rev. Jack Block; and treasurer, Mr. Sam Geis. The Lord willing, we shall have our Association sessions next year with the Immanuel Baptist Church, Loyal, Okla. M. De Boer, Reporter

#### Sessions of Kansas Association, Dickinson County Church

The Kansas Association of North American Baptist Churches convened at the First Baptist Church of Dickinson, Kansas, from Oct. 17 to 19. Dr. Richard Schilke and Rev. Frank Friesen were the evening speakers. They spoke on subjects relating to the general theme of the Association, "Growing in Grace and Knowledge" (II Peter The following officers were elected for the coming year: moderator, Rev. Harry Haas; vice-moderator, Rev. Edwin Walter; secretary, Rev. Gerald Neugebauer; treasurer, Mr. Arlyn Jansen; Scripture Memory Committee, Mrs. Elton Kirstein and Rev. Elton Kirstein; Prudential Committee, Rev. Merle Brenner and Rev. Charles Littman.

The Scripture Memory Committee reported that 265 award pins had been given to boys and girls who had com-pleted their Scripture Memory assignments. Of these, 73 girls and 47 boys attended camp which was supervised by 35 adult Counselors and Leaders. The Church Extension Committee reported that the work in Wichita, Kansas, is continuing with enthusiasm. The Junction City project had many things to report. The interest is high. Hoisington, the newest of Extension work, is an organized fellowship under the name of Calvary Baptist Church. They are seeking recognition and fellowship with the Kansas Association. The days spent at the Association were well spent.

Mrs. Earl Rhodes, Reporter

#### GOD'S GUIDANCE

Some people ask the Lord to guide them; then they grab the steering -Selected.

#### Western District

#### Laymen's Sunday, Swain Oaks Church, Stockton, California

Laymen's Sunday was observed on Oct. 16 at the Swain Oaks Baptist Church of Stockton, Calif., even though we do not have an organized Men's Fellowship. Leonard Fischer, one of the charter members of the church. and vice-president of the Men's Fellowship of the Pacific Conference, was in charge of arranging the program. The song service was conducted by our newest church member, Gary Johnson, a young man who is zealous for the Lord. Scripture was read by Walter Claypool and he, also, led in prayer. It was a blessing to our hearts to hear the personal testimony of our oldest church member, Mr. Laurence Parker.

The male quartet of the Willow Rancho Baptist Church of Sacramento, another Church Extension project, consisting of Wilfred and Allen Reub, Wilbert Filler and Bob Patton, thrilled our hearts with their wonderful singing. The main speaker of the evening was Mr. J. W. Strickling, who spoke on "God's Purpose for the Layman in Business." The church has a wonderful group of men of all ages, and we are looking forward to the time when we can organize as a Men's Fellowship.

Mrs. Leonard Fischer, Reporter

#### Women's Missionary Society Organized at Stockton, Calif.

Seventeen charter members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Swain Oaks Baptist Church of Lodi, Calif., gathered at the home of Rev. and Mrs. G. G. Rauser on Monday evening, Oct. 17th, for their first regular meeting of the society. It was indeed a thrill as the women gathered with the thought foremost in their minds and hearts of laboring for Christ and of doing their part in helping spread the Gospel all over the world. Mrs. G. G. Rauser very fittingly began this first regular meeting with devotions. Our Mission Chairman acquainted us with reports of some of our missionaries in the foreign fields. The officers chosen for the remainder of this year and for the entire 1961 year are as follows: president, Mary Harmon; vice-president, Helen Fox; treasurer, Joey Gaskill; and secretary, Thelma Fischer.

The women in the accompanying picture are from left to right: back row: Gwen Helacky; Velda Jansen; Emma Keller; Helen Fox; Zorah Claypool: Anita Porter; Vella Schramm; Clara Strickling, front row: Judi Koenig; Joey Gaskill; Sarah Rauser (pastor's wife); Thelma Fischer; Ann Jantzen; Mary Harmon; and Hattie Brown. Two members, Violet Fischer and Jessie Parker were unable to attend. Thelma Fischer, Reporter

#### Missionary Farewells at Bethany Church, Portland, Oregon

On Sunday, Oct. 2nd, we of the Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, held a farewell dinner for two of our missionary families. The guests of honor were Dr. and Mrs. Leslie M. Chaffee and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Rich and their children. A devotional program, led by Rev. A. K. Schulz, and musical selections followed. Dr. Chaffee has returned to Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Rich and their children are returning to Peru where they are translating the Gospel into the Arabela language. We praise the Lord for their dedicated lives and for the blessings we have received while they were with us. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Carl Eggiman, gave a concert

afternoon, Oct. 16. A one day Sunday School contest was held. Pictures were taken of each class. Each member in the department, having the largest percentage of pupils present, received a picture of his class. The Beginners won the contest with 100% present. The other departments received pictures for each class to hang in their rooms. Mr. R. Bays is our Sunday School superintendent.
Nola Haberman, Reporter

at the Home for the Aged on Sunday

#### Great Events at Victoria Ave. Church, Chilliwack, B. C.

We of the Victoria Avenue Baptist Church at Chilliwack, B. C., had the joy on Sunday, Oct. 2nd, of seeing five converts follow their Lord through the waters of baptism. Once a week the young members are attending the Pastor's Instruction Class in order to help them to make a success of their Christian life, and become acquainted with the privileges and responsibilities of church membership as well as to know why we are Baptists. During the summer season the trustees and deacons were busy painting the parsonage while supplying the paint and giving their time voluntarily. We are so happy to have this beautiful home.

Another great day in our church life was Sunday, Oct. 16, when we gathered at the at the evening service for the dedication of the newly purchased Baldwin organ. As a project of the choir, it was sacrificially responded to by all members and friends and this over and above our regular financial obligations. A special word of thanks is due to our choir and the choirs from the Vancouver churches who by rendering a number of inspiring musical programs helped so much in raising the organ fund. "Sing unto the Lord with the harp and the voice of a psalm."
Mrs. Berthold W. Tutschek, Reporter

#### Memorable Events at Trinity Church, Portland, Oregon

The Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, inaugurated an elective Course Bible study in four of its adult Bible School classes, starting with the fall quarter. Teaching three months in each class are: Dr. John Wobig, with the topic "Personal Evangelism"; Rev. George Breitkreuz, "Doctrines of the Bible"; Mrs. Ed Freeman, "Living the Christian Life"; and Mr. Adam Grenz, a study of St. Paul, from the book of Romans. Here for our Bible School Week, Oct. 5-9, was Rev. G. K. Zimmerman, Sunday School Secretary. He conducted meetings for Bible School Workers and state at workers each evening and spoke at both services on Sunday, Oct. 9th. Highlights of the week were the Workers' and Officers' Dinner on Friday and the Youth Banquet on Saturday.

day.

A "Deeper Spiritual Life Crusade"
was held from Oct. 16-21, with Dr.

#### THE CHRISTIAN'S GLORY

Christianity is the outworking of the in-living Christ.

John Houser of the First Baptist Church, Corvallis, Oregon as speaker. In addition to the evening meetings, Dr. Houser had a Bible study hour each morning with the study topic, "The Life of Faith."

On Sunday evening, Oct. 9th, Rev. George Breitkreuz, Director of Christian Education for the past four years, announced his resignation to accept a similar post with the Bethel Baptist Church, of Anaheim, Calif. It was with regret that the church voted to accept nis resignation, effective Dec. 31st. Friends and relatives greeted Mr. and Mrs. John Heisler at the home of their daughter. Oct. 23rd, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Carla M. Fischer, Reporter

#### ACROSS MY LIFE

(Continued from page 11)

living without the light and life which the Church enjoys. About 1,000,000 are being added to this figure each year, In 24 states, one-half of the total population are without any religious

Now we realize that if we hope to enlarge our witness abroad, the home base must quickly and soundly be broadened. Thank God, evangelical churches and denominations are awake at last, and North American Baptists share in this concern and effort. Many of these unchurched can be loved into

the church fellowship and into God's Kingdom.

Many thousands of new churches are needed now. This means more money and more men. The present vision and effort must be multiplied thousands of times. Without this vision and outreach in love a slow spiritual death occurs. New Testament Christians were vigorous and forward-looking to the point of being expendable. So can we, if we

#### SOUTH AMERICAN ROMANCE

(Continued from page 21)

the morning and then went back to sleep until time to crow again!

It was almost midday when the gay, chattering wedding party began its procession to the church. It was a distance of well over a mile through sandy, cobblestoned streets. Zorillo's pride, as he walked by his young bride, was evident in spite of his self-consciousness in the midst of all the finery. It was hard for Rosita to walk in her shoes, for they were the first that she had ever owned, except of the canvas, twine-soled alpargatas, the peasant's footwear. She tried bravely, however, to hide her difficulty and walk with dignity, and she succeeded well. Even from the fine brick houses of the rich, curious faces peered out and admired the handsome couple.

The priest was paid, the ceremony was performed, and in a short time the newlyweds were returning with the church's blessing on their heads.

(To be Continued)

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NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE 7308 Madison Street, Forest Park, Illinois



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

#### MR. WILLIAM MICHELSON

of Martin, North Dakoua Mr. William Michelson of Martin, N. Dak., Romania, on April 29 Mr. William Michelson of Martin, N. Dak. was born in Dulza, Romania, on April 29, 1885. The family migrated to the United States when he was twelve years of age. They homesteaded on a farm about three miles northwest of Martin. In 1900 he was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Fenske. On October 22, 1908, he was married to Christina Keck. He passed away on June 29, 1960

tina Keck. He passed away on June 29, 1960.

He is survived by his seven daughters: Melita Reimche of Lodi, Calif.; Louise Bauer and Margaret Klammer of St. Paul, Minn.; Esther Mather of New Ulm, Minn.; Therese Gordon of Minneapolis, Minn.; Gladys Englund of St. Paul, Minn.; and Helen Werre of Rochester, Minn. There are also 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren surviving him.

Martin, North Dakota
RICHARD CHRISTELEIT, Pastor

#### MR. EDWARD RADACK of Avon, South Dakota

of Avon, South Dakota

Mr. Edward Radack of Avon, S. Dak.,
was born May 10, 1891 at Avon, S. Dak.,
and died Oct. 14, 1960 attaining the age
of 69 years, 5 months and 4 days. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior and
was baptized and received into the Danzig
Baptist Church in 1916. For many years
he was a trustee and janitor of his church
and also served on the Cemetery Composiand also served on the Cemetery Commit-

and also served on the Cemetery Committee.

On March 31, 1915 he was married to Emelia Buchholz, with whom he shared life's joys and sorrows for over 45 years. This union was blessed with 4 daughters and 2 sons: Helen (Mrs. John Brandt); Dorothy (Mrs. Nathan Pritzkau); Hazella (Mrs. Roland Pudwill); Florence (Mrs. Harven Rueb); William and Ivan. These, his wife, Emelia; 7 sisters, 1 brother; 20 grandchildren; a host of relatives; his church and many friends mourn his passing. He lived all of his life in the Avon community. The memorial service was held in the Danzig Baptist Church, conducted by his pastor, Rev. David Zimmerman, assisted by Rev. Peter J. Wiens.

Tyndall, South Dakota

DAVID ZIMMERMAN, Pastor

#### MRS. KATHRINA KWYZLA of Rapid City, South Dakota

of Rapid City, South Dakota

Mrs. Kathrina Kwyzla of Rapid City,
S. Dak., was born Dec. 3, 1891, near Emery,
S. Dak. On July 13, 1915 she married John
Kwyzla, Sr., at Salem, S. Dak., who preceded her in death in 1951. They moved to
New Underwood in 1927 to homestead, and
in 1935 they moved to Rapid City. In recent years she made her home with her
youngest daughter, Mrs. E. W. Rion. She
went to her heavenly home on Oct. 17.

She accepted the Lord as her Savior early
in life. She was confirmed and united with
the Lutheran Church in her youth. On
March 25, 1956 she was baptized by immersion and united with the South Canyon
Baptist Church, She leaves to mourn her
passing two sons: John Kwyzla, Jr., Rapid
City, S. Dak.; and Fred Kwyzla of Caldwell, Idaho; two daughters: Mrs. Harvey
Swartz, Salem, S. Dak., and Mrs. E. W.
Rion, Rantoul, Ill.; five grandchildren, five
brothers and three sisters.
South Canyon Baptist Church
Rapid City, South Dakota
LOREN WEBER, Pastor

#### MRS. CHARLES WEDEMEYER of Oklahoma City, Okla.

of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Mrs. Charles Wedemeyer, nee Knopf, of Oklahoma City, Okla., was born in Poland on Sept. 28, 1877 and passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. L. Callaway in Oklahoma City, Okla., at the age of 83 years and 23 days. In 1891 she came with her parents to Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1896 the family moved to Cottonwood, Texas and while living there she was married to Charles Wedemeyer on Dec. 15, 1898. This union was blessed with 4 children, one of whom preceded her in death. In 1906 the family moved to a farm three miles north of Cordell, Okla., where they resided until three years ago when they moved to Okla-

homa City to make their home with the daughter.

She was converted and joined the Baptist church in 1891 and was a true and faithful member until the time of her death. Besides the daughter, she is survived by her husband; two sons: William of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Arthur of Monroe, Louisiana. Other survivors include three sisters; one brother; also eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Calvary Baptist Church
Corn, Oklahoma

#### JACK BLOCK, Pastor

MRS. ERVIN SPLETZER of Prince George, B. C.

of Prince George, B. C.

Mrs. Florence Mildred Spletzer, nee Pullman, of Prince George, B. C., was born at Saskatoon, Sask., July 10, 1931. She was united in bonds of holy matrimony to Ervin Spletzer on July 14, 1954. Her earthly life came to a close in the Prince George Hospital on Oct. 10, at the age of 29 years, 3 months. Mrs. Spletzer was born anew by the Spirit of God, and followed her Savior and Lord in baptism in 1952. She was active in the youth and Sunday School work of the churches she attended. She was a member of the Hager Memorial Church, now Bethel, and then of the newly organized South Fort George Baptist Chapel. With her husband she helped in the Summit Lake Sunday School, She was a prayer warrior, and took a keen interest in mission-aries.

rior, and took a keen interest in missionaries.

She leaves to mourn her husband Ervin; an infant son, Kevin Cameron; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Pullman of Saskatoon; a brother, Arthur, of Terrace, B. C.; and three sisters: Sylvia of Prince George, B. C., Irma Watson and Marilyn of Saskaton, Sask. She was laid to rest in the Prince George Cemetery following the service in the South Fort George Baptist Chappel.

South Fort George Baptist Chapel South Fort George, B. C. BERT E. MILNER, Pastor

#### MRS. MINNIE FALKENBERG of Edmonton, Alberta

Mrs. Minnie Angeline Falkenberg of Ed-Mrs. Minnie Angeline Falkenberg of Edmonton, Canada only daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Abraham Hager, was born Nov. 24, 1882 in Saint-Imier, Switzerland. At the age of 6 years she came with her parents to Portland, Ore., then moved to Vancouver, B. C., and after 5 years to Edmonton, in 1897. At the age of 15 years, Minnie Hager was converted, baptized and became a member of the First Baptist Church of South Edmonton, When Rev. A. Hager organized the Central Baptist Church in 1899, she transferred her membership here and this church always remained her

in 1899, she transferred her membership here and this church always remained her spiritual home. As the oldest in the family, she deemed it a privilege to assist her father in his mission work.

In 1901 Minnie Hager was united in marriage with a local building contractor, Fred Falkenberg, with whom she was privileged to share 46 happy years. To this union were born 7 children—6 sons and 1 daughter, of whom one son predeceased her at the age of 10 years and another, Ernest, 10 months ago. In 1947 her dear husband suddenly passed away. Though grievous her loss, she bravely carried on through the strength of her undergirding convictions and God's of her undergirding convictions and God's enabling grace. The Lord called his active handmaiden home to glory on Oct. 15th at the age of 77 years, 10 months and 21

days.

Mrs. Falkenberg is survived by 4 sons:
Jon, Armin and Victor of Edmonton, Roland
of Vancouver; one daughter Mrs. Max
(Mildred) Sikal of Edmonton; 3 brothers; Alldred) Shad of Brandchildren, grandchildren, Central Baptist Church Edmonton, Alberta HERBERT HILLER, Pastor

#### REV. OTTO LOHSE of McIntosh, South Dakota

of McIntosh, South Dakota

Rev. Otto Lohse of McIntosh, S. Dak, was born Oct. 13, 1877 near Barmstedt, Holmstein, Germany. His parents were of the Lutheran faith and he was confirmed and raised in this faith. At the age of 19 he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and knew the joy of sins forgiven. He was baptized Dec. 13, 1896, in Barmstedt and joined the Baptist Church there. In 1901 he sailed for America, residing first in Iowa and later in San Francisco, Calif. In the Baptist Church in California he was very active in the Lord's work as Sunday School superintendent and from here was sent to Rochester, N. Y., to prepare for the work of the ministry.

The years 1911-1914 saw Mr. Lohse as a student in our Seminary and he served the churches of Dayton, Ohio, and Unityville, (Salem) S. Dak., as student pastor. He was ordained in 1914 in Wisconsin and

served the churches of Lebanon and Concord in Wisconsin. From 1918 to 1920 he attended the Northern Baptist Seminary in Chicago, Ill. Thereafter he served three Dakota Conference churches: namely. Martin, N. Dak., McLaughlin, and McIntosh, S. Dak. It was under his leadership that a mighty revival broke out in the church at Martin, N. Dak., in the spring of 1926. He was an exceedingly patient and conscientious servant of his Lord and Master, and had the privilege and joy of baptizing and extending the hand of fellowship to 105 persons during his ministry.

Rev. Otto Lohse was united in marriage to Ida Wobig at Salem. S. Dak., May 22. 1914. This union was blessed by the Lord with two daughters. Brother Lohse departed from this life Oct. 8, 1960, at the age of 82 years, 11 months, and 25 days. His interment was Oct. 13, 1960, on his 83rd birthday. He leaves to mourn his departure: his wife, Ida; his daughters: Mrs. Floyd Giese of Campton, Calif.; and Helen, who is our North American Baptist missionary among the Spanish American people in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, as well as many other relatives including two grandsons and his brother-in-law, Dr. John Wobig, pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon.

of Portland, Oregon.
McIntosh, South Dakota
REV. WALTER H. KLEMPEL, Pastor

#### WE, THE WOMEN

(Continued from page 18)

more light and less smoke, and carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you:

To make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--Are you willing to do these things even for a day?

If so, then you can keep Christmas."

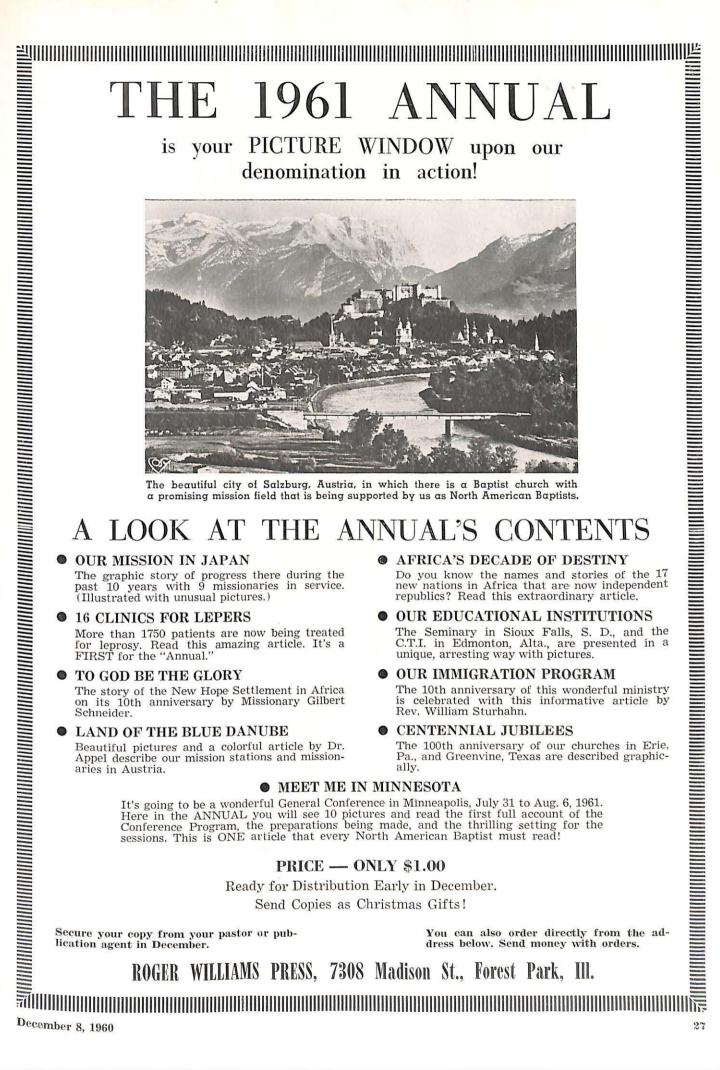
If every Christian gave off the light of just one candle, what a bright world this would be!

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 17)

associate pastor. Dr. Darroch resigned as home director of the Sudan Interior Mission in 1959, following a series of critical heart attacks. He was retired by the Mission on September 1, 1960. He graduated from the pastor's course of the Moody Bible Institute and received his theological degrees from Northern Baptist Seminary and Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of the Evangel Baptist Church in Newark, N. J. for a number of years. Rev. E. Arthur McAsh is pastor of the Ebenezer Church.

On Friday evening, Nov. 18, the Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, Mich., held its Harvest Home Dinner, Dr. Warner Cole of Detroit's Covenant Baptist Church was the guest speaker. The Church School Visitor Invitation Program was very successful in October, as reported in the church's news bulletin, with 97 visitors brought to Sunday School during the month. The church publishes a "Christmas Shopping Magazine List" for its members, encouraging the reading of good Christian magazines. At its Watchnight Service the Bethel Church will use its 12 by 12 foot dalite screen for the first time and will show Billy Graham's film, "Africa on the Bridge." Rev. H. H. Riffel is the pas-



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- A new four page leaflet to be distributed early in January 1961 with the story of the new Seminary Library.
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