

# Baptist Herald

DECEMBER 1972

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## LETTER TO ~~SANTA CLAUS~~ JESUS

DEAR JESUS,

MY NAME IS CATHY, I AM 8. MOMMY SAID I SHOULD WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS, BUT I DECIDED TO WRITE TO YOU FIRST, CAUSE I KNOW CHRISTMAS IS YOUR BIRTHDAY. I JUST WANTED TO WRITE HAPPY BIRTHDAY. I HOPE YOU GET LOTS OF PRESENTS LIKE I GOT AT MY PARTY. I ASKED MY MOMMY WHERE TO SEND A LETTER TO JESUS, SHE WOULDN'T ANSWER ME, BUT I THINK IF I JUST WROTE JESUS ON THE OUTSIDE THE POSTMEN WILL KNOW WHERE TO TAKE IT. DADDY GAVE ME 3 DOLLARS TO BUY PRESENTS WITH, I'LL BUY YOU THE BIGGEST CAUSE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. PLEASE DROP ME A LITTLE HENT. YOUR FRIEND,  
CATHY



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# CHRISTMAS GETS BETTER ALL THE TIME

by Glenn H. Asquith

"I wonder what can be in that big box?" said my father.

The box was large — in fact it was at least eighteen inches square, and it easily dwarfed all the other packages under the Christmas tree. The size of the carton was exaggerated by its wrapping of shiny red paper covered with gilt stars and wreaths; the seams were concealed with green mending tape; a huge "to....." and "from....." card left no doubt that this monster of a present was in the right hands.

Deliberately, then, so that he might savor every delicious moment of anticipation, my father removed the wrappings with care and opened the box only to find another box within! And he opened the second box only to find a third — and so it went on until he had dealt with a dozen boxes, and then he came to the gift — a watch.

I think often of that nest of boxes that enclosed the comparatively small but precious gift. This has become my symbol of Christmas. Each year as the Yuletide season comes around I find that my package is larger than the year before. Each Christmas adds something to my accumulated memories, and I find that I must dig deeper to come to the heart and substance of what Christmas means.

The unwrapping of the box of memories begins when I sit down to address the Christmas cards. And I like to think of what I am doing as something like the operation of a location chart in the huge shopping mall near us. On that chart is a maze of walkways and centers and fountains lined or surrounded by shops and stores and service facilities. Flat on the table below the chart is an index of the map and each store or facility has been given an electric button to press. If, for instance, I want

to know the location of the book store I push the button allotted to that store and a light appears on the chart at the spot where books are sold. And, of course, the secret to the whole scheme is the X mark labeled, "You are here."

As I address a card I like to feel that I am pushing a button to light up the home and heart of someone out in my world of friends, acquaintances and family. From the spot where I am I send an impulse of love and concern here and there until my whole life map is illuminated and lovely. As I grow older I feel that my chart of tried and true friends grows bigger with the years.

It follows, too, that when the postman brings cards to me I feel the glow stimulated by someone from where he is — indeed, as the stack of cards grows higher day by day, each fresh impulse of friendship and love coming my way added to the rest brings to my heart such a great warmth and light that I think I cannot stand the glory of it all — so many are pressing my location button! How wonderful to know that many who have shared my home, my work, my recreation, my aspirations are again willing to take some moments to assure me that I am remembered!

The second box within my carton of Christmas memories is opened as I continue to shop for gifts. Although the clerks are not aware of my multiple identity, I am several persons as I walk the aisles of the stores and search for "the very thing."

In memory I am the small boy with fifty cents saved up from allowance money and with which I must buy something for brother and sister and father and mother; I am the teen-ager with a job and with my own money that I had earned and with which I can select the four presents with greater pride; I am the young man who is looking for something worthy of the wonderful girl he is to marry; I am the man in the toy department weighing the desirability of the playthings to be taken home for

his own three children; I am the retired man with a reduced income making the old familiar rounds hunting for a gift for that same wonderful girl, for the sister who is the only one left of the original four for whom the small boy bought, for the three children who are now men and women on their own.

Commercialism there may be in the stores, the ads and the blaring music, but in my heart there is no commercialism — I am about to exchange part of myself for something tangible that I may give.

And just as the receiving of cards was an uplift, so is the coming of packages through the mail or found under the tree. Anticipation, as with my father so long ago, is a good thing in my life and I am sure that it is not an emotion to be monopolized by the young. An hour of life is wrapped in mystery as is a day and a year. In the packages that come my way I can envision the effort and the thought such as I experienced when I walked with joy through the stores with my loved ones on my mind. These are wrapped mysteries that make me think — "What have I ever done that someone should break his routine and disorder his schedule for me?" These packages are wrapped mysteries and are part of life. For months after the holiday season is over I will be proudly displaying a tie, a book, a pair of gloves, a shirt, a portrait and saying to whomever will listen: "Helen gave me this for Christmas; or Mabel brought this to me at Christmas," and so on. And I will be speaking with awe.

But to go to another inner box in the big box, I open more memories as we trim the tree. In the first place, the boxes that hold the ornaments are well-worn and about to collapse. They date back to Christmases that we enjoyed years ago and we cannot bear to use newer boxes, for each carton nudges us to "remember when." This string of lights was bought when we were doing our own first tree, these balls were bought when Nancy was one, this star dates back to Jean's second Christmas, and this Santa Claus was made by Glenn in Kindergarten. One by one the old and the new go on the branches until we see a colorful panorama of Christmases past.

Nor must I forget to mention the inner box that speaks of church experiences down through the years. One in particular I recall. I was sixteen and my sister, who was younger, was practicing in our church for the Christmas pageant. I was delighted to go and "walk her home" because darkness had fallen. Snow had fallen during the day and as I walked down the wide street I saw the homes filled with lights and candles, the snow crunched under my feet, the sky overhead was filled with countless stars — a sense of well-being flooded through me. As I approached the church I could hear the sound of carols, and as I went in I caught a glimpse of the decorations that made the sanctuary a place of indescribable beauty. Now, at my age, I can recall so many Christmases in so many churches, and I can hear again the swelling sound from organ and choir. There is just nothing like a Christmas season in the church made rich by the good friends who share the high moments.

Quite naturally, this box of church memories brings me to the last box in the nest of boxes filled with memo-

ries, and this box is the core of all and the reason for all. This small box holds the real gift of Christmas, as did the smallest box hold my father's watch. With reverence I remove the wrappings of the years and look at my treasure as I have for more than sixty years.

How can I express what I see when Christmas is laid bare before me? Perhaps the one expression that must come first is Christ, the Peace. War and conflict are in my own heart; war and conflict are in the immediate community; war and conflict are in the nation; war and conflict are in the wide world. In this turmoil, Christmas brings back the promise of Peace. As the Christmases have come and gone I have come to think of the peace of the season as not like the coming from the roaring traffic of a great city into a great cathedral where the noise I have left is but a soothing murmur, but like an inoculation from disease. If Christmas is simply a brief retreat into sanctuary I am a little helped. But if I come to Christmas and am immunized against hate and violence, then the peace of Christmas becomes portable and I can walk through my world without fear that I shall be infected by the madness around me. Each Christmas, then, I would come back for a "booster shot" of Peace.

Close upon the heels of Peace is Christ, the Love. I think of the office of an oculist. I have come there because I cannot see clearly — my sight is imperfect. The doctor puts in front of my eyes lens after lens saying, "Is this better? or that? or that?" until he finally comes to the little piece of glass that makes my world clear again. I think of the Love that comes at Christmas as giving me clear vision again. And when I can see the world and the people in it as they really are I cannot help but be filled with love.

Christ, the Joy, is the remaining word that leaps out as Christmas comes. With Peace and Love, Joy is automatic. It is something like making a campfire. When I have the fire I have protection against the animals that lurk in the woods, and I have light but without doing anything else I am warmed by the existence of the fire. The Peace and Love in my heart give me the warmth of Joy.

There is just nothing like Christmas. And there is nothing like accumulated Christmases. Each year the box of memories and experiences is a bit bigger than the year before. The wonder and the awe do not become dimmed but brightened as my age increases. Let no one ever say of me, "He has become too old to get any thrill out of Christmas." I am convinced that Christmas is getting better for me all the time.

So this year, as for so many years, I shall get out the old music box, give it a few turns, and sit back to watch my glorious parade of Christmases keeping step to the tune:

"Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King . . ." □



Dr. Glenn H. Asquith is a popular writer, who has written many books. His most recent is *LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD*.



*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting — Micah 5:2.*

## A BIBLE STUDY FOR THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

### Christ's First Advent

by Francis W. Dixon

Seven hundred years before Christ came, the prophet Micah gave this glorious prophecy of His first advent — a prophecy that was literally fulfilled at the time of our Saviour's birth. The little pronoun "He" is very important, for the whole statement hinges upon this one word "He shall come forth . . ." This personal pronoun can only refer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who, as the RV margin renders it, is "from ancient days".

Some have suggested that Jesus is a created being, and

*The Rev. Francis W. Dixon is the pastor of the Lansdowne Baptist Church, Bournemouth, England.*

that he was only invested with deity and became the Son of God at his birth, or perhaps at his baptism. Micah does not say this, however. He speaks of him as the One "Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." The Lord Jesus is the eternal Son of God; he is the one to whom Moses referred in the words, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God" (Psalm 90:2); He is the one who "in the beginning was the Word . . ."; who was "with God . . ."; who "was God" (John 1:1).

It is important to notice that Micah does not speak about the first advent of Christ only, but also about his second advent. In Micah 5:2 the theme is his first coming; but in verse 3 it is his second coming that is referred to in the words, "Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel." Today we stand between the two advents, and we look back to his first advent, which is now a matter of history, and forward to his second advent, which is still a matter of prophecy. All the way through the Old Testament we have prophecies relating to both advents. These are placed side by side, as they are in Micah 5:2-3.

Micah tells us three things about our Lord's advent, and the first concerns —

#### The Prophecy of His Advent

In the Old Testament there are many prophecies of the coming and of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all these were literally fulfilled when he came. The first of these is found in Genesis 3:15, where the Lord said to the serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." But, of course, there is a chain of prophecies following this first and important prediction of the coming of the Redeemer, and this chain follows right through the pages of the Old Testament. There are probably at least a hundred links in this chain, and these are all clues that lead to the Saviour and speak of his birth in Bethlehem.

The chief priests and scribes were well acquainted with these prophecies, for when Herod heard about the birth of the Saviour and asked where Christ should be born, they replied, "In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet" (Matthew 2:3-6). These religious leaders knew where Jesus was to be born because God had recorded the fact through his servant Micah. Thus it was that in the fulness of time Micah's prophecy was literally fulfilled.

It seems strange to us that when the Lord Jesus came the Jews did not recognize him; that "he came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11); but here we are faced with the mystery of Israel's blindness (Romans 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:14). Yet surely there is an even greater mystery — the mystery of Gentile blindness, of so many people today who see not beauty in the Lord Jesus that they should desire him (Isaiah 53:2). This is no longer a mystery in the light of 2 Corinthians

4:4, where we are told that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." It is not too much to say that Satan's chief strategy today is to blind the minds of unbelievers.

In anticipating the Saviour's birth, the prophet also has something to say about —

#### The Place of His Advent

Where was Jesus born? The place is actually mentioned in prophecy. He was to be born in Bethlehem. But there was more than one Bethlehem, so Micah is careful to say that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah. How wonderfully the over-ruling providence of God is seen in the fact that Jesus was actually born in this little town of Bethlehem! God is sovereign in heaven and in earth, and it was he who moved Caesar Augustus to fix a census which made it necessary for Joseph and Mary to make a journey of eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

The place Bethlehem Ephratah is significant for three reasons. First, *Bethlehem was a royal city*. David was born there, and thus it was a suitable place for the birth of David's greater Son, Jesus.

In the second place, *the names "Bethlehem Ephratah" are significant*. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread", and "Ephratah" means "fruitfulness". Our Lord described himself as "the Bread of Life" who alone could give satisfaction to human souls. He said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35); and it is he alone who can produce within us real fruit that is to his glory, as he himself said — "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In the third place, *Bethlehem was a very small city*. Micah speaks of it as "little among the thousands of Judah." How wonderful it is that our Lord was not born in Jerusalem, or Rome, or New York, or London! He always delights to dwell with the lowly ones — "For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15). Thus, we see that many years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem the prophet predicted the fact and the place of his birth. We also see that the name of this little town Bethlehem Ephratah was and is indeed significant.

Finally, in anticipating the Saviour's birth, Micah has something to say about —

#### The Purpose of His Advent

Why did Jesus come to Bethlehem? Why was he born of the Virgin Mary? Why did he leave the ivory palaces and come into this world of sin? There were two main reasons why he came, and Micah has something to say about them both.

First, *He came to redeem his people*. In Micah 5:1 we have the words, "They shall smite the Judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek." Here, surely, is an indication of the fact that our Lord was born to die; He is indeed "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). In the eternal purpose of God it was decreed that in the fulness of time he should come to be the Sin-bearer and Redeemer of his people. Thus we read that when he came to this earth and they nailed him to the cross, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised, for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5), and that when he died God "made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus,  
Hail, Thou Galilean King!  
Thou didst suffer to release us,  
Thou didst free salvation bring.  
Hail, Thou agonising Saviour,  
Bearer of our sin and shame,  
By Thy merits we find favour;  
Life is given through Thy name.

But there is another reason why Christ came to be born in Bethlehem. He came to redeem his people, not "with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot . . .", (1 Peter 1:18-19); but second, *he came to rule over his people*. This is indicated in Micah 5:2 in the words, "Out of thee (Bethlehem Ephratah) shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." The word "ruler" may be translated "governor", as we read in Isaiah 9:6, where we have another most significant prophecy of Christ's first advent, "The government shall be upon his shoulder."

Thus, over seven hundred years before the Incarnation, this servant of the Lord, Micah, declared a clear prophecy of our Lord's first advent. He also stated the place of his advent, and he also clearly defined the purpose of his advent. The two-fold purpose of the first coming of our Lord was that he should redeem his people, and that he should rule over his people.

This should make us carefully ask and answer the questions: first, *Is he our Redeemer?* Can we say with Job of old, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:25)? We should also ask the question, *Is he our ruler?* — are we living day by day under his sway?

Worship, honour, power, and blessing  
Thou art worthy to receive:  
Loudest praises, without ceasing,  
Meet it is for us to give! □



# O Christmas Tree, How Lovely Are Thy Branches



By Russell Chandler

Christmas customs the world over are as varied as the patterns of light that shine from a beautiful ornament. But few legends are as diverse and abundant as those surrounding the origin of the Christmas tree.

Although evergreens, as symbols of survival, have a long association with Christmas festivities, the first decorated, gift-laden Christmas tree is believed to have been used 130 years ago. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria had one with lights and gifts on it in Windsor Castle in 1841.

In the early decades of the 19th century, however, no useful presents were ever placed on the tree's branches; they went on a table nearby or underneath. Only the shining ornaments adorned the tree. In Southern Europe, a custom was to place a creche beneath its branches.

From earliest times man is known to have used trees in worship. Ancient legend says that the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden was an evergreen. It is said that the tree blossomed and bore fruit, but that its foliage shrank to tiny leaves when Eve plucked its fruit.

On the night Christ was born, it is believed to have blossomed again; thus the evergreen tree became a symbol of Christmas.

Aylene E. and Cameron Cooke, in *Our Christmas Symbols*, say that Christmas trees were first used in the medieval German paradise plays, held outdoors and portraying the creation of man. The tree of life was a fir, hung with apples. Later other ornaments were placed on the branches as well.

One early legend about the origin of the Christmas tree, according to O.A. Battista, a collector of Christmas legends and traditions, is based on the three trees said to

Mr. Russell Chandler is the news editor of *CHRISTIANITY TODAY*.

have been near Christ's manger: the olive, the date, and the pine tree.

The olive gave its fruit to honor the newborn King, and the palm gave its dates as an offering. But the pine had nothing to give. Some stars above, says the legend, descended gently and rested on its boughs as a gift of light.

Another legend concerns St. Boniface, who completed the Christianization of Germany in the 8th century and dedicated the fir tree to the Christ Child to replace the sacred oak of Odin.

On Christmas Eve, so the story goes, while the famed missionary was hewing down the oak that had become the object of idolatrous worship, a tornado blasted it. Just behind it stood a young fir tree with a green spire pointing to the stars.

Boniface turned to the pagans and said: "This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree. It is the wood of peace, for your homes are built of it. It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are always green. Let this be the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it, not in the wild woods, but in your own homes. There it will shelter no deed of blood, but loving gifts and acts of kindness."

Historians say that St. Boniface first used a star on top of a Christmas tree, and they trace the origin of illuminating the tree to Martin Luther, who placed lighted candles in an evergreen.

The story is that on one Christmas Eve Luther wandered outdoors and became enraptured with the starry sky. The beauty and brightness caused him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve in Bethlehem.

Wishing to share this with his wife and children, he felled an evergreen, glistening with snow, and took it home. Then he placed candles on it to represent the brilliance of the heavens outside.

The use of a candle-lighted tree spread, first through Europe, and then to America, where it came to be regarded as the fairest ornament of Christmas. Electric illumination of Christmas trees first began in 1902. □

It seems that whenever I talked about a trip to the Holy Land it was in relation to "others" who were going or had gone. This summer, however, the dream of a lifetime came true for Mrs. Hoffman and myself. Its rather difficult to put such an experience into words for it was so overwhelming.

To walk and stand in Corinth, Athens, Philippi in Greece; Izmir, (ancient Smyrna) Ephesus, Tarsus, Antioch in Turkey; Beirut and Baalbek in Lebanon;

The Rev. Robert R. Hoffman is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hebron, N.D. He participated in the 16-Day Mediterranean Jet Cruise, conducted by the Rev. Ben Zimmerman and Dr. G. L. Borchert.

## A DREAM COME TRUE

by Robert R. Hoffman

Damascus in Syria; four exciting days in Israel — stopping at a score of Bible cities and places; the Islands of Rhodes, Cyprus, Patmos and Mykonos!

All that a most thrilling experience. Together with more than 250 other people going to the same place, we traveled by air to Greece then by boat throughout the Mediterranean Bible lands area. The Bible studies aboard ship, the time of prayer and praise at various Bible sites will never be forgotten. Our lives have been forever enriched and enlarged in the Word of God. And then to think that it was all possible through the love and concern of a couple who love the Lord and his Work. Over and over we sing "To God be the glory, great things he hath done." May many find joy in sending their pastor on a similar Bible lands experience! □



## CHRISTMAS MAKES FOOLS OF THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT GOD IS DEAD.

On Christmas Day a soldier in Vietnam, dirty with jungle mud and blood, will tear open a letter from home. For a few moments he will forget his bone-aching fatigue, re-

membering boyhood days with his family and the excitement of getting and giving gifts.

The sour-sweat smell of barracks and the dank green odor of jungle camps will be replaced by the smell of white sheets on the old bed at home on Christmas Eve, the pungence of Christmas trees and the aroma of food from mother's kitchen. The illusion will be gone even before the letter is finished and that soldier will long for peace, more than you or I who have never lived

on a battlefield can ever long for peace, and he may weep for a meaning that has gone out of his life.

As long as that soldier feels joy from no more than the reading of a letter on a battlefield, or has hope expressed as a longing for peace, or repents through tears for lost meaning, we know that God is alive. And when he will realize that only Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, can give a lasting peace, then Christmas will be the celebration of love and hope and joy even in Vietnam — as it is all over the world. □

## Christmas Glory

O, light! Bright light!  
Our hearts quake with fear.  
Why come you now?  
Why come you here?  
We're but poor humble shepherds in dark fields and drear.  
Good tidings, — great joy, — good news you bring?  
A Saviour is born? Born our King?  
To be found in a manger in Bethlehem town!  
Such splendor the choraling angels' song —  
Glory to God, good will to all men.  
O, light! Bright light!  
Shine on for aye —  
Filling men's hearts with joyful praise.  
Christ the Lord is born today!

Lucy Rathbun Berry

# ESTATE PLANNING-WILL CLINICS

by Steve Wilson



Steve Wilson

A simple thought concludes each "Will Clinic" I conduct in North American Baptist General Conference churches: "We work to earn, struggle to save and treasure the privilege of giving. Why, then, do so few people understand their own power to literally resurrect that privilege for others to enjoy?"

Our country abounds in statistics, one of which is that seven of ten people die without having written a will. Whether through procrastination, indecision, or simply fear of admitting the inevitable by proper planning, most people fail to create an adequate estate plan.

But as I tell Will Clinic audiences, a plan has been prepared for them



through state laws of intestacy. Even more harmful at times is outmoded estate planning, established once and never brought up to date. The answer is an estate planning team. Whether it be my team or your own attorney, accountant, trust officer and insurance man, the talents of each team member are needed to create a map which meets the estate owner's objectives.

This basic reality is the purpose for my Will Clinics, which I provide in Oregon, Washington and Northern California as an N.A.B. Conference Planned giving area representative.

Few people realize the huge cost of federal and state taxes on estates; or realize the great flexibility which estate planning can provide; or understand the many ways in which the Conference or local churches, as well as loved ones, can be remembered in the estate. Indeed, most people underestimate their own estate, and thus underestimate the potential economic grief for their heirs.

These and other aspects my associates and I explain to church audiences on their invitation. Beyond this, however, it is a planned gift giving ministry. I encounter people who, in return for the Lord's help during life, would like to aid his glorious work after their death. Through contact resulting from three Will Clinics this year, I have seen written indications of deferred estate gifts amounting to some \$750,000 for the N.A.B. Conference and local churches. Church members may use my service, which is to analyze their financial situation and recommend the most appropriate ways to plan for their loved ones' care and maximum estate conservation.

The need is there for people of any age and financial situation.

A widow came to me, completely lost within the complexities of her own financial planning and suffering the frustration felt by many in a similar situation. When proper management was established within her estate, it became one which she could easily manage herself. With the added benefit of nearly doubled returns for present living needs, her life became much more secure as frustrations faded into content.

A young married couple attended a Will Clinic, and came to me after realizing they had no economic map, no financial plan for their journey together through life. To begin, upon request, my associates prepared a simple will, but one which could be adjusted and revised as financial conditions changed. The rest was just counseling, but equally as important to establishing the couple's base for economic security. They needed and received counselling

on budgeting themselves, and so began charting the course their journey would follow.

I have found that people are not only interested in, but fascinated with the various avenues and implications of estate planning—once they hear and understand the basic problems. Our Will Clinics always extend well beyond scheduled closing time in order that all questions be answered; and the follow-up response has indicated that people will act when they comprehend the importance of a plan and the dangers of having no plan.

Like a doctor, we diagnose and prescribe only after intense fact-finding, and only after an understanding is reached as to exactly what the estate owner wishes to accomplish. As a Christian dealing with Christians, my sole intent is to inform members of the Conference of their own need for estate planning. If their objectives include provision for the Lord's work, I take an intense joy in creating the vehicle by which this can be accomplished.

Other needed steps in a person's estate planning could involve the execution of a new will, the establishment of a trust, rearranging settlement options under existing life insurance policies, starting a gift annuity program, retitling of property, or the purchase of new life insurance, among others.

No two people will shape the financial plan for their estates with the same set of objectives. Only when the owner has determined what things are most important to him can the estate planning team begin to operate effectively. And only when these determinations are reviewed from time to time can anyone be sure that the correct course is still being plotted.

Striking examples of unnecessary estate shrinkage exist by the thousands. The impact of federal estate and state inheritance taxes can be devastating unless care has been taken to provide for the inevitable. Should such care not be taken, the losses could increase due to the forced sale of assets at much lower than fair market price or undue taxation.

Many a man will stake his life on the protection of property which he has accumulated only after long years of toil. That same man, however, has most likely taken no steps to protect his property at his death nor properly provided for its distribution. The State—the same State he may have fought in order to keep that property—will then designate the heirs and determine what proportions of the property they will receive by the laws of descent and distribution. Possibly the first step toward avoiding such circumstances might be

the scheduling of a Will Clinic at your church, whether it be in the north-west region of the country or any other region. Once members of your congregation hear the potential joys and the potential dangers of estate situations, many are sure to take steps to guarantee protection of the property they have accumulated.

To end where I began: You have earned and saved and learned the joy of giving. Don't jeopardize your ability to keep giving after death by failing to provide a plan for the care of your loved ones and the causes in which you believe. □

Steve Wilson is a parttime Conference Planned Giving representative for Washington, Oregon and Northern California. He is a member of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Ore. His insurance office is located at 1418-21st Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Phone (503) 654-8282. The N.A.B. Stewardship Department is ready to serve your estate planning needs through other planned giving representatives. Services include estate planning materials, local church will clinics and personal consultation. For further information write to:

Everett A. Barker, director of Planned Giving  
Northern American Baptist General Conference  
Forest Park, IL 60130  
(312) 771-8700

## CHUCKLE WITH BRUNO

A Sunday school teacher asked her class for a definition of a miracle. One nine-year-old said, "Well, a miracle is something no one really believes could happen—like when my mother tells me to wash my hands and face, and I wash behind the ears, too. That's a miracle!"

The reason so many women in their forties seem to have so many aches and pains is that most of them are really in their fifties.

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# Fall Denominational Workshop



Twice a year the executive staff members of the Forest Park Office meet together with the area secretaries, the presidents of the educational institutions, the representative of the W.M.U. and visiting pastors from the immediate neighborhood to discuss denominational matters and to plan for a more effective spiritual and administrative ministry. The pictures show participants of the Fall Denominational Workshop, September 21-22.

## TWO SIDES TO THE CHRISTMAS COIN

by Samuel A. Jeanes

The emphasis at the Christmas season is placed on giving. And this is a worthy emphasis. . . . God loved us so much that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. From our pulpits will be preached many sermons emphasizing the words of the Apostle . . . "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." The gifts of the Wise Men to the holy family have been immortalized, not only because they met some of the immediate needs of Mary and Joseph but because they spoke so eloquently of the coming ministry of the baby who was born to die for us all.

So Christmas time is a giving time. We practice giving, especially the giving of material gifts, like an art. But remember as you give, that the gift without the giver is bare. And the Bible also reminds us that "God loves the cheerful giver." So don't neglect the side of the Christmas coin that says, "GIVE". Give of your substance, your effort, your ability, your time, yes, your love.

But look at the other side of the coin. Christmas is

Dr. Samuel A. Jeanes is the pastor of First Baptist Church, Merchantville, N.J.

not only a time of giving . . . it is a time of receiving. Did not the angel say, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." What a pity it is for an angel to bring such good news if it is not received. And you must not receive it as an ordinary circular that is addressed in an impersonal way "to the occupant". This is not a cheap announcement. Here is heaven's greatest gift and it is for you! God loves you! The announcement requests your undivided attention. The gift required a great sacrifice, love that was eternal, and effort that was accompanied by pain and death. Certainly, you must receive it with your whole heart and in return you must place your life, your time, your ability, your substance, your all upon the altar of One who gave you so much.

There are two sides to the Christmas coin! Christmas is a time of giving! It is a time of receiving, too. The Bible says, "For as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." It is so easy to give gifts at Christmas. It is much harder to receive his gift. For before he can really dwell within us we must make our hearts and lives ready to receive him. □





by Gerald L. Borchert

Dear Friends: In December of 1969, with the new format of the *Baptist Herald*, this column was initiated. Since that time the writer has sought to discuss a variety of your questions from the length of hair to the cost of church buildings, from Bible translations to eternal security, from a criticism of my former picture to playing cards, from Christ's prayer life to ministers' salaries, from eschatology to baptizing children, from war and peace to music in the church, etc., etc.

By your constant flow of letters you have made this column work. To you who have written I express my sincere gratitude. In addition, I am sincerely grateful for the many letters which have commented upon my articles. While I have been humbled by the number of letters which have expressed gratitude for the column, I am also sincerely thankful for those of you who have taken time to express your disagreements. Moreover, I suppose a column has not really arrived until it has been quoted in editorials outside of this magazine. Therefore, I thank you for doing so.

Furthermore, I should tell you that I have both been blessed and cursed. Some have referred to me as a man of God; two of you have literally called me (and the denomination which I represent) heretical. Especially to these last people I would say that a person is not only known by the friends he keeps but also by the enemies he makes. Let me affirm, therefore, that — from what I have read by those who call me "heretic" and encourage some of our churches to separate from the denomination — I have no hesitation in letting God be the judge between us.

Over the years a certain style has emerged in this column. I am making no claim for the inspiration of my

words. As such, however, I wish you to know that I am struggling as honestly as possible to identify the appropriate biblical principles and to apply these principles to your twentieth century questions through the medium of a small column with a minimal number of readily understood words. Now, my friends, I suppose I could give you easy answers, but I assume that you write me because most of you have been dissatisfied with easy answers. Some of you, however, would like confirmation of your easy answers, because they have been called into question by someone else and that is why you write. To both of you, I have vowed not to treat your questions lightly and I have been reinforced in this decision by Christ who gave us the pattern for answers to such life-oriented questions in the incarnation.

God saw our questions about life and he did not answer them by means of statements or philosophical propositions. He surprised us by sending his own Son—not in some high and mighty fashion, but as a baby born to peasant parents in a stinky barn. Jesus knew the style of people's questions and he went where the people were to answer those questions. The rabbis often had little time for the people of the land, but Jesus met their needs and answered their questions with picture stories which the common people loved and by which they were called to respond.

In our highly scientific and sophisticated world we often miss the example of Jesus. He took the great mysteries of God and opened them to men. If they failed to understand them, it was not because of his words. Our tendency is to reverse the process and dignify our simple ideas with five and six syllable words. For one who has spent thirteen years in universities and seminaries before becoming a professor, the world's pattern of such pseudo sophistication is very tempting to follow, but I call all of us to remember that "we did not so learn Christ Jesus."

As we enter the advent season when we think about the coming of Jesus, let us try to follow his patterns. In struggling with the issues of life, let us pray that God will give us clarity in our thinking, openness in receiving his truth, love in our dealing with people and faithfulness in our reliance upon God's gift in Christ. May this Christmas bring to everyone who reads this column a new commitment to the pattern or "way" of Christ Jesus our Lord. G. L. B. □



## PHASE II

by Daniel Fuchs

### CALLING OUR CONTINENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

Imagine the excitement of individual Christians as they go door-to-door in their community greeting persons in the name of Jesus Christ, giving them a copy of the Scriptures and knowing that what they are doing is part of a continent-wide movement aimed to touch the life of every person in the United States and Canada with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The significant two-fold goal of Key 73 Phase II is to distribute to every person in North America a portion of the Scriptures and to extend with each Scripture placement a personal invitation to join an evangelistic Bible study group or to enroll in an evangelistic Bible correspondence course administered by the local church. This special effort is planned from Thanksgiving 1972 through Easter 1973 and may be continued throughout the year as scheduled by local congregations and groups.

Scripture distribution and Bible study activities provide one of the best opportunities in the entire Key 73 program to involve your church in actual evangelism.

Scripture distribution and Bible study activities allow for a wide variety of methods of witnessing so that persons of varying degrees of ability and talent can participate.

There is much more to Scripture distribution than to drop a portion of the Bible on the porch of a home or to hang it on the doorknob. Your church must be trained to present the Scriptures personally. Members must be familiar with the portion of Scripture which they bring. When giving an invitation to join an evangelistic Bible study group or to enroll in an evangelistic Bible study correspondence course, your people must know what these courses contain.

For helpful program suggestions and Bible study and distribution options write to the World Home Bible League, 16801 Van Dam Road, South Holland, Ill. 60473, and to the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023. □

The Rev. Daniel Fuchs is assistant general secretary of the North American Baptist General Missionary Society.



by Cecil McGee

During these next few months you will probably be having a number of fellowship gatherings. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you plan.

#### Values

There is far more to a fellowship than just a few games and some refreshments. There are values of eternal dimension which can be realized. With adequate leadership, wholesome recreation habits can be formed and lasting friendships cultivated. Talents can be developed, personalities enriched and individuals drawn closer to Christ and his church.

#### Person Centered

The fellowships should be person centered. The primary interest is not the program but the people for whom the program is built. The leader must constantly seek to help each person know that he has a place in the group . . . that he is wanted . . . loved . . . and understood.

People's individual differences must be recognized if their needs are to be met. It is unrealistic to expect all people to respond to a given activity with the same degree of interest and enthusiasm. They do not share the same likes and dislikes. Therefore, a variety of activities must be planned to appeal to the tastes of all. Tastes will vary according to age groups.

#### Leadership

Behind every successful endeavor is a key person—a person who dedicates himself to a given task to make it go. This principle operates in social recreation just as it does in all other areas of life.

Choose a person with a dedication to Christ, a love for people, a sense of responsibility and ability in leadership.

Along with the key person, it is always good to use a planning committee for fellowships. Get the people who make up the planning committee together and let them help decide:

1. Where to have the fellowship
2. What the theme will be
3. What activities to include
4. What to have for refreshments

People who have been given a chance to help decide can more readily be challenged to get busy and help do.

The basic committees will include publicity, program, refreshments and cleanup.

The planning committee should remember that it is often the simple thing and not the elaborate that has the greatest appeal and lasting value. □

Excerpts from an article by Cecil McGee which appeared in *Church Recreation* magazine. Copyright by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Though summer seems far away, this is the time to plan for your summer activities if you want to serve in a camp or church through one of the service opportunities in the Conference.

Students may serve in various ways. Camping opportunities include being camp director; teacher; counselor; recreation, music, creative activities or crafts director. Other opportunities are teaching in or directing a Vacation Bible School, serving as a pastor (preaching), assistant pastor or director of youth work, student missionary on one of our home mission fields, church extension pastor, or serving as minister of visitation.

Churches and camps should also plan now to include an adequate amount in their budgets if they plan to employ a student next summer. Applications should be mailed to the N.A.B. Office in Forest Park by the first of February.

For further information refer to the *Youth Service Opportunities* booklet which has been distributed to pastors and clerks of pastorless churches. □

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHURCH!

While minds and hearts are attune to the birth of Jesus, it might also be a good time to get action underway to celebrate the birth of the church. Here is how you might go about it.

Make a list of the needs of the church. This might include such items as books for the library, mimeograph machine, typewriter, coat hangers, easels, chairs and tables. Find out the approximate cost of the various items and compile a list consisting of three columns. The first column should be headed "Needs"; itemize the various articles that are needed. The next column should be headed "Cost"; list the approximate cost of each item. The third column can be headed "Donor"; write in the name or names of persons accepting each project. Take the list to members, friends and groups within the church to enlist them as donors. Individuals will be able to undertake some items; other items will need to be taken on by two or more people or by one of the organizations in the church. Be sure to have the approval of the Board of Trustees before you begin this project. On the church's anniversary or a specially designated night, have a birthday party at which time the gifts are brought and presented. Of course, you would have a birthday cake for refreshments. □



"These are my Dad's peak-earning years and he still tosses a quarter in the collection plate."



# Woman's World

## GOD'S PRECIOUS GIFT IN SIMPLE WRAPPINGS

by Jeanette Stein, president of the W.M.U., Winnipeg, Man.

Merry Christmas! Again we have come to the most joyous season of the year. This is the time when most people are happy. Good wishes are heard wherever we go. We speak even to people we don't know and wish them a merry Christmas. Everyone is friendly and the whole world takes on a happy glow.

Christmas is the time of much preparation. Plans are made for entertaining and visiting. Much baking needs to be done and the shelves are stocked with all kinds of good things to eat. There would be no end to the preparations, except as time runs out, we must stop.

Christmas is a time of giving. More gifts are given during the next couple of weeks than during all the rest of the year combined. These gifts are wrapped in fancy paper, tied with a pretty bow and placed under the Christmas tree for friends and relatives. It is a season of generosity and love.

Many years ago God made preparations for Christmas, and when the fullness of time was come he sent his gift into the world: the Lord Jesus Christ. This gift was not wrapped in fancy paper, tied with a pretty bow and placed under the Christmas tree. Instead it was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Yet it was a very expensive gift for it cost God his only Son. It is a gift that never wears out and never loses its value. It is still the same as it was two thousand years ago.

It was God's intention that we should share his gift with others. This year the W.M.U. Christmas offering will go to Japan so that the people there may also experience the joy of Christmas. Let us be generous in our financial support of our mission work in Japan.

so that many will have the opportunity of receiving this precious Gift. □

## WHAT ARE YOU UP TO TODAY?

by Mrs. Oryn Meinerts, missionary, Bamenda, Cameroon

"Filling data sheets about man-power," replied Edith Schroeder, as I asked her that question, "and completing immigration forms." "I also finished proof-reading some stencils for the 1973 Women's Manual," she added. Soon pile after pile of paper will come through the mimeograph machine and get assembled to make a 76 page booklet of woman's lessons.



Patricia Meinerts taking care of a newly born baby at one of the maternity centers in Cameroon.

"What are you doing, Nancy," I asked. "I'm just going down to the office to see Edith for a minute," Nancy Folkerts replied. What had she been doing? She taught David 1st grade, worked on Rest House end-of-the-month accounting, arranged housing for guests of Campus Crusade Lay

Institute, addressed "We The Baptist Women" and wrote another circular letter for Bamenda Field's 100 churches, made plans for a 3-H Girls Guides training course, prepared a devotional talk for the joint Presbyterian-Baptist Women's Weekend, and made a new recipe of ice cream because her cook can't read and anything new she does herself. She also had all of us in for coffee in the morning!

May Schroeder, our newest Bamenda woman, was knitting a lovely baby sweater for her grandchild when I stopped to ask what she was doing. "Running up and down from the house supervising the painting," she laughingly responded to my question. The house where they will live is being painted so they are in the Rest House. So far today, she has made five trips down to the house to check on mixing of colors and where they are to go. She also did her housework, some measuring, cutting and pinning of drapes and will soon need to start peeling vegetables for supper. This evening will probably consist of some letter writing while listening to recorded music, a lesson in Pidgin English, devotions and bed by 10:30 p.m.

Sussana Ngum, our Executive Secretary's wife, is the only Cameroonian woman living in this area of the mission compound. She was hanging out her wash this afternoon when I went to visit her. They have had a family of four—a pastor on transfer—living with them for a few days. The guests left this morning in the midst of heavy rain and Sussana was busy getting the house back in order. She also plans to sew buttons on the first sweater she has ever made. Sue Krier and May Schroeder gave her a few instructions—and her sixth child, Grace, will soon be sporting a lovely sweater with cable stitch sleeves!

As for me, I spent the morning typing and assembling HOW TO lesson material on finances, teaching, elections and sewing for a women's workshop to be held in every field soon. This afternoon, I visited my neighbors mentioned above, read a bit, and took some pictures to show to our 3-H girls.

Reading, writing and raising children; working with cooks, clerks, painters, teachers and friends; giving time to each one so they will know we really care for them; trying to listen with both ears; giving time to God as well; trying to listen to him with both ears and heart—that is what has been going on in the Women's World of Bamenda Station today. □

## MAY WE PLEASE COME AND VISIT YOU?

by Mrs. Douglas (Sharon) Woyke, missionary to Tsu, Japan

The telephone rings. "Hello. We are students and for our summer project we would like to visit the home of a foreigner. May we please come and visit you?"

So another contact is made just because we are foreigners. These four



Students visiting with the Woykes

girls (pictured) were interested in how we lived, what our house was like, if we liked Japanese food and also why we came to Japan. The fact that people have left their home country and families often makes it easier for these young people to understand that Jesus left his Father in heaven to live on earth because he loved men and came to save them from their sins.

Most of our work here in Tsu is being done among the students. This is the group that seems to be the most open to new ideas because many have broken with the old traditions and are



now looking for a new goal for their lives.

Our daughter Joyce (pictured at her first birthday party) has really found her way into the hearts of the Japanese people. They love children, and her blue eyes and light, curly hair are conversation openers wherever we go. We are thankful for these opportunities to speak with people but every once in a while it would be nice to go unnoticed as we walk down the street.

Please pray for us as we continue to adjust to the fact that we are "the different ones" in this Land of the Rising sun. □

## CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

by Mrs. Wesley Kahler, West Side Baptist Church, Fargo N.D.

MARY was told by God (Luke 1:26-32) that she was to be the mother of the Messiah. Hers was the one heart in all the world to whose love, authority and strength God was willing to entrust his only begotten Son. Do we regard our salvation as precious as Mary did her Son Jesus? We, too, know the Son, if we truly believe in him!

JOSEPH was "a just man" (Matt. 1:19), "a good man", who chose to break his engagement (before his dream) to Mary quietly. True goodness is always unconscious of itself! Does our sense of justice include consideration of another's emotional well-being?

The SHEPHERDS who did the humble work of caring for sheep, were the first to hear the announcement (Luke 2:8, 9). They were looking for

the consolation of Israel. God still speaks to those who hunger and thirst for him!

The STAR is the symbol of guidance; it remains sure and constant (Matt. 2:2). There is in the heart of every man something that makes him long for direction.

PEACE on earth (Luke 2:14) among men with whom he is well pleased—those who put him first in all things. There will never be peace unless there are men with whom he is well pleased!

GLORY (Luke 2:14), "the glory of God" is often impossible to put into words. Glory is something we must feel and this feeling is rooted in worthiness. God is worthy of worship!

THE WISE MEN. If we follow the example of the wise men, we will not worship gold for the things it can buy. We shall give it to the King for his service. The wise men traveled to find a God for the purpose of worship. They came to do reverence! They prepared for worship by bringing their gifts!

JESUS is salvation. He gives himself (Acts 4:12) as a light to the Gentiles (Isa. 49:6). Have you received Jesus himself and allowed the light to illumine the way for others at this Christmas season?

ANGELS (Luke 2:13), a multitude, a considerable number. They could not contain their joy! The glorious truth which the angels revealed deepened in force and beauty as the child grew "and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). □

## WMU in Action

### Extra Dollars for Missions

by Mrs. Bernard Fritzke, W. M. Society at the Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Ore.

God's Word teaches that we are to "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . ." and to give ". . . as God hath prospered." The Women's Missionary Society of the Bethany Baptist Church in Portland, Or., believes this is what God's Word teaches concerning giving. However, we wanted

to do something more for missions, above our tithes and offerings. As we looked around our homes, we saw many things that we weren't using, but that would be useful to others. Garage sales are very popular in this area, so we decided to sell our "extra" things as well as have a bazaar and bake sale and give this money for missions. One of our ladies offered the use of their large storage building for this sale. We took in over \$360.00, and this entire amount will go for missions. This is just one other way to do more for the cause of Christ. □



# ONE DAY

by Jo-Ann Godec Potter

# ATA TIME

## The Fight Against Disability



The double ring, double wheel chair wedding couple, Jim and Jo-Ann Potter

I have multiple sclerosis, an insidious, debilitating disease that strikes young adults between twenty and forty-five, the cream of the nation's young work force and parents. MS is an uninherited disease of the nervous system which slowly, or sometimes suddenly, destroys portions of the nervous system in the spinal cord causing interruptions of messages from the brain to various parts of the body much like a short circuit in an electrical system. The victim never knows when function of the legs, arms, eyes, ears, major organs, etc. will be affected. After ten years MS has finally forced me into a wheelchair.

My husband, Jim, is a paraplegic as the result of a broken neck sustained in an automobile accident in 1966. At the beginning of a very promising career as a physical education teacher and coach, his accident placed him in a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. But he didn't let that stop him. In a wheelchair he went back to college and obtained a Master's degree in Recreation Therapy from the University of Illinois. He is now full-time director of recreation activities at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital in Chicago.

Even though we are both disabled, we found when we first met that those disabilities gave us an extraordinary empathy with one another that created a bond of friendship, then love, and finally total commitment to one another. We are able to tolerate one another's limitations with an understanding that the able-bodied are incapable of. So we were married in a double-ring, double-wheelchair ceremony on June 26, 1971.

The task of being married is, at best, difficult even for normal people. I am certain that when anyone sees a young couple, both in wheelchairs, wearing matching wedding bands, the first reaction is one of surprise,

Mrs. Jo-Ann Potter lives in Forest Park, Ill. She and her husband attend the Forest Park Baptist Church.

shock, disbelief and questions. How can such a couple even perform their daily routine tasks—tasks which most able-bodied persons perform quite simply? It isn't easy. The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer. But when two people love each other and accept one another's faults, physical or otherwise, and have the assurance of help from God in whatever they might attempt, it isn't quite so difficult.

We do what we have to, allow for our physical limitations, and somehow it all works out. In Jim's spare time he goes to the local laundromat, shops for groceries and runs most other necessary errands. I tire very quickly and so must restrict my physical activities. But I do keep house by myself, sort and put away the laundry and groceries. The jobs are shared as much as possible. Jim drives his car with hand controls and gets himself and his fifty-pound wheelchair in and out with ease.

Our leisure hours are spent mostly indoors, playing games and other non-tiring activities. We keep in touch with everything from politics to sports by means of television and newspapers. There is constant discussion on world problems and exploration of ways to improve things. Jim spends a lot of extra time working with various organizations for the disabled, trying to remove architectural barriers, improve public relations and generally make surroundings better for the disabled. I am constantly working at some piece of needlework and also keep in touch by letter with scores of friends and family all over the country. We both live very full, busy lives within our limitations, of course.

But how are we able to do this? The key to success in any marriage involves a multitude of things: love, tolerance, respect—ingredients which are more readily found when one must search harder for them. That may sound like a rather obvious, naive statement, but some couples automatically expect those attributes to come with the wedding ceremony. Take those ingredients, add the love of God, and one has the recipe for what makes the married life of Mr. and Mrs. James Potter a very special one. The main ingredient, the secret of our existence, is the love of God which helps us to take life

“one day at a time,” sometimes one minute at a time.

No tragedy in life is easy to accept. Jim awoke from a coma and a loss of memory of some weeks to be told that he would never walk again. He lay in bed for weeks wondering why it happened, wondering what he would do with the rest of his life. It was a very sudden, frightening experience for him, but being bedridden gave him time to face his Lord and decide to make his experience work for him, not against him.

In my case, the diagnosis of MS came at a most inopportune time also. I was married to another man who found it impossible to accept an invalid wife. I also was the mother of a dear little boy barely one year old. Unlike Jim I had had several years to get used to the idea that I will be ill for the rest of my life and that I will slowly lose the use of most of my limbs, as well as the function of many of the body's important organs. So far my legs, balance and coordination, are severely impaired. But fortunately I still have my hearing, my eyesight, and, obviously, the use of my hands, as I am typing this right now. However, a long sought-after career as a pianist and music teacher is forever to be forgotten. The first marriage was destroyed, and now I am without my son who is mentally gifted and must, for his welfare, live with his father in California in order for his education to progress at the rate it should. Slowly becoming incapacitated is harder to accept, I believe.

Jim and I have both lost much, but in the process we have gained much. Some good comes out of every tragedy. But first one must accept whatever occurs and learn to put the pieces of his life back together. The key word is “coping.” For some, like me, the tragedies of life are so traumatic and seem to happen so often that we wonder if we can survive, mentally and emotionally. This is where the necessity of something, or someone, to lean on becomes a necessity.



The Christian finds his faith tried sorely and often, but if the faith in God is strong enough, it can help overcome any tragedy or disappointment, no matter how much it hurts. In Hebrews we are told that “the Lord disciplines those whom he loves” (Hebrews 12:6, *New English Bible*). In I Corinthians 10:13 we read, “So far you have faced no trial beyond what man can bear. God keeps faith, and he will not allow you to be tested above your powers, but when the test comes he will at the same time provide a way out, by enabling you to sustain it” (*New English Bible*).

Unlike my husband, I find that my faith is more easily tried and less comforting than is his. Despite the knowledge in my heart that God is the only way, that faith and trust in him is necessary for a full life, I find it hard not to ask “why” each time something happens to set me back. I feel like a fighter who gets knocked down every time he gets up. Jim's faith has a very simple basis: One must continually thank God for what he does for us rather than curse him for what he does to us. God does not cause automobile accidents or disease. God gives each person who loves him the promise that he will never leave us nor forsake us. In the low times when depression comes and there seems to be no hope left, I realize that I am really very fortunate to be able to do God's will in far better ways than I was ever able to before.

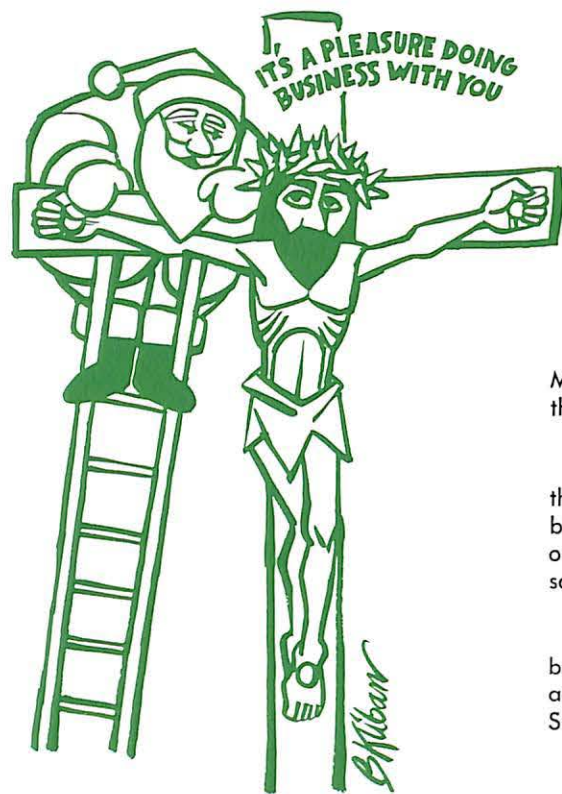
Jim and I find that our purpose in life now is not at all what we had planned. God has placed us in a very unique position. Any one of the traumatic things that have happened to us in the past could very well have destroyed us if we did not have God to look to for help and comfort. Now we have an ever deeper love for God and concern for people. We are able to express that concern in an unusual way. People with problems seem to be drawn to us, and we have a great opportunity to witness. Every time we are seen together in public we are a witness. Our smiles, our laughter, our “coping” seem to be of help to anyone who sees us. People can forget their own troubles, or at least minimize them, if they see someone they believe to be worse off than they are.

But we are not worse off. We simply have a different lifestyle from most. The daily business of living becomes a real challenge which we meet as best we can. There are so many big difficulties in our lives that we are often unable to cope with the small things, but God helps us with these.

Jim's profession provides him daily opportunities to help disabled people to adjust. And he is a living example that it can be done with dignity. My ways of helping are not quite so obvious or abundant, but I do get my chance when a smile can help or a phone call to someone who is ill or lonely. Even appearing at church when the weather keeps many people from wanting to be there is a witness. These things may seem small, but they add up rather quickly into a bountiful, overflowing feeling of love for God and other people and give us a great deal of encouragement. And perhaps others benefit, too. Love begets love; concern begets concern.

Never would we presume to present ourselves as examples of perfect Christian living. We cannot accept all distress and difficulties without some torment. We simply try to live each day as it comes and do the best we can with our limitations—with God's help, when we have the good sense to ask for that help. I think I can say for both my husband and myself that the disabilities which have beset us are a blessing in disguise because they have brought us closer to God and given us a new and better way to work for him. And our disabilities have given us each other. □





## OFFENSIVE?

If that's your reaction to this drawing you're not alone. Many people react negatively at first. But upon reflection their thinking is apt to change.

One lady summed it up well when, after a moment of serious thought she said: "At first it struck me as being sacrilegious, but then I realized that the thing it's talking about — that is, our inappropriate observance of Christ's birthday — is the real sacrilege, and worse yet, I'm part of it."

How many North American Christians can truthfully deny being a part of it? What is the real focus of all our feverish activity during this season? Is it Christ? The Messiah? Our Saviour? The Saviour of the world?

One test an individual might use is to look at how he spends his money at Christmas time. The amount of his special gifts to Christian causes, weighed against what he spends for other gifts, plus decorations, drink, food, travel, etc., etc., etc. might be revealing. Ever stop to think about it?

## dear GOD

by Deborah Killip

Dear God  
help me to have Christmas  
in my heart every day  
so that I may give gifts  
of summer dandelions  
or winter pine boughs  
and know joy

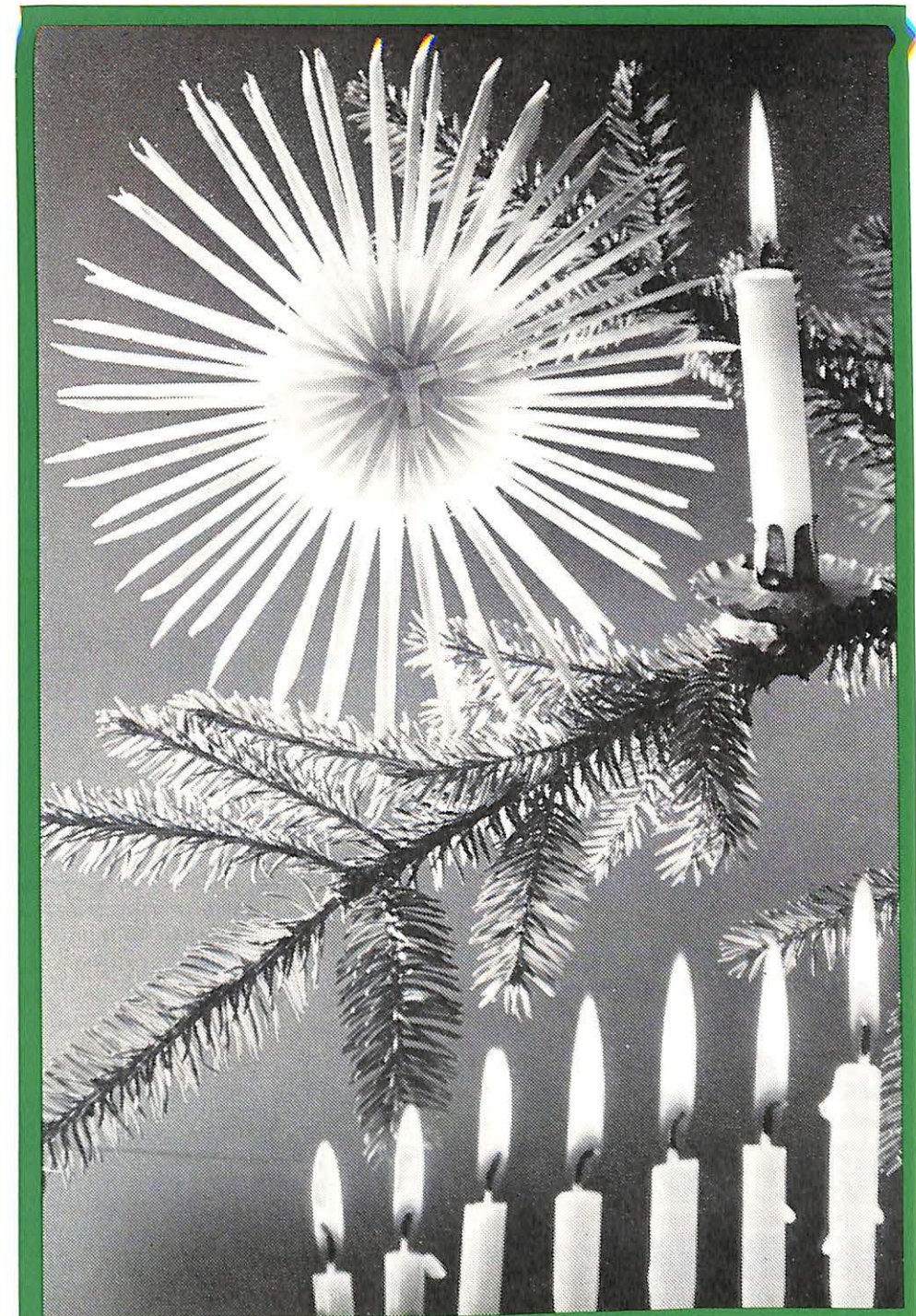
Help me to see  
a snowflake  
or a grain of sand,  
a blade of grass  
or a turning leaf  
that I may know beauty

Help me to hear  
silence and church bells,  
laughter and music  
that I may know  
the sound of Your voice

Help me to feel  
someone else's smile or tear  
that I might know  
understanding

Help me to learn  
about different people  
and religions,  
different customs  
and lands  
that I may know  
the width  
of Your kingdom

Help me to receive  
Your gift of love.



## The Candlelight of Christmas

The candlelight of Christmas  
Is glowing through the town,  
Not only from house windows  
All up the streets and down,

But on the people's faces  
A quiet light is seen  
From loving and from giving  
And faith kept evergreen.

There's nothing made of neon  
Can make a light as fine  
As memory of blessed Star,  
And Christmas candleshinel  
Lee Avery

Photo by Dr. Wolffs Tritschler

## CHRISTMAS UNOPENED

Confirm Christmas  
Among the distant descendants  
Of kings and shepherds  
Before we send Christmas back  
Because we can't get it to work.  
O God, what have we done  
If we have to justify why  
We still keep Christmas?  
Why must we make such excuses as  
We have always done it or  
We do it for the children?  
Send us searching through  
Our attics and our trash  
Lest in our blindness  
And bad judgment  
We left our treasure there,  
Unopened.

Amen



MERRY CHRISTMAS?

This Christmas prayer was taken from  
UNTIL YOU BLESS ME, by David Redding.  
Merry Christmas?



# GOD'S VOLUNTEERS



Team 1 deeply involved in practicing their musical numbers



Team 2 has the same ambitions as Team 1: To be at their best to the Lord's glory.



Both teams in "real" action: Door-to-door evangelism for the Greenfield Baptist Church



MOTTO FOR 1972-73

**THAT WE  
MAY KNOW  
CHRIST AND MAKE  
HIM KNOWN**

Left to right standing:  
Renee Hoffer, Sandra Walker, Gordon Bauslaugh, John Neufeld, Ray Harsch, Ray Lick, Jim Schneider, Trudy Spletzer, Edith Schroeder

Seated:  
Carol Walker, Janis DeBoer, Marilyn Black, Agnes Litfin

## PREPARED TO SERVE

As our weeks of training have come to an end, we would like to share with you a few of the highlights.

It has been a privilege to have trained on the North American Baptist College campus, South-Edmonton, Alberta. We appreciate the willingness of the professors who equipped us for our evangelistic task. Our special thanks go to Professors Muller, Schalm, Waitkus, and to the Reverends Darling and Ron Berg. The Reverends Bruce Rich and Daniel Fuchs from Forest Park were also here to share with us. It was also our privilege to get acquainted with the four guest directors for this year: The Reverends Ron Mayforth, Ron Berg, Dieter Gohl and Oliver Bender. Music practice played a major role in the training program. Bob Walthers, a N.A.B.C. student and houseparent, gave of his time and talent in this area. Bob had had much experience in helping various other musical groups on the campus.

During the weeks of training we were able to minister to several churches: Wiesenthal, Rabbit Hill, Temple and First at Leduc, Greenfield, McKernan, Spruce Grove, and Capilano Baptist Churches.

Through our door to door evangelism we have already experienced the joy of seeing ten people come to the Lord.

We have been called into God's service, but without your prayer support we can do nothing. Please continue to pray for us.

Janis DeBoer and Trudy Spletzer  
Reporters (Teams 1 and 2)



# Insight into Christian Education

## KEY 73

## CALLING OUR CONTINENT TO CHRIST

by Donald Richter

This evangelistic effort, called Key 73, is a combined effort by more than one hundred Christian groups and organizations which is to be carried out during 1973. Some may ask, "How come a name such as Key 73?" Because the first meeting of the concerned leaders took place in 1967 near the Francis Scott Key bridge and because it was felt there needed to be at least six years of preparation to mobilize plans and people—hence Key 73.

At the beginning it was felt that any effort without involved lay people would not succeed well. It is already too often the case that out of frustration and impatience religious leaders often plunge ahead in plans without people aroused to the opportunities of evangelism. Dr. Victor Nelson of the Billy Graham organization mentioned in the initial meetings that the people

The Rev. Donald Richter is assistant general secretary and director of adult ministry of the North American Baptist General Conference.

in the local churches have not given up on God; they are disgusted with slipshod planning which fails to consider their views and interests. It was felt that six years may be enough time to encourage Christians to share their hopes and to be aroused to an evangelistic thrust.

The Key to Key 73

The most vital aspect of the entire design is to encourage the average Christian to participate at the congregational and community level. This average Christian will need to be informed and challenged to commit himself to what witness the local church can do.

Using as an overall theme: *Calling Our Continent to Christ*, the program of Key 73 is organized into seven parts.

1. Calling Our Community to Christ, including our Fall 1972 Sunday School Contest, which introduces the tone and images of Key 73.
2. Calling Our Community to Repentance and Prayer, including Noon Prayer Call, Faith-in-Action TV special (Jan. 6), Launch Sunday (Jan. 7) and the Week of Prayer (Jan. 7-14).
3. Calling Our Community to the Word of God, including Bible distribution, use of media in sharing the Bible and the Group Bible Study on Getting Ready to Celebrate the Resurrection, all from January through Easter.
4. Calling Our Community to the Resurrection, including a community survey and witness census, intensive personal witnessing and calling programs and an Easter TV special.
5. Calling Our Community to New Life, including witness through

art, music and drama during the summer at places where people gather. Our Japan Drama Group will tour our denomination during this time.

6. Calling Our Community to Proclamation, including a youth witness program in June and July, a witness at local fairs and festivals in the summer of 1973, and preaching and witnessing on media and in the open air whenever the opportunity is available.
7. Calling Our Community to Commitment, including an initiative to reclaim Christmas as a Christian holiday, a TV special in review of the year and local celebrations of what God has done through our witness and action.

Note: Our denominational leadership has used the option to change *continent* to *community* in order to assist the local church member in seeing the evangelistic thrust in local terms.

The Result of Renewal

Christians have been aroused by use of small groups, massive rallies and local church leadership to do something for our Lord Jesus Christ. It seems only logical that after this stress on renewal and evidences of it in many places there needs to be a release of spiritual energy in the form of effective witness.

Local Planning

Let each church under the leadership of the pastor and interested lay people use the resources already available to capitalize on the momentum of Key 73. A basic book to have is *Key 73 Congregational Resource Book*, (\$3.00) available from Key 73, 418 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63102. It contains a superabundance of ideas and sources of material. Every local church must have its own copy if in any way wishes to participate and gain from the building enthusiasm.

The Departments of Evangelism and Christian Education will also publish material to assist the local church and its leaders, such as the 1972 Fall Sunday School Contest and Week of Prayer material which are already published. Watch for additional material and articles in the *Baptist Herald*. Watch for material for the Easter season—Getting Ready to Celebrate the Resurrection, for Family Month, for summer programs and for the Fall 1973 Sunday School contest. □



# N.A.B. Happening In Century II, WICHITA

A closer look at the meeting place of the 37th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist General Conference churches.

by Delmar L. Wesseler

A special event for North American Baptists which occurs only once in every three years is about to happen! Our 37th Triennial Conference is scheduled to assemble on August 14-19 in Wichita, Kansas, in the beautiful futuristically designed Century II complex, which is one of the nation's greatest homes for conventions and trade shows. Century II provides most excellent accommodations for groups wanting to come to the clear non-polluted skies of Wichita.

The complete Conference center, Century II, is located in the heart of downtown Wichita, and is surrounded by excellent stores, restaurants, hotels and motels. It is totally air conditioned and in every way meets the needs of small discussion groups as well as crowds of thousands of people. It is equipped with permanent, equalized sound system. The circular auditorium design is beautiful and functional with large walkways and entrances making an easy flow of traffic possible. The Promenade runs the entire circumference of the building. Inside it provides balconies and walkways — outside, a terrace for a stroll and a view of the fountains or a view of the river.

The Concert Hall area is the meeting site where our sessions will be held. Here the total sound of performances, musicians and speakers reaches the entire audience through a unique and effective acoustical design. The 2,200 continental seats provide luxurious comfort.

Thirteen meeting rooms will accommodate specific needs ranging from board meetings and discussion rooms to Roger Williams Book Store. Exhibits from all facets of our North American Baptist General Conference interests

Mr. Delmar Wesseler is the chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1973 Triennial Conference of North American Baptist General Conference churches. He is a member of the First Baptist Church, Lorraine, Kansas.

will be easily accessible and conveniently located on the Terrazzo Exhibit floor. We expect the Conference participants to make use of the opportunity of spending many hours in visiting and viewing these areas and in having fellowship there. Concession rooms in the immediate area are open for your convenience.

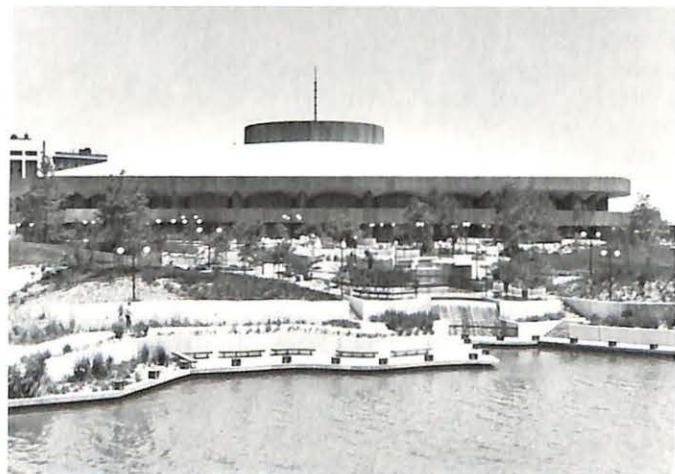
Exhibition Hall, where several events, including our Conference Banquet, will take place, houses a 36 rank New York Paramount Theater Organ. The beautiful promenade level will effectively help us to host several other events including the all-Conference Missions celebration. The versatile Convention Hall seats over 5500. Immediately across the street is our Headquarters Hotel, Holiday Inn. This high-rise 27 story building offers the beautiful Riviera Room for your relaxing comfort and also several meeting rooms and lovely dining areas. The Kiva area surrounding the Hotel is fascinating with its plantings, pools and intriguing shops and restaurants.

An integral part of this Civic and Cultural Complex is the Wichita City Library. It offers a great number of volumes, an informal Children's Library, music and art rooms, auditorium and numerous reading and study areas.

Another convenience of the area is on-site parking for 750 cars, another 3,000 parking spaces within 4 blocks and also 1300 first class hotel rooms within four blocks.

Please join the many N.A.B. members who are coming to Wichita for the most centrally located Triennial Conference ever hosted. Plan to greet old friends and meet new friends in these genial surroundings during Conference days. Here, at the end of the day, you can relax, stroll peacefully in the park area and along the grassy slopes of the river bank which faces Century II, and watch a famous Kansas sunset with its blazing colors painted by the Supreme Artist. □

With 100,000 square feet of exhibit space, Century II is a beautiful facility which includes: Concert Hall, Theater, Convention Hall, Exhibition Hall and numerous meeting rooms. During intermissions and after the sessions North American Baptists can relax on the beautifully designed terraces on the banks of the Arkansas River close by.



## 1973 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES WICHITA, KANSAS, AUGUST 14-19 — PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TIME	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:00—8:30		N.A.B. Seminary Alumni Breakfast	N.A.B. College Alumni Breakfast	Missionary Breakfast Church Extension Breakfast	Pastors' Wives' Breakfast Christian Education Workers' Breakfast	Pension Fund Breakfast
8:45—9:20		1. Through the individual — Rev. Clarence Walth 2. Through the family—Rev. Harold Weiss 3. Through social consciousness—Prof. W. Goltz 4. Through church structures—Rev. John Ziegler	Series on Reconciliation: (7 groups—elective) 5. Through political structures—Rev. Harry Hiller 6. Through or with other Christian groups—Dr. Arthur Patzia 7. James Kennedy films (discussion leader)	9:30—10:25 Business 10:25—10:30 Mus. Int. 10:30—11:00 Open Forum 11:00—11:30 "Missions in Action" Leader: Dr. Peter Fehr Speakers: Rev. Fred Folckerts & Rev. Oryn Meinerts	9:30—10:00 "Missions in Action" Leader: Richard Schilke Speakers: Fred Moore Earl Ahrens 10:00—10:05 Musical Interlude 10:05—12:00 Business	9:30—10:30 Sunday School 10:45—11:45 Worship Service — Rev. Ed Wesner 10:45—11:45 German Worship Service — Dr. Herbert Hiller
9:30—11:30		9:30—10:55 Conf. Org. & Presentation on "State of the Conf.," unified rep. of Gen. Council, & all org. by Dr. G. K. Zimmerman 10:55—11:00 Mus. Int. 11:00—11:30 "Missions in Action" Leader: Rev. Lyle Wacker	9:30—10:40 Business 10:40—10:45 Musical Interlude 10:45—11:30 Conference Ministries (Repeats)	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:30—1:30		1:30—2:15—Conference Ministries Reports in elec. small groups 1—Evan. 2—Sem. 3—College 4—Stewardship 5—C.E. and RWP 6—Church Ext. 7—Missions 2:20—3:00 BWA, BJC, ABS, Chaplaincy 3:00—4:30 Business	Luncheons —W.M.U. —Pastors —Baptist Men	Lunch 1:30—2:15 Conference Ministries (Repeats) 2:30—4:30 "Witness Action"—Rev. Ray Harsch and "Creative Activities for Older Persons"—Rev. Donald Richter	Lunch	Lunch
1:30—4:30	Registration 1:30—4:30		Free	Free	Free	3:00—4:30 Japan Drama Group
7:15—7:30	Mus. Int.	Musical Interlude	Musical Interlude	Musical Interlude	Free	
7:30—9:00	Rev. Aaron Buhler—Keynote Address	Dr. James Kennedy	7:30—8:45 WMU Program 8:45—10:00 Mission Celebration	"Personal Growth" Rev. Harvey Mehlfaff Memorial Service Rev. Howard Johnson	6:30 Conference Banquet James Irwin	

CONFERENCE THEME: "Reconciling the World Through Christ" — 2 Cor. 5:18-20



# 1973 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

## Lodging Accommodations

## Registration & Lodging Instructions

	Code	Room Rates (Note)				Distance from Conference Hall
		Single 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 persons	Twin 2 beds 2 persons	Extra Person	
HOLIDAY INN PLAZA (Conference Hdqtrs. Hotel) 250 W. Douglas	HP	16.75	19.75	21.75	3.00	Across street
BROADVIEW HOTEL* 101 N. Waco	BH	8.75	12.00	15.00	2.50	Across street
CANTERBURY INN 5700 W. Kellogg	CI	14.50	17.50	19.50	3.00	4½ miles
DIAMOND MOTOR INN 6815 W. Kellogg	DI		12.00	12.00	6.00	5 miles
HIWAY INN 3900 W. Kellogg	HI	10.00	14.00	15.00	3.00	3 miles
HOLIDAY INN-EAST 7411 E. Kellogg	HE	13.75	15.75	17.75	2.00	5 miles
HOLIDAY INN-MIDTOWN 1000 N. Broadway	HM	14.75	17.75	20.75	3.00	1 mile
RAMADA INN 8300 E. Kellogg	RA	13.00-15.00	16.00-17.00	18.00-20.00	3.00	6 miles
REGAL INN 125 N. Market	RE	15.50	18.50	19.50	3.00	3 blocks
TOWN HOUSE MOTOR 612 S. Broadway	TH	13.00	16.00	18.50	3.00	8 blocks

NOTE: All hotels and motels have restaurants and swimming pools except the Diamond Inn which has a pool only. All have air conditioning and free parking. Children under 12 free in same facility with parents. Plus sales tax @ 3%.

\*Rates subject to change.

Single Student Lodging: (15-25 years of age). (Youth activities will be centered around Friends University Dorm Area.)

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY (FU): Dormitory (not air conditioned); Double rooms: \$3.75 per person including breakfast and bus transportation to Conference Hall.

TRAILER CAMPS: No reservations.

KOA - Kampground of America: 9½ miles west on U.S. Highway 54. Rates (daily): \$3.00 per vehicle (2 persons); 25 cents per additional person; 25 cents with electricity; 50 cents vehicles with air conditioning.

CAMP SITES AT LAKES (approximately 20 miles from Wichita): Lake Afton: No camping fee; Lake Cheney: State lake, annual fee \$5.00 per vehicle.

Nursery and children's activity fees will be \$1.00 per day which will include fees for special activities, trips, etc. There is an additional charge of 50 cents on days when lunch is provided.

1. Full information on hotels, dormitories and trailer camps is given on the previous page. Please select your first and second choice. Fill out lodging reservation form, stating your preference of accommodation, using code letters and price. If members of a family wish separate accommodation, please fill out separate "Lodging Reservation Form."

2. A careful completion of registration form is essential. Registration fee: \$4.00 for single; \$6.00 for couple; \$8.50 for family. Single day fee \$2.00 per person. (Payable in U.S. funds.)

No hotel reservations can be made until registration fee has been received. Every person attending the Conference should register.

3. Conference meal events are optional. Select your choice. Add total cost of registration and meals. Enclose payment with your registration and lodging application. Make checks payable to North American Baptist General Conference in U.S. funds.

Refund in case of cancellation will be made up to August 7, 1973.

4. Mail reservation, registration and payment to the chairman of the Registration and Lodging Committee:

Mr. Eldred D. Prothro  
Box 1458  
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Respective hotels will send confirmation and may request deposit.

Registration packets will be available in the Century II Lobby after 1:00 p.m. on August 14.

### REGISTRATION AND LODGING RESERVATION FORM 1973 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE WICHITA, KANSAS • AUGUST 14-19, 1973

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's name (if accompanying) \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of children, and ages \_\_\_\_\_  
Who of the above are duly elected delegates of the church to the Conference? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please underline if you are a General Worker, Pastor, Missionary, General Conference Officer or a General Council Member.  
Name and location of your church \_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve the following: (State first and second choice.)  
Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Double \_\_\_\_\_  
Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_\_\_ Dorm \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of public accommodation \_\_\_\_\_  
If you made your own accommodation arrangements with relatives or friends, please give name and address \_\_\_\_\_  
Mode of transportation to Wichita \_\_\_\_\_ departure \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
Send confirmation to \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_  
FEES ENCLOSED HERewith:  
Registration: \$4.00 single; \$6.00 couple; \$8.50 family  
Single day fee: \$2.00 per person  
(Payable in U.S. funds)  
Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Meal Tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
For official use only:

### TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE MEAL EVENTS TICKET PRICES

Prices include gratuity and tax.  
Available up to 48 hours prior to event.

### MEAL EVENTS

1. N.A.B. Seminary Alumni Breakfast
2. N.A.B. College Alumni Breakfast
3. Women's Missionary Union Ladies' Luncheon
4. Baptist Men's Luncheon
5. Minister's Fellowship Luncheon
6. Missionary Breakfast (by invitation only)
7. Church Extension Pastors' and Wives' Breakfast (by invitation only)
8. Pastors' Wives' Fellowship Breakfast
9. Christian Education Workers' Breakfast
10. Conference Banquet
11. Pension Fund Breakfast (for pension fund members of retirement age)

For official use only:

Total price for all requested meal tickets: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Price	Meal Tickets Requested (Optional)
August 15	\$2.00	List number of tickets for each event
16	2.00	(1) _____
16	3.85	(2) _____
16	3.00	(3) _____
16	2.50	(4) _____
17	2.00	(5) _____
17	Comp.	(6) _____
18	1.25	(7) _____
18	2.00	(8) _____
18	4.50	(9) _____
19	Comp.	(10) _____
		(11) _____





# CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

## OTTAWA ONT., CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

DECEMBER 1972

The newest North American Baptist Church Extension project in Ontario, Canada, is located on the south side of Ottawa. Two things distinguish this work from the outset. It is our first North American Baptist Church in Canada's capital, and the easternmost North American Baptist Church in Canada.

There had been talk for several years of starting a church extension project in Ottawa because some North American Baptist members live there. On December 7, 1971, the Eastern Association Mission and Church Extension Committee met and appointed the Rev. Loren Weber and Leslie Kauffeldt of Arnprior, and Mr. M. I. Kuehl of Killaloe to act as a committee to explore the feasibility of starting a North American Baptist church. The committee contacted North American Baptist members living in Ottawa, and a meeting was set for February 10, to which the Rev. Rubin Kern, our area secretary, was invited. Besides the committee members there were nine other interested people present.

Monthly meetings were held, and in May, in response to a meeting of interested people in Ottawa with the Rev. Lyle Wacker, church extension director, the Rev. Rubin Kern and the Rev. Walter Damrau, Eastern Association Church Extension Committee chairman, it was decided to officially begin a church in Ottawa. In June a call was extended to the Rev. Loren Weber of Arnprior to become the pastor. Rev. Weber moved to Ottawa Nov. 1, 1972, and the first Sunday services were held on November 5.

Jesus said to the church in Philadelphia, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it" (Rev. 3:8). God has set before us an open door in Ottawa. The number of interested families has grown. The prospect list is getting longer. Ottawa is a growing city with a present population of 405,500. We are presently holding services in the Manordale Public School which is located in a relatively new residential area, and will soon be surrounded by two new housing developments which will house approximately 11,000 people. There is only one other church presently planning to locate in the area.

Our basic program at the present time is Sunday school and Sunday morning worship which are held in the public school. Sunday evening fellowship and Bible Study in homes, and midweek prayer meeting and visitation. We hope to canvass the entire area surrounding the Manordale public school within a couple of months of our launching date. We also hope that we will soon be able to start midweek children's activities to reach the children of the community. These things take time and we are merely a sappling that has sprung forth and just begun to grow and branch out. We need therefore your prayer support and the financial aid of all Church Extension builders. □

The Rev. Loren Weber is the pastor of the Church Extension project in Ottawa, Ont., Canada.



Top: Pastor and Mrs. Loren Weber and family. Center: Some of the people interested in the Ottawa Church Extension project. Bottom: Manordale Public School, where Sunday morning services are being held.

## book reviews by B.C. Schreiber

### For Your Christmas Reading

**The Real Christmas.** By Pat Boone. Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$2.95.

This is an up-dated version of a book Pat Boone wrote about 12 years ago. It is not only easy reading, it is joyful reading. Many illustrations and experiences come from real life. Some stories are new, some old, some emotional—but who wants an emotionless Christmas. Concerning Christmas symbols and myths, Pat believes that we should not lose the trimming and gaiety which they bring. It is more a matter of putting away our belief in symbols themselves and finding out what the symbols stand for. □

**The Story of the Christmas Guest.** By Helen Steiner Rice, Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.95.

Mrs. Rice retells an old, old story of Conrad the Cobbler in poetry form. Both the "introduction" and "post-script" are also written in poetry, giving a delightful bonus to the reader. Children and adults will love it. □

**Bless This House.** By Anita Bryant, Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$4.95.

Although Christmas is not a priority theme in this book, it would still make an ideal Christmas gift.

Anita Bryant and her husband are quite frank in revealing their family life and how it is growing more Christ-like year by year. They are honest enough to let you see their faults, their disagreements, their misunderstandings in order to show how God, through prayer, can really "Bless This House."

Joys and sorrows are a part of their family life, along with interesting and amusing experiences. As man and wife Anita and Jim try to follow Biblical principles which would not be acceptable to the modern day women's lib—but then who cares, when they are having such a good time with Christ as the head of their house. □

**Where Are You Going, Jesus?** By R. Eugene Sterner, Anderson, Ind., Warner Press. \$2.50 (paper).

In answer to a recent book, *Are You Running With Me, Jesus?* the author believed his title is not only more realistic but more biblical. Jesus said, "Follow me," not "I'll run along with you."

His chapters emphasize the present ethical problems that include even the credit card with the "play now—pay later" temptations; honesty in the use of expense accounts; prejudice and the destruction of normal relationships; the disgrace of race and many more.

Dr. Sterner does not let us hang on a note of despair. Signs of spiritual awakening are evident in the devout prayer groups, new biblical scholarship and the idealism of many youth. But the ultimate question is, "How well do we know Christ?" To believe and to obey are of primary importance. □

**One Divine Moment.** By Robert E. Coleman, editor, Old Tappan, N.J. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.95 (paper).

In the early history of higher education revivals have taken place at some of our most outstanding colleges: Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Oberlin and others. In 1950 a spontaneous and prolonged revival was reported at Wheaton. During the 1970's revivals spread over some campuses like a fire.

The unusual revival in Asbury College in Kentucky is described by students and professors in *One Divine*

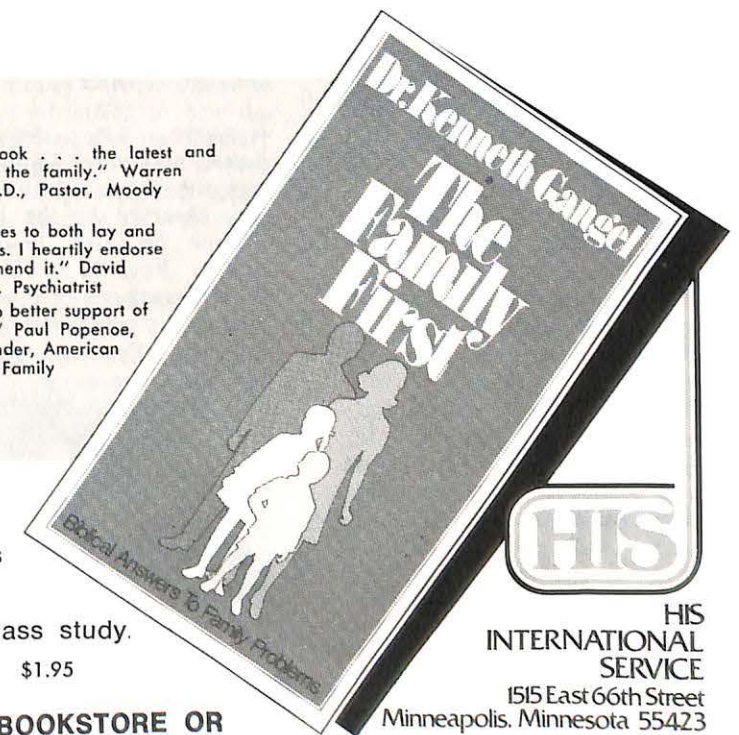
*Moment.* There is no indication of a charismatic movement or of glossolalia. It is best described in the words of one student: "Most of those who witnessed to personal renewal have gone on with the Lord. The best is yet to come. For me the greatest thing lies not in the fervency of that week, but in the unfolding of God's plan in our lives now and in the years ahead . . . Our hearts are burdened with compassion . . . We are moved to proclaim the love of God." □

**Survival on the Campus.** By William Proctor, Fleming H. Revell Company, New Jersey, pp. 157. \$3.95

Dynamic life situations are dealt with as effectively in this book as you can expect to find them when put on paper. Mr. Proctor draws on many interviews and his own experience to portray situations on campus that pose potential threat to a students' faith.

He points out that the Christian students' strategy for survival on the secular campus exists on two levels. 1) ". . . he must study the details of his Christ-orientated world view and learn to defend it against the inevitable questioning of those who believe differently. 2) . . . the Christian student must develop an offensive strategy so that his Christian world view can be applied to helping people other than himself." □

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## OUR CONFERENCE IN ACTION

**ASHLEY, N.D.** on Sunday evening, Aug. 21, 27 candidates followed the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism in the Ashley Baptist Church. Seven of these were adults, two of whom were a husband and wife. The Rev. Etan Pelzer is the pastor of the church. Preceding the service, we had the privilege of hearing a message by Dr. Gideon K. Zimmerman, executive secretary. Special music was brought by the choir. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

**LEDUC, ALTA.** The First Baptist Church held its Promotion Sunday on Aug. 27, 1972, one month earlier than previous years. The many classes were promoted and recognition of highest attendance was given. The Scripture Memory Class which was headed by Mrs. Elsie Miller and Mrs. Erna Ohlman had a group of 17 pupils who were also awarded their pins.

On Sept. 3, 1972, it was our delight to welcome our new pastor and family, the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Bushkowsky and their children. After the morning installation service, the message was brought by the new pastor. An afternoon service was held during which the different branches of the church brought special greetings and words of welcome. (Mrs. Loretta Miller, reporter.)

**KELOWNA, B.C.** The Trinity Baptist Church hosted the first Pacific Family Bible Conference which was held at Green Bay Baptist Camp. In conjunction with this, the Ladies Missionary Guild held a luncheon for the women attending the Conference. The luncheon was served aboard the "Fintry Queen" and the guests came from California, Washington, Oregon, as well as from British Columbia and elsewhere.

The ladies were welcomed by Mrs. Elsie Hait, president of the Trinity Guild. Mrs. Ruth Hemmerling of Vancouver, president of the B.C. Association, responded on behalf of the guests. The devotional was given by Mrs. Verna Ganstrom of Salem, Oregon. Mrs. Elsie Rogalski, Anaheim, California, offered the table grace. Mrs. Meraleen Kern, guest speaker, spoke of her life as missionary wife in Japan. (Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.)

**PHILADELPHIA, PA.** The farewell for the Rev. Milton Zeeb of the Pilgrim Baptist Church offered messages from the various organizations, dignitaries of the church and a representative from our mother church, the Fleischmann Memorial Church. Both the Sanctuary

Choir and the Male Chorus rendered favorites of our pastor. Probably for Pastor Zeeb the highlight of the evening was given by Mr. Thomas Oeste, a deacon. He related "Gems of Wisdom" he had gleaned from the pastor's sermons. First, we must have a personal God; second, we must possess an inner strength; third, do our feet really walk the way our lips talk; and fourth, all records are indelible. Both Mrs. Zeeb and the pastor responded. He left us with the thought that since we are all ministers of the Lord, we should be in constant prayer for one another. Truly Pilgrim's loss is the denomination's gain. (Mrs. William Esenwein, reporter.)

**ANAHEIM, CALIF.** The Rev. and Mrs. Ernie Rogalski and family were honored at a farewell reception at the Bethal Baptist Church, Aug. 20. Pastor Jim Green gave a message from John: "There was a man sent from God to be a witness. . . ." A social hour and program with church moderator, Herbert Stabbert, followed. Rev. Henry Hirsch, former interim pastor, gave a brief tribute to Pastor Rogalski, acknowledging the pleasant, inspiring and happy memories for both pastor and church during his ministry in Anaheim. Pastor Rogalski expressed appreciation for having been called to minister at Bethal and for the many happy memories of new friendships and opportunities for service. He will be associated with the Rev. Kenneth Fischer in their new work together at the Temple Baptist Church in Lodi, Calif. (Mrs. Walter Gooden, reporter.)

**HERREID, S.D.** "Jesus Christ the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever" was the theme of the 75th anniversary observed by the Herreid Baptist Church on Aug. 19-20, 1972 (pictured). Rev. A. J. Fischer, Fredonia, N.D. was master of ceremonies for the anniversary banquet held on Saturday evening. Dr. G. K. Zimmerman brought the message, "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

On Sunday, Rev. E. S. Fenske, a former pastor of the church, spoke during the Sunday school hour. Mrs. Fenske spoke to the children. Children from the Junior Department presented musical selections. Rev. Alfred Weisser was the guest speaker for the worship service. He is also a former pastor of the church. A special anniversary choir sang two selections: "God's House" and "I Will Build My Church."

The main anniversary service was held on Sunday afternoon. Letters of greeting and congratulations were read from pastors and former members who could not attend. Dr. Zimmerman brought the challenging anniversary message, "Visions, Values, Valor."

The closing service was held on Sunday evening. Rev. A. J. Fischer, a son of the church, brought the message. A men's chorus provided special music. A pictorial church directory was printed for this occasion. There was a photo display of special events and members of the church over the past 75 years. Many former members and friends from far and near came to help us commemorate this special occasion.

The Herreid Baptist Church was organized in 1897. The first pastor was Rev. Louis Wiesle. Twelve ministers served the church during its 75 years of existence. Rev. Edward A. Kopf is the present pastor; the membership is 255. (Mrs. Walter Schaffer, reporter.)

**ASHLEY, N.D.** A twenty-four hour prayer chain was formed by members of the Ashley Baptist Church on Saturday, Aug. 19. Every 15 minutes someone took a specific time period for praying.

On Sept. 24, the hand of fellowship was extended to 33 new members, 27 of whom were baptized on Aug. 20 and six were received by letter.

On Oct. 3, the Women's Missionary Society had their annual birthday program. Their theme was "Walking with Jesus." Mrs. Reuben Grueneich, pastor's wife of the Linton Baptist Church, was the guest speaker. Sixteen women from her church also attended. Other guests were the Tabitha Society and friends of the church. About 110 women were in attendance. A program of readings and special musical numbers was given.

On Oct. 5, The Men's Brotherhood had their annual Father-Son Banquet. About 175 men and boys were present. The guest speaker was Harold Michelson of Bismarck, N.D., a state leader in the field of education for 35 years.

On Oct. 10, the Tabitha Society hosted a Missionary Tea. Missionary, Mrs. Lenora Freitag of the Cameroons, was the guest speaker. Ladies from Eureka and Lehr took part in the program. About 150 women were present including guests from Venturia, Fredonia, Leola and Herreid churches. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

**CRYSTAL SPRINGS, N.D.** More than 180 ladies registered for the Women's Retreat at Crystal Springs Camp, Sept. 15-16. Mrs. Albert Reddig of Cathay, N.D., was the moderator. Mrs. Harold Lang, missionary to Cameroon, was the guest speaker. She also showed slides of the work being done.

Discussion groups were held with leaders, Mrs. Gordon Husinga and Mrs. Roger Kennedy. Topics were centered on "Seeking Christ" and "Sharing Christ." A panel also discussed the theme, "Living Christ." (Mrs. Edwin Walter, reporter.)

**PAUL, IDAHO.** The First Baptist Church had three new commitments for baptism in September. They were extended the right hand of fellowship following the Communion service.

We regret to report that Pastor and Mrs. Rauser retired on Oct. 1, but they will continue to serve through evangelistic work. The church had a farewell reception for Pastor and Mrs. Rauser.

Our new pastor, The Rev. and Mrs. Barnet and daughter Jeanie, began their ministry on Nov. 1. (Lavone Tuckness, reporter.)

**DRUMHELLER, ALTA.** On Sunday Aug. 27, 1972, the Zion Baptist Church held a baptismal service in the Parkdale Baptist Church of Drumheller. There were eight candidates. On Sunday, Sept. 3, the hand of the fellowship was extended to five of the eight. The new members are Bruce Llewellyn, Dawn and Joan Bertsch, Lloyd Ziegler and Terry Gieck.

Another highlight of our church has been the returning home of Rev. and Mrs. Art Freitag who have been serving as short term missionaries in Cameroon, Africa. A welcome home service was held on Sept. 3. After a short program Rev. and Mrs. Art Freitag spoke on their missionary work and experiences. (Mrs. Quinton Bertsch, reporter.)

**COLUMBUS, NEB.** The final sessions of the Nebraska Association convened at the Shell Creek Baptist Church, Sept. 15-17. The theme was "A Time for Christian Confidence." The keynote address, "A Confidence Built on God's Word," was delivered by Rev. Carl Weisser. Saturday morning was devoted to a workshop by Mrs. Annette Lane for Gospel Light Publications, and an address, "Confidence in Church Extension," by Rev. Lyle Wacker. Saturday afternoon Rev. Harold Lang presented the work of Hill-

crest School in Jos, Nigeria, with slides from the school in the evening. The youth met with Rev. Milton Zeeb, south central area secretary, who spoke on "Confidence as it Relates to Young People." Rev. Wacker brought the message "Confidence in Church Renewal" on Sunday morning. At the afternoon missionary rally Rev. Lang brought the message, "Confidence in Missions."

The principal item of business concerned the future role of the Nebraska Association in view of the re-naming of the Southwestern Conference to the Southwestern Association, of which Nebraska is a part. A state fellowship will be organized, with a committee appointed to work out the details. (Ruth Effa, reporter.)

**GLADWIN, MICH.** On Sunday, Sept. 17, 1972, the Round Lake Baptist Church had our church supported missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. Norman Haupt and daughters as guests for the day. During the Sunday school hour Cheryl, Anita and Kristin told about their schooling. Mrs. Haupt about home life and Dr. Haupt about his work as an educator. Dr. Haupt also brought the morning and evening messages. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

**DALLAS, TEX.** The Sunday school presented the Promotion Day playlet entitled, "The Right Directions To Get To Heaven," on Aug. 27, written by Mrs. Herman E. Balka. The Primary and Junior Departments used the multimedia method of telling the way of salvation. At the close of the program promotion certificates were presented to those who were advancing to new departments. Mrs. Balka is the Primary Sunday school superintendent and Mrs. Dwight Brown is Junior Sunday school superintendent. (Melvin L. Warkentin, reporter.)

**PHILADELPHIA, PA.** The Pilgrim Baptist Church installed the Rev. David H. Wick (pictured) on Sept.



## OUR CONFERENCE IN ACTION

24, 1972. Mr. Edwin Marklein spoke on behalf of the denomination. He also extended greetings from the Rev. Milton W. Zeeb, our former pastor. A letter was read from the Rev. G. K. Zimmerman, the executive secretary. Mr. Carl Feurig welcomed him on behalf of the church. Mrs. Negley greeted Mrs. Wick on behalf of the women.

Pastor Wick responded with the thought taken from Acts 4:23-32, "The Walls Will Shake" if we witness, pray, praise, show concern and love, then allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us.

The choir sang the anthems, "The Heavens Are Telling" and "Marvelous Are Thy Works" under the leadership of Mr. C. Fred Hofmaier, director.

Sunday evening we have our annual Homecoming Supper.

The climax at the evening service was the organ and piano selections rendered by Mr. Arnold Richter. He also accompanied his father, who was the soloist. Mr. Duncan Stearns was the harpist. (Mrs. William Esenwein, reporter.)

**CAXIAS DO SUL, BRAZIL.** On Sept. 23, representatives from three churches and one congregation met at the First Baptist Church of Caxias do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. These delegates voted unanimously to organize the Northeast Association of Baptist Churches in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. (AIBANE) The newly elected director (pictured), will be led by



its president, missionary Herman Effa. For your missionaries, the organizing of the association is a dream come true. Since the beginnings of our mission in Brazil, our hopes and ideals were to have an association of Baptist churches in the area of our concentrated effort, even though our missionaries are active in the Baptist work of the entire state. The newly organized association consists of three churches and one congregation representing four cities; Caxias do Sul, Farroupilha, Bento Goncalves and Vacaria, with a total of 143 baptized believers. (Herman Effa, reporter.)



## OUR CONFERENCE IN ACTION

**DALLAS, TEX.** Sunday, Sept. 10, a surprise party and pounding was given by North Highlands Baptist Church to Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Brown and family (pictured), who served as interim pas-



tor until the arrival of our newly called pastor, Rev. Melvin L. Warkentin, on Aug. 27. Mr. Brown is still a student at Dallas Theological Seminary, and serving as Youth Minister of our church. He will be graduating from the Seminary in May and will be looking for a pastorate. The service of installation for the Rev. Melvin L. Warkentin as pastor was held Sunday, Oct. 1. In our morning worship service, commitment of the minister and the congregation was officiated by the Rev. Milton Zeeb, south-central area secretary. In the afternoon, welcome and greetings were given by various organizations. Pastor and Mrs. Warkentin have two children, Steve and Rita.



Pictured with Pastor Warkentin and Rev. Zeeb is the Pulpit Committee: Daryl Tyree, William Sehnert and Sid Morrison.

During Explo '72 people were housed in our homes and parsonage. It turned out to be an international week for us with guests and speakers from Brazil, Rev. and Mrs. Dick Rabenhorst; Cameroon, Rev. Samuel Ngum and Rev. Bill Keple; Japan, Mr. Yukio Fuji, and Forest Park office, Dr. R. J. Kerstan. (Mrs. Willie Mai Balka, reporter.)

**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.** The Spirit of God is moving and working in our church in many ways. This has been the testimony of many who found Christ and joined the church. It has also bridged the generation gap. Some time ago, three families of the younger generation arranged a progressive supper for our Senior Citizens Group, more than forty of them. There was a wonderful time of fellowship in the three homes that hosted the older people. Food was tastefully prepared and arranged, and the songs of Zion were sung both in German and English.

In these days of tremendous emphasis on youth let us not forget those who have borne the heat and the burden of the day and are now out of the main stream of life and work. (H. Palfenier, reporter.)

**CALGARY, ALTA.** Evangelistic meetings were held in the Temple Baptist Church with the Rev. and Mrs. Willms from Saskatoon, Sask. The spirit of love and forgiveness toward fellow members became evident es-



pecially when personal testimonies were expressed far into the night. The young people have caught the spirit of witnessing by going into the neighborhood, jails and skidrows. Two baptismal services were already held. (One is pictured.) The Rev. Franz Schmidt is the pastor of the church. (Helen Klippe, reporter.)

**ONAMIA, MINN.** The Minnesota Association of Baptist Men held their 13th Annual Fall Retreat at the ALC Camp at Onamia, Minn. It was the largest group ever with 78 men registered. Doctor Robert Guelich of Bethel Seminary presented a series of messages on the Holy Spirit. We were also blessed to hear from Rev. Jake Leverette and some of his laymen from our new extension church in Apple Valley, Minn. An offering of more than \$600.00 was received to put our group over the top for our year's project of \$600.00 for car expenses for Apple Valley and \$500.00 for the Seminary Scholarship Fund. (John A. Firtko, reporter.)

**BISMARCK, N.D.** "Getting to Know You," was the theme of the Christian Education banquet held in the Bismarck Baptist Church on Sept. 12. Alvin Haas was Master of Ceremonies. The film, "Crossing Point," was shown and a devotional on the theme was given by Pastor Ron Norman. He also presented a number in song including a musical reading from a portion in the Scriptures.

In closing, each person was given a book of matches and asked to create an object lesson with it in whatever way they wished. Several very interesting ideas were shared after which the lights were turned out and each person lit one match as an act of dedication in prayer and self-examination with regard to serving the Lord in the coming year. (Mrs. Arnold Franke, reporter.)

**CHANCELLOR, S.D.** An 80th anniversary observance was held Oct. 1, 1972, by the First Baptist Church. The Rev. Clarence Walth, area secretary, was guest speaker. About 350 members and friends from the South Dakota Association of NAB churches and neighboring churches were present for the afternoon reminiscing service. Several of the oldest members shared with us their memories of the early church history.

First Baptist of Chancellor was organized with 35 charter members July 15, 1892. The original buildings were located northeast of Chancellor until 1923 when the facilities were moved into town. Several remodeling programs were carried out over the years as the congregation grew. The church currently has 225 members and serves about 100 families. The Rev. Dr. C. H. Seecamp has been pastor since 1968. (Roger Harms, reporter.)

**LA CROSSE, WIS.** The Minnesota-La Crosse Association met at the Bible Baptist Church Sept. 8-9. The theme, "Christian Family Relationship," was developed in panels and discussion groups. The morning discussion on "Structuring the Church Program to meet the Needs of Today's Families" was televised and had a great outreach. Participating guests were Rev. Harold Lang, Miss Anita Pankratz, Mrs. Beatrice Pankratz, and Rev. Clarence Walth.

The youth activities were held on Friday evening and at the banquet on Saturday evening, when Rev. Lang spoke on the subject "God Needs You." The testimony and musical talent of Miss Pankratz left a challenge to the young people as well. (Mrs. Peggy Leverette, reporter.)

## In Memoriam

**MRS. ELIZABETH ANWEILER**, 82, of Terrace, B.C., died Sept. 17, 1972. She was born in Romania Sept. 29, 1889. In 1902 she emigrated with her parents to Canada. She accepted Christ as her Savior in childhood and was baptized in her later life, after moving to Terrace, B.C. in 1962. In 1907 she was married to Rudolph Anweiler. She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Emma Gebhart, Mrs. Minnie Mitchell; four sons: John, Ernie, Rudolph, Harold, 24 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, one sister, and five brothers. The Rev. C. Zimbelman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**MRS. BERTHA FORSTER** nee Lach, 79, of Vancouver, B.C., died on Sept. 16, 1972. She was born on Sept. 15, 1893, in Poland. At the age of 10 she accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized. The following year she emigrated to Canada with her parents. In 1914 she was united in marriage to Henry Aebig. After the death of her husband she married Rowland Forster. At the time of her death she was a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Vancouver. Surviving her are two daughters: Mrs. Ruby Schroeder and Mrs. Ruth Schroeder; one stepson, six grandchildren, three brothers and one sister. The Rev. Bruno Voss, pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Morris, Man., was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**MRS. WILHELMINA HILLER**, 88, of South Edmonton, Alta., died on Sept. 22, 1972. She was born in Poland on Sept. 20, 1884. At age seven she emigrated to Canada with her parents. In her youth she accepted Christ as her Savior, was baptized and became a member of the Rabbit Hill Baptist Church. She was married to Frederick Hiller in 1903. Surviving her are her widow; six daughters: Mrs. Alice Kern, Mrs. Frieda Hiller, Mrs. Sally Lehman, Mrs. Irene Benke, Mrs. Sadie Shalin and Mrs. Bernice Schalin; two sons: Harold and Alfred. Dr. E. P. Wahl was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**ALFRED KERN**, 72, of Leduc, Alta., died on Aug. 22, 1972. He was born on Feb. 10, 1900. In his youth he accepted Christ, was baptized and became a member of the First Baptist Church of Leduc. At the time of his death he was a member of the Temple Baptist Church. He was united in marriage to Alice Hunter in 1930. Surviving him are his widow; two sons: Rev. Eugene and Stan; one daughter, missionary Eunice; six grandchildren, three brothers and two sisters. The Rev. Lloyd L. Krieser was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**ALBERT J. LANG**, 75, of Minneapolis, Minn., died on Aug. 16, 1972. He was born in Detroit, Mich. on Jan. 10, 1897. In 1919 he was united in marriage to Hedwig Laskowski. Mr. Lang was a faithful member of Faith Baptist Church in Minneapolis for more than 60 years. He served as a deacon for 27 years, taught Sunday school for many years and held several other offices. Surviving him are sons Albert W. and Rev. Donald G. and daughter Jeannette, 12 grandchildren; two brothers and three sisters. The Rev. Allan Strohschein was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**BENJAMIN LANGE**, 40, of Winnipeg, Man., died accidentally on Oct. 3, 1972. He was born on Aug. 30, 1932, in Poland. In 1948 he emigrated to Canada with his parents. He was converted the same year, baptized, and became a member of the McDermott Ave. Baptist Church. He was united in marriage to Martha Ratfelder. Surviving him are his widow; four sons: Harry, Robert, Ronald and Herbert; his parents, two brothers and two sisters. The Rev. Walter Stein was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**JOHN MILLER**, 77, of Winnipeg, Man., died on Sept. 21, 1972. He was born in Poland on Sept. 4, 1885. In 1919 he was married to Bertha Pohl. They emigrated to Canada in 1927. In Winnipeg he became a member of the McDermott Ave. Baptist Church. He was president and founder of Miller and Sons, Hardware, Ltd. Surviving him are his widow; two sons: Jack and Ephraim; two daughters: Mrs. Margaret McClarty and Mrs. Mildred Steek; fourteen grandchildren, one brother and one sister. The Rev. Walter Stein was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**MRS. MARTHA QUASCHNICK QUENZER**, 72, of Lodi, Calif., died. She was born on July 14, 1901, in Artes, S.D. She received Christ as her Savior at age 21, was baptized and became a member of the Herreid Baptist Church. At the time of her death she was a member of the First

Baptist Church in Lodi. In 1924 she was united in marriage to John Quenzer. Surviving her are two brothers and one sister. The Rev. Willis Potratz was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**RICHARD SCHRENK**, 69, of Ventura, N.D., died on Sept. 15, 1972. He was born in Ventura in 1903. At the age of 23 he was converted, baptized and united with the Ventura Baptist Church. His first wife died after 19 years of marriage. He remarried and is survived by his widow, three daughters, three step-children, three sisters, one brother and 20 grandchildren. The Rev. L. D. Potratz was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**ARTHUR H. SCHULZ SR.**, 92, of Peoria, Ill., died on Sept. 10, 1972. He was born in Fosterburg, Ill., on April 17, 1880. After his conversion and baptism he was a member of the North Sheridan Road Baptist Church for 72 years. He served as soloist, choir director, clerk and deacon for many years. Surviving him are one son, Arthur, two grandchildren and one brother. The Rev. Edwin Michelson was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

**CHRIST J. WOLF**, 72, of Kulm, N.D. died on Sept. 10, 1972, during the Sunday school hours at our church. He was born on March 9, 1901, near Fredonia, N.D. He was married to Rosie Fey in 1925. In 1917 he became a Christian and joined the Berlin Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Rosie; two sons: Marvin and Wilbert; one daughter, Bernice Meidinger; nine grandchildren. The Rev. Arthur J. Fischer was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

This is a correction of an obituary which appeared in the September issue of the BAPTIST HERALD.

**HARRY H. HANHARDT**, 77, of Bison, Kan., died July 19, 1972. He was born near Shaffer Kan., July 19, 1895. Harry was united in marriage to Lydia Gillig Sept. 5, 1918. In 1912 he accepted Christ, was baptized and united with the Baptist church in Bison, where he served in many capacities. He shall be missed by his widow, many relatives and friends. Harry was one of fourteen children; nine preceded him in death. The Rev. E. R. Oster was the officiating minister at the funeral.

### NEWS & VIEWS

(Continued from page 32)

ment was especially significant since it came "from a community of Chris-

tians who live and work in the Holy Land."

Rabbi Bernards added that the Israel Baptist statement "reflects a concern which grows out of the daily life of meeting in the land hallowed by Jew and Christian alike."

In late August, Southern Baptist missionaries in Israel released the text the Baptist Convention in Israel had adopted last May, but had not released pending its ratification by Baptist churches, institutions and officials.

Baptists in Israel adopted what some consider to be the strongest Baptist statement yet on anti-Semitism.

The resolution deplored the "incomparable suffering of the Jewish people" in history and modern times, acknowledging that such persecution of Jews often took place in so-called "Christian countries."

The resolution further denounced anti-Semitism as "a sin against Christ, . . . and a sin against the Jewish people . . . and as a denial of the spirit and teaching of Jesus."

Though the resolution pointed out that Baptists have always championed those who endure religious discrimination, "this is not to excuse many Baptists and other Christians for their silence when six million Jews perished in Nazi lands under Hitler. "Baptists in the future," the resolution continued, "should resolve to accept responsibility for the welfare of those who suffer if they are to teach and proclaim responsibility." □



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# NEWS & VIEWS

## RUSSIA CALLS FOR NEW DRIVE AGAINST RELIGION

In a front-page article, the Soviet newspaper, "Pravda," calls for a new drive against religion and accuses some Communist party members and officials of attending religious services. This practice must be "combated," it declares.

The article calls for a vigorous attitude to stamp out all religion, which it describes as "one of the tenacious survivals of the past" and an intolerable obstacle in the path of the atheistic Marxist society.

It adds that a more militant attitude toward religion is needed in Russia, and that atheistic education of young people must be increased.

The article says that every Communist must be a militant atheist and that the party will not tolerate members attending religious services.

Commentators see in the article and its publication an admission that Soviet authorities are troubled by the continuing vigor of religious faith in the USSR and the increasing number of officials and party members who have been attending services, taking their children to church for baptism and generally showing a revived interest in religion. □

## LARGE UNDERGROUND CHURCH SAID TO BE IN CHINA

A former missionary for the Baptist Missionary Society, William Upchurch, estimates there may be two million secret Christians in China today, "persuing their faithful witness in an unobstructive way and belonging to a non-institutional underground church." Upchurch's evaluation of the religious situation in China was reported in the "Baptist Times," weekly newspaper published in London.

The former missionary said that no formal church organizations exist in China today. The churches remain closed, but the buildings have not been destroyed.

No one can be sure, he said, of the exact number of Christians in China today, but 700,000 Protestant Christians and a million Catholics were reported before the institutional church was driven underground. There also are some strong indigenous Christian groups believed to continue, including a "Jesus Family" modeled after the communistic practice of New Testament

Christians. "Freedom of belief remains," Upchurch said, "but freedom of propaganda is not allowed. China today is determined to be ruthlessly and puritanically patriotic, and Christianity is seen as something western."

He added: "We know that Christian broadcasts to China are listened to by Chinese Christians." □

## BURUNDI SITUATION CALLED "STAGGERING"

"The proportions of the human tragedy which the people of Burundi are experiencing are staggering." This is the conclusion of a three-man mission sent by the United Nations in late June to investigate Burundi's humanitarian needs in the wake of the recent intertribal massacres that have taken tens of thousands of lives in that small central African country," reports the "Christian Science Monitor," a daily newspaper published in the United States by Christian Scientists. The report appeared in its issue of August 3, 1972.

The "Monitor" says that the mission was told that "500,000 persons, including 50,000 widows and tens of thousands of orphans, are experiencing great suffering and are in need of humanitarian assistance." In addition, 40,000 Burundis have sought refuge from the killings in neighboring countries and are in need of care.

"The three UN representatives visited one of the worst hit provinces, in southwest Burundi, where they saw widespread devastation to schools and medical centers, and other public buildings burned down," according to the "Monitor." □

## JEWISH ORGANIZATION COMMENDS ISRAEL BAPTISTS FOR RESOLUTION

NEW YORK (BP) — A resolution adopted by the Baptist Convention of Israel, denouncing anti-Semitism as "a sin against Christ," has drawn praise from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The Jewish organization here issued a statement commending the Baptist group for denouncing the concept of "Christian rejection of Jews as being accursed by God and as deserving of suffering because Jews chose to remain loyal to Judaism and their Jewish heritage."

Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League interreligious cooperation department, said that the Baptist state-

(Continued on page 31)



by Paul Siewert

The other day I tried to count up all the new Bible translations that have come on the market in the last decade. The number amazed me. What increased my amazement was the fact that several more are right now in the hopper for future publication.

I have always been grateful for the hours spent by sincere scholars in the production of new Bible translations to keep abreast with the changing vernacular of today. And I have gratefully used these translations for many years. But in the last few months my glee has been flirting with scepticism.

Are these scholars really so genuinely motivated by a spirit of devotion in the production of a more viable translation? If so, why don't we spend more energy producing translations in languages where there is no Bible at all? And why are the publishing houses so excited about new translations? Is it because of their burning desire to see more lives transformed by the Living Word? Or is it because every new translation brings a new clang to the cash register?

How terrible of me to even entertain such impish thoughts! But confession is good for the soul. And I confess, I am rather suspicious that many new Bible translations are produced for the harvest — not the harvest of souls, but money! □

The Rev. Paul Siewert is the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C. In this column Mr. Siewert analyzes current religious news of his choice.

■ The Rev. Dieter Gohl is the new pastor of the Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church, Saskatoon, Sask. He began his ministry in Saskatoon on November 19. He previously served the Oak Bank Baptist Church, Oak Bank, Manitoba.

■ The Rev. Orville H. Meth took the office of Chaplain and Assistant to the Administrator of the Baptist Home, Bismarck, N.D., effective November 19. He previously served the First Baptist Church, Elgin, Iowa.

■ The Rev. John Reimer is serving the Immanuel Baptist Church, Woodside, N.Y., as interim pastor. He previously was the pastor of the East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.

■ The Rev. Kurt Redschlag has accepted the call to become the pastor of the Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alta., effective Jan. 1, 1973. He previously served the Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, Manitoba.

■ Mrs. Herbert Hiller, East Detroit, Mich., has been elected Secretary of the North American Baptist Women's Union, which convened in Toronto, Ont., October 17-19. The NABWU is the continental arm of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance.

■ The Lincoln Village Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif., suffered an estimated \$10,000 worth of damage to the educational building. Arson is sus-

pected. The Rev. Herbert Schauer is the pastor of this church.

■ The Rev. Eleon L. Sandau, pastor of the Mowata Baptist Church, Branch, La., since 1964, presented his resignation to be effective Feb. 1, 1973. He will not be available for a call from another church for about one year since he and his family will be involved in studies at Alexandria, La., where they will be residing.

■ Miss Cleo Enockson, who served with God's Volunteers in 1971-72, is the new Director of Home Ministries of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, Illinois.

■ Miss Marsha Worden is the new Director of Children's Ministry of the First Baptist Church, Lodi, Calif. She began her ministry on Aug. 6, 1972.

■ The Church by the Highway (Germanatown), Cathay, N.D., which was organized in 1884, disbanded on Sept. 24, 1972.

■ The Rev. Clyde N. Zimbelman is the pastor of the Zion Baptist Church, Terrace, B.C. He previously served as assistant pastor at the Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

■ The Rev. Donald Richter, assistant general secretary and director of adult ministry in the Department of Christian Education, submitted his resignation, effective Dec. 31, 1972. He will become the pastor of the McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alta.

■ The Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance is planning a worldwide meeting for men and their wives in Jerusalem in November of 1973. A special low cost tour is being planned in cooperation with Wholesale Tours International. Watch the future issues of the Baptist Herald for further information.

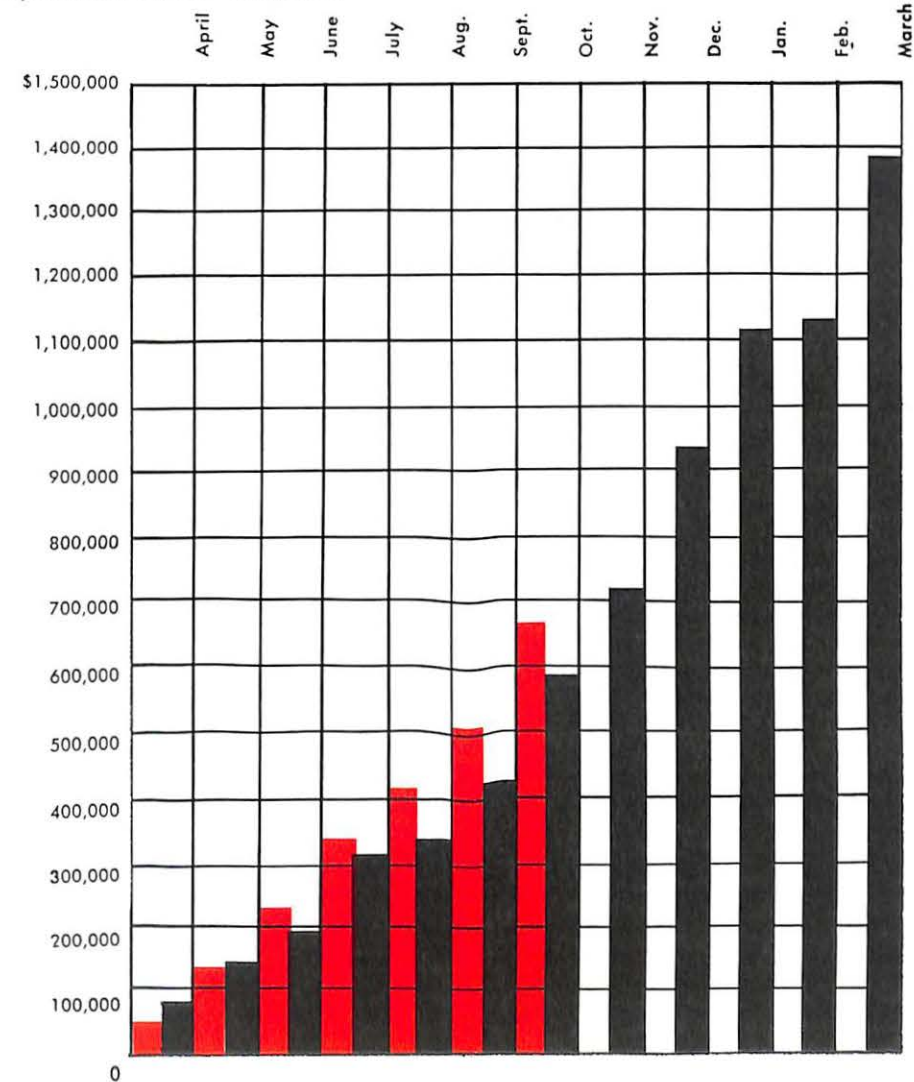
■ Miss Ida Forsch, missionary at Baptist Teacher Training College, Great Soppo, Cameroon, came home on November 6, to receive medical treatment for her heart condition. She will be staying in Minneapolis, Minn., where Dr. Peter E. Fehr is her medical consultant.

■ The Rev. Jim Green has been called to serve the Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, Calif., as full-time pastor, effective November 5. In 1971 he began to serve this church as assistant to the pastor and then as interim pastor.

■ Mr. Wes Andrie began his ministry as pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, Sask., on October 15.

## OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD/NAB BASIC MISSION PROGRAM

Total for seven months Goal for 1972-73 \$1,555,000  
 April-October 1972-73 — \$663,018.25  
 April-October 1971-72 — \$585,638.53



Color line for 1972-73; Black line for 1970-71



## EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT



### CHRISTMAS — THE SEASON OF LIGHT

When children's eyes glisten at the sight of Christmas trees in public squares and even more so in front of the family tree, few people think of the fact that this pleasant Yuletide custom is by no means as old as the Christian faith. In the United States of America and in Canada it has been known for less than a century, and even in Europe only for the last few centuries.

It has now become a general habit in many countries to put up huge Christmas trees in public squares, railroad stations and in other centrally located places, often accompanied by a charity collection for the poor who have little or no expectation of a Christmas gift.

At the turn of the century the magnificent if snobbish Christmas dinners of the Lafayette Hotel in New York were famous all over the world. Every twig of the tree was adorned with nuggets from the Klondyke gold mines, and 20-dollar gold coins formed a chain at the base of the tree. One tree at this hotel was thought to be the most expensive in the world; its adornment was estimated at 150,000 dollars.

Yet there is a country today where the loneliest Christmas trees of the world are found, with no smell of almonds, no glitter, no candles on them, and no laughter of children around them. No trumpets are sounded here from medieval church steeples to an-

nounce the birth of the Savior. Yet all the sacredness of the true Christmas spirit surrounds these lonely trees.

They are found in Germany, where West Germans put them up along the border separating the two parts of Germany. On my recent visit to Germany I traveled also through East Germany and spent a full day in East Berlin. As I was crossing the border I suddenly realized that this border was really no frontier at all but rather an artificially created demarcation line guarded by mortal weapons in a way unrivaled by any true frontier.

The Christmas trees tower above barbed wire fences and hidden landmines. With hundreds of lights they shine across the border, across rivers and hills to the Germans who live on the other side, a side which has suppressed jubilant Christmas observances and which looks with suspicion on all old and especially young people whom they see attend church services. The West Germans therefore send their salute of solidarity, love and understanding across the border and even across the Berlin Wall to their friends and relatives who are not allowed to rejoice and celebrate, except in the privacy of families.

But there is an even deeper meaning to the bright shining Christmas trees all over the world. During this season of lights, Christians direct their thoughts to a field near Bethlehem and a group of shepherds guarding their sheep. There, as the shades of night were closing in, suddenly came a blaze of glory. A shining angelic messenger appeared and a glaring radiance illuminated the heavens, shedding ethereal brightness round about the shepherds. So spectacular and awesome was the scene that the men were paralyzed with fear until they heard the comforting announcement by the angel: "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

It was a night of wonder; it was a night of light. May the 1972 Christmas season lead us anew to marvel at the wonder of God becoming man; and may the lights at our Christmas trees make us think of the One who came into the world as the "bright morning star" proclaiming, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**A bright and merry Christmas!** Reinhold J. Kerstan



## OPEN DIALOGUE

letters to the editor

Dear editor: I wish to encourage you to publish more articles such as the Bible studies by Dr. Breikreuz and Dr. Brauch. These men will no doubt be criticized by the more conservative elements of our denomination, but their scholarship and truly prophetic courage is welcomed by others as a healthy breath of fresh air. Harvey Hiller, Hinton, Alberta

## CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

an ideal  
CHRISTMAS VACATION

for  
Teachers, Sunday School teachers,  
Bible Readers



see the HOLY LAND  
get 1000 ANSWERS

*You have heard and read about Palestine since you were a child, now you can see it at lowest cost ever.*

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and Rome

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Winnipeg  
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1  
(Israel & Rome)

# A CARPENTER BUILD'S HIS CHURCH

by Ronald E. Mayforth

This sermon was delivered at the dedication of the new sanctuary of the Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, Alta.

1 Peter 2:1-10; Matthew 16:16, 18.

There once was a humble carpenter from a small town of Nazareth who told some friends one day that he was going to build a church.

No doubt there were those who scoffed at this craftsman, just as there had been those who mocked Noah when he began to build his floatable zoo . . . "This carpenter has only built chairs and yokes, and now he thinks he can build a church. He doesn't even have his papers from the Jerusalem Institute of Technology."

"Where will you build your church?" they jeered. He calmly but confidently replied, "All over the whole world."

They laughed in amazement. Much more to their amazement the carpenter began to do just that — on hill-sides, in deserts, in crowded market places, on beautiful seashores, in cemeteries, at weddings, in court rooms and upper rooms, in gardens, by a meandering river, in temple and synagogue, on sunset paths, at dining room tables, in secret rooms and large banquets — the carpenter began to build his church.

As a foundation he chose one immense, unchangeable, unbreakable solid rock . . . His own divine person — the unalterable and unmistakable fact that he was the Son of the living God. To demonstrate the worthiness of his choice, he taught like never a man had taught, he lived a perfectly sinless life, he fulfilled several hundred prophecies foretold hundreds of years before, he healed the sick, raised the dead, cured the demon-possessed, calmed the sea and forgave sins.

Critics then and of all seasons have hammered away at the foundation hoping to shake, crack and crumble it. It stands the same today as it did then. Moreover, wherever his followers go who give witness to who he is, what he has done, and what he is doing, his church is expanded.

For beams he chose just two — one reached up to God — the other reached out to men. He paid top price for those beams and just a few nails. . . . He gave all he had to buy them. He had to drag them to the building site himself. Again the critics sneered — "He's finished now — that crossbeam won't support anything." Thousands of years later that simple crossbeam has won even more attention in art, literature, music, philosophy, personal devotion, sacrifice and adoration. It goes on towering over the wrecks of time as a universal citadel of forgiveness and love.

For a foyer he used an empty cave with the stone victoriously rolled to one side. Again the critics mocked,

*The Rev. Ronald E. Mayforth is the pastor of the Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, Alta.*

"He'll never come out of there alive. The builder is finished." But "Death could not keep him prey, Jesus my Saviour. He rolled the stone away . . ."

For building blocks, he used the strangest and most unlikely assortment of materials. From the rubble piles of life he picked up his stones — some small, large, colorful, ordinary, strong, weak, ornate, simple, square, round, jagged, smooth — all of them had one common problem: their center was inadequate. He got right to the heart of the problem, cleaned out the old and inserted a new core. He anchored them to the foundation with trust; he mortared them to each other with the cement of love and a common purpose.

The self-appointed inspectors said it would never stand up. For years they have huffed, and puffed, even Hell's best huffers and puffers, but his building still stands. Much to their amazement, the stones seem to get stronger, larger and more beautiful as the years go by. For the first time in history, stones seem to be growing. They seem to help each other grow. Despite all of their predictions of gloom and doom, more stones are added from every corner of the earth, every year. With deeds of love, words of life in teaching, preaching and witnessing, he goes on building 2000 years later.

His church is well lighted and warm. For in the center of it, he planted an eternal flame, the Holy Spirit. This makes it easy to see truth and experience love, as long as no one tries to cover the flame.

He needs no choir or organ, for the stones seem to cry out their Hosannas.

All of Hell's angels have tried to stop construction and have failed. The humble carpenter builds on — He invites you to be one of his stones, set and fastened to the Rock, alive, growing, Christ-like, mortared to like stones by love, witness and worship.

- More and more his church becomes
- a lighthouse to lost and drifting;
- a hospital to infected and afflicted souls;
- a home for adopted children;
- a training hall for Christian soldiers;
- a rehabilitation center for those who need Christ in their lives;
- a school where everyone is asked to major in the will of God.

He invites you to a great banquet when his church will be perfectly completed and dedicated to a glorious eternity.

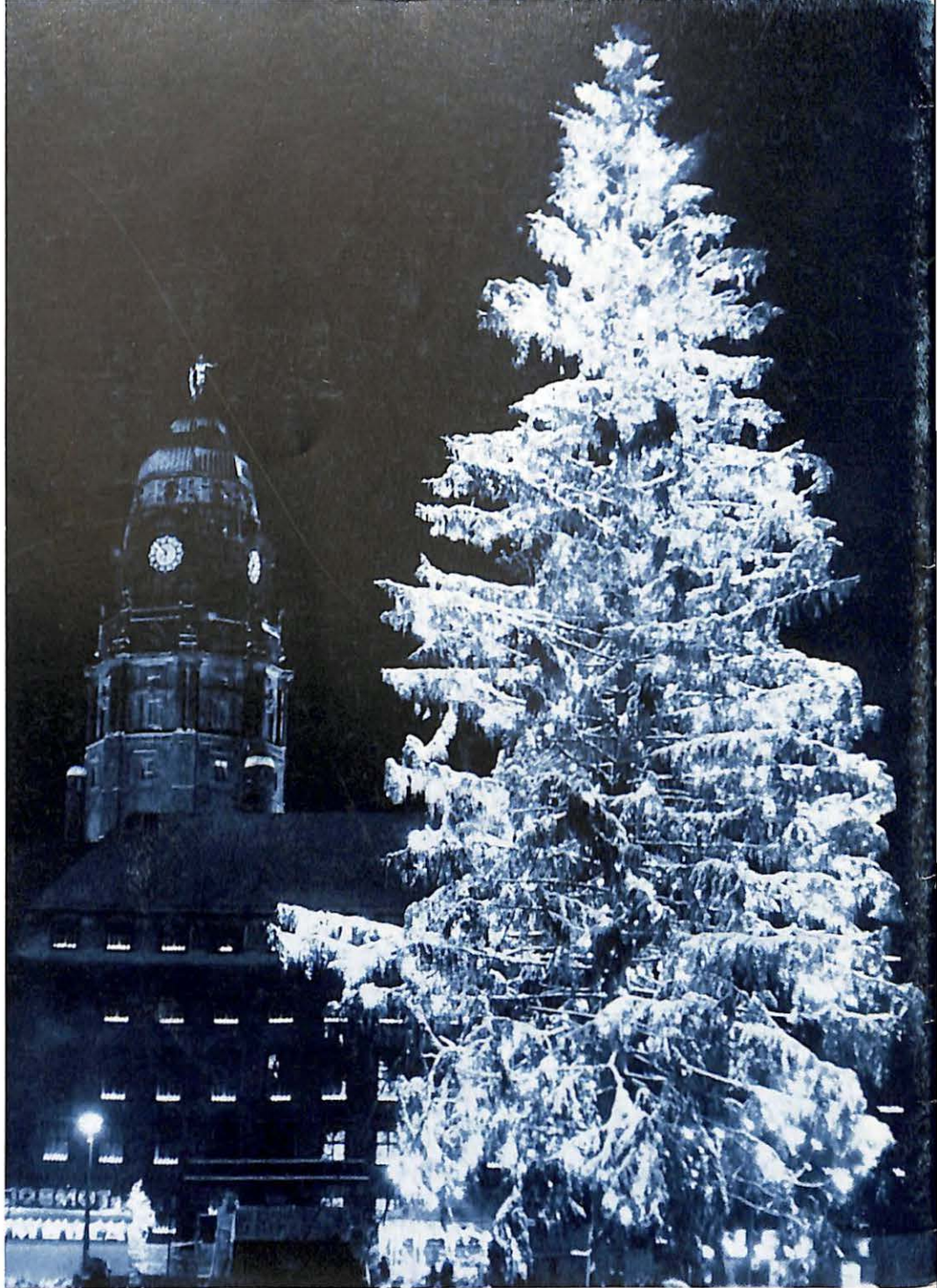
Come only if you are willing to grow under the carpenter's wise direction and willing to show to whom you belong. □



**M**

ay you be blessed with much joy this Christmas season as you reflect on God's great gift of his son. You have been privileged to know the love of God through Christ. Others have prayed, given and some even sacrificed so that you had an opportunity to receive salvation in Christ. But there are multitudes who have not experienced God's saving love and power. What will you give to the cause of Christ through the North American Baptist General Conference this Christmas so that others may have this joy in Christ? Special offerings may be given through your local church or directly to the conference office in Forest Park, Illinois. If you share what God has given to you, he will multiply your joy.

The staff of the Forest Park office of the North American Baptist General Conference wishes you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.



## **Baptist Herald**

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