

December 1976

baptist herald



TABLE 1 - TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO SIZE OF CHURCH

(Includes basic cash salary, housing allowance and rental value of parsonage if provided, retirement and insurance benefits, social security benefits, medical and hospitalization premiums, gifts and car allowance.)

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1976 Average	1974 Average	1971 Average
0-99	80	\$17,445	\$ 6,100	\$11,841	\$ 9,615	\$ 7,616
100-199	75	25,600	8,245	13,591	10,604	8,887
200-299	36	28,070	10,650	15,351	12,614	10,256
300-399	16	24,590	13,125	17,324	13,950	12,198
400-499	6	21,624	14,575	18,594	13,764	13,382
500 & up	12	23,770	16,205	19,998	17,832	14,830
Asst & DCE	33	18,238	8,880	13,045	10,417	8,982
258*				\$15,678	\$12,656	\$10,878
Total Responses		----- Average for all -----				

* 12 additional forms were returned invalid and 4 forms indicating part-time service.

TABLE 2 - TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES

(Pastors, Assistants and D.C.E.'s)

ITEMS - 1976 Survey	No. of Responses	Average per Category
1. Basic cash salary	258	\$ 8,994.00
2. Total Housing Allowance	128	2,496.00
3. Estimated annual rental value of parsonage	186	2,601.00
4. Retirement and Insurance benefits	149	448.00
5. Social Security provisions	66	505.00
6. Medical and hospitalization premiums	117	701.00
7. Gifts from members	42	311.00
8. Car allowance	167	1,483.00
9. Additional compensation by church	44	453.00

TABLE 3 - BASIC CASH SALARY

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1976 Average	1974 Average	1971 Average
0-99	80	\$11,237	\$ 3,564	\$ 7,404	\$ 6,132	\$ 5,497
100-199	75	14,000	4,000	8,744	6,853	6,363
200-299	36	14,000	5,250	9,642	8,369	7,132
300-399	16	17,000	6,850	11,738	9,104	8,183
400-499	6	14,500	9,136	11,550	9,252	8,907
500 & up	12	15,865	8,024	11,601	11,149	11,079
Assist & DCE	33	13,500	3,554	8,792	7,413	7,330
258				\$ 9,924	\$ 8,325	\$ 7,784
		----- Average for all -----				

TABLE 4 - MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ITEMS - 1976 Survey	No. of Responses	Amount
1. Average annual fees from weddings, funerals, etc.	183	\$ 113
2. Average annual honoraria received outside church	69	160
3. Average estimated annual car expense	220	1,883
4. Number receiving an expense account	29	
5. Frequency of salary increases in last two years	None	15
	Once	51
	Twice	146
	Three Times	6
	Four Times	1
6. Number of pastors depending on other income to take care of family needs		114
7. Number of pastors' wives working		74

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ARLINGTON, Va.—More than 50 representatives of seven North American Baptist denominations heard reports of continued growth in both membership numbers and stewardship response when they gathered here for annual meetings of the general committee of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF).

They also heard, however, expressions of concern on three developments that might hamper the growth pattern.

Carl W. Tiller, secretary of the NABF and an associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, viewed as divisive threats "the increasing pull that non-denominational organizations have upon our people and their purses," the growth of the charismatic movement, and the appeal of the "Unification Church" to young people.

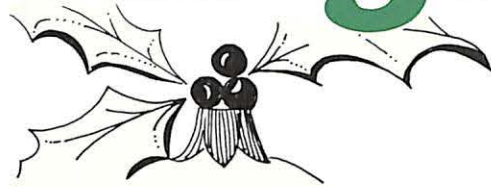
Many Baptist people, Tiller reported, are responding to "the expensive advertising and promotional efforts" of faith missions, famine relief organizations and disaster relief bodies, "seemingly unaware that our own Baptist denominational bodies are doing an effective work toward accomplishing the same objectives."

Tiller said that the neo-Pentecostal or charismatic movement "often unites its adherents across denominational lines and often divides people in the local church." The Unification Church, he said, appeals to youth "with its high powered promotion, 'surface' statements that closely resemble the sayings of Jesus, and its hidden bundle of false doctrines that are taught the unsuspecting."

Some of these same concerns were reflected by Archibald Goldie of the Baptist Federation of Canada, reporting on a group conference by mission administrators. He urged increased communication and promotion of

(Continued on page 31)

"The Gift of Uncle Gabe"



by Joye White

Jenny Nimble looked out her back door at the ominous puffs of black which snaked across the evening sky. Even the thought of a pre-Christmas snow did little to assuage the bleakness of her thoughts. All her mind could conceive of at that moment was that December 23rd was retreating into the nighttime dusk, and still there was no answer, no miracle to help her. Surely God must see that a miracle was needed.

It had been a disastrous year for her husband Jeremy's farming attempts. She smiled ruefully at the word "attempt," for that was truly all it had been. Despite long hours perched upon the seat of his ancient Farmall, her rugged tenant farmer husband had seen little results. Drought came and the precious seeds lay parched in the dust. With the aid of Polly, her twelve-year-old daughter, and her son Jack who was four years younger, Jenny had carried water to her vegetable garden, saving as much produce as possible for canning. Along with the meat from the fall butchering, the family could survive the winter.

But what about Christmas? There was simply no money for expensive gifts for her hard-working family, and she wanted so much to bring joy to her deserving loved ones. It was through this desire and the sermons of a radio preacher that she often listened to, that Jenny Nimble had first decided to ask God for a miracle. She had never been an overtly religious person, but she was familiar with the Scriptures and their message. Her Bible and the airwave minister both exhorted her to believe "with God all things are possible." So she was putting this principle to the test by praying that God would give her family the ingredients for a joyous Christmas. But as of yet, she could see no signs of any miracle.

Jenny's thoughts were interrupted by the sound of Jack and Polly's gay banter as they stepped through the gate at the rear of the yard carrying the sawed-off trunk of a husky cedar tree between them. With an axe slung easily across his shoulder, Jeremy walked behind, holding up the top of the tree.

As the tree was brought ceremoniously into the house, Jenny forced her spirits to match those of her family. Through the evening hours she worked busily popping, stringing and dying popcorn to accompany a few chipped ornaments draped lovingly upon the sweet-scented tree branches.

Joye L. White is a free lance writer from Hamersville, Ohio.

She hadn't been surprised when Uncle Gabe had refused to join her family in the tree-trimming festivities. Actually, the old man was not a relative of hers or Jeremy's, but rather, the uncle of their landlord who lived several states away. Since his arrival that October, Uncle Gabe's life had remained a mystery. She knew only that he spoke broken English and that he had no one but his nephew to care for him. While watching his feeble movements she had guessed that he must be quite elderly, but his harsh features betrayed little else about him. Under the circumstances it would seem that the stony-faced old man would want to be close to a family. However, he seemed to enjoy his remote hideaway and to be content left alone. Being without a grandfather, Polly and Jack were naturally disappointed by such a distant attitude. To Jenny the unfriendly old man represented only another burden, and right now she had more important concerns.

The dawn of Christmas Eve brought forth all that had been promised in the dark clouds of the night before. Thick layers of white snow lay sparkling in the morning sunshine. Jenny's heart was gladdened at the sight of the old farm hidden beneath the downy whiteness. The thought occurred to her that snow seemed to equalize everyone's view. The scene before her eyes was as spectacular as any rich man's in the village.

After stoking the potbellied monster in the front room and refueling it, Jenny began to plan out her day's activities. There was much cleaning and baking to be done for the morrow. Jeremy and the children would be busy most of the day with woodchopping and barnyard chores. As she worked, Jenny prayed, pleading with God to work a miracle and in some mysterious way to bring joy rather than disappointment to her family this Christmas. Jeremy deserved much better than the simple socks and sweater she had knitted him, but it was Polly and Jack who concerned her most. How disappointed they would be to find the few items she had been able to make or buy second-hand for them. So little to give such fine children!

As the unpleasant thoughts came to her mind, Jenny found herself praying harder and working more vigorously. Once during the long afternoon she became aware that she was kneading bread dough with great force as though she could will it to do her bidding.

As evening settled upon the house, depression and doubt began to settle upon Jenny. Stark reality began to

stare at her from every corner of the time-scarred house. Inside her mind it was as if a voice shouted to her to wake up. "Stop being a fool!" it screamed. "Miracles don't happen to ordinary people like you. You're being as foolish as a kid believing in Santa Claus!"

This type of reasoning finally won out. Jenny's faith was not strong enough for such a battering, and she conceded the battle. "It's true," she thought forlornly. "Gifts aren't going to materialize from out of the sky. God doesn't have time for such small human requests. I'm just going to have to face up to facts."

After the family returned from the barn and supper was eaten, each one sat doing things that he enjoyed. As usual, Polly sat tucked into a corner of the worn sofa, reading a book. Jack was putting together another airplane model while Jeremy scanned the paper. Jenny sat silently sipping coffee and staring bleakly at her family. They seemed content enough, but somehow she felt that she had let them down. As she sat wallowing in her sad thoughts, the thought of Uncle Gabe's Christmas came to her, and she felt ashamed. Even though the old man preferred to be alone, there was no reason she should totally ignore him. There wasn't much more she could do for her own family, but maybe she could help brighten up the holiday for Uncle Gabe.

With this thought in mind, Jenny began preparing a Christmas package full of good food and cookies and candy. When she had finished, she attached a bright bow to the top and sent Jack on his way to the cottage with her gift. In a short time, he returned from his mission, and Jenny settled down with her family, suddenly feeling at peace in spite of everything.

The last shreds of daylight had surrendered to a coal-colored sky when the tap sounded on the back door. Since no one ever knocked at that door, each of the Nimblys jumped up to see whom it might be. When the door was opened, there stood Uncle Gabe looking like a homely Santa Claus. He extended his right arm, and in his hand was a quart jar filled with a dark wine. A tiny dilapidated ribbon was tied around the top.

"Meery Kristmus!" the garbled, gravely old voice warbled. "I have since the old country," he added pointing to the jar.

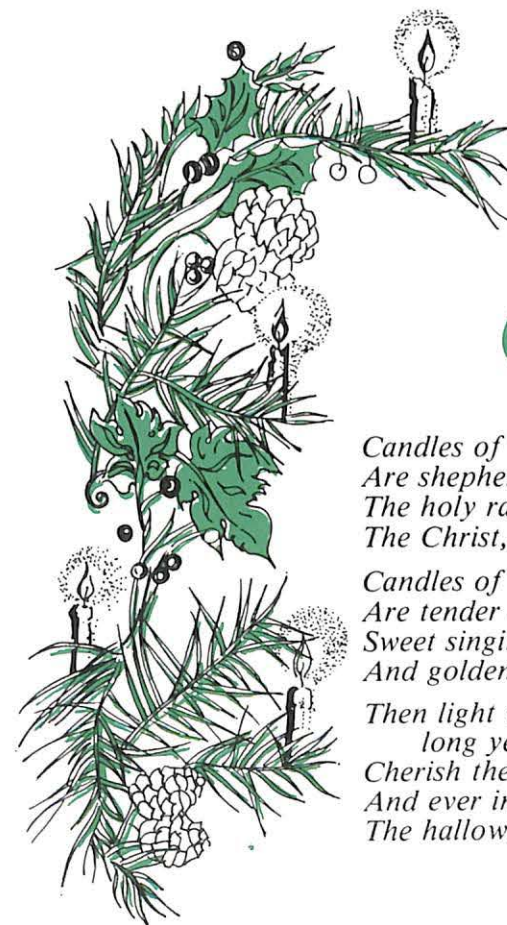
Jenny Nimble suddenly felt a compassion that she had never known before. Her heart was touched by an image of the peculiar old man searching through his tiny abode for an appropriate gift for her family—a gift to show his friendship. She knew that to him, the wine had been a valued possession.

After being thanked profoundly, Uncle Gabe smiled, then turned and began to plod in the direction of his cabin. But before he could go, Jenny found herself pleading with him to stay awhile, and oddly enough, he accepted.

Before the evening was over, the old man had regaled the family with stories of his past. He had led an exciting life in pre-Nazi Poland as a daring, wealthy young man with a passion for aircraft. In spite of all the tragedy that had taken place in his life after Hitler's invasion, Uncle Gabe clearly enjoyed recounting his youthful adventures to his enraptured audience.

Upon leaving that Christmas Eve, Uncle Gabe promised to return the next afternoon. He would help Jack

(Continued on page 31)



Candles of Christmas

*Candles of Christmas! Deep in their warming light
Are shepherds' fires, a guiding star at night,
The holy radiance of a Baby's birth—
The Christ, who brought the light of God to earth.*

*Candles of love—in every reaching flame
Are tender hands outstretched in Jesus' name,
Sweet singing warmth that heart with heart may share
And golden calm of deep unselfish prayer.*

*Then light the candles of Christmas . . . through
long years
Cherish the beauty that gives rise to tears,
And ever in the heart, though flames have died,
The hallowed glow of candles will abide.*

Marjorie W. Brachlow



We're Looking for People Who Want to Lead

HOW I KNEW THE MINISTRY WAS FOR ME

by David A. Samf

"Delight thyself in the Lord and he will give you the desire of your heart" Psalm 37:5.

Is this verse really true? Can I place my whole career on what God says? Certainly, you say, no one would ever think to question the reliability of God's Word or his ability to fulfill his promises. But yet we ask, why am I so unhappy and uncertain about my chosen profession? This attitude is experienced by those just beginning in a career and those who have been involved in one for several years. Could the reason be that we really don't know "the desires of our heart"? Oh, you say, "I had all those psychological, aptitude, career revealing examinations and I even received input from my career counselors, family and friends. But it is still true, you may not know, "the desires of your heart." During my high school years I would dream of a job that would



Chaplain David Samf with his wife Carolyn and his children Brian, Gary, Carla, and Kevin.

allow travel, use of a company car, expense account and all the other desired fringe benefits. After graduating from college, I sent out 100 inquiries for employment, which resulted in several interviews, and then I selected the company and position that I thought was "the desire of my heart." Now I knew the verse in Psalm 37:5 was correct and reliable. However it was not long until I realized dissatisfaction, unhappiness and purposelessness.

Throughout Scripture we are reminded that all the promises of Gods' are ours, but that they also consist of two parts: Gods' and ours. He will do his part and we must also do ours. "Delight yourself in the Lord . . ." When we experience total commitment of time, talent and treasure and enjoy abundant life from Christ, then things begin to happen. We take our faith out of the category of "thou shalt" and religious legalism, in other words, get excited about this LIFE, then Christ will give you what you really desire. Total commitment brought into sharp focus makes clear the real desires of my life. What I wanted to do was not the position and career I was at that time involved in, but rather, total commitment brought with it a desire for the ministry that I had lightly expressed eight years previously.

How did I know the ministry was for me? ". . . he will give you the (real) desires of your heart." My delight in him, plus his promise to give our desires, coupled with my God-given personal abilities, then surrounded by the support, encouragement and love of a super wife and family—I could not miss.

During the past eight years as a USAF Chaplain, each day has been a fulfilling of the promise and truth of Psalm 37:5. You ask, "Any discouragements?"— "Yes, a few"—"Disillusions?"—"Now and then"— "Excitement, satisfaction, meaning, purpose, accomplishment and victory?"—"Yes, just about all the time." So when I put it all together, I KNOW the ministry is for me. □

Christmas is the best time for sharing. A German born Canadian school teacher reflects on what it was like to receive a CARE package and how to "care" today.

CARE PACKAGES WITH LOVE

by Helga Kahler

Shortly after World War II ended, many German people became recipients of CARE packages, or at least part of the parcel content. Those packages brought much joy to those in need, and despaired people sensed the love and concern of the senders.

Occasionally, an article was sent with the sender's name and address. Then, during the period of intense immigration to North America, some of those recipients of gifts met their gracious givers on this continent.

Let me share something of my early childhood. In 1948 my two brothers and I lived in a Christian orphanage with approximately forty other children. All of us had lost either our parents or our mother, or had been separated from the parents without knowing their whereabouts. Excitement accelerated when anyone expected a visitor. Everyone shared in the joy. The extreme excitement took place on days when we heard:

Miss Helga Kahler is a member of Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Americans are coming for a visit! Those Americans were complete strangers to us—certainly not our previous enemies, as we were too young to comprehend the intricacies of armed forces—but we knew these Americans would be bringing boxes of goodies. Oh, not necessarily candies, but useful clothing or items of food to enrich our meals. Occasionally, the older children responded by making handicrafts in appreciation for the gifts of love. Once, the older girls knitted doilies while the younger girls read out the patterns to speed up the knitting process. The great majority of those former boys and girls are now actively engaged in their respective churches in Germany, and one girl became a missionary nurse in Tanzania.

That happened many years ago. What kinds of "CARE" packages with love are you or are we sending now?

In 1974 the Rowandale Baptist Church and the other N.A.B. German-speaking churches of Winnipeg, Canada, began sending very unique packages of love during the months of May through October. The German government has an agreement with the Canadian government within the NATO guidelines to send artillery and tank troops for a three-weeks' training period in Manitoba, about 120 miles west of Winnipeg. About forty servicemen were invited to N.A.B. families for one week-end of their stay here. In sharing the homes, the cars for rides to resort areas and to Sunday services, these men, very often for the first time in their lives, come in contact with believers in Christ. As Christian love is shared, these men begin to break the barriers that exist between the German state churches and the evangelical churches, which in Germany are considered sects. God's Word is shared with many men, and God will continue to use that seed according to his plan. Beginning with 1976, churches from other denominations participated in this ministry, so that eighty men could be invited every three weeks.

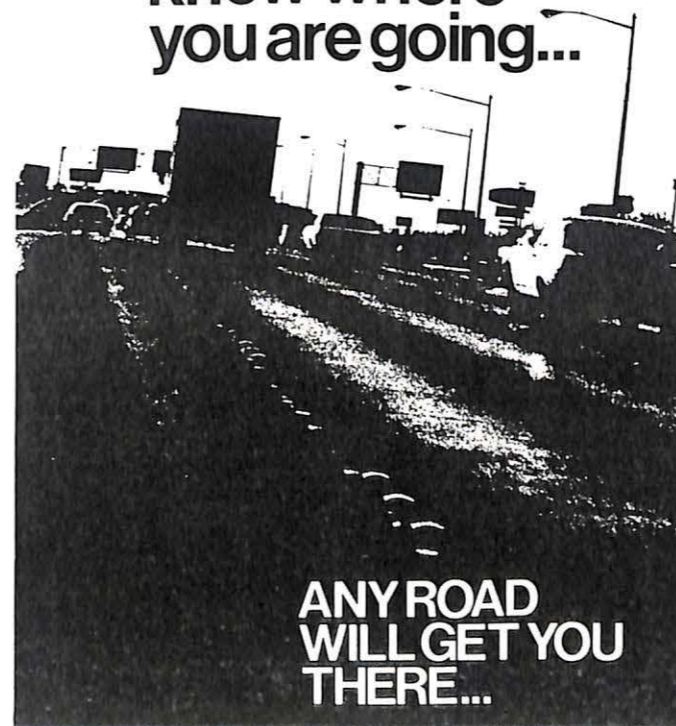
Christian love and CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere) can serve in many dimensions everywhere.

And THANK YOU to you for your part in sending CARE packages with love for our family, when we needed it most. □

Heavy Thinking

© COPYRIGHT 1975 RICHARD GORSUCH

If you don't know where you are going...



ANY ROAD WILL GET YOU THERE...

SUPPOSE

Suppose that Christ had not been born
That far away Judean morn.
Suppose that God, Whose mighty hand
Created worlds, had never planned
A way for man to be redeemed.
Suppose the wise-men only dreamed
That guiding star whose light still glows
Down through the centuries. Suppose
Christ never walked here in men's sight,
Our blessed Way, and Truth, and Light.
Suppose He counted all the cost,
And never cared that we were lost,
And never died for you and me,
Nor shed His blood on Calvary
Upon a shameful cross. Suppose
That having died, He never rose,
And there was none with power to save
Our souls from death beyond the grave!
As far as piteous heathen know,
These things that I've supposed are so.

—Martha Snell Nicholson.

clip and mail

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the Jesus Express on the Move

by Lois Ahrens

Sixteen terrified, but smiling young people, calling themselves "The Jesus Express," stood as a living display by the Monte Vista, Colo., booth. They were participating in the Missionary Panorama in the Hilton Hotel at the Triennial Conference, Portland, on the evening of July 29, 1976. Most missionaries had a fine visual display including slides of their work, but ours was a living display. As people filed through meeting them, and as professional-sounding singing groups sang, "The Jesus Express" became increasingly afraid.

Near the end of the evening, as I was engrossed in conversation, I suddenly became aware that our young people were no longer at my right. They were committed to sing soon. I became concerned. Then I saw them snaking their way to a vacant corner behind our booth, holding hands, getting into a tight huddle to pray for courage to sing in front of this huge group who were used to hearing many musically skilled and polished singers. They prayed, too, for the crowd to quiet down enough to be able to sing, as the people were circulating about the room. God answered both prayers, as he had done since this unique Spanish-American group was formed.

Who are these kids? What motivated them? How did they happen to go to the Triennial Conference?

The group, from the ages of 12 (Corrine Ahrens) through 19, are, for the most part, youth who have been under the Spanish-American Baptist Mission influence off and on for a number of years. A year ago they started meeting for special prayer for their unique needs. Things began to happen. Animosities of many years standing began to be replaced by realistic acceptance and love.

Most of these kids come from disadvantaged homes, where Christ is not a part of the family. Economic, spiritual and emotional pressures create either a feeling of "What's the use," or a feeling of belligerence to the world in general.

The fact that they are singing together is a miracle of God's grace. None (except our daughter) has had the advantage of any kind of music lessons. Only recently had they begun to work together. One teenager put it this way, "Even a year ago, I would never have sung if was singing, and if I sang, she wouldn't. But now we all just love each other and want to sing together for God. It's neat!"

Their name, "The Jesus Express," explains their purpose—to express Jesus. They realized that they had limited musical ability, but that they could be used of God in a unique way to testify of his grace in word and



song. They formed the choir on their own and asked Sandy Ahrens to direct and Lois Ahrens to play the piano.

Where could they get the money for such a big trip and for so many kids? Joint prayer was the first step. One young person said, "But you've always told us, 'with God nothing is impossible.'" So, in one of their prayer meetings they made a beautiful agreement. They would open an account at the bank in the name of the Jesus Express. From that day until D-day (departure day), they were to try to earn as much money as possible and put it in their joint account. Each must try to earn at least \$65. Those making over that amount would put it in the account to help the ones who made less. They made a list of their names, ages, job preferences, etc., and distributed this list to all the Protestant churches in town. They subsequently were called and did everything from baby-sitting to digging out stumps. One of the

most significant things is that some kids who had never had a working father as a model learned to put in some sweat-producing effort.

There still remained many problems. Transportation would be exorbitant. We asked God for a sign. Within a week we had received, unsolicited, several hundred dollars from non-denominational sources to be used for whatever current need we had.

How on earth would we feed and sleep such a large group? How could we supervise them?

One by one God provided for each need; Dr. Orr hired a physician's assistant. Just a month after she came to Monte Vista to work, he moved to Florida. This girl was fresh out of training, needing a job, and earnestly seeking God's will. She started helping at our clinic and became aware of the needs of the low-income community. She fellowshipped with our believers, felt needed and at home. When asked whether she would be interested in going on tour with the group for three weeks, she said, after much prayer, "I really think this is why God brought me to Monte Vista."

An itinerary was arranged, with the idea that "The Jesus Express" would express thanks in as many Washington, Oregon and Idaho churches as possible before the Triennial Conference in Portland. They wanted to say "thanks" for the way our North American Baptists have given them an opportunity to hear of Christ and grow in him. They said, "We've had two teams of God's Volunteers, and lots of summer workers and visitors who have shared Christ's love with us; now it's our turn to share."

When they realized they were to be in middle-class churches, they knew they wanted and needed some kind of uniform. More prayer went up. Nowhere could we find suitable material locally. Time was running out.

Finally Sandy Ahrens and the committee drove over the mountains to Pueblo; while we all prayed for a miracle. And they found God's provision: several bolts of white double knit material for 99¢ a yard. Meanwhile we received from a dear lady in Trenton, Ill., two large boxes full of red and gold tablecloths. Sandy's creative mind perked up; these could be made into beautiful black-fringed shawls for the girls and matching shirts for the boys. But how could we ever get all the sewing done, especially by the due date? God's answer to this need was a series of most unusual contacts explainable only by God's timing through concerned people locally, many of whom we scarcely knew.

Amidst all the frantic activity the kids were meeting for 7-10 hours a week for concentrated practice. By the time of the first program everyone was exhausted, and nerves were frazzled. Several did not know until the last minute whether their parents would allow them to go.

Eventually it all came together. We set off with a small bus (the one used by the Brazil singers), a van, two

cars, two large tents, a bed-roll apiece, outdoor kitchen equipment, Susan Akree, counselor; Kay Hunt, nurse counselor; Billy and Sandy Ahrens, youth sponsors and director; the Rev. and Mrs. Earl Ahrens, and Mrs. Evangeline Madril, known as "mama" to the group—quite an entourage.

The Lord added ever so many little unexpected extras along the way. The church in Stafford, Ore., where the group stayed during the conference week, really outdid themselves bringing in snack foods and fruit and in mixing with our kids.

Having been spoiled with attention and surrounded by beautiful Christian love on every side for so long, the young people have found "re-entry" difficult. A few have really continued to live for the Lord, but many are cooling and need your prayers. God is faithful, and we claim his promise that the One who began a good work in them will complete it.

All of us have been encouraged by the love and interest and kindness shown on this trip. □

GENERAL COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO N.A.B. CHURCHES REGARDING MINISTERIAL COMPENSATION

1. That the responsibility for an annual review of the minister's compensation be officially delegated to a duly constituted committee or board of the church. This annual review should take into consideration the salary increase needed in an inflationary economy to keep one's purchasing power from decreasing as well as raises deserved for effective service, added experience and education.
 2. That a minister's salary at least equal that of the community's wage scale for public school administrators and secondary teachers having equivalent education, experience and responsibility.
 3. That ministers receive due consideration for salary increases even during church building programs and heavy indebtedness periods.
 4. That churches assume their rightful responsibilities for automobile expense. If a church expects its minister to use a car for church business, it should either provide one for his use or pay all proper expenses incurred through the minister's use of his own vehicle.
 5. That churches assume full payment of their minister's other legitimate business expenses incurred through:
 - a. Representing the church at Association and Triennial Conference sessions.
 - b. Hosting guest speakers and prospective members.
 - c. Serving in Association camping programs.
 - d. Participating in pastors' retreats or conferences.
 - e. Carrying out of his office responsibilities such as purchase of letterhead, stamps, supplies and materials.
- NOTE: The expenses referred to in No. 4 and 5 above should not be regarded as part of the pastor's salary as they are, in the truest sense, expenses of church operation.
6. That each church pay in full its pastor's annual dues to the Denominational Pension Fund and offer him sufficient additional assistance to enable him to participate in government and/or private retirement programs which are necessary to provide adequately for his retirement years.
 7. That a portion of the minister's compensation be designated as "Housing Allowance" to enable him to benefit from income tax provisions.
 8. That the churches provide paid study opportunities for ministers to enable them to take refresher courses which will make for more effective ministry, and that a minimum of \$300 per year be provided, and that this annual amount be allowed to accumulate for a period of up to three years.
 9. That each U.S.A. church pay the premium for the N.A.B. group hospitalization insurance for the minister's family. That each Canadian church pay for necessary provincial hospitalization programs.
 10. That churches which are not able financially to meet most of the above recommendations should consider pooling resources with other nearby N.A.B. churches in congregational mergers or becoming one of two or more churches served by the same minister.

The above recommendations were adopted in 1974, by the General Council of the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.



Miss Rosemary Steen is presently serving a one year missionary tour as physical therapist at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. She has replaced Miss Patricia Lenz who returned home after a four year tour in September for furlough. Pat Lenz said on her return, "Rosemary took over my work so smoothly and well that I could easily leave for home and deputation with no concern for the patients I left in Cameroon."

Rosemary is well prepared for the work the Lord has called her to do. She was born on April 19, 1946, in Luverne, MN, as the fifth child in a family of 11 children to Mr. and Mrs. Otis L. Steen. Her parents love the Lord and are in sympathy with her missionary purpose. Miss Steen was raised in a Christian home. She received Jesus Christ as her Savior in a Bible camp when she was about nine years old and was baptized in 1956 at the First Baptist Church of Luverne, MN, by the Rev. Frank McQuoid. She is presently a member of the Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN.

From 1966 to 1968 Rosemary attended Wright City College in Chicago and received her Associate Arts degree. From 1971 to 1972 she attended St. Cloud State University and took a pre-physical therapy program and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. From 1973 to 1975 she studied at University of Minnesota and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy.

Throughout her high school and college days, Rosemary was active in church life and took an active interest in missions. Through her physical therapy training she developed an interest in working with leprosy patients. She felt an increasing call into mission service and was appointed by the Board of Missions in April 1976, for a one year tour to replace Miss Lenz on furlough.

Miss Steen says: "My life purpose is to be in God's will and lead a life pleasing to him. As a physical therapist I feel that I'm in God's will and am able to minister to the complete person in body, mind and spirit. I enjoy my work and am happy working with people." Her work includes evangelism, for she says, "If missions fail to make Jesus Christ known to all men as their Savior and Lord, anything else done would be in vain."

Miss Steen's work at Mbingo Baptist Hospital includes physical and rehabilitation therapy for leprosy as well as general patients. Disabled leprosy patients, burn victims and patients with fractures or lost limbs are among her daily responsibilities.

Pray that in the process of Miss Steen's work, the love and message of Jesus Christ will be experienced by those who come to her for help. And pray that she will have much joy and fulfillment in her short-term missionary service. □

The Rev. Fred C. Folkerts is associate secretary for overseas missions with North American Baptist Conference.

Short-Term Physical Therapist in Cameroon

by Fred C. Folkerts

An Unexpected Christmas in Cameroon



by Fred C. Folkerts

Christmas 1975 was very different for Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Blackman and their two children from the one they will celebrate this year. Last year they were at home in western Canada with family and friends with no thought that they would be half way around the world by the middle of 1976.

Dr. Blackman was engaged in a busy family medical practice and desired to serve the Lord in the place of his call in Prince George, BC. Then the Blackmans learned of an urgent need for doctors to replace two others leaving the field for furlough and resignation. They responded to this need by accepting the call to serve in Cameroon for one year. The Lord confirmed their call by the provision of another doctor to temporarily take over Dr. Blackman's practice in Prince George and in the arrangements for the care and use of their home. They were in service at Banso Baptist Hospital by early August.

Christmas 1976 will be different for the Blackman family. Relatives will be far away, but the Blackmans will be surrounded by another set of friends, who are missionaries and Africans working with them. And they will share their joy at Christmas with the sick people in the hospital.

Each year the missionary staff at Banso Hospital prepares a special Christmas celebration for the hospital patients. It includes a delicious snack for each person, but it concentrates on the story of Jesus who left heaven's glory to minister his love and grace to all the world. They invite the patients to receive Jesus as Savior and enter the joy of a life in Christ. For those who do, it is a very special Christmas celebration. The Blackmans will be part of that celebration.

Dr. Douglas H. Blackman was born on Jan. 23, 1945, in Saskatoon, Sask., to Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Blackman presently of New Westminister, BC. Dr. Blackman first joined the United Church of Canada at the age of 16, and he is presently a charter member of the College Heights Baptist Church of Prince George, BC. Dr. Blackman accepted Christ through the ministry of the Young Life Movement. He completed high school in New Westminister in 1962. He attended University of British Columbia in Vancouver from 1962 to 1969 and completed a Bachelor of Science and a Doctor of Medicine degree. Dr. Blackman was active in the establishment of the College Heights Church Extension Project of the N.A.B. Conference in Prince George. He has

been a self-employed family practitioner in Prince George from 1971 to the present. It was through the influence of the Rev. Willy Muller and Dr. Ron Hiller that Dr. Blackman now is serving a one year tour in Cameroon.

Mrs. Jean Blackman was born on Jan. 24, 1945, in New Westminister, BC, as the second of two daughters to Mr. and Mrs. Jack M. Streight. Jean accepted Christ as her Savior when she was about 14 years of age. She was baptized on April 7, 1974, at the Fort George Baptist Church in Prince George by Rev. Jake Neudorf. She is presently a member of the College Heights Baptist Church in Prince George. She completed her high school education in New Westminister, BC, in 1962 and earned a Bachelor of Science of Nursing from the University of British Columbia at Vancouver in 1967. Following her graduation as a nurse she was employed as a registered nurse until her marriage to Douglas.

Dr. and Mrs. Blackman were married on Feb. 25, 1972, and have two children. Michael Douglas was born July 3, 1973, and Gretchen Jean was born on June 5, 1975. In response to our appeal for a short-term doctor to replace Dr. Dieter Lemke who came home on furlough in July, 1976, the Blackmans have replaced the Lemkes for one year at Banso Baptist Hospital.

What prompted the Blackmans to leave the security and comfort of their home and medical practice in Canada? Not only was it a need for a doctor's replacement, but it was the spiritual need of the people of Cameroon. Dr. Blackman says: "My purpose is to attempt to do God's will through meeting the physical needs of the people with whom I work so that the door to meeting their spiritual needs might be opened." He is ministering to those spiritual needs by personal counseling in his office, Bible studies and witnessing in the wards at the hospital. His weekends are often filled with service in local churches of the area. Jean Blackman's purpose is the same though her major role is that of mother and homemaker. She states, "My purpose is to help show others their need for Jesus Christ as their personal Savior." As a housewife and mother she is doing this through home Bible studies and personal contacts with Cameroon women.

Pray that the Lord will greatly use the Blackman family in a healing and witnessing ministry at Banso Baptist Hospital. Pray that this will be one of the most joyous Christmases of their lives. And pray that the need for doctors in Cameroon will continue to be met by the grace of our Lord and Savior whose birth we all celebrate at this season. □



by Gerald L. Borchert

My Dear Readers:

As I look back over the years from 1969 to the present and review the interchanges that have taken place I wish to thank you for your kindness in writing. Moreover, as I have traveled throughout the churches of our North American Baptist Conference you have been extremely generous with your comments concerning this column. Clearly you have not always agreed on all points with either me or others in our Conference, but thanks be to the Lord God of Heaven and Earth that we are united as a Conference on the great facts and implications of our faith from the virgin birth and incarnation of Jesus to the death, resurrection and marvelous coming again of our Lord and Savior.

During these past years you have permitted me to enter into your homes on a monthly basis in what I agreed with former editor, John Binder, would be a year or two experiment in developing a discussion forum within *Baptist Herald*. We have thought together about church buildings and baptizing children, about

Editor's note

Dr. Gerald L. Borchert, the academic vice president and professor of New Testament at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, has written the "Forum" column since 1969. It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I recognize the faithful collaboration of Dr. Borchert. His column has both delighted and aggravated our readers.

Thank you, Brother Borchert, for a job well done!

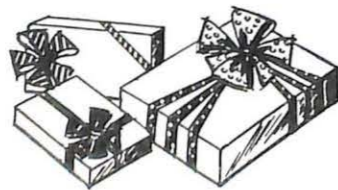
As of January 1977 Dr. Ernie Zimbelman's "Putting It Together" column will take the place of the "Forum." Watch for it in the January issue. RJK

versions of the Bible and a Christian's prayer life, about denominational insurance and eschatology, about the office of deacon and speaking in tongues, about small rural churches and pastor's salaries, about the "Moonies" and Mormonism, about evangelism and women's liberation, about "conservatism" and the National Council of Churches, about geneologies and the real nature of salvation. Perhaps, the column which is remembered the most widely concerns my former picture and letter from the lady who thought that I was smoking a cigarette and said she would pray for me. While I certainly do not use either tobacco or alcohol, I am grateful for prayer.

To all of you who have written over the years, I wish to thank you for your prayers, your questions, your disagreements and your statements of gratitude. Anyone who writes such a column generally receives very few bouquets of praise. You, the people of the North American Baptist Conference, have been more than generous with your letters of thanks. To you I now want to say "I am grateful for your letters."

Several years ago I suggested to our present editor, Reinhold Kerstan, that it was time for someone else to take up such a column and that a change of pace be given to our people. He asked me then to continue for a little while longer. My schedule since that time has become extremely heavy, and I am grateful to our editor that you can expect some new and exciting changes in the *Herald*. I trust that you will give your prayer interest and written support to your future faithful columnists as you have given both to me and my predecessor, Dr. Ralph Powell, who for many years answered theological questions in the older version of *Baptist Herald*.

And now at this wonderful Christmas season when we celebrate the beginning of new hope through Emmanuel, "God with us," may we all take sufficient time amidst all the mixture of travel, tinsel and toys to reflect upon the great mystery that God emptied himself, took on the servant form, humbled himself and was willing to be crucified for your sins and mine. In the name of that Christ Jesus our Lord who lives today, I bid you a most wonderful Christmas season and a genuine farewell *shalom alekhem*, "peace be with you." GLB



book reviews



New American Standard Bible. Collins World, The Lockman Foundation. La Habra, Calif. Brown imitation leather \$14.95, genuine leather \$25.95.

Although this translation has been produced in 1960 it is being used more widely since it has gone through eight printings with additional corrections and revisions each time. Its grammar and syntax have made the translation fluent and readable according to current English usage. The editorial board has adhered as closely as possible to the original text.

The words of Christ are in red. Center references, concordance and maps are excellent helps for Bible study.



The 1976 edition of *Christmas, An American Annual of Christmas Literature and Art, Volume 46*, is an artful blend of music, poetry, prose, illustrations, and photography. This year the nativity scene on the *Annual* cover captures the joy and reverence of the Christmas season. Revised each year, *Christmas* is a beautifully designed, large-sized, and reasonably priced gift book. A Christmas-time tradition with families throughout America, the *Annual* contains features for every member of the family. The 68-page *Annual* is edited by Randolph E. Haugan and published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN. Size 10 3/8" x 13 13/16". Gift edition in envelope \$2.95. Deluxe cloth edition \$5.95.

youth SCENE

IF YOU COULD TAKE YOUR CHURCH...

by Knute Larson

If you could take your church—you do have one?—and do anything at all with it, what would you do with it?

Keep it the same?

Leave it?

Pastor it?

Where are you with the church these days?

We all hear stuff accusing "the church" and have to say our quiet little AMEN or RIGHT ON to some of the negatives.

Some of the accusations are just downright . . . downright . . . true!

Kids searching for authority get a tippy-toey "Now this might be okay under a prescribed set of circumstances if love is dominant" instead of a hearty "This says the Lord."

Parents looking for a place to plant their kids in the Word get popcorn parties and coloring sessions without any Bible.

Adults looking for certain sounds get a recommendation on what to do about the prisoners of war.

But it isn't only the Bible-forgetting wing of "the church" that has gotten racked—

Some kids looking for a place to bring their friends have instead been given rules about what those friends must look like.

Some parents and adults checking for certainty in the life of Christ instead have hooked onto people who are certain about the Word but not so clear that gossip, grumbles and self-centeredness are wrong.

So that makes them all raunchy and hard to live with?

"All them" what?

All the churches and people who make them.

Well some churches do have problems.

Reprinted from *Ac'cent*, published by Christian Education Department and Foreign Missionary Society of the Grace Brethren Church, Winona Lake, Indiana. Used by permission.

Correct. But you don't leave everything that has a problem, do you?

They always start with the same old *Doxology*.

What would you start with in bed, or whatever other place you're planning to substitute for Sunday church?

Well if you're looking for questions, what's the church ever done for me?

I don't think this is the time to go back over the years of care and money that have been put into you. It might sound like the squeeze of sour grapes. Your question at this point might better be, What can I do for the church? Because of Christ.

I just think there are too many hypocrites and too much organization.

What can you do to cut down both—but still have a place whose doors are open to hypocrites who are willing to be helped, and that has enough organization to be the kind of church the Bible says?

It seems to me all you need is two or three Christians meeting together, and then you have the church. The church of the "two or three gathered together"—that's what we could call it. It would really be simple and beautiful.

Probably. But I think the verse you're talking about is simply saying Jesus Christ is there when people get together in his name. There's more to "churching" than that.

What else is there?

Well, the Bible is big on purpose and mission, organization, unity with diversity . . . how much time do we have?

We're getting to the end of it.

The church was built to be a declaration, to symbolize and promote a mission around the world. To get out the Good News and live all the truth connected with it.

How much does the Bible say it has to be organized though?

God always seems fairly well organized. In fact he takes attendance lots of times. So he must care about that . . . and he says he wants pastors, deacons or servers, and saints in the

churches. It should be organized so everyone could be one of those.

How do I fit into unity with diversity?

You're fifteen.

Fifteen and a half.

And so are some of your friends at the church. Others are sixty, or ten or eighty-two or forty-three. Your color is not the same color as everyone else's. Your ideas on secondary issues vary. There's some of the glory and witness of the local church.

It takes more giving when I work there than when I just meet with the other guys in a group of Christians who get together every Thursday night—

To fellowship as members of the body of Christ—but not really to have church.

You're not saying the church always has to meet at our building here, or has to have a steeple and bricks and . . .

No, no. But I'm also saying those things wouldn't be wrong if they help what we're trying to do. Even the "churches" that decide not to be "organized churches" soon have to come up with a "place" to worship, have communion, baptize, invite others to and use as a base.

If only everyone could really see church as a really alive body—and as more than a religious club to belong to because it looks good.

That's your job.

What's my job?

To help them see that, and to show you're in it really for Christ, not yourself . . . to evangelize the people outside it and edify the ones in it.

And to really do that, you're saying we need leaders, and organization.

How else can you really take the man-power and money-power of a group of people and put them together for the best use?

But do we always have to sing the *Doxology* first?

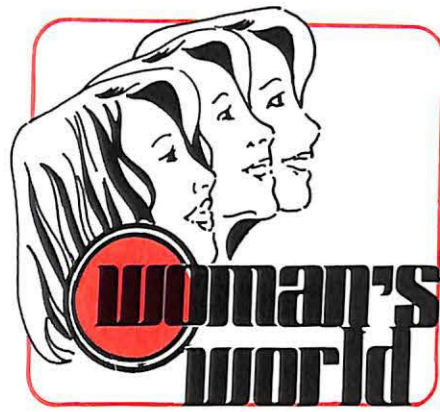
You can sing it third, last or skip it, if you put your love and energies into the works to make the church go for Christ.

Okay. Praise God!

From whom all blessings flow . . . □

ATTENTION YOUNG WRITERS!

Do you like to write poetry or short stories or articles? If you do we would like to use your material on the Youth Scene page. We will pay \$5.00 for each article used. Send your material to BAPTIST HERALD, "Youth Scene," 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL 60181.



Gifts to the W.M.U.

As gifts are shared and exchanged this month, it is only fitting that we take time to thank God for the faithful service of the women who have served on our W.M.U. Executive Committee this past triennium. They have been God's special gifts to our Women's Missionary Union. They received no salary and yet gave many hours in service, over and above their busy schedules in their own homes and churches, all because of Christ's love within their lives. May their faithfulness be an example to those who will pick up their "mantles" and carry on this important work. Those who now retire from the committee are: president, Jeanette Stein; vice president, Beatrice Pankratz; secretary-treasurer, Anne Hoffman; and editors, Lucy Kokot, Barbara Sukut and Elfrieda Hildebrandt. White Cross chairman, Irma Koch, has accepted the appointment to this position for another triennium. Dorene Walth, Woman's World editor, will also remain on the committee, for she was elected president at the Triennial Conference in Portland.

Serving Christ at the national level has its blessings and rewards, some of which are shared personally on our pages this month. □

The Privilege Has Been Mine



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

I consider it a great privilege to have been allowed to serve as president of the Women's Missionary Union for six

years. After this span of time it is easy to praise God for leading, guiding, directing and giving strength. I have gained much through the many experiences; the work of our denomination has taken on new importance in my life. My eyes have been opened to the greatness of the work that our women are doing and also to the unlimited possibilities of service open to us. My prayer is that the leaders of the future will lead us into some of these exciting avenues of service.

I thank God for the wonderful executive I had to work with. Each one was great in her office and performed her services with excellence. God will reward each one of them for their many hours of untiring work. I am so thankful that we were able to expand our office to include a women's worker. LaVerna Mehlhaff has done a wonderful job of opening this new office and she has given our women's work a real lift through her enthusiastic and joyous spirit. She has great plans for the women of our denomination, and through her capable leadership we will do great things for the Lord.

As president of the W.M.U. it was my privilege to attend many women's meetings where I made hundreds of wonderful friends. I thank God for the prayer support I received from these women. I am also thankful for the fellowship I could have with the women of the Baptist World Alliance and for the insight I gained of the great work the Baptist women of the world are doing. We also have a Continental Union and to be able to meet with the Baptist women of our continent is a mountain-top experience, never to be forgotten. Such an experience can be yours in October of 1977, in the Bahamas. This may seem like a dream but through prayer and saving, it can become a reality. □

My Faith Increased

by Mrs. Lucy Kokot,
past editor,
St. Catharines, Ont.

I count it a privilege to have been the editor of "Die Seite der Frau." Throughout the time of my service, I



knew that people were praying for me. I began to have increased faith in prayer, and this drew me closer to the Lord.

God has been so good to me in giving me the wonderful opportunity to attend the Baptist World Alliance Conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

I am glad that I was able to give some of my time to the Lord. □



With Appreciation

by Mrs. Beatrice Pankratz,
past vice president
of the W.M.U.,
Chicago, Ill.

During the past six years of service as vice president of the Women's Missionary Union there have been a good many requests for a "few paragraphs" about some week of spiritual feasts at a retreat or convention. A recent example would be the reports submitted concerning our "Mission Safari" of last year. Now I'm asked to condense the six years into a "few thoughts." Here are some of them.

1. I've enjoyed the in-depth study of the work of our denomination. After sessions with many leaders I appreciate the contribution of time and energy of many people who have been responsible for the growth of our mission efforts, schools and churches.

2. An appreciation of the scope of our women's work can best be gained at the national level. The thrill of all of you working together to reach the hearts, improve the health and further the happiness of people in our country and abroad is exciting!

3. The many invitations to speak at Association meetings, women's retreats and women's banquets have been a pleasure and blessing to me. Each experience added sisters to my "extended family." Working on program committees for our Family Retreats has been valuable for opportunities of study as well as enriching personal contacts resulting in new friendships.

4. My husband's and my trip to Africa (at our own expense) will always be a highlight of spiritual growth. It deepened our appreciation for the dedication and Christian concern so generously offered

by our missionaries. Consider how much has been accomplished for God's children because there are so many at home and abroad who are faithful in work, prayer and giving! I should not fail to mention that prayers on our behalf are also regularly and faithfully offered up by our African brothers and sisters in Christ.

5. Behind the major developments in missions which often gather the most attention have been the steady support and love of you women in those little things—the baby jackets, blankets, bottles and bandages that are the tangible evidence of your concern. God bless you! Continue your labor of love in faith! □



My Gifts
by Mrs. Anne Hoffman,
past secretary-treasurer
of the W.M.U.,
Prince George, B.C.

The Christmas season reminds us that God gave his only begotten son. Perhaps you have found, as I have, that God does not give only once; he gives and gives again and again.

This has been my experience as I have served on the executive committee of the W.M.U. for the past years. The blessings have continued over and over. I would like to share a few with you.

First, the fellowship with other members of the committee has enriched my life in many ways. From one member I was inspired to deeper love and devotion to the Lord. From another I recognized the importance of organizing your work, especially when there seems to be more to do than you think you can possibly get done. From a third radiated the joy of living which was contagious. Each, in her own particular way, has given something to make my life richer, like gifts which we open at Christmas.

Secondly, has come the joy of corresponding with and, at Triennial Conference times, meeting so many wonderful women in our Union. So often when the work piled up and I was about to become discouraged, I found a little note attached to a dues contribution:

"May the Lord bless you as you serve him" or "I am praying for you." What a lift! Somewhere, someone I knew only by name was upholding me before the Father in prayer. How precious a gift to receive when I least deserved it.

Finally, a gift I will always cherish is the opportunity for wider fellowship with Baptist women from many parts of the world. I met so many from different lands and cultures, yet we were one in the Lord.

I thank you all for the wonderful experiences of the past years. I would wish these same gifts for all of you. □



A Time of Blessings
by Mrs. Barbara Sukut,
past editor,
Eldridge, Ia.

I praise God for the privilege of having been editor for the English program packet during the last triennium. I was greatly blessed by the many positive responses and the quality of the programs. The Lord is so great! During this season of the year when we celebrate the greatest event in all of history—the most wonderful gift ever given to man—I too, praise God for Jesus! He not only saves and keeps us but also helps us when we undertake anything in his name and power.

I would like to ask all societies to send interesting programs that you have used to the new editor that others, too, may be blessed by your program. If you know anyone who would be willing to write and can do a good job, please send their name and address to Iona, as it would be so helpful.

Several experiences were especially great. Hearing directly from some missionaries, to whom I don't usually write, increased my interest in their fields, and I found it easier to pray for them.

Another blessing was in working together with the other officers and sharing in their devotion to Christ and the missionaries. Please pray for the new officers often; and support them even as you pray and support the missionaries.

Perhaps the greatest blessing was the assurance that God wanted me to do this for him, even though this was not

my field and was a new experience for me. His help and guidance became a reality to me; and his strength was and is sufficient for all my needs. □



My Choice
by Diane Susek

The right to choose is one of the exceptional gifts God has given to mankind. There are numerous opportunities to exercise the privilege throughout one's lifetime. I, for one, do not find it easy to make decisions, especially when the outcome is uncertain. I am learning, however, that the living God *does* lead his children; in fact, it is comforting to

(Continued on page 31)



Giving
by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work
director

Giving seems to be easier at Christmas time as we think of the greatest gift given to the world by God as he gave us his only son, Jesus. God loved so much that he gave his best.

As we think of our giving this Christmas, the Holy Spirit will guide us to give our best. Giving so that others might hear of Jesus and be given the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Missionaries are giving their best to proclaim the good news of salvation. Because of their faithfulness, many have become followers of Jesus Christ.

A part of our \$400,000.00 goal, \$10,000.00, has been designated for the purchase of land and properties in Japan. We would like to meet this goal in December. Give your best and experience God's richest blessings upon your life. □

Dear Mom and Dad,

What a busy day! I've got a few minutes before we go door-to-door calling and I wanted to tell you what's been happening at camp.

The camp where we're training is nestled in the beautiful rolling hills and sun-bathed cornfields of Iowa. The camp manager and his wife are really committed in their jobs here at camp. The cooks have spoiled us with fabulous desserts! But to keep us in good physical shape, the whole team has been doing exercises and jogging after classes.

It's been exciting meeting the rest of the team. Just imagine—fourteen individuals, from all over Canada and the United States coming together to be molded by God into one team—unified for His service. Just the other day, Tanell, one of the girls, remarked that she felt like she had known all of us for a long time.



God's Volunteers Team 1976-77

The practical instructions that Bob Walther, our director, and Rev. Ray Harsch, the evangelism director, gave in evangelism and music has been really helpful in preparing us for our work in the churches. We've also had some enlightening classes with Rev. Bruce Rich and Dr. Ernie Zimbelman.

On Sunday, the 12th, we had our dedication of the team. This was a special highlight for all of us. Bob and Nola Hooker came from Chicago to share in this service. Bob challenged us to overcome our mountains through enthusiasm, determination, organization and understanding of what God wants us to do. Together we knelt and dedicated our lives to God in this special year of service for Him.

Already we've gone door-to-door calling three times. Excitement and exuberance is bubbling over in everyone as we come back together to share our experiences in telling others about Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we've had the privilege of seeing 15 people come to know our Lord through a personal commitment to Him.

It's wonderful to know that you are praying for us back at home, and we are also remembering you.

Love, your daughter,
Marlene

Miss Marlene Ginter is one of the two team reporters for BAPTIST HERALD. She is from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

a LETTER HOME FROM CAMP

God's Volunteers report

TRAINING SESSIONS WERE a BLESSING

It has been exciting to see God working in the lives of each team member and in bringing the whole team together with a unified purpose. Several of the team members will express some aspect of training that was meaningful to them.

Highlights for us all were the Bible studies in I and II Timothy with the Rev. Ralph Chandler from Elgin. The sessions we had with Dr. Ernie Zimbelman gave us a new awareness in communication, in a deeper way causing personal growth. We appreciated also the contribution of Dr. Roy Seibel's time, patience and knowledge in the area of presenting our testimonies. His ideas and knowledge in this field has helped us to share our testimonies effectively.

We praise God for the opportunities to share and the response of the people in Waukon. We were able to share in studying the Bible and prayer with a Bible study group from that community. The music section also had the privilege of singing in the local high school to an assembly of 600 young people.

—Marlene Ginter



Bible study with group from Waukon

Karen Otto writes: "Wow! What a busy month of learning how to relate to others and share my life with them! It was a privilege to go out and share in groups of two in the community of Waukon. When we had direct contact by talking with people and saw their response, I learned how to apply what I had studied in our classes."

Karen at the piano



Paul and Karen studying

"During training we started our team Bible study in the book of Acts. This study has really challenged me in terms of sharing my faith in Christ. When I looked at the boldness that the disciples and the early church members had in sharing their faith while in danger, it gave me the confidence that I needed to tell others about my Savior, Jesus Christ."

—Paul Dykstra

Connie Rogalski shares: "Never before has the Lord taught me so much in such a short period of time. In this memorable month of training—a time I shall never forget—he showed me what spiritual growth really is. Precious were the times when, alone, I could escape to the solitude of the sunny meadows and quiet forests surrounding the camp to grow closer to my Lord as he spoke to me through his Word. But growing as a total team in love, and unity was also exciting. Singing together, calling together, studying and sharing, opened up new avenues of service and deep Christian relationships that I had never experienced before! Growth—alone and together! And God has given me opportunity for both this year."

Connie testing the audio equipment



Scott MacDonald says, "One of the highlights of training was during the final week. We had to have our witnessing seminar prepared as well as the musical, "Go Tell Your World." When the week started I thought it would be impossible to get the final preparations for the upcoming crusades done. But God pulled the team closer together as we prayed about the work that needed to be done. God answered our prayers by giving us strength, patience and encouragement to complete our training. As a result God gave us a confidence that we needed to begin our first crusade."



Scott MacDonald

"Our month of concentrated training has come to an end. We will now continue to apply what we have learned. Even though we've left the training camp at Lansing, I realize that we are going to learn many new and exciting things. It has been a growing experience for me to share with others who Jesus Christ is and what he wants to do for us all. The gospel has become alive to me. The Lord's power and his timing was shown to me again and again. Two young mothers who were next door neighbors prayed to receive Christ. Neither knew of the other's decision until we told them. Now they can encourage one another in their walk with Christ. I'm looking forward to see the Lord work in many more experiences such as this in the coming years."

—Tanell Gerloff



The girls choosing patterns for team outfits

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AT NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY

by Gerald L. Borchert and David J. Draewell

DR. RICHARD F. HOUTS, associate professor of Church Administration and director of Field Education, is a native of Lamont, PA and a graduate of Pennsylvania State University in forestry. After responding to God's call on his life, he entered theological study and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Bethel Seminary (St. Paul). He continued his education and received a Master of Religious Education from Southern Baptist Seminary and a Master of Theology from Golden Gate Baptist Seminary. He then returned to Southern and completed the Doctor of Education. He specialized in various aspects of administration and programing in the church, and his doctoral dissertation



was directed to an analysis of field education.

He served as a company commander and instructor for the U.S. Army engineers as well as a minister of education in Castro Valley, CA. He has had a wide variety of administrative experiences including: long range planning, church recruiting and marriage workshops. He has been a member of the faculty at Simpson Bible College in California, at Simmons University in Kentucky and for the past six years at Ontario Bible College in Toronto. His writings range in the areas of leadership development, teaching and Sunday School development, marriage educa-

tion, and spiritual gifts. He has also been an innovator in Field Education programing.

Dr. Houts is married to the former Janice Larson of Norfolk, NE. Mrs. Houts is a graduate of the McPhail College of Music. The Houts have two children, Cynthia and Brian.

THE REV. HERBERT S. DICKERSON, Jr., instructor in Homiletics is a native of Orange, TX, and a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in the areas of sociology and public address. He also broadened his educational experience with studies at Blinn, Centenary and Wylie Colleges. He has been an active preacher in Southern Baptist



churches since ordained in 1967. Mr. Dickerson graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity degree and has completed his residence work on the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the same institution. His area of concentration is in homiletics with a specialization also in the field of biblical interpretation. His dissertation is in the area of the impact of preaching upon the molding of decisions within the church. He has taught preaching for two years at Southwestern Seminary.

Rev. Dickerson is married to the former Viki Miller of Orange, TX. She is a graduate of East Texas Baptist Col-

lege in music and has nearly completed her work on the Master of Music degree. The Dickersons have two sons: John and Ryan.

On Aug. 15, 1976, **THE REV. JOHN HISEL** began his service as director of church and community relations at North American Baptist Seminary. He brings to this position excellent personal, educational and service qualifications.

His primary areas of responsibility relate to student recruitment and fund raising. These are especially important in the light of the student enrollment goals and the campus expansion plans approved by the Seminary Board of Trustees. These tasks will take him to many churches in the coming months and years as he seeks to interpret the ministry of the seminary to our N.A.B. Conference constituency. He also serves as secretary-treasurer of the Alumni Association and supervises students as part of the seminary's field education staff.

Mr. Hisel is a native of Sioux Falls and a spiritual son of Northside Baptist Church. After completing his undergraduate work at Sioux Falls College, he enrolled at North American Baptist Seminary. He graduated in 1964 with a B.D. degree, transmuting to the Master of Divinity degree in 1976.



Following his seminary training, Mr. Hisel pastored N.A.B. churches in the states of South Dakota and Washington. From 1970-75 he served, with denominational endorsement, as a chaplain in the United States Army.

He enrolled in the doctor of ministry program in the fall of 1975. During that school year, he served also as an instructor in field education. He is currently completing the final requirement of his doctoral program.

Mr. Hisel is married and has one son. His wife, Wanda, who has a Ph.D. degree in Education, is a faculty member of the University of South Dakota, teaching in the College of Education. □

insight into christian education

An Inside View of North American Baptists

Part 2 in a series by Bruce A. Rich

What do 1,346 North American Baptist Conference members think regarding conference ministries? The CHURCH PROFILE SURVEY that sampled seven churches under 125 members and eight churches over 125 members shows the views held by these people in regard to the relative importance of major areas of ministry.

The questions and responses were as follows:

1. Do you feel that the N.A.B. Conference should give a major share of effort and finances to ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of the economically deprived in the U.S. and Canada?

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no
Group 1 (under 125 members)	28.4%	43.6%	21.1%	6.9%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	25.6%	45.7%	22.8%	5.9%

2. Do you feel that the N.A.B. Conference should give a major share of effort and finances to establishing new churches?

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no
Group 1 (under 125 members)	34.1%	41.8%	19.5%	4.5%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	28.0%	48.5%	19.5%	4.0%

3. Do you feel the N.A.B. Conference should give a major share of effort and finances to overseas missions?

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no
Group 1 (under 125 members)	36.7%	43.6%	15.1%	4.6%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	33.5%	47.6%	15.6%	3.2%

4. Do you feel the N.A.B. Conference should give a major share to strengthening the local church in evangelism, Christian education and church growth?

	Definitely yes	Probably yes	Probably no	Definitely no
Group 1 (under 125 members)	46.5%	35.9%	15.7%	1.8%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	40.6%	41.4%	14.4%	3.6%

5. Which of the following do you feel should be the most important task of the N.A.B. Conference today?

	Increasing home and overseas mission outreach	Starting more new churches in the U.S.A. and Canada	Strengthening the local church	None of these
Group 1 (under 125 members)	40.9%	18.6%	37.3%	3.2%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	47.6%	11.5%	37.8%	3.1%

6. Do you feel the N.A.B. Conference personnel should minister most on the:

	Local church level	Association level	Regional seminar and workshop level	None of these
Group 1 (under 125 members)	45.9%	29.7%	20%	4.3%
Group 2 (over 125 members)	39.3%	31.3%	23.5%	5.8%

Observations regarding these responses to Conference ministries:

- There is a social awareness as to the need to minister to the deprived in the U.S. and Canada, but possibly a question as to whose responsibility it is to initiate that ministry, and how.
- The responses to questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 indicate that all these areas are judged important in Conference ministry, with the needs of the local church being most crucial.

To tally both positive responses to each question we see this kind of comparison:

Economically deprived	Group 1	72.0%	Group 2	71.3%
New churches	Group 1	75.9%	Group 2	76.5%
Missions	Group 1	80.3%	Group 2	81.1%
Strengthening local church	Group 1	82.4%	Group 2	82.0%

- Question 5 cross checks questions 2, 3 and 4 asking for a ranking of these ministries. In this case missions is first, strengthening the church second and starting new churches third. This would indicate that the participants' greatest interest is in mission outreach, which has been the major thrust of the Conference since its early days.
- The expression, in question 6, for Conference personnel to be involved most in the local church suggests again the desire

(Continued on page 31)

Rev. Bruce A. Rich is general director of the Church Ministries Department of the North American Baptist Conference.

**PERSONAL
ESTATE
PLANNING**



The New Buell and Barringer Endowment Fund for Church Extension

by Everett A. Barker

I want to share with you how Buell and Ethyl Barringer made it possible for the ministry of Church Extension to be benefited through their estate plan and wills.

In the early 1960's the Barringers became interested in what was then our new Church Extension Builders Fund. This is a program whereby individuals contribute one dollar per month or a total of ten dollars per year. The amount has since been modified. Each month the Church Extension Department chooses a Church Extension project to benefit from these contributions. New congregations have so many needs for a building and equipment that gifts like this are helpful.

Mrs. Barringer made her will in 1962 and stipulated that 10 percent of her estate would go to the Church Extension Builders Fund. She died in 1964 leaving

The Rev. Everett A. Barker is estate planning director of the North American Baptist Conference.

her husband a life estate in her property which means that he had use of the property during his lifetime and that upon his death the property would be dispersed according to the terms of her will.

Buell Barringer died in 1975 and the terms of his will provided for bequests to individuals, the Oak Street Baptist Church of Burlington, Iowa, and that the remainder of his estate go to the Church Extension Builders Fund. The Barringers owned 285 acres of prime Iowa farm land. This land was auctioned in August of 1975 for amounts between \$1600 and \$2300 per acre. When the estate was probated and closed this past summer, the 10 percent and the remainder gifts totaled \$172,141.44.

The Church Extension Committee decided to establish a Buell and Ethyl Barringer Endowment Fund for Church Extension with the money from the estate. The monies will be invested in the Church Extension Revolving Loan

SAVE TIME AND MONEY WITH ESTATE PLANNING

Nowadays we hear much about planning for a family, education, finances, etc. Many people think that estate planning is for the very rich only. This is not true. We can help you get started on . . .

YOUR ESTATE PLAN

WHAT IS AN ESTATE? It is basically everything you own: cars, money, stocks, bonds, real estate, furniture, jewelry, etc.

WHAT AN ESTATE PLAN IS NOT: It is not just a will; although a will may be a key element in the plan.

WRITE TODAY for further information about

- Jointly held property and estate taxes
- Is your life insurance taxable?
- Estate planning for life

- Please send information regarding:
- "Better Estate Planning"
 - "Wishing Won't Make It So . . . But Estate Planning Will"
 - I would like a personal contact without cost or obligation to me.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Province _____
 Zip Code _____

Send to: Everett A. Barker, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Fund. These loan funds will help Church Extension projects and the interest will in turn benefit the Church Extension project of the month approximately one thousand dollars. Thus two things are being accomplished at the same time, namely, make available loan funds for Church Extension and a gift to the Church Extension project of the month.

The Barringers were able to accomplish several significant things through estate planning:

1. They provided for the needs of husband and wife during their lifetime.
2. They made sizeable bequests to family members.
3. They made bequests to friends.
4. They made possible a \$172,141.44 bequest to the Lord's work through the ministry of Church Extension. God's work continues to benefit through the resources entrusted to them even though they are absent from this life.
5. They were able to reduce their federal estate tax liability to a total of \$7,500 on two estates in spite of the fact that they passed on assets in excess of \$600,000. The fact that the estate was planned and a large charitable gift was made enabled them to reap substantial tax savings.

The estate plan mentioned here is only one example of how an individual or family might choose to distribute their possessions. There are many different estate planning tools and gift vehicles to meet a variety of needs and to accomplish different goals. Have you given careful thought and prayer to the distribution of the possessions God has placed in your care? Start your estate planning with four simple P's:

- 1) **PROPERTIES**—What do I own of monetary and sentimental value?
- 2) **PERSONS**—Who are the people whom I want to benefit from my properties?
- 3) **PLANS**—Where and to whom do I want to distribute these properties?
- 4) **PLANNERS**—Who are the persons who can help me carry out my plans?

The ministries of the North American Baptist Conference are varied enough to meet your interests. There are training opportunities through our N.A.B. Seminary and N.A.B. College. We have overseas and home mission fields in Nigeria, Cameroon, Brazil, Japan, Texas and Colorado. The Church Ministries Department assists local churches in growth opportunities. Church Extension starts and nurtures new congregations. These are only a few of the areas where gifts can be made through Conference ministries. Consider what God wants you to do. ☐

John Ziegler: Associate Secretary for Church Extension



The Rev. John Ziegler began his ministry as associate secretary for Church Extension on September 20, 1976. In accordance with the decision of the Triennial Conference in Portland, Ore., the Church Extension Committee, which until then was under the Board of Missions, was restructured and organized into a separate department.

At the first session of the newly elected Church Extension Board, Rev. Ziegler was appointed to this new position. After much thought and prayer he has graciously accepted the appointment, firmly believing that he is following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Mr. Ziegler was born in Madison, Sask., on Dec. 12, 1929. After spending a year at Briercrest Bible Institute, Caronport, Sask., he attended Sioux Falls College and Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., where he received his B.A. degree. At our N.A.B. Seminary

he earned his B.D. degree. While serving one of our churches he enrolled at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he completed his studies for a Master of Sacred Theology degree.

He was ordained in the First Baptist Church, Appleton, Minn., in which he served as pastor for a number of years. In East Detroit he ministered as associate pastor before accepting one of our early Church Extension projects in Xenia, Ohio, which he organized and developed during his seven year ministry. The Rev. John Ziegler comes to his new position from the Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa, where he ministered since 1967 as the senior pastor.

In the Iowa Association Rev. Ziegler served as moderator and as chairman of the Church Extension Committee for nine years. He was also active in the Church Ministries Committee and in the camping program. While pastoring a church in the former Northwestern Conference he served as moderator. In Burlington he promoted the program of the evangelical churches as one of its officers and also held office as president of the Burlington Association of Churches. His Christian witness was felt when he was a member of the school board. In all of these services he was aware of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit in his ministry.

Rev. Ziegler's numerous and varied church and Conference-wide ministries have given him broad and valuable experiences which have developed in him the qualifications to function efficiently as Associate Secretary for Church Extension.

The Conference has enlarged its outreach in order to fulfill this commitment to the Great Commission. Their goal, which they delegated to the Church Extension Department, is 30 new churches in the present triennium. This challenge has been entrusted to the general secretary, the Rev. Lyle Wacker, with whom the Rev. John Ziegler will work. Responsibility will be divided geographically to designated Associations. At the present time there are about 40 churches under the extension ministry.

With twenty years of pastoral experience, the Rev. Ziegler is aware that without his loving and dedicated wife Millie it would have left something to be desired. The Zieglers have two children: a daughter, Kim, a recent high school graduate; and a son, Mark, who is in high school.

As a servant of God the Rev. Ziegler brings dignity and spiritual strength to pastors and communities where church extension opportunities are opening up and God's kingdom is being extended. ☐



CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

BROOKS, ALBERTA, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by Philip Grabke

December 1976

More than fifty people responded to an appeal made by the Southern Alberta Church Extension Committee to conduct a survey in Brooks, Alberta. This group recommended that a man be placed on the field as soon as possible. Nine months later the Rev. and Mrs. Philip Grabke received the call to serve as Church Extension pastor.

Brooks is 115 miles southeast of Calgary and 86 miles west of Medicine Hat. It may well be the fastest growing town in Alberta. Though hot and dry, irrigation and the planting of trees have made it not only attractive but also an oasis in the desert. The anticipated population by the end of 1976 is 8,000.

The first obstacle the pastor faced was, where do we hold services? Meeting places are scarce and extremely costly in this area. After much effort and prayer, we were able to rent the Royal Room in the Elks Lodge for only twenty dollars a meeting. On the first Sunday morning there were thirty-two present. This included the team from Medicine Hat. Our lowest attendance was twenty and our highest eighty-three. North American Baptists from Carbon, Medicine Hat and Calgary came not only to assist in the services but also to build a room in the parsonage for a place to meet. The Sunday evening fellowship hour and the mid-week Bible study are conducted in the parsonage.

The pastor's wife, Gladys, has personally welcomed thirty-six new families in one month. As Welcome Wagon Hostess she is able to make contact with families shortly after their arrival in town. On more than one occasion this has provided an opening to share Christ as a way of life. Some families contacted have found their way into the service. It is exciting to see God at work in the hearts of people.

Programs are planned to acquaint the people of Brooks with our North American Baptist Conference work. Young people from Carbon, the band from Calgary, and fellow Christians from Medicine Hat have been involved in showing our people that others care. The assistance and commitment of these people has been a real source of encouragement.

Planned for the future are a missionary rally, a children's rally, home Bible studies, clubs for boys and girls, a women's missionary group and a larger outreach program. One of the ladies said, "It's exciting! I feel like I'm on the ground floor of a new building." It is exciting and challenging to witness and be part of the birth of a church.

Your help and assistance is needed and appreciated. Invest now in souls of men; there is no greater cause. Larger tracts of land are hard to obtain. Be much in prayer concerning the choice and availability of land for a church site. □

The Rev. Philip Grabke is the pastor at the Brooks Church Extension project in Alberta.



Pastor and Mrs. Philip Grabke.



Welcoming newcomers results in families attending church.



The congregation in Brooks, with Pastor Grabke at extreme left.

Thank You, Lord

Dear Lord,

You've given us the most rewarding summer of our lives! It was fantastic, Lord . . . these four months of singing for you, going where you wanted us to go. We want to praise you for the opportunity you gave us to travel coast to coast across the U.S.A. and Canada to represent our North American Baptist College and proclaim the message you gave us. The Potter's Clay, Gus the Bus, and you, Lord. Thank you for coming with us.

Remember, Lord, the excitement of going places we'd never been before? The wholesome beauty of Canada, the thrill of seeing Niagara Falls, and that all-American feeling at the top of the Statue of Liberty. Then there was Disneyland—all our childhood fantasies and Mickey Mouse dreams come true. And we'll never forget, Lord, the traumatic experience in Bethlehem, Pa., when we crashed into the pastor, totalled the car, and earned our new title of the "Broken Vessel," instead of the Potter's Clay. How you worked a miracle so we could continue our tour! We really felt your presence and loving care in every circumstance.

How much we learned, Father, through ministering to the Body of Christ. You showed us that churches are people. Snatches of shaking hands, meeting people, talking heart to heart, and becoming a part of a new family every night. Bless them, Lord; they showed us so much love. And thank you for your Holy Spirit—for speaking to us every night and for working in the hearts of the people.

We were so close as a group, Lord. You showed us so many things through living together, sharing the good times and bad, and in growing as we studied your Word. What an influence our professors were! What wisdom they had! Lord, it has been a summer we'll never forget.

Remember when we were the mixed team, four girls and four guys, different in almost every way? Before us was the task of becoming a group and of presenting a program to thousands of people we had never met. We were baffled with such a heavy proposition; so we bowed our heads and asked you for the answer. Amidst the chaos of conflicting themes, songs, and personalities, we felt your presence. You told us to forget all our plans and to present you. "Follow me," you said, and we knew that was the only way. And it's still our only choice, Lord, even though the summer is over, and we're no longer the Potter's Clay. We want to follow you, Jesus. Thank you for showing the way.

"Follow Jesus, I will follow Jesus, anywhere He leads, I'll go."

In Jesus' name, Amen.
The Potter's Clay □

Marryl Fried, Olds, Alta., was a member of the Potter's Clay.



The Potter's Clay: Barry Weiss, Olds, Alta.; Brenda Hoffman, Regina, Sask.; Dan Greulich, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Robin Powell, Victoria, B.C.; Merle Hoots, Goodrich, N. Dak.; Marryl Fried, Olds, Alta.; Harold Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wis.; Linda Froemming, Hutchinson, Minn.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Henry Oster of Greeley, Colo., celebrated their 60th



wedding anniversary at a reception on May 9, 1976, at the Sherwood Park Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Arnold celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 19, 1976. They are members of the Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, N. Dak.

KYLE, TEX. More than 300 visitors and guests attended the Immanuel Baptist Church to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the church on June 13.

After some opening remarks and welcome by the pastor, Dr. W. H. Barsh, several musical numbers were given by former members during the morning service. A historical sketch of the church's 90 years was read. A number of greetings and telegrams from former pastors, former members, and sister churches were read.

The Rev. Milton Zeeb, Kansas city, Mo., area secretary of the South Central Area, North American Baptist Conference, brought greetings for the denomination and gave a short message, "The Church and the Denomination." Mrs. David Zimmerman, Creston, Neb., wife of a former pastor, extended greetings to the church.

The Rev. M. G. Mittelstedt, Lebanon, Ohio, pastor of the church from 1939 to 1944, was the principal speaker for the occasion.

A noon meal was served to all members and guests.

The afternoon session began with an organ recital by Mr. O. J. Hofmann, former member, of Austin, Tex. This was followed by group singing, solos, quartets, testimonies and greetings by visitors, representatives from neighboring churches and pastors.

The Rev. Robert Schmeltekopf, former member and now pastor of First Baptist Church, San Marcos, Tex., brought the afternoon message.

Since its organization the church has observed annually Independence Day on July 4th with picnic, program, fellowship and recreation. This bicentennial year of our country was no exception.

The ministry and vision of missions has been projected through the years, and the young people have been given direction to become influential citizens and servants of the Lord wherever they live. (Adolph Hill, church clerk.)

COLFAX, WASH. The First Baptist Church is aligned with both American Baptists and North American Baptists since April 1946, when it merged with Wilcox Baptist Church. This has proved a pleasant and satisfactory arrangement for both groups.

On Nov. 13 and 14 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of American Baptist work in Colfax at the same location. The first church was organized by nine people in 1876. The Baptists built the first church building in Colfax. It was used as a school of higher learning, the first in the area. This school later became the Colfax College with its own building. The church shared in this school for several years.

The anniversary celebration included a banquet on Saturday evening with a program featuring past history; the regular Sunday morning service on the 14th, at which time seven members who have had continuous membership for sixty or more years were honored, and a centennial program at 2:30 p.m. following a church dinner.

The present building was built in 1960 and is the third building at this location. Former members gave greetings and letters were read from those not present. (Mrs. Dale Enos, reporter.)

WARREN, MI. Redeemer Baptist Church held a bicentennial celebration, for which the members built booths and displays and supported these through their attendance and by asking neighbors and friends to attend.

Some of the booths included a wax museum (by the mid-teen youth), a special missionary booth with a recording from one of our own short-term missionaries (Val Urquhart), a booth displaying antiques as far back as the mid 1700's, a booth displaying various sewing and knitting accomplishments, an old-fashioned baked goods display, an ice cream booth, various games and specialty booths and a colonial artist.

A special message was delivered by Pastor Adolph Braun. Hymns were sung in appreciation for America and the way in which God has kept her free.

Several awards were given for the best costumes. God bless America! (Randy Withenshaw, reporter.)

KYLE, TEX. On June 18 the members and friends of the Immanuel Baptist Church dedicated the church steeple,

donated and placed on the church by the Emil Schmeltekopf family.

Various members of the Emil Schmeltekopf family conducted and participated in the service. The Rev. Robert Schmeltekopf gave the invocation. Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf led in singing. A family ensemble sang. The Rev. Edward Schmeltekopf brought the message, "The Steeple: A Perpetual Message" based on 1 Kings 8:22-30.

Acknowledgment and appreciation of the gift was received on behalf of the church by Miss Ruby Wiegand, secretary of memorials.

The Rev. W. H. Barsh, pastor, gave the dedicatory prayer. (Adolph Hill, clerk.)

DALLAS, ORE. On September 26 the Salt Creek Baptist Church bade farewell to Pastor Ray Hoffman and his wife, Esther. A fellowship picnic was held at the church park followed by the farewell service in the church sanctuary. The moderator, Les Voth, presided, and representatives of the various organizations of the church responded with words of appreciation for the work the Hoffmans have done these past six years. An especially meaningful part of the service was the commissioning of the Hoffmans by the church with all the deacons participating. Luther Herrin gave the commissioning prayer. The Hoffmans have been appointed to a four-year term to the mission field in Cameroon, West Africa, and will serve in the areas of evangelism, church growth and the teaching ministries. Their daughter, Lois, will remain in Oregon to continue college. (Grace Voth, reporter.)

WACO, TEX. Central Baptist Church has reason to praise the Lord. After months of hard work and much prayer, God has sent to us the Rev. Richard D. Lord to be our pastor. He has brought with him his fine family who already are making their presence felt.

Mr. Lord had served in the N.A.B. church extension program at Lewisville, in the Dallas, Tex., area; hence he is not a stranger to us nor to the Southern Association. The installation service on September 5 consisted of welcoming speeches by officers of the various departments of the church, followed by responses by the Rev. and Mrs. Lord. A reception was held in connection with the Labor Day church picnic.

We cannot fail to mention God's goodness in providing a fine interim pastor in the person of the Rev. Jerry Walters. He, together with his beautiful family, went much more than the "second mile" in ministering to us. We pray God's continued blessing on their ministry in evangelism.

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA. In June members and friends of the Bethany Baptist Church gathered for a time of fellowship to honor our pastor, the Rev. Helmut Poschwatta, who had resigned. We are very fortunate to have the Rev. R. Kanwischer as our interim pastor. Because of the church extension work, which began here in March 1976, a number of families have left our church and are fellowshiping with the Park Meadows Church. This has greatly decreased our membership. However, we are confident that God will guide us and bless our work as he has done in the past.

On September 26 we observed Thanksgiving Day with a special program in the afternoon. The Rev. Bruce Merrifield, Park Meadows Church, spoke briefly in English and Pastor Kanwischer in German. The newly organized male chorus, under the direction of Pastor Kanwischer, and the mixed choir, sang songs of praise and thanksgiving. An offering of \$12,446 was given during the services on that day. (Mrs. Elfriede Seifas, reporter.)

KELOWNA, B.C. The Lakeview Heights Baptist Church had a day of celebration and praise to God on August 22 when four of our young people followed the Lord in baptism at the Green Bay Baptist Camp. Our area secretary, the Rev. Hans Wilcke, was the speaker. In the afternoon we met at the John Wiebe home for a time of fellowship and refreshments. Here the hand of fellowship was extended to the four young people, who became members of the church.



We are now using the very adequate facilities of the new Mount Boucherie Education Complex for our Sunday morning activities, still awaiting word regarding property so we can erect our own facilities. The Rev. Edmond Hohn is pastor of the church. (Oscar Zimmerman, reporter.)

ROCHESTER, N.Y. On June 24-27, 1976, the Latta Road Baptist Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary with the theme, "Yesterday, Today, and Forever." At the Thursday evening program, "Yesterday" was recaptured by three former pastors, the Rev. Daniel Fuchs, Oak Park, Ill., the Rev. Arthur Weisser, Wells, Vt., and the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Rochester. This time of reminiscing was enjoyed by young and old alike. On Friday we were challenged with the message for "Today," "Keeping the Promised Life," by the Rev. David Ewing, pastor, Whispering Oaks Baptist Church Extension, Kansas City, Mo. A "Look at the Future," was the theme Saturday, and Prof. Gerald Borchert, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., reminded us of "The Task Ahead" in his message after the banquet. He also brought the message on Sunday morning, entitled, "The Christian Model." Many blessings were received during these days, and a time of good fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

On Sept. 12, 1976, the church held the installation service for the Rev. Herbert W. Berndt. The Rev. Wilmer Quiring, area secretary and also former pastor of our church, was the main speaker. Mr. Paul Neumann, church moderator, gave the right hand of fellowship. (Mrs. Hildegard Metzger, reporter.)

ASHLEY, N. DAK. Recent activities of the Ashley Baptist Church which deserve special mention were a program of vocal and instrumental music by the Rev. and Mrs. Gary Vossler who are serving Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, Calif.

A mission presentation with the showing of slides on Australia was given by Miss Linda Blumhardt.

On August 15 the church was privileged to have the group from N.A.B. College, Edmonton, who presented an inspirational program with drama and music.

Every fifth Sunday of a month a special night of music is presented by various groups. On Aug. 29 a trio of young people and their pianist of the Berlin Baptist Church gave a fine program after which refreshments were served. The Rev. Etan Pelzer was pastor of our church. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

ALPENA, MICH. A council was formed on Sept. 30, 1976, at the Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church to examine Mr. Philip Voss, a candidate for ordination into the Christian ministry. The Rev. Willis Potratz was elected chairman; the Rev. Fred Penner was elected clerk.

Mr. Philip Voss gave his testimony

concerning his conversion, call to the ministry, and preparation for the ministry and shared his doctrinal beliefs. The council was satisfied with the candidate's testimony and recommended that the church proceed with the ordination service which took place that evening. The Rev. Jacob Ehman, pastor, Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church, gave the ordination message, "Priorities in the Ministry," with the Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary, leading the ordination prayer. The Rev. Ron Kernohan, Detroit; the Rev. R. I. Thompson, Stevensville; the Rev. Fred Penner, Auburn; the Rev. Norman Berkan, Standish; the Rev. Ron Seck, Sterling Heights; and the Rev. Ron Mayforth, Troy, also participated in the ordination service.

GOOD SPIRIT LAKE, SASK. The Women's Missionary Union of the Saskatchewan Association met at Good Spirit Lake Baptist Camp on July 9, 1976. One hundred twelve ladies registered for this meeting. Visitors in our midst were Missionary Erna Hoffman, home on furlough from Africa; Mrs. Emily Hoover, Fullerton, Calif.; Mrs. Barbara Binder, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.; and our guest speaker, Mrs. May Schroeder, home on furlough from Jos, Nigeria.

Our president, Mrs. Isabelle Hoffman, welcomed all present. Special musical numbers were provided by the Yorkton and Raymore Societies. Marlene Turcotte of Saskatoon gave her testimony of how, when she was searching for peace, our church extension workers called on her and were able to lead her to the Lord.

We count it a real privilege to have had Mrs. Schroeder as our guest speaker. She told of her work with the missionaries' children in Jos and then spoke on "Building a Successful Family."

After the business part of the meeting, the ladies enjoyed a delicious luncheon in the camp dining room. (Mrs. E. Minke, reporter.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IOWA. The summer months were great days for members and friends of the First Baptist Church. On June 24 a reception was held for our new pastor, the Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Dewey. A Pantry Shower was given in their honor. Mr. Dewey's first service was June 27. Pastor Dewey graduated from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls in May; he was ordained June 13 in his home church of Ellinwood, Kan.

On August 15 Pastor and Mrs. Dewey's daughter, Angela Lynn, was born. Open house was held in her honor

on Sept. 1, 1976. On Sept. 5 Pastor Dewey baptized four candidates. The right hand of fellowship was extended to Pastor and Mrs. Dewey, and to the four who were baptized. (Mrs. Donald Schuneman, reporter.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IOWA. September 9, 10, 11, and 12 were the days that were truly days of rejoicing. It was the 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church. The anniversary activities brought former pastors and missionaries back to us; each had the opportunity to speak. Special music was presented by past and present members and friends of the church. A pageant was given depicting the history of the church. The banquet was held on Saturday evening. Following the Sunday afternoon service the cornerstone was replaced.

On Nov. 18, 1876, seventeen spiritual pioneers, with letters of dismissal from the Pleasant Valley Church, founded the German Baptist Church of Steamboat Rock which was based on the "Hamburg Confession." Meetings were held in the schoolhouse and the Methodist Church. Steps were taken toward the erection of a building. The original building on the present site was dedicated July 7 and 8, 1889.

During the years 1892-1899 the original parsonage was acquired by the church as a gift. During the years 1916-1922 the church building was remodeled. About 1918 the language used in Sunday school was changed from German to English, but the preaching message continued in German. In 1929 a new brick parsonage was erected. During 1936-1940 an addition was built to the church providing Sunday school facilities. In the years 1941-1951 the name of the church was changed from the German Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church. A new Hammond electric organ and new piano were installed in the church auditorium. In April 1953 the church voted to proceed with building a new church which was dedicated in February 1954. Church extension became a challenge for our church in the 1960's. The records of the church show that upwards of 500 have been baptized and united with the church, besides many others who were added by letter and/or personal testimony. Seventeen pastors have served during these 100 years. The Rev. Dennis Dewey is present pastor. (Mrs. Donald Schuneman, reporter.)

BISON, KAN. The members and pastor of the First Baptist Church rejoiced some months ago when six candidates followed the Lord in baptism. These were Melinda Krom, Bruce Krom, Phillip Krom, Sherrill Winterlin, Beth Winterlin and Sandra Strobel. After the

morning service they were welcomed into the church fellowship. (Leona Hanhardt, reporter.)

HERREID, S. DAK. The Rev. Alfred Weisser, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., was guest speaker for a Dedication Service at the Herreid Baptist Church on Sept. 12, 1976. The sanctuary of the church was completely remodeled with a new beamed ceiling, paneling, wall-to-wall carpeting, new pews and pulpit furniture, and the outside of the church was painted.

Mr. Weisser, a former pastor of the church, brought a message on "A Dedicated People" at the morning service and "A Dedicated House" in the afternoon. Many members and friends enjoyed a potluck dinner at noon. Neighboring churches joined in the afternoon service which was followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

On October 19, the Herreid Baptist Women's Missionary Society observed its 70th Anniversary by inviting neighboring societies for a program and tea. The entire program was incorporated into an original poem written by Mrs. Walter Pfeifle. Former presidents were honored and appropriate musical selections were presented. The Missionary Society has 39 members, and the president is Mrs. Ernie Fjeldheim. (Mrs. Sharlene Schaffer, reporter.)

APPLETON, MINN. Two young ladies were baptized and received into the church. Our church was blessed with a full week of deeper spiritual life meetings by the Rev. John Ziegler of Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. Later three



young people (pictured with Pastor Terry Jarosch) were baptized and received into the church. (Mrs. Charles Giese, reporter.)

PLEYNA, MONT. On September 12 the Rev. Robert Lennick, our missionary from Cameroon, was with us for our morning and afternoon services. The Rev. Harvey Motis, also a missionary from Cameroon, was with us for a time

of sharing on Sept. 13. Sept. 14 and 15 Lucille Wipf, missionary to Japan, was with us. The Rev. Richard Lawrenz is our pastor. (Paula Fuchs, reporter.)

DALLAS, TEX. Our church had the privilege of welcoming into our membership Mr. and Mrs. James Lavender early in the summer. Mr. Lavender is a student at the Dallas Bible College. He and his wife are planning and promoting special programs and events for our young people. Mr. Lavender also assists in the morning worship services.

We also have another theological student active in our church. He is Mr. Virgil Schmidt who is a student at the Criswell Bible Institute. He is serving as the song leader at all of our services. He came to Dallas recently from Rapid City, S. Dak., where he served as interim pastor of our North American Baptist Church. (Rudolph Woyke, reporter.)

PARMA, OHIO. Aug. 29, 1976, was truly a day of rejoicing, as our sister North American Baptist Churches joined us to welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Elmer C. Strauss (former missionaries to Cameroon) to the pastorate of the Redeemer Baptist Church at an installation service and reception.

Many thanks to Mr. G. Rich, layman, Cedar Hill Baptist Church, and the Rev. E. Knull, chaplain, veterans administration hospital, for supplying our pulpit in the interim. (Mrs. Jennifer A. Fender, reporter.)

CHICAGO, ILL. In June the German churches of Milwaukee, Wis., and the Baptist Mission Church of Chicago, Ill., gathered for their annual conference. The theme of the conference was "The Church of Christ Today."

It was a gathering filled with inspiring singing by youth choirs, a men's choir and a combined mixed choir of the three participating churches. The meetings began Saturday with the young people gathering for fellowship. Two services were held Sunday morning at the Baptist Mission Church, and the afternoon service was held at Foster Avenue Baptist Church to accommodate the many guests and friends. The speakers of the morning services and the afternoon gathering were the Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary, and the Rev. Waldemar Laser of Canada.

DALLAS, ORE. On Aug. 29, 1976, the Salt Creek Baptist Church celebrated its 80th anniversary. Twenty-two people who had been members over 50 years were honored. A fellowship potluck was held at our own church park followed by an informal program. A resume of

the spiritual growth of the church was given by Miss Lena May, who served as church clerk for many years. She said that the Rev. Gustav Schunke, who was the state missionary in the Willamette Valley and lived in the Bethany area, came the distance of 60 miles by horse and buggy once a month to hold services. Dick Bartel, a longtime member, told of the physical aspects in the development of the church. He related the decisions that resulted in the building of the first edifice and succeeding additions, including the present sanctuary which was built in 1962. The first parsonage burned to the ground in 1938. A new one was built immediately by the men of the church. Miss Linda Launer, of the youth group and a new church member, gave her impressions of coming into the fellowship. A youth instrumental group played a variety of music, and a ladies' trio sang "The Old Fashioned Meeting." Gary Neilsen, the youth pastor, led the sing-a-long, and the master of ceremonies was the Rev. Raymond Hoffman, pastor at that time. (Mrs. Grace Voth, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MAN. The German Baptist Mission Church youth group had their annual summer camp at Clear Lake, Man., on Sept. 3-6, 1976. The weekend was planned by Albert Zubert, youth group president. This year there were 54 young people who attended.

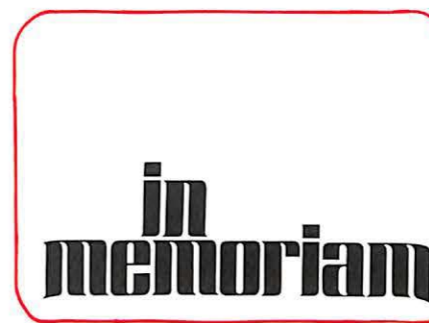


The Bible studies were led by the Rev. W. Hanik, who spoke on Jonah, "Called Twice." There were also sing-spirations and devotions led by various members of the youth group. The Holy Spirit was surely felt during this time. Many young people rededicated their lives to the Lord and found new joy in their Christian lives. Many also found a new peace within themselves and in the group as a whole. (Linda Dreger, secretary.)

WARREN, MI. On May 23rd the congregation of Redeemer Baptist Church was treated to a violin concert by Dr. Silopez Kabayo, in an effort to raise money for Baptist missionaries in the Philippine Islands and to share the gifts that God has given him. He was accom-

panied by his wife (a concert pianist) and his 80-year-old mother (also an accomplished pianist).

Dr. Kabayo has gone into the rural areas of the Philippines to bring his people classical music (because, as he puts it . . . "rock music is perhaps all they hear") and the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was the recipient of the 1972 Ramon Magsaysay Award, the highest Asian public service award, and has played in Carnegie Hall and most of the major cities in the world. (Randy Withenshaw, reporter.)



RUDOLF BAYER was born Oct. 10, 1885, in Wolhynia Ukraine and died Aug. 26, 1976, at the age of 90 years, 11 months, and 15 days. At the age of 22 he accepted Christ, was baptized and joined in fellowship with God's people. In 1912 he married Emma Schwarz who predeceased him on Feb. 20, 1975. They were married 63 years. After many difficult years in Russia and Germany following the war, he came to Morris, Man., in 1948. He became a member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church where he was a blessing to many. His last years were spent in the Donwood Manor Home, Winnipeg. Three children predeceased him, including Tamara Keck, Morris. He leaves three children: one son, Leonard and family, Winnipeg; two daughters, Lina Schulz and family, Morris, and Lea Blech and family, Siberia, Russia; 18 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren, and a host of friends and relatives. Rev. Bruno Voss was the officiating minister at the funeral.

ELMER WENGEL, St. Clair Shores, Mich., was born Dec. 7, 1908 and died June 19, 1976. Accepting Christ as Savior in his youth, he was baptized and became a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wis. He served the Lord as youth director, soloist and choir director. In the early 1930s he moved to Detroit, Mich., where he joined the Bethel Baptist Church of which his brother, the Rev. Paul Wengel, was the pastor. For nearly forty years he directed the chancel choir at Bethel. He was preceded in death by his wife, Hazel, in 1956, and by Jean of his second marriage in 1968. He is survived by his son James; Jacqueline, an only grandchild; one brother, William; three sisters, Mae Shepard, Edna Wengel and Anita Neubauer. The funeral service was held in Milwaukee with the Rev. Stanley Sommerfeld officiating assisted by Rev. Jack E. Jones.

KATIE BICKEL of Moberge, S. Dak., was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Liedle on Feb. 15, 1905, and died Sept. 11, 1976, in the Moberge Hospital. She was married to Martin W. Bickel on June 9, 1930. Mrs. Bickel accepted Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized into the fellowship of the Herreid Baptist Church in 1969. She was a member of the Herreid Baptist WMS prior to moving to Moberge. Mr. and Mrs. Bickel moved to Moberge in 1970, and in 1971 united with the First Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, Martin, one son, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters. The funeral service was held at the Herreid Baptist Church with the Rev. David Jones and the Rev. Edward Kopf officiating.

PHILIP ACKERMAN of Herreid, S. Dak., son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ackerman, was born April 15, 1897, and died Sept. 11, 1976, in the Eureka hospital. Philip attended rural school and grew up on the family farm. On March 27, 1925, he married Bertha Berndt, and they made their home on a farm three miles northwest of Herreid. They retired in October 1945, and moved into Herreid. He is survived by one brother and one sister. The Rev. A. J. Fischer and the Rev.

Edward A. Kopf conducted the funeral service in the Herreid Baptist Church.

RICHARD CARL LINK was born at Shitomir, Russia, on Nov. 3, 1884, to August and Louise (Holstein) Link and died Sept. 8, 1976, at the age of 91. He immigrated to the United States in 1885 and lived in Colorado and Oregon. In 1901 his family moved to Camrose, Alta., where he homesteaded. On July 22, 1908, he married Ida Redman. They lived at Camrose, Dinant, and Olds, Alta., and in 1948 moved to Kelowna, B.C., where he died. Mr. Link accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior under the ministry of Evangelist H. Schwendener, was baptized by the Rev. F. A. Mueller and joined the Bittern Lake Baptist Church, Camrose. He maintained his membership in North American Baptist churches wherever he resided. He served faithfully for many years as Sunday school superintendent and deacon. As a member of the founding Board of North American Baptist College, he helped build the first building as well as four churches. His son, William, predeceased him in 1962. Mourning his passing are his wife, Ida, to whom he was married for over 68 years; his daughters: Alma Risto, Edmonton, and Frances Faust, Detroit, Mich.; sons: Vernon, Elgin, Ill., Herbert, Kelowna, B.C., and Edward, Edmonton; one sister, Mrs. Minnie Peterson; 19 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren, and many more relatives and friends.

JOHN SCHAFFER was born on Aug. 10, 1921, in Irvin, Alta., and died on Aug. 29, 1976, at the age of 55 years and 19 days. He accepted the Lord as his Savior in 1936 and was baptized in 1942 in the Bethel Baptist Church, Calgary. While in Calgary, he served as director of the camp board for the Christian Service Brigade. On Nov. 12, 1943, he was united in marriage to Irene Dickau in Wetaskwin. To this union were born 4 sons and 1 daughter. After living in Calgary, they moved to Kelowna, B.C., in 1975. Those who mourn his passing are his wife, Irene; 4 sons: Allan, Keremeos, B.C.; Donald, Aylmer, Que.; Barry, Hudson Bay, Sask.; Duane, Calgary, Alta.; his daughter: Mrs. Judy Fedor, Lethbridge, Alta.; 5 grandchildren; 2 brothers: Albert Schaffer and Benny Oster; and 3 sisters: Maggie Haberer, Frieda Kaiser, and Olga MacKenzie. The Rev. Arlyn Thielhaas, Brentview Baptist, Calgary, and the Rev. Ronald Habermas, Trinity Baptist, Kelowna, officiated at the funeral service.

MYRON LEE GIESE, 11, of Holloway, Minn., passed away on April 28, 1976. He was born Jan. 5, 1965, at Appleton, Minn. Myron accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in April 1976 and became a member of the First Baptist Church, Appleton. Surviving are his parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Giese; three sisters: LuAnn (Mrs. Keith Gades), Linda, and Lisa; two brothers: Mark and Merlin; a nephew, Rick; grandparents, and a great-grandmother. Pastor Terrence Jarosch was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

ELIZABETH SCHMIDT, 85, of Milwaukee, Wis., passed away on Sept. 11, 1976. She was born on Jan. 3, 1891, at Sheboygan, Wis. She accepted Christ, was baptized on confession of her faith, and joined the Bethel Baptist Church, Sheboygan. She served many years as church organist and choir director. At the time of her passing, she was a member of Bethany Baptist Church, Milwaukee. Surviving her are three sisters: Mrs. Antone (Julie) Torrison, Sheboygan; Mrs. Max (Eleanore) Erbach and Mrs. Helen Giesecke of Milwaukee; plus many other loved ones and relatives. The Rev. James Schacher was the officiating minister.

STANLEY RAYMOND SEWELL, 60, Bellwood, Ill., died Sept. 4, 1976. He was born May 19, 1916, in Toronto, Ont., Canada. When he was approximately 16 years of age, he moved with his family to the Chicago area. He is survived by his wife, Dell, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, a stepmother and a stepbrother. A great change took place in Stanley's life when he accepted the Lord as Savior in 1974. He was baptized into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church, Bellwood, at that time, and soon after accepted a position on the church board where he did an excellent job as Stewardship and Finance Chairman. The Rev. Loren A. Weber officiated at the funeral.

EMIL RADEL, 78, of Emery, S. Dak., died July 26, 1976. He was born July 29, 1898, in Hutchinson County, S. Dak. He was married to Anna Wahl on Dec. 20, 1922. Three children were born to this union. He was baptized into the membership of Plum Creek Baptist Church, June 12, 1921, and served in various capacities in his church. He was a member of First Baptist, Emery, at the time of his death. Survivors include his widow; one son, Merle; and one daughter, Betty (Mrs. John Leisner); six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two sisters and one brother. The Rev. D. S. Wipf officiated at the service.

AMIN CALLED 'BLOOD-THIRSTY'
 MEMPHIS (EP)—A former U.S. ambassador to Uganda has charged that the Uganda head of state, Gen. Idi Amin, is "so totally irresponsible and blood-thirsty" that it is very dangerous to be a missionary in that East African nation.

Thomas P. Melady said that before he closed the U.S. embassy in Uganda in 1973 he urged American missionaries to "get out while they could," and added that Gen. Amin "is a real anti-Semite" who feels that "Hitler was right in doing away with 6 million Jews."

Nearly all Protestant missionaries have left Uganda since the British government severed relations with its unpredictable president, Idi Amin. Amin claims God is punishing England with its current drought for its past sins and failures.

ILLINOIS DRINKING AGE DOWN ACCIDENT TOLL UP

CHICAGO (EP)—Traffic accidents involving drivers under 21 have jumped 33 per cent since Illinois lowered the legal drinking age to 19. The survey also indicates that arrests for teen-age drunken driving and traffic fatalities have increased since the new law took effect.

Representative Aaron Jaffee, co-sponsor of the bill that lowered the drinking age, said he would call for a new legislative study of the problem.

NEVER SAY DIE

Evangelist James Aker of Radford, Virginia, has been preaching the gospel for 85 years. The 105 year-old preacher has meetings scheduled through 1977. He doesn't expect to die, believing the Lord will return before then.

CULTS ARE GROWING

A University of Chicago anthropologist claims 20 million Americans belong to "fringe religious cults" like Hare Krishna, spiritualism and Scientology.

FUTURE UNCERTAIN FOR MISSIONARIES

Colombia has temporarily barred new missionaries until quotas and procedures can be established to clear all missionaries through the Colombian Confederation of Evangelicals. □



As I see it
 by Paul H. Siewert

If perchance you should go to a college football game this season and after a rough and tumble game see half of the players huddled together on the end zone, you may be witnessing, of all things, a prayer meeting.

According to one news report, it all officially surfaced last year when after a Stanford-Army game at Stanford about 80 players gathered at the end zone for a brief prayer time to thank God for the opportunity to play and pray together. These Christian sportsmen were soon noticed by the fans and when reported by the "Stanford Daily" were berated by the public with skepticism and derogatory remarks. Fortunately the story didn't end with fuzzy-headed fans and eccentric reporters. Rather it soon brought about a flood of letters expressing appreciation for such a refreshing spiritual witness. One player was quoted in a nation-wide magazine to say: "The prayer meeting at the end is the best part of the game. It's a way that we can show people we've committed our lives to Christ—including what we do on the football field." A senior line-backer from California was quoted as saying, "After spending a whole game knocking each other down, getting up and knocking each other down again, the prayer time puts the game of football into perspective in the game of life."

I like that! If such a tradition should flourish, I may want to be fanatical enough to suggest we tear down the movie houses, since they seem to be incurably infested with Hollywood nausea, and replace them with football stadiums. □

The Rev. Paul H. Siewert is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Minot, N.D. In this column Mr. Siewert analyzes current religious news of his choice.

Editor's note: The Rev. Paul H. Siewert has written the "As I See It" column for a number of years. Many readers have expressed deep appreciation for his informative and thought provoking articles, and all readers have been stimulated, whether they agree with Rev. Siewert's position or not.

In order to give other pastors an opportunity to express their viewpoints, the Rev. Adolph Braun, pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, has been asked to author the column for about one year.

Our thanks go to Rev. Siewert for his faithful and interesting contributions. RJK



Mrs. Thelea Wesseler is one of the vice presidents of the B.W.A. She is a member of First Baptist Church in Lorraine, KS.

■ *The Rev. C. T. Remple*, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, since 1969, has resigned from this pastorate eff. Jan. 15, 1977, to retire. He has pastored churches in the North American Baptist Conference for over 36 consecutive years. Mr. Remple is available for special meetings and interim work in pastorless churches.

■ *The Rev. Herbert S. Dickerson* assumed the position of instructor in Homiletics at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, beginning Sept. 1, 1976.

■ *The Rev. Ernest A. Hoffmann* resigned as the pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Cheetowaga, NY, eff. Nov. 30, 1976, to become the pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, on Dec. 5, 1976.

■ *The Rev. Arlyn Thielenhaus*, pastor of the Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, resigned from that position eff. Nov. 1, 1976. His plans include finishing his doctoral studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, Los Angeles, CA.

■ *The Rev. Gary Vossler*, minister of youth and evangelism at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH, resigned from that position to become the associate pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, on Nov. 15, 1976. The Rev. Eugene A. Kern is the pastor there.

■ *The Rev. George Bryant* is serving at the First Baptist Church, Durham, KS, as the interim pastor.

■ *Dr. Benno Przybylski* has accepted an appointment to do research at MacMasters University, Hamilton, ON. He resigned as the associate professor of New Testament at North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, eff. with the end of the 1975-76 school year.

■ *The Rev. Reuben Grueneich* became the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Rock Rapids, IA, in Aug. 1976. This is a Church Extension project. He previously served as the pastor of First Baptist Church, Linton, ND.

■ *The Rev. Michael Relton* became the pastor of Esterhazy Baptist Church, Esterhazy, SK, in July 1976.

■ *The Rev. David E. Korb* is the new pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA.

■ *Mr. James Dick* is serving as the assistant pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Leon Bill is the pastor of the church.

■ *The Rev. James Harris* is the new pastor of the Central Valley Baptist Church, Donna, TX.

■ *Mr. Steve Berg* terminated his ministry with Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, on Aug. 31 in order to study at Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

■ *New officers of the North American Baptist Ministers' Fellowship* elected at the luncheon at the Triennial Conference, Portland, OR, are the Rev. Herman Effa, president; the Rev. Mervin Kramer, vice-president; and the Rev. Ted Keck, secretary-treasurer; Dr. R. J. Kerstan is the counselor.

■ *Mrs. Leon Bill*, Sioux Falls, SD, was elected to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Pastors' Wives Fellowship to fill out the term vacated by Mrs. Ray Hoffmann who, along with her husband, has become a missionary to Cameroon.

■ *The Rev. Kenneth J. Knight* became the pastor of the Trinity Baptist Church, Warren, MI, July 1, 1976.

■ The North American Baptist Seminary sponsored "Every Church Visitation Program" continues with much enthusiasm. The visits will be made by students, trustees, faculty members and members of the President's Council until all of our churches are visited on behalf of the seminary. To date nearly 175 churches have had this visit.

■ The Trustee Board of North American Baptist Seminary and the General Council have approved a significant campus expansion program at the seminary. Over the next five to six years, four major building facilities are projected. Land is currently being acquired to provide space for these new buildings. □

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ON GIVING

- We must tell you about the grace that God has given to the Macedonian churches. Somehow, in most difficult circumstances, their joy and the fact of being down to their last penny themselves, produced a magnificent concern for other people.
- I can guarantee that they were willing to give to the limit of their means, yes and beyond their means, without the slightest urging from me or anyone else. In fact they simply begged us to accept their gifts and so let them share the honour of supporting their brothers in Christ.
- Nor was their gift, as I must confess I had expected, a mere cash payment. Instead they made a complete dedication of themselves first to the Lord and then to us, as God's appointed ministers.
- After all, the important thing is to be willing to give as much as we can—that is what God accepts, and no one is asked to give what he has not got.
- Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the man who gives cheerfully. After all, God can give you everything that you need, so that you may always have sufficient both for yourselves and for giving away to other people.

II Corinthians 8:1-5, 12, 9:7, 8
 J. B. Phillips' Translation

Guest editorial by
Barbara J. Binder,
editorial assistant

In this season of the year when we remember our Savior's birth, we need to take time to recall the significance of the Babe who was born over 1976 years ago. As Christmas programs are prepared; as our churches and homes are decorated for this season, and as we purchase gifts for our loved ones—how many of us pause with our children to explain to them the beauty and wonder of the Christ-Child on their level? Is there a time of spiritual preparation for us? How many of us take time to be sure that those who participate in the church's Christmas program understand the significance of the words which they speak and sing? Or is the goal to make the parents feel good because their children are so "cute" standing there frightened, rattling off recitations inaudibly and therefore unmeaningful to the congregation?

How many of us, as we hang each length of tinsel on the tree, reflect upon the Christ and hang each ornament and each tinsel to the honor and glory of God? Have we noticed that each bough carries the form of a cross—a striking symbol of Christ's work? How many of us, as we push through the crowds trying to find just the right present, breathe a prayer that those about us may know our Savior? That with our gifts and Christmas cards goes the prayer that Christ may become more real to the receivers of the gifts and cards? Do we pray, sincerely, that many in the world this Christmas season may come to know personally our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, our Prince of Peace?

The town of Bethlehem was busy, crowded, rushed; just as we in our towns and cities find ourselves at this time. There was probably little sympathy or friendliness expressed toward the mass of strangers there as is here now. Until one personally takes time to realize the real needs of individuals, the crowd is just a mass which we must push through, a hurdle to overcome. In calling with the God's Volunteers team, I was abruptly brought to the realization that the crowd is composed of individuals with needs, specifically a need for Christ.

As we celebrate Christmas, do those around us sense the joy and awe that comes from knowing this Babe as the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace? Christ is beautifully portrayed in Isaiah 9:6. Such a contrast to ourselves! Our experience and knowledge is limited. When we want to do good, we do otherwise. When we attempt to counsel with others, we find ourselves

limited due to lack of time, training, type of personality, insight or understanding. We are not all-wise and all-knowing. But here is Christ—the One able and willing to give his counsel to those who want it, who know he is available for this purpose—"the Wonderful Counselor." He is the One able to give us and those about us the help and strength which comes from true and unlimited wisdom. Do we celebrate the birth of One whose influences shape our lives, who builds us from weakness to strength?

Are we celebrating the birth of One who has the strength to go through with whatever he undertakes—the Mighty God! How can we neglect sharing with our families and friends that there is a Mighty God who can rescue us: a powerful One—who was "wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our sin."

Through our celebrations do others know the Babe is the Everlasting Father—the Father of Eternity, who can give eternal life to them? Does the world know the celebration is for a Father who is tender and faithful, who is a guardian and a provider?

When you hang your Christmas wreath or light your advent wreath, have you ever thought of its symbolism? The wreath is in the form of a circle—a circle has no beginning and no end. God is everlasting, eternal. We can have eternal life through Christ. The wreath is covered with evergreen; it is always green. So our hope for eternity is always sure when we have accepted this Babe and his work for redemption as our Savior.

If only we could convince people to realize that this Babe, the Prince of Peace, whose birthday we celebrate speaks to the deepest needs of human hearts, that he promotes peace in contrast to the mass of kings, princes and world leaders who have been warriors and conquerors who delighted in conquest and blood. People who are distressed through the conviction of their sin realize there is no peace to the wicked. We are celebrating this birthday of Christ because only through him can we have peace with God; consequently, peace within comes only through Christ—in our relationship to God, to ourselves, to our own feelings and desires, to our life's circumstances and to our fellowman. *He is God our Savior.*

In all these titles the greatness and glory of the Messiah are proclaimed:

"For a child will be born to us,
a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;

And His name will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NASB) □



Dear Editor:

I can't take it any longer! For the past five months I have been subjected to the ultimate in punishments—I have been deprived of my *Baptist Herald*. The pain is simply too great and I must speak out.

For reasons unknown to me (especially since my subscription is paid up), I have not been receiving my *Herald* since about last February. Would you kindly check into this matter, and hopefully, end my sentence of agony and pain.

Trusting my pain will soon turn to joy, I remain, painfully (a temporary state I hope) yours, Kurt Redschlag, pastor, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Editor:

I am glad to have this chance to express my opinion about the price of BAPTIST HERALD. Long ago I tried hard to have more of our members at Temple order the HERALD—it was hard to do it then and it is harder now. I object to the increase. Can't we afford as a denomination to subsidize this BAPTIST HERALD, since it is really our means of advertising and promoting N.A.B.? As a denomination we have no radio program that I know of; are we not missing out there? Some religious programs offer free periodicals or one at \$1.00 per year—and there are Baptists who subscribe to those. I think it is time to realize that the HERALD is a means to an end and not the end itself. Miss E. M. Kapteina, Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Editor:

Regarding the letter from Miss Brenda Taft in the September BAPTIST HERALD who wrote to cancel her subscription. I hope she read a copy of that same September issue.

The personal testimony entitled "My Story" by Mrs. Tom Kleppe, wife of a Congressman from North Dakota, was worth the entire magazine.

I too get upset with our BAPTIST HERALD at times. It might properly be called informative, but I would prefer one or more personal life stories like Glen Kleppe's any time. The part that pleased me most was that she had no relationship to one of our churches or even to a Baptist background. She was simply and clearly presenting how she found a personal relationship with Christ. Glen talked about how exciting it is to be a Christian and the many op-

portunities God gives her to speak for Christ.

It is neat to be a Christian! I pray that many of us will be personally moved and challenged by this (and future??) personal life stories so that we will be willing to live our lives for Christ not only in our churches but outside our church family. That is where the majority of people are who need to find Christ, and that is where we too can find the same joy of living that Glen Kleppe is talking about.

Congratulations on printing a great article! Keep them coming!! In His marvelous love, Nancy Stolz, Tacoma, Washington.

My Choice

(Continued from page 15)

know that he chose me (before the foundation of the world!) long before I chose him.

Being a sacred singer holds with it an awesome responsibility, because, for me, it is of the utmost importance that the message of a song be concise, of good doctrine and clearly understood by the listener, whether its theme be salvation through Jesus Christ or praise and worship of the God that I serve. So, it is by seeking the Lord's help that I select my vocal music, hopefully to touch a need in someone's life and also to minister to my own needs. How vital to choose songs which represent living realities and not unworkable cliches!

All of our choices are influenced by which road we have chosen—the broad or the narrow. Jesus presented these two roads for man's choosing and clearly stated that no man can serve two masters. That involves me—and the most important choice I can make in my life. It brings to mind a Robert Frost poem about two roads; and I identify my decision for Christ with the closing lines: ". . . I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Following Christ makes all the difference—the eternal difference. All of life finds perspective and balance for me with the words of a song that I recently recorded on my new album:

An Inside View of North American Baptists

(Continued from page 19)

for help in strengthening the church, and a desire to feel closer to the Conference as a Body because of the personal acquaintance and friendships.

This has direct implications for use of personnel, time and finances.

Conclusion. Taking all of these

"I've heard the King, the King of Heaven;

Nor can I e'er forget the music of His voice.

I've heard the King, His call I've answered. . .

I've made the King of Heaven my everlasting choice! □

(Editor's note: Evangelist Ron Susek has been introduced to *Baptist Herald* readers in the past as one of the evangelists officially endorsed by the North American Baptist Conference. Ron's wife, Diane, has made several recordings of her vocal arrangements and these are available as albums and eight-track tapes in your local Christian book store or by writing: Continental Christian Crusades, Inc., Box 2222, York, PA 17405. In September 1976, Ron's handbook on faith was released, entitled, *Seeing Is Not Believing.*) □

News Flash

(Continued from page 3)

Baptist mission activities, so that Baptists will support denominational rather than non-Baptist mission projects.

Ernest K. Bee Jr., moderator of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., was elected chairman of the NABF for the coming year, succeeding Robert C. Campbell, general secretary of American Baptist Churches in the USA.

The NABF is a voluntary association of nine North American Baptist bodies with a combined membership of more than 19 million believers. NABF is one of five regional fellowships operating under the BWA umbrella.

The two day meeting in Arlington, a Washington suburb, October 1-2, featured a program of understanding and sharing. A pattern of past years for small sharing sessions by leaders in special interest areas was continued. Discussions this year dealt with church and society, missions administration, services to the

churches, disaster preparedness, and the work of executive secretaries.

The Gift of Uncle Gabe

(Continued from page 4)

build an authentic replica of a plane he'd once flown, and Polly who loved writing as well as reading, would begin his biography for a school project.

As Jenny closed the door behind Uncle Gabe's retreating figure, she heard Jack exclaim that this was going to be a wonderful Christmas, and her heart was sure that he was right. Looking out upon the still night, she could see the old man's shadow reflected in the crystal snow as he walked beneath the moonlight. As she watched him, her mind could visualize the smile that she knew still clung to his face, and she knew that a miracle had happened. How like the King of Kings to remember the gift that was still needed most—peace on the earth and good will toward men. □

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some members from the church as well as large sums of money invested in land buildings. Many people in establishing churches fail to see the larger and long range benefits of starting new churches.

Have you given thought to the priorities of our Conference ministries and how you can best help to achieve God's mission through us? □

baptist herald

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A Christmas Letter

Ralph R. Rhea

Dear God:

Sometimes it seems that we have lost the true meaning of Christmas, that we have lost it in the crowds, in the giving and the receiving of gifts, in the tension, the hurry, Christmas brings. But You who see into our hearts know that we cannot lose the spirit of Christmas. You know that deep within us this spirit abides, giving meaning to all things.

It may seem that we have forgotten the angels' song "On earth peace, good will toward men." But You know that, in spite of how the world may seem, deep within our hearts there is the desire for peace and brotherhood.

It comforts us to know that You know we really long to love and to be loved. You know that, in spite of how we act, we long to be loving, that we have the capacity for being loving, for You have put Your love in our hearts, and You have given us the ability to express it.

Thank You, God, for knowing what we want when we do not know. You in Your love and wisdom can see that we want much more than

material things. You know the true desires of our hearts; You know our inner longings. You know what it is that we are seeking.

Where we seem to have failed, we know that Your Spirit in us cannot fail. Where we seem to be lacking in health or in supply, in wisdom or in love, we know that Your Spirit in us stands perfect. Because You are with us, we know that we are better than we seem, that we have come further than we think, that we are more wonderful than we know.

So, dear God, we write you this Christmas letter not to ask for gifts but to thank You for the greatest gift of all—Your own loving Spirit in our hearts!

Lovingly,
Your Children

To wish you a joyous Christmas and happiness

throughout the coming year —

The North American Baptist Office Staff

