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NEWS Flash

Baptist Returns to Pulpit After Being Horsewhipped

BOWLING GREEN, Va. May 1, 1771—(BP)—It was a beautiful spring Sunday. The worship service began peacefully enough as the Baptist minister, John Waller, announced the opening song.

But Waller was apprehensive as he saw three men approaching. It was the parson of the state church in the parish, his clerk and the sheriff.

The 18th Century Baptist preacher had already felt the heel of the established church. Three years earlier he had spent 43 days in prison for preaching Baptist doctrines. But he was not prepared for the outrage which was to follow.

While the congregation sang, the parson stepped up on the platform with Waller and flipped the pages of the hymnal with his whip while the Baptist attempted to keep his finger on the selection.

Ignoring the disturbance, Waller next attempted to lead the opening prayer. As he prayed, the parson repeatedly stuck the butt of his whip in Waller's mouth.

Seeing that the parson's attempts to halt the service were futile, the clerk then stepped up on the stage, seized Waller, dragged him away from the pulpit, and delivered him to the sheriff.

The sheriff, doubtless aware that their intrusion was a lawless affront, remained some distance away from the congregation. But when Waller was dragged before him by the clerk, the law of Caroline County went into action without the formality of a trial.

The sheriff unlimbered a horse-whip and in a rage gave the help-

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Scared But Not Afraid

by Mellie J. Smith

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid Psalm 27:1.

My salvation through Jesus Christ was as wonderful as the Bible had promised. My fears of death conquered. Living was my problem now. Step by step I had to learn to give the control of my life over to the Savior too. It was not an easy lesson to learn, and I am still working at it. The experience I am about to relate was the birth of my spirit led life.

The soft, warm breeze was gently stirring the four to six foot tall grasses that filled the large field to my right. On the map it was listed as a playground but either funds had run out, or the homes had all been sold and the developers wasted no more money on interest getting attractions, and the only ones who enjoyed the area were the large water buffalo that grazed there with small boys lying sleepily on their broad backs, supposedly watching the valuable animals. Tonight the small sounds and gentle rustlings made me glance that way occasionally as I strolled down the dirt road to my dress-makers, but did not really worry me.

Suddenly the place was enveloped in the darkest dark I had ever seen. For a moment I hesitated. I was quite used to having the power go off in our subdivision but I had never been out walking when it had happened. Usually I had been curled up on the couch by my husband watching the "new" Hopalong Cassidy or some other equally antiquated film on T.V. and would merely use the darkness as an excuse to cuddle closer to him. Never had I realized just how dark it became out of doors. Here in the Phillipine Islands, with no large cities close to lighten the horizons, the blackness was complete and confining. Priding myself on my adventurous nature, I shrugged off my feelings of wariness and ignored the warnings I had heard about the animals, both two and four footed, that used the blackouts as cover for their nefarious deeds.

I was carrying my husband's strong flashlight, but once my eyes adjusted to the total lack of light, I rather enjoyed the peaceful solitude and did not switch it on.

I was thinking of the words in 2 Cor. 5:7, "For we walk by faith and not by sight" and compared it to the situation. Although it was pitch dark, I was able to

Mrs. Mellie J. Smith is a member of First Baptist Church, Minot, North Dakota.

continue without sight, for I was sure in my knowledge of the right way.

I was so occupied with these thoughts that it was several minutes before I got the distinct impression that I was being watched. A quick glance over my shoulder showed no one behind me and I could certainly see no forms up ahead. I was about to dismiss the feeling as foolish fancy when the rustlings in the grass became more audible. Slowly I turned my head, feeling as if someone had tightened the screws that held it on and it moved only with great difficulty. Just behind me, plainly visible through the grass were 5, or 6 pairs of eyes, all low to the ground and moving slowly in time with my steps. It took no imagination to figure out what they were and who they belonged to. One of the sad parts of the military families who moved back stateside were the dogs some left on their own and who if strong and mean enough to survive the wild dog packs that hunted the area, would join forces with them. They were a nuisance to the farmers and often a real danger to the local people caught out alone. They seldom attacked humans, but it did occur.

Shivers of fear chased up and down my backbone. Fortunately or sometimes unfortunately because of my adventurous nature, I am the type who will put on a bluff rather than admit fear or defeat. There was no place to turn for help. The shop was the only place open and it was too far ahead; they could be on me before I could run even a few feet. I decided that my only course would be to ignore them and hope they were only curious and would not bother me. This I secretly doubted for they must be very hungry to come this far into the housing area. I have always felt that animals sense your fear and that it is possible to bluff them, at least that had been my experience up to now. Possibly a full minute passed before I heard the soft pad of their paws on the road behind me. They had left the safety of the tall grass and were now on the road. Carefully I glanced over my right shoulder and could see them ranged out in stalking formation, gradually drawing nearer. It took some doing to keep myself from running and to pretend I was not scared, for I definitely was.

(Continued on page 31)

CLASS OF 1976

by David J. Draewell, N.A.B. Seminary president

We are all learning more and more about the importance of goals in our lives. Without clearly defined goals, individuals and organizations vasculate, flounder and often perish. Goals focus our attention and efforts upon matters of significance. They greatly enhance our ability to accomplish the tasks which are most worthwhile. Christians not only need adequate goals for their lives but also need to assign priorities among their goals. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus underscored the importance of priorities in life by saying:

"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well"—Matthew 6:31-33.

A sense of mission characterizes the men who are members of the graduating class at North American Baptist Seminary this year. A knowledge of God's purpose in their lives led them to enroll at the seminary in the first place. Their goals have become clearer during the years of their training. Now, as they look forward to ministry following graduation on May 16, 1976, they understand also the priorities which will characterize their future service for God.

The graduating class, this year, is the largest in the history of North American Baptist Seminary. Its 25 members include men only though currently the school has its largest enrollment of women students. We present the Class of '76 with biographical sketches and statements by each graduate of his personal priorities in ministry.

Alan Aman will be graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies. He is 24 years old, single and presently holds membership in the Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon.

On the basis of Jesus as the parable of God, I, as a follower of Christ, seek to incarnate his love in my life experience. This involves a trimming down of my total life-style towards the goal of being a pure "bearer" of the love and justice of God.

My priority in ministry is to work for an increase in the presence of grace in the world, especially in the form of whole persons.

The moral, intellectual, social, political, economic, aesthetic and existential polarities of personhood are all equally imperative foci for a ministry relationship respecting those with whom I am in community.

James Arends will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 24 years old, single and presently holds membership in the First Baptist Church of George, Iowa.

As Christians we are all called to be ministers of Christ to a needy world.

I see pastor and people working side by side to serve God. I see no "part-time" service for all of what we do must be to the glory of God. God calls each of us to a task. He has given us gifts and the church is where these gifts are pooled. Our gathering must equip us to serve our community for they need Christ.

Robert Babcock will be graduating with a Master of Ministry degree. He is 28 years old, married and the father of two children. He presently holds membership in the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church of Plainfield, New Jersey.



In trying to make a list of my priorities for the ministry I think at the very head of the list I would have to put, very simply: people.

My whole understanding of the gospel ministry and my call to it revolves around my belief that God desires that no man should perish because of his sinfulness, but that all should come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. But even more comprehensive than this, I believe the Christian life should be a joyful, growing experience that constantly brings us closer and closer to the reality of God.

My priorities for the ministry then include anything I can do which will help people experience this kind of life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Stephen N. Bangsi will be receiving an African Pastor's Certificate in Ministry Studies. He is 47 years old, married and the father of eight children. He presently holds membership in the Nkwon Baptist Church of Bamenda, Cameroon, Africa.

I thank God for the North American General Missionary Society and the Cameroons Baptist Convention for agreeing to give training to pastors from Cameroon at the North American Baptist Seminary.

I am also very thankful that he has made it possible for me to be here this year. I have been blessed with my association with the seminary family, spiritually and physically.

My priority is to return to my people in Cameroon and tell them what great things the Lord has done for me.

I will continue to remember the faculty and students of the North American Baptist Seminary in my prayers.

Dennis Dewey will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 26 years old, married and presently holds membership in the First Baptist Church of Ellinwood, Kansas.

In order to be able to minister to people, my first priority must be my own personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to his work. My life's aim is to be a man of God.

I see my work of ministry primarily as an effort to "equip the saints" to do the work of Christ (Eph. 4:12). I want to teach and train other Christians so that together we can build up the body of Christ. As a body, we seek to encourage, strengthen and minister to each individual and his needs.

Glenn Ellis will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 24 years old, married and presently holds membership in the Calvary Baptist Church, Mitchell, South Dakota.

My priorities in the ministry will center around the preaching and teaching of God's Word inasmuch as it holds the answers to the basic questions of life. Second, I see my job as an equipper of the Saints. I believe it is crucial to train the laity how to win others for Christ. Third, I believe it is important to be responsible to the needs of people, whether they be spiritual, physical, emotional, etc. Fourth, the leading of God's people to a fruitful and meaningful devotional life will be a major priority; for it is only as we know God that we will be able to point others to him.

James Foster is a transfer student from Pittsburg Theological Seminary and is completing his final year

with us. He is 42 years old, married and the father of two children. He presently holds membership in the Grace Baptist Church of Colman, South Dakota.

I would see the church's sole task of "Seeking the Kingdom of God" and helping as many as possible, both in and out of the church in their "seeking."

To do this I would place high on my list of priorities "reaching" people where they're at in terms of their needs and in their environment. This helping would include reaching out to outside the church with no regard to swelling church rolls. If this is done the church rolls will take care of themselves.

My second objective would be to build on the strengths of the local church, be they youth, a music ministry, or koinonia fellowship, rather than concentrating on what isn't there or trying to impose a ready-made program that worked great in another situation.

Edwin Fuellbrandt will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 29 years old, married and presently holds membership in the Grant Park Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

I face the prospect of the ministry with fear and anticipation.

I feel fear because I know my limitations, and the immensity of the task before me. And I feel anticipation because I believe that God is doing great things today, and I want to be a part of this.

As a pastor, I see myself as a facilitator, first, in helping people to come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and secondly, in helping people to develop meaningful, honest relationships with each other.

As these relationships are developed, I believe a person can live a fulfilled life.

Lowell Graves will be graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Counseling. He is 29 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Temple Baptist Church of Jamestown, North Dakota.

My priority in ministry is to be able to help people where they are and not where I would like them to be. I see that ministry is so different in a changing and mobile world that what is adequate ministry for today may not reach and help people a few years from now.

I see that it is important that the minister of the Gospel be open to what is happening round about him in order that he may preach the Word of Truth so all can hear.

Harald Gruber will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 29 years old, single and is presently identified with the Church of God.

As I have studied over the last two years, experienced many things and gained new insights, I feel more like I am prepared to be a Christian layman than a minister. However, before me lies the awesome task of ministry.

As I look at Jesus' life and the lives of those who are ministering meaningfully, I am increasingly committed to the concept of discipleship. To me this means sharing myself with people so they can experience Christ in a real way. Making reproducing disciples, to me, that's the key.

Ronald Habermas will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 24 years old, married and

presently holds membership in the Redeemer Baptist Church of Warren, Michigan.

The foremost priority I have in ministry is firmly based on my concept of what a minister should be: one who trains and "equips the saints for the work of the 4:12).

The specific ramifications of this conviction would be ministry for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians developed to include the following in my ministry: a Bible-centered curriculum to instruct believers; an interpersonal discipleship-stewardship plan to mature believers; and an evangelistic outreach program to acquire new believers.

I trust that the Lord will enable me to fulfill this priority.

Ray Hinsch will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 29 years old, married and the father of two children. He presently holds membership in the Harbor Trinity Church of Costa Mesa, California.

As a pastor, I have three main priorities. The first is evangelism. I believe that winning people to Jesus Christ is first because the Bible clearly shows that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.

The second priority of my ministry is discipleship. Once a person comes to know Christ, he must continue to grow in that relationship, discover talents and abilities he can use to help in the work of Christ and his Church, and become a soul-winner himself.

Third, but of equal importance, is a strong emphasis on stewardship. Money is only one-third of the concept of Biblical stewardship that I believe also includes the proper use of time and talents.

Richard Macha will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 36 years old, single and presently holds membership in the Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma, Ohio.

A ministry that is truly Christ-centered will have two basic objectives. It will seek to win people to the person of Jesus Christ because only through him can the bridge between God and man be spanned. And it will also seek to help people grow in Christ.

This is achieved through such preaching and teaching ministries of the church as worship, prayer, Christian education and visitation.

These ministries, however, must place people—their needs, hopes and fears—before formal programs. Only then will effective ministry occur.

David Rushton will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 24 years old, married and presently holds membership in the Parma Heights Baptist Church, Larchwood, Iowa.

If I have one priority for ministry it is to bring God's Word to people and to mobilize the church to do the same.

I believe that the answer to man's dilemma in our times and the solution to the broken lives that most men live today, is to order our lives in the way that God desires. This means that in ministry and in the church, we need to really search the Scriptures and then bring our lives into conformity with them and lead the lost people of the world, to do the same thing.

I hope that I can always keep this goal primary in my ministry.

Gerald Scheel will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 28 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Northside Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

One of the spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit has given to me is pastor-teacher. Because of this, my priority for ministry is set before me in Scripture: "To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12).

The pastor's role is to help people realize God's claim upon their lives. This is accomplished by making disciples and teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded; so that the local body and the individuals in it may live to bring glory to Christ (Eph. 1:12).

Kenneth Priebe will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 28 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

For the past year and a half, I have served in a church near Sioux Falls. While there, I was able to clarify, implement and strengthen my priorities for ministry.

As I see them now, they stem from one main area, that being the concerned caring ministry. This caring concern has influenced my preaching and application of the Word. It has influenced my visitation as well as my contacts with new people.

Also, through a caring ministry I have been able to find out and give myself to the hurts and deep concerns of people.

This type of ministry excites me!

Danny R. Payne will be graduating with a Master of Ministry degree. He is 26 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa.

Christ came that we might have meaningful LIFE. For us to LIVE we must evangelize. For LIFE to be meaningful we need to disciple others.

How do I fit into this complicated process of trying to change the world? I continue to develop my own relation with Christ and others.

I do not try to tell everyone about my Lord and Saviour. Instead I try to help others develop a relation with Christ that is richer and I encourage them and myself to tell others of our joys in Christ.

Maryn R. Schultz will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 48 years old, married and the father of four children. He presently holds membership with the Presbyterian Church.

When I knew that the Lord had placed his hand upon me for full-time Christian service, and that I was to enter into the work of the pastorate, it was my desire to be the best minister that I could be for him, and to seek to live a life before men that they may honor him through me.

We are living in a day when there are so many people who are only "playing church," and we need men and women of God who will really stand up and stand out for Jesus, that we might be counted for him, and that the world may know we mean business for him. There are

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A FACULTY PLAN AND GOD'S SURPRISES

by Gerald L. Borchert

The North American Baptist Seminary has been experiencing the most remarkable growth pattern in its history—a history which dates back more than a century. The last five years has seen the student body more than double. When doctoral students are added, the number has tripled. The recruitment program at the seminary, therefore, deserves a clear commendation. The spirit at the seminary, accordingly, is one of genuine excitement. This excitement is in no small part related to the present quality of the faculty and the plan of the seminary for faculty development.

In the context of all this growing, as the dean of the school, I have become increasingly aware of the fact that unless God builds a house of learning, they labor in vain who build it. Moreover, I am convinced the other persons of our administration and faculty are likewise exceedingly conscious that it is clearly God who blesses a school. It is to him that praise and gratitude ultimately belong. John Wesley once wrote that he worked as though everything depended on himself and he trusted as though everything depended on God. This interaction of work and faith has become exceedingly clear to me in the process of building a faculty—a faculty of which our entire denomination will be justly proud and for which our people can give thanks to almighty God.

In the process of the school's development one of our clear objectives is to strengthen the depth of our faculty resources in every area. When I came to my present task five years ago, I promised God that I would do everything in my power in searching for faculty replacements and additions to give our students the opportunity of studying with faculty members who combined the finest qualities of scholarly integrity and genuine commitment to Christ. Before anyone is considered seriously, therefore, we discuss thoroughly the seminary's Six Basic Commitments and how a prospective faculty member would relate to our stance as a seminary. If anyone should have a problem with our commitments, we would not proceed any further in our discussion. In our faculty search I have written literally hundreds of letters to many parts of the world and made scores of phone calls. In this effort our faculty has been very supportive and helpful. The most unique part of the story, however, is not

Dr. Gerald L. Borchert is academic vice president and professor of New Testament at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S.D.

how much we have worked, but the way in which God has been answering our quest for a first-rate faculty. Because God's answers are unique, it has been good for me to be reminded that I should not be surprised at the way God works. After all I came to the seminary almost thirteen years ago because of a freak snow storm that grounded the former president, Frank Veninga, in New York City. Even though I confess that my life has been one of surprises, I also confess that it is truly a marvel to see how the God of surprises continues his work in the seminary.

In the profile of developing a faculty, the need was for a teacher of pastoral counseling. God answered that need with a man who was a member of our President's Council and who almost became pale when I asked him to leave his very successful practice in California and join the faculty. In Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, by God's grace, the seminary acquired not only a competent counseling professor who had taught at Fuller and at Rosemead School of Psychology, but one of the few highly skilled clinical psychologists teaching in any seminary. Moreover, Dr. Zimbelman was not limited in his perspective to the North American scene. For two terms he had served in the Cameroon as a missionary teacher and those experiences have added an important dimension to his understanding of people.

The next post which we were convinced needed filling was a person who could teach church heritage not primarily from the point of view of discussing the myriads of details concerning popes, monks, reformers, etc., but from the perspective of inter-relating the great movements of Christian thought and action. Such a person needed a breadth of general knowledge. For a time, I thought perhaps we had asked God for too much. Then, while speaking at a conference of our ministers and those of the Baptist Union at Banff, Alberta, Dr. Samuel Mikolaski agreed to consider a call. In this man the seminary gained a second very choice person, who taught for ten years at one of the Southern Baptist seminaries as well as at the Baptist Seminary in Rüschlikon, Switzerland. Besides these experiences, he had been a pastor and the principal of the Baptist Leadership Training School in Canada.

Concerning the next post, we spent many hours in prayer. We besought God to provide us with an Old Testament Professor upon whom we could absolutely depend for building into our students a sense that the Old

Testament was reliable and that it had a message of integrity for the twentieth century. Letters and phone calls went everywhere. What seemed hopeless, ended in another great surprise from God. Two professors of Old Testament from this country were meeting together in the south and the one to whom I directed a request asked the other if he had any suggestions. That very week a missionary who had been teaching Old Testament at the graduate seminary in the Philippines and was preparing to return for his second term received the crushing news from the medical authorities in Texas that his little daughter had cystic fibrosis and would not be able to return to the Philippines. The one professor who heard the news informed the other professor, who in turn informed me. Dr. J. Gordon Harris has unquestionably been sent to us by God and the qualities we prayed for are clearly evident in him. Another of the many miracles in this story is that, because Sioux Falls is the medical center for this area of the country, it has a cystic fibrosis treatment center, whereas such was not the case in the city of Fort Worth where the Harris family was then living.

A fourth story is equally unique. It involved finding a replacement in the area of New Testament studies. When I departed for my sabbatical leave, I thought we were fairly certain of finding a faculty member. But while I was away, I learned that our hopes were not to be realized. The task seemed hopeless and so when I returned we hired a young man part-time to assist with some of our needs. The second year we began again by going through the entire list of scores of possibilities. In this list was a young man who was teaching at Trinity and who had been unavailable when contacted the previous year. We made another contact and learned that Professor R. Lee McDonald would consider visiting our campus. With his background in Southern California church work, his Youth For Christ experience and his specialized New Testament studies in Europe, he has added some other very significant dimensions to our faculty. The search for this faculty member has reminded me of the lesson that we sometimes have to wait upon God for his answer longer than we first expect.

These people which the seminary has added to the staff in the last two years are an important stage in the development of an exciting faculty. Each is highly trained, each has significant Christian service, and each

has had solid cross-cultural experiences in other lands.

At the present time we are in search for two additional people. Their roles in the seminary will be exceedingly important to the future ministry of the entire North American Baptist General Conference.

One of the persons we are looking for should have specialized skills in analyzing church growth patterns and relating these not only to urban situations but to rural contexts as well, both here and in relationship to the world mission of the church. When we committed ourselves to evangelism and church growth, by God's grace, we expected to develop our school in that direction. When one reviews the changes that have already taken place, it is clear that much improvement has been made. But we believe this aspect of the seminary program needs additional support and we are searching for someone to bring our plan to greater fulfillment.

The second position for which we are seeking a faculty member is in the area of church management and church administration. By such an appointment we will be enabled to strengthen our Christian education offerings as well as develop greater sophistication in management concerns. A number of lay people have asked me: "What are you doing to develop management skills in ministers?" My answer is that we are looking for the right kind of person who will give our students a greater sensitivity to this aspect of their preparation for service.

These two persons will add extremely important dimensions to our faculty resources. It is imperative that the leading of our Lord be present in our decision making. Accordingly, I sincerely ask our constituency to support us in prayer that we may have wisdom from God in our continued search. We desire to do only God's will because we know that the outcome of our selection will have a significant effect upon the development of our entire denomination.

The plan for developing an outstanding faculty at the North American Baptist Seminary is in the process of being realized. Much more could be said about the plan and its relationship to the educational objectives of the seminary. For the present, however, may our prayer as a denomination be for God to grant that our seminary's greatest years will still be ahead and that from its halls will emerge servants of astute biblical and theological understanding, competence in ministry, and undoubted commitment to Christ Jesus our Lord. □

INTRODUCING NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

With the opening of the school's fall semester last September, two new professors were on hand: Dr. J. Gordon Harris, associate professor of Old Testament . . . and the Rev. Lee McDonald, assistant professor of Biblical Literature.

The two men have already won the hearts of the students and are well on the way to being established among the finest of our faculty members. Here is a brief, informal introduction of each of the men.

J. Gordon Harris has covered a lot of ground in the 35 years of his life: Bunkie, Louisiana . . . Fort Worth, Texas . . . Zenas, Indiana . . . Baguio, Philippines . . . and many other places. But the route he has taken has helped to make his contribution to the seminary a most valuable one.

Gordon's early years were spent in a Baptist parsonage, a fourth generation Southern Baptist minister. His commitment to Jesus Christ at the age of seven was a

natural one. And one would also expect his call to the Christian ministry to have been an easy decision. But Gordon recalls that it was a very personal kind of decision . . . something he wanted to do . . . and felt God was calling him to do.



Dr. J. Gordon Harris

He attended Baylor University, and at the age of 22 after a year at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was ordained by the Southern Baptist Convention. At Southwestern, he completed both the B.D. and Th.M. degrees before going on to Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, for his doctorate.

It was while Gordon was at Southwestern that he met and married Joyce Behm, a Baptist preacher's daughter, who was enrolled in the M.R.E. program.

It was also during this time and while working on his Ph.D. degree at Southern that Gordon pastored the Immanuel Baptist Church in Idebel, Oklahoma . . . and the Zenas Baptist Church in Zenas, Indiana. In addition, he found time to serve as a Garrett Teaching Fellow at Southern.

In April of 1970, just prior to receiving his Ph.D. degree, Gordon and his wife were appointed missionaries to the Philippines by the SBC Foreign Mission Board. For four years he taught at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Baguio City on Luzon Island in the Philippines. During this time, from 1972 to 1974, he also served as a Director of Theological Education by Extension in the Philippines.

As an innovative educator and curriculum writer, he completed several textbooks and study guides which are today being used by the Extension Center. He is currently completing two more theological textbooks for the training of native pastors. In addition, he has written a number of articles on baptism and the psalms which appear in scholarly journals.

Gordon's pace at the North American Baptist Seminary is set by a passion for academic excellence . . . and a deep burden for a lost world. His aim in the classroom is "to make the Old Testament live today as in the time it was written." He feels that it's important not only to teach students how to think, and give them the tools for biblical study, but also to give them some answers to difficult questions.

In addition to caring for two daughters: Joy, 5, and Jami, 3, Mrs. Harris—an accomplished vocalist—teaches voice at the seminary.

You just can't ever tell where a man's commitment to Christ will lead him. Ponder the 33 year old life of Lee McDonald.

At the age of 17, while a senior in high school a friend invited him to attend some evangelistic meetings in a Baptist church in Phoenix, Arizona. On the second night, Lee gave his heart to Christ and experienced a wonderful change in his life.

Immediately after his conversion, Lee became involved in a Conservative Baptist Church and was challenged by his pastor to consider the ministry. He enrolled at Biola College in La Mirada, California where his call for the ministry was crystalized. It was also while in college that he met Mary, an honor student at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), who later became his wife.

After receiving his B.A. degree from Biola, Lee stayed out of school for a year and a half before enrolling at Talbot Theological Seminary. Graduating three years later in 1969 with the B.D. degree, magna cum laude, Lee enrolled at Fuller Theological Seminary in the Th.M. program.



The Reverend Lee McDonald

After two years, Dr. George Ladd of Fuller Seminary, impressed with Lee's scholarship and interest in teaching, wrote a recommendation for Lee to pursue the Ph.D. degree in New Testament Studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. His studies began in Edinburgh in the fall of 1970. Part of his doctoral program also included studies at Cambridge University and the University of Heidelberg. Lee has completed all doctoral work and anticipates receiving his degree in the near future.

Lee has had a variety of ministry experiences which have deepened his understanding and commitment to the local church.

While a student at Talbot Seminary, he served on a full-time basis as associate pastor at the Yorba Linda Friend's Church in southern California. Later, while at Fuller, he served in a similar capacity at the Foothill Baptist Church in Upland, California. He also served for a year with Youth For Christ as an area director for 18 Campus Life clubs. Following his doctoral studies, he served for one year as assistant professor of New Testament at Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois.

Lee has a special interest in the Synoptic Gospels and wrote his doctoral thesis on recent critical-historical interpretations of the resurrection of Jesus.

He is emphatic in his insistence that theological education must be more than memory work. "It's grappling with important issues . . . and helping students discover the tools for biblical study so that they can come up with a theology which they can live with and preach with conviction."

Lee is greatly encouraged in his life and ministry by his lovely wife, Mary, who is a registered nurse . . . and their three children, Karl, 11, Heidi, 9, and Scott, 15 months.



FALL ENROLLMENT BREAKS ALL RECORDS by Donald N. Miller

How God is blessing us! Not only is the incoming class of 46 by far the largest in the 118-year history of our seminary, but it is, in fact, larger than the total number of returning students.

This massive jump in enrollment further represents an increase of nearly 100% over last fall's incoming class of 24, and surpasses our fall semester faith projection of 30 by over 50%.

Not only that, but the final figures are not yet in. At least another six or seven students are expected in mid-year enrollments, bringing the total incoming class to at least 50.

This has increased the total number of students enrolled in the seminary's various programs to 155 for the fall. This includes doctoral students and auditors, as well as first degree students. Of the 155, 92 are in first degree programs.

A closer look at the incoming class reveals the fact that 28% of the class is comprised of women, 20% are second career students, and 45% are NAB affiliated.

Further, 45% of the 46 incoming students, are in the mainline pastoral program, 39% in the counseling program and 5% in the Christian education program. The remainder are in the religious studies program or in certificate programs.

Of the total number of 92 first degree students, nearly 75% are Baptist related. Twelve additional denominational groups are represented.

It is worthy of note that while there has been an increase of NAB students in the last five years by 25%, this will not begin to meet the continuing shortage of pastors in our Conference.

It is, therefore, imperative that recruitment of more NAB students become a total constituency responsibility. □

Baptist World Alliance Happenings



The Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee outlined a five-year timetable for its new Division of Evangelism and Education, and approved funds for shipment of 3,000 Bibles to the USSR, November 24-25 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

"We stand on the threshold of unlimited opportunity in the life of the Baptist World Alliance and in the work of Christ," Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, told 65 committee members and visitors.

C. Ronald Goulding, BWA associate secretary in London, said the

Division of Evangelism and Education will serve as a center for inspiration, cooperation and resources for Baptists of 141 countries. Goulding will move

(Continued on page 31)



by Gerald L. Borchert

Dear Readers:

Again this year you have kept my pen going with your interesting letters and questions.

Some of you have dared me to publish your letters and to some of you I have given a response. Others of your letters have been longer than the column itself. Some have been as caustic as sulfuric acid. Such letters are no surprise to anyone who has dared to place his neck on the chopping block of public opinion.

Always a pleasant surprise are the letters which arrive and express a "thank you" for a column. Of special mention in this category are those who communicated their gratitude for the way I treated the hostility of the man who had problems with the designation "Ms" and felt it was the denomination's task to set the world straight. I should also add in fairness that I did receive a letter from one reader on the opposite side who felt that I had absolutely no understanding of society. About all I can say to such a letter is that I apologize for my ignorance.

From your letters I sense that our churches are wrestling with many of the contemporary issues such as: abortion, divorce and remarriage. Moreover, since several have asked about some aspects of the charismatic move-

Address letters to Dean Gerald L. Borchert, North American Baptist Seminary, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, S.D. 57105.

ment, I shall tackle that subject again this year. The last column relating to that particular area was in March 1973.

The most amazing phenomenon connected with this column is that some of you in 1975 are still chuckling over my answer in October 1971 to the dear lady who was praying for me because she thought my former picture which had me teaching and holding a piece of chalk was a posed picture of a cigarette smoker. I trust that any of you who may have had concerns with my former picture are satisfied with what the photographer did during the intervening time. But it is interesting in this respect to reflect for a moment on the way we as Christians leave impressions and how long the memories of people are. When we have put things out of our minds, others may still be remembering patterns of association. It is imperative, therefore, that all of us do our very best to reflect, as clearly as possible, the genuine honesty and beauty of life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In concluding my sixth year of writing for the *Baptist Herald* I want to thank you for allowing my ideas to come into your homes. I pray that they may stimulate you to deeper thinking about Christianity and that they will be a small prod in challenging you to greater commitment in the service for Christ. The days ahead may not be easy for Christians. We can thank God for the present awakening in many parts of our lands. But, let us not major on minors and become sidetracked in petty anxieties by the crafty work of the devil.

Instead, let us commit ourselves anew to Christ who emptied himself (Phil. 2:7) and was born a baby at Bethlehem in order that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and be enabled to walk in newness of life. We often speak of putting Christ back into Christmas. If we as Christians are upset about much of the pagan commercialism that is associated with the celebration today, it may be that consciously or unconsciously we have been involved in avoiding the stark implications of Christ emptying himself as he entered the world for our salvation. G.L.B.



God's Volunteers report

Imagine looking at the ministry of God's Volunteers through the eyes of a microphone. During the services we stand in front and are used by the music team as they sing songs in their program, such as Higher Ground and God's Family. Last Sunday morning



Going calling with some of the church members from Cedar Rapids.

one of us was used by Pam Kiemele when she told through her testimony how Jesus Christ changed her life. Pam trusted me, that through me her voice could be heard through the crowd. But I could not on my own provide the power needed, I had to be plugged into the main power source. So, too, Christians must be plugged into God, who provides power for their daily lives.

(Continued on page 31)



At Blue Earth, Minn., God's Volunteers sing and are interviewed at a radio and T.V. station.

The team has Bible study in the morning to get ready for the day's activities.



YOUTH PRAYER GROUPS

by Jim Rutz

Though prayer needs to be spontaneous, it shouldn't be haphazard or inconsiderately done. There is much to be said for organized prayer.

What I have to say is not a list of rules. These are suggestions and should be regarded as such.

A - B - C. Pray audibly, briefly, clearly. That's half the battle right there. If you pray quietly, you pray alone because the floor has no ears. It helps to raise your head slightly as you speak. Some people cover their face with their hands as they pray. This speaks well for their humility, but poorly for their consideration of others. Also, pray in the first person; save "we" for the pulpit.

Always pray topically. This should be easy for you. You've been talking that way all your life. Consider how it would be otherwise: "Hi, Joe! Nice day, isn't it? How did you do on the exam? I did pretty good. The 49ers are doing poorly lately. I think I'm going downtown to buy a new suit this afternoon. Why don't you join me in a pot of lousy tea in the Commons?"

"Hi, Sam! Yeah, good beach weather. I did OK., I guess. Glad to hear you did well. They're in lousy shape, all right. How's your new job? What's the matter with your old suit? Sure, I suppose I have time."

If this sort of thing sounds familiar, you've been to a prayer meeting lately. Now I'm not saying that ordinary conversation flows naturally and consistently from one point to the next. But conversations like the above give no chance for anyone to develop interest in the topics. Plus, keep your prayers to one sentence and no more than one to a sentence. If you pray in long prayers, you will inevitable pray a subject to exhaustion all by yourself. What

Mr. Rutz developed these ideas while he was prayer chairman of the Collegiate Christian Fellowship at San Francisco State University. Reprinted by permission from HIS, student magazine of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, © 1974.



if someone else wanted to contribute? He won't feel like it after you've finished. And consider the shy person, or the one who never went to a prayer meeting before, or the new Christians. How will they ever get started? Two-minute orations are all right for the elite, but being elite is out in small prayer groups.

Periods of silence usually hang heavily in the air. On the one hand, there isn't much time in the ordinary prayer meeting. On the other, God often uses the times of silence to speak back to us. We should pray (usually) quickly and without hesitation. Otherwise the spirit of the meeting will lag. But we should never feel obligated to "plug up" a period of silence by saying something.

Pray progressively and in faith (Gen. 18:22, 23). You pray, "Lord, save Sally." If Sally accepted Christ that day, you would have a stroke. Pray instead, "Lord, give me a loving concern for Sally." When God answers this prayer, you will feel encouraged to try, "Lord, give me an opportunity today to say something—any little thing—which will indicate to Sally that I am a Christian." This isn't much, but when God answers that one, you will then be eager to pray, "Lord, would you open the way for me to say something about yourself or your Word to Sally today, and would you grant that she would listen and not be opposed." Then you might move on to, "Lord, will you give us a small conversation about the meaning of the cross today." And, "Grant that Sally will be vitally interested in some point about yourself in our conversation today." And, "Con-vict her of sin in some areas of her life." And, "Help her to understand what I say about you today." And, "Grant that she will be able to come to hear that gospel message tonight." And perhaps, finally, "Lord, save Sally."

Faith is not a rubber band that can be stretched to meet any existing situation, but a muscle which grows with use.

God does not answer a prayer on the basis of how fervently the prayer was spoken, but on faith, on our confidence that he will grant us what we ask. He is not a cold tyrant who wants us to plead and plead before him. He is a loving Father who longs to give us more than we want to receive.

If all else confuses you, here is a rule of thumb. Pray honestly. Nothing, absolutely nothing, can take the place of honestly stating things the way you see them.

Honesty makes it easier to pray. Instead of sitting there nervously trying to think of what to pray for and how to say it impressively, you can feel free to say what you want as you want to.

Also, there will be no necessity to try to impress the others. We are not praying for each other's sake. I once heard an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff member pray, "Lord, keep my mind from wandering just now."

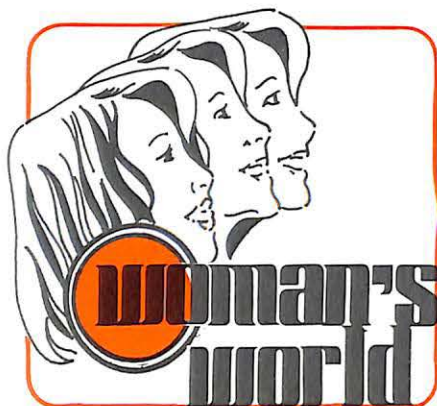
Honesty makes it possible to pray what is on your heart. If it is a nice day, you can thank God for it. If he showed you something notable in your Bible study and prayer that morning, mention it and thank him for it, so all can share in the lesson and praise God. If you have a very hard test to prepare for, tell him it has you worried. If you are having difficulty in reconciling the facts of Christianity with the material in your courses, admit it—don't hide it. Give all involved a chance to side with you in your problems. The greatest people of prayer I know are also the most honest.

You may want to start off with a psalm or a poem. Just read it, without frills; there's no time for more. As people bring up requests prior to praying, ask one person to remember to bring up that topic for prayer. Let them choose what they want. But otherwise you will forget, if you have more than three or four requests.

Start on time. Close on time. Classes go on. And God hears. □



"If your mother's as good with teaching as she is playing third base for us, we're in for a neat lesson!"



three words each: No one came. No one came. No one came.
If for my hands there is no larger task,
Then, precious Lord, for this I ask—
That unto those who come my way
I might impart a shining ray
New light of hope by word,
or just a smile,
And thereby cheer some soul
awhile. □

W.M.U. Executive Committee Meets

by Mrs. Dorene Walth,
English editor,
Bismarck, N.D.

While participating in the Women's Missionary Union Executive meetings in Forest Park, Oct. 31—Nov. 1, 1975, I couldn't help but feel the dynamic pulse of North American Baptist women in action.

Through reports of committee members and office personnel, I could sense more enthusiasm for women's work than ever before. Dr. Zimmerman, ex-

ecutive secretary, told how women are reaching out and achieving goals in more creative ways than in the past. He pointed out that the challenge lies before us to become more innovative in bringing other women to Christ and in ministering to the Christian women of our churches who have many different kinds of needs. Countless women are not using their potential for Christ. Study groups and interest groups within local Women's Missionary Societies can help overcome this deficiency.

Reports from our Women's Work Director, LaVerna Mehlhaff, helped us to realize how timely and how important it is to have someone working in this capacity. She is able to give direction and encouragement to individual groups who call on her.

Our president, Mrs. Jeanette Stein, very proficiently chaired all business sessions which included many detailed plans for the General Conference women's sessions in Portland, Ore., July 27—Aug. 1, 1976. We were privileged to have with us Mrs. Eleanor Quiring, the nominating committee chairperson and also Mrs. Susan Truax from the Portland area, who is the women's coordinator for the General Conference. Exciting events will take place and we will hear more about them in next month's Women's World pages.



National W.M.U. Executive Committee: Back row, l. to r.: LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work dir.; Barbara Sukut, English packet ed.; Beatrice Pankratz, vice pres.; Eleanor Quiring, nominating comm. ch.; Dorene Walth, Woman's World ed.; Irma Koch, White Cross ch.; front row: Susan Truax, Portland Gen. Conf. women's coordinator; Jeanette Stein, pres.; Anne Hoffmann, sec'y-treas.; Elfriede Hildebrandt, German packet ed.; not present, Lucy Kokot, German ed.

Visit the Lonely

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

"It is more blessed to give than to receive!" These words of Jesus are not found in the gospels but are mentioned by Paul as having been spoken by Jesus while he lived here on earth. This same principle was voiced by Jesus many times in his teachings. Once when Jesus was invited to a dinner, along with many scribes and Pharisees, he turned to his host and told him that when he put on a dinner he should not invite only his friends and rich neighbors who would return his invitation. Instead he advised him to invite the poor, the lame and the blind who would not be able to return the favor. This kindness God would reward.

People desperately need fellowship. Loneliness is a fearful thing! For that reason Jesus admonishes his followers to visit the fatherless and the widows and not to forsake the aged and the infirm in their time of need.

I recently read a true story of an elderly Christian lady who lived all alone. Partly crippled, she had to rely on the good will and help of her neighbors. She kept a diary although no one knew why since her life was so uneventful. Finally the Lord called her home. It was reported that she was dead several days before anyone missed her. In looking through her belongings, someone discovered her diary. Most of the book contained nothing of interest and the last ten pages had only

In addition to the huge amount of business conducted, there was time for fellowship and sharing. Our first evening together gave opportunity for our representatives to the Baptist World Alliance women's meetings in Sweden to give reports of their experiences. Those attending were Jeanette Stein, president, Anne Hoffmann, secretary-treasurer, Lucy Kokot, German editor, and LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director. Beatrice Pankratz, vice president, gave an account of her many interesting weeks overseas during the winter months when she visited our African mission stations and several other foreign countries.

Irma Koch, White Cross chairperson, has done an excellent job coordinating the efforts of all our women in sending tons of supplies to African hospitals. Due to various circumstances, the White Cross ministry will probably be increasing a great deal.

The program packets are being adapted for use in many societies in and out of our denomination. Barbara Sukut and Elfriede Hildebrandt solicit and edit these materials for us.

As English editor, this was my third year at an executive meeting and I again was highly impressed with the caliber of women God has given to direct the W.M.U. Let us all praise and thank God for their leadership! □

A Special Purpose

by Karen Felchle,
Valley City, N.D.

It all began one winter day in fourth grade when I slipped on the ice during recess. My right knee hurt so badly that I was unable to walk for a few minutes. As the school year continued, I noticed that my knee would always ache and become inflamed after I ran a good distance. My parents took me to a doctor for x-rays and my right leg was then put in a cast for protection. My x-rays were sent to a specialist and as soon as school was over, I was admitted to a hospital. I had a growth or a cyst on my knee that had to be removed by surgery. After surgery it was discovered that the growth was actually cancer and that my right leg would have to be amputated above my knee in order for me to live.

That was over eight years ago and many times I have asked "why," and God has shown me a reason. He spared my life because I have a very

special purpose on this earth, just as each one of God's children do. Each day I strive to bring a bit of love and happiness to someone's life because of all the wonderful things God has done for me. I have so very much to be thankful for, including my loving Christian family and all the precious friends who mean so very much to me.



Karen Felchle

The book of Philippians tells us all to be glad in the Lord, no matter what, and to always think on the things for which we can praise God. As I attend college and anxiously await the future, I try to keep this in mind because I know that I have a "special purpose" to fulfill. □

Accept His Challenge

by Mrs. Eugene (Elenor) Kern,
Fair Oaks, Calif.

Open your mind and heart for a moment and take a peek into the lives of a Church Extension family. When my husband first considered God's call to this work I was very apprehensive. My children were happy in their environment and I felt secure; so I seemed to ask God, "Why must we move?" God had a very good reason and oh, the blessings he wanted to share with my family!

The fears of adjustments vanished as we made our requests known to God. We made little cardboard prayer reminders to use for family devotions with pictures of the things we needed from God. These requests included everything from a new refrigerator to new playmates; and what a thrill to see God answer our every need, and in addition, he abundantly filled us with his joy. My children have had many

new opportunities such as: traveling to historical places; helping set up the church in temporary facilities; entertaining other children in their home.



Murray, Janell and Kent, children of Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Kern, unloading the car after church services in their temporary facilities.

helping carry bricks and doing odd jobs at the church building site; ushering; and helping Mom and Dad in numerous other ways. Because of these experiences, I believe my children have grown in their awareness of God and they have also grown in their sharing and caring for each other. I believe that is a rich heritage! So, with confidence, I say to you: if God ever asks you to attempt anything new, accept his challenge and with much prayer move ahead with God. He wants to do great things through your life! □

Kilo Packages

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

The women of our conference are sending many useful items in "Kilo" packages to our overseas missionaries and to their children. The missionaries and their children are appreciative of the gifts of love which are being sent to them. Thank you for your generosity. You are experiencing the joy of giving as expressed in Acts 20:35—"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Thank you for your willingness to send these useful items to our missionaries.

Canadian Women: Be sure to check postal regulations prior to sending "Kilo" packages.

Some days ago the mail brought the following letter to the desk of the editor. The accompanying article has the unique approach of telling praying fellow Christians what their prayers have accomplished.

Dear Brother Kerstan,
Warmest greetings in our Lord's wonderful name! We have deeply appreciated the fine work that you are doing with the BAPTIST HERALD, and eagerly await the arrival of every issue. Sorry that we don't get around to expressing this appreciation to you nearly as often as we should!

I'm enclosing an entirely unsolicited article that I thought might be a bit of an encouragement to the HERALD readers, who I'm sure are the staunchest supporters of the "Missionary of the Week" prayer program. We thought about this sort of article when it was last our turn to be in that honored position in September, but I'm very sorry that it has taken so long to get the thing actually into type.

I'm also enclosing a couple of recent pictures that might be of interest.

Thank you, and may the Lord continue to bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fred G. Moore, Tkeda, Japan



Fred and Pat Moore, (25th Wedding Anniversary picture) November 1975.



Dr. Schilke speaking in worship service at the Tkedo Christian Church. Mr. Yukio Fujie is the interpreter.



Meeting of the Osaka Biblical Seminary Board of Directors, Oct. 31, 1975. From front to back: Rev. H. Youngquist, Baptist General Conference (lower right); Rev. H. Skoglund, B.G.C.; Rev. D. Bjork, B.G.C. home office; Rev. K. Milhous, B.G.C.; Dr. Richard Schilke, N.A.B.; Rev. Fred Moore, N.A.B.



Workers conference in session in Japan, October 1975. L. to r. Mr. Kajita, Rev. Alaska, Dr. R. Schilke, Rev. C. R. Mayforth.

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PRAY?!

by Fred and Pat Moore

For many years it has been our privilege to be periodically listed as "Missionaries of the Week" in our N.A.B. publications. As we have attempted to serve the Lord Jesus Christ as your ambassadors in Japan, these special times of concentrated prayer support have been rich seasons of personal blessing and spiritual victory. But we can't recall having seen any reporting back to you in the homeland via the pages of the BAPTIST HERALD as to what happens when you remember your Missionaries of the Week in prayer. So, the last time it was "our turn," we decided to keep a spiritual diary of that one-week period. It is thrilling to realize how God worked! Here are some of the notes we took:

Sunday, September 14: After our morning worship service in the Ikeda Christian Church, Fred was given a surprise birthday celebration! It was such a good, warm time of joy together in the Lord. We also shared with our church people the fact that two of our neighbors, Mr. Tsutsumi and Mrs. Tanaka, had separately visited our home the evening before,

and especially Mrs. Tanaka indicated a real interest in the things of the Lord!

Monday, September 15: A very important meeting was held today regarding the Osaka Biblical Seminary settlement problem. After months of rather disappointing discussions, one of the other groups made a real change in position which helped us greatly! Praise the Lord!

Tuesday, September 16: We're planning to begin new English Bible Classes on Saturday, the 20th, and today several people telephoned to inquire about the classes. We praise the Lord for these contacts!

Wednesday, September 17: Special evangelistic meetings started in one of the other churches here in Ikeda, with Rev. Takemoto. Several of our church contacts went with us to the meetings, including some from a former English Bible class. We were thrilled with the tremendous presentation of the gospel message, and just pray that some of these new ones will open their hearts for Christ. The Spirit is moving!

Thursday, September 18: We received several more inquiries about the new English Bible Classes, in response to advertising leaflets sent out in the morning newspapers. This method of advertising is usually not very productive, but we have been amazed at the response—must have something to do with prayer! Fred has been working on the English text material for the classes, and was able to get quite a bit more of it completed today.

Friday, September 19: We must confess to having had a bit of concern about getting everything ready for the new classes, but it seems now that "all systems are go!" Praise the Lord! We attended the Takemoto meeting again this evening, with the short-term missionary Val Urquhart, and our hearts were again blessed.

Saturday, September 20: A letter came from Grandma today in which she mentioned visiting with our three children (now all in the States), and assuring us that all was well with them. Seems like sometimes children don't write as often as

Mom and Dad would like, so this little extra word was a real blessing to our hearts. In the evening, we had the first meeting of the new Bible Class, and it is indeed off to a good start. Pat will be teaching one group, and Fred the other (divided according to English language ability). What a challenge is ours, presenting the Lord Jesus Christ to these new ones—only one out of the twelve has had any real contact with the gospel! You prayed—and they came! Keep praying!

How we praise the Lord for his rich blessings during this very special week! And we want to thank you for your prayers that prompted the special moving of the Holy Spirit on our behalf! We hope that this brief report will encourage you to continue earnestly praying for your Missionaries of the Week every week! (Who is it this week—do you know?!) God is working, your prayers are answered, and Jesus Christ is glorified! It is truly a blessed privilege to be a part of our wonderful North American Baptist family. Thank you so much—and God bless you! □



Bicentennial Opportunities For M.C.F.C. by Daniel Fuchs

As the United States celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, it does so amid huge social, economic, moral and religious problems.

In many ways the United States has become a spiritually confused nation. Someone has said: "The crisis of our age is not political, it is a moral crisis; a crisis of people who have given up their faith in God."

We have divorced the spiritual dimension from our daily existence and have forgotten God in our life. It is not a cheerful thought that millions of us who live in a land of Bibles, who even hold membership in churches and profess to support the Christian cause, spend their life on this earth without giving serious thought to the being of God.

It is our daily experience that we are living in a nation of "escape artists." People who are trying to escape the presence of God. The intellectual tries to argue God out of his life. Others try to run away by hiding in frantic activities day after day. Some hide behind drink or drugs. Others try to pull the cover of gross sin over themselves, pretending that God is not present.

In the light of this situation, what is our Christian task? As we enter the Bicentennial, do we desire moral and spiritual healing? Do we anticipate it and hope for it? And, most of all, are we ready to do what God asks us to do to bring it about?

The Bicentennial affords a tremendous opportunity for North American Baptists to share the gospel of hope with neighbors and friends. It is an ideal time to call for a resurgence of moral and spiritual values through One Million Contacts for Christ. The certainty of our hope is the fact "that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself," II Cor. 5:19. We must unite the birth of our nation to the need of a new birth in Christ. No one but Christ forgives sin and renews people and a nation. □

The Rev. Daniel Fuchs was evangelism director of the North American Baptist Conference.

Jesus, what do you want with my life?



How can God show me what He wants me to do with my life? Where do I fit in? What career choices are open to me?

Does the ministry offer a career-challenge worth investigating? Do I have what it takes? Are there opportunities for women? Is anything worthwhile happening in the Church?

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insight into christian education

The Church—A Model for Group Living

by Richard J. Mohline

How many groups do you belong to? Recently an adult Sunday school class was asked to list different groups to which they belonged. The list totaled 33 and included everything from the family and Sunday school class to women's clubs and car pools. The same adults were generally unsatisfied with their group experiences. This was partly true because many of the groups they belong to only played a small part in their life and partially because some of the groups just weren't functioning the way they could. Because of this the people had very little investment in most of the groups.

But group experiences can be meaningful. And while some people think the Bible is a very unlikely place to find guidelines for stimulative group experiences, this is not the case. In fact, the Bible laid out a broad plan for effective group involvement long before anyone ever heard of a "buzz group," a "study group," "group therapy" or any of the other groups we hear so much about today. The New Testament actually provides a model from which we can apply principles of life to all of our group experiences be they family, church, social or therapeutic.

Basic Characteristics

The New Testament presents the church, the body of Christ, as a model for group experience. Three concepts that characterize the body of Christ can be applied to group experiences: The body of Christ gets together (ek-klesia) to share their lives (koinonia) because they are concerned for each other (agape).

Every group gets together at one time or another and shares common interests in the purpose of the group.

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Unfortunately, however, many groups do not really have a concern one for the other.

Goals of Groups

The goals of the body of Christ are found in Ephesians 4:1-16 where an emphasis is placed on *unity of the group, developing each person, growing up, and edifying itself in love*. If a group is really helpful it must be moving toward its goals. Without them any group can turn into one more hollow activity or effort. With an emphasis on unity and growth, however, groups can become alive. We can minister to each others' needs and find stimulating growth experiences. We can learn to feel loved and worthwhile and help others feel the same.

Guidelines for Groups

In every group there are forces which can either promote or hinder the activities and growth of the group. These forces are common to all groups, but they are especially important in relationships among Christians.

Acceptance. The body of Christ affords a deep and meaningful acceptance of each member one for another. There is the acceptance of people from all walks of life, all races, all colors, both sexes—whatever the person's background. Jesus accepts us just as we are. This is the cornerstone of every effective group. When a group communicates acceptance to each of its members, it is saying that they are important to the group and accepted just as they are. The member who feels this acceptance will find some of his own needs met and therefore will be willing to contribute and become involved in the goals and purposes of the group.

Commitment. Just as the body of Christ requires loyalty and commitment by each member in order to grow, so each group of which we are

a member deserves our commitment. "For where your heart is . . . there you invest your treasure."

Attractiveness. This group dynamic is that the body of Christ has a certain attractiveness about it. It has that potential for bringing out the best in every man, woman and child. It is attractive in that it provides a fulfilling avenue of expression for the outer man. Every group in order to justify its existence should be attractive for each one who is a member.

Expectations. The body of Christ has expectations! When we became a Christian and joined a church, most of us were confronted with certain expectations: sharing our faith with unsaved; loving and ministering to other members of the church; helping to finance the work of the Lord and promoting the welfare of the church.

Belongingness. The body of Christ also gives each believer the feeling of belonging. When a person comes into the body of Christ there is a good feeling within him that he belongs. God has built into us that "want to belong" that is real and important. A group which can create this feeling in its members will go a long way in cultivating loyal participation and involvement in the group.

Responsibilities. The body of Christ sets before each believer a very clear and direct program which becomes partially his responsibility. A person who is a member of a family or any other group also needs a sense of responsibility to the group.

Security. Finally, security is one of the cornerstones found in the body of Christ. It is important for each believer to feel secure in Jesus Christ and secure in the presence of those who name the name of Jesus with them: a sense of security, a place for the present and a certainty for the future. Every group should model and provide an experience of security for its members. Whenever a group becomes unstable or loses its sense of responsibility to enable each member to feel secure, it does a disservice to its own purpose and reasons for being. Security, for a group, is very important for its own growth. The apostle Paul indicates that we are to consider ourselves parts of one body and that we live best when we live with others (Eph. 4:16).

Acceptance—Attractiveness—Belongingness—Responsibilities and Security: These are just a few of the forces active in the body of Christ that can be carefully studied and applied to other group situations. Properly applied they can make our group experiences vital and full of life. □

Once a year the N.A.B. pastors of the three Canadian Provinces: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, join with the pastors of the Western Baptist Union for a time of inspiration and relaxation. Here is an account of what is going on at such a conference.

Occasionally when a pastor returns from attending a pastors' conference or some other conference meetings, he is greeted by someone with the words, "Well, did you have a good holiday?" This question may be used jokingly, and yet underneath it all there is some thought that the pastor has just had an additional holiday.

a LEARNING EXPERIENCE

by Klaus H. Tonn

From my own experience I can say that a pastors' conference is a great learning experience. It is a time when you leave the routine tasks and duties of ministering to God's people, and you have a number of God's servants minister to you. As pastors we must stop occasionally to re-evaluate our own personal spiritual life. We, too, must have our spiritual batteries recharged.

I'm grateful to my church for having allowed me the opportunity this year to attend the N.A.B. Ministers' Conference in Sioux Falls, as well as the Western Canadian Pastors' Conference at Banff, Alberta.

Most of you reading this article are not pastors, and maybe you are wondering about the activities at a pastors' conference. Let me give you a bird's eye view of the recent conference that I was privileged to attend.

I arrived at Banff on Monday afternoon. It was great to meet fellow pastors and renew friendships from the past. After supper we listened to a missionary relate his experiences in Africa. From 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. there was a lecture by Dr. McGavran on the topic of "Thinking Church Growth." Dr. McGavran reminded us very forcibly that "The unswerving purpose of God is the salvation of lost men." He continued further to bring to our attention some of the following facts. In a world population of 4 billion we find 3 billion people have not heard the Gospel. God has commanded us to be his agents in the task of reconciling men to God. There is a host of winable people which we must reach with the story of God's love and salvation.

The first lecture was followed with a time of fellowship, concluding the first day's activities.

Tuesday's sessions began at 8:50 a.m. and lasted till noon, which was followed by an hour and a half for lunch. Then from 2:00 till 4:00 p.m. there were more lectures by Dr. Win Arn and Dr. McGavran. By the

The Rev. K. H. Tonn is pastor of Grant Park Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

time these lectures were finished we were all ready for some recreation, since sitting for that length of time does become rather tiring. Many of us went for a swim in the world famous hot springs of Banff.

Another lecture followed the supper hour with the business meeting of the N.A.B. Ministers' Fellowship concluding a very busy and profitable day.

Wednesday's schedule of activities was very similar to Tuesday, which included about six hours of lectures, as well as a few hours for recreation.

Luggage was packed right after breakfast on Thursday morning, so we would be prepared to start our homeward journey following three hours of lectures and a bite to eat.

Those three days of great blessings, challenges and inspirations are now in the past, but I'm sure that the thoughts and ideas will soon be put into practice in many churches, for the glory of God and the salvation of lost men, women and children.

One of the themes that came across to us was very loud and clear. It was the fact that "It is God's will that his church grow in order that lost mankind be found. Any church which is not growing is out of the will of God." Yes, indeed, it is high time that both pastor and people become concerned and interested in church-growth. This growth is not for the sake of numbers but for the salvation of lost souls. Each person reached is another soul snatched out of Satan's kingdom. Church-growth involves evangelism. Evangelism is proclaiming Jesus Christ as God and Savior, persuading people to become his disciples and responsible members of his Church.

Some of the reasons that were given for lack of church-growth were: 1) lack of holy living, 2) lack of prayer, 3) lack of brotherly love, 4) lack of correct doctrine. We need to evaluate the ministry of our churches and make changes where needed in order that we might faithfully fulfill God's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

In our discussion concerning church-growth, the question of "How big should a church be?" was raised. This is not an easy question to answer. The answer given by one of our speakers was, "Bigger than it is NOW!" Churches grow by intending and planning to grow. The task looms large before us. Let's all take hold of it and see how God will work through us to draw many thousands of souls to himself.

I appreciate the opportunity and learning experience of our Western Canadian Pastors' Conference. If the Lord should tarry I trust that I will be able to attend future conferences, in order to grow spiritually and to receive new challenges for the work of the ministry. □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Life Insurance—A Forgotten Gift Idea

(Some of the following information will not apply to Canadian citizens)

by Everett A. Barker

It has been said, "There are more ways to give than with money." This is a true statement. People of modest means have expressed to me the feeling that they are left out of many giving opportunities. While it is true that our tax structure favors larger donors, it is also true that many donors of lesser resources do not take advantage of giving opportunities which are available. One giving vehicle which is not being used as readily as it might be is gifts of life insurance. Most people have life insurance of one type or another. Life insurance is usually purchased as protection against the possibility of premature death particularly of the breadwinner of the family. As the years roll on and family responsibilities diminish there is less need for life insurance unless it be to provide liquidity in an estate for estate tax reasons. It may be that one or more of your insurance policies no longer fulfill the need for which they were originally intended. There are at least thirteen different ways that you can use life insurance as a gift instrument. Here are some suggestions for you to consider:

1. Give an existing policy by changing the beneficiary. You can deduct the replacement value on your federal income tax return up

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

to 50% of your adjusted gross income. If the replacement value is over 50%, you can deduct a portion this year and spread the rest over the next five years. If you continue paying premiums, you can deduct them as charitable contributions.

2. Name the Conference or local church as co-beneficiary, to share in the policy proceeds. In this way you can share your life insurance with a Christian organization.
3. Name the Conference or local church as secondary beneficiary. This permits the organization to receive the proceeds after the death of first beneficiary.
4. Name the Conference or local church as remainder beneficiary. This permits them to receive the proceeds after the deaths of primary and secondary beneficiaries.
5. Name the Conference or local church as residual beneficiary of your life insurance policies. When you elect a supplementary contract as settlement of your life insurance policies at retirement, the Conference or local church can be named as the residual beneficiary. If you don't live to use the cash available in your policies, the Conference or local church receives the guaranteed payments or gets the residue upon your death.
6. Take out a new policy for the benefit of the Conference or local church. Many people are happy to pay premiums regularly out of their income in order to guarantee delivery of a fixed sum later to a charitable institution.
7. Assign your annual dividends to the Conference or local church. This is a systematic way to give tax free income, and you can deduct the dividends as gifts from your income tax return.
8. Sell your endowment-type policy to the Conference or local church at your cost. This is another type of "bargain sale gift"—similar to selling stocks at original cost to avoid large capital gains tax. The difference between your original cost and the actual present value is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. (You must report the increase realized on your tax return and deduct the same amount as a gift.)
9. Buy a policy to replace in your estate money or property you have given. This is a way to give without diminishing your estate, a

method that merits serious consideration by those who want to give without depleting what their heirs will get at time of death.

10. Buy a policy to protect a large covenant you have made.
11. Insure the bequests in your will and deduct the premiums now. This assures that the bequests will automatically be made, since insurance cannot be contested. It also assures that the full amount will be given . . . and avoids the delay of probate.
12. Give the proceeds of an existing policy, reserving the income for your survivor.
13. Take out a life insurance policy, if you are uninsurable, on the life of another person and assign it to the Conference or local church. This is an excellent way to give via life insurance when you don't qualify personally for it. You may insure your wife, husband, brother, sister. Premiums are tax deductible just as with other policies irrevocably assigned to a qualified organization.

For additional information send for the two brochures listed on the response coupon. Direct any questions to: Everett A. Barker, 7308 Madison Street, Forest Park, IL 60130. Call Collect: (312) 771-8700.

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CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

Boring, Ore., Church Extension Project

by Larry Neufeld

Two years ago the Hollyview Baptist Church consisted of 10 acres of land near Boring, Oregon, and two families who met together weekly for Bible study. Today, as a result of many of God's miracles, a nearly completed church building sits on that land located in a steadily growing area southeast of Portland. The building has been constructed chiefly by the volunteer labor of members and friends of the church and will be dedicated soon with Senator Mark Hatfield serving as one of the speakers.

While we are anxious to get into our new building, God has shown us in many vivid ways that a church is dependent on people, not on the place where they gather together. Our present meeting place, the Boring Grange Hall, constantly presents us with new surprises; a huge mud puddle, no heat, broken windows, various and numerous smells, and even a fresh bullet hole.

Hollyview Baptist Church is not a building, it is people. Presently the church is ministering to over 25 families. However, more than that, it is a group of people who care about their fellow Christians as well as their community. They care because they have seen all that God has done in their lives. It is exciting to see people anxious to hear more of the gospel as a result of watching Christians show their concern. At times it has meant accepting people the way that they are, in other cases it has been a matter of helping someone who is sick, and at other times it has been simply a matter of listening.

The opportunities to minister in this new community are unlimited, and we are thankful for the many people who care in our denomination. It is exciting to know that we are not alone, but that there are many who have remembered us in prayer and who have helped us financially as we have ministered in this community. We hope that you continue to strengthen us as we reach out in the Boring-Damascus area. □

The Rev. Larry Neufeld is pastor of Hollyview Baptist Church, Boring, Oregon.

Hollyview Baptist Church under construction



FEBRUARY, 1976



Pastor L. Neufeld and family



The Andersons who were among the first families related to the church.

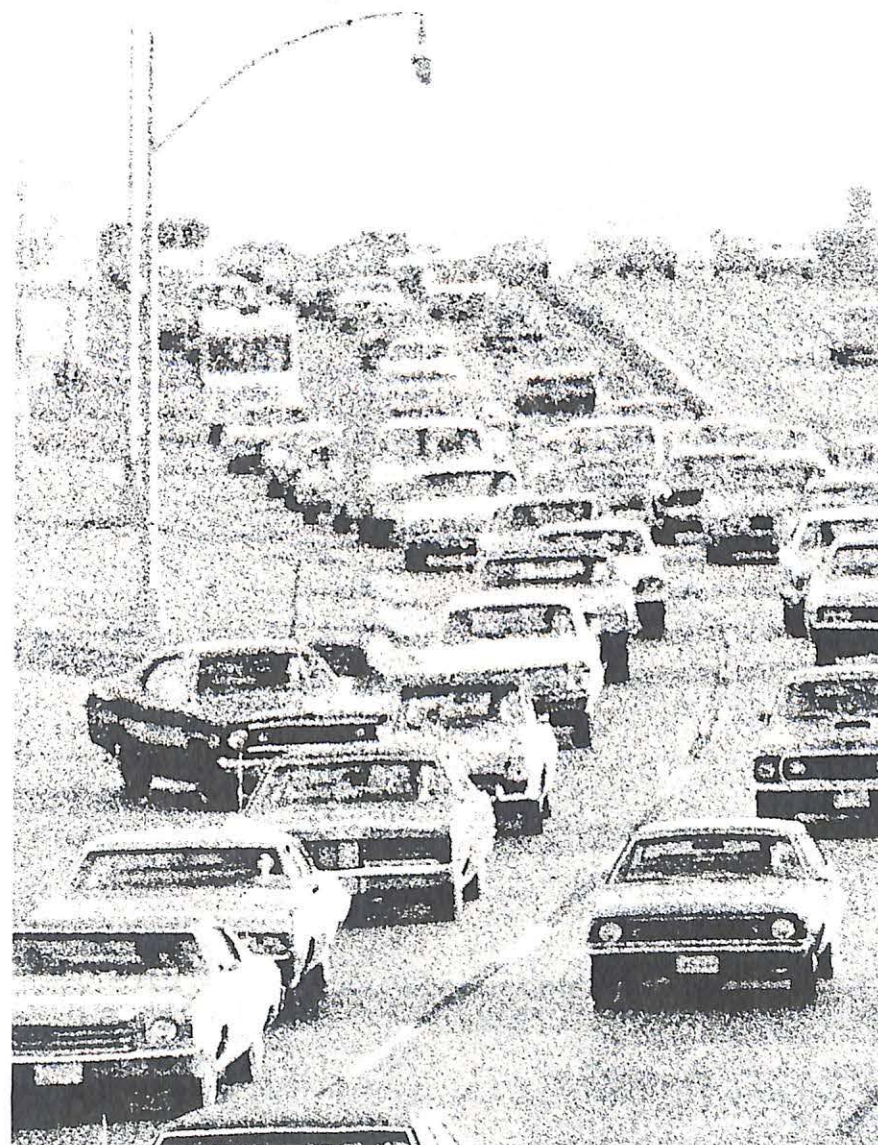
Sunday school class for third and fourth graders



Heavy Thinking

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book reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

There's a snake in my garden. By Jill Briscoe, Grand Rapids, Mich. Zondervan Publishing House. \$4.95.

The temptation is to add a subtitle and say "For Women Only," but I enjoyed it immensely and no doubt other men will too. Mrs. Briscoe does not write primarily from the point of view of a pastor's wife, but from the point of view of a Christian lay person.

Beginning with her home life in England, she goes on to relate her conversion, her education, her teaching, her evangelistic work among youth, her lonely times during her marriage to a traveling evangelist, her tensions as a mother, and finally to a major adjustment as a pastor's wife in Milwaukee, Wis.

The snake in the garden is the symbol of temptation that comes to her in devious ways—attractive and appealing. He is always busy, and sometimes very successful.

The picture of the garden on the jacket has a butterfly but no snake. Perhaps this is symbolic of all of us—hoping to keep the snake hidden, or make believe he's not there.

A Theology of Christian Education. By Lawrence O. Richards, Grand Rapids, Mich. Zondervan Publishing House.

If you want to be challenged and motivated, read this book.

It is a notable first in Christian Education. It goes beyond the traditional and views every aspect of the church as an educational experience.

Built on a sound Biblical basis, Dr. Richards has presented a clear, systematic rationale for this theology of the ministering, teaching church. He says, "In this book . . . I have been arguing for two vital things. First, that we recognize the inadequacy of what we have been thinking of as education. And second, that we see the total life of the church and its every interaction as the *real* educational experience of the believer."

The aim of Richards is not to give the final word, but to set a direction in our changing views of the church's educational ministry.

The book is easily understood, practical and very quotable. It should be read by persons in all areas of church life. Bruce A. Rich. □

Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Vearl Farnsworth observed their 65th wedding anniversary in October, 1975. They are members of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Plancich observed their 50th wedding anniversary in October, 1975. They are members of the Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Feige observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 2, 1975. They are members of the Napier Parkview Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, Mich.

WEST FARGO, N.D. On Sunday evening, Nov. 2, 1975, the Rev. LeRoy Moser had the joy of baptizing three young people and one adult (pictured) upon confession of their faith in Christ Jesus.



The Grace Baptist Church held a Spiritual Life Conference on Nov. 7-9 with the Rev. Robert Penner from Grand Forks, N.D. as guest speaker. (Mrs. Harold Fried, reporter.)

ELGIN, IOWA The 139th Iowa Association convened at the First Baptist Church. Speakers were the Rev. Donald Miller, vice president for development, N.A.B. Seminary; Miss Bernice Westerman, missionary to Cameroon; Miss Carol Potratz, returned missionary from Japan; Rev. Milton Zeeb, area secretary.

The theme was "The Church—The Home—and You." Miss Carol Potratz was the speaker at the ladies' luncheon, and Warren Booth, Davenport, Iowa, was the speaker at the men's luncheon. Rev. Zeeb was the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. A group from the Association known as the Gospel High Lighters provided the music.

Church extension has been a challenge to the Iowa Association. Rock Rapids will soon become a recognized Church Extension Project.

The 1976 officers are Rev. Werner Lemke, moderator; Phyl Putz, mod-

erator elect; Harry Johnson, recording secretary; John Wagenaar, statistical secretary. (Harry Johnson, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CALIF. A Missionary Banquet was held at Bethel Baptist Church on Nov. 19, which featured a 50 cent turkey dinner. The Social Committee planned the meal and asked members to sign up for various items. Roast turkey and dressing were prepared by the Committee.

Speakers included the Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Kern, former missionaries to Japan; Mr. Carlos Freyre, founder and director of missions to Baja; and Miss Cindy Mahaffey, a member of Bethel who works in Colorado with our mission work there in an "unofficial" capacity. Each speaker presented information and need, and then opened the remainder of their time to questions. A missionary offering climaxed the evening.

STEVENSVILLE, MICH. The Lakeshore Baptist Church received a double blessing during 1975. First, the Lord led Rev. Walter A. Damrau and his wife Greta to become our interim pastor. Rev. Damrau's ministry resulted in an increase of 27 new members, both through baptism and by experience.

Secondly, the Lord prepared Rev. R. I. Thompson to accept our call to a full-time ministry. With his wife, Nell, and their four children, Mark, Kim, Scott and Tina, they have already blessed us since arriving from Temple Baptist in Milwaukee.

OKEENE, OKLA. Because of a closer proximity to the San Luis Valley Mission work the North American Baptist Churches of Oklahoma have found a very worthwhile and rewarding project in gathering used clothing, furniture, bedding, etc. for the San Luis Valley. Each fall the word goes out, the Okeene paper carries a small ad and boxes and boxes of clothing are brought to the Zion Baptist Church. Later the ladies gather to sort the clothing as to size, patch and sew where necessary, and then pack in sturdy boxes.

The young people of the church do their part by packing the boxes and items into a large truck (pictured) which Mr. and Mrs. Harland Greb



drive to Center and Monte Vista. The Rev. Harry Haas is the pastor of the church.

FREDONIA, N.D. The Berlin Baptist Church observed the 40th anniversary of the Rev. Arthur Fischer last fall. Mr. Herbert Buerkley, chairman of the Anniversary Committee, presided. Rev. Henry Pfeifer, Winnipeg, Man., a classmate and Seminary graduate of the honoree was the speaker. Rev. Ed Kopf, Herreid, S.D., spoke in behalf of Pastor Fischer's home church. There he was ordained into the Gospel ministry on Oct. 11, 1935.

Representatives from former churches also extended greetings; the Ebenezer Baptist Church (1937-45), Westington Springs, S.D.; the McClusky Baptist Church (1945-52), McClusky, N.D.; the First Baptist Church (1952-62), Linton, N.D.; the Leola Baptist Church (1967-70), Leola, S.D. The Bethel Baptist Church (1962-67), Sheboygan, Wis. sent a letter which was shared on the program. The Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, N.D. (1935-1937) was the first congregation which he served. Since 1970 he has been serving the Berlin Baptist Church. The church presented the pastor with a beautiful plaque.

Seven neighboring churches participated on the program and conveyed greetings from their congregations. Rev. Clarence Walth, the area secretary spoke in behalf of the denomination, and extended greetings personally.

Several musical numbers were presented. A number of communications were read by Mrs. Adam Harr and Mrs. Elliott Rott, two other members of the Anniversary Committee.

All the children of Rev. and Mrs. Fischer were here for this special event. They also spoke briefly, and then surprised their parents when they announced that this is to be a surprise anniversary for the 40th wedding.

The congregation was invited to the lower sanctuary where refreshments were served to more than 250 people.

The Fischers plan to continue at the Berlin Baptist Church for the time being, and at a later date hope to retire from a happy and blessed ministry of 40 years.

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA. Concerned members of other areas and from the city of Lethbridge (pictured), prayerfully surveyed a thousand homes to see if there was interest in starting a Church Extension Church in North Lethbridge.

The results were 68 family prospects with 18 extremely good ones. The

conclusions of the survey were shared by Rev. Richard Grabke who was asked to conduct this survey, by the Southern Alberta Church Extension Committee. They unanimously recommended to the Alberta Association executive that this project be approved as a Church Extension project and that a man be obtained for this field immediately. The Alberta Association Executive endorsed this unanimously.



Canvassers also surveyed the city of Brooks, Alberta; 2000 homes were contacted resulting in 57 prospects with 30 listed as definite prospects.

PORTLAND, ORE. "Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus" was the theme of the 88th annual Oregon-Idaho Association Nov. 6-9, 1975, at the Glencullen Baptist Church, with the Stafford Baptist Church as co-hosts. Rev. Willy Muller, NABC, Edmonton, Alta., gave the keynote address, "Seeing our Community Through the Eyes of Jesus."

Our Association women met for a luncheon on Friday. Mrs. Ben Denison, a Child Evangelism Leader of Salem, talked about "Those Neighborhood Kids." Jesus said "If ye love me, feed my lambs." Our president, Mrs. Richard Schmitke, conducted the business session.

The men gathered for lunch with Dr. Ronald Hiller giving a glimpse into the life of a missionary doctor.

The business sessions of the Association were capably led by Mr. Victor Steinfeld, our moderator. Conference reports were given by Rev. H. J. Wilcke, our Western District Secretary. The two extension churches of our Association are growing, both spiritually and in number.

Dr. Hiller spoke that evening on "Seeing the World Through the Eyes of Jesus." Through pictures and narration of the medical work both at Warwar and Mbem, Dr. Hiller held the congregation in rapt attention as we imagined Jesus looking at the situation, the tremendous needs, and the great responsibility that our missionaries have.

Specific learning opportunities presented through workshop activities

proved to be most helpful. "Restoring the Erring Brother," with Rev. Ted Keck of the Glencullen Church; "World Hunger," led by Rev. Herbert Scott of World Vision International; and "Separating the Winners from the Losers," with Stu Inman from the Portland Trailblazers were the challenges for learning experiences. In the evening, there was an informal youth supper and concert by the "Forever Free," Portland Youth for Christ musical group. Their speaker for the evening was Rev. Willy Muller. An adult banquet was held at a nearby restaurant with Rev. Ron Harper of the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary bringing the message.

The Association Rally was held at the Trinity Baptist Church. A mass choir, led by Mr. Jerry Angell, involved members of all the Association churches. Rev. Willy Muller gave the closing address, "Seeing our Brother Through the Eyes of Jesus." The love, the compassion, and the concern that Jesus had for those around him is how he wants us to live today. (Mrs. Walter E. Schmitke, reporter.)

LODI, CALIF. An Ordination Council was called on Nov. 10, 1975, at the Temple Baptist Church for the purpose of examining the qualifications of Mr. Jim Jensen. Rev. Merle Brenner of Elk Grove served as Moderator of the Council, which concluded its deliberations by voting unanimously to recommend to the Temple Baptist Church to proceed with ordination plans. Mr. Jensen serves Temple Baptist Church as minister of music. The Rev. Kenneth Fischer is the pastor of the church. (Rev. J. Wayne Bibelheimer, clerk of the Ordination Council.)

ASHLEY, N.D. The annual Singfest of the Central Dakota Montana Association was hosted by the Ashley Baptist Church Nov. 9, 1975. The afternoon and evening were held in the High School Auditorium. In the afternoon approximately 950 attended and more than 1,400 in the evening. The program was presented by men and boys of the 30 churches of the Association and consisted of men's and boys' solos, duets, trios, quartets and a mass choir of approximately 80 men, the latter directed by Rev. Etan Pelzer, pastor of the local church.

The Ashley Baptist Church held a week of revival meetings in November. Special classes were also held each morning on such topics as the Holy Spirit, Israel, fear and other topics. The guest speaker was the Rev. Robert Penner, senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, N.D. He

also held brief Bible contests for the children whose fascinated attention he held in his own unique way of presenting his lessons, with prizes to the winners. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

ELLINWOOD, KAN. Our First Baptist Church was privileged to have Rev. Fred Folkerts as our guest speaker when we observed Harvest Mission Festival Sunday, Nov. 23rd. That evening our W.M.S. had its anniversary program and honored Mrs. Paul Scheufler, as "Mrs. Cut-Up" in recognition of all the White Cross work she has done over the years, such as making more than 400 baby jackets as well as many other items. A fellowship time followed the program. Pictured L to R: Mrs. Bill Madden, WMS pres., Rev. Fred Folkerts, Mrs. Vernon DeWerff, presenting the "Mrs. Cut Up Award", Mrs. Paul Scheufler, Mrs. Kenneth DeWerff, White Cross chairman.



We received a blessing during the Crusade with God's Volunteers in November.

Our adult classes have combined for the fall quarter for a seminar on "Successful Christian Living." (Mrs. Dale Hartig, reporter.)

BEULAH, N.D. The Immanuel Baptist Church held its Harvest Mission Festival. Our guest speaker was Pastor Myrl E. Thiesies. Our mission offering was \$4,730.45.

The Women's Missionary Society held its annual program last fall and also observed the Baptist World Day of Prayer. Brother and Sister Teichrob were with us one evening. The Rev. George Neubert is the pastor of the church. (Mrs. A. E. Moos, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MAN. "Discover the Difference," a thirty minute color TV program, is being aired weekly on a Winnipeg cable TV, Channel 13, by the Grant Park Baptist Church.

Special meetings were held with Rev. D. Chapman of Child Evangelism Fellowship conducting the meetings for children during the first part of the

week. Rev. Carlin Weinbauer from Briarcrest Bible Institute presented a challenge to young people and adults in the latter part of the week.

A baptismal service with four candidates, the commissioning of Larry and Judy Brown for missionary service in Brazil with the Wycliffe Bible Translators, as well as the salvation of two couples through visitation were some other highlights. The Rev. Klaus Tonn is the pastor of the church. (Gloria Tonn, reporter.)

BROOKFIELD, WIS. The Anna Dingel Missionary Society of the Immanuel Baptist Church, observed its 110th anniversary at a luncheon with 58 members and friends. The Rev. Carl Kingsley, Immanuel's interim pastor, gave the invocation and Mrs. Kingsley led the devotion. After brief remarks and greetings by the president, Mrs. John Grothe, a varied program was presented. A brief biography was given concerning the one whose name the society bears, that of Miss Anna Dingel, a home missionary who served the congregation under four pastors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She served the congregation under four pastors. She served the congregation for 28 years with untiring and unselfish devotion. Her work among the European immigrants, of which there was a great influx at that time, proved essential to Immanuel's growth. Immanuel was then known as Die Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde, (First German Baptist Church) of Milwaukee, Wis. The time remaining was granted our guest speaker, Miss Geraldine Glasenapp, our Cameroon Missionary and native Wisconsinite, whose enlightening and challenging message was a fitting climax to a festive occasion.

Immanuel celebrated its 120th anniversary, Nov. 1975. Our new pastor, the Rev. Jack Jones, began his ministry in January 1976. (E. Wengel, reporter.)

MC CLUSKY, N.D. The McClusky Baptist Church dedicated its new parsonage (pictured) with the Rev. Clarence Walth, area secretary, as speaker. Many congratulations were extended to the church. Mr. Bud Berg represented the city. The youth served the dinner and participated in the program. Mr. Roy Kensmoe, chairman of the Trustee Board, was given the key by Mr. Jerry Thiel of McClusky Lumber Co. The Men's Chorus presented the theme for the occasion by singing, "To God be the Glory," and Bill Arndt sang "Bless this House." An open house was held after the festivities.



Pastor Thiesies and family wish to express their appreciation to all who participated in the project. (Alvina Dockter, reporter.)

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICH. The Bethel Baptist Church held its annual Harvest Home Thanksgiving Dinner with special guest, soloist Gary Moore in concert. The thanks-offering was more than \$8,000.

On Tuesday, prior to Thanksgiving Day, we shared in a service featuring our four choirs combined with music, testimonies, and a message by our pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Fenner.

November 30 continued our praise as we joined in a fellowship after the evening service and packed KIL boxes to send to our missionaries. Everyone got in the act and it was a joy to see the missionary spirit as our Women's Missionary headed up this project. (Mrs. Nancy Grimstead, reporter.)

in memoriam

EMIL GUSTAV BRESCH, 85, of Esk, Sask., died on July 12, 1975. He was born on March 14, 1890 in Russia, and came to Canada in 1903. In 1917 he received Christ as his personal Savior, and was baptized the following year. He was a charter member of Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, and served as choir director, band and orchestra leader, Sunday school superintendent, trustee and treasurer. In 1918 he married Minnie Schneider, which union was blessed with five children. He is survived by his widow Minnie; sons: Elmer and Edwin; daughters: Esther and Isabelle; seven grandchildren, and a sister Lydia. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. R. Lemke assisted by Rev. W. Andrei.

MRS. FRIEDA E. DRESSEL nee Wilde, 70, of Detroit, Mich., died on Nov. 20, 1975. She was born in Germany on March 24, 1905. In her youth she accepted Christ as Savior and maintained a radiant testimony all through life. On May 6, 1933, she was united in marriage to Alfred Dressel. At the time of her death she was a member of the Grosse Pointe Baptist Church. Surviving her are her widower, Alfred; one son, Gordon A.; one daughter, Winifred M. Carswell; seven grandchildren; five brothers and one sister. The Rev. John P. Ludlam officiated at the church and graveside service.

CORNELIUS FREESE, 76, of Little Rock, Iowa, died Oct. 18, 1975. He was a faithful member of the Central Baptist Church, George, Iowa. Mr. Freese is survived by his widow, Jessie; three sons: John, Lawrence, and Vernon; two daughters: Mrs. Edwin (Viola) Krull, Mrs. John (Bernice) Winter; three brothers, two sisters, 19 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Pastor Morris Motley was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

MRS. LEAH GEIS, 82, of Hillsboro, Kan., died Nov. 12, 1975. She was born on Nov. 12, 1892, near Durham, Kan. In 1912 she married Ed F. Geis and to this union were born four children. In 1945 she was baptized and was received into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church of Durham, Kan., and has been a faithful member until her death. Surviving her are her widower; one son, Quentin; three daughters: Mrs. Eunice Klein, Mrs. Betty Meier, Mrs. Lois Whitney; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The Rev. Martin Franke was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

EDWARD WILLIAM KROLL, 86, died; grandfather of Kathy Kroll. He was born Aug. 9, 1889, at Parkston, S.D. He came with his parents to Colfax, Wa. in 1904, where they settled in the Wilcox area. A German speaking church was there and they became charter members. Mr. Kroll attended the Baptist Academy which was then in Colfax. He was presently a member of First Baptist church of Colfax. On Nov. 12, 1912, he was married to Ellen Janke at Underwood, N.D. They came to Colfax where they farmed and lived until his death. Surviving him are five children: Victor, Buford, Everett, (Violet) Mrs. Richard Templeton, and (Iris) Mrs. Edwin Kramlich, two sisters, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Pastor Bernard Edinger spoke from Psalm 39 at the memorial service.

CATHERINE M. KRAUSE MILLER, 53, died on Nov. 26, 1975. She was born on Staten Island, N.Y., on Nov. 24, 1922. Catherine was a member of the First Baptist Church of Jamesburg, N.J., where she served her Lord faithfully. She is survived by her widower, Carlton; two sons: Carlton, Jr., and Fred Daniel; her mother, Mrs. Jacob Krause; seven brothers: Charles, John, George, Michael, Nicholas, Frank and Thomas; four sisters: Mrs. Douglas Allen, Mrs. Ferdinand Strade, Mrs. Thomas Cummings, and Mrs. Marie Van Heck; one granddaughter. The Rev. Karl E. Bieber was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

FRIEDA SCHACHER, 63, of Underwood, N.D., died Oct. 30, 1975. She was born on May 5, 1912, at Turtle Lake, N.D. On Oct. 14, 1934, she was married to Edwin Schacher. In 1945 she accepted Christ as her personal Savior and joined the First Baptist Church of Underwood in 1951. Surviving her are her widower; three sons: Leon and James Schacher of Milwaukee, Wis., and one Curtis; four grandchildren, one sister and one brother. Pastor Wesley A. Gerber and the Rev. R. H. Zepik were the officiating ministers at the funeral service.

MARTHA MAE SCHRICK, 22, of George, Iowa, died in an accident. She was born near George, Iowa in 1953. She was an outstanding athlete and voted "Woman Athlete of the Year." She was also a member of Kappa Delta Pi honor society of education. At the time of her death she was on the faculty of the Eddyville, Iowa school as physical education teacher. Martha accepted Christ as Savior, was baptized and joined the fellowship of the Central Baptist Church, George, Iowa in 1971. Surviving her are her mother, Gertrude L. Schrick, one sister, Diane; four brothers. Pastor Morris Motley was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

ALBERT C. VOTH, 71, of Dallas, Ore., died Nov. 7, 1975. He was born at Salt Creek, March 4, 1904. At an early age he accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized. He became a faithful member of the Salt Creek Baptist Church, where he served as deacon and taught in Sunday school for many years. On Nov. 15, 1934, he was married to Minnie Dyck. Survivors include his widow; four sons: Ron, Richard, Bill and Paul; eight grandchildren, three brothers and one sister. Pastor Ray Hoffman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

MRS. META WESNER nee Sadowski, 67, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, died on Nov. 16, 1975. She was born in Ohio, died on Nov. 16, 1975. She was married to Godlieb Wesner on Oct. 4, 1928. She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized in 1921. She came to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1931. She was a charter member of the Parma Heights Baptist Church where for many years she supplied and arranged flowers for the sanctuary. She was also a choir member for more than 25 years. In 1973 she moved to Ft. Lauderdale, where she joined the First Baptist Church. She is survived by her widower, and her children: Edell Plumb, Arthur, Walter, Esther Kunz, and eleven grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. William M. Hinson.

CLASS OF 1976

(Continued from page 7)

souls about us that are dying, and they have never yet received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

It is our primary responsibility as pastors, to bring them to that place in their lives where they will see the need of receiving him into their lives.

Ronald Stevens will be graduating with a Master of Ministry degree. He is 26 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Cedarloo Baptist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

As I think about my priorities for ministry, my primary concern must be ever to seek to deepen my spiritual walk with Christ for only as I am filled with his love am I able to share that love with others. Knowing this, prayer and Bible study must be in the forefront of my life.

Having prepared myself, I must then seek to understand the hurts, the aspirations, the fears and the joys of those to whom I minister. I can only do that by really caring for those who are my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I must also remember that everything I do must be done not for my own but for Christ's glory that his name might be praised.

Richard Stoller will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 25 years old, married and presently holds membership in the Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon.

Our Christian gospel meets the spiritual needs of every person, and brings liberation to all those oppressed; by racism, sexism, militarism, economic exploitation and all other demonic forces in our world.

As a minister, it shall be my profound joy to join all believers in presenting the full power of the gospel of Christ to individuals and to our world.

Tarek Sawalha will be graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Christian Education. He is 27 years old, single and presently holds membership with the Church of God.

I am making every effort to know people in general and especially those whom I come in contact with. I believe that in knowing people the good minister will find an entrance into their lives and can minister to them.

In order for me to know people, I have to seek to understand them, to be sensitive to their needs, to know their backgrounds, and have knowledge in the areas of their abilities, ambitions, special problems and cultural milieu.

It is our responsibility to come to people and know them and then the command of the Lord to go and make disciples will come through.

Randall Tschetter will be graduating with a master of Ministry degree. He is 27 years old, married and presently holds membership in the Neu Hutterthal Church, Bridgewater, South Dakota.

When I stop and align my priorities for ministry, my thoughts immediately go to "people." In my approach to this I want to meet, help, work with the people around me. I want to work with people—helping them, while

I help myself, realizing that Christ and the Christian way of life is an everyday life.

I feel the urge and necessity to make the God that we worship on Sunday, an everyday companion and contact. I would like to work not only with people on Sunday, but get close to them during the week through going to them where they are, visiting them and then bringing helpful encouragement to them through the teaching of God's Word.

Then through this as a church we would reach out to others and do the same type of "helping."

Philip D. Voss will be graduating with a Master of Ministry degree. He is 32 years old, single and presently holds membership in the Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, Alpena, Michigan.

My first priority for ministry is to win souls to Christ, to disciple those who have been won, and to help people where they are hurting.

It is to serve with them as a teacher, lead them in worship and preaching, counsel those who have hurts, hopes and fears, be an administrator to the body of believers, be an evangelizer and an enabler to helping others to serve, and be a leader among leaders in training the lay-leaders of the congregation for leadership.

Romans 12:15 says it best, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Ritchie White will be graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He is 24 years old, single and presently holds membership in the Fort George Baptist Church, Prince George, British Columbia.

Every believer, as a member of the body of Christ, has a unique specific ministry to his or her particular environment. My role as a pastor is to enable people to fulfill their ministry.

This means both a removal of hindrances to personal growth and a discovery of personal gifts and resources. Through Biblical teaching, personal and group counseling, and visitation, I hope to give impetus and guidance to the ministry of the church.

It is the needs and gifts of persons which determine the programs of action of the local church. And all activities must be directed toward the goal of enabling persons to be full-functioning witnesses.

Mark Williams will be graduating with Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies. He is 28 years old, married and the father of one child. He presently holds membership in the Northside Baptist Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

As a layman of the church I will be specifically concerned with the areas of the church most in need. Laymen must recognize that the stewardship of their time in service for their Lord is essential to our missionary task, and that planning of that time will bring great spiritual satisfaction. My ministry will become effective when I spend less time with programming and more time with letting God's Spirit direct my ministry. The freedom of Christ's ministry should evidence the fruit of his Spirit. My ministry will be directed toward seeing laymen being trained for the service of our Lord. A discipling effort can begin very small and yet be so successful. □

PLANS SET FOR 1976 EBF COUNCIL MEETING

BUDAPEST (EBPS)—Dr. C. Ronald Goulding and Dr. Gerhard Claas were received here and welcomed by the Rev. S. Palotay, Chairman of the Hungarian Free Church Council, and by the Revs. János Laczkovszki and József Nagy, respectively president and vice-president of the Baptist Union of Hungary.

The preparatory visit of the EBF Secretary and Secretary-elect was in response to the *European Baptist Federation's* acceptance of an invitation from Baptists of Hungary to hold the next meetings of its Council in Budapest.

The EBF Secretaries reported that every help was given towards securing the best arrangements for the Council meetings, scheduled next September 17-20, and also towards providing opportunities for Council members to participate in various Church services in Budapest as well as to meet with their fellow Baptists during their visit here next year.

BRAZILIAN BAPTISTS GROWING FASTER THAN POPULATION RATE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP)—Recent statistics compiled by the *Jornal Batista*, weekly Brazilian Baptist newspaper, show that Baptist growth in Brazil is far exceeding the population growth.

The first Brazilian Baptist church, organized on Oct. 15, 1882, had five members. Today there are 2,800 Baptist churches with about 450,000 members.

The 1975 population of Brazil, 105,000,000, is more than six times the 17,984,000 people in the country in 1900, while the number of Baptists is more than 230 times the 1,932 Baptists in Brazil then.

Year	Population of Brazil	Number of Baptists	Proportion
1900	17,984,000	1,932	1 Baptist for 9,308 Brazilians
1910	22,216,000	9,939	1 Baptist for 2,235 Brazilians
1920	27,904,000	20,135	1 Baptist for 1,371 Brazilians
1930	33,568,000	34,351	1 Baptist for 977 Brazilians
1940	41,236,315	54,319	1 Baptist for 759 Brazilians
1950	51,944,397	104,019	1 Baptist for 419 Brazilians
1960	70,967,185	185,539	1 Baptist for 382 Brazilians
1970	93,600,000	350,000	1 Baptist for 267 Brazilians
1975	105,000,000	450,000	1 Baptist for 233 Brazilians

In 1900, one out of every 9,308 Brazilians was a Baptist. Today one out of every 233 Brazilians is a Baptist.

The statistics were compiled as part of the celebration of "Baptist Day" commemorating 93 years of Baptist work in Brazil.

STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR APPOINTED

GLASGOW (EBPS)—A new Director of Christian Stewardship has been appointed by the Baptist Union of Scotland to give guidance and assistance in this task.

He is the Rev. Robert King, who was, until his new appointment, Minister of the Victoria Place Baptist Church in Paisley. King also has been news editor of the Union's monthly, *The Scottish Baptist*.

SEMINARY STARTS 70TH YEAR

BUDAPEST (EBPS)—The 70th school year of the Baptist Theological Seminary opened here on September 22, Hungarian Church Press (HCP) reported.

Hungarian Baptist President János Laczkovszki preached the Word of God at the opening service, HCP said.

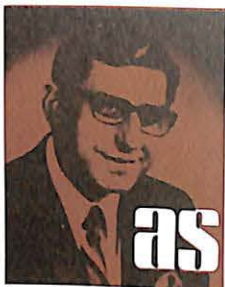
Professor József Nagy is dean of the Hungarian Baptist Seminary.

chuckle with bruno

The trouble with some after-dinner speakers is that they have a two-minute idea and a two-hour vocabulary.

Once a man learns how to listen, he and his wife can remain on speaking terms indefinitely.

From the amount that some people give to the Lord, they are positive it is the little things that count.



as i see it by Paul H. Siewert

It was recently reported by the "Wall Street Journal" that The Greater New Canaan Baptist Church of Cleveland hired an armed guard to protect the congregation during the church services. This may sound rather absurd to some, but not to this little congregation.

One Sunday in August of last year, as the pastor was leading his congregation in an evening service, two newcomers quietly entered the building. The one man fired a shot into the ceiling and ordered the worshippers to line up against the wall and empty out their pockets. In only a few minutes the ordeal was over and the criminals were gone.

This may sound, to some, like a TV mystery program. Unfortunately no movie cameras were around for a free take. Law enforcement agencies report that nearly 2000 crimes of all types were committed against New York City churches and synagogues in 1974. In Cleveland, more thefts from churches were reported between January and the end of July in 1975 than in all of 1974.

And this is only a sampling of all kinds of crimes and vandalisms against churches reported across America. Similar reports have come from European countries, such as West Germany where thieves got away with loot estimated to be worth millions of dollars.

Someone has said that this is a sign of two things; churches are too wealthy, and society is too morally and spiritually corrupt. The former is hardly noticeable where I come from, but the latter is obvious. One thing can be said however: The criminal is much more aggressive when he goes to church, than the church is when it goes to the criminal. □

The Rev. Paul H. Siewert is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Minot, N.D.

USED HYMNALS—available as donation, a total of 125 *Gospel Hymnals* (Baptist General Conference, 1950); 37 relatively new, 88 older. You pay postage. Contact Bible Baptist Church, 7th & Ferry Sts., La Crosse, WI 54601. Phone 608-784-5019.

what's happening

■ The Rev. Robert Vogel accepted the call to Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, Ore., effective January 4. Before coming to the church he had taken post-graduate studies at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary. This is his second ministry, having formerly served as Minister of Education in a church in Illinois.

Dr. John Wobig has been serving Immanuel Church since August 1975.

■ The Rev. Wenzel Hanik accepted the call to German Baptist Mission Church Winnipeg, Manitoba. Previously he was the assistant pastor at Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit. In Winni-

peg he will be the assistant to the Rev. Heinrich Goliath, who is the pastor of the German Baptist Mission Church.

■ The Rev. Tom J. Givens is the new associate pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, Calif. He began his ministry there on Dec. 15, 1975.

■ Mr. R. Dale Bartles is the pastor of Lincoln Village Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif. He began his ministry there in October, 1975.

■ The Rev. Bill Loge accepted the call to First Baptist Church, Valley City, N.D. He comes from Osakis, Minn., and began his ministry in Valley City on December 28.

■ The Rev. Adine Harsch began his ministry at Martin Baptist Church, Martin, N.D., on January 1. He previously served Crestview Baptist Church, Minot, N.D.

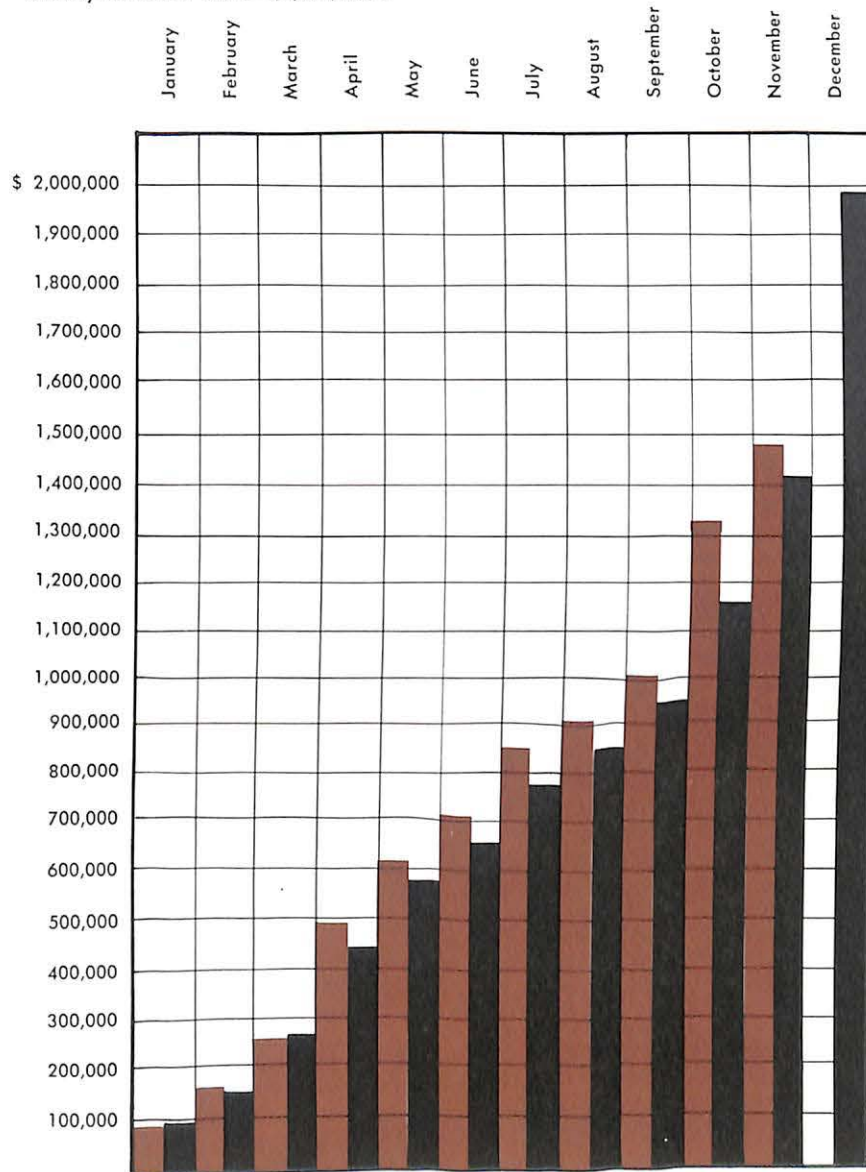
■ The Rev. Gary Neilson is youth pastor at Salt Creek Baptist Church Dallas, Ore. He began his ministry there on December 1. The Rev. Ray Hoffman is the pastor of this church.

■ The new Church Extension project in London, Ont., has the name *Forest City Baptist Church*. The Rev. Eugene Carpenter is the pastor of this church. □

OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD/NAB BASIC MISSION PROGRAM

Total for eleven months
January-November 1975 — \$1,479,880.85
January-November 1974 — \$1,414,159.27

Goal for 1975 — \$2,150,000



Color line for 1975; black line for 1974

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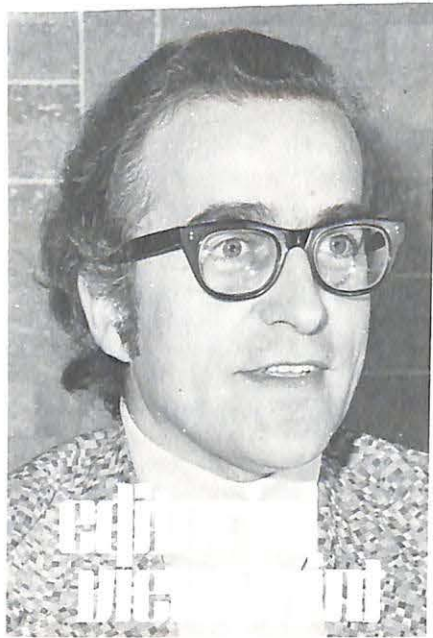
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PLEASE WRITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION



WHY DANCE?

There are a few topics an editor does well to avoid if he wants to stay away from a controversial discussion or which might even result in the loss of a few subscribers. However, for some time I have felt the urge to use this column to speak my mind concerning dancing, and because of some recent conversations with young people, I no longer want to dodge the subject.

Let me say it right at the outset: I am against dancing. Do I need to assure you that I am not a kill-joy? Those of the BAPTIST HERALD readers who know me personally know that for a fact.

I hasten to add, however, that my deep and sincere desire is to save especially our young people from joy-killers. I would not dream of withholding or forbidding anything to my children and to any young person that would add to his happiness or increase his genuine God-honoring pleasure. Neither will I hesitate to speak up against a trend among some Christian young people that eventually will harm or wound their spiritual growth.

In I Corinthians 10:31 the Apostle Paul writes to the young in faith Christians at Corinth: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Although this is a broad and all-inclusive statement, yet it is quite authoritative even with regard to dancing. Paul knew of all kinds of perverted amusements in the infamous capital of Ancient Greece. Dances in connection with fertility cults were part of the liturgy of pagan worship. Thus the Apostle tried to set up a standard ("to the glory of God") which would surpass any man-made restrictions and regulations.

Many hundred years later the theologian H. E. Luccock strikingly explained his attempt to warn Christians from wrong entanglements: "If our religion has no alarm to sound against evils which prey upon human life, it has nothing piercingly Christian to say, it is bankrupt."

Some readers now may counter: "But where is the evil in dancing? Dancing gives one grace and poise; it is enjoyable." I do not question the truthfulness of the statement that dancing is enjoyable. Many dance because they like the music, thrill to the rhythmic movement, enjoy being in the crowd, getting an emotional lift from the dancing experience. Admitting that all of this is true, would that make it right for a Christian? Should there not be a higher or deeper basis for one's decision? Are we to determine the rightness or wrongness of a thing on human desires and physical enjoyment?

Independent of the mood of our times, maturing and mature Christians will have to base their conclusions about standards of behavior on a strong Bible foundation. Thinking of I Corinthians 10:31 I just cannot imagine that dancing is a Christ honoring activity.

To his coworker Titus the Apostle Paul writes: "For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world . . ." (Titus 2:11-12).

The close contact and/or the erotic symbolism of modern dances may arouse urges or passions that lead to loss of moral controls or at least of pure thoughts. A friend of mine put it this way: "If you want to be fondled, why dance?"

Unless we learn to master the difficult, the difficult may master us. A bit of ridicule from Christian or non-Christian friends for not participating in that form of amusement will not harm us, but instead may help us "endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," making us stronger for greater and more important battles in life.

Let's hold it with Paul's admonition: ". . . set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (I Titus 4:12). Instead of thinking in terms of "Will this hurt me?", we had better add "Will this hinder another who may be following in my steps?" Remember: "But rather decide never to put a stumbling-block or hindrance in the way of a brother" (Rom. 14:13).

There is an old Spanish proverb, "Live with wolves, and you will learn to howl."

If some Christians feel that they can do as the world does they will have to live with their own conscience. And there are many fine people who dance. They are fine despite the dance, not because of the dance. I for one—along with many, many other Christians—will continue to look for "good times" where there is no string left after, rather where on the "mornings after" I feel truly refreshed, invigorated and recreated.

RJK

open dialogue

Dear Editor:

What a disappointment after reading your review of "The Gospel Road." This movie is nothing more than a farce because of its shallow light approach to spiritual things. If Johnny Cash is so sincere about contributing something worth while to this world, let him first disassociate himself from the night club and casino crowd, and give himself over 100 percent to the Lord.

Also your reference to Kris Kristofferson as one of Americas leading song writers. TIME magazine said that "Kristofferson and (the late) rock singer Janis Joplin would very likely have been an ideal writer-singer combination, sharing a hard drinking, hard loving, bluntly sensual approach to life." So these are the kinds of people we should recommend to the upcoming generation so they can learn to follow in Jesus footsteps??? God forgive us for our complacency in this area. I pray that we North American Baptists would go to the Scriptures to gain spiritual insights and then use discernment when it comes to these matters. We don't need Johnny Cash or The Gospel Road! Mrs. Hildegard Band-smer, Gladwin, Michigan. □

VALENTINE'S DAY

The following little verses were written by some 8-year-olds from a rural school in Manitoba, for a game:

Valentine's Day
Valentine's Day is for fun and play
and work is off your mind.
And when the day is over, it is tomorrow
the next day with sorrow.

Janice Lumsden
No Time to Play
There is no time to play
on Valentine's Day.
It's time for love and care.

Brent Sedo
I am yours on Valentine's Day.
It doesn't mean you have to do chores
and no washing floors,
just be mine and I'll be yours.

Mary-Anne Sembrat
Sent in by Helga Kahler, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

GOD'S VOLUNTEERS REPORT

(Continued from page 12)

On several occasions, we have seen the God's Volunteers having their team Bible study before they begin their daily duties.

One of the most exciting things we see are people as they come to commit their lives totally to Christ's service. This was true even in our last crusades in Sumner, Cedar Rapids, Buffalo Center, all in Iowa, as we saw several make that important decision.

After Cedar Rapids we were packed away and encountered much chilly weather as we traveled to Buffalo Center and West Fargo. The crisp atmosphere did not hinder us from spreading the heart-warming news through music and testimony of Jesus Christ and his love.

We are not always used in every part of the program, but we are available to the God's Volunteers as they perform their duties. So, too, Christians must be available to God to be used as he best sees fit.

We hope that by looking through us at the work of God's Volunteers you have seen their work and your own work a little more clearly.

In Christ,

Perry Kallis and Kathy Sharp,
team reporters

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE HAPPENINGS

(Continued from page 11)

to the BWA headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 1976 to direct the division, which will need \$45,000 a year to operate.

"New persons for a new world through Jesus Christ" is the proposed theme of the first five years of the new division. The 1977-78 emphasis is "A people renewed through Bible study." "A people renewed for witness and service" is the 1978-79 follow-up. The 1979-80 emphasis ("Into all the world: a church renewed for mission: people renewed for evangelism") will climax with the 14th Baptist World Congress in July 1980 at Toronto, Canada.

Goulding reported that the Department of Religious Affairs of the USSR has granted permission for importation of 3,000 German-language Bibles in cooperation with the United Bible Societies from Brussels, Belgium, to Estonia, USSR. The BWA Relief Committee voted to give \$3,000 toward the cost of these Bibles.

The committee also voted to fund half the cost, or \$90,000, of replacing a Baptist church building in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The committee agreed to apply BWA relief funds to, and appeal for new contributions for, neces-

sary renovation of a Baptist church in Chelm Lubelski, Poland; a roof for a church in Budapest, Hungary; an evangelism bus for the Polish Baptist Union.

The Wake Forest meeting was the fourth time the BWA Executive Committee (formerly Administrative Subcommittee) has met outside the BWA headquarters city of Washington to introduce the leaders and work of the Alliance to more areas of the country. About 350 North Carolinians attended a BWA Rally at the First Baptist Church of Raleigh. Hosts for the rally were the General Baptist State Convention and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

North Carolinians and BWA leaders were urged to support the Alliance's expanding programs as "Friends of the Alliance." W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, presented the appeal as chairman of a newly organized "Friends" committee.

The Executive Committee approved guidelines to adapt the regional organizations and departments of the BWA to its constitution revised at the Baptist World Congress in July 1975. Representatives of BWA regional organizations and departments for men, women and youth presented reports to the committee.

The committee approved a transfer of the BWA European office from London to some city in Germany in October 1976 when Gerhard Claas of West Germany replaces Goulding as BWA associate secretary in Europe. The European Baptist Federation will meet in "socialist" countries for the first time in 1976 when its Executive meets March 24-28 at Moscow, USSR, and when its Council meets September 17-20 at Budapest, Hungary. □

SCARED, BUT NOT AFRAID

(Continued from page 4)

Being a Christian I knew that God is as close as you let him be, and right then I was glad that he had made me a child of his, so it was natural to turn to him for help. I prayed, man, how I prayed! None of this namby-pamby in a hurry mumble that I usually contented myself with. I really claimed the power that God promises and asked him to take control and help me. Maybe I needed real fear to lean on him completely for my heart was filled with the assurance that everything would be all right and I knew just what I would have to do.

Another glance showed me those glittering eyes almost on my heels, and I could just faintly see the hac-

kles rising on their necks. I had always thought that it took reflected light to make eyes shine but unless there was a bit of light that I could not see, the narrowed shining eyes of those dogs proved my theory wrong.

My only chance would be to surprise them before they got brave enough to attack me. Just as I heard a low growl start in the throat of the leader, in one quick movement, I switched on the powerful light, whirled and leaped at the dogs, letting out the most blood curdling rebel yell sounded since World War II and the invasion.

Looking back, it is funny to remember the way the dogs fell all over each other trying to execute an immediate reversal and they turned tail and ran in six different directions while yipping plaintively. Taking a deep breath I continued on my way. I noticed on the return trip that the dogs followed me once more but this time from a distance, deep in the forest of grass, probably wondering what kind of a strange creature this human was.

I could only praise the Lord for his help. Later I felt that I had taken a big spiritual step forward and knew that the Lord had been waiting to show me what great things he could do, if I only let him. I realized then that I had been limiting the Lord in my life and had enjoyed a taste of what it means to let the Lord control every detail of our lives. If we would make a bigger noise for the Lord and attack the forces of evil using the light of Jesus Christ as our defense, there would be no limit to the work we could do in his name. □

NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 3)

less preacher about 20 lashes. When the ordeal was ended, Waller was covered with blood.

Still the minister of the state church was not through. He gave the Baptist minister a second lashing of verbal abuse before the trio left the meeting.

As for John Waller, he picked himself up, found that he was still able to stand and walk, and returned to his pulpit. His hearers agreed afterward that it was one of the most powerful messages he ever delivered.

As long as the Baptist message is being preached in Virginia by men like John Waller, it is small wonder that fire of persecution serve only to refine it. (Bicentennial Feature) □

Baptist World Alliance

Day Message

February 1, 1976

Greetings to Baptist Christians Throughout the World:

We observe Baptist World Alliance Day in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches. Individually and in unison we praise God for his great gifts, and pray for his guidance and strength as we seek to serve him.

Our Baptist people live in 141 countries across the face of the earth. In some countries our numbers are strong. In other lands we are a minority people who worship and serve the Lord amid great difficulty. We pray that God will bless us all so that, despite both our affluence and our poverty, we may serve him with the best of our abilities.

The Baptist World Congress at Stockholm, Sweden, in July 1975 made us more conscious of our togetherness. Ten thousand of us from 92 countries gathered as a family to worship and plan together on the theme, "New People For a New World Through Christ."

We were able, in those days at Stockholm, to review the successes of the World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ which resulted in spiritual revival in many countries, 1970-75. Yet, recognizing that much is to be done, we added a fourth division, Evangelism and Education, to the continuing worldwide program of the Baptist World Alliance.

The new Division of Evangelism and Education will seek to undergird—through encouragement, inspiration and shared ideas—the work of the Alliance's member organizations in these important fields. We know from experiences in the World Mission of Reconciliation that through sharing we can accomplish objectives that might be beyond the individual reach of any one group.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love! As a Christian family numbering 34 million baptized believers, our churches continue on every continent the work the Lord has assigned to us.



Robert S. Denny, general secretary
David Y. K. Wong, president
For the Baptist World Alliance

baptist herald

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