

October, 1976 baptist herald

Colson Due At Baptist Convention

Charles E. Colson, White House hatchet man under President Nixon, will speak at the opening of the conference of North American Baptist Churches at the Civic Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.



THE OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1976

Ex-aide to Nixon relates conversion to Christ

The book, published by Chosen Books, recounts the tale of his conversion. Old and young alike come to see the man who was once a powerful political figure. Colson, an ex-Marine captain, said he would have been a Christian if the opportunity had surfaced. "I think that it would be a good idea to have the entire country know about the conversion of Jimmy Carter."

Carter's Faith Believed Real

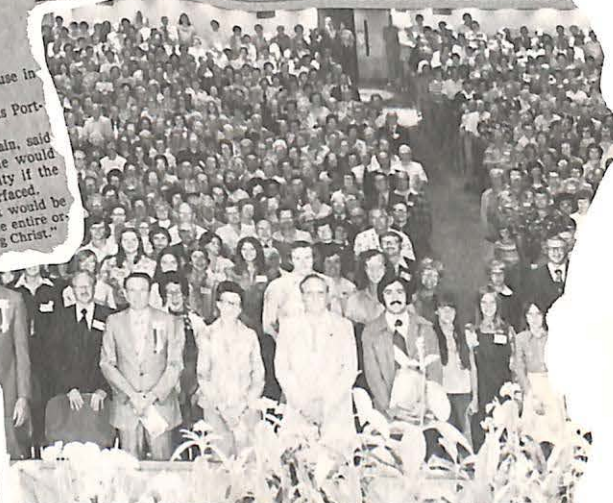
By JANE UNDERHILL
Journal Staff Writer

Jimmy Carter's often-avowed religious faith seems obviously genuine to the executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, convening this week in Portland.

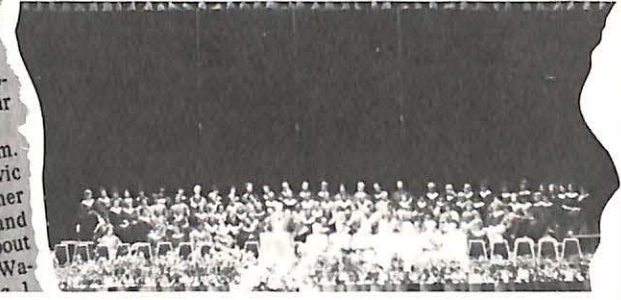
But Gideon Zimmerman, executive secretary of the 56,000-member Baptist sect, said Monday that the convention will not endorse Carter because Baptists "adhere strongly to the principle of individuality."

"Carter belongs to the Southern Baptist Church, which is much akin to our beliefs," he added.

Scheduled speaker for a 7:30 p.m. Tuesday opening session at the Civic Auditorium is Charles Colson, former President Nixon's "hatchetman" and author of "Born Again," a book about Christianity after World War II.



PRIORITIES FOR A WORTHY FUTURE



Nixon ex-aide main speaker for Baptists



By KAREN KANG of The Oregonian staff

"Here was the bigtime Washington lawyer, the President's confidant, crying too hard to put the key in the ignition and drive off."

This was the turning point of his life, said Charles Colson, the special counsel to former President Richard M. Nixon, at the North American Baptist Conference in the Portland Civic Auditorium Tuesday night.

A clear, strong voice that reverberated about the packed auditorium, Colson's dramatic story of his conversion to Christianity after World War II was the keynote speaker at the 38th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches at the Civic Auditorium Tuesday, July 27, in the Civic Auditorium.

More than 2,500 delegates representing 26 states and five Canadian provinces are expected to attend the conference. The conference theme will be "Priorities for a Worthy Future." The conference work will be highlighted by the presentation by Jimmy Carter on July 29, "The Open Door to a New American Faith."

Priorities for a Worthy Future



1976

Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches





The Willow Rancho Youth Choir presenting the musical, "Can It Be," by Larry Mayfield, on Saturday night, following the outdoor banquet.



The 1975/76 God's Volunteers Team presented the bicentennial program, "What Price Freedom." The outdoor banquet and the following musical program took place at Alpenrose Dairy Park, in the hills of Portland on Saturday night.



The 16 young people from our Spanish-American mission field in Monte Vista, Colo., called "Jesus Express," smiled and sang themselves into the hearts of North American Baptists.



Richard and Beth Rabenhorst, Brazil missionaries, sang a Portuguese duet at the missionary breakfast on Friday.



The Willow Rancho Youth Choir, "Cornerstone," with their director Dennis Hoffman, minister of Christian education, at the City Fountain.



Mrs. Lois Ahrens, missionary in Colorado, accompanied the "Jesus Express" on the piano.



Mr. Vic Loewen, Portland, conducting the congregational singing during the conference closing session.



The Mass Choir of Oregon N.A.B. churches sang during the conference opening night. Mr. Bill Dirks from Portland was the director.



God's Volunteers sang at several spots in the city and at various conference sessions.



Five of the six members of the Zeller Family, Portland, who sang on Wednesday night.

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MONDALE IS PRESBYTERIAN

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—Sen. Walter Mondale, the Democratic Party's choice for Vice President, is the son of a Methodist minister who is married to the daughter of a Presbyterian minister.

The 48-year-old Minnesotan, who belongs to the Chevy Chase, Md., United Presbyterian Church, has blended lofty idealism with practical politics to give him 16 years in public office without losing an election.

"I consider myself a practical Democrat," he told an interviewer during his abortive 1974 test of support for a possible post in the Presidential race this year. "I'm a liberal but I like to know that what I'm doing is workable and practical and consistent with basic American traditions."

DIVORCE BANNED FROM LEADERSHIP

TULSA, Okla. (EP)—A record 6,000 members and friends of the National Association of Free Will Baptists voted at their July convention to make ineligible for church office elders (ministers) or deacons divorced and remarried regardless of the innocence or guilt of the parties involved.

In other resolutions, representatives of the 221,448-member Church denounced homosexuality and sexual promiscuity in America and criticized amoral and humanistic philosophies of some public schools.

E.R.A. CONDEMNED

SEATTLE (EP)—The Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC) unanimously condemned the Equal Rights Amendment, "shabby dress, immodest garments, hippy hairstyles," and "the compromising new-evangelicalism of the National Association of Evangelicals and its constituency."

(Continued on page 31)

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Dr. Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, TX., spoke Friday on "Priorities for a Growing Church."

Pastors Norman H. Vernon, Boca Raton, FL., and Aaron Buhler, San Jose, CA., two church extension workers, are exchanging their experiences.



There were happy people in front of the Auditorium at all times: Before, after and even during the conference sessions.



A sign in front of the Civic Auditorium led delegates and guests to the place "where it all happened."

Registering is not only a chore, but it also is a great opportunity to meet or make friends right at the beginning of the conference.



Triennial Conference Impressions

The musical interludes were not only enjoyable but spiritually stimulating. Each song had a message that added to the spiritual feasting experienced by those in attendance.

Challenge

The United States bicentennial theme was often evident. By speakers and dramatic skits we were reminded of our heritage. A new appreciation for our freedoms dawned, and a deep respect grew for our forefathers who procured them for us!

Personally, I felt that the N.A.B.C. drama, "The Open Door", spoke pungently to us all. While in the past we had a concern for German speaking people along with a concern for the lost on foreign fields, we lagged behind in our concern for fellow citizens living close to us. This presentation focused specifically on the fact that in fulfilling Christ's great commission we must contact and aspire to reach those living near us as well as to continue our missionary efforts overseas.

Throughout the sessions, the theme "Priorities for a Worthy Future" came through. I'm sure that all in attendance will often reflect on how putting Christ and his Kingdom first will call for a re-arrangement of our priorities in our personal lives, as well as in our homes and churches. □

by Bernard R. Fritzke

For three years the entertaining churches anticipated the Triennial Conference sessions. Now, suddenly we are looking back upon them. What are some of the impressions that remain?

Efficient Organization

As we met periodically over the months, the local committee became aware of how great an undertaking hosting the session is. Careful attention to details paid handsome dividends in meaningful and efficient special activities. An excellent spirit and fine cooperation prevailed throughout. We hope the expression of some of the children might be a barometer for most events. They expressed sadness that the sessions had to come to a close!

Blessed Fellowship

I doubt if there is any sweeter fellowship this side of heaven than that experienced by North American Baptists at the conference sessions! With enthusiasm and delight old friends met each other. During the conference days many new acquaintances were drawn into the fellowship of love. Before and after sessions, on street corners, in cafes, motels and hotels laughter and conversation flowed freely!

Special meal events were all well planned and were a delight to all. The one exception was the picnic-banquet where the caterer only provided two meat cutters for eight lines of people! Even so, the weather in which we waited to be served was perfect, and we under-

The Rev. Bernard R. Fritzke is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon. Rev. and Mrs. Fritzke shared in the responsibility as chairpersons of Children's Activities.

stand the caterer is making a \$500.00 mission contribution to make up for the inconvenience.

Table decorations added much to the beauty of the special events. Without exception they were superbly done and reflected beautiful artistry in Western themes. Obviously, prodigious preparation was required!

Spiritual Enrichment

Although some of the sessions were very long, they provided great spiritual inspiration! We all rejoice in the grace of God as Brother Charles E. Colson told of his conversion and Christian growth. Unfortunately I had to miss Dr. Kenneth Chafin's presentation on "Priorities for a Growing Church"! I heard some excellent comments about it. Space does not permit naming other speakers who enriched our lives with inspiration and practical direction from the Word of God.

The chairpersons of the various local arrangements committees.



WITH A CAMERA AT THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE



The beautiful fountain in front of the Civic Auditorium had to be shut down on the second day of the conference, because vandals had poured in purple dye.



Dr. Richard Schilke, general secretary of missions, received a citation for 25 years of denominational service. Dr. Peter Fehr, mission board chairman, made the presentation.



The Rev. Fred Jantz, conference announcer, was enjoyed by everyone. His oral and screen-projected announcements often added to the cheerful atmosphere.



There were special sessions for the singles at the conference.



The Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Fischer, D.D., greeting a delegate. Dr. Fischer was elected as the moderator for the 1976-79 triennium.



Mr. Delmar Wessler, moderator, presenting Dr. Robert Schreiber, general conference chairman, with a special conference ribbon.



The Rev. Ray Harsch was one of the discussion leaders during the Pre-Conference Workshops on Tuesday afternoon.



Mr. Charles E. Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon, delivered the keynote address on the opening night.



"How Things Happen" was a new way of having N.A.B.s share some of their outstanding experiences with the Lord. The Rev. Ernie Rogalski (second from right), associate minister of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, was the interviewer.



This man must have forgotten to pre-register. Did falling on his knees help him to get good accommodations?



After his message, Mr. Colson was surrounded by autograph seekers who wanted his book, *Born Again*, autographed.

The SENDBOTE and BAPTIST HERALD have just experienced a merger, here in the dramatic presentation, "The Open Door," of the North American Baptist College Youth.

Prof. Ed Link, at the microphone, directed the N.A.B. College play, "The Open Door." He was also the narrator.



CBS, TV Channel 6 covered several of the conference events. Here a reporter is interviewing missionary Minnie Kuhn from Nigeria.



HOW CANADIAN YOUTH EXPERIENCED THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The young people of the German Baptist Mission Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, chartered a Grey Goose bus, packed it full with people and headed for Portland. The following four reports reflect what they experienced on the trip and especially at the conference.

The trip to, from and at Portland provided me with lasting and cherished memories.

It started about four months ago, when our new youth minister, the Rev. Wenzel Hanik, asked our youth group whether we'd be interested in going to the conference. I was hesitant at first, but when I saw the dedication and enthusiasm that Rev. Hanik put into the planning and organizing of this trip, I realized that it probably would be a tremendous experience.

Our group was greatly blessed, not only in seeing the natural wonders God has created, but also in having a young, dedicated Christian (Ted Dick) as our bus driver. He became one of the group, helping, encouraging, singing and praying with us. We all learned from his dedication and witness.

The conference was a tremendous blessing and the highlight of the trip. The speakers, various singing groups, films, seminars and other activities enriched my life. Meeting and sharing Christian love with young people from various backgrounds invoked a never-before felt happiness and joy, especially during the final Agape gathering.

Attending the Portland Conference was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I believe I've become a better person through it.

Richard Anders, 21,
Sales Representative

I felt our trip to the Triennial Conference in Portland was very worthwhile. Not only was it beneficial spiritually, but it was also very beneficial as vacation.

I felt very close to God as we travelled through the mountains. I saw many scenic wonders that I had never seen nor dreamed I would see; wonders such as waterfalls, geysers, hot mud pools, volcanic remains and most of all the Pacific Ocean. Seeing God's creation in its natural and virginal state, that is, before man has destroyed it, made me realize how great our God really is. From each huge, majestic mountain to each tiny, babbling brook, He created all this for us.

The conference in Portland was our main objective. I found it quite reviving. The variety of activities in the



Members, mainly young people, of the German Baptist Mission Church, Winnipeg, Man. Rev. H. Goliath, pastor, at far left.

morning sessions helped the conference to be more interesting and pleasurable. The speakers were very good and I was blessed by many of the testimonies.

There were 46 of us who made the trip. Being with the same people everyday for 2 weeks, we came to know each other better. I discovered many things about myself that I never realized before. The fellowship that we experienced was fantastic because we met many other youth groups and fellow Christians. I personally made many new friends who will stay close to my heart for a long time.

Although I did find our trip slightly physically tiring, I still enjoyed it very much and I wish it could have been longer. I highly recommend a trip like this to anyone, especially if they can afford to lose a little sleep and to gain a little weight. I thoroughly loved this trip and I'm looking forward to attending the B.W.A. Youth Conference in Hong Kong.

Linda Nelson, 19,
Receptionist at University of Winnipeg

I think the Triennial Conference was great. It is a wonderful feeling to meet people from all over the continent and know that we all worship the same God. I met people in a very positive manner.

Personally I thought the workshops at the State University were fantastic. People that are actively involved

in their church youth group will realize the value of such topics as: "Helping Your Youth Group Grow," "Basic Teaching Methods," "Leading a Small Group," "Song Leading."

I felt the program outlined for young people was excellently organized. My intentions are to attend the Baptist Youth World Conference in Hong Kong in 1978. May the Lord be with the people doing the planning and making the preparation for the conference.

Siegried Muth, 19
Student at Red River Community College, Winnipeg

How can I forget the last good-byes that were said, on the Lewis and Clark College Campus, as our bus was preparing to leave for the journey home.

It was a real joy to experience the love of God during the '76 Conference, and to learn from his Word.

I felt that the highlight of my trip was being able to meet so many wonderful people, and to make so many



The young people had many of their own program sessions at Lewis and Clark College. Here they are having their Get Acquainted Time.



Youth were very visible at the conference. Here are some young people listening to the God's Volunteers outdoor concert at the City Fountain.

Children had a important part in the conference. Singing, films, Bible study, handcrafts and memory work kept them very busy. Here are three children in a rare moment of "un-programmed relaxation."



Two of many young people who not only attended their youth session, but who also shared in the general sessions of the conference.



The Rev. Wenzel Hanik (center), youth pastor of German Baptist Mission Church, surrounded by young people in sweat shirts with the name of the church imprinted.

new friends; all of which I pray will become lasting friendships.

I am glad that the memories will remain forever, as I look back into the past and remember the blessings that the Lord provided during that week.

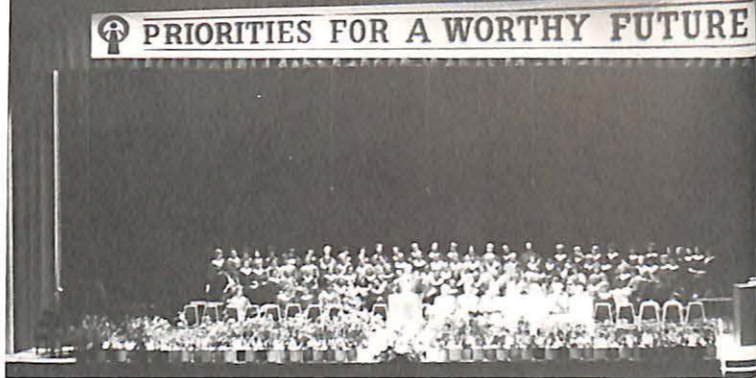
Linda Tews, Grade 10
Grant Park High School



The junior high group had separate sessions at various locations.

Young people deeply involved in their "Hot Bread Feast."





The Spirit of Joy at the Conference

by Heinz D. Rossol

"Priorities for a Worthy Future," this was the statement, the goal, the question which confronted us daily as we met for business and inspiration. As one could not listen to the speakers without seeing this Conference theme displayed above them, one could not help but examine all that was said and presented in the light of this idea. What are our priorities? Where are we going as North American Baptists, as churches, as individuals?

The Triennial Conference at Portland

The Rev. Heinz D. Rossol is pastor of South Hills Baptist Church, Erie, Pa.

was an excellent opportunity to look at our priorities. From the opening challenge of Charles E. Colson, that the individual is important and as a follower of Christ must become involved, to the closing presentation of "The Open Door," each person could find something that pertained to him or her as an individual, as well as to their churches and associations.

The conference afforded the opportunity to look back at what, through God's help, had been accomplished in days past. It enabled us to meet again with old friends and acquaintances, as well as make new ones, and share concerning God's blessings. It showed again the spirit of love and oneness we have through Christ, even in areas where there was disagreement. And all the meetings were permeated with the spirit of joy that comes only through new life in Christ, a spirit which was even shown in the con-

ference announcements which were projected on a screen during the various sessions.

With all of this, in the reports, the various presentations, the interviews, the messages, and during the business sessions, the emphasis was on the future and what we, with God's help, could hope to accomplish, and what goals we would aim for. In all, it was clear that responsibility for holding to the priorities we set and reaching the goals we had projected rests not with the Conference, the associations or even the churches, but with each individual Christian.

Though there were some obvious flaws in the planning of the conference which created some problems and misunderstanding, the challenge that was presented and the encouragement that was given should go far in helping us hold to and accomplish our "Priorities for a Worthy Future." □

View from an Applehead

You may not know who I am nor what I am viewing, so I'd better begin by telling you that I am an apple—dried, roasted and carved to look like an old Indian head. I was made by some very creative people in Portland and placed on a table at the Ramada Inn very early on Saturday morning during the North American Baptist Triennial Conference. I was sitting there minding my own business when a group of sharp looking men began to come into the dining room. They looked rather drowsy, but they managed to find their way to the tables and to the coffee pots. I learned later that all of these handsome men were graduates of the North American Baptist Seminary. The breakfast was in their honor!

Well, there was the usual merriment and joke-telling that goes on at such an occasion. However, these guys didn't kid around when it came to eating breakfast! They were so hungry I thought one of them was going to take a chunk out of me.

Dr. Ralph Powell led some singing and Dr. Lee McDonald gave a fine devotional. McDonald pointed out that Paul, the Apostle, was an unlikely candidate for the ministry but he was a very effective minister. After this, the Seminary quartet sang—what a talented group! Re-

The Rev. Gary Vossler is the minister of youth at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma, Ohio.

ports were given by the president and the dean. The way they talked about it, I would have been proud to have graduated from a place like the North American Baptist Seminary.

Then came my debut. They introduced me and explained how I had been made. While they were talking about appleheads, Dr. Powell tried to make a comparison between appleheads and "egg heads." Everybody laughed, but I didn't think it was too funny!

A few of those fine men were given citations for outstanding leadership. It made me proud to be in a group where the men honored one another so highly. They recognized Joe Sonnenberg, B. C. Schreiber, Herman Efa, and Ed Michelson. Then they gave special tribute to Dr. Powell in recognition of his many years of service at the North American Baptist Seminary.

After this they elected officers. I think that it would really be a privilege and a responsibility to lead such a large group of dedicated men. I am assured that the men they chose are very capable. Don Richter was elected Vice President and Chuck Hiatt was chosen Member-at-Large.

All in all, the morning was very delightful. I wish you could have seen this group of men. There should be more dedicated people like them.

Applehead
(Gary Vossler, reporter) □

A Close Look at the Conference Exhibits

by Mrs. Winnie Barnet

Along with all of the enriching blessings of the conference sessions, many of us found the display area "the eyegate" to clinch the vocal descriptions and reports of the work. We knew it was varied, but here we could see evidence in two dozen booths, some representing more than one ministry. We have a great and effective work for the Lord!

God's Volunteer groups were pictured showing their work of the last twenty years. What pleasant memories and praise to our Lord this brought forth!

The W.M.U. featured White Cross work. Large scrap books dating from 1907 on were available showing the progress in this service for the Lord.

In the E.T.T.A., Pioneer Girls, and particularly Church Ministries booths, much material with take-home pamphlets was available to stimulate us to more effective service. Chaplains' reports were also ready for us.

To many newcomers, the work of the American Bible Society as a part of our denominational interest, was news. We were challenged to read of the work and participate in it personally.

Each field of our overseas and home missions occupied a separate area. All displayed artifacts of their countries. At many "recess" periods the missionaries themselves were present, enthusiastically enlarging our knowledge of their work, and burdening our hearts to pray, give and go with the life-saving message.

The booth representing Japan had a tasty looking meal spread out to wet our appetite and curiosity. More importantly the aim was to wet our appetite to spread God's Word in Japan by regular and short-term missionaries.

Under the Brazilian flag, Richard Rabenhorst and his wife presided. They answered questions and added new information. Only the music that we usually associate with that work was missing—"Add that at the next conference," was my suggestion). The new appointees to Brazil, were pictured prominently, Rich and Karen Kaiser, and prayers were requested for their new adventure.

Bea Westerman, for 27 years a Cameroonian missionary, put together an attractive booth, with emphasis on the

Mrs. Winnie Barnet is the wife of the Rev. Henry W. Barnet, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paul, Idaho.

need of four more short-term missionaries, teachers of science, for the 1977-79 period. Mission reports of all the fields were available here. While sitting and writing this report, she gave me a "Rhythm shaker" used in the joyous Cameroonian music. Bea suggested that one with eyes to see and ears to hear could not fail to see the need and challenge of that area.

Nigeria's booth was peopled with tiny wooden figures (thorn carvings) depicting typical scenes of missionary, medical and home duties in Nigeria—from climbing and harvesting the coconut palm to stirring the "pot" over an open fire. A particularly unique scene was of Jesus at the Last Supper with the 12 disciples. Judas, just leaving, was the only white man among the black disciples.

A chart showing the number and nationality of students at Hillcrest School for missionary children at Jos was displayed. The majority are Americans, but 19 other nations are also represented. There are 441 children altogether.

Lastly, the Home Missions work, presented to us by the David Keiry family, was particularly effective, as they had in their booth their three month old foster children, a pair of Spanish-American twins. Both Old Mexican and Spanish artifacts were shown as the people of Del Norte are a mixture of both nations as well as American. The Monte Vista area was pictured only by the living exhibit, the young people of the "Jesus Express."

The time spent browsing among these many exhibits was time well spent. My heart was full of praise to the Lord for the wide open fields. I determined to pray more for the work of the Conference and to make every effort to serve more effectively, using the aids and avenues the Lord has provided. □



PORTLAND — WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED —

by Kathy Sharp

On July 26, 1976, I left my hometown Colfax, Wash., headed for the conference, the first I had ever attended. Excitement filled my heart and mind as I looked forward to what God had in store for me that coming week, and I must say I was not disappointed.

It was a thrill to see our N.A.B. Conference joined together as one family of God setting goals, hopes and dreams for the coming years. To meet and talk with friends and loved ones and hear of what God has done in their lives was a blessing and an encouragement to me. Watching God bring thousands of his children together to meet the challenge of tomorrow was just beautiful.

Being at the conference in Portland I've seen what makes the N.A.B. Conference work, the men of God in Oakbrook Terrace, and the workers at home in the churches. Seeing the power that we as a Conference have, but more importantly the power all have as Christians, is exciting.

I heard reports of victory and reports of failure and many reports challenging all of us to press on toward the future with high hopes and goals for our Conference.

The conference was very organized, very well thought out and a great challenge to all of us to serve Christ more fully each day.

It was indeed an experience I will never forget, people I'll always love and challenges and goals that need to be met. I'm glad I am a child of God, part of the family and a member of the N.A.B. Conference. As I watch our Conference grow and move ahead, I am reminded of Paul and his experiences and what he said in Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who is against us."

I'd like to challenge all who could not attend the Triennial Conference in Portland to plan on joining us in 1979 in Bismarck, N.D. It will be an experience you'll never forget and a great opportunity to get to know and love part of the family of God. □

Miss Kathy Sharp was on the 1975-76 God's Volunteers team and will be serving also on the 1976-77 team. She lives in Colfax, Washington.

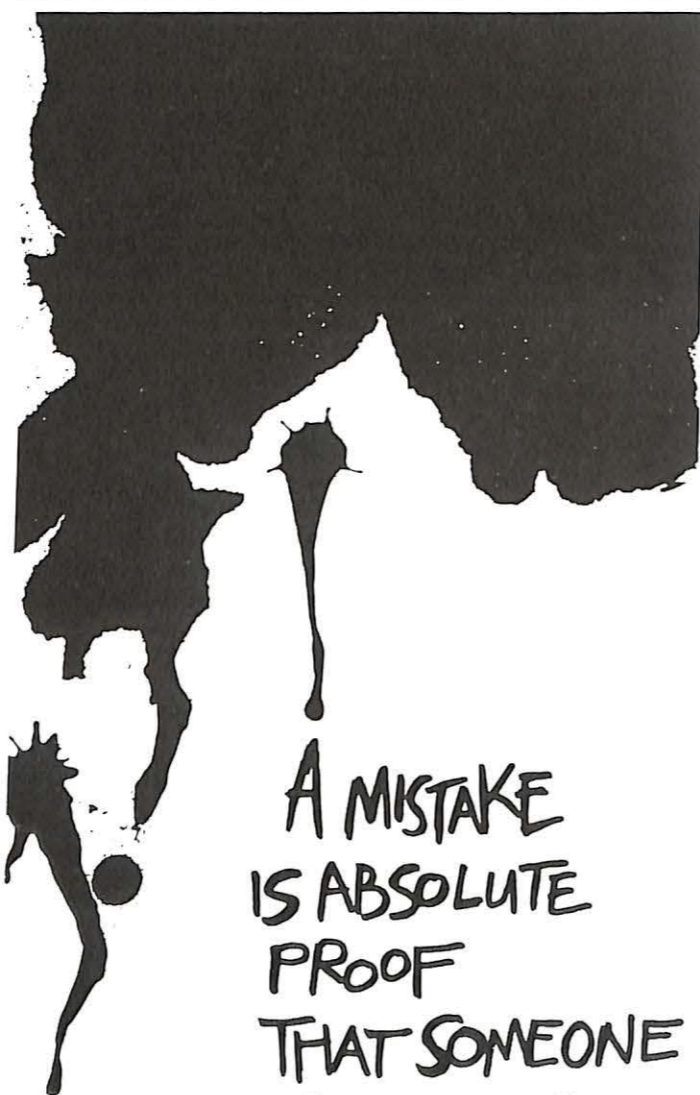
Miss Kathy Sharp, the author of this article and former God's Volunteer's reporter, at the conference.



Charles E. Colson at an autograph party in Portland, surrounded by news reporters.

Heavy Thinking

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A MISTAKE
IS ABSOLUTE
PROOF
THAT SOMEONE
TRIED TO DO
SOMETHING

The BAPTIST HERALD issue of October 1974 carried an article on the Rev. Reimer Clausen, then newly appointed missionary to Japan, under the heading of "Concern for the Gospel in Japan." I shall not repeat in this article any biographical information on Mr. Clausen. Anyone desiring such, should turn to the article of two years ago.

Upon his arrival in Japan in August 1974, Mr. Clausen enrolled in the language study course at the Japan Missionary Language Institute in Tokyo. His first and foremost concern for the gospel in Japan was to learn to communicate it in the language of the people. Here at JMLI he met a Christian Japanese lady on the teaching staff by the name of Nobuko Matsui. He learned of her struggles in the Christian faith and became deeply concerned for her. This

There was always poverty but God saw them through.

For ten years Nobuko attended Christian schools in the younger years of her life. In 1961 she graduated from the Shizuoka Eiwa Girls' High School in Shizuoka. Two years later she graduated from the Toyo Eiwa Girls' Junior College in Tokyo. In 1965 she graduated with a B.A. degree from the Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. During the following year she studied abroad at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Upon her return to Japan she became an instructor of English at various schools, and with the fall of 1968 she came to the staff of the Japan Missionary Language Institute in Tokyo.

Though Nobuko was brought up in a Japanese Christian home, she lacked the vital Christian experience. She herself

stated in her application for missionary service that during her time on the staff at JMLI a young lady stayed with her for about ten days and talked to her about Jesus Christ. Nobuko saw in this lady's life a tremendous change. She went with her to a Presbyterian church and there made her confession of faith and joined the church. That was the time she gained assurance that Jesus Christ was the son of God and that in him she had found her salvation. In 1974 she took a trip to Europe and spent some time in England at the L'abri Institute. While there she made a further commitment to her Lord and Savior. Her struggles in the Christian faith were not ended but many wonderful experiences followed rapidly as she fellowshiped with other believers, including meeting Reimer Clausen, the help God gave her through him and the subsequent marriage to him.

The following is a quote from a letter of May, 1976 from Nobuko and Reimer Clausen:

"Praise the Lord for his many blessings! In the last couple of months we have had many things to be thankful for. First of all, at the recent Board of Missions meeting, Nobuko was appointed as a missionary along with me. We are very happy that now we both are officially missionaries.

"Because Nobuko was a member of a Presbyterian church, she had not been baptized by immersion. So on Easter Sunday she followed the Lord's example and was baptized in our Kyoto church. We had a glorious Easter Sunday service. Seven other people were baptized that day. Five were from the Kyoto church and two from our new work in Hei Jo New Town. It was the largest baptism we ever had in any of our churches. Also several of our other churches had baptisms lately. Two were baptized from Kashiwara. Matsusaka and Nagoya each reported one baptism. We are very thankful that people are coming to know the Lord and are following him. Several people with whom we have established good friendships have become very interested in Christianity. However, they are still bound by old traditions and the fear of a new western religion. Pray that they may decide to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

"Towards the end of July we want to move to Muko Machi, a suburb of Kyoto, where we will work together with Mr. Hata, a recent seminary graduate. We have a small meeting place there with about five or six believers. We hope to use this group to start a new church. We are looking for an apartment in Muko Machi, but there is a real housing shortage here in Japan. Pray that we may be able to find something suitable, and pray for the work." □

Combined Concern for People in Japan

by Richard Schilke

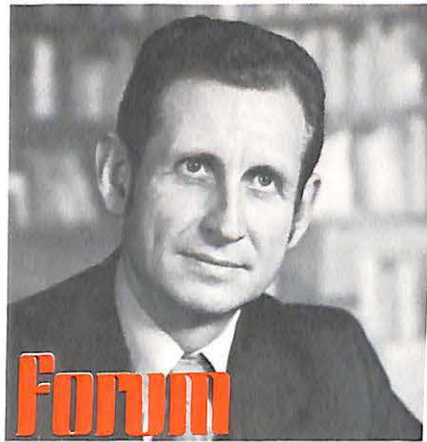
first concern to help her in her faith led to another concern of asking her to share her life with him in marriage, so that they could combine their concern for the people in Japan. Believing that the Lord led them to this step, they were married on Jan. 10, 1976, at Kobe. Nobuko has since applied for missionary appointment as the wife of our missionary. In her preliminary application for such appointment she wrote concerning the matter of her missionary purpose: "To help my missionary husband in every way I can, and to help my people."

Nobuko Matsui was born on Jan. 15, 1942, at Hiroshima to Mr. and Mrs. Mamoru Matsui. Her parents were already Christians, belonging to the Methodist Church. Her father was professor of philosophy and her mother was an English teacher in high school. When Nobuko was less than a half year old, her father died of pneumonia. Her mother did not remarry. She devoted her time to bringing up Nobuko and teaching her the Christian way of life, for she herself came from a strong Christian family. Her father and three brothers were Methodist pastors. Life was not easy.

Dr. Richard Schilke is general secretary of missions of the North American Baptist Conference.

Introducing the Rev. and Mrs. Reimer Clausen, missionaries in Japan.





by Gerald L. Borchert

Dear Readers:

Dr. William Keucher (who serves with me on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and who joined me in teaching a doctoral seminar in Detroit) has written a helpful article for The Michigan Catholic to assist Catholics in understanding Baptist beliefs and what they mean for a Baptist like Jimmy Carter to run for the presidency of the United States. I commend the following article to you as a helpful review of Baptist beliefs and as a statement you may be able to use with others about Baptists and politics whether you are an American or a Canadian. G.L.B.

From The Michigan Catholic

In 1960, when John F. Kennedy was campaigning for the presidency, some Baptist periodicals and people opposed his candidacy simply because he was a Roman Catholic. In September 1960, Senator Kennedy addressed the Houston Ministerial Association in Texas to explain his position and to answer questions. From that date, many American Protestants were led to surrender their stereotyped opinions about a Catholic president in the White House.

Now, in 1976, the candidacy of Gov. Jimmy Carter, who is described as "a born again Baptist" may raise similar stereotypes and provoke some suspicion among those whose religious experience or vocabulary may be different. In 1976, as in 1960, we need to be reminded that it is both unconstitutional and un-American to apply a religious test to candidates for public office.

However, it is not against the Constitution for people to be interested in a man's religious views and position and

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

to ascertain how his personal, religious faith would affect the conduct of his public office.

Baptists in America do not have a single Church organization to which they all belong. Neither do they have an officially adopted creed to which all Baptists must subscribe. With this kind of pluralism and diversity, no single writer could attempt to speak for all other Baptists. Certainly, I do not pretend to speak for Gov. Carter.

In the interests of ecumenical discussions I respond to the invitation of THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC to explain and summarize a number of essential Baptist beliefs which are held in common by Baptists north and south, white, black, and by main ethnic groups. Many of these convictions are shared by other Christians and Churches as well. (For example, when in 1905 the Baptist World Alliance was formed as a fellowship embracing Baptists around the world, the president asked the delegates to recite the Apostles' Creed as a witness to our close identity and relationship to Christians in other Churches.)

Baptists believe that all men have sinned and need a savior. We believe that God, in love, has acted to send his own son, Jesus Christ, to be the savior of the world. We believe that salvation is the free gift of God and is received by anyone who calls on the name of the Lord in faith. We believe that the grace of God is made effectual in us by God's Holy Spirit, who leads us to turn from our sin in repentance and through faith to receive God's gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

This experience of God's pardon, forgiveness and spiritual renewal is described in many ways, including one phrase "to be born again." Taken from Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in St. John's Gospel (Jn. 3:3) these specific words have become a kind of shorthand for many evangelical people to express and describe the summary of their Christian experience. (This new-birth-shorthand-language means a person who was dead in his trespasses and sins is brought to a new life in Christ.)

The words "born again" emphasize an experiential assurance and confidence. Because Jesus Christ is alive and accessible, believers can know him personally (spiritually) as savior, counselor and friend. The new birth suggests that, like a baby, one begins a new life with a new mind, new affections, a new purpose of will and a new opportunity to replace old failures.

Regeneration is understood by Baptists

as the work of God through grace, as believers are formed into a new creation in Christ. Man's part through faith finds expression in his conversion—which means to have one's mind radically changed in repentance, and to have one's life turned around.

From our problems of alienation with both God and man, the Christian is reconciled to God, adopted into his family, and sees himself as an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ.

The "Born again" Christian believes that Christ lives in his heart by faith, and that he, himself, abides in Christ in vital union, like a branch which lives in its tree or vine.

As a consequence, to be "born again" and experience the new birth means peace with God, because the believer experiences as a present possession God's verdict of acquittal, which means release from guilt, relief from the burden of old sins, and an abiding assurance that "if God is for us, who can be against us?" God's acquittal (in justifying us) guarantees that we shall never suffer double jeopardy and we can never again be condemned to eternal death.

This brings to the believer a victorious assurance expressed in faith and hope, constantly renewed, that our final destiny is secured to us in Jesus Christ. We believe that because we are held in his sure hand, his grasp upon us is unbreakable. The present companionship of Christ's Spirit will be enabling and renewing of all spiritual graces and Christian service.

Hence, to "be born again" is to live out the fullness of Christ and his life despite our continuing faults, failures, flaws and falls. The "born again" believer knows that he is not yet made perfect, but he seeks to walk humbly with his God daily so that he may do justly and love mercy.

The New Birth means the believer has a direct access to God through Jesus Christ as the one mediator between God and man. As children of God, each person comes boldly into the Father's presence to receive grace and help for every need. This access is described by Baptists as "the priesthood of all believers," which includes the mutuality of our priestly ministry. Not only can a believer serve as his own priest, in praying directly to God, but each believer is called by God to serve as a priest to our brothers and sisters in the faith and to our neighbors who may be outside the faith (not yet professed Christians).

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YOUTH SCHOOL

Dealing With Discouragement

Everyone feels discouraged from time to time because the reasons for discouragement are as varied as the sands of the sea. Factors may be external (conditions in my environment) or internal (within myself); may be controllable (within my sphere of influence) or uncontrollable; may be permanent (I must learn to cope) or momentary (try again next time under different circumstances). Next time you feel discouraged, ask yourself . . .

Why Am I Discouraged?

Discouragement may be the result of a single cause, but more often than not, it results from a combination of irritations. We seem able to cope with problems one at a time, but combined problems are harder to solve. How many times have you said, "That's the last straw!" about a situation you could have easily handled if it hadn't been just one in a series of difficulties?

Isolating the various causes for your feeling "down" puts each individual contributing problem in its proper perspective.

Some physical conditions will influence our emotions. If we are not getting enough rest or if our blood sugar is low, we are susceptible to disappointment and discouragement. Correct the physical problem and you solve the resultant feelings of discouragement.

Some emotions will leave us open to discouragement. Anger, bitterness, resentment, insecurity, guilt, an exaggerated fear of failing, or an egotistical pride in public success are examples. Redirect the emotional focus in these areas and you prevent discouragement from these causes.

Most usually, however, discouragement is the result of unfulfilled expectations.

"I did my part, but someone else let the ball drop and ruined everything! Why do I have to do everything myself?"

Reprint from SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S PLANBOOK, YOUTH (a Regal Book) by permission of G/L Publications, Glendale, CA 91209 © Copyright 1975 by G/L Publications.

- "I thought sure I could trust him!"
- "No one asked me before they changed the schedule."
- "How could I have forgotten?"
- "Why didn't I plan for this?"
- "Apparently no one cares!" (meaning "as much as I do")
- "Why won't people learn?" (meaning "as much as I know")
- "What's the use?"
- "Unfair!"

Notice the common "I" in these discouraged comments. Notice the unfulfilled expectations in each case. What are your expectations? How many would God consider appropriate for a believer? Turn your expectations over to God! Seldom can we as human beings turn over all of our expectations, but to the degree that you do, you will become immune to discouragement!

How Do I Respond to Discouragement?

Even more important than the source, is the way I respond to feeling discouraged.

- Do I feel all alone, or do I feel God's partnership? God is no further away from us when we're down than when we are up!
- Was I depending on myself or someone else? Did I forget that God is my strength and my comfort?
- Am I striving for earthly values, or eternal ones? God tells us that his standards of success are different than ours. See Mark 8:35-37, Romans 11:33, Isaiah 55:9.
- Were my unfulfilled expectations my own or God's?
- Do I consider the overall picture or am I upset by a single action because someone let me down. Understand that we can't always depend on people but we can depend on God. This is the key! We can't depend on people except to be human! We are to work together and love each other, but we are to depend only on God.
- What lessons has God planned for me to learn through this experience? James 1:2 tells us to welcome trials and tribulations as friends, because through them we grow spiritually. Since this is true, discover God's lesson for you each time you feel discouraged.

Look at the examples of discouragement in the Bible.

Someone over you in authority does not care or understand? Read Exodus 5 about the Israelites when the Egyptians did not care or understand their plight.

Feel you can't depend on others? Read 1 Kings 19 about Elijah who couldn't depend on others.

Do you have doubts about your ability to succeed? Read Deuteronomy 1:28ff about people who doubted.

Do you feel your problems are impos-

sible to solve? Read about the insurmountable problem of the Red Sea the Israelites faced in Exodus 14.

Do you seem to be making little spiritual progress? Read about Moses in this situation in Exodus 32.

Are there some people who aren't satisfied no matter what you do? Read Numbers 20 about constant complainers.

Do you feel inadequate to tackle a certain job? Read Mark 9 where the disciples felt unable to do the job.

Do you wonder why your road is not easy? Read Numbers 21:4 and see how the way is not always easy for any of God's people. But see how God is faithful and will always use his people to get the job done.

How Would God Have Me Overcome Discouragement?

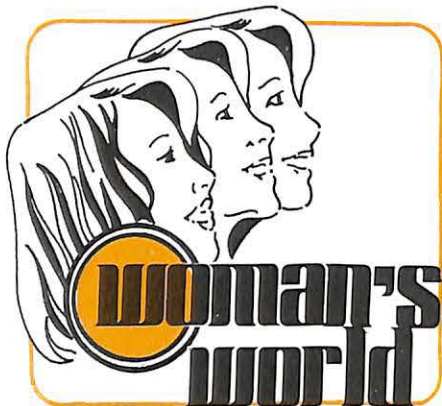
Write these five steps with Scripture references in the flyleaf of your Bible. Review them frequently and use them to overcome any problem you face, including discouragement.

- Talk it over with God. (Phil. 4:6, 7.) Pour out your feelings just as David did, and allow God to communicate back to you in loving comfort and counseling. Psalms 28, 59 and 61 are just three examples of Psalms to read. Choose a few verses from them which mean the most to you and memorize them now for a defense against discouragement.
- Find appropriate Scriptures to see God's expectations. (Rom. 8:28; Psalm 139:97-105.) God's Word will give us counsel. Try these for discouragement: 2 Cor. 4:15-18; Eph. 3:16-20.
- Talk it over with a trusted, spiritual friend. (Heb. 10:24, 25; Matt. 18:19, 20.) Share your feelings, ask for their insight as an outsider, then pray together.
- Examine yourself to see how you contributed to the problem. (Phil. 3:15; James 4:10; Psalm 139:23, 24.) What should you have done differently? What will you change next time?
- Ask God for help. (John 15:1-7, 11; Matt. 7:7.) Be specific. How do you want him to help? How will you know he has? Believe that he will give you the help he has promised.

Remember

Sometimes you have a right to feel discouraged from your point of view. Things look a mess, seem unfair and failure is no fun! But you never have the right to remain discouraged! From God's point of view, things are never hopeless. So, turn your eyes on him and see things as he sees them. Remember that God never called you to fail! He

(Continued on page 31)



Come Fly With Us!

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

During our lifetime there are many opportunities for spiritual mountain-top experiences. Not long ago many of us attended our General Conference in Portland, and I'm sure that memories of those meetings will echo and re-echo in our hearts and minds for many months. This is, however, only a foretaste of what is in store for us in the year ahead.

The Sixth Continental Assembly of the North American Baptist Women will be held October 12-15 in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island.

One thing that will help make this assembly a wonderful one is the location. People who have been in the Bahamas tell us that nowhere is the water so blue, the air so fresh, the grass so green and the food so delicious.

Another important feature will be the fellowship with our Bahamian sisters. Lavonia Stewart, president of the women in the Bahamas, reported that 300 women attended the Prayer Day services last year. Many came long distances on foot in order to attend. These women are anxiously waiting for our coming. Lavonia said they will "roll out the red carpet" as it has never yet been rolled out. Two thousand women are expected.

The most important factor, of course, will be the program. The theme of the assembly is "Growing in the Love of Christ." LaVerna Mehlhaff is the program chairperson and she will tell us more about the program.

Charter flights are being planned. They will originate from any point

where 100 people are ready to travel. Groups of ten or more will qualify for group rates on regularly scheduled flights. All delegates will be housed in two hotels in Freeport; all meetings will also be held in these hotels. Rates are very reasonable; check elsewhere in this issue for the exact price.

I hope that a year from now many of us will be packing our suitcases in preparation for the Continental Assembly. Start saving now by putting a little away every week and watch the little pile grow. □

The North American Baptist Women's Union

by LaVerna Mehlhaff

Once every five years, between Congresses of the Baptist World Alliance, the Baptist women of the North American continents gather to renew their fellowship. Almost 2,500 women from 14 different Baptist women's organizations met for the Continental Assembly held in Toronto in 1972. The Bahamas meeting, October 12-15, 1977, will be the sixth Continental Assembly and will include 17 different Baptist Women's groups.

Who are the women that belong to the North American Baptist Women's Union? There are almost 24,000,000 feminine Baptist members on this continent who have joined hands across cultural, geographic, national and racial lines. The union is made up of women's organizations of 17 Baptist groups affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance. The N.A.B.W.U. is one of the six continental bodies which make up the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department.

Officially, North American Baptist women are united under the following purposes adopted at the 1967 Continental Assembly in Washington D.C.:

- to promote fellowship, deeper sympathy and fuller understanding among Baptist women of North America and the world;
- to exchange information concerning activities and methods of work;
- to promote and participate in Baptist Women's Day of Prayer.

The women's department of the B.W.A. had its beginnings in 1947 when the Baptist World Congress was held in Copenhagen. Its founder was Mrs. George R. Martin of Norfolk, Virginia, president of the Southern Baptist

W.M.U. Since her time five women have served as president of the N.A.B.W.U. At this time the following women are in office:

Mrs. Lawrence S. Casazza, Washington, D.C., president. Mrs. Casazza has been a leader in both the Southern Baptist and American Baptist Conventions.



Mrs. Carl Holmberg, Worthington, Minnesota, vice president. Mrs. Holmberg is with the Baptist General Conference.



Mrs. Herbert Hiller, East Detroit, Michigan, secretary. Mrs. Hiller is from the North American Baptist Conference.



Mrs. Mary H. Wright, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, treasurer. Dr. Wright is a women's leader in the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention.



The most important project of the Women's Union is the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer observed around the world on the first Monday in November. The Day of Prayer program is prepared by the Women's Department and is translated into more than 100 languages. The Day of Prayer often brings women from varied Baptist groups together in area-wide prayer and fellowship meetings.

The offering taken on the Day of Prayer is supplemented by special donations which finance the Women's Department of the N.A.B.W.U.

North American Baptists, being blessed materially and numerically more than most Baptists on the continents, share the offering. One half goes to the Women's Department for publications, Baptist World Relief projects, travel of leaders and other expenses. When the Guatemalan earthquake devastated that

country early in February, the N.A.B.W.U. sent one thousand dollars to the Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund for immediate use there. This gift was possible because your Executive Committee voted to send that extra amount to the Relief Fund because our 1974 Day of Prayer offering exceeded the goal.

The half remaining in the N.A.B.W.U. bank account pays for N.A.B.W.U. meetings, publications, special projects and other operations. Some money is used to enable representatives of each member organization to attend N.A.B.W.U. meetings.

I hope this background will enable you to become better acquainted with the work of the North American Baptist Women's Union. As we learn of its purpose, functions and responsibilities, we can more effectively pray for the organization. □

Sixth Continental Assembly to Convene in Bahamas

by LaVerna Mehlhaff

The program planned for the meetings of the Sixth Continental Assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union to be held in the Bahamas is one that we pray will be helpful to our spiritual growth as well as being helpful in our purpose of fellowship.

There will be outstanding speakers, special music and special features each day. Each woman will have a choice of attending one of the eight workshops to be offered each full day of our Conference.

The program has been planned so that there will be several hours of free time each afternoon for sightseeing, shopping, visiting the beach or a time of relaxation around the pools at the hotels.

All who attend will be housed at the Princess Hotels of Freeport. All assembly sessions will be held at the Princess Hotels of Freeport. All assembly sessions will be held at the Princess Hotels of Freeport.



A scenic pool in the Bahamas.

ly sessions and workshops will be held at these hotels.

The hotels will begin accepting registrations by March 1, 1977. All rooms are priced the same: \$29 per person per day in a double room. Price includes breakfast and dinner served in the hotel plus gratuities. A \$50 deposit is required with registration for each room. You are encouraged to complete registration by July 10, 1977. Registration forms will be mailed to the president of each W.M.U. Society.

The Bahamians are looking forward to our visit to their area. The pastors of the Baptist churches on the island have been very enthusiastic in support of the Congress. The women are already at work preparing for the Congress.

Plan now to attend. If you have any questions pertaining to the meeting in the Bahamas in 1977, feel free to write to the office and we shall try to answer your questions.

We would ask you to pray regularly for the meetings in the Bahamas. It is our desire to have these sessions help us to express our theme, "Growing in the Love of Christ." □

A Day in My Life

by Lilli Albert, Alberta Beach, Alberta

I wrote this poem one day after less than a week in my life brought such varied situations and circumstances which affected me emotionally from one extreme to the other. Until I could see the futility of my frail human efforts at overcoming "this day," I was allowed to suffer.

"Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened" (Matt. 7:7, 8, N.A.S.).

Praise God!
I thought about life and what does it mean,
Quiet days,
Peaceful, contented, serene.
Turbulent days of confusion and care,
Frustrating, lonely, empty and bare.
So many people but no one to care.
I fret and I fuss and fume,
And I dare,

Someone come lift me out of this despair.

Anger, hate and disgust with just me,
Then doubt,
And longing and a desire to be free.
Something so softly and silently comes creeping in.

I'm convicted of selfishness, disobedience,
All sin!

O, why did I let Satan overwhelm
My emotions,
And feelings and all my being?
But now a faint glimmer of hope do I see,

There is Someone greater than just me!
And so humbly I confess
And feel free.

"God please give me another day
To see beauty and love,
And take time to pray."

My limited vision shall not lead me astray
From seeing that life is more than just one day. □

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work
director



New W.M.U. Goals and Officers

We have many beautiful memories lingering in our thoughts of the days spent at the Conference in Portland, Oregon. God is so good in permitting us the privilege of those days of spiritual feasting and fellowship.

The almost one thousand women who attended the W.M.U. luncheon enthusiastically voted to accept the new goal of \$400,000 for the next triennium. Seventy-five thousand dollars of that amount is designated towards payment for the White Cross room in our new building in Oakbrook Terrace.

The new theme for the triennium, "The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength," is taken from Nehemiah 8:10b. As we allow the love of Christ to indwell us, we will experience the joy of the Lord to be our strength.

Remember in prayer and with notes of encouragement the newly elected officers of the Women's Missionary Union: President, Mrs. Dorene Walth of Bismarck, N.D.; vice president, Mrs. Doris Fehr, Minneapolis, Minn.; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Caroline Zeitner, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Triennial Conference in Pictures

Dr. William Sturhahn shows his book, *They Came from East and West*, to one of the interested conference delegates.



The tellers had a busy time to keep an accurate count of the ballots from various elections.



Dr. Arthur Patzia, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C., attentively listening during a report at the N.A.B. Alumni Breakfast.



The offerings of every day were a reason to thank God for generously giving North American Baptists.

The Triennial Conference concluded by holding of hands and singing of the hymn, *Blest Be the Tie...*



Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Wesseler were gracious hosts at various occasions in the Hilton Hotel suite.



Mr. Lincoln Love, delegate, addressing the chair at one of the business sessions.



There was plenty of food at the outdoor banquet; even though the waiting lines were long and tiresome.



Mr. Heinz Kleiber, Edmonton, found a good perspective for his movie shooting at the outdoor banquet.



Young people from Monte Vista, Colo., did not mind the long waiting lines at the outdoor banquet. They used the time to make many new friends.



Also the little children wanted their food at the outdoor banquet.

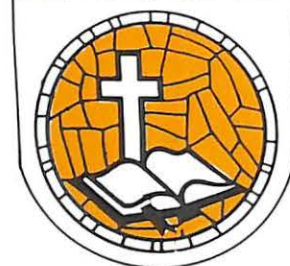


A man from Texas with a hardy appetite for a scrumptious meal.

The Rev. and Mrs. B.C. Schreiber and Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Barber, all from Forest Park, Ill., preferred a concrete slab over the lawn, to put their food down at the outdoor banquet.



PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Probate - What's It All About?

(The following information applies primarily to the United States and even then the laws vary from state to state.)

Questions about probate are frequently raised in wills clinics and private conversation. Even people who have been through the process with the estate of a family member or friend are confused as to what happened and why. Articles appear in popular magazines about the avoidance of the probate process, so it is important to have some understanding of what probate is all about.

PROBATE

What does the word mean? Probate is a court process relating to the disposition of the probate property in the domicile (legal residence) of a deceased person. Whatever probate assets you have must pass through this court whether you do or do not have a will. If you have a will in which you named an executor who is eligible and willing to serve, he or she will be empowered by the court to handle your estate. If you do not have a will, the court will, if possible, appoint an administrator from your closest family members or relatives. The basic purpose of probate is to see that the terms of the decedent's will are carried out, claims are paid and the probate laws are obeyed. If you do not have a will, your state has laws determining what is best for your estate, which may or may not be true.

Involved in the probate process are definite steps such as: filing the will, proving heirship, guardianship, proving the will, bonding, receiving claims against the estate and inventorying all probate assets which must be presented to the judge. One of the first things an executor or administrator will need to do is to engage an attorney to take you through the probate procedure.

Some people are not aware that probate is a matter of public record. Any

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

person can go to the courthouse and read the will or any records relating to the estate of a particular individual. This is one reason why some people use trusts and other private vehicles to pass on their personal and real property.

HOW MANY ESTATES DO YOU HAVE?

It is important to understand the distinction between probate and non-probate property and the tax implications. How you hold title to your property can make all the difference in the world. Here are four estates you need to consider:

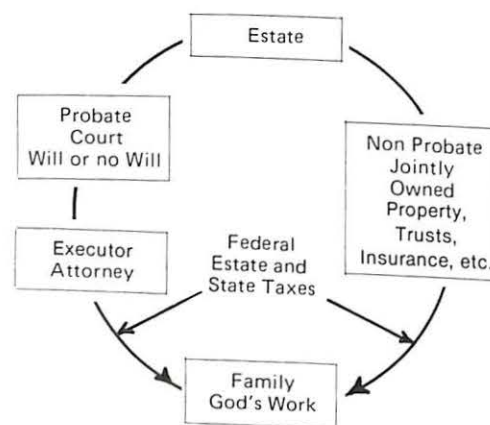
Probate—Sole ownership, tenancy in common, remainderman, trust beneficiary and heir.

Non-Probate—Survivorship property, tenancy by entirety, life estate, life insurance payable to a beneficiary, pension/retirement/annuities and living trusts.

Federal Estate Taxes—Probate and non-probate assets are included for tax purposes. Charitable gifts reduce taxes.

State Inheritance Taxes—Regulations vary from state to state.

The following diagram shows the route estate assets can take, the relationship of federal estate and state inheritance taxes:



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

This can vary considerably from six months to many years depending upon complications such as will contests, suits, I.R.S., property problems and the speed of your lawyer. There is a specified claim period, so the estate isn't likely to be settled in less than six or seven months. If the gross estate is over \$60,000, the Federal Estate Tax Report is due nine months from date of death, and as a practical matter few attorneys file before the due date. It is fortunate for any but small estates to be closed in less than a year. However, a few states have enacted probate reform which

(Continued on page 31)

Joint Ownership Can Cost You More

3 Kinds of ownership
Husband and wife ownership
What is the purpose of joint ownership?
Should joint ownership be avoided?
Does jointly owned property take the place of a will?



Write today for a brochure which discusses and answers the above questions.

Please send information regarding

- "Joint Ownership Can Cost You More"
- "I would like a personal contact without cost or obligation to me."

Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Rev. Everett A. Barker, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL 60181 Phone: (312) 495-2000

insight into christian education

The Small Rural Church

by Dorothy Ganoung

"Sure, I try some of the things that the Sunday school quarterlies suggest, but they don't work for us. Like in today's lesson, the quarterlies said to ask people about barriers to effective witnessing. Well, they just sat there. Nobody said a word. The quarterlies are way over our folks' heads. They're geared to a bigger group and different kind of people."

"The other night we counted 76 jobs to be filled. Some people have to fill five or six of them."

"Sometimes by the time they get to be juniors or seniors in high school, they say the church doesn't meet their needs anymore. They wanted a youth group at church on Friday nights, just a place to come play volleyball or what have you. But some people said, 'The church is not a social club,' and nothing came of it."

"Some of the—what do you call them—bulwark?—resent newcomers. But some of those city people who've moved here are more open to new ideas. I think you'll find this in any small town, though. It's the same way with gossip. Gossip hurts a small church."

"Tradition's a problem, too. In most small towns, they don't want to try anything new. We talked about a census, for instance. They had done that before and they thought they knew everybody in town anyway, so why bother? Sometimes little things like changing the order of service bother some people."

These comments, made by people in a small, rural community, describe many of the problems that churches in rural areas face: curriculum which doesn't speak to the situation of rural people; too few people to fill positions; inadequate youth program. But most of all they suggest an attitude of defeat, of poor self image, of being overwhelmed by the task before them so "why try." A rural community church is no different than any other small church: the shortcomings and problems seem to loom much larger than the advantages

Mrs. Dorothy Ganoung is church literature editor with the Church Ministries Department of the North American Baptist Conference.

and good points which the small rural church enjoys.

Advantages

Consider the many advantages found in a small, rural church environment as suggested by David Noreen and Francis Decker of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

1. Small, often rural, churches produce the greatest percentage of full-time Christian workers.

2. There is more opportunity for youth to serve—as teachers and assistant teachers, on boards and committees, in planning special events and programs.

3. There is more opportunity for individual talents to be discovered and developed. This is especially true in the small town public schools. It is much easier for a student to gain an opportunity to compete and be recognized. The small town youth in most cases will have the backing of the people in the community, many of whom are members of the same church to which he belongs. He can be helped to know himself and his worth as an individual. Similarly, the talents and abilities of adults are known in the community.

4. All can participate in planning. There is opportunity for each person to voice his opinion.

5. There is less red tape. Communication is often better and more easily accomplished.

6. There is a greater family concept evident. Single people, also, often are easily integrated into the church family.

7. There is more personal concern. News of any personal tragedy or happening travels fast. People in rural communities are usually quick to come to the aid of one who needs it.

8. There is more one-to-one interaction. Everybody knows everyone else. No one can become "lost in the crowd."

9. Classes and groups experience the values of intergenerational grading. When classes encompass a wider age span, each age group can take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the other. This often results in greater intergenerational understanding and sympathy.

While rural churches need to evaluate

their programs and take a good hard look at themselves just as much as do their city cousins, they need to keep uppermost in mind the advantages their environment offers as they plan ways to carry out our Lord's commission.

Leadership Education Available

Planning is an essential part of the rural church's ministry. Foy Rogers, who works closely with many rural churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, has found that an organized church program with trained leadership staves off rural church decline. The churches that die, he said, do not train their officers, have no stewardship programs, no missions, no outreach, no program beyond preaching services.

Today there is no rural church which cannot take advantage of some sort of leadership training. Much teacher training is now written right into teacher's quarterlies—but it must be read. There are numerous books available which are specifically about different areas of church programming—but they must be read to be helpful. One leadership or teacher training class per year can be scheduled in any church and, with a good textbook, does not need an expert to lead it. Attendance at Sunday school and other conventions can be encouraged, promoted and planned for. There are many helpful magazines published which can be circulated among the church leadership which will stimulate creativity. The rural church pastor can encourage the people toward such self-education and training. Any church which would like a listing of books, magazines or programs available on any particular segment of church programming need only request it from the Church Ministries Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL 60181.

Self Image Important

Consider the statement of Harold David with the Board of Christian Education of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church: "The most serious obstacle to effective Christian education in most small congregations is a negatively weighted self image. The cult of bigness has had its influence. One often hears, in one form or another, 'We are so small; what can we do?'"

"My answer is: develop a positive self image. Small congregations are usually biblically oriented and should therefore be impressed by what God has done through his lesser servants, both individuals and institutions. It is . . . not by might and not by power, but by my Spirit, says Yahweh . . ."

The day of the small, rural church will never be past while our Lord has work to be done here on earth. □

Thousands of people from all walks of life and from all denominations, Protestant and Catholic alike, representing the churches of Lodi, California, made their way to a great outdoor amphitheater as the strains of that great hymn, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sent forth by four trumpeters, the beginning of a city-wide celebration of 200 years of freedom of worship. With praise and adoration for a loving God the choirs of First Baptist Church and Temple Baptist Church of Lodi sang several selections from the musical, "I Love America," written by John W. Peterson and Don Wyrzten. As

Bicentennial Celebration of Churches in Lodi, California

by Mrs. Thelma Fischer

we listened to the music the thought came to mind how often have I thanked my God for the land of the free? I thought "I Love America"; that it is because of God's love for me that "I'm Just a Flag-Waving American"; that because of His love for each one of us we can tell the world that "In God We Trust"; and of the joy that comes to each of us when we walk with the Lord each day. And finally, as the choir sang the words, "Glory, glory hallelujah, Glory, glory, hallelujah, His truth is marching on," it caused us to bow our heads and praise and thank God that in the land of America "His truth is marching on."

One could sense a deep feeling of gratitude for God and to God for our nation as members of the American Legion Honor Guard posted the American and Christian flags on the platform and as a retired Army Chaplain led the throng of people in a renewed pledge of allegiance to our country that together we can help to make it "one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." As the priest from the local Catholic church arose to lead the responsive reading, he said, "Many are here who are natives of this land; but I have been asked to join in this celebration of God's goodness as a man from another land, and I thank God for this opportunity."

Mrs. Leonard J. Fischer is a member of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, California.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Cedar, associated with Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Hollywood, Calif. and formerly with the Billy Graham team, was asked to bring to us the message from God's Word.

He began his message by giving us some statistics of our beloved America. Two hundred years ago, in 1776, the population of the United States was two and one half million people of whom twenty per cent were slaves, and sixty-six per cent were born in other nations, mostly from the British Isles. Today our population is 215 million people, and only five per cent of these have been

born in other nations. The largest city in the United States, in 1776, was New York City, with a population of 33,000 people; today New York City has a population of 7,648,000 people. The average age of the people, in 1776, was 15.9 years, whereas today it is 29 years; the life expectancy in 1776 was 35½ years, and today it is 72 years. The annual income, per person per year, in 1776, in inflated dollars was \$400.00, today it is \$6000.00 per person per year.

The new country was founded because of the hunger and thirst for political freedom and a search for freedom to worship God, and many came because of the discrimination and political repression in these other lands, in order to find these freedoms. After they were here they discovered, however, that they were not free at all, but as colonies were under the tyranny of other nations, and because of their great desire for freedom, many lost their lives, and the end result was the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, which gave to them and to us, as Americans, among other things, the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right of the people peaceably to assemble. We are indeed a privileged people when we realize that four out of every five people of this world live in totalitarian states. But what lessons have we learned about freedom?

First, freedom is not free, it is expensive, it cost hundreds of thousands of lives to gain and keep our freedom.

Secondly, freedom needs to be practiced, freedom is not passive, it is active.

Thirdly, freedom cannot be forced upon others; in order to be free they must have that desire to be free, we can help and encourage, but cannot do it for others. We are responsible to be used of God to be faithful to the freedom that is ours, and to offer it to anyone who would desire it.

As Scripture text Rev. Cedar chose Galatians 3 and 4, concerning Christians living under law rather than under grace. He emphasized the fact that many who call themselves Christians are politically free but spiritually enslaved, they have the Spirit of God through Jesus Christ, but are advocating living under law for full salvation. Christ came to set us spiritually free, but it was expensive, it cost God's Son on the Cross; Christ's love is an active love; Christ's love cannot be forced on anyone, but must be wanted.

Only eternity will reveal the true number who accepted Christ that morning because as the invitation hymn "Just As I Am" was sung, men, women and children came forward for salvation, and a commitment for a closer walk with Him. □

FORUM

(Continued from page 12)

The new birth means that each Christian believer has available to him the same means of grace, Scripture, prayer, worship, fellowship and the presence of God's Holy Spirit as do all other Christians whatever their office or function.

We believe, therefore, that each Christian can read the Bible for himself, searching the Scriptures and utilizing the guidance of God's Spirit to lead him into the truth. As a consequence, Baptists have no single official creed to which every person must subscribe. When Baptists speak of one faith universally held, they mean the personal trust of a believer in Christ, rather than an official body of Christian dogma.

Our Baptist understanding of regeneration, or the "new birth," is more mysterious than mechanical. Just as the mystery of godliness in Jesus Christ defies glib explanations, the "new birth" is the mystery of Christ's incarnation in us as Christians. Just as he was born of the Virgin Mary, and conceived by the Holy Ghost, so that the Eternal Word could become flesh, the mystery of the "new birth" is suggested in Paul's letter to the Galatians when he prays that Christ may be fully formed in them as Christian believers. Because the "new birth" is believed to be the work of God and not man, Baptists do not believe that regeneration can be mechanically reproduced. Hence, the "new birth" is regarded by Baptists as a requisite for baptism, because they do not believe that baptism, itself, is the means of regeneration.

The mode of immersion in baptism symbolizes for Baptists the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and the believer's identification with Christ in his dying to sin, his being crucified with Christ to the old life, and his being raised to newness of life as a new creation in Christ. Essential as baptism by immersion has been among Baptists, they do not believe that water baptism is essential to salvation. Like the thief on the cross, a person is saved by trusting Jesus for his salvation.

The Experience of the "new birth" is regarded by Baptists as the basis for membership in the local congregation and participation in the whole Church of Christ. This belief is described as "a regenerate Church membership." Originally, it was this belief that separated Baptist congregations from the churches established on parish or geographical boundary lines and supported by the state. Hence, in England, Baptists were described as "Separatists" who believed

that the Church was a gathered company of Christian believers in conscious fellowship with Christ, rather than "a mixed multitude."

Today each Church, in turn, regarded as directly accountable to Christ, is free from outside control, either by the state or by other Churches. Civil magistrates and their temporal power and ecclesiastical judicatories are also held to be accountable to God as corporate structures. But Baptists do not believe that they have authority or control over the gathered congregation of believers functioning as a Church of Christ.

This Freedom and resistance to coercion of the human conscience has been described as "soul liberty", and Baptists historically have been champions of religious liberty—not for themselves alone, but for others as well. This is perhaps their greatest contribution to the American sense of freedom, toleration and fair play.

In conclusion, one might well ask, what do these Baptist convictions suggest about a Baptist president in the White House? Would a "born again" believer turn out to be a religious bigot, unchurched other Christians? I think not. If a person really has received the grace of God and lives by the power of God's Spirit (leading to his regeneration and his new life in Christ), he has also received the gift of Christ's charity which allows other people to be who and what they are, and to stand where they must.

Would a "born again" president be a religious zealot, imposing his own views on the nation and its citizens? I think not. The Baptist desire to spread the faith is not unlike the same desire found in the Catholic Society for the Propagation of the Faith. While Baptist believers know that they stand under a missionary mandate they are also aware that while Jesus commanded the making of disciples and the sharing of a witness, he condemned the making of proselytes. A Baptist believes that each person must be allowed the freedom to say his own "Yes" or "No" to God's invitation extended to follow Christ.

A "born again" president who is a Baptist should pose no threat to other Christians—either Catholic or Protestants—or to other religions, or to those without religion. If he is true to his heritage as a Baptist, he will reflect their record which stands against religious persecution or intolerance. Baptists have sought to be tolerant of everything except intolerance.

A "born again" believer does not think

of himself as the only Christian or of his Baptist congregation as the only Church. Believing himself to be in touch with the living God, he seeks to be in tune with God's Spirit so he can be in harmony with other men. Given the representative character of the American presidency, which is to function in behalf of all the people with honesty and integrity, and which relates to other nations with respect and justice, the characteristics of the "new birth" could enhance the office while nurturing the man who fills it.

Woodrow Wilson once said that presidents either swell or grow in their office. A president bloated with conceit or power is an explosive menace; but a president who is growing personally can help a nation grow—not only in its gross national product, but in the invisible stands of its selfhood and in the strength of its self-respect. Such a vital and inward spiritual strength allows a nation to fulfill its destiny of greatness, serving the interests of its own people while serving the common good essential to the health and the well-being of the international community. □

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Resolutions, Decisions and Other Happenings at the Portland Triennial Conference

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CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

ST. ALBERT, ALTA., CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by Irwin H. Kujat

In a beautiful natural setting on the banks of the Sturgeon River, nestled in the peaceful rolling countryside, four miles north of Edmonton, lies St. Albert. This town was founded by Father Albert Lacombe in 1861 as a Roman Catholic Mission. Richly enveloped in history and tradition, this town featured prominently in the development of this Western Canadian region. From a tiny settlement of three families in 1861, St. Albert has grown to a population approaching 22,000 people today, with projections of 60,000 persons by 1990.

Persons who become faceless in such a rapid population expansion feel very acutely the need for intimate, individual friendships and experiences. With these needs in mind the Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church was formed: our goal was to personalize Christ for our neighbors.

More than 50 persons participated in our first service on April 4, 1976. The Rev. Len Johnson, assistant pastor of McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, capably guided the church's direction until June 30. During this time the church experienced prayer-rewarding growth, with attendance at the morning service averaging 60 to 70 persons. Since July 1 the Rev. Irwin Kujat, Louise and family, have come to share our concerns and to pastor this church.

At present we are meeting in Paul Kane High School and through these facilities provide six Sunday school classes to the markedly interdenominational families.

Our church body is enthusiastic and optimistic, anticipating fellowship, growth and inner strength and renewal from God. And it is all because Jesus came, so that we might experience life in all of its fullness.

The rapid growth in St. Albert has affected land costs—unbelievably high! But having experienced God's favor here, we know that through his people he will provide these our needs. We are sure that you will want to become part of the Church Extension ministry in St. Albert, Alberta. □

The Rev. Irwin H. Kujat is the pastor of the Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, Alberta.



Paul Kane High School, the present meeting place of the Sturgeon Valley Baptist congregation.



Ann Barber and Rene Porter teaching the nursery class.

Pastor Irwin Kujat speaking in Sunday morning worship service.



A guest soloist praising God in worship service.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thole observed their 50th wedding anniversary on June 13, 1976. They are members of the Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, Kan. Mrs. Leon Bill is their daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adam observed their 50th wedding anniversary on July 10, 1976. They are members of Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

GACKLE. On Good Friday the members and friends of Grace Baptist Church met for a groundbreaking service. We were blessed by the ministry of Chris and Sandy Walker from our West Fargo church as they rejoiced with us in song. Rev. George Breitreuz led our thinking in a challenging way. Then in the rain, we met on the property and each member of the Building Committee shared in the turning of the soil.

On Easter Sunday evening, the choir of Grace Baptist Church presented the cantata, "The Thorn-Crowned King." It was well received by all who were in attendance. The cantata was directed by Rev. E. R. Oster and Mrs. Lloyd Janke assisted at the piano.

TURTLE LAKE, N.D. On Sunday, May 2 we had the privilege of welcoming Mrs. Cheryl Tweeten into the fellowship of our church during the morning service. We then shared together in a Communion Service.

On Monday, May 3, 1976, the Women's Missionary Society hosted a Ladies Workshop for the women of the Northern Dakota Association. Over 100 ladies attended as Miss Laverna Mehlhaff shared many new and interesting ideas as to how to make WMS more exciting and relevant to today's needs.

On Wednesday, May 19 the Choristers from North American Baptist College were in our church to present a concert. One of the group members, Janell Singer, is a member of our church. (JoAnne Tschetter, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CALIF. On May 2, Pastor Hoover conducted his last baptismal service in the Sunkist Baptist Church before his retirement. Slides were shown of the first person he baptized on June 30, 1934, in Saskatchewan. The last person he baptized happened to be the father of the first person he baptized in Sunkist. Also of special interest during that service was the first baptism of our Christian Education minister, Rev. Robert Radcliffe. He baptized his ten-year-old son, Rick. Twenty new members were welcomed into our fellowship during a communion service on May 9, 1976.

The following Sunday, May 16, Sunkist Baptist observed its 10th anniversary with slides and reports of the be-

ginning of our fellowship progressing until the present day. A reception concluded the evening.

Sunday, May 23, witnessed the conclusion of the active ministry of Pastor and Mrs. Hoover (see picture). They have served faithfully these past 41 years in our NAB Conference. In 1934, they moved to the Connors Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., where they pastored for 11 years. Next, they served the Napier-Parkview Baptist Church in Benton Harbor, Mich., for 15 years. Coming to Anaheim, Calif. in 1962, they were at Bethel Baptist for four years and have been at Sunkist these past 10 years.



Pastor Hoover preached his final sermon to the congregation in the morning of the 23rd. The evening program included his favorite hymns and choir anthems; written and spoken tributes to the Hoovers; a sermon delivered by one of his converts, Dr. Lloyd Kwast; a laying on of hands and dedicatory prayer for Pastor Hoover's retirement ministry; the presentation of a love gift; and a concluding reception with a skit presentation of the Hoover's lives. All of their five daughters were present for this memorable event.

Pastor Hoover's strong gift of evangelism has brought many into the kingdom over these past decades. On the occasion of their retirement, a card or a letter from those their ministry has blessed in years past would be deeply appreciated. Their address is: 1620 S. Pomona Avenue C-18, Fullerton, California 92632.

We at Sunkist thank God for the strong and dedicated leadership Pastor Hoover has given us these past 10 years and we pray God's richest blessing on the Hoovers during their retirement years. (Stephanie Radcliffe, reporter.)

EDMONTON, ALTA. On Sat., July 17, 1976, an ordination council convened at the Central Baptist Church for the purpose of examining Mr. Kenneth Priebe for the Christian ministry. Mr. Eugene Land was elected moderator and Mr. Waldy Roller secretary. The candidate presented his autobiographical

sketch, Christian experience and doctrinal statements in a very clear and concise manner. In the executive session the delegates voted unanimously to recommend to the Central Baptist Church that they proceed with the ordination. Kenneth Priebe graduated from the North American Baptist Seminary May 16, 1976, with a Master of Divinity degree. On Aug. 12, 1976, he will begin serving on our mission field in Cameroon, Africa, with his wife, Eileen and their son, Kent. At the ordination service on Sun., July 18, the Rev. John Wollenberg brought the ordination message, and the Rev. Marvin Busenius led in the ordination prayer. (Waldy Roller, reporter.)

FESSENDEN, N.D. The young people of the First Baptist Church served a spaghetti supper and showed a film "The Power of the Resurrection." A Lay Witness Seminar was held. The Woman's Missionary Society hosted the World Day of Prayer for several area churches. The Crusaders presented a Bicentennial program. We were privileged to have several of our missionaries in our church during mission conferences. The Esther Circle presented the play "The Worker." Cleon Engel of Campus Crusade spoke one morning. The Rev. Fred Fuchs is the pastor of the church. (Mrs. Adolph Pepple, reporter.)

ANAMOOSSE, N.D. The members of the Anamoose Baptist Church dedicated their newly remodeled and redecorated church and parsonage. During the dedication service the congregation presented an electric sander and planer to John Beck for his many donated hours of service.



Ten new members (pictured with Rev. Ben Lautt) were received as members of the church and extended the hand of fellowship.

A dedication service was held during a morning service in which two children were dedicated to the Lord.

Other events held at the Anamoose Baptist Church, were the hosting of two missionaries, Miss Berneice Westerman and Miss Betty Mantay, the Northern Dakota Ministerial, Church Extension and Gideon presentation.

our conference in action

A group of young people and their leader, Mr. Penner from Winnipeg Bible Institute, presented a program on May 24, and on June 15, John Terveen a seminary student from Sioux Falls, S.D., spoke to us. A film, "His Land," was also shown on Sunday evening, June 13. (Arlene Beck, reporter.)

WARREN, MICH. A surprise anniversary celebration was observed last month by the Redeemer Baptist Church in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Braun. The occasion marked their 25th wedding anniversary, as well as 25 years of service in the ministry—22 of which were spent at Redeemer. More than 300 guests attended the supper. Out-of-town guests included the pastor's family from Auburn, Mich., and his wife's family from Rochester, N.Y. The program featured several musical selections, comments by some of the family members, and a message by Dr. George Slavin. The church presented the Brauns with a grandfather clock and a cash gift. (Linda Willms, reporter.)

RAPID CITY, S.D. The South Canyon Baptist Church was privileged to have The Charis Singers from the Grace Baptist Church of West Fargo, N.D. with us. They also shared in the Sunday morning services. Their concert included a variety of music from the contemporary to the traditional hymns, plus a selection on the trumpet by Bill Arndt who will be joining God's Volunteers.

The ladies and friends of the church enjoyed a beautiful Mother and Daughter Banquet. The theme was "Oh you Beautiful Doll." Several girls, mothers and grandmothers shared their dolls and doll collections with us.

God has blessed the South Canyon Baptist Church with a number of talented people who are willing to share their gifts with us. They presented a musical evening for the Mother's Day services. (Gladys Ericks, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MI. Palm Sunday, April 11, was a special day in the Pastor Decker family as their two grandchildren, Heather Marshall and Jeremy Decker, were dedicated to the Lord. Rev. Decker gave the charge to the parents and then Rev. Joseph Lathrop, Sr., great-grandfather, gave the dedicatory prayer.

A special Easter offering was taken to apply on the building mortgage payment. This offering amounted to \$1,069.00.

Eighty persons attended the Easter Sunrise Breakfast. A short program followed which consisted of reenacting the scene of the arrival of the women at the open tomb.

The trustees have been busy installing

classrooms in the basement of the church. This will give us four more classrooms. This was accomplished through memorial gifts. (Mildred Wolfe, reporter.)

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA. Over the past few months the Lord has been drawing people to himself and to Cedarloo Baptist Church in a wonderful way. July 25 marked a highlight when eleven followed the Lord in baptism (10 adults, 1 teenager) and eight others came by profession of faith. The Rev. Iver Walker is the pastor of the church pictured on the left.



GEORGE, IOWA. Pictured is the Rev. B. A. Itterman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, reading a citation of appreciation that was presented to returned missionaries, Fred and Pat Moore, at a service on June 6, 1976. The occasion marked the many years of close fellowship that the church and the Moores have enjoyed, since the church became a supporting church nearly 20 years ago when the Rev. and Mrs. Fred Moore first left for mission work in Japan with the North American Baptist Conference, of which First Baptist is a member. The Moores will not be returning to Japan at the end of their furlough year, and thus the church gave



recognition to the good work rendered, and for the special leadership that the Rev. Fred Moore gave to the Osaka Biblical Seminary while he served as president.

BISMARCK, N.D. "Let's Just Praise the Lord" led by Sylvia Auch, provided a stirring opening for the Bicentennial Prayer and Praise Breakfast held at the Bismarck Baptist Church on June 19, 1976, with 98 ladies present. A unique seating plan was used by which partners across the table were from different

churches. Each lady placed her name, address, birth date and anniversary date on a card and exchanged with the lady across the table. These then became prayer partners for the year. A challenging message on "Precious Heritage" was given by Donna Kennedy of Bismarck.

The luncheon business meeting was held with 214 ladies present. The host society did a splendid job carrying out the Bicentennial theme, with pioneer dresses and bonnets for the hostesses, antiques for center pieces and on display, and a style show of pioneer clothing. Betty Haas, WMU president, opened the meeting with prayer. Dorothy Anderson, Bismarck, luncheon chairman, welcomed the group. Jeri Steinfeld, Bismarck, assistant pastor's wife, was in charge of drawings for gifts from local merchants. Five new pastors' wives were introduced. Two new societies, "The Afternoon Circle" and "The Dorcas Society," both from Valley City, were welcomed into the Union. Elected to two-year terms were Anita Pelzer of Ashley, president, and Alma B. Kremer of Bismarck, secretary. Holdovers are Vi Kiemele, Linton, V.P. and Phyllis Bender, Wishek, treasurer. A \$1500 project for the education of missionary children in Brazil, Japan and Nigeria was adopted. Berneice Westerman brought a challenging message on her work in Cameroon. (Alma B. Kremer, reporter.)

SPRINGSIDE, SASK. The Springside Baptist Church is happy to report that it has much reason to rejoice. In 1975 Pastor and Mrs. Bill Keith and family came to serve our church. Some of the highlights in our church were that we were privileged to have the Rev. Herman Effas and the Brazilian Singers with us. We also had a team of God's Volunteers in our midst. They visited in the village and their testimonies spoke to many hearts.

Pastor Keith had the privilege of baptizing 13 young people. We had blessed camp weeks held at our Good Spirit Camp and the Saskatchewan Baptist Association was held at the camp, July 9-11. We had a busy summer schedule. (Julia Yanke, reporter.)

WARREN, MICH. July 4 was designated as "Bicentennial Sunday" at Trinity Baptist Church. There was special music and the women and girls participated by wearing long dresses, and the installation of our new pastor, the Rev. Kenneth J. Knight, his wife, Betty and son, Kirk, who came from the New Testament Church in the 20th Century (Baptist) of Leamington, Ont. A potluck dinner was served to welcome the Rev. Knight and his family. Also we were

privileged to have the musical Talleys, Debi and Paul, for a concert in the afternoon. (Mrs. Opal Wheeler, reporter.)

CARRINGTON, N.D. The Calvary Baptist Church had a special day in which we had a dedication for all the new things that were added to our church recently: new organ, new choir robes, paneling of all classrooms and lower auditorium, new tables and bulletin boards in classrooms, new outside doors, new carpeting in all classrooms and lower auditorium. Then a short program followed: a solo "Bless This House," a quartet, several short talks and a choir number. The Rev. Frank Unruh is the pastor of the church. (Mrs. F. G. Helm, reporter.)

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA. The Grace Baptist Mixed Choir had a late Mother's Day program at our old folks home, the Baptist Haven of Rest. The young people presented a Mother's and Father's Day program which was greatly appreciated by the church. June 13th was Pulpit Exchange Sunday and our minister, Pastor C. T. Remple traveled to Calgary for this event. In our church we welcomed Pastor H. Poschwatta from Lethbridge who presented a very meaningful message. (Renita Graham, reporter.)

PLEVNA, MONT. The Plevna Baptist Youth Club put on a pancake supper and program on Good Friday. They also presented a film. On Easter morning regular services were held and a cantata was presented by the Mission Circle and Men's Fellowship in the evening. On April 30 the Mission Circle held a Spring Gardening Banquet for all the ladies of the church. Mrs. Wesley Blackburn of Dickinson, N.D. was the guest speaker.

Rev. Alfred Weisser was with us on May 2 and presented a film and information on estate planning for the afternoon service. The Rev. Richard Lawrenz is the pastor of the church (Paula Fuchs, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MICH. July 4, 1976, will be one of our memorable days (pictured) of the Round Lake Baptist Church. Along with the Bicentennial recognition of our nation we held our homecoming celebration. It was an all-day affair, starting with the ringing of the church bell at 10:00 a.m. During the day we acknowledged our "Miss America," Miss Gussie Will, who celebrated her 71st birthday; our oldest S.S. scholar, Mrs. John Steinkraus; the scholar who had been a member the longest; the person coming the farthest



distance, L/Cpl. U.S.M.C. Cal. D. Robertson from Memphis, TN.; the family coming the farthest, the Wm. Kleinfelds of Cleveland, OH; the family with largest representation, that of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Wegner, with 24 members present.

Pastor Decker brought a very timely message stressing that along with patriotism and praise we develop prayer for America.

A family picnic dinner on the parsonage lawn was followed by the ringing of the bell. Various members took their turn to ring the bell—proclaiming LIBERTY!

The afternoon was spent in playing games, visiting, reminiscing and viewing displays of family pictures, heirlooms and other mementos. Among the latter was a copy of a 1936 BAPTIST HERALD with an article from Rev. George Hensel on the Central Conference held at the Round Lake Baptist Church. During our "Nostalgia Hour" we were reminded of the deep concern our forefathers had for each person's spiritual life, the progress made of the building and grounds, and some statistical figures of times past. A special decorated birthday cake was prepared in honor of our nation's birthday (pictured).



In the evening Mr. Roland Johansson of the Auburn Baptist Church gave a Bicentennial organ concert of music that is part of America's spiritual heritage 1776 to 1976. (M. J. Wolfe, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MAN. The Manitoba Association was held at the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church with the theme, "The Visible Christ." Moderator Rev. H. Ulrichs, spoke on "Three Signs of Christian Maturity." On Friday morning Dr. Wm. Sturhahn spoke on "Glory of God in Jesus Christ." On Friday evening the program was presented by the W.M.U. with Minnie Kuhn as the speaker. The offering was designated

for the Mambila Hospital in Nigeria to purchase twelve blood pressure machines and one stretcher. The goal was to raise \$850.00 for this project. Almost twice as much was received. Saturday morning CTI/NABC Alumni Breakfast. Dr. Ralph Powell from the Seminary in Sioux Falls spoke on "The Fruit of the Spirit is Love: The Heart of it all." Group workshops discussed the message. After a business session Dr. Powell spoke again on "The Fruit of the Spirit is Joy: The Delight of it All," with workshops following.

In the evening the cantata "Hallelujah, What a Saviour" was presented by the mass choir of the McDermot Church under the direction of Mr. Hans Rogalsky. After the cantata we had a communion service.

Sunday there were services at all the local churches and Dr. Powell was the speaker at the McDermot Church. His message was "The Fruit of the Spirit is Peace: The Calm of it All."

The Portage Avenue Mennonite Brethren Church was the scene for the afternoon closing rally. The music was presented by the Association Mass Choir as well as a group of young people from the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. Dr. Powell spoke on "The Fruit of the Spirit is Longsuffering: The Endurance of it All." Our Area Secretary gave a short message in German. (Rev. K. H. Tonn, reporter.)

MC CLUSKY, N.D. Three people were baptized upon confession on their faith on Easter Sunday after the morning service by pastor Myrle Thiesies. The candidates were Christle Dockter, Mr. John Ahl and Mrs. Sam Bauer. (Alvina Dockter, reporter.)

APPLE VALLEY, MINN. Mr. Larry R. Salsbury was ordained in the Apple Valley Baptist Church on May 30, 1976. He attended Fort Wayne Bible College, Fort Wayne, Ind., and received a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Christian education and music. For about two years he served as director of Christian education at Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul, Minn. When he enrolled at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul he served the Apple Valley Baptist Church as part-time Director of Christian Education. He graduated from Bethel Seminary on May 29, 1976, with a Master of Divinity degree. Mr. Salsbury was married to Annette Goldsmith in June, 1972. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Christian Education from Ft. Wayne Bible College. The Rev. Salsbury has accepted a call to the McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alta., where he will serve as youth pastor.

MINOT, ND. The Rev. Paul Siewert baptized three youths in the First Baptist Church, during a Sunday morning service. During the evening service these three gave their testimonies and were received into membership, along with 15 others who also recounted their salvation experience. It was the largest group received into First Baptist Church at one time in many years.

A new library at the church was opened under the direction of the Library Committee.

An impressive display of Easter Lilies was arranged to form a 20-foot high cross behind the pulpit area. The plants were donated by members and friends.

Using a Bicentennial decor, a Mother-Daughter Tea was held in the fellowship room with a very appreciative crowd in attendance. (Mrs. Darrell Rhone, reporter.)

PHOENIX, ARIZ. "Have you ever heard of the Four Spiritual Laws"? was the most common question heard as eight young people "blitzed" the community of north east Phoenix during Easter week recess. Magnolia Baptist Church of Anaheim, Calif. selected and trained these men and women to help give a boost to the new Church Extension project recently named Thunderbird Baptist Church.

Of the 528 homes contacted, the four teams were able to talk with 307 people and introduce them to the ministries of the new church as well as give them a gospel tract. Several dozen people took the time to go through the "Four Spiritual Law" booklet, and three prayed to receive Christ. One elderly gentleman gained an understanding of the Spirit-filled life. As a result of this three-day ministry there are 26 new prospects for membership.

The climax of this special week was the Easter Sunday services which included a Gospel Puppet Show by the Oakes family. There were 28 in Sunday school and 34 participating in worship. Thunderbird Baptist Church was started in February and represents the first N.A.B. ministry in Arizona. Rev. Lanny R. Johnson is the Church Extension pastor.

CALGARY, ALTA. Since beginning an 8:30 a.m. service, at Brentview Baptist Church the Sunday school has increased in attendance 30%. Two choirs are now serving at the respective worship hours. The early choir presented the cantata "Breakthrough" on Palm Sunday evening.

All departments of Brentview make good use of our Camp Caroline. The Senior Citizens recently travelled by church bus for a day there; the Christian Singles had a relaxing and stim-

ulating weekend, and the Youth Group anticipate a good weekend there soon.

We shared in the blessings of the annual Alberta Baptist Association held at our mother church, Grace Baptist, early in April. Dr. Earl Radmacher, one of the featured speakers, challenged our congregation the final Sunday on the topic of "Why Attend Church"?

"Here's Life, Calgary" is a program in which every home in the city is to be reached with the gospel. Brentview is experiencing exciting results in the phoning and visitation ministry in our area.

On Palm Sunday four adults followed the Lord's command to believe and be baptized and one more two weeks later. Four others joined our fellowship. (Linda Ohlhauser, reporter.)

KELOWNA, B.C. After seven weeks of instruction by the pastor, Rev. Waldemar Ertis of the Grace Baptist Church, 14 young people (pictured) were baptized upon confession of their faith on June 13. After baptism, in a prayer of consecration with the laying on of hands, each candidate was received into the fellowship of the church.



Sunday night the male chorus of more than forty voices, under the able leadership of Herbert Pelzer, conducted a liturgical worship service, during which special Scripture reading alternated with suitable choral selections. (W. Ertis, reporter.)

MT. CLEMENS, MICH. Now that the Garfield Baptist Church is one year old and has been accepted into the Michigan Association of NAB we praise the Lord Jesus Christ and thank him for Pastor Allen Heron, Jr., who we believe was truly God-sent; for the 13 people of God whom the Spirit led to sign the incorporation papers as charter members; for the healthy and consistent growth he gave during this first year in both membership (to 48) and attendance (to 105 average Sunday mornings); for the seven people saved, eleven baptized, and the two who rededicated their lives to him this year; for a caring and praying mother church (Redeemer Baptist Church of Warren) and numerous loving sister churches in the greater Detroit area; for the NAB Conference that was so helpful in establishing this church, for the building loan approval by the Church Extension Investors Fund and the prospect of having yet this year a permanent church building on the 3-acre

site dedicated to Jesus Christ and his gospel; for all the great miracles he will yet perform while building his church as a lighthouse of his gospel in this area; last but not least for you the reader, whose prayers we covet. Why not drop us a note of testimony, encouragement, or advice? Also, if you have a special prayer request, please let us know. (Hermann Preisler, reporter.)

ELLINWOOD, KAN. On Sunday, June 13, Mr. Dennis Dewey was set apart for the gospel ministry at his ordination at the First Baptist Church. At the filled-to-capacity service, Dr. Ralph Powell, professor of theology at the NAB Seminary, brought the ordination message. The ordaining prayer was given by the Rev. Elton Kirstein; charge to the candidate, the Rev. M. D. Wolff; charge to the churches (his home church and to the delegation from the First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, Iowa, which he will be serving) by the Rev. Rudie Matheuszik; and the welcome to the ministry by the Rev. Charles Priddy.

A corsage was presented to Mrs. Debbie Dewey in recognition of her being part of the team. An offering of \$491 was presented to Dennis to purchase tools for the ministry. The benediction was given by the Rev. Dennis Dewey. (Mrs. Dale Hartig, reporter.)

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. On May 23 the Rev. Oscar Fritzke, pastor of the Oakridge Baptist Church, baptized eight persons (pictured). A week later the hand of fellowship was given and then we all received the Lord's supper together.



Under the direction of Child Evangelists Dale Comstock and his wife made the way of salvation very clear and twelve decisions for Christ were made.

This year we had our Sunday school picnic at Kiwanis Park. Everyone brought a picnic lunch and we had a good time playing games, singing praises and hearing God's Word out in the fresh air. (Ingrid Hartwig, reporter.)

A Bicentennial program was presented at the First Baptist Church on June 20, beginning with the Sunday school hour which included devotion, songs, recitations, and a skit with music.

The morning worship service included special music and a Bicentennial mes-

sage "One Nation Under God" by Rev. Henry Lang.

The evening worship service included "What America Means to Me" by two lay people of the church and musical selections. (Estie Betz, reporter.)

WEST FARGO, N.D. Miss Berneice Westerman was the guest speaker in the Grace Baptist Church on Sunday, June 27. Listening to her experiences over 26 years in Cameroon makes one realize how rich one can be in doing the will of God.

On July 26 the Youth Aflame Singers from the Liberty Bible Baptist College, Lynchburg, Va., presented a program in song and testimony. The Rev. LeRoy Moser is the pastor of the church. (Frances Abrahamson, reporter.)

GOODRICH, N.D. The Northern Dakota Association was held June 20-23 at the First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Daniel Heringer, pastor. The theme "Going Places . . . with God," (Phil. 3:13-14) through "preparation," "projection," "prayer," "praise," "production," "participation" and "patriotism," were the basis for expositions by Dr. Benno Przybylski and missionary Berneice Westerman. On Sunday evening the film, "Stranger in My Forest," was shown. Mr. Jake Schlafman, moderator, presided at the business sessions.

On Monday evening about 200 attended the ladies banquet and program. Miss Berneice Westerman was the guest speaker. The president, Mrs. Donald Beck, conducted the business session. On the same evening 140 men gathered for their banquet. Speakers were the Rev. C. Walth, Carlo Walth and Byron Brodehl. The young people had a cook-out at the city park the same evening.

Tuesday morning a breakfast for all was sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of the host church, with the men doing all the work and serving pancakes and sausage.

New pastors and their wives, full-time workers, and students of our association preparing for full-time service were presented by the Rev. C. Walth.

Tuesday afternoon the following officers were installed: moderator, Art Johnson; vice moderator, Rev. Merle Thiesies; recording sec., Mrs. Arley Hintz; treasurer, Mrs. Allen Faul; plus all new officers of the Ladies' Missionary Society, Men's Brotherhood and B.Y.F.

In conclusion of the sessions a communion service was held with the host church in charge. The Grace Baptist Church in Grand Forks, N.D., will host the association next year. (Freda Rauser, reporter.)

EMERY, S.D. Step With Christ" was the theme of the First Baptist Church's Ninetieth Anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 27. A coffee fellowship preceded the morning worship service where the very youngest to the oldest Sunday school class presented a special number. Included in the



service was a plaque presentation to former pastor Rev. D. S. Wipf in appreciation for the more than 240 hours he spent in translation of the church minutes from 1886 to 1937. The pastor, Rev. Charles M. Hiatt, gave the anniversary sermon challenging the church as it looked back 90 years to continue to step ahead with Christ.

An all-church potluck supper was held prior to the evening service. The

service emphasis was on missions as Rev. and Mrs. Ken Ontjes spoke on their work in Jamaica.

Sunday, July 4, was another special day for the church as a total of 24 were added to the church's membership. Seven (pictured) entered the waters of baptism while 17 joined by transfer of letter.

Dan VanGerpen of Avon, S.D. has been called as youth and music director. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. (Joyce Terveen, reporter)

BEULAH, N.D. The Immanuel Baptist Church is happy to report that a group of seven young people and one adult were baptized on Sunday night April 25. Seven were received into the church. Three others were received by letter.

We also had one of our missionaries, Miss Eleanor Weisenburger, with us for one service. Pastor Clarence Walth was with us for three services.

Palm Sunday night the young married couples presented a program of singing. Easter Sunday night the women's missionary group sang a few songs. The Rev. George Neubert is pastor of the church (Mrs. A. E. Moos, reporter.)

in memoriam

ALBERT A. BERTSCH, 59, of Ashley, N.D., died on July 29, 1976. He was born in McPherson County, S.D., Feb. 7, 1917. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 12 years. Later he was baptized and became a member of the Johannal Baptist Church where he also served later as trustee. He was united in marriage to Edna Steinwandt on Nov. 5, 1944. At the time of his death he was a member of the Ashley Baptist Church where he served as trustee and usher. Surviving him are his widow, Edna; three brothers and three sisters. The Rev. Etan Pelzer was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

MATHILDA BERTSCH nee Pleiner, 90, died on June 24, 1976. She was born Oct. 28, 1885, in Russia. She came to the United States in 1907 and settled near Eureka, S.D. She was married to Karl A. Bertsch on Nov. 25, 1909. She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at the age of 19 and became a member of the Johannal Baptist Church and in 1945 transferred to the Ashley Baptist Church. She was the last surviving charter member of the Women's Missionary Society. Surviving her are three sons: Adolph, Edwin and Herbert; one daughter, Martha, Mrs. Edward Schauer. The Rev. Etan Pelzer was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

PAUL DICKAU, 81, of Kelowna, B.C., died on July 3, 1976. He was born on May 3, 1895, in Wetaskiwin, Alta. As a young boy he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, was baptized and received into the fellowship of the Pleasant Prairie Baptist Church of Wetaskiwin, now Calgary Baptist Church. In 1919 he married the former Miss Olga Miller. Surviving him are his widow; five daughters: Mrs. Irene Schaffer, Mrs. Alice Meyers, Mrs. Ivy Fritzke, Mrs. Annis Teskie and Mrs. Roma Ortlieb; thirteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; two brothers and two sisters. The Rev. Richard Hohensee was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

ROBERT GOLZ, 78, of Vancouver, B.C., died on Aug. 2, 1976. He was born in Poland on Oct. 13, 1897. In his early years he accepted the Lord as his Savior. He immigrated to Canada in 1927, where he met and married Olga Witzke on Oct. 28, 1928. The Lord was able to use him in his service in various Baptist churches as choir member and bass player in the church bands. Surviving him are his widow; two sons: Peter and Ludwig; two daughters: Ruth and Elfriede, 12 grandchildren and two brothers. Officiating pastors were Dr. H.J. Waltereit of Bethany Baptist Church and Dr. R.C. Standerwick of the Trinity Baptist Church, Vancouver, B.C.

MRS. TERESA GRETZINGER, 79, of St. Catharines, Ont., died on June 14, 1976. She was born Jan. 6, 1897, in Russia. She received Christ as her Savior in 1925 and was baptized in the Baptist church. At the time of her death she was a member of the Lakeshore Baptist Church in St. Catharines, Ont. She is survived by her widower, Albert, seven sons, four daughters, 41 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. The Rev. George Engle was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

WILFRED HELWIG, 77, of Dallas, Tex., died on April 17, 1976. He was born on Nov. 7, 1898, at Neustadt, Ont. As a young man he accepted the Lord and was baptized, joining the First Baptist Church, Neustadt, Ont. He was a graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, ordained by the Sebastopol Baptist Church, Ont., in 1927, and pastored the North American Baptist Churches in Killaloe, Ont.; Westington Springs, S.D.; Ellinwood, Kan., and Carroll Avenue Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., until his retirement from the ministry in 1950. At that time he purchased a grocery store in Dallas, which he operated until shortly before his death. In 1927 he married Lydia Wills which union was blessed with two sons: Stanley and Elton; one daughter, Mrs. Amick (Joyce) Champe; six grandsons, and one granddaughter. He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters. The funeral service was conducted from the Second Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., with the Rev. Bill Mathis and the Rev. Melvin L. Warkentin officiating.

JOHN H. JOHNSON, 84, of Chancellor, S.D., died on May 19, 1976. He was born near Chancellor on March 10, 1892. In 1926 he was united in marriage to Lena Seibold at Carrington, N.D. John accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age. He was baptized and joined the First Baptist Church of Chancellor where he was an active member until his death. Surviving him are his widow, Lena; two brothers and three sisters. The Rev. Ted Faszer was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

EWALD MARKS, 71, of Kelowna, B.C., died on June 30, 1976. He was born in Poland on Jan 25, 1905. Mr. Marks immigrated to Canada in 1928. On July 12, 1934, he was united in marriage to Alma Bonikowski. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and was baptized in May, 1935, at Whitemouth, Man. Since 1948 he was a member of the Grace Baptist Church of Kelowna, to which he rendered an outstanding service. He is survived by his widow, Alma; a son, Dennis; a daughter, Mrs. Helga Symington; six grandchildren and several brothers and sisters. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Waldemar Ertis, assisted by the Rev. E.H. Nikkel.

KURT W. RICHTER SR., 74, of Rochester, Mich., died on July 18, 1976. He was born in Germany, Jan 23, 1902. For nearly 14 years he worked as a printer for the Roger Williams Press when it was located in Cleveland, Ohio. At the time of his death he was a member of the First Baptist Church of Rochester, Mich. Surviving him are his widow, Rita; one son Kurt, Jr.; one brother, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The Rev. Lloyd O. Chase was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

Avoid Confrontation, Retaliation, Show Reconciliation, Says Liberia's President

SIEGEN (EBPS)—A sermon by Liberia's Baptist Preacher-President and a commissioning service for the European Baptist Federation's new secretary-treasurer brought highlights to an international flavor already evident throughout the annual meeting of West German Baptists.

President William L. Tolbert of Liberia told 2,500 delegates and guests gathered at the closing service that "ours is a world where even Christians care less and less about living together as a sharing group."

The former president of the Baptist World Alliance (1965-70) went on to say that in a world which cares more "for amassing capital equipment than for remedying human ignorance, for fulfilling wider desires than fighting widespread disease, and is less concerned with liberation than with license, Christ's people must be an enlightening force."

"To regain the reality of the Incarnation, we must avoid incidents of confrontation and find ways of reconciliation, showing forgiveness instead of retaliation," Dr. Tolbert continued. He spoke to the Baptist assembly following a ten-day state visit in the German Federal Republic.

In the same service a time was set aside for the "setting apart" of Dr. Gerhard Claas, present General Secretary of the Union who is assuming the Secretaryship of the European Baptist Federation Oct. 1, 1976.

The Baptist tradition of "laying on of hands" was observed as Dr. Claas knelt in full view of the assembly while Dr. Tolbert and Union President Walter Zeschke placed their palms upon his head and prayed for God's wisdom and the Holy Spirit's leadership as he takes up the post. Dr. Claas will also become an Associate Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance on the same date.

The Rev. Sigfried Kerstan, who will succeed Dr. Claas as the Union's General Secretary, led the assembly's opening worship hour Thursday. Sessions were held in this city's Siegerlandhalle with nearly 500 delegates and 400 guests registered, under the theme, "You Are God's People."

Delegates voted almost unanimously to begin construction "as soon as possible" on a new Bundeshaus (Union headquarters building) after an announcement that authorities had granted a building permit only last week. Con-

struction costs are projected at DM 2,900,000. An offering for the plan taken during the assembly brought DM 84,000. The new building will be erected in Bad Homburg on a different site from that of the present headquarters, and should be completed by late 1977.

They also heard and discussed a second reading of the proposed Confession of Faith for German-language Baptists. After last year's initial reading, revisions were incorporated into the present second draft. Next year's assembly is expected to give final approval to the document, which has been formulated simultaneously by a committee made up of Baptist theologians from both German Republics, Switzerland and Austria.

The "international flavor" was evident as representatives from Baptist Unions in the Netherlands, Poland, France, the German Democratic Republic, Denmark, Austria, Norway and Cameroon brought fraternal greetings. Several of these participated in a round-table discussion of Baptist views and projects in their respective countries. It was led by Pastor Harold Eisenblatter of West Berlin, who had earlier been named the Union's new Vice-President.

Mr. Zeschky, who is the first lay president for the Union, will continue through the coming year. □

British Baptists Slow Down Membership Decline

LONDON (BP)—A steady decline in membership of Baptist churches in Britain has almost been halted, the annual assembly of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland were told in sessions at Westminster Chapel here.

In a report hailed as "particularly encouraging", aggregate membership in the union's congregations was shown at 187,066—only 78 less than last year's total.

Although the number of children enrolled dropped 2,051 to 142,278, there were 2,075 more in young people's organizations with 39,009. Baptisms were down, by 108, to 5,215, a figure called "disappointing" in view of increases of recent years.

In action which led to a resolution on human rights, the assembly defined its use of the term "prisoner of conscience" as one who is "imprisoned, detained, restricted, or otherwise subjected to physical coercion or restriction by reason of his or her political, religious or other conscientiously-held beliefs," and who "neither uses nor advocates violence."

An earlier resolution, arising spontaneously but passed by an overwhelm-

(Continued on page 31)



As I see it

by Paul H. Siewert

Recently a national movement issued a bumper sticker that reads: "Prayer Can Save America". It's a special for the bicentennial year. And it certainly has a worthy message. I like it!

But I must confess I'm a little squeamish about another religious bumper sticker on the market. Let me illustrate my reason.

What impressions do you get from a bumper sticker that reads, "Jesus Makes You Free" on a car driven by a nervous chain smoker? Or what about the sticker that says, "I Found It" on a car parked in front of Joe's Bar all evening. And what about the sticker that says "I Love Jesus" on a car driven by a person you know dislikes his neighbor with an endless passion. Or the sticker that says "Jesus Saves" on a car that cuts you off on a 50 MPH speed zone being manipulated at about 75 MPH.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not against religious bumperstickers. Well, I guess I should confess they don't really turn me on all that much; but I think they're okay. If only they were allowed to minister to the one behind the wheel as well as the one behind the bumper.

As I see it, we're back to basics. The message can never be completely divorced from the messenger. And why should it be otherwise, when God ordained it so! □

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

A BICENTENNIAL INVITATION

to North American Baptists
When visiting our Nation's Birthplace
Visit our Denomination's Birthplace
Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church
9th & Luzerne Sts.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19140
Phone: (215)-225-2962
Services Each Sunday 11:00 A.M.

■ The Rev. Elmer C. Strauss, former missionary to Cameroon, is now the pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma (Cleveland), Ohio. He began his ministry there Aug. 1, 1976.

Before going to the Cameroon mission field in 1958, Rev. and Mrs. Strauss served the following N.A.B. churches: First Baptist Church, Madison

S.D. (1942-52), First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS (1952-57), Director of God's Volunteers (1957-58).

■ The Rev. Aaron Buhler, pastor of Bernal Road Baptist Church, San Jose, CA, has been elected to honorary membership to The Honor Society of the American Association of Bible Colleges.

Rev. Buhler attended the Winnipeg Bible College from 1938-42. He also is listed in the 1976 Bicentennial Edition of Who's Who in America.

■ The Rev. Earl G. Broce has resigned from his ministry to the Stafford Baptist Church, Wilsonville, Ore., where he has been pastor since 1971. He has accepted the call to a non-N.A.B. church in California.

■ The Rev. Philip Grabke has accepted the call to the Church Extension church in Brooks, Alberta. He previously served the Onoway Baptist Church, Onoway, Alberta.

■ The Rev. John Hisel, former army chaplain, is now director of church relations at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S.D., effective Aug. 15, 1976. He will be involved in student recruitment, fund raising, church relations and student field education.

■ The Rev. Fritz R. Goliath has accepted the call to Immanuel Baptist Church, St. Catharines, Ont. He previously served Bethel Baptist Church, Prince George, B.C.

■ Mr. Clair Westby is the associate in church ministries at Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa. He previously was assistant pastor at Bethany Church in Ottuma.

■ The Rev. Richard D. Lord has accepted the call of Central Baptist Church, Waco, Texas. He began his ministry there in September.

■ The Rev. Boyd Ward, pastor of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, Colo., has resigned. His future plans are not known.

■ The Rev. Wilbert Dachtler has accepted the call to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, Kansas.

■ The Rev. Irvin H. Schmuland, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, Alta., and his assistant pastor, Mr. John Hoffmann, have resigned. Their future plans are not known.

■ The Rev. Frank Brozenec, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Sheffield, Iowa, resigned on August 1 to return to his former church in Amboy, Illinois.

■ Mr. Les Ray is the new assistant pastor at Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

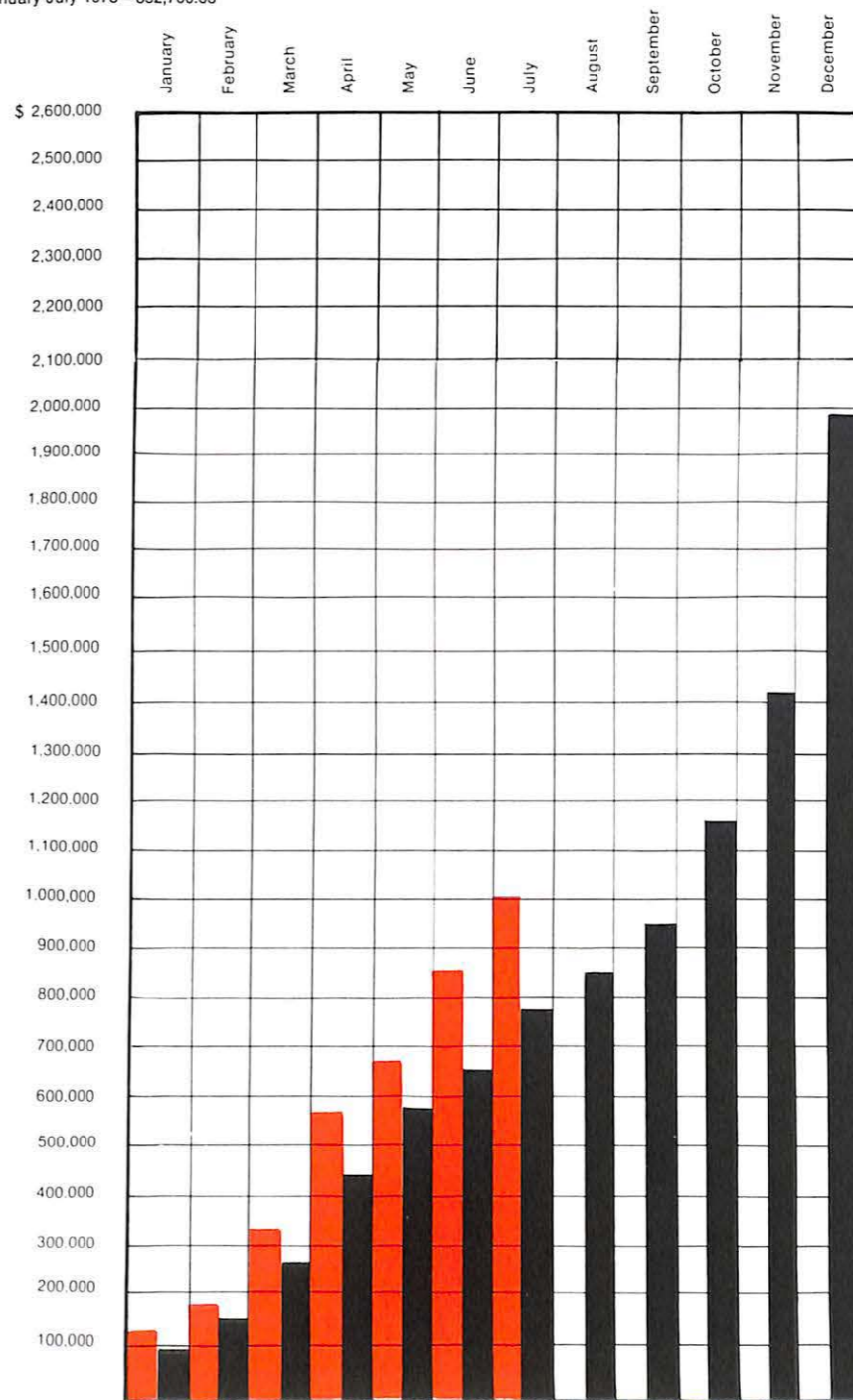
OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD/NAB BASIC MISSION PROGRAM

Total for seven months

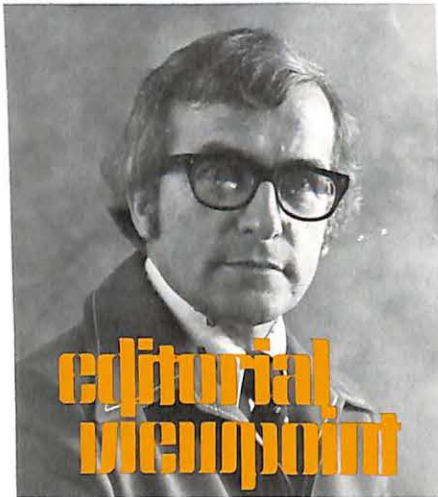
January-July 1976—1,001,142.05

Goal for 1976—\$2,524,000

January-July 1975—852,760.63



Color line for 1976 black line for 1975



editorial interpoint

PRIORITIES AT A WORTHY CONFERENCE

How do you distill the essence of a week of blessing, education and inspiration into a few hundred words that will "get through" to readers?

There is a temptation to cover the two columns of this editorial with "Praise the Lord" and "Hallelujah" repeated over and over. This might give an idea of your editor's emotional response to the 38th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist churches, but it wouldn't make very good reading and wouldn't tell you much about what went on in Portland, Oregon, from July 27-August 1, 1976.

At the very outset I have to say: It was a very peaceful, harmonious conference. The various committees involved in the planning and organization of the Triennial Conference had really done their very best. The City of Portland had arranged for the sunniest and warmest weather in years. All of the registered 2,838 delegates and visitors, therefore, felt royally treated from the very first day on.

Mr. Charles E. Colson was the keynote speaker on the opening night (July 27). He is the former special counsel to President Nixon and has served a prison term of seven months for obstruction of justice. Known to many delegates through his fascinating book "Born Again," he found the right approach to present Priorities for a Worthy Future. The conference listened attentively as Mr. Colson shared his life experience of first striving for the wrong priorities, while stepping up on the ladder of success, and then suddenly taking a deep

dive when the Watergate ghost began to haunt government officials. During that time he turned to Jesus Christ and became his relentless follower. This changed his priorities and made his otherwise dark future worthwhile again.

Mr. Colson, however, was just one of many outstanding speakers. The great variety of speakers just about guaranteed that everyone would benefit spiritually from either the Bible studies, the public personal interviews, the reports and presentations of the Conference departments and cooperating societies.

There was a multi-media presentation of the state of the N.A.B. Conference, called "A Heritage for a Worthy Future." The emphasis on a great heritage which challenges our Conference to an even greater future was taken up once more on Sunday afternoon, when students of the North American Baptist College in Edmonton presented "The Open Door." This heritage drama portrayed the role of Baptists in the making of a nation and a denomination. It demonstrated some of the ways in which North American Baptists witnessed to the European immigrants, and how the Conference established its institutions, such as the seminary, the college, orphanages and senior citizen homes.

There was a program for youth, one for children, and even the toddlers were taken care of.

The business sessions were conducted in a cordial and courteous manner. Of the most outstanding priorities discussed only a few can be mentioned here:

1. Church growth within the next Triennium.
2. An even stronger emphasis on missions overseas and at home.
3. A responsible and expanding stewardship.
4. A stronger emphasis on mutually enriching fellowship.
5. A generous aid program to the needy.
6. The establishment of a Church Extension Department with a separate board.
7. A 1978-80 Capital Funds Campaign to raise 3.2 million dollars for the combined ministries of the North American Baptist Conference.

Have I—after all—tried to list here a few of the events, decisions and experiences at the Portland conference? I should have known better and not even started doing so. Because, how do I quit now?

First, by promising that there will be further reports on the conference in the November issue.

Second, by finally doing what I wanted to write from the very beginning: "Praise the Lord" and "Hallelujah" for the 38th Triennial Conference!

RJK

open dialogue

Dear Editor:

Sent in my check for my "Baptist Herald," and also for four subscriptions for "Moments With God." Who is responsible for articles like the UNICEF and now about Martin Luther King? I thought this is supposed to be a Christian magazine, not to advertise the communist work. UNICEF is a communist organization and so was Martin Luther King a communist before he died, it's documented! The Civil Liberties Union is a communist organization, and the Council of Churches goes right along with them. Mr. Stan L. Haste doesn't know what he is talking about. Does any communist believe in a loving, just society?

My parents were born in Russia. My dad's people first went to Germany, and one brother settled with his family in East Berlin only to be enslaved the second time. Some of the children with their families left everything and fled while they could still get out.

My uncle is gone, but there are still two cousins behind that wall, if they are still alive.

This young man of 16 years from East Berlin that stayed in Canada, all he wanted was just to be free.

Too many Americans don't realize what it means to be free, they go along with anything. Lena Liedtke, Spokane, Washington.

Dear Editor:

I am not particularly excited about Richard Gorsuch's "Heavy Thinking" posters. To me they are totally meaningless and I feel the paper could be used more wisely for good thought provoking articles. Rev. Bert Harsch, Prince George, B.C.

Dear Editor:

Your "Open Dialogue", June 1976 issue, from Senator Alan Cranston, can best be described as a wolf in sheep's clothing. Senator Cranston has been an ambitious supporter of the satanic criminal Communist conspiracy. Nothing would be more precious to him than unilateral disarmament, passage of equal rights amendment, detente, etc. and etc. Sincerely, Benjamin R. Goehring.

PROBATE—WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

(Continued from page 18)

speeds up the process and reduces the expense.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The court portion of probate is not expensive unless there are complications which require many appearances. The attorneys' and executors' fees usually make up the expense. If you have probate property in another state, ancillary administration may be required with additional expense. Executors' and attorneys' fees are usually based on a fee schedule.

These paragraphs only cover the surface of the probate process. How much, if any, of your estate will be involved in probate will depend on present ownership. Whether you can or desire to avoid probate will depend upon your objectives and the law as it relates to these objectives. I strongly urge each family or individual to take time for estate planning which can save your family many problems and money as well. Consult your attorney and discuss with him your estate planning needs. We will be happy to make available to you one of our Estate Planning Counselors who will privately sit down with you to get you started with your estate planning. Some unfortunate situations have been left by loved ones which could have been avoided by good estate planning. □

* * *

This article is intended to inform and not to advise. It is not intended to apply to any specific situation.

NEWS & VIEWS

(Continued from page 28)

ing vote, recognized "the constructive, courageous and vital contribution" which Union General Secretary David Russell is making in the matter of human rights and religious liberties and urged him to continue.

Russell had stressed in his annual report that concern for social justice and for individual salvation must not be divorced from each other.

Calling on churches to take a fresh look at their mission, he said that to separate the two was to shatter the wholeness of the Christian gospel and warned that wherever its wholeness was denied—"be it in the USSR, in Chile, in South Africa, or in Britain—there Christ's church must be, struggling for that integrity, that wholeness which is the gift of God." □

YOUTH SCENE

(Continued from page 13)

that began a good work in you, will follow through according to Phillipians 1:6. What we may call an earthly "failure" may lead you to eternal "success" as you grow spiritually through adversity. Wherever you are right now in your life, God still has success planned for you.

And don't forget that when *God leads you to do something, he goes on ahead to prepare for your success!* (See John 10:4)

Discouraged? Don't let it keep you down! □

NEWS FLASH

(Continued from page 3)

GROUP AWAITING END OF THE WORLD IS EVICTED

GRANNIS, Ark. (EP)—The vigil of 24 members of a religious group ended July when federal officers arrested them for failure to make mortgage payments.

The people, holed up in a small house in this Western Arkansas community, were pale from lack of sunlight during their 10-month vigil awaiting the end of the world and the Second Coming of Christ.

"These are not the type of people to cause problems," said U.S. Marshal Lee Owen. "They're motivated by a deep religious conviction that has caused them to operate on the assumption that the Lord would come before the government could take action."

John Nance told a pre-dawn visitor on the final day, "We still believe He will come before the marshals arrive."

The members are all related by blood or marriage and include 10 children. Other sites were offered for the vigil but were refused.

Asked if he still had faith in God, Nance answered with a strong, "Yes, sir!" □

ATHEIST TO RUN

AUSTIN, Tex. (EP)—Mrs. Madalyn Murray O'Hara, atheist, says she will run for governor of Texas in 1978 in order to find out how many atheists there are in the Lone Star State. Mrs. O'Hara admitted that she will probably not win.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSURED

MADRID (EP)—Jose Borrás, dean of the Spanish Baptist Seminary and president of the Spanish Baptist Union, says he has had personal assurances from King Juan Carlos I that religious liberty will prevail in Spain. □

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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C. Free distribution	70	70
D. Total distribution	8,783	8,569
E. Office use, left over	587	360
F. Total	9,370	8,929

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chuckle with bruno

"Now that we're married my dear," said the groom, "I hope you won't mind if I mention a number of little defects that I've noticed about you."

"Not at all, dear," the bride replied sweetly. "It was those little defects that kept me from getting a better husband."

When a man and woman marry they become one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

Sign on locksmith's truck: "Drive carefully—we don't make keys to heaven."

Doctor to patient: "Your thyroid is normal. What you are suffering from is an over-active fork."

Some people get a lot of pleasure by being shocked by other people's sins.

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