

Human Rights Day—Dec. 10

The tenth day of December is observed in most parts of the world as Human Rights Day. By action of the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance, we suggest to Baptist Christians everywhere that attention be given, on this occasion, to possibilities for greater impetus to the advancement of human rights and basic freedoms for all peoples.

Our Christian faith is a faith of liberation, not only from the bondage of sin but also from enslavement to cultural, political, social, and economic bondage that is contrary to the dignity and worth of the human person.

On this Day, let us offer special prayers for those who live under circumstances where they do not have full freedom of worship, freedom to adopt or change their religion, freedom to propagate their faith.

Let us remember those who do not have freedom of association, freedom of movement, and freedom of expression, and those who have been subjected to arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and torture.

Let us pray also for those who suffer from racial discrimination, from what we hope are the last remnants of colonialism, from unequal treatment on account of their sex, age, or other such factors over which they have no control.

Our concerns must be wide enough to cover also those who suffer for lack of meaningful employment, lack of access to nutritious food, and from inadequate health care and insufficient educational preparation for life. Human rights embrace these matters also.

We must never relax in the pursuit of human rights goals. For in Jesus Christ, we find a loving concern for the whole person. We as his followers are constrained likewise.

(You may write to the Baptist World Alliance, 1628-16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009, for a mimeographed statement which shows in parallel form the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and some selected relevant Scripture passages.)

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RELEASED FROM FEAR

by Donald Ewing

AND SHE BROUGHT forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:7-11

FEAR NOT" seems a strange way to begin the first Christmas greeting. Or perhaps it's not strange at all, for fear seems to play a dominant part in the spot we're in.

Jerome Kern expressed it in the song, "Old Man River," "I get weary and sick of tryin'; tired of livin' and feared of dyin'." Tournier, the Swiss physician, says that nothing grows more readily in the human heart than fear; not one of us is free from the scars of fear. The low-voltage anxieties that are not specific as to their source or object quietly build up nervous voltage day by day until finally the intricate mechanism of our soul burns out. The sudden shocking experiences of life slash deep furrows of futility and fear right to the heart of us and leave deep scars.

If you've ever seen the cross section of a tree, you've been able to tell by the

rings what happened to the tree year by year. The years of drought and the years of too much heat are recorded, and so are the tragedies that struck the tree. They lie imbedded in the heart, covered over, but still recorded. So it is with us.

We are afraid: afraid of sickness, germs, death, and strangely enough, afraid of health and strength. We are afraid of being with people and of being alone; of being shut in and being shut out. We are afraid of wars and violence, of failure and success, and afraid of fear itself. We fear the unknown and the known. We are afraid of a thousand things and non-things. We are a frightened people.

FEAR OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Two particular types of fear are typical of our day and are most destructive. The first is the fear of disappointment. I recall one experience sharply even though I was only two. One day a friend of Dad's dropped in at our house and brought his dog with him. He had

the dog perform some simple tricks for me, and I was completely captivated by its beauty and intelligence. Dogs are show-offs that appreciate a good audience, and both master and dog were pleased by my excited reaction. The man told me, "One day soon I will come by for you and take you down to the river where you can see my dog swim out into the water and bring back sticks. You can throw sticks, and he will bring them back to you." My cup of anticipation ran over. A ride in an automobile was an adventure in those days, especially since our family didn't own one. The river seemed like such a wonderful place, far away and almost a different world—and the dog doing exceptional tricks. I was excited and waited impatiently.

But the man never came. Like so many of the off-hand promises we make to children, we mean them at the time, but we forget so easily. I did not forget, nor do the children whom we fail with our casual promises.

I suffered another disappointment at seventeen when a girl broke my heart—temporarily. She showed good sense actually, and I'm delighted to this day that she did, which sounds like sour grapes, but isn't. Then, in my mid-twenties a national athletic championship escaped me by a freak turn of events and that was a disappointment. When I was thirty-three, a man in whom I had the utmost confidence and whom I considered to be my friend turned out to lack all the qualities that could make a person a friend. I was desperately disappointed then.

There have been many other things too, small and big, but I would rather go on being disappointed than close up within myself. So many people retreat from life when they are disappointed. They refuse to make friends; refuse to fall in love; will not consider marriage; refuse to have any significant relationship with anyone else. They abdicate life as they shut themselves up in the cramped cage of their hurt: a terrible mistake, and a common one. We are disappointed in the day in which we live and afraid of the day that comes. Having been disappointed we are afraid to give ourselves to anyone or anything, and we lose the battle of life.

FEAR OF MISSING OUT

Vance Havner tells of a woman who was no longer young and who had never been really attractive. She was unmarried, and was worried about it. She decided that her chance to enter into the sublime bliss of human experience was going to pass her by, and went to her pastor for advice. The pastor hid behind a pious platitude, saying somewhat sen-

tentiously, "Well, the Lord has a plan; one woman for every man and one man for every woman and you can't improve on that." The worried lady said, "I don't want to improve on it; I want to get in on it."

This story illustrates the second fear: that we are not going to get in on it. The fear that we are going to miss the meaning in life, that somehow what life is all about may just slip away from us. I'm convinced that many of the excesses in our society, especially those occurring among our young people, are caused by fear—even their aggressive acts. They are afraid that they may live their lives without learning what life is all about; hence unrestricted alcohol, frantic sex, extreme hope, LSD, peculiar forms of dress and lack of hygiene. It is a pathetic thing to observe an intelligent human being searching fearfully, compulsively, down one blind alley after another, always ending up in a dead-end street, becoming more and more disillusioned with parents, country, ideals and ideas, school, friends, self and life. This is happening with so many people today, not only to young people, but also to those who approach middle age. They see time slipping through their hands rapidly now and wonder if they are fulfilling the promise which was in them. So many frightened people stand at the halfway mark and begin a frantic, compulsive search for meaning in the wrong way.

CONFRONTING FEAR

There is an answer. First, we must realize the part that fear plays in the way we live, that we are subject to it, and that not only we, but everyone else faces this problem. It is endemic among human beings.

Then we must recognize the source of fear. This is one of the most important things anyone of us can ever learn, and if you learn this, you can be a different person. God created man in His own image that He might have creatures who could enter into fellowship with Him. It was His custom to come in the cool of the evening to walk in close fellowship with the creatures He had created. He made for these people a wonderful environment and gave them complete freedom with the exception of the fruit of one tree.

There are many implications here for man in his present state. On the day Adam and Eve ate of this fruit, they were afraid, hiding when they heard the voice of the Lord who had come to walk with them. God called out, "Adam where art thou?" Adam came out resplendent in his ridiculous fig leaf garment, "I heard you and I was afraid."

He had never been afraid before. Whenever he heard God coming, his heart would leap up within him, but now he was afraid. He said, "I knew I was naked." God said, "How did you know? Did you eat of the forbidden fruit?" This is where fear began.

Since man disobeyed God, fear has been one of man's greatest enemies; he comes close to God, and he is afraid. Adam was afraid because he had broken God's law, and because now he stood spiritually naked as God looked on his heart. Tournier makes it clear that man is afraid because man is a sinner. Sin is the disease; fear is the symptom. It is all right to treat symptoms, but until we get to the point of treating the disease we can never remedy the condition.

THE SOURCE OF FEAR

We must recognize the basic source of fear as the lack of a right relationship to God. We are all citizens of a world out of fellowship with God, and none of us maintains the relationship that we should. Having recognized this, we must receive God's answer to fear.

There were shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night, and suddenly the night became luminous with the glory of God. The glory of the Lord shown round about them and they were caught up in the most glorious, most beautiful, most transcendently radiant experience anyone ever experienced. What was their reaction? Did they commence to sing doxologies—"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"? They did not. They huddled together and threw up their arms in weak protection against the piercing glare of the purity of God. Their minds began to recall their sins and failures; the loss of temper here, the expression of lust there, the greed, the envy, the malice. They saw themselves as shabby people. All about was the glory of God, but they saw the glory of God through the fog of their own spiritual failure. And they were afraid.

And the first word of God's messenger was directed to their immediate need, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). I have never known anyone who came face to face with God, but what he became afraid. But God says, "Fear not, I come to redeem, to save, to lift up. I have come to go to a cross to die in your place. I have come to give you eternal life." Jesus Himself summed up all of Christmas and Easter. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that who-

soever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We have passed from sin and death to life when we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Sin is the root of fear, guilt is the stalk, and fear is the poisonous flower which, when we eat it, springs up and chokes our souls. What is the answer to fear? Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, commit your way to Him and then start learning to trust Him. Give all of your life to Him, and as you do, you will find fear of what man can do to you decreasing, for God will be with you. God will be your defender, your rock and your fortress. If God gave His son, will He withhold any good thing? If He died for us, will He not preserve us? For God so loved you that He gave you His only begotten Son, that if you will believe in Him, the power of fear will be destroyed and you will have eternal life.

Early one day I unlocked and entered my church. An empty church is usually as still and quiet as a breathless night, but a sudden noise abruptly shattered the quietness and drew my nerves tight. On searching I found a large bird that had somehow come in. The noise had come from his beating against the windows, trying to reach the world of bright sky and sheltering tree that he could see, but couldn't reach. Then when I tried to rescue him, I only added to his fear. He saw me as a threatening giant, not a deliverer. I could see the frantic pounding of his heart. With terror he threw himself again and again at the invisible wall that shut him in.

Finally, I opened a window and withdrew. After a time of indecision he flew to the open window, perched for a moment on the window sill and then, feeling the fresh air of the spring morning, threw himself out into the bright sunlight and flashed away against the sky. I could feel the bird's explosive joy, the wild excitement of being set free.

The shepherds were afraid when God opened heaven's doors to them. And we are afraid too when God speaks to us—afraid that this may be another threat, another false hope. But if we come close to Jesus in honest search, we'll feel the fresh air of eternal life and truth in our souls and we shall know the truth of the angelic statement, "Unto you a Savior is born." We shall escape the prison of fear that has haunted our shut-in souls for so long and fulfill the promise of high and noble things.

The first word in the first Christmas greeting was *fear*, the second was *not*, and the next was *joy*. "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." □

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WE AS NORTH AMERICAN BAPTISTS ...

...HOLD TO THE CONGREGATIONAL FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

by David J. Draewell

The history of the church reveals the use of varied patterns of governance. While New Testament writers evidenced a desire that activities within the church be carried out in an orderly fashion, they did not set forth a complete style of church organization. Early Christian communities developed, therefore, without total uniformity in the governmental styles. Indeed, it seems that early church governance patterns reflected, in part at least, the political governance patterns which were well known to the various groups of believers within their respective communities.

The question of who should govern the church is likewise answered differently today by persons of varying traditions. The pope is the ultimate organizational authority in the structure of the Roman Catholic

Church. Other groups acknowledge the decision making authority of bishops, presbyters or congregations.

In the Preamble to the Constitution of the North American Baptist Conference, there is an unequivocal affirmation of "the congregational form of church government" as one of the "distinctive principles for which Baptists have lived and died." Despite this fact, there seems to be a lack of clarity on what this great principle means and what it does not mean, both historically and theologically, as well as what its implications are for the life of the church today.

We have already alluded to the fact that differing patterns of church government emerged early in the course of the church's history. These differing patterns have continued to the present day. It is difficult, therefore, to develop a completely cogent argument for the congregational form of church government from purely historical data. Even the churches of the New Testament do not seem to send out completely consistent signals on church government patterns.

This is not to say, however, that there is no evidence of congregational church government in the New Testament. Indeed, there are a number of significant examples of such group decision making to be found.

GROUP DECISION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The choice of Matthias to succeed the deceased and disgraced Judas as an apostle is a clear example of congregational decision. The congregation at Jerusalem, about 120 persons, first nominated two men for this office (Acts 1:23) and then cast lots to select one of them (Acts 1:26). The idea of selecting seven men to meet the daily needs of the widows in Jerusalem was considered by "the body of the disciples" (Acts 6:2). "The whole multitude" (Acts 6:5) was pleased with the plan and chose such seven persons.

It was a group decision at Antioch to send relief gifts to the Christians in Jerusalem who were suffering from famine (Acts 11:27-30). Paul and Barnabas were "sent on their way by the church" to go to Jerusalem to debate with the Judaizers (Acts 15:13). Subsequently, because "it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church," persons from Jerusalem were chosen to go with Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch to discuss this matter further (Acts 15:22).

Despite the presence of these clear examples of congregational decision making, it must be admitted that other actions relating to the New Testament church were decided by individuals or church leaders. Often expediency, rather than a well thought-out rationale, seemed to determine the pattern of governance in a particular church at a particular time.

THE CHURCH IS GOVERNED BY CHRIST

Doubtless, the strongest case for the congregational form of church government is a theological one. We must first understand that, though some Baptist writers have described the church as a democracy, strictly speaking this is not so and should not be so. Democracy, a Greek pattern, was and is based on the fundamental no-

tion of the rule of the common people. This is far from the teaching of the New Testament concerning the church. The church is not to be governed by common people . . . or even by uncommon people. Rather, the church is to be ruled by Christ. He is its Head. The church is his Body. Just as it is true of our physical beings that orderly activity results from the body making appropriate responses to the direction of its head, so also with Christ and the church. Jesus himself said to his disciples, "Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ" (Matt. 23:10).

The real question of concern, therefore, is to determine what type of organization will provide the best potential for the church to be responsive to the government of Christ. The answer to such a question depends in large measure on our understanding of what the church is. Baptists have always understood the church to be composed of persons who have been reconciled to God through Christ, who have born witness to their identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection in the waters of baptism and who desire to live under the direction of and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

EACH MEMBER IS BORN AGAIN

This is why another of the "distinctive principles" listed in the conference Preamble is "regenerated church membership." This means that, ideally so, every church member has been born again by the Spirit of God. Every member has responded with faith to God's gracious gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Every member has been adopted by God into his family. There are no second class members in the church of Jesus Christ. All are equal in their standing before God. This suggests strongly that all members of the congregation who have equal rights and privileges in God's Kingdom should also have equal rights and responsibilities in the church of Jesus Christ.

EACH MEMBER HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD

Another "distinctive principle" in the conference Preamble which reinforces the idea of the congregational form of church government is that of "soul liberty." This great truth reminds us that every person who has experienced God's saving grace has direct access to God without having to go through any human intermediaries. It also suggests that every person who has been born again by the Spirit has access to that Spirit, who Christ promised would guide him into all the truth (John 16:13). Indeed, Jesus stated that the believer not only would have access to the Spirit but that the Spirit of Truth would dwell in him.

Soul liberty further implies the right of each believer to read the Word of God and be led personally by the indwelling Spirit, who inspired the writing of Holy Scripture, to understand and follow its teachings. How could the church, therefore, have a greater opportunity of being responsive to its Head than when all its members, indwelt and guided by God's Spirit of Truth, make decisions, under the authority of God's Word, relating to its ministry?

EACH MEMBER HAS A RESPONSIBILITY

Paul's great discussion on the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Cor. 12 likewise suggests the appropriateness of the congregational form of church government. He points out that "each (member) is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (vs. 7). Although different gifts are given to different members of the congregation, "all these are inspired by the one and the same Spirit who apportions to each one individually as he wills" (vs. 11). To make sure that persons do not suggest that certain gifts carry with them a superior status in the ministry or the governance process, Paul states:

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor . . . But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another (vs. 21-23a, 24b-25).

Thus, Paul spells out differing responsibilities in ministry but complete equality of relationship for all who are gifted by the Spirit as members of the Body of Christ. The equal responsibility of each member of the congregation in ministry performance strongly implies the equal responsibility of each member of the congregation in ministry decisions.

LEADERS' ROLES—THAT OF SERVANTS

The congregational form of church government does not deny the presence of leadership roles within the church. Church leaders, whether they be lay or pastoral leaders, must always recognize that they are responsible to the congregation and not the congregation to them. The role of a leader in the church of Jesus Christ is, therefore, the role of a servant.

Who, then, should govern the church? The answer is clear: Christ should govern his church through the decisions of a congregation composed of persons who are born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, led of the Spirit and gifted by the Spirit. □

The North American Baptist Conference is known for its conservative, Bible centered Christian convictions and for its evangelistic zeal.

The Preamble to the Constitution of the Conference states the following "distinctive principles for which Baptists have lived and died" and which North American Baptists affirm:

1. Soul liberty;
2. The inspired authority of the Scriptures in matters of faith and conduct;
3. The separation of Church and State;
4. The Revelation of God through Jesus Christ as only Savior and Lord;
5. Regenerated church membership;
6. Believer's baptism by immersion;
7. The congregational form of church government;
8. The proclamation of the gospel throughout all the world.

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A CHURCH THAT GROWS MINISTERS

by John Hisel



The Rev. Arthur Brust



Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, Pastor, the Rev. Arthur Brust.



This story is about one local church . . . the Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, California, but it could be the story of many other churches! It's the story about a local church that has found the excitement and joy in creating the kind of church environment that tends to motivate men and women to enter some form of Christian ministry.

In reporting to you about what has been happening at Willow Rancho, I think it's good to keep a couple of questions in mind. And, as the story unfolds I think some answers will come.

WHAT ROLE HAS the local church played in that special "call of God" for Christian service?

and then a more personal question for you and your church . . .

WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH DOING or willing to do to create such an influential environment that youth will

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say, in commitment to the Lord, "here am I, oh God, use even me?"

Rather than ask you to read on about my opinions, I've asked several ministry-bound young people from Willow Rancho to tell their side of the story. They are products of that local church environment: Steve Corum, 1977 graduate, N.A.B.S.; Jennell Mauch, senior, N.A.B.S.; Mike Seto, 1977 graduate, N.A.B.S.; Dale Goncalves, junior, N.A.B.S.; and Steve McCord. (Pastor Art Brust reports that two more students are pre-enrolled at the North American Baptist Seminary.)

In reviewing written comments I received from these five youth, several important factors surfaced to explain, at least in part, what's happening at Willow Rancho that tends to produce candidates for the ministry. Many of these written comments are shared here under three headings: Church Atmosphere and Influence, Church Leadership, and Church Youth Intern Program.

Factor 1: Church Atmosphere and Influence

"... a lot of opportunity for involvement . . . youth leader, leading Bible studies, being on planning committees, choir, home Bible studies and participation in the worship services."

"... church allows me to explore my abilities, talents and gifts. They gave me responsibility with accountability."

"... openness to new ideas."

"... the church as a whole influenced me considerably. Several lay people told me they felt I had the gifts for full-time ministry. Their support of me both spiritually and financially was important in deciding for the ministry."

"... the church people were very encouraging and accepting. I was allowed to preach and teach adults and youth throughout my college years. I knew I did not always do the best job but just being able to have these opportunities meant a lot to me. It showed me that they cared enough to let me make mistakes and learn from them."

"... the atmosphere of the church was one of willingness to support new leadership . . . Loving concern, instruction and advice provided me with an opportunity to succeed."

Factor 2: Church Leadership

"... The person who has had the biggest influence on my life is our pastor, from working with him and then observing him in many different circumstances. His attitudes and actions have given me a very positive image of what it is like to serve God in every aspect of my life."

"... the pastor took the initiative and asked me to get involved."

"... being involved with people through the church is the best way I know of to help a person decide on full-time Christian work."

"... both pastor and associate pastor

recognized certain gifts I had for ministry and reinforced me."

"... the pastor's personal interest, concern and love were major factors."

Factor 3: Church Youth Intern Program

"... the clincher that helped me decide on going into Christian work was being a high school intern for 21 months. The program allowed me to learn to teach Bible classes, how to visit people in their homes, to plan activities for high school kids, and it gave me a taste of what it is like to reach out to other people concerning the person who had done most for my life, Jesus Christ."

"... a person must be college-age and going to school, interested in going into Christian work. It is a paid position (part or full-time) and the exposure a person gets just to the staff of the church alone is worth it."



Steve Corum



Mike Seto



Dale Goncalves



Jennell Mauch

"... the main program at Willow Rancho that seems to encourage youth to enter the ministry is the Youth Intern Program."

"... The intern program gave us a feel for the ministry and gave us an opportunity to see if we could fit into a church setting. This opportunity to learn and earn is of immeasurable value in preparing youth for seminary."

"... The church was willing to invest time, money, and themselves in me as a youth intern."

Christians have wrestled with the various components in knowing the will of God throughout the years. For those waiting upon God to discern his will on a special call to the Christian ministry the time in wrestling can become doubly troubling.

The local church is being used of God as a spiritual greenhouse where young lives are being cultivated for his service and glory. But, this cultivation doesn't just happen. A lot of people must care a whole lot and put that caring into visible forms! □

clip and mail

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Steve McCord, not pictured

"There is one thing still left to do before our young people are ready to leave on their trip to our Spanish-American Field in Colorado."

There was a hush over the audience as these words were spoken by Pastor "Chuck" Hiatt of First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, on Saturday evening, July 30, to the members of the congregation, gathered on the church lawn and participating in a "send-off" service. After words of encouragement by Bennie Fauth, member of the Deacon Board, and special music, Pastor Hiatt gave a challenge based on the incident recorded in Acts 16:26, where Paul and Silas were unable to minister to others about Jesus until the "bands had been loosed," as a result of an earthquake which shook the prison and released the two men from their bonds. Then the 27 young people and six adults who were included in the CMME project had their hands tied together with pieces of rope and only after volunteer prayer partners stepped out of the audience and untied the ropes of the one they had chosen to remember, symbolizing their prayer support, were they ready to begin on this exciting tour. Prayers were offered for special guidance and protection on the roads, for the health of all those who were going along, for the programs that would be given, especially in the musical selections. A close bond was formed that evening which was to grow stronger day by day and prove to be a great blessing to all of those who took part. The ladies served cookies and kool-aid

Mrs. Otto Bleeker is a member of First Baptist Church, Emery, SD.

at the time of fellowship which closed this very unique service!

The Colorado Musical Mission Experience was the result of many months of planning and prayer by the young people as they were led by Pastor Hiatt, Dan and Arlis Van Gerpen, their youth director, and Warren and Dar Weeldreyer, their local sponsors. As a youth choir, they presented a concert, "Gonna Keep On Singin'," at their own church and several of the area churches. Musical numbers, testimonials, skits and a message of challenge by Pastor Hiatt were included in the programs given prior to the trip. The congregation became involved as they were asked to save dimes for a period of five months to assist in the financial preparation. A total amount of \$618.00 was offered at a special dedicatory service called "Dimes for Colorado" on June 26. Of this amount, the sum of \$340.00 came from the young people themselves. The young person who saved the most dimes was exempt from all KP duty on the trip!

A car wash was sponsored on the evening of the Sunday school picnic at the city park which together with the sale of ice cold watermelon netted the "hard working guys and gals" a nice sum of \$239.47! The offerings received on the evenings of the concerts were also an evidence of the interest of all those who heard the group. As the plans progressed, there was a mounting spirit of enthusiasm throughout the entire congregation, resulting in a growing rapport between the young people and the church fellowship.

A caravan of 10 cars and one pickup truck transported the CMME group on July 31 to Norfolk, NB, where they left on a chartered bus for Ellinwood, KS. Along with their luggage they brought 40 gallons of paint (donated by members and friends of the church), hammers, saws and other tools; approximately 150 dozen cookies baked by the

busy "Martha's" of the church for their snack times!

Their first concert was presented that same Sunday evening at First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS. The Rev. M.D. Wolff, pastor, and his family enjoyed this special time with the young people as they are the former pastoral family of Emery. The night was spent here . . . the girls sleeping at the parsonage and the guys in the church basement.

Monday found the chartered Arrow bus and its occupants on the road to Center, CO, arriving at Faith Baptist Church at 8:30 p.m. This church was so kind as to allow the group to use the facilities for the rest of the week to prepare meals and as a place to unroll the sleeping bags for the nights of "rest." The group was very well organized, having a committee of three to be the cooks and prepare the sandwiches for the noon lunches besides the breakfasts and suppers, also four girls who took care of the laundry at the laundromat across the street from the church, washing 15 loads of clothes on Thursday and then folding and ironing afterwards.

The Rev. David Keiry, missionary, had arranged for a painting job for the Bethel Baptist Church of Del Norte and also a roofing job. Much to his delight, these jobs were completed in record time by the ambitious young people. On Tuesday evening, following the first work day, a Mexican Style supper was served by the ladies of the Center church. A game of volleyball and sharing through singing, particularly in being taught the words to a Spanish song by Joe Cisneras made for a good time of getting acquainted with the Spanish-American young people. The group cherish their friendship with Joe, a Spanish-American, a student at Adams State College who lives at Center with his parents during the summer. Joe composes many of his own songs and

one of the favorites of the group was "Working for the Master."

Wednesday was designated as "a day off." A sight seeing trip in Sand Dunes National Park plus some trail climbing was enjoyed by everyone. The concert planned for Wednesday evening at Monte Vista was an opportunity to meet Dr. and Mrs. Earl Ahrens who are in charge of the clinic. It was heartwarming to observe the faithfulness and love of this couple in spite of the opposition and trying situations they encounter. Many felt joy and deep gratitude in their hearts as they saw Kimberley, a five-year old girl, step forward and express her desire to accept Christ as Savior when the invitation was given by Pastor Hiatt. Her name was added to the prayer lists of the group members; certainly there was "much joy in heaven."

Two houses in Del Norte received paint jobs on Thursday, one house belonging to the Medina family, who are friends of the Bethel Baptist Church. While the "laundresses" were busy getting all the clothes nice and clean, other choir members were doing door-to-door visitation and extending invitations to the evening concert. "Spanish cookies" were served after the concert.

Some finishing work on a house in Center was completed on Friday morning by 10 choir members while the rest canvassed the area to invite people to the final concert in the San Luis Valley on Friday evening. Other activities of the day included a tour of the potato factory and organizing into groups to clean the church (after being allowed to live there all week) before the concert. Gracious hospitality was shown again to the group with a treat of watermelon and a sharing time. It was "good-bye" to the missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. David Keiry and their family, and to the Spanish-American people, whom they had grown to know and love.

The trip to Colorado Springs on Saturday included a stop at Royal Gorge, a time of thrills for all! Attending the Sunday morning service at the Air Force Academy Chapel and the evening service at Crossroads Baptist Church, Denver, CO, were two highlights of the trip home. The Wayne Heitzman family of Crossroads Baptist (former members of First Baptist, Emery, SD) opened their home to the group as they stayed overnight in Denver. Monday evening found the CMME group presenting the last concert of their tour at Sherwood Park Baptist Church, Greeley, CO, the home church of Pastor Hiatt. A tour of the Black Hills on Tuesday and spending the night at South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD, brought the group closer to home. They were a tired but oh, so excited, group as they arrived in Emery on August 10.

The Church members were very appreciative of the sharing program on Sunday evening, August 14, as they viewed slides of the trip and listened to the young people express their enthusiastic comments about the trip. They said they would be remembering so many things like . . .

- "the joy in seeing 'Kimberley' come forward . . . the struggle going on in one of the Spanish-American teenage girls, as she was trying to decide whether to attend the CMME concert or to go inside the doors of a bar across the street . . . the terrific job the sponsors had done on the entire trip . . . the assurance they had had of the prayers of their prayer partners while they were gone . . . the realization of the power of prayer in so many ways . . ."

Church members also gave testimonies about how the project had given them a renewed interest in the mission work and how they in turn appreciated so much the cards they had received

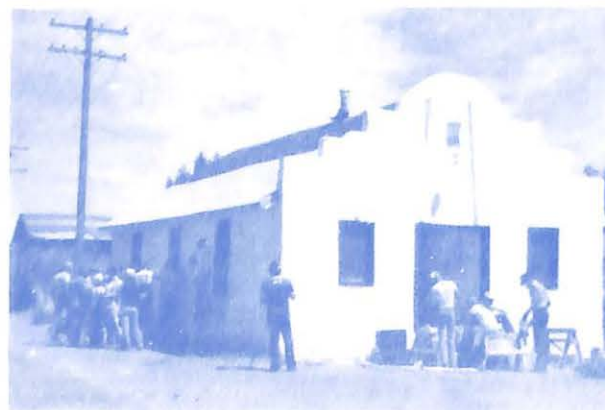
from the young people while they were away from Emery. Pastor Hiatt also reported that it was a "surprise" to him when he saw that they were ministering not only to the Spanish-American people but also to the missionary families who are many times in need of encouragement. He read two letters that he had received from the mission since arriving home, expressing again their sincere thanks for the love and concern shown to all of them the previous week. (Missionary Keiry had called the Emery church on Sunday morning, August 7, before the morning service, to let the people at home know how thrilled they had been with the ministry of the CMME young people while they had been at Center.)

Dan Van Gerpen thanked the church for the fine support in prayer and other ways. Warren Weeldreyer presided at a short question and answer time. He also challenged anyone of the church to take a similar trip to the mission field and become personally acquainted with the needs there. Pastor Hiatt spoke briefly from Psalm 103, one of the Scriptures he had used at the presentations, stressing that the main purpose of the tour had been to share the joy of knowing Jesus . . . as expressed by the psalmist when he said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul!" The youth choir sang a number of songs, including "How Great Is Our God" in Spanish and a favorite of Dan, "And Can It Be?" A time of fellowship followed in the fellowship hall, including a farewell service for Dan and Arlis Van Gerpen, who left the next morning for their new assignment at Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, MT.

(Continued on page 31)

Colorado, here we come

by Mrs. Otto Bleeker



... the roof the the Del Norte Church half finished.



Youth working on Del Norte Church roof.



... painting a new church sign.



Concert at Sherwood Baptist Church, Greeley, CO.



... painting the Medina's home.



Our great and patient sponsors: Pastor and Mrs. Chuck Hiatt, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Van Gerpen, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Weeldreyer.



Faith Baptist Church, Center, CO, where the group ate and slept.



... ready to board the bus in Norfolk, NE.



new houseparents for missionary children

by Fred Folkerts

Introducing the Rev. and Mrs. Reinhard Neuman, houseparents, Woyke House, Jos, Nigeria.

Rev. and Mrs. Reinhard Neuman are presently the busy houseparents of a dozen missionary children at Woyke House, in Jos, Nigeria. They left Capilano Baptist Church in Edmonton in April 1977, where Mr. Neuman was pastor, to become missionary houseparents for children of North American Baptist missionaries in Cameroon and Nigeria. As they left for Nigeria, he said, "I have never felt more thrilled about service than the opportunity afforded us at this time in Nigeria. I have been in the service of my country for several years overseas, but now in the name of Jesus it is our privilege to serve in a unique capacity."

Woyke House in Jos, Nigeria, is a home away from home for missionary children. The Neumans are responsible for providing room, board, recreation, family life and spiritual guidance for N.A.B. missionary children while they attend Hillcrest School. They face a variety of new problems, but they say, "God has given us the gift of faith and the promise of grace to compensate for the unknown. We have thanked him many times over for just being God, Father, and Savior to us since we have been out here."

The Neumans are not new to our missionary family. In 1948 they were ap-

pointed as missionaries to the Indians in Canada and served for 15 years on two Indian Reservations in Alberta and one in Saskatchewan. They have served three different churches in our Conference in Canada.

Reinhard was born in Jansen, SK, on Nov. 17, 1918. He grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 12. He was baptized and received into the fellowship of the Baptist church at Esk. After attending public school, Reinhard enrolled at the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton. It was a time of spiritual growth as well as preparation for future missionary service. Before he was able to graduate, he was called into the Canadian Armed Forces where he served for four years, two of them in Europe. He returned to Canada in 1945. At the Christian Training Institute, Reinhard met Mildred Weisser. Their friendship soon led to romance. On April 7, 1942, they were married. During the years of their marriage they have been blessed with five children: Gloria, Gail, Conrad, Timothy, and Sheldon. Sheldon is a senior in high school and is with his parents at Jos where he attends Hillcrest School.

Mildred Weisser was born near Camrose, AB, on July 27, 1923. She remembers with much joy and pleasure the experiences in her Christian home which led her to give her heart to the Lord at the early age of ten. She was subsequently baptized and received into the membership of the Camrose Baptist Church. She attended the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton where she met and married Reinhard.

What is the Neumans' purpose for missionary service at Woyke House? In their own words they say, "To exem-

plify Jesus. To teach his truths and live them before the boys and girls ranging from 9-17 years of age and give them genuine love, care, protection and guidance that God expects of us."

What is it like to leave family and friends? The Neumans say, "Very difficult! You can never replace family, not even some friends." Reinhard says, "I had this experience before when serving in the Armed Forces, but Aunt Mildred (as she is known now), experiencing it for the first time, found the change almost beyond endurance. But together we weathered the storm of leaving home, family, friends and church. Just being together, and being agreed, kept us moving in the same direction (Amos 3:2)."

Mildred says, "Praise God, we are slowly getting used to our new work here in Nigeria. The change from an active pastor's wife to this has been a very big adjustment for me. I think loneliness has been my biggest battle, but God's grace has been and will be sufficient. I enjoy the Nigerian people, and since God is the one who has placed us here, I know all will be well."

The Neumans say, "We are now here and believe us, God makes no mistakes. The new work is very different from our Inidan missionary work, or our pastorates in Edmonton and two other cities in Alberta. It's very different, but exciting and challenging. To know we are workers together with God and many other fellow missionaries in Cameroon and Nigeria makes us deeply grateful. At our age, we could be the envy of many out there in Canada and the U.S. We thank God, our mission, and our churches for making our service possible. What a great privilege and honor to be servants of Jesus!"

2,445 Decisions for Christ in Brazil Crusade

by Karen Kaiser

What better day to find liberty in Christ than on Independence Day! And that's just what happened to more than 200 people here in Porto Alegre as the anniversary of Brazil's birth on September 7 marked the beginning of the largest Baptist crusade ever to occur in this the capital city of Rio Grande do Sul. And that was just the beginning.

Two large Baptist groups; the Brazilian Baptist Convention and the German Baptist Convention joined forces to bring the Gospel message to the thousands of people of the greater Porto Alegre area, through the use of a five-day Crusade, the theme being "Re-encounter With God."

The Crusade preacher was Pastor Nilson Fanini, from Niterior, Rio de Janeiro; pastor of the largest Baptist Church in Latin America. He has preached in 157 countries throughout the world and worked with Billy Graham during his Brazilian Crusade.

Mrs. Karen Kaiser is a N.A.B. missionary in Brazil.

He was the speaker at a special 3rd of July (1977) gathering in Minneapolis which Dick and Beth Rabenhorst, missionaries in Brazil, participated in while on furlough.

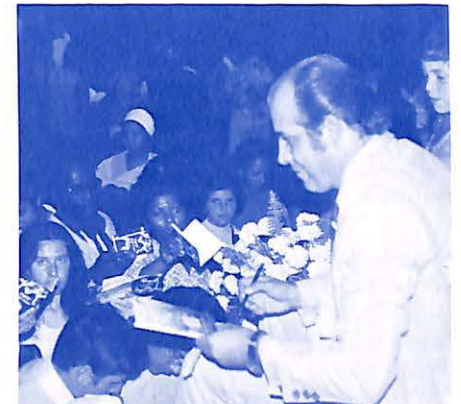
For weeks before the Crusade, Porto Alegre was being prepared. Posters, banners and bumper stickers called out the invitation to "search for the re-encounter with God" . . . they could be seen throughout the city: in store fronts, on telephones poles, in car windows, on the doors and windows of houses everywhere. Youth groups divided up the city and went door-to-door giving personal invitations. As the Crusade neared there were television announcements. And there was prayer . . . some churches held all-night vigils, others set aside an hour each morning where believers gathered and prayed for the salvation of many.

Our N.A.B. missionaries, Dick and Beth Rabenhorst and children, Murrey, Marcus, and Melody attended the Crusade, as did Richard and Karen Kaiser.

(Continued on page 29)



Karen Kaiser sang in Crusade choir.



Dr. Nilson Fanini talking with some who made decisions during the Crusade.

SEEING GOD WORK

by Beth Bleeker and Marlene Ginter

"The children really enjoyed your Bible clubs, and they want to come to your Sunday school. But we're not the type of parents who will just send their children. We also want to attend. Will there be an adult Bible class?"

"Yes, we'd be interested in attending your Sunday school here in Southdale."

"I believe a Sunday school would be really welcome here. I'd like to have my children attend one right in their own community."

"Please let us know when you will be starting the adult Bible study."

These are some of the responses we received as we surveyed the community of Southdale to determine the interest of the people in establishing a local church. What an exciting way to spend a summer! God gave us the opportunity to work in church extension. All through

Beth Bleeker and Marlene Ginter were members of 1976-77 God's Volunteers and served this past summer in church extension survey work in Winnipeg, MB.

the summer he encouraged us and blessed our efforts!

Our work began June 1 under the sponsorship of the Manitoba Baptist Association. Our main purpose was to assess the interest in establishing a church in Southdale, a community on the southeastern edge of the city of Winnipeg. The people are basically non-church goers. Only one church is presently established in the community. Southdale is a growing community comprised of predominantly younger families with children.

The organizational plan of action for the summer included four phases: 1) BLITZ—Distributing flyers throughout the community stating who we were and what our purpose was. 2) SURVEY—A questionnaire concerning the individual's church background and possible interest in becoming involved through children's clubs and adult Bible studies. 3) PROSPECT CALLING—Recalling on people who indicated an interest through the survey questions. 4) BIBLE

(Continued on page 29)

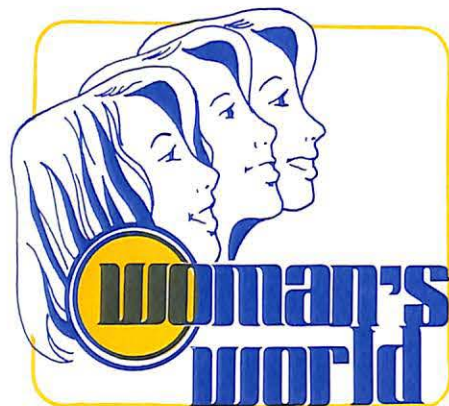


Beth Bleeker and Marlene Ginter



Excited children at the Bible club.

Fred Folkerts is associate secretary for overseas missions, North American Baptist Conference.



Homes For Christmas

by Ardath Effa,
Benton Harbor, MI

"Home for Christmas!" These are some of the sweetest words ever spoken and more often a dream than a reality for missionaries. So to compensate for the impossibility of being "home for Christmas," most missionaries get together to spend the holiday in as "homelike" a manner as possible with traditional food, decorations and gift exchange. However, in a country like Brazil where December is summertime, not much can be done about the traditional snow and cold! It's kind of fun, though, to spend Christmas Eve out caroling in shirt sleeves, enjoying the warm night air or Christmas Day having a watermelon feed on the lawn!



The Effas, L to R: Jerilyn, Ardath, Allan and Herman

"Homes for Christmas!" What a worthwhile project for our W.M.U. During our last eight years in Brazil, we were privileged to live in the only mission-owned home we have in that land. What woman is there who doesn't desire to have a home of her own? The next best thing to owning a home of your own as a missionary, which is highly improbable, is to live in a mission-owned home. There are many advantages to the mission and mis-

sionary alike. Let me share these with you.

First of all, rent is very high so a lot of money is being sent each month which could better be used toward the purchase of a home.

Because rent is so high and the rental allowance in the budget is limited, many times an inadequate apartment or house which is too small or located in a bad area is all that is available for missionary housing especially in the bigger cities. A home that can be purchased by the mission can be chosen according to location, taking into consideration proximity to good schools as well as its suitability to the needs of a missionary family.

If a missionary lives in a rented home, he needs to give it up and store all of his belongings elsewhere when he goes home on furlough. When he returns to the field, he is again faced with finding a suitable home and, since these are scarce, it could take several moves from temporary living quarters until he is finally settled down again.

Most homes in Brazil need a lot of fixing up and "adding to" to make them livable. Screens must be put on the windows (most missions require this as a health standard), some kind of kitchen cupboards and clothes closets installed; windows curtained; light fixtures purchased, etc., much of this at the missionary's personal expense. In a rented home, these can only be installed temporarily or left in the home as a "gift" to the owner when the missionary leaves. He also may not be able to use these items in the next home so suffers personal loss each time he moves. In the mission home, we were able to build kitchen cabinets and clothes closets, put in a heating system, screen the windows and do many other improvements which became permanently part of the home and also increased the value of the mission property.

In Brazil, as in most foreign countries, a telephone is purchased at well over \$1,000.00. If purchased for a mission-owned home, it is permanently installed. If purchased for a rented home, the telephone must be sold when the missionary goes home on furlough and vacates his house; on his return, he may have to wait up to two years to get one again.

Because of inflation, the cost of a home in Brazil is ever increasing. It will take real sacrifice on the part of everyone to have enough funds to buy another mission home, but we can do it! Let's do our part in providing missionary "homes for Christmas" and fill a real need for our mission and our missionaries.

Missionary Christmases in Japan

by Joan Stoller,
Tokyo, Japan

This is the twenty-first Christmas I will be spending here in Japan but is the first I'll spend with my husband and son as a missionary. Until now I have spent Christmas here as an MK (missionary kid), but now I'm looking forward to the holidays with the new family unit in which God has placed me. With the birth of our son, Jonathan, this spring, the meaning of the word "family" has come to mean something new to Ron and me. The birth of Jesus must have given Joseph and Mary a similar feeling of being a family unit that first Christmas night.

Christmas for us this year will be spent in the largest city in the world—Tokyo. We are living in a home rented for us while we are studying the Japanese language. The special North American Baptist women's project for this year, helping to provide missionary housing, will be especially meaningful to us as we think of our "home" this Christmas. Though our home may be in a foreign country, God has provided for us a "home" to enjoy because of you at "home" in the States and Canada who are willing to give to make it possible.

We find it exciting to think of the

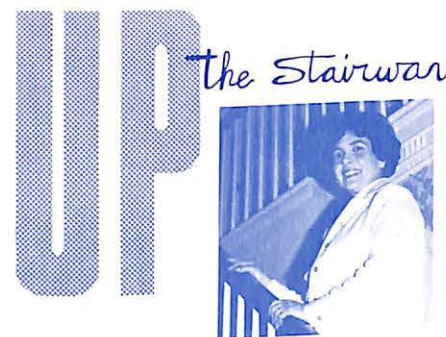


The Stollers: Ron, Jonathan and Joan

coming of the Christmas season, not only for personal reasons, but because here in Japan Christmas gives us one of the best opportunities we have all year for sharing the Gospel. All Japanese enjoy talking about Christmas and celebrating it in their own particular way, but very few know the real meaning and significance of it. Most missionary wives here find their ovens very busy making hundreds of cookies for the Christmas season. We have found people anxious to visit our homes to find out how

"Americans celebrate Christmas." This gives us a wonderful opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas. When packing our boxes to come back to Japan this summer, I made sure I included plenty of ingredients for my Christmas cookies, as I feel they are part of the missionary tools or equipment I will need in December.

The days of December are full of excitement in any home, but we look forward to being in a new community this Christmas where we will have the chance to share this meaningful season with some new people. For me, it has been a rare thing to have a free evening in December with no Japanese friends at the home. We pray that this year will be no exception. In my family, when I was growing up, one evening early in December was always reserved for making decorated cookies as a family. Everyone participated, even if the smaller children could only put on a few decorations. We, as missionary families, have fun working together in our homes in Japan to make Christmas a time we remember. Our desire is that our Japanese acquaintances can some day celebrate in their homes with the same true happiness we have in our Lord. Thank you, ladies, for assisting in supplying the "homes" for our Christmases.



by Dorene Walth, W.M.U.
president, Sioux Falls, SD

Lord, what Christmas gifts could I give to that relative in my own family circle who is a spiritual alien? You know how I've prayed and how I always try to say the right thing at the right time. I even try to "set things up" so that my dear loved one will be exposed to your Word and your people!

Still, all I've observed in return is open and/or subtle rebellion. I'm tired of being ignored and put down by this seemingly uncaring loved one. I'm taken for granted and I don't feel that my heart can be in gift giving for this one

this year. Buying and bribery tactics do not even work to draw attention to you!

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus (John 1:35-42). It sounds so simple in the Scriptures. What am I doing wrong? Please help me.

(Later) Thank you, God, for your insight and reminder that you are in control of this situation. Through a short story you informed me that you may choose unusual circumstances and OTHER people to rescue my loved one. I cannot be the Holy Spirit in his life!

As for the gifts I can give, I now realize that prayer and love are the finest gifts of all! As I have tried to love my dear relative, I have not been tolerant and accepting of the person, as is. Suddenly, I see that LOVING someone is ACCEPTING him—and releasing him to you. You will perform your miracles in that life in your time.

I shall give love, and I shall give myself to more effective prayer for this dear soul. I will ask you to rescue my kin from sin and selfishness and then to give him your energy, your health and your joy. What a wonderful gift!

"Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven; it comes down from God, the Creator of the heavenly lights, who does not change or cause darkness by turning" (James 1:17).

The Joy of Giving

by Ruth Stuerle,
Kelowna, BC



One of my favorite verses of Scripture is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." It is God's love and what he has done for me that compel me to give.

In 2 Cor. 9:7 we read, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, SO LET HIM GIVE; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful GIVER."

There are several aspects of giving that I would like to share with you. I believe that the first thing that comes to mind when we think of giving is money. How important and necessary it is for us as Christians to give God that which belongs to him. We are often tempted to spend all that we wish to and then give him what is left. God does not want our "leavings." Someone said, "The evangelization of the world is too important a matter to be left until everything else has been provided for." Acts 20:35b

reads, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Being taught to give is a lesson in life I will never forget. I recall as a child we were taught to give our very best. We didn't get an allowance or have much compared to children today. It is up to us as parents to teach our children the importance of giving. Some of us began our giving on a penny basis and have never outgrown the habit.

Matthew 12 tells of the poor widow who gave all that she had. Do we really do our very best? We often sing the song, "Give of Your Best to the Master," but only give what is left over.

God also expects us to give of ourselves. I have learned so much from our daughter who is now a teenager. She is a very generous person by nature. She never seems to get tired giving of herself and doing things for others. Time and time again I have experienced the joy and satisfaction God gives when we give.

Time is another important part of giving. We are living in a day when there just isn't enough time. God wants us not only to spend time with him but also for him. Many things that God wants done are not being done because everyone says, "I haven't the time." All service requires a faithful stewardship of time and a careful planning of the day. It takes time to prepare a Sunday school lesson and teach it. It takes time to go to choir practice and to sing. It takes time to do personal work. For the past five years I have been working with the girls' club in our church. Often I have asked myself, "Is it worth all the time and effort?" How faithful God is, as he is always there to give new joy and strength. "Give and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38a). My prayer is that God would continue to use me as I make myself available to him. □

Giving, a Privilege

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director



We thank God for additional missionaries who have responded to the call of God and are serving in Brazil and in Japan. It is our privilege as women to give, for our December project, toward the need of purchasing or building homes for missionaries on both fields.



Good News Ambassadors in Bamenda with missionaries, the Holzimmers and Ruby Salzman.



Rod Poppinga leading a workshop on the Sunday school.

The lives of the Good News Ambassadors were changed as they traveled and ministered three weeks in Cameroon.

The questions, the excitement and the anticipation of going to Cameroon transformed into understanding, thrill and realization as the Good News Ambassadors traveled and ministered for three weeks from Victoria to Mbem. It was a joyful and unforgettable journey.

We participated in worship services, conducting workshops on youth, Sunday school, evangelism and church growth, and presented rally programs. In the rallies alone, more than 11,000 people attended, with the largest crowds being about 1,000. We provided leadership for 30 different gatherings in addition to sharing in fellowships, visiting government officials, tribal chiefs, schools and hospitals.

As we left Cameroon, we were aware of six persons who had accepted Christ during the rallies. Further results of the visit are still being reported. We praise God for his blessing and guidance in our activities.

The following testimonies will express in more detail what the experience meant to some of the 15 who made up the team. As you read these testimonies, consider what part you would like to have in supporting our mission work in Cameroon and in helping to meet the remaining \$2,400 of the special project for the Good News Ambassadors ministry in Cameroon.

The Rev. Bruce A. Rich is general director of the church ministries department, N.A.B. Conference.



Bruce Rich sharing greetings with the Belo Baptist Church.



An impromptu children's rally on the church steps in Victoria.

"Cameroon, Africa, has to be one of the richest experiences I've had in my life. It was a thrill to meet and talk with hundreds of Cameroonian people about their faith in Jesus Christ and how he has changed their lives. It was a challenge to me not to take my faith in Christ for granted. It was also very interesting to learn about and experience different customs in this country. It was a history class in itself.

"Working with the missionaries and seeing them in action was a thrill. I had missions and missionaries stereotyped in my mind, but after being in Cameroon, I realize that missionaries are people like you and me with the same kind of problems we face each day. There is a big need for workers in Cameroon in all areas, not just teaching or preaching but also in agriculture, in nursing, administration and many other ways.

"After returning home I was asked: Would you be willing to serve in Cameroon, Africa? Well, my answer is this, if God leads me there and the doors open, yes, I would. But the most important thing to remember is the willingness, because God uses those who are willing.

"When someone mentions Cameroon, Africa, to me now, I can reply, 'It's great! It was the richest experience in my life!'

—Kathy Sharp"

"My impressions of Cameroon are still fresh and will probably stay fresh in my mind for many years.

"In being selected for the tour I knew God had something great in store for me. Being in such a primitive area, and all the new and different things around me, I learned to depend on God more

CAMEROON REFLECTIONS

by Bruce Rich

is, ever opened yourself to the possibility of missions for you?

—Dixie Potratz"

and more. The things that impressed me the most about Cameroon were the friendliness of the people and how hungry they were to hear the word of God through song! In our country no one would trek for three days just to hear a concert by a new and different group.

"I feel God will call a few of the Good News Ambassadors members to Cameroon, but as for me, I have four years of college to complete; then I'll see where God will lead. God blessed me so many times on the tour and I thank him that I was a part of it.

—Dan Gast"

"Lord, take my whole life, but please don't send me to Africa. This was my prayer as I dedicated my life to the Lord. To me, Africa was the worst place in the world that the Lord could send me. Why did I feel this way? I really didn't understand what Africa—Cameroon—was really like.

"When I saw the beautiful landscape of Cameroon, it almost took my breath away; and when I saw the Cameroonians' need for trained leaders and the dedicated service of the missionaries, God changed my heart.

"I observed the missionaries closely to study their different styles of working with people. In interacting with the missionaries, they told me of some of the problems that they face. Most of the problems that they were telling me are the same problems our churches in North America face. One of the biggest problems is people living an inconsistent Christian life. That is why there is a deep need for experienced pastors to say 'yes' to the mission field.

"My deep, dark fear of Cameroon is gone. God changed my heart. I am opening myself to the possibilities of missions. As I go into seminary this fall, I can say, Lord, take my whole life, and I'll go anywhere you want me to go.

"Have you, no matter what your age

"My life will never be the same because of my trip to the Cameroon. I was impressed with many things: the beautiful country, the missionaries, the people and the Good News Ambassadors. Cameroon is gorgeous, very lush, green and mountainous. The missionaries are top-notch people, whose dedication to the Lord is evident in the job they are doing. The culture is very different from our society, especially the sanitation, food, transportation and roads.

"The Cameroonians were very friendly and hospitable to our team. The youth are very respectful of their elders. The clothing is modest and very colorful. I was impressed with the large crowds that attended our concerts and their reception of the Word of God.

"Under the excellent leadership of 'Big Massah,' Bruce Rich, and 'Little Massah,' Bob Walther, God richly blessed each member of the team. Our devotional time was truly a highlight in my life. The Lord has shown me a tremendous need for medical, administrative, and evangelistic people in Cameroon. If he continues to lead, after my training is complete, I would like to help fill one of these needs.

"I would like to thank many people for helping make this trip possible: the North American Baptist Conference for the arrangements, my church and my parents for their prayers and support and the Lord for his watch care over me.

—Christine Salzman"

"I thank God for allowing me the opportunity to be a member of the Good News Ambassadors team. I'm thankful for the chance to see new cultures with their different customs, for the chance to eat the fu-fu, jami-jami and even the fish-head soup with its palm oil, for the chance to ride with 19



"Jesus Christ Gives Living Water," this truth is symbolized through the continuous running spring water at New Hope Settlement. Laura Reddig and the team share in a brief service here.



Missionary Susan Krier and Bob Walther leading a "parade."

people in the Toyota van. There were many varied and interesting experiences. It was a pleasure to meet the many fine Cameroonians and the missionaries and to see how they really live and the fine life that they do have.

"Most of all I was impressed by the universal love which God gives his people: First, on the team between all the members, there was a genuine care and concern for each other and all our needs, and second, from the missionaries who housed us, provided meals and constantly gave. And of course, the Cameroonian people gave us the best of all they had. They were genuine in their thankfulness and appreciation of our visit and in their love of God. It's so neat when you have all these people with a common goal: to love and serve God who was willing to die for us.

"I also was challenged by the various needs that I saw. Our mission is doing a great job, but we need more support both financially and people willing to work. We have so much. It really would be easy to do without much of what we have. As far as personal commitment, if the Lord wants me in Cameroon, I am no longer scared of it. I would be willing to go there. I'm thankful that I was able to serve on this tour.

Norm Stork"

From others we have received these words of encouragement:



The Toyota van Taxi, "Psalm 23," provided excellent, though crowded traveling.



A small market where some of the team purchased umbrellas to ward off the daily rain.

"Dear Wonderful People,
"Thank you too much for coming to visit us. Your lovely, lively, enthusiastic and varied, inspirational and blessing-filled programs were a real boost and blessing to all of us. God's love really shone through your faces, your testimonies, your songs. And I'm more thankful than ever that I'm a part of the Family of God.

"May he lead you safely home and back into your schools or jobs and families. My warmest greetings to all our wonderful N.A.B. people for making this all possible and for the churches and people who sponsored you. As you come down from the mountaintop experiences, trust him to keep your feet steady and eagerly going on for Jesus. Love to all.

—Laura Reddig"

One twelfth grader said, "You were an encouragement to the youths because it caused us to see we could do something as youth if we really tried!"

Excerpts from a pastor's letter: "Your visit here in Cameroon with your team had brought a very good spiritual improvement in the life of the Christians.

"After your departure from the church on June 8, more than 22 people dedicated their lives to the church, and more backsliders were restored to the church on June 12.

"I can tell you that your visit has taught the Christians how to give and witness. Before you came, the churches that had 30 membership are now 60 members.

—Pastor Nji Lucas"

We all praise God for the great joy we experienced in being able to minister as Good News Ambassadors for Jesus Christ! □

CAMEROON-

a new perspective

by Ken Stoller

A variety of languages, faces and fashions met us on Cameroon Air Lines as we began our journey away from the faces that had become so very special. Krier, Hoffman and Scheffler, names that were once just names, have become alive with crisp reality during our three-week stay in a land of vibrant tropical beauty—Cameroon.

To summarize in a few words what happened during our stay would be as futile as trying to summarize the birth of a child. For it was something that will grow and constantly be developing in the minds of all of us.

It has set new perspectives, removed fears, uncovered myths and perhaps set new goals. Above all else, it has given a new sense of gratitude to the great God whom we serve.

For myself, it would be good to compare this trip to a child's birth. It has produced in me a new generation of thought by destroying myths and giving me a new look at missions, missionaries and God's calling. No longer do I look at missions as something to really fear or that horrid place God would send me if I were to give my life totally to him. I don't want to be misleading in making missions look easy, because it isn't. The work is hard and often frustrating, but when God calls you into that work he puts a joy in your heart. It was that spirit that I found in our people in Cameroon.

Ray Hoffman, Laura Reddig and Sue Krier were three people who really helped to remold my attitudes about missions.

Growing up in Oregon, I had some contact with the Rev. Ray Hoffman. I don't remember Pastor Ray as a bub-

bly, warm individual, but that's how I found him at his work in Victoria. He loves it there and it really shows in his happy spirit. This has led me to realize something about the concept of God's will. If God is going to call you into an area of service, be it full-time church work or the vital ministry of a layman, he is going to put a satisfaction within you that you're in the right place doing the right thing. The job may not always look appealing, but we know God's plan is perfect, and as this satisfaction grows within you, it will show in your life as well as your work. It doesn't mean that being in the right place will eliminate all trials, for life is full of them; but we can be sure that God is with us, and he doesn't leave us alone.

I once thought that the true missionary was one who would forsake all to live a dull, sacrificial life suffering for the Lord. Meeting Dr. Laura Reddig totally destroyed this myth. Here is a beautiful lady who has spent the best of life in the field, not out of pity or self-sacrifice but because she loves her work, the people and the land.

I wish everyone from our Conference could spend some time with this lady and just see how her love permeates everything she does. We were fortunate enough to have been taken by this lady to the New Hope Settlement. This is a place for those who are cured of leprosy but feel that they cannot return to their homes. These people are not physically lovely, and their lives have been full of rejection and pain. This can be seen on their faces, yet a joy can be seen on their faces as well, that joy is of the Lord and of the love that has been shown to them by people like Laura. Had Laura Reddig been there with an attitude of self-sacrifice, I really don't think we would have seen any hope on the faces in the New Hope Settlement.

I'm sure our missionaries suffer, but self-sacrifice is not their motivation. They spend their lives there because they

love the Lord and they love the work. Being with Laura has reminded me that going down the Lord's road is not always the easiest path, but it is surely the best way home.

My general attitude about missionaries was destroyed by a lady who will always have a special place in my heart. I once thought that the average missionary was one who really couldn't fit into the flow of things here at home, one who couldn't have fun and who in nature was quite stoic. Seeing the over-tired missionary on the often too-long deputation road didn't help my attitude any. But riding on the road from Douala to Victoria and then touring Cameroon with Susan Krier began to change my mind about the missionaries themselves.

Sue is a sharp, dynamic, hard-working, well-educated individual who was every bit as fun loving as the rest of us crazy American tourists. She was our guide throughout the entire trip. From calmly handling the police to tactfully ending a very long service for a group of very tired singers, this lady executed her job with superb skill.

As we met more and more of the missionaries, we found that this high quality person was not uncommon amidst our North American Baptist missionaries. These people are very sharp, and they have to be. They are often under tremendous workloads and heavy strains. I have found that missions is not a place for or of losers, but of the very best we have.

I'm very grateful for all that has happened to me this past summer. This tour has opened my eyes to many good things and allowed me to meet and grow to love 14 very wonderful people, my brothers and sisters of the Good News Ambassadors. It also has given me a direction in my life. As a result of this trip, I now see a real need for full-time workers, not only in the field but here at home. I'll be attending the North American Baptist Seminary this fall. After that, the Lord only knows. Cameroon? Well, not as I see it now, but having been there has opened me up to the possibility. I no longer fear it as I once did. It's just a matter now of where I can do God's work most effectively.

The people we have in Cameroon are fantastic people. Let's continue to support them through prayer, White Cross, good quality kilo packages and in keeping up with the missions budget. These people depend on us, and they have a right to do just that.

If you feel that God is calling you to missions and you're of the quality, give it a chance; you might just end up loving it. □

insight into christian education

Programming for a Dynamic Small Group

by Lee Whiston

(Editor's Note: Last month's article, The Dynamic Power of Small Groups in the Church, presented basic information on forming and continuing small groups. This article is devoted entirely to the program many successful small groups have followed.)

Let me suggest a program for a typical group which has proved vital and effective again and again. These principles are applicable for just two people such as a husband and wife or two friends or prayer partners. They also function for a home group, a group of business men meeting for lunch or for a formal group.

This study should be life-centered and not confined to the discussion of ideas. We should not be studying the Bible in order to confirm the doctrines we already believe but should deal with lifestyles, our relationships to God and to our fellow man. The Kingdom of God is the Kingdom of right relationships.

Bible study should not end in generalizations but reach into specifics. Suppose we are studying 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Instead of reading, "Love is patient and kind; love does not insist on its own way, etc." sometimes I read it, "Lee Whiston is patient and kind. Lee Whiston is not rude or irritable. Lee Whiston does not insist on his own way." Well, I don't get very far before I see how utterly I fall short. Reading the Bible in this way brings it down into the heart of my way of living. It shows my need of change. I don't read this passage and say, "My, isn't love a wonderful thing! Paul makes love seem so beautiful!" This kind of generality doesn't change the direction of our living. But personalizing chapters or incidents in the Bible really can make one face his own inadequacies honestly and help him to decide to let God's Holy Spirit change him.

The Rev. Lionel (Lee) A. Whiston resides in Wrentham, MA.

QUIET TIME

After we have discussed the Bible in this manner, we begin to share personal experiences and slowly become vulnerable to one another. Let the leader call for a time of silence. Let this quiet time be preceded by one or two questions that will give direction to our thinking. For instance, "To what person should I be drawing closer? What specific steps does God want me to take?" Or another time the questions might be, "What is your growing edge? What are God's next steps for you?" Again there might be questions such as, "What part of your life is uncommitted to Christ? What excess baggage are you carrying?" Or "How could you use your imagination to greater advantage to make your life at home or on the job more effective and you more fun to be with? What new ways of loving and relating to people can you imagine?" "What needs in your community is God asking you to meet?" As a rule it is well to have only one question; if there is more than one, have them on the same theme. The Holy Spirit will break in and bring other questions to mind if they are urgent. Do not pose too many questions lest people spend the time going from one to another rather than thinking deeply and surgically.

At first, a minute of silence is probably enough. After awhile, a group can easily be silent three to five minutes or longer. At the end of the silence, let the leader start to share the thoughts that have come to him. As he tells in a costly and honest way his own thinking and his own personal desire to do the will of God and if he shares this in specific and concrete situations, this usually will prime the pump for the others. Of course, no one should be pressured. People should be free to come to the group and be silent for week after week if they so desire. But when people are warmly loved and included in the group,

the chances are good that they will join in the sharing. Do not allow general discussion until everyone has had a chance to share, otherwise discussion may start and others who have had some thoughts in the silence will not have the opportunity to express them.

If the thoughts expressed are generalizations such as, "I need to be a better father," let someone ask, "To which child? In what particular way?" If a person says, "I need to be more Christ-like," let someone say, "In what area?" If someone says, "I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit," one might ask, "Just why are you saying this? What part of your life do you feel is not as yet filled with Christ or his Spirit?"

PRAYER

These specific thoughts that have come to us become our homework for the next week. Each person might have a little notebook or card and put down the names of everyone in the group and just a brief phrase or sentence that will suggest these specific and concrete leadings that came in the Quiet Time. Let each one in the group covenant to pray one or more times a day for everyone else in the group. Let there be a strong supportive love; let there be a keen interest to undergird the other fellow as he goes out to battle in these specific areas during the week. Let there be phone calls in the middle of the week from one to another asking how the battle is going.

FEEDBACK

Now we come to what will be the first item on the agenda for succeeding meetings: "What happened during the week?" For eight or ten minutes talk about the way God has led. Let there be a costly honesty at this point. Don't let anyone with phoney piety say, "Bob, I prayed for you last week," if indeed he only prayed once or twice and Bob gets the impression that he was prayed for two or three times every day. Let's be willing to have the quality of honesty that will say, "Bob, I am ashamed of myself. I don't think I prayed for you more than one or two times all last week, but I am really glad to hear what you have just reported!"

As we open our hearts and grant each other the privilege of entering into the holy of holies of our lives, we have a sense of awe. It is a great privilege truly to know a person. In this process of learning to be trustworthy, people may fail us. Some may speak to others outside of the group about what happened at a meeting. We should covenant with each other that everything that is said in a group is sacred and private, never to be spoken of except to the person who shared it or to God in prayer. □

Ken Stoller is a member of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, and was a member of the Good News Ambassadors team that ministered in Cameroon.

God's Volunteers report

Jeremy's Thoughts... ...about this year's GV's team



"Boy, am I ever lucky! I've got fifteen special aunts and uncles that travel with my mom and dad. They work hard, but lots of times they stop to chat and play with me, too! At first I had a difficult time figuring out who was who, but by the end of their month of training, I began to see each one in their own special light.

"When mom and dad come home at night, I can hear them whispering about the day's activities. They think I'm sleeping, but I'm not. Dad says the music section consists of five boys and four girls: basses Paul Dykstra and Barry Seifert, tenors Bill Kosachuk and Bruce Felton, altos Janice Streuber and Lynnette Hochhalter, and sopranos Connie Rogalski and Karen Trax. The fifth boy is Uncle David Robinson who sits in the back and controls all the sound.

"The follow-up section: Marlene Ginter, Miriam Enslin, LeAnn Williams,



"Here I am with mom and dad, Bob and Marilyn Walther. Oh, I could have smiled more!"

Brenda Moser, Jim Calamunce, and Scott MacDonald, are so busy all day that I hardly have a chance to visit with them. Mom says that planning seminars, working on visitation, studying for classes and going calling takes a lot of time if you are going to do a good job, and, boy they sure are! Even the music section stops singing long enough to go to Rev. Raymond Harsch's classes. There they learn about practical evangelism, Bible study, and the church ministries department. There sure are a lot of visitors that show up here, too. I love visitors!

"Dad divides his afternoon between directing the music group and leading follow-up seminars. I sure miss him, but sometimes mom and I sit in. Hey, mom even gets to sing some of the songs! The team really works hard, and even a little guy like me can tell you that! After supper they are really ready for the daily volleyball game. Dad always plays, and I love to watch.

"I stay up as long as I can at night waiting for the kids, but I just can't stay awake long enough! They sure are dedicated, but the best part is when they take time out of their busy schedule to thank God and ask him for guidance.

"Hey, I really *am* lucky to be traveling with the G.V's this year! Mom says they spoil me rotten, but I sort of like it. You'll like them too!" □



Jeremy helps Uncle Dave with the sound equipment.



The 1977-78 God's Volunteers team: (first row) Brenda Moser, David Robinson, Janice Streuber, Miriam Enslin, Marlene Ginter, LeAnn Williams; (second row) Lynnette Hochhalter, Bruce Felton, Connie Rogalski, Barry Seifert, Karen Trax, Bill Kosachuk, Scott MacDonald, Jim Calamunce, Paul Dykstra, Bob and Marilyn Walther.

GOD'S VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE	
Dec. 7-11	Anamoose Baptist, ND
Dec. 12-31	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 1-3	First Baptist, Durham, KS
Jan. 5-11	Zion Baptist, Okeene, OK
Jan. 11-25	Central Baptist, Waco, TX
Jan. 17	Canaan Baptist, Crawford, TX
Jan. 18-22	North Highlands Baptist, Dallas, TX
Jan. 25-Feb. 8	Evangel Baptist, Boca Raton, FL
Feb. 2-5	Valley Stream Baptist, Valley Stream, NY
Feb. 7	Walnut Street Baptist, Newark, NJ
Feb. 8-15	King's Highway Baptist, Bridgeport, CT
Feb. 15-26	Calvary Baptist, Pittsburgh, PA
Feb. 22-26	Pineland Baptist, Burlington, ON
Feb. 27-Mar. 6	RETREAT
Mar. 8-22	Bethel Baptist, Getzville, NY
Mar. 15-19	Lakeshore Baptist, St. Catharines, ON
Mar. 22-30	Latta Road Baptist, Rochester, NY
Mar. 29-Apr. 12	Nepean Baptist, Ottawa, ON
Apr. 5-9	First Baptist, Arnprior, ON
Apr. 12-20	Bethel Baptist, Windsor, ON
Apr. 18	Colonial Village Baptist, Lansing, MI
Apr. 19-May 3	Napier Parkview Baptist, Benton Harbor, MI
Apr. 26-30	Community Baptist, Xenia, OH
May 3-11	Woodland Shores Baptist, Bridgman, MI
May 9	Forest Park Baptist, Forest Park, IL
May 10-17	German Mission Baptist, Chicago, IL

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



A Gift Too Wonderful For Words

by Everett Barker

It is a delightful thing to watch small children open Christmas packages. As children get older, they learn that giving is also a part of Christmas. The Christian family teaches their children that the heart of Christmas is the celebration of God's gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. From that gift out of God's heart of love has come the practice of receiving and giving gifts. We recognize that the practice has become commercialized to the extent that Christians and even some non-Christians revolt at the loss of the true meaning of Christmas. There isn't much that you and I can do about the larger commercialized problem, but we can do something about personal and family attitudes toward making Christmas a meaningful spiritual experience.

God has demonstrated the purest spirit of giving when he gave his only Son. The Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 9:15 briefly says what is in the heart of every Christian: "Thank God for His Son, a gift too wonderful for words." God gave his greatest gift simply because he loves you and me even though we are undeserving. There are usually different reasons why we give gifts to God or to individuals: appreciation in response to what God has done, feelings of guilt, obligation, habit, friendship and tax savings to name a few reasons. We do not always get the most joy from giving because our motivation is low. Sometimes the receiver of the gift senses

The Rev. Everett Barker is associate secretary for estate planning.

this as James Russel Lowell, the writer, said, "Not what we give, but what we share, for the gift without the giver is bare."

When we really stop to think about it, God is the source of every gift we give. He has created the world and everything in it. He gives the physical strength and the mental capacity to learn, create and earn. I read an amusing story of a little girl who wanted to buy her father a Christmas present. Her friend asked her where she intended to get the money to pay for the gift. She replied, "That's easy, my father will give it to me." It is humbling to realize that any gift we give to God has already been paid for by him.

Once we have responded in our heart to give, it is important to determine the best way to give. Careless giving does not accomplish the most with our resources. As faithful stewards of the material possessions God has given to us, we want to be sure that our gifts do the most for the kingdom of God. There are so many needs in our Conference ministries, and we want to fulfill these needs with our gifts. The governments of the United States and Canada encourage giving to charitable causes by providing tax saving benefits. The purpose of these benefits is to enable the donor to give more. It makes good sense for God's people to use these means of giving so that more of God's work can be accomplished.

As you come to the end of this year and review your giving to the Lord's work, you might consider different ways

to give. Here are ten ways you might consider:

1. Give cash
2. Give appreciated stocks
3. Give capital gains only (bargain sale)
4. Give real estate
5. Give livestock/crops
6. Give business inventories
7. Give insurance policies/dividends
8. Give other property
9. Give through your corporation
10. Give in honor of a loved one

For more detailed information on ways to give, send for the brochures, "December Giving . . . 10 Ways" and "What Every Giver Should Know About Taxes." "THANK GOD FOR HIS SON, A GIFT TOO WONDERFUL FOR WORDS." □

December
Giving
...10 Ways

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST
CONFERENCE
1 So. 210 Summit Avenue
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Please send the following brochure(s)

☐ December Giving . . . 10 Ways

☐ What Every Giver Should Know About Taxes

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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



CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

ENGLEWOOD, CO, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

December 1977

by Gordon Voegele

My wife, Rose, and our three children came to Englewood, CO, June 1, 1977, to be the pastor of a new North American Baptist Church in an area that is considered to be the fastest growing area, according to the Arapahoe County Planning Board. The Church Extension Committee had been in this area several months before our coming and, seeing the rapid growth and many new homes, felt led to begin a new work in this area.

This certainly was a new experience for us as a family, since there were no families who had met for Bible studies or Sunday services as a result of a student worker, prior to our coming. It was strictly door-to-door canvassing and telling people that I was the pastor of a new North American Baptist Church with our services beginning September 11.

It has been an exciting and rewarding experience to meet the many new families in this area, from all over the United States, and to sense the openness of these people and to observe their desire to see us start a new work. Of the many contacts that have been made, we praise God for the dedicated Christian families who have expressed their desire to attend and work with us because God has given them a deep concern for the people here. These are our Sunday school teachers and leaders of Bible studies in different homes.

One person said: "I prayed that the Lord would direct us to a church where he would want us to go and be active. Today you knocked on our door inviting us to your church, our prayers are answered." Another person said: "We have been attending a church for over a year but have not joined. We just have not felt led to join, and now we know why—we will come to your church." Another family said: "We have been praying that the Lord would lead us to a church in our area, since the church we are attending is some distance away; we want to be in a church that is ministering to this community."

As our small nucleus grows, we can see the spirit of oneness, love and excitement radiating from each person. At present we are meeting at the Homestead Elementary School for Sunday school and morning worship. Our mid-week Bible studies for adults and children are held at our home.

God has made it clear to us that the door is open. It is our prayer and desire that Walnut Hills Baptist Church will be a strong witness for the glory of God. We covet your continued prayer and financial support and invite you to share in our hopes and aspirations for this new venture of faith by sending your contributions for this project to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. □



The Voegesles—Kent, Kayla, Kary, Rose & Pastor.



Mrs. Voegele and the mid-week Bible club children.



Mrs. Schwarz and her Sunday school class.



Putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

"Dear Dr. Zimbelman:

I am at my wits end with my four-year-old daughter. She resists me in every encounter. When I press for obedience, she becomes defiant and frequently throws temper tantrums. Most of the time she is so loving.

We also have a son who is two years old. I am worried about her example on him.

Mrs. H."

Dear Mrs. H:

The situation you describe is a common one. In child/parent relationship language, you have a "power struggle" going on. What your daughter is doing is not necessarily bad for her, but it is

very hard on you, the mother. Little brother may follow her example, but not necessarily.

All of us have a need to learn to assert ourselves. Socially mature and happy people are those who have learned to meet their own needs without violating the needs and rights of others. When your daughter drives you to "your wits end," you would obviously feel that she is pushing things too far, and I would readily agree with you.

What can you do about this? I have no doubt, since she is only four, if you want to win this power struggle with her, you can quite readily beat her into submission. If you had asked some other so-called "family authorities" that's what they would tell you to do. I would consider this approach very unwise for two reasons.

First, it's not consistent with the Christian lifestyle. Paul is very specific in Ephesians 6:4: "And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather, bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord Himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice." (Living Bible)

I have a feeling that you have a child that has lots of good stuff in her—"most of the time she is so loving." Stop fighting her strong spirit. She is in all likelihood only becoming a carbon copy of you. Reinforce the times she is loving, helpful, and positive. Once you begin to anticipate and analyze the kinds of situations that lead to "encounters," you then choose an option that will avoid conflict.

Secondly, if the power struggle con-

tinues, there is no doubt that your daughter will learn to handle situations involving authority figures poorly. The temper tantrums also show that she is at her wits end and that she is angry and resentful. This is her way of winning the power struggle.

I suppose at this stage you are saying: "But what about Ephesians 6:1? 'Children obey your parents. . . .'" I'm sorry, mother, but your child is only four, and I think, in spite of the fact that you may have the most clever child in the neighborhood, she probably could not read the verse, much less understand it and apply it; especially when it's so much easier to throw a temper tantrum.

I think for the time being the ball is in your court, and you have the major responsibility for setting the stage so there will be a situation in which there is "the loving discipline that the Lord Himself approves. . ."

If you feel that you need help or training in becoming a better stage director, there is lots of help available. My first recommendation is that you find a Parent Effectiveness Class (PET) in your area and that you and your husband make attending this class your number one priority.

My second recommendation is that you buy Bruce Narramore's books *Help, I'm a Parent* and *The Challenge of Parenthood*. (Zondervan)

My first recommendation will correct about 80% of your conflicts; whereas even if you are very faithful, my second suggestion will help remove about 30% of the conflicts.

I hope you follow my first suggestion and recover 80% of your wits. □

book reviews by B.C. Schreiber

The Servant Who Rules. By Ray C. Stedman. Waco, TX: Word Books. \$5.95. Dr. Stedman is a prolific writer whose books are much in demand. He is also in demand as a speaker around the world.

Those who have read *Behind History*, *Riches in Christ* and other expositional sermons will be inspired by *The Servant who Rules* and *The Ruler Who Serves*—expositions on Mark.

It is difficult to understand that when a Christian volunteers to serve he is also given the power to rule. This is the theme of the first eight chapters in Mark. As Jesus approaches Jerusalem

and the cross (beginning with chapter nine), he continues to serve. Life becomes more meaningful because it is so short. The cross is on the horizon. Jesus must help his disciples to understand its meaning for him and for them.

One wishes that the author had given a more detailed exposition on the closing verses of Mark's Gospel. It leaves the reader with a feeling of either incompleteness or inadequacy. However, there is much in our Christian lives that is missing that was first evident in the apostles. It should be evident in ours.

As a study of Mark, there are few books that are more practical and inspiring to the Christian life.

SANTA, ARE YOU FOR REAL? By Harold Myra. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN. \$4.95

Don't let the price shock you. Not quite five dollars will buy you a gem for your children.

The author, president and publisher of CHRISTIANITY TODAY, has written very practical books before (*No Man in Eden*; *Is There a Place I can Scream?*; *The New You—Questions and Answers for New Christians*). In this book he looks into the age old question, "Is there really a Santa Claus?"

Myra tells in rhyming meter the true story of the origin of Santa Claus, puts the emphasis on the biblical Christmas story, and comforts little Todd, the main character of the book, whose faith in Santa is shaken until he finds out who the real Santa Claus is and how he relates to Christmas.

Delightful illustrations by Dwight Wallis. Your children will pick up this book and read it (or have it read) time after time. R. J. Kerstan

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Dr. and Mrs. George A. Lang were honored at an open house at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Words of tribute and appreciation for the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Lang were expressed by Dr. Richard Schilke on behalf of the North



American Baptist Conference, by Dr. David Draewell for the North American Baptist Seminary, and by the Rev. Leon Bill on behalf of Trinity Baptist Church, where they are charter members. Their sons, the Rev. George W. Lang, North American Baptist Seminary, and the Rev. Harold Lang, missionary to Nigeria, and their families also participated in the program.

VALLEY STREAM, NY. Mr. Walter Lehotsky, Valley Stream Baptist Church, has been leading a home Bible study group for several months for those who responded to the call of Christ through our members during the "Here's Life" N.Y. project.

His son, Harry, has been contacting homes in the Middle Island area of Long Island to conduct a Church Extension survey for the Atlantic Association. Plans are being made to reach the community through an evangelistic film and through home study groups. We hope these efforts will lead many to Christ and result in a new N.A.B. church.

Harry Lehotsky has been assisting the Rev. Ulrich Laser, Immanuel Baptist Church, in his work with the youth. Harry is continuing his studies at N.A.B. College this fall.

The Rev. Eldon Janzen has been conducting a Thursday morning Bible class for several years which has proved very interesting and beneficial to those who attend. He and his family, and a few other young people, attended Youth Encounter in Manitoba.

A church picnic on July 25 under the direction of our Sunday school superintendent, Bertha Janzen, closed a week of Vacation Bible School in July. (Mabel Kalin, reporter)

RENTON, WA. On July 16, 1977, an ordination council met at Sierra Heights Baptist Church, Renton, WA, to examine Loren Franchuk for Christian ministry. The council was happy and eager to approve the candidate for ordination. The Rev. Kenneth Schmuland served as moderator. The Rev. Ervin Gerlitz, host pastor, gave the ordination message.

Loren served 3½ years as part-time associate pastor at Sierra Heights Baptist Church. He is a graduate of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, with a B.Th. degree. He graduated this spring from Seattle Pacific University with a B.A. in Psychology.

In April, Loren and his wife, Lenore, began their ministry at Hazelwood Baptist Church, Auburn. (William Neumann, clerk)

APLINGTON, IA. The Women's Missionary Union met at the Aplington Baptist Church on September 10, for their 33rd annual meeting, in conjunction with the Iowa Association. Mrs. Harold Lang, Jos, Nigeria, was the missionary speaker. The Faith Baptist Circle from Rock Rapids, IA, was welcomed into the group. Mrs. Ralph Chandler was elected president for the next term. (Mrs. Leon Jacob, reporter.)

BENTON HARBOR, MI. The singing of "He Is Lord" began an evening to be remembered by many for all the fellowship, joy and tears we shared, August 14. It was a farewell for our beloved assistant pastor, Bob Brown and his family (pictured), now in their new area of ministry at Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD.



The Rev. Willis Potratz gave a very touching, thought-provoking and encouraging farewell message, followed by several testimonials from people in our church family in honor of Pastor Bob and his family's ministry to us.

After the choir's, "To God Be the Glory," and other selections, Pastor Bob gave a farewell talk. (Lois Breikreuz, reporter.)

ONOWAY, AB. The Onoway Baptist Church welcomed Pastor Gerald Froese, his wife, Judy, and their 3 month old son, Gregory, to our congregation. Af-

ter the morning service on September 11, dinner was served in the church basement using our newly designed kitchen for the first time. The welcoming service was held at 2:00 P.M., at which a number of guest speakers highlighted the afternoon service. (Mrs. B. Guidinger, reporter.)

MARION, KS. Two girls were baptized by the Rev. O.K. Ringering on August 14 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church.



These girls made their decisions as a result of being in Pioneer Girls. (Debra Hitt, reporter.)

CHANCELLOR, SD. The Rev. Stephen Corum and his wife, Randi, were welcomed September 10 as the new pastor of the First Baptist Church.

The program consisted of words of welcome and musical numbers by various members of the congregation. A reception and pantry shower followed the service.

The Rev. Corum is a 1977 graduate of the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. In June he was ordained into the Christian ministry in his home church, the Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA. Mrs. Corum is a graduate of Sacramento City College in dental hygiene and is presently an instructor at the University of South Dakota. (Ray DeNeui, reporter.)

VERNON, BC. On June 19, a sunny Okanagan day, the people of Faith Baptist Church gathered at the lakeside to witness the baptism of Sandra Pruden (pictured). On the following Sunday she



was given the hand of fellowship into the church by the Rev. S. Hoppe, pastor. (Joan Ashton, reporter.)

ARNPRIOR, ON. A large crowd was on hand Sept. 11, 1977, for the dedication of the new Christian Education Unit (pictured) of First Baptist Church. All of the churches in town were represented on this festive occasion, with the Rev. Ken MacDonald, pastor, presiding.



Rev. Hollywood, Calvary Baptist Church, led the congregation in the invocation prayer.

Greetings and best wishes were received from Mayor Johnson, Town of Arnprior; the Arnprior Ministerial Association; Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Eastern area secretary, and the Rev. Henry Ramus, leadership education director, N.A.B. Conference office.

Rev. Ramus, who grew up in Arnprior and attended Sunday school at First Baptist brought the dedication address challenging the church to continue to enlarge its vision.

The pastor, the Rev. Ken MacDonald, explained that due to increased growth in the Sunday school and weekly youth activities, more space was required. A Building Committee (pictured) was established. Construction began May 1, 1976, with the local congregation undertaking the project. Through the dedicated effort of the whole church family, the new unit was built.



The Building Committee (L to R): Norman Frieday, Orville Felhauer, Bert Blackmore, ch., Les Kauffeldt and Ken MacDonald, pastor.

Mr. Versal Scheel, chairman, Board of Deacons, officially opened the new building and led the congregation in the prayer of dedication. (Rosalie Russett, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CA. On September 1, Sunkist Baptist Church welcomed two new staff members. Mr. Norris Helms, from Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, became the Minister of Christian Education and Visitation. Mr. Fred Martin, from Maple View Baptist Church, Lakeside, CA, became the Minister of Music and Youth. A reception was held in their honor, September 11. (Jo Harwood, reporter.)

SACRAMENTO, CA. By invitation of Willow Rancho Baptist Church, an Ordination Council was convened on June 21, 1977. The Council consisted of representatives from six churches in the Nor-Cal Association of North American Baptist Churches.

The candidates for ordination, Mr. Steve Corum and Mr. Mike Seto, were presented as members in good standing of Willow Rancho Baptist Church by the moderator, Mr. Mike Martin.

The Council was organized under the direction of the Rev. Arthur Brust, pastor. The Rev. Fred Jantz, Swain Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, was elected moderator, and Mr. Phillip Palmer, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, as the clerk.

After examining both candidates individually, the Council considered each presentation. The Council unanimously recommended that Steve Corum and Mike Seto be ordained by Willow Rancho Baptist Church into the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

DERBY, NY. On June 26 members and friends (pictured) of Highland Bap-



tist Church (Eastern Association church extension project) met to dedicate the proposed site for a new building on Highway 5 at the entrance to the Town of Evans across from Highland Elementary School. (George Brite.)

COLUMBUS, NE. The annual session of the Southwestern Association convened in Columbus with Redeemer and Shell Creek Baptist churches co-hosting the event, August 5-7. Registration and business sessions were at the Redeemer Church and the Friday evening opening session was at Shell Creek, followed by a fellowship hour and youth activities on the church grounds.

The Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson were the guest speakers at the men's and women's luncheon meetings. Saturday evening activities included a family picnic in a local park.

Sunday morning services were held at both churches, with visitors at each church. The Rev. Michelson spoke at the Redeemer church and Mrs. Michelson spoke at the Shell Creek church. Pastors Terry Chrisope and William Effa were the host pastors. (Mrs. William Effa, reporter.)

HARVEY, ND. The Bethel Baptist Church held dedication services for the new parsonage on May 29. A program was presented with musical selections.



The message was given by North Central Area secretary, the Rev. Clarence Walth. The Rev. and Mrs. Doug Sathren hosted an open house following the service. The former parsonage is presently being used for classrooms. (Harold Schmeets, reporter.)

REGINA, SK. "Balloons in church" was the theme for a week of children's meetings at Faith Baptist Church September 12-16. Featured were Bible stories, memory verses, the film, "Happiness Is," and filmstrips. Many new contacts were made for our programs. The week closed with a parents' night and circus dress-up. During the week nine children accepted Christ.

Four people were baptized on September 25.

On September 1 we hosted our first Saskatchewan former C.T.I. and N.A.B.C. Alumni meeting at a potluck dinner. Prof. Willy Mueller spoke to 31 alumni concerning the things that have been done at the school and also the present needs. Wayne Eisbrenner is our newly elected president, and Pastor Morley Schultz is secretary-treasurer. (Mrs. Vera Rosom, reporter.)

HUNTER, KS. Three persons were baptized and received into the membership of Bethany Baptist Church. The Rev. Douglas Anderson is faithfully proclaiming God's Word.

A building committee has been established to plan for needed facilities to be added to the present church structure.

Plans are also being made to celebrate the church's 100th year in 1978. (Mrs. Robert Wirth, reporter.)

WACO, TX. On Aug. 24 an Ordination Council met at Central Baptist Church to consider the ordination of Keith E. Eitel to the Christian Ministry. The delegates from churches of the Southern Association were favorably impressed with the candidate and were satisfied with his doctrinal statements.

Brother Keith and his wife, Glenda, are very faithful members of Central Church, where Keith served as youth director. Keith graduated from Baylor University this summer with a Masters Degree.

The Eitels have been appointed to the mission field in Cameroon, West Africa, and will serve at the Cameroon Baptist Theological College, Ndu.

At 7:30 p.m. the Ordination Service was held with area ministers and laymen taking part. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, South-Central Area secretary, brought the ordination sermon. The ordination prayer was by Dr. Robert Schreiber; charge to the church by the Rev. Richard Lord, charge to the candidate by the Rev. Fred Folkerts, hand of fellowship and welcome to the Baptist ministry by Dr. W.H. Barsh.

The Rev. Fred Folkerts, associate secretary for overseas missions, was in charge of the commissioning service for Keith and Glenda Eitel. (R.E. Engelbrecht, reporter.)

ANAMOOSE, ND. The Living Fire Quartet from the N.A.B. Seminary presented a sacred concert on August 26 at the Anamoose Baptist Church, with persons from area churches attending. A time of Christian fellowship followed.

Some of the other highlights within the church were baptismal services with eight candidates being baptized in May, along with one transfer of membership. The Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson, missionaries to Cameroon, told us of their work in Africa.

On June 5 we had a rededication service of the Anamoose Baptist Church after the renovation of the sanctuary, which followed some months of donated work. Our speaker for this occasion was the Rev. Clarence Walth, our North-Central area secretary. (Arlene Beck, reporter.)

WARREN, MI. The Rev. and Mrs. Peter Unrau began their ministry at Redeemer Baptist Church on August 28. The installation service was held September 11. Over 400 members and friends from neighboring N.A.B. churches attended. A word of welcome to the N.A.B. Conference, and charge to the pastor, was given by Dr. Gideon Zimmerman, executive secretary. The Rev. Ron Mayforth welcomed the Unraus into the Michigan Association. Charge to the congregation was delivered

by the Rev. Willis Potratz and the congregation's response was led by Mr. Mc. Bailey, church moderator. The Rev. Ronald Beck offered the dedicatory prayer.



Pastor Unrau was born in Manitoba, Canada, and comes to Redeemer from Dallas, OR, where he was Senior Pastor of Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church for eight years. He has served as Chairman of the Commission on Christian Education for the E.M.B. Conference and has been President of the conference for the past three years. He was graduated from the Briercrest Bible Institute in Saskatchewan, and has a B.A. and M.Sc. degree from Oregon College of Education. He was ordained at the North Park Bible Church, Saskatoon, SK, in 1960.

Mrs. Unrau, the former Shirley Oxenham of Kelowna, BC, is also a graduate of Briercrest Bible Institute. The Unraus have four children. (Doris Kintzer, reporter.)

ABERDEEN, SD. The Calvary Baptist Church officers and all interested members attended a special workshop, "Church Growth," presented by Dr. Roy Seibel, professor, N.A.B. Seminary.

On April 3 we witnessed the baptism of 11 persons. They and four other adults were extended the hand of fellowship by our pastor, Dr. Ray Neiderer.

Three high school graduates were honored in our Sunday evening service, May 28. Each one was presented with a Bible.

At another occasion, a pot-luck supper was served. Following the supper, the Women's Missionary Society presented a short program closing with the dedication of the White Cross material. (Lorraine Bertsch, reporter.)

SWAN RIVER, MB. We rejoice and thank the Lord for our new pastor, Leland Bertsch, who began his ministry at Temple Baptist Church, September 11.

At the evening service he was welcomed by a large congregation and pas-

tors and visitors of neighboring churches at a well-planned program.

Pastor Bertsch was raised on a farm near Carbon, AB. His education includes one year at the North American Baptist College, Edmonton; the University of Calgary, from which he received his B.A. in Psychology in 1974; and the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, where he received a Master of Divinity degree in May 1977.

This past summer, he served as interim pastor at the Evangelical Covenant Church, Sioux Falls. (Giesela Rosentreter, reporter.)

GETZVILLE, ON. The Eastern Association met September 16-18 in the hospitable Bethel Baptist Church. Although Lyle Grenz, our moderator, led the record 116 delegates in a quick pace through many items of business, such as, adopting a \$27,500 budget; accepting the South Hills Church, Erie, PA, into our Association; electing new officers (moderator: the Rev. Herbert Berndt); changing the constitution to make room for a youth representative on the executive committee; as well as accepting the invitation to meet next year (September 22-24) at the German Baptist Mission Church, Hamilton; the accent on the theme, "People Helping People," was never lost.

The Rev. Walter Kerber's message, "Reaching Out through Evangelism," and the Rev. Herbert Berndt's message, "Reaching Out through Discipling," and the subsequent practical panel discussions whetted our appetites to go home and try it ourselves.

The coordinated children's and youth programs; the refreshing, yet profound, challenges by the Rev. John Ziegler, associate secretary of church extension, and Missionary David Burgess, Cameroon; the wonderful banquet; and above all, the uplifting closing praise-service, made it an exciting conference. (Rev. Heinrich R. Goliath, reporter.)

TACOMA, WA. On Sept. 17, 1977, an ordination council met at Calvary Baptist Church to examine Mr. Frederick Sweet for ordination into the Christian ministry. Seven area churches of the Pacific Northwest were represented on the council. After hearing and examining Mr. Sweet concerning his Christian experience and doctrinal statement, the council recommended that the church proceed with the ordination service.

The ordination service was held on the same day. Area ministers participated, with the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff bringing the ordination message. A reception for the Sweets followed the service.

Fred Sweet is a graduate of Houghton College and Bethel Seminary. He served

for three years as the pastor of Bible Baptist Church, LaCrosse, WI. In 1976 he became minister of Christian education at Calvary Baptist in Tacoma, where he and his wife Doris now serve. They recently welcomed their first child, Nathan Robert, into their family. (Rev. Loren Franchuk, clerk.)

HILDA, AB. On September 11, the Hilda Baptist Evangelical Church had a fellowship supper and program to bid farewell to the pastor and wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hunsicker, and three other church families who were moving. Our pastor had served our congregation for two years and is presently in retirement in Medicine Hat. (Marilyn Haag, reporter.)

WATERTOWN, WI. "Kids for Christ" of First Baptist Church entered a float in the Watertown Heritage Parade in the June and in the July 4 parade. They received first prize of \$50 and a trophy. The float's theme, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," was depicted with a six-foot globe with hands clasped about it. The youth standing around the globe dressed in costumes from various nations around the world. The flags of the nations were displayed around the edge of the float.



The Brazilian flag was given to the church for missionaries, Dick and Beth Rabenhorst. (Alice Leischer, reporter.)

APLINGTON, IA. The Iowa Association of the North American Baptist Conference consisting of 14 churches convened in Aplington Baptist Church September 8-11. Approximately 180 were in attendance.

A spirit of love and unity prevailed throughout the meetings centered around the theme: "To Be Like Jesus." The Rev. Phyl Putz, moderator, presided. The Faith Baptist Church of Rock Rapids was welcomed into the Association.

The Rev. Harold Lang, Jos, Nigeria, challenged the audience at the opening missionary rally. On Friday following a message by the Rev. John Binder, secretary of stewardship and communications, the Conference highlights were

presented by the Rev. Milton Zeeb, South Central Area secretary, the Rev. Dennis Dewey, alternate General Council representative, and Rev. Binder.

The Rev. and Mrs. Harold Lang, missionaries to Cameroon, presented the mission work. Dr. Lee MacDonald, N.A.B. Seminary, gave three inspiring messages on the theme: "The Imperatives of the Call of Christ." Other speeches were given by the Rev. John Binder during the Men's Fellowship luncheon, Mrs. Harold Lang at the women's luncheon, the Rev. Harold Lang and Dr. Lee MacDonald at the youth picnic, and Dr. Lee MacDonald at the association banquet.

Sunday marked the closing day of an inspiring and profitable weekend with the Rev. Harold Lang speaking to the Adult Department of the Sunday school, Mrs. Harold Lang to the Primary and Junior Departments and the Rev. Milton Zeeb speaking at the morning worship service. (Gladys Willeke, reporter.)

PHOENIX, AZ. Under the canopy of a beautiful star-studded June evening, nine people made history as they became the first to participate in a baptismal service at Thunderbird Baptist Church. Actually they were all baptized in a private swimming pool because the Church has no facility of its own. Included in this number were two couples.

During the summer months we had regular family swim nights and patio parties to help in our outreach. This allows us to introduce new families to our people. In July we had 53 people attend our Pool-Patio Party, with several new families as our special guests.

At our recent business meeting, we elected new officers and formed several of our church boards. We are in the process of studying plans for our first building, hopefully to begin this fall. The Rev. Lanny Johnson is the pastor.

MARION, KS. Sixty mothers and grandmothers from Strassburg Baptist Church were guests for a salad supper and a Mother's Day program given by the Strassburg Kings' Daughters.

The Strassburg W.M.S. held their annual missionary program and honored all the fathers of the church the same evening with a program by "God's Messengers" from Hillsboro, KS. The offering for the evening was over \$1,000.

The Strassburg B.Y.F. was in charge of the Sunday evening church service on June 30. Gene Price from a Newton radio station presented the program.

Emmanuel Baptist and Strassburg Baptist Churches held a combined Sunday evening service at Strassburg Baptist Church July 8.

Pastor Lester Buenning served two churches, Emmanuel Baptist and Strassburg Baptist, for five weeks due to the illness of their pastor, the Rev. Oliver Ringering. (Mrs. Jacob Stenzel, reporter.)

CARRINGTON, ND. The Calvary Baptist Church had a baptismal service September 18 at which time three were baptized. These plus four more (pictured) were welcomed into our church



membership at a communion service. The Rev. G. Rauser of Lodi held meetings here, at which time we received rich blessings. The Rev. Frank Unruh is pastor of the church. (Mrs. F. G. Helm, reporter.)

ASHLEY, ND. Every fifth Sunday of a month a program of music is presented at the Ashley Baptist Church. On July 31 the Men's Chorus sang. The Rev. and Mrs. Allan Gerber and family presented vocal and instrumental selections.

On August 7, following the Sunday school picnic, a program of instrumental and vocal music was presented by the Floyd Roehl family of New Leipzig, ND. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

MINOT, ND. On June 12, following the evening church service, a farewell gathering was held in the fellowship room for the Rev. Paul Siewert and his family. After a fruitful ministry at First Baptist, they are now serving a Baptist church in Rochester, MN. (Inez Rhone, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. "Operation Lend-a-hand" . . . Posters on the walls, bulletin notices, word of mouth and even a "western" booth in the lobby remind the people of the need for workers in the Christian education ministry of Brentview Baptist Church. This includes the School of Christian Learning (SCL) or Sunday school, all youth clubs and groups and music ministry. As a result of this drive, many "new" workers are volunteering along with the old faithfuls. As is true in all churches, we know if each member-adherent accepted one responsibility in the church's ministry, there would be no shortage of workers. (Linda Ohlhauser, reporter.)



Is Jesus the Son of God?

by Adolph Braun

Seven prominent British theologians have collaborated in writing a new book called, *The Myth of God Incarnate*, in which they state that Jesus never claimed to be the Son of God but was promoted to that status by pagan and other influences on early Christians. According to the July issue of Christianity Today, "the book stirred up the worst theological fuss in Britain since 1963."

Their charge is not new, for men have denied the deity of Jesus Christ from the beginning. These British clergymen obviously believe old skeptical writings instead of the Word of God.

The Bible has so many references to Jesus as the Son of God, that I shall choose only a few, (for there is no book about Jesus more authentic than the Bible). John the Baptist said, "I bear record that *this is the Son of God*" (John 1:34). The Father testified the same in Matt. 3:17 & 17:5. Most importantly, for this cause, Jesus spoke of himself as the "*Son of God*" (Jn. 3:16 & 18; 4:25-26; 9:35-38; 10:36). He even confirmed this when he was on trial before Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas demanded, "Tell us whether thou be Christ, *the Son of God*," and Jesus replied, "Thou hast said" (Matt. 26:63-65). Because of that statement, the high priest accused Jesus of blasphemy, so there was no doubt in his mind about who Jesus claimed to be.

Peter and the other apostles recognized Jesus as the *Son of God*: "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (Jn. 6:69, also Matt. 14:31-33, 16:16).

Even the demons testified that Jesus was the Son (Lu. 4:34, 41). The mockers at the cross of Jesus, cried, "He said, I am the Son of God" (Matt. 27:43). The Centurion also testified, "Truly, this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54).

The Apostle John stated most clearly

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The Rev. Adolph Braun is the pastor of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

newsviews

MEN'S MEETING SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON—Speakers from Argentina, Sweden, Venezuela and the United States have been added to the already impressive list of program personnel for the Second World Conference of Baptist Men, meeting at Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, April 5-9, 1978.

The new additions are: Erling Oddestad, a businessman in Stockholm, Sweden, outstanding Baptist lay leader, and president of the Swedish Baptist Union; Samuel Prato G., a professional engineer in Caracas, Venezuela, who is president of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men, and a vice president of the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance; N. Aldo Brado, a long-time lay leader of the Argentine Baptist Convention, who was recently named director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House at El Paso, Texas, USA.

Other speakers, previously announced, will include Jerry Clower, a Christian comedian; Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Dr. John W. Williams, Dr. Dale Moody, Dr. Gerald Borchert, Dr. Robert C. Campbell, Dr. C. Ronald Goulding, and David Y. K. Wong, president of the Baptist World Alliance.

"This meeting will train Baptist people to their responsibility to carry the gospel to some three billion unchurched people around the world," according to Stephen S. Steeves, Moncton, NB, Canada, president of the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance. "Our program at Indianapolis will seek to give training and motivate delegates for committed service."

Churches, associations and state organizations within the United States are being encouraged to arrange special tours to the meeting. Requests for registration forms and housing information should be addressed to BWA Men's Department, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTISTS TAKE 'GIANT STEP'

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)—"Understanding within the Baptist family in North America took a giant step forward" at the 13th annual meeting of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF) here, was an evaluation made by Carl W. Tiller, NABF secretary and an associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). The NABF, a voluntary association of nine Baptist conventions and conferences in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, operates as a BWA committee.

A two-year effort at obtaining an in-depth acquaintance with the NABF affiliates was successfully concluded as the general committee, with the guidance of Baptist history professor, C. C. Goen, probed the beliefs and practices of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, the North American Baptist Conference, and the General Association of General Baptists. A similar exploration of four other Baptist bodies took place at the 1976 meetings.

Workshops permitted leaders in various functional areas of church work to get better acquainted with each other and with each convention's work. The discussion focus this year fell on Christian ethics, communications, evangelism and education, missions administration, and stewardship development.

Eleanore Schnurr, BWA volunteer representative in New York for liaison with the United Nations, told of her work and of the recognition accorded by the U.N. to BWA statements on such issues as human rights and religious tolerance.

BAPTISTS STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL NATIONS, SAYS BJCPA

WASHINGTON—Representatives of major Baptist bodies in America strongly supported "human rights" throughout the world during the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

After hearing a report on the Helsinki Accord, signed by 35 nations, and anticipating the assembly of signatory nations at Belgrade for implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, the Baptist Joint Committee renewed its stand for human rights. They voted "that we affirm our strong belief that all nations which are signatories to the Helsinki Accord should seek to show in every way possible respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief."

Dr. James E. Wood Jr., executive director, Baptist Joint Committee, said "We must not fail now or in the future, to identify ourselves with the cause of human rights for all persons everywhere."

The Committee also expressed alarm at the threats to religious liberty and to human rights in the United States if forces to call a constitutional convention to amend the U.S. Constitution are successful, and voted for its staff to review concerns involving human rights in such a constitutional convention. John W. Baker, director of research services for the Committee said, "I don't think that

(Continued on page 31)

what's happening

■ The Rev. Robert Lennick has accepted the pastorate of the *Idaho Falls, ID, Church Extension* project effective Nov. 1, 1977. Mr. Lennick was formerly an N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon.

■ The Rev. Arlo Grenz became the pastor of *First Baptist Church, Bison, KS*, on October 5. He previously was minister of Christian education and music at Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, since 1975.

■ Mr. Richard Fox resigned as director of youth, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, and accepted a position with Memorial Baptist Church, Fresno, CA, on July 1, 1977.

■ Dr. Stephen Brachlow has been appointed as assistant professor of Church Heritage and Historical Theology at the *North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD*, effective February 1978. He is completing his studies at Oxford University, England.

■ The Rev. S. Hoppe accepted the pastorate of German Baptist Mission Church, Winnipeg, MB, effective January 1, 1978. He has served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC, since 1971.

■ The new *Englewood, Colorado, Church Extension* project is named *Walnut Hills Baptist Church*. The Rev. Gordon Voegele is the pastor.

2,445 DECISIONS

(Continued from page 13)

The Kaisers took part in the 300 voice Crusade choir. Gary and Colleen Ostercamp were able to come from Caxias do Sul to attend one night during the crusade.

The Crusade took place in the Giganzinho ("little giant"), a large sports arena which seats about 15,000. Attendance averaged 8,000 per night and there were 2,445 decisions for Christ in the five days. A follow-up program has been organized. Dick Rabenhorst and Richard Kaiser, who were counselors during the Crusade, are involved in this follow-up work.

Praise the Lord for the fruits of this labor! Also pray with us that these who have made decisions for Christ will now grow in their new life. □

SEEING GOD

(Continued from page 13)

STUDIES—Establishing studies in homes on an individual or group basis.

The last week in July was especially exciting for us. We held seven backyard

■ *Metropolitan Baptist Church* is the name chosen for the new church extension work in South Fargo, ND. The Rev. Ted Keck is the pastor.

■ The Rev. and Mrs. Ed Oster assumed the responsibility of superintendent of buildings at the *North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD*, on Oct. 1, 1977. Rev. Oster had served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND, since 1973.

■ *Faith Baptist Church of Rock Rapids, IA*, was received into the Iowa Association, Sept. 1, 1977, at its annual sessions. The Rev. Reuben Grueneich is pastor.

■ The Rev. Edward Steinhart resigned as assistant pastor, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, effective Sept. 30, 1977, and became the assistant pastor of an independent Baptist Church in Pontiac, MI.

■ Mr. Dan Van Gerpen is the director of church ministries at Bethel Church, Missoula, MT. He previously served at First Baptist Church, Emery, SD.

■ Mr. Reid Galbraith, minister of Christian education and youth at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, has resigned from that position and returned to North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, to continue his education.

Bible clubs for children ages 4-12 years with a total of 80-90 children involved. The enthusiasm of these children and their smiling faces were encouraging to us. The children became excellent door-openers into their homes. Upon making recalls on these children, we found many prospects for a Sunday school.

As the summer progressed, we became involved in individual Bible studies throughout the community. It was amazing how quickly these people opened up and shared their lives with us. To be able to study the Bible and pray together was a very meaningful experience. Other people made commitments to involvement in group Bible studies in the fall.

Because of the positive responses, a Sunday school and adult Bible study began September 11 in a school in the community. To continue the ministry of outreach started in Southdale, there must be people who will commit themselves to prayer support and time involvement in the Sunday school and Bible study. People from the North

■ The Rev. Frederick Sweet was ordained into the Christian ministry on Sept. 17, 1977, by Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA. Mr. Sweet is minister of Christian education at Calvary Baptist Church.

■ *Fellowship Bible Church, Kalamazoo, MI*, the Rev. Larry Messer, pastor; *Southside Baptist Temple*, the Rev. Ron Heisler, pastor; and *Grace Baptist Temple, Upper Sandusky, OH*, the Dr. James Reidling, pastor, were approved as Church Extension projects at the Church Extension Board meeting, September 23-24. These churches are being recommended by the Michigan Association and the Penn-Ohio Association church recognition councils respectively, to be accepted into the associations at the annual meetings in 1978. Other projects approved by the Church Extension Board are to be located in *Brandon, SD*; *Middle Island, NY*; *Southdale, Winnipeg, MB*; and *Gillette, WY*.

■ The Rev. Kendall Mercer begins his ministry as pastor of West Side Baptist Church, Beatrice, NE, in December, 1977. He had been pastor of First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD, since 1971.

■ Mr. Gerald Froese is the new pastor at Onoway Baptist Church, Onoway, AB, as of Sept. 11, 1977.

American Baptist churches in Winnipeg are presently involved in this work.

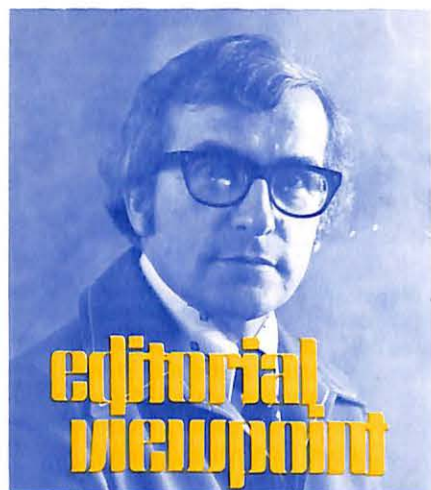
With the contacts that have been made, the concept of a local church in Southdale has become a reality. We feel the only direction to go now is forward! We look forward with a vision in faith of establishing a witness for Jesus Christ in Southdale! □

IS JESUS THE SON OF GOD?

(Continued from page 28)

that those who deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God have the spirit of anti-Christ (1 John 4:2-3, 15). John wrote the Gospel, "that ye might believe that *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (Jn. 20:30-31).

Philip Schaff wrote a book, *The Person of Christ*, in which he gives quotes of many outstanding personalities of history who were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God. Do you choose to believe the "theologians" (??) or THE WORD OF GOD? □



editorial viewpoint

Christ is born today

"Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born to-
day . . ."

This jubilant exclamation is the beginning of the mediaeval Latin carol, "In dulci jubilo," which has found its way into most of the American homes, since John M. Neale translated it into English a century ago. The music is a 14th century German melody. Already then many of the European nations had translated this carol into their own languages and were singing it in churches and in their houses: "Christ is born today! Christ is born today!"

Also this year uncounted many people all over the world will make the same profession of faith, "Christ is born today!" There will be pageants and plays, showing Baby-Jesus in the crib and Mary and Joseph in their first joy of parenthood.

But was Christ really born "today"?

Do our children hear the truth when we tell them that on Christmas Day Christ "will be born" as a baby, and when our songs and actions seem to be geared to a birthday party for an infant?

A concerned theologian has, in fact, pointed out that the travesty of Christmas is not Santa Claus but a birthday

party, where the 33-year-old honoree is obliged to come dressed in nursery clothes.

Children, of course, relate easily to the helpless, homeless Baby, but there is the question as to whether it is not part of the obligation of us parents to introduce Jesus Christ at the same time as the King of Kings, as the fully grown-up Son of God, who is making some very clear demands on their and our lives. Emphasizing the infancy of Jesus, and only that, to me looks like an insidious way of avoiding mature commitments to a full grown Deity.

I remember how my father, a Baptist minister, never failed to combine with the narration of Christ's birth also those New Testament passages which depict Jesus as the omnipotent world ruler, sitting at the right hand of God. We loved to sing the old Christmas carols of Christ in the manger, surrounded by "ox and ass before Him bow." But at the end of each Christmas celebration, both at church and in our own home, my father would direct our thoughts to the Christ at the Cross, to his resurrection and ascension, to the fact that he is the King of Kings. This emphasis never reduced my joy over the newborn King. On the contrary, I rejoiced even more when I tried to comprehend that this little Baby Jesus was at the same time the King before whom at one time in future every knee would bow and every tongue would confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This picture of every human bowed before Jesus Christ meant more to me than the bowing of ox and ass at the manger.

Fortunately there are enough Christmas carols that sing of Christ as both the Babe and the King. Even the unknown mediaeval master must have had the whole ministry of Christ in mind, because in the last stanza he proclaims: "Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save.

Calls you one, and calls you all,
To gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save!"

A little girl came running to her

mother on Christmas Day, in each hand a lollipop. "These candies I will give to Baby-Jesus when he has become a little bit older." Is this just an innocent misunderstanding? When the magi from the East came to pay their respect to Jesus, the King of the Jews as they thought, they brought gifts worthy of and usually given to a king.

About 2000 years ago, when Christ truly was born, "suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased'."

(Luke 2:13-14, Good News translation).

The angels knew Jesus. Thus they did not waste any time in praising him as the sweet baby, they rather rejoiced that Christ had visibly begun his work of redemption and salvation among men.

It is Christmas season again. There will be much singing and celebrating. As Christians we have so much more reason to take the lead in praising God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, especially during these days. And the mediaeval composer shall guide us with his instruction:

"Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this.

He hath opened the heavenly door,
And man is blessed for evermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this!"

RJK □

THANK YOU

The many get-well cards, letters, flowers and phone calls which I received during my hospital stay in Sioux Falls, SD, and during the days of recovery at home were much appreciated. Your kind words of encouragement, the assurance of your prayers and the comfort from God's Word helped me through the days of critical illness. Thank you very much to each and everyone.

Your grateful editor,
Reinhold J. Kerstan

Just returned from a visit to my first church family and Pastor Gerlitz, and, my, how they've grown! A beautiful church body glorifying the Father, through the Son.

Because of my move to Arizona, I belong to a Conservative Baptist Church here.

—Maude J. Cushman,
Quartzsite, AZ

Dear Editor:

Send me one more year of your Baptist Herald. I think your magazine is excellent for spiritual growth and for keeping me informed as to happenings within the N.A.B. Jesus lives in my heart now because of your Extension work in Renton, WA, the Sierra Heights Baptist Church.

open dialogue

memorial

JOHN ADAM of Minneapolis, MN, was born Oct. 10, 1900, and died Aug. 30, 1977, at the age of 76 years. He came from Europe as a young man. Soon after coming to Minneapolis he was baptized and became a member of Faith Baptist Church in 1923, where he remained a faithful supporter until the time of his death. He married Esther Steinfeld on Sept. 4, 1926. He is survived by his wife, Esther; son and daughter-in-law, John and Millie Adam; daughter and son-in-law, Doris and Dr. Peter Fehr; 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers and 1 sister. Pastor Allan Strohschein officiated at the funeral service held Sept. 2, 1977.

LYDIA BOLLINGER, 68, of Linton, ND, was born Sept. 16, 1908, and died Aug. 12, 1977. She received Christ as Savior at the age of 12 and was baptized June 12, 1921, receiving membership in First Baptist Church and attending faithfully until her death. She married Edward Bollinger on May 22, 1931. She is survived by one daughter, four grandchildren, one great-grandchild, one sister and one brother. Services were held Aug. 16, 1977, at First Baptist Church, Linton, ND, with the Rev. Clyde Zimbelman officiating.

LENA SIEBRANDS, age 63, died Aug. 31, 1977, at her home in Aplington, IA. She was born the daughter of George and Elizabeth Janssen Engelkes, Nov. 3, 1913, near Rock Rapids, IA. On October 12, 1938, Lena married Albert Siebrands. They lived in the Parkersburg and Aplington area. She confessed Christ early in life, was baptized on Feb. 9, 1958, and became a member of the Aplington Baptist Church. Mrs. Siebrands is survived by her son, Dalen, Waverly; a daughter, Mrs. Richard (Dalene) Tjabring, Aplington; two sisters: Mrs. Vernon (Jessie) Johnson, and Mrs. Martha Slater; one brother, John Engelkes; 5 grandchildren; and her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Engelkes. Funeral services were conducted September 3, with the Rev. Donald Patet, officiating.

COLORADO

(Continued from page 11)

Two weeks after the group returned home, they were asked again about the trip. Some comments were: "I'll never forget it! It's hard to describe how I feel . . . it was just great! The best thing I've ever been on . . . it was great, in more ways than one! I would definitely advise anyone to go on this sort of a trip! We got to know Joe, and he was neat! What really impressed me was the 'oneness' in our church as the people helped us in so many different ways and were behind us. This verse in Philipians 2:2 LNT 'working together with one heart and mind and purpose' sums up what I mean."

The results of this tour? Only time and eternity will reveal the answer to this question. As a church, our prayer would be to see our young people continue with this same enthusiasm through the coming years as they share Christ, as they "keep on singin'," and as they seek God's guidance in all decisions.

As to the efforts put forth in the 10 days of CMME, we read in Isaiah 55:11 "so also is my Word. I send it out and it always produces fruit. It shall accomplish all I want it to and prosper everywhere I send it." (LB)

was born Aug. 27, 1922, in children born to Benjamin and Christ at the age of 14 1936. She had many trying continued to testify of her faith in God especially through her singing. On Feb. 4, 1949, she married Gerhard Neumann. God blessed their happy life together with two children, Reinhard and Barbara. They moved to Canada in 1951 and joined Central Baptist Church, Edmonton. Claudia was active throughout the years singing for God's glory, teaching a Sunday school class, in the Women's Missionary Society, and in charge of Central Baptist's flower committee. She died Aug. 28, 1977. She is survived by her husband, Gerhard; two children, Reinhard and Barbara; one brother, George, and four sisters: Halia Hohensee, Erika Adebahr, and Margaret and Rita Selinger. The Rev. Gerald Scheel officiated at the funeral service.

MARTHA SAUER was born Nov. 9, 1894, to the Gottlieb Heckerts at Rozyszcze Russia, and died Sept. 8, 1977, at the age of 82 years. In 1914 she was united in marriage to Eduard Heinrich, who preceded her in death in 1923. In 1924 she married Adolph Sauer, who preceded her in death in 1970, as well as a son in childhood. In 1911, she accepted Christ as her Savior, was baptized, and became a member of the Rozyszcze church. In 1928 she moved to Canada and settled in Leduc area, then to Camrose, AB. In 1937 they came to St. Joseph. She was a faithful member of the church here until the time of her death. She leaves to mourn her passing, one son, Leo Sauer, and his wife; three granddaughters, one brother, Edmund Heckert; two sisters, Therese Feige and Mary Spitzke; and many other relatives and friends. The funeral service was held Sept. 10. The Rev. Oscar Fritzke officiated.

MRS. CLARENCE (HALLIE) SCHMIDT was born March 2, 1899, at Admire and died Aug. 14, 1977, at Great Bend, KS. She married Clarence Schmidt April 20, 1920, at Chetopa, KS. Survivors include her husband; 2 sons: Joe of Ventura, CA, and Jack of Lawrence, KS; one daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Minnick, Erie, PA; one brother, Roscoe Bell; two sisters: Vera Seck and Mrs. Lillian Smith; nine grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS. The Rev. Don Moor officiated at the funeral.

We have a great God and we give to Him all the praise and glory! □

NEWS & VIEWS

(Continued from page 28)

the Bill of Rights and separation of church and state would have a ghost of a chance in a new constitutional convention."

In another action, the Committee rejected a proposal to investigate possible legal action against President Carter for the appointment of a personal representative to the Vatican, but expressed its opposition to the appointment.

The Baptist Joint Committee is an agency maintained in the nation's capital by nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

HEADED SOUTH?

You are welcome at
Central Valley Baptist Church
(NAB).
Main and Scobey Ave.
Donna, Texas

Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Sunday worship service: 10:30 AM
Sunday evening service: 7:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:45 PM

ADOLF SCHRADER, 90, Yorkton, SK, died Aug. 26, 1977. He was born in Wolhynien, Poland, May 22, 1887. After serving in the Russian army for three years he came to Canada in 1913. In 1921 he married Magdalena Fink, who died in 1973. He was baptized and joined the Fonehill Baptist Church in 1931. In 1948 he moved to Yorkton and joined the Central Baptist Church. He held offices in the Sunday school and church and was made honorary deacon. He is survived by one son, two daughters, and seven grandchildren. The memorial service was held Aug. 29, 1977; the Rev. Morley Schultz officiated.

IDA BEHLEN, 85, born July 24, 1891, in Columbus, NE, died July 8, 1977. In her early youth she became a Christian, was baptized Aug. 13, 1905, and received into the fellowship of Shell Creek Baptist Church. She was a faithful member until her decease, and a former member of the Women's Missionary Society. She was married to Gus Behlen, March 4, 1910. To this union were born three sons. Her husband preceded her in death Oct. 27, 1942. She is survived by 3 sons: Elmer, Loren and George, all of Columbus; 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The Rev. Wm. Effa officiated at the funeral service, July 11, 1977.

JOHN LANG, born in Southey, SK, February 1919, died July 16, 1977. He accepted Christ, was baptized and joined the Southey Baptist Church. There he was faithful unto death serving his Lord as Sunday school superintendent, teacher, deacon and church moderator. He is survived by his wife, Grace; three daughters: Mrs. Lloyd Sauer (Janet), Mrs. Ray Seutter (Marlyn), Mrs. Larry Manz (Kathy); two sons: Kenneth and David; five brothers: Carl, Jake, Albert, Ernest and Walter; one sister (Ann), Mrs. John Wolgemuth; and twelve grandchildren. The Rev. Robert J. Reid and the Rev. Len Penner officiated at the service.

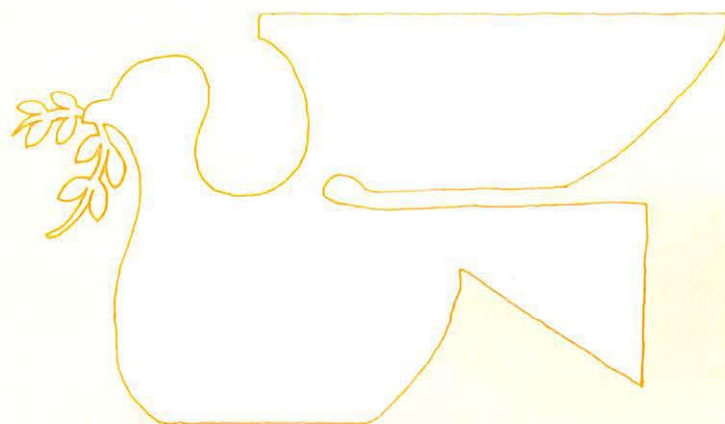
PHILIP F. SPILLANE was born in New Brunswick, NJ, on June 14, 1942, and died Sept. 23, 1977. Philip was a member of First Baptist Church, Jamesburg. He was also a member of the Christian Businessmen's Committee of the Raritan Valley Association. Philip was a Marine Corp Veteran who served in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Rose Marie; a son, Philip, Jr., and a daughter, Shannon Leigh; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip D. Spillane, Monroe, NJ and a brother, James Daniel.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!!!!

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NOV 1981

Thanks be to God for a Savior,
Christ the Lord.



Thanks be to God for all
who know and follow the Savior.

Thanks be to God for committed Christians
whose prayers and gifts help to share the gift of God.

*We wish you a happy Christmas and
God's leading for the new year.*