



July/August 1977

baptist herald



The ordination of a pastor in the Moscow Baptist Church.



The consecration of a prayer house in the town of Semipalatinsk.



The consecration of a prayer house in Novgorod.



Participants of the extended Plenum of the AUCECB in Moscow, February 1977.

News from Our Fellow Baptists in USSR

BAPTIST BEGINNINGS IN UKRAINE COMMEMORATED

KIROVOGRAD—This year, the Kirovograd Church of Evangelical Christians-Baptists will celebrate its 110th Anniversary. The Church is considered the "cradle" of Baptist work in the Ukraine.

Presently numbering about 800 members, the congregation now meets in a new prayer-house (church building), which was opened in December of 1976.

The Evangelical Baptist movement in the Ukraine came into being in the latter part of the 19th Century, led by Ivan Ryaboshapka, Efim Tzimbal, Michael Ratushny and others. From its origins and up to the October Revolution the movement was severely persecuted by the tsarist regime.

Church-State separation under the Law of 1918 placed all religions in equal position in Soviet Russia, and all believers could freely perform their ministry. As new churches were opened in the Ukraine, a Baptist Union was established, and by 1925 its magazine, *The Baptist of the Ukraine* appeared. The Union was part of the Federative Union of Baptists in the U.S.S.R.

A Union of Christians of Evangelical Faith was organized in 1926 in Odessa. They also began a publication, *The Evangelist*.

In 1944, Evangelical Christians and Baptists merged into one Union. Christians of Evangelical Faith (Pentecostals) joined with Christians-Baptists in 1945.

At present, more than 40 percent of the membership of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the U.S.S.R. are in the Ukraine. A superintendent, the Rev. Jakov Doukhonchenko, resides in Kiev. The churches in the Ukraine have been baptizing over 3,000 new converts each year recently.

Each of the churches has a minister, and three or four different preachers usually deliver sermons during a worship service. Congregational and choir singing is a vital part of worship also, with wide use of musical instruments. Some churches have two choirs, and most choir members are young people.

Members of the Evangelical Christians-Baptists churches are educated on the basis of evangelical teaching to maintain a proper attitude in their Christian responsibilities before God, Church, Society and State.

Christian families, usually large, live

in harmony. Children are brought up with a spirit of respect and love for other people. The number of divorces among believers is almost zero.

It is understood that believers enjoy equal rights with other citizens. They work in agriculture, industry, social and medical services as well as in other occupations.

Churches of Evangelical Christians-Baptists observe a number of Christian holidays: New Year, Christmas, Annunciation, Candlemas, Palm Sunday, Easter, Ascension, Trinity, and Transfiguration. They also celebrate a Harvest Day and Day of Unity.

The most solemn of these, it is said, is Easter. Then pastors greet all those gathered in worship by repeating three times: "Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen!" The congregation answers with one voice: "Is Risen Indeed." This is followed by the singing of hymns, messages, reading of letters exchanged with other congregations, and the recitation of Christian poems.

Other occasions of Christian celebration are marriages, with the ceremony solemnly observed in the prayer-houses; and the dedication of children, which is performed in the prayer-houses as well as in the home.

Ukrainian Baptists, in reviewing their more than 110 years, are obeying the Psalmist's admonition: "Praise the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever." (Psalm 118:1)

SOVIET BAPTISTS OPEN NEW BUILDINGS

VOLGOGRAD—This city was razed to the ground as the fortune of nations was decided here during the severe years of World War II. Now, a new and modern city has been raised from the earlier ruins.

And, as a witness of the victory of life over death and peace over enmity, Christ's Church lives and glorifies its Redeemer. A new house of prayer (church building) was completed and opened just this year by the Evangelical Christians-Baptists Church in Volgograd (previously known as Stalingrad).

Soviet Baptists report two other prayer houses recently dedicated. One is in Novgorod, formerly a crossroads of commerce between East and West and, as one of the oldest Russian cities, guar-

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Monthly Publication of the North American Baptist General Conference
 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL. 60181
 Editor: Dr. R. J. Kerstan
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The Baptist Herald is a member of Associated Church Press and Evangelical Press Association. Subscription Price: \$5.50 per year in the United States or Canada (\$6.00 in foreign countries)—\$5.00 per year for "Church Family Subscription Plan" (at least 50% of church households have to be subscribers), and for ministers and missionaries—\$4.00 per year for students, servicemen and residents in homes for the aging—60 cents for single copies. Introductory offer for new subscribers—\$4.50 per year. All address change correspondence is to be addressed to Baptist Herald Subscription Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL. 60181. Six weeks notice required for change of address. When ordering a change, please give the effective date and furnish an address stencil impression from a recent issue. Advertising Rates: \$8.00 per inch single column, 2 1/4 inches wide. Obituaries are to be limited to 100 words. A charge of \$2.00 is to be paid when the item is sent in for publication. All editorial and business correspondence is to be addressed to Dr. R. J. Kerstan, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL. 60181. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL. 60181 and at additional mailing offices. News reported and views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference. (Printed in U.S.A.)

Three Bible Study Leaders Named For Men's Conference

WASHINGTON—Three men have been chosen to lead Bible study sessions at the 2nd World Conference of Baptist Men at Indianapolis, IN, April 5-9, 1978.

An attendance of 5,000 men from 60 nations is expected for the meeting. The first such session was held in Hong Kong in December 1974.

Lee Satterfield, a Southern Baptist layman of Alta Vista, Virginia, chairman of the steering committee, announced the Bible study leaders as: Dr. Gerald L. Borchert, professor of Biblical Studies, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; Dr. Robert C. Campbell, executive secretary of the American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, PA; Dr. Dale Moody, professor of theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY.

Information about the conference and registration forms may be secured from BWA Men's Department, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. □

Why do we have CONFLICT?

A Study of James 4:1-8

by Walter Kerber



Walter Kerber

James asks an arresting question in his epistle, chapter 4 verse 1: "What causes wars, and what causes fighting among you?" In his book, *How to Solve Conflicts*, George Sweeting writes, that a Norwegian statistician computerized every war that had ever been fought. His study indicated that during 5,560 years of recorded history there have been 14,531 wars, averaging a little over 2.6 wars each year. In the history of 185 generations, only ten of those generations have witnessed unbroken peace.

It is quite obvious that, throughout the ages, war has been the rule on earth, and peace has been the exception. World War I was fought to end all wars and make the world safe for democracy. But today we have conflict on every continent of the world. Why is this so? What is the cause of our conflicts?

These questions have been asked by men throughout the ages. For every question there has been a suggested answer. Nickolas Rowe suggested that war is "the needy bankrupt's last resort." Thomas Hobb said, "There are three principal causes of war: competition, diffidence and glory." Plato proposes, "Wars and factions and fightings have no other source than the body and its lusts. For it is for the getting of wealth that all our wars arise: and we are compelled because of our body, to whose service we are slaves." The Apostle James hits at the heart of the matter when he writes by divine inspiration in 4:2, "You lust and do not have; so you commit murder and you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask." He answers further in 3:14, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth."

The Rev. Walter Kerber is the pastor of the Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON.

Here is the plain truth: the explosive jealousy and selfish ambition of the human heart can and have inspired wars large and small, individual and global.

So let our discussion be both personal and collective. What is the cause of our conflict? Why do we have war?

I. It is the result of bitter envy.

The Apostle James writes, "You lust and do not have; so you commit murder." The word lust usually refers to sensuous desire, but here it refers to desiring passionately or coveting something that belongs to another (as in Acts 20:33; Matt. 5:28).

Wars do not start by spontaneous combustion, they come to fruition when unspiritual attitudes wrangle in the human heart. A storm is caused by hot air rising and cold air rushing in to take its place. Many storms in the social order—personal, national and international, have their origin in a jealous desire for displacement; one desire or ambition rushing in to unseat an incumbent, or one party wishing to replace another in power. On the football field, a man on the bench desires to replace a man in the line-up. On the stage one actor wants another's part. In a business organization one man runs another down in order to build himself up. Envy and jealousy are at work. We deprecate; we criticize; we undermine in order to establish ourselves. These subtle evils are also found, regretfully, in the church.

As indicated above in the word *lust*, James speaks of unsatisfied desire, literally evil desires. In his letters to Timothy Paul speaks of the departure of his friend, Demas, "For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). The tug of possessions ruined Paul's companion and fellow servant. The desire of the world drew him away.

The first four chapters of the book of Acts give us the thrilling success story of the early church. We are told of tremendous growth and victory experienced by that first group of believers. But in chapter five we see the beginnings of strife. Barnabas, one of the wealthy members of the church, willingly sold his land and donated the money to the ministry of the apostles.

Luke tells us a certain man and his wife in the church (Ananias and Sapphira) saw the honor that Barnabas received and lusted after this praise. Selling a piece of their property, they held back part of the money and gave just a portion to the leaders of the church.

In essence, they wanted what Barnabas had without doing what he did. They were not willing to pay the price!

II. It is the result of selfish ambition.

Another cause of war and misunderstanding comes from our desire to have. The New American Standard Bible renders it: "You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel." Behind most wars between nations and individuals is a passion to have and to hold. Property, money, prestige, power and position have become the storm centers of life.

Nations desire to have, and they cannot obtain—so they fight to possess. Labor fights with management; workers go on strike. Why? Often it is because of the desires and lust of men. The more they have, the more they want.

At the same time big business and management refuse to come to agreements with their workers—often because they too are greedy. Profits never seem big enough. The desire after money becomes an obsession. Wealth is their God.

At the outset of World War II, Hitler defended his acts of aggression by declaring that Germany was simply seeking more "living space."

In her lust for power, Russia has openly declared that communism will one day conquer the world. North Vietnam sought to dominate its neighbor to the south. Throughout history, men and nations have had a desire for power and authority. And James tells us that this evil desire is the cause of war.

III. It is the result of lack of prayer.

James writes in 4:2, "You do not have because you do not ask." In 1:5, James challenges the reader: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given to him."

Hostile, contentious church troublemakers are those who either neglect their prayer life completely or pervert it. The quickest way to get out of fellowship with the Lord is either by neglecting to pray or by praying for the sole purpose of achieving selfish ends. Real joy, real happiness in the Christian life is derived from close fellowship with God through sincere, unselfish prayer.

During the days of World War II, Chaplain Wyatt Willard conducted a Bible class and prayer meeting on board a ship headed toward Tarawa. About 15 dedicated Christian boys attended. On the night before they hit the beach, they had a circle of prayer. Every one of the boys prayed something like this: "Lord, tomorrow we are going to storm the beaches of Tarawa. Our officers have told us that this is going to be a bloody battle. Many of our number will be killed. If this has to be, Lord, let us who know thee be killed, and spare those who do not know thee, that they may have more time to make their decision for thee. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This is high quality unselfish praying. Those boys could do it because they were close to God. They had neither neglected nor perverted their prayer life.

When an individual Christian or a nation gives up praying to God the creator, selfish ambition and bitter envy take place which lead to murder and war.

IV. The solution to conflicts

James outlines several practical commands to his church in Jerusalem. These apply to all potential trouble makers in the church today.

1. **Submit (4:7).** One who submits himself to God is one who places himself under God's control. He makes God the sovereign of his life. Jesus Christ comes to be not only the Savior but the Lord of his life as well. J.L. Kraft, the founder of the Kraft Cheese Company, was a dedicated man of God. If he had to be out of town on Wednesday night or if he was sick, he would always wire his pastor to assure him that he would be praying for the midweek service that night. This quality of dedication is a rare jewel in God's sight.

2. **Resist (4:7).** The command is to resist the devil. In

other words, "Use the will power God has given you to fight against the ruler of the powers of darkness who is dedicated to your destruction. This resistance will result in the devil's fleeing from you. The best way to defeat the devil is by the proper knowledge and ability to use the Scriptures.

3. **Draw near to God (4:8).** The first step in this personal relationship is a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Through this step, man is initiated into the God-man fellowship. Without personal commitment to Christ man is excluded from this fellow-

(Continued on page 27)

Heavy Thinking

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**Don't let
the sun
go down
with you
still angry —
get over it
quickly;
for when
you are
angry
you might
give a
mighty
foothold
to the
devil.**

EPHESIANS 4:26

CHECK YOUR PRIORITIES

by Delmar Wesseler



A Kansas wheat farmer cannot help but identify with the sayings and parables which Jesus told. Our Lord must have loved the out-of-doors and watched carefully what was taking place in his natural surroundings because he had so much to say about plants, birds and the wonders of God's creation.

These stories of Jesus have a good deal to say to the people of our North American Baptist Conference. More than a century ago, our Conference started with a small group of German immigrants in Philadelphia and the cities of the Eastern United States and Canada. These little groups of people were like mustard seeds which Jesus noted were extremely small. Many reflected the words on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. . . ." But these little groups of German people brought with them a strong sense of piety, of dedication to God as well as to the ideal of hard work. As they immigrated to the plains of Canada and the United States, they carried their commitment to God with them. Their belief in liberty did not grow out of a desire to be free of all restraints. It arose from a deep sense of gratitude that these countries of Canada and the United States offered a new opportunity within an orderly community context for them to be their best selves.

As they immigrated, they built their churches. It was not long before they realized their need for a school to provide theological education for prospective pastors. That school, now over a hundred years old, is our North American Baptist Seminary. It was moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from Rochester, New York, and has had an important ministry. Indeed, North American Baptists can be very proud both of the significant growth which has taken place in the past few years and

the excellent faculty which is composed of people with doctorate degrees and experiences from all over the world.

During World War II, we likewise saw the development of a lay school in Edmonton which has blossomed into our very exciting North American Baptist College.

When else has there been a time when so many men and women are responding with enthusiasm and gladness to the cause of the Lord Jesus? This is not a time for discouragement but for joyous hope and for constant thanksgiving. There has never been a brighter day in the history of our schools. We are not responsible for success, but we are responsible for doing our Lord's will.

The early immigrants also soon recognized the need for communications media; these early papers led to the growth of the Roger Williams Press and the formation of what today is the *Baptist Herald*.

Then with the passing of the frontier era and during the early years of the century, when the Germans were decisively removed from Cameroon, a new challenge was offered to North American Baptists: a great new missionary opportunity. This opportunity has become one of our denomination's great contributions to the kingdom of God. We have since been able under God's guidance to branch out into Nigeria, Japan and Brazil.

Horizons, like geography, never stand still. They are constantly lifting. The greater our accomplishments, the wider our horizons. Unparalleled vision and responsibility are upon us. Never before has the missionary enterprise demanded such wealth of money and superior personnel, individuals and united efforts, as now. What will we do with our worldwide vision? Some are saying we need another mission field. Will our extended horizon become an automatic heritage?

In more recent years we have launched a concentrated effort in Church Extension, a concern which is close to the hearts of our people, as we seek to touch new communities with the Gospel of Jesus.

Many other items could be added to this list in terms of our efforts, but there is no doubt that from this brief overview we can see that North American Baptists have

grown like a mustard seed from a small or humble beginning into a significant force for Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is helpful to look back, but only for the purpose of gaining perspective on the future. Hats off to the past; coats off for the future. Our past was in the hand of God. While we experienced hours of uncertainty and disappointment, we also discovered the marvelous power of God in our midst. Let's stand up to reinforce the foundations on which both the nation and the exercise of our faith have been built as individuals, spiritually, physically, and politically free, to reflect God's glory openly; as families to strengthen the Christian experience; as churches cooperatively proclaiming, teaching and ministering to people near and far. In Mark 4 Jesus said of the growing pattern in nature: first the blade appears, then the ear and after that comes the full corn; moreover, with the ripe corn comes the opportunity of harvest.

As we look back, we can thank God for the harvest in people, in financial resources, and in service opportunities. Our Seminary and College have experienced tremendous growth in the contest of a genuine cooperative spirit. They are clearly producing more trained persons for the clergy and laity than ever before. The opportunities are as Jesus said, "White unto harvest," both in this country and overseas, but we need more workers. We also need to pray for those workers because only God can move the hearts of men and women to respond in genuine commitment to him. Opening doors for men and women have never been so numerous or so wide in the history of the world. We have entered some doors, but let us not be satisfied. Past successes should only be steppingstones for future endeavors. Rewards await us yonder; work awaits us here.

Now as we look forward to what is ahead and set our "priorities for a worthy future," some with conservative feelings will want us to set goals which take very little faith to achieve. Others with a courageous spirit will challenge us to reach for the vistas which are only dreams today. During the past we have witnessed the

power of God in our denomination. Our Conference is really starting to grow because of our bolder approach to evangelism. "A Million Contacts for Christ" in a triennium may have been a little unrealistic, but it has given us a tremendous incentive for growth in Christ. It has been a successful beginning to a new perspective on evangelism in our Conference. May that drive continue as we set our new priorities for the future. Moreover, we can be confident that, if we take seriously the commission of Jesus to preach the Gospel, we will receive the promise in Matthew 28:20 of the presence of Christ not only in our lives but also in our churches and in our Conference.

May we pledge all our pounds and energy to do a good job. Leaders and followers move out; others move out of the way to get the job done.

One thing to pray for and work for is that North American Baptists will measure up to the opportunities and obligations placed upon them by the present world conditions. Let us pray for people who will challenge us to new horizons of faith and who will be representatives of a cooperative spirit.

Think what has been accomplished by our minority in past years, think what could be accomplished if we should enlist the majority. Spectators don't win games; *you* must join in.

The Lord Jesus told a parable about different types of soil in Luke 8. These soils are like various kinds of people. Moreover, they are like various kinds of attitudes in all of us. When the seed of God fell on the hard pathway, it was unable to penetrate. There are some of our people who have no vision and who seem unable to change as we seek to advance for the kingdom. They literally need to be plowed a couple times before they are ready to set their priorities in the right order. Others are like rocky soil which is very thin. While they get excited about new programs and efforts for Christ, they seem to evidence very little depth. When the pressure comes, their enthusiasm wilts in the hot sun. Still others seem to be like soil full of thistles and weeds; they are so involved in working with and for things of this world that their desire to work for Christ and his kingdom is choked in the process.

Certainly, all of us may sense that we have a little bit of each of these hang-ups. Thank God, however, there is also another type of soil! This type is ready to receive the seed and produce fruit for the kingdom. In your own lives will you pray for a greater commitment to being the right kind of soil? Will you also pray for the leadership of our Conference, our boards and our committees, that they will genuinely evidence a self-giving attitude, will consistently display a cooperative Christian spirit and will prayerfully be able to lead us into a worthy future?

Now as we look to our future, we must be aware of the temptations within our service for Christ. When working for God, there is a constant temptation to serve ourselves. There is likewise a temptation to serve for some other reason such as that of experiencing fellowship. But as Christians we need to serve for a different reason. We need to work for the kingdom because of our love and gratitude to God and because we have discovered how indebted we are to Christ for his death on the cross.

Delmar Wesseler, Lorraine, KS, past moderator (1973-1976), North American Baptist Conference; member, First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS; member, Board of Trustees, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Moreover, as we look to the future, another parable of Jesus comes to my mind. In Luke 6 Jesus told the story of two builders: one built his house upon the sand and the other built his house on the rock. The first house was destroyed in the rough, stormy weather; whereas the second house stood firm.

If our Conference is to succeed and have a worthy future, it is imperative that we understand that prayer is one of the solid foundations which is an absolutely essential priority for future development. Prayer is the means by which we touch our energy source. It unites Christians in this country with missionaries abroad through Christ, our Lord. It is the basic element for power within our churches. It is, moreover, fundamental to the realization of our expectation for men and women being called forth to prepare for Christian service. It is necessary to give us the right perspective on our money and personal resources.

Many in our congregations have been blessed by God with money and property. We have experienced the harvest of our work. But God has given us the freedom to choose what to do with our harvest. We have a responsibility before God to provide the means by which our missionary activity, our Church Extension program and our education of Christian servants can be accomplished. We cannot take our money with us when we die. We are stewards of God's gifts to us while we live

this life. We are responsible for the choices which we make with our resources. Prayer will help us in making the right choices.

Finally, prayer is a prerequisite for being guided to become our very best selves before God. We have asked him to be our Savior, and he wants to be our Lord.

In conclusion, as we have looked to the past, we have seen the hand of God present in the North American Baptist family. But our Conference is not a relic of the past. It is a futuristic organization, and its task is not finished. We are living in a mobile world, and where we go we leave our footprints. Our footprints are not primarily left in the sands of time like the pyramids in the sands of Egypt. Instead, we are leaving our footprints in the lives of people. Let us therefore walk into the future carefully, but let us walk courageously. May the God and Father of Jesus Christ, our Lord, grant confidence for our walk, and may the mustard seeds of the past continue to sprout into more vigorous and productive plants in the future.

As I review the accomplishments that have been made in my lifetime, with the achievements of the past as an inspiration and his command and never failing promise to set the mark for the future endeavor, I look forward with confidence that we will go forward believing that all things are possible to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. □

and sat in the swing-set, reminiscing about the years I had passed there, sheltered by the gigantic maple trees, swaying in the wind and singing to the squirrels that scampered on the towering branches. My dreams dissolved when little sister came out of the back door. I went and offered her my hand, and together we went about. There was my electric train and auto-racing set which had given me so many delights. There were two big boys handling it mercilessly. Jeri said they must be at least twelve years old! The sight of it tore at my heart, and I turned away, pulling her along, hoping to shun it from my thoughts. The crowd appeared to be thinning and open spaces began emerging as one by one the objects disappeared. I wanted to forget everything so I left her side and walked down the sidewalk. There was a little girl and her father, wheeling away my bicycle, the very one on which I had first learned to ride. It too was now part of the past.

Cousin and I were just coming back from a relaxing swim in the warm summer waters of Lake Michigan. The cobblestones scorched my bare feet, and the many pebbles which I could not avoid added to my discomfort. He was an outdoor type, used to going without shoes in even the stoniest terrain. As we neared Aunt's house I could see several voluminous baskets of strawberries and plums on the back porch and could imagine how I would be spending the rest of the afternoon. Aunt put us to work, but that was good because it kept us out of mischief. I followed cousin into the house and could smell the freshly waxed floor which the maid had just finished polishing. My eyes strained to become adjusted to the sudden darkness and finally fell upon the various bags and boxes at the foot of the staircase. The realization struck me like a lightning bolt. I quickly ran upstairs to find out the latest developments. His answer was no different from what I had suspected—there was absolutely no room. I looked up to him with pleading eyes and told him I would be good, that I would sleep on the floor, but he calmly answered that there was no possibility. "Your Mom needs you," he said, and I knew that was final. He kissed us all, and Mom cried; I was disturbed but I did not comprehend all of the implications.

He spent his birthday at sea and three weeks later we received a letter that said that he had found a house with geraniums in the flowerbox. We were to come shortly.

I was still smouldering over Jeri's loss of her purse which contained my year's

supply of chewing gum. A metallic voice crackled some garbled language, and Mom turned to us and said it was time. They were waving as we walked behind the curtain and were frisked somewhat hurriedly. Sister put her fingers in her ears as the noise increased, and the seats vibrated. We were off, and she could now open her eyes. Mom's eyes were red, but I kept looking down as America disappeared beneath the clouds. The sun was shining endlessly.

I used to lie in bed at night, thinking about the future. Horrible tragedies would unfold in my fertile imagination. The phone was ringing. "Alo." The voice would tactlessly announce a terrible tragedy. I could see Mom and Dad dead in an accident. Jeri is being dragged away by a mugger. The communists are taking over, and you must leave the country. I would shiver and tears would wet my pillow. Worse yet was when I would picture the future day when a young high school graduate would give his last embrace to his parents and step onto the plane that would sever him from their company. He would be leaving for the continent of his birth, to his culture which had estranged him long before. There was despair and anxiety. I would then turn to myself and hope to die young, before that dreaded goodbye.

The cool breeze swept off the Atlantic, rustled in the tall palm trees, made a swift shuffling through my hair, and proceeded on its way to the parched ser-tao. Even though the early morning was cold, the clear skies promised tormenting temperatures by noon. My mouth still tasted of the canjica at breakfast.

The whole atmosphere was heavy, melancholic. We had just ended one of the most wonderful weeks of our lives. Far more exciting than the smells of this new land had been the enriching spiritual blessings. I had changed, and I would never be the same. The doubts, insecurity and rebellion of a young teenager had been transformed into ecstatic love, purpose and peace of heart. All of a sudden a bleak spot came into the picture, and I was unprepared for it. Almost all of the caravan was on the bus now. I could see John's hammock sticking out of a back window. Someone was blowing a Creole samba whistle. The driver started up the powerful Mercedes engine, sending out clouds of grey diesel exhaust. Robert put his hand out the window, and I clasped it as a final symbol of solidarity. I was waving my handkerchief not thinking to use it to wipe my tears which were by this time flowing freely. I would never see them again. They disappeared around a bend, in a cloud of red dust.

I left, too. I passed through dusty villages with little boys on burros fetching water at the nearest muddy spring to bring home to their mothers. I had never seen so many bamboo huts before. I stopped at Caratinga for lunch. A factory whistle blew, and a dozen men came streaming down the river bank, diving naked into the dirty waters. Nearby, a peasant woman sat upon a large rock doing her day's wash in the stream, while the vultures observed her from the vantage point of a monstrous carnauba palm. I now had nothing to tie me to this place. I belong 76 hours south of here. "Farewell cursed land."

It was 35 degrees Celsius, and we could almost see the humidity in the air. We held onto our heavy winter coats as if they were added weights tied onto us for a punishment. I kept reminding myself that it was a status symbol to walk around with a heavy coat in a place like this and at this time of the year, and this seemed to give me extra encouragement.

The whole group of singers made their way up the escalator to the air-conditioned restaurant. We sipped guaranas and commented on the previous flight. Sergio described the ice storm we had gone through and how the pilot had explained the procedures of avoiding the menacing blocks of matter. We finished our drinks and went to the line. A young hippie was shouting and laughing because at last he would return to Montreal. Somehow I could not share in his joy.

The seats were cramped, and the entire craft was hot and muggy. My individual air-blower didn't work, so I lamented my misfortune and wondered how I'd survive all of the cigarette smoke. My self-pity was quickly mortified at take-off, however. We left the island and headed over the city.

The harbor was a mirror of millions of lights—a jewel sparkling beneath the starry sky. The city was a breathtaking fantasy which astounded even the most sophisticated travellers. There was Leblom, and farther down, Ipanema and Copacabana. The familiar ferry was crossing the harbor from Niteroi, and I remembered the many times I had been on it. The cable car was making another trip up the Sugar Loaf, and I secretly wished I could transport myself to that beautiful peak, surrounded by the sea. For some unexplained reason, I knew that this would be my final glimpse of the land I had loved. We were moving higher and higher and farther away. The darkness enveloped Sugar Loaf, but Corcovado still loomed in the hazy

(Continued on page 12)



GOOD-BYES

by Allan Effa

The torrid sunrays of June crept through the bare window and rested upon my forehead. I awoke, startled at the realization that this was the day, and that I had been late to greet it. I unfolded my sleeping bag and picked up the clothes lying beside me on the floor.

Allan Effa, student at North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Effa, pastor of Napier Parkview Baptist Church. From 1966-76 the Effas were missionaries in Brazil.

How unfamiliar my room appeared with its naked walls and vacant closets! I passed through the silent hall and proceeded to the front door.

Our front yard and Main Street were transformed into a circus. Hundreds of people were dashing about, pointing their fingers and shouting with happy voices. Little children squealed and ran to and fro, chasing each other around the bushes and flowerbeds. All of those possessions which had made up my world for these past eight years of life were strewn upon the lawn. The auc-

ioneer wearing a crooked straw hat ascended on to the back of the pickup, and soon the crowd hushed and turned toward his direction. He began to utter some numbers mixed with unintelligible words, always emphasized by the thumping of his shovel against the floor of the vehicle.

I began wandering about. I could recognize some of the faces, those people I had known for so long; now they were strangely remote, appearing as vicious demons attacking the very foundations of our harmonious household. I went

We're Looking for People Who Want to Lead

TESTIMONIES OF TWO SECOND CAREER SEMINARY STUDENTS

JIM DICK

After three years as an F.B.I. agent, I knew I was supposed to leave the Bureau.

It was not going to be easy, for several reasons. My career was providing much of what we wanted—excitement and status for me, and security and material wealth for my family. Also, I did not know what I was going to do vocationally. There was no doubt that it was time to leave though, because I was spending too much time away from the family and did not have a sense of ful-

Art Bollaert and Jim Dick have completed their second year as students at North American Baptist Seminary.



fillment as an agent. This realization was the beginning of a series of events that God used over the next year and a half that was to be my call to the ministry.

During a meeting with the Rev. Clarence Walth, North Central Area secretary, I inquired about the possibility of an administrative position with the denomination. In response, he read Romans 12:3-8 to me and asked me if I had ever considered the ministry. Since I had never viewed myself as a pastor, the answer was obviously "no." Within a few weeks of that conversation, however, I visited the seminary and was impressed with what I saw. I left the seminary enthused, but not called. Several months later, I resigned from the F.B.I. and remained in Rapid City, South Dakota, where I opened a business conducting investigations for attorneys.

Later my wife, Marilyn, and I attended a Decision Conference at the seminary. This aided in pinning down the issue, "Was going to seminary just something I wanted to do, or was God really calling me?"

On Pentecost Sunday, 1975, that question was very clearly answered. That morning the pastor's sermon was directed, he thought, to the graduating high school seniors. As far as I was concerned, he had a congregation of one. God, through him, very clearly said, "Jim, what you do with the rest of your life is up to you, but you are not going to be happy until you are in my perfect will." I knew this meant seminary. A struggle which had lasted over a year and a half was finally over!

Choosing a seminary was not difficult. I knew there were several excellent seminaries, but I also knew that whatever I needed in preparation for an effective ministry would be provided at North American Baptist Seminary. I have not been disappointed. I have found the school to be Christ-centered and academically challenging.

At this point in my life, I have no doubt that I have been called to the pastoral ministry. This call has been confirmed in the opportunity I have had of serving at Trinity Baptist Church under the supervision of Pastor Leon Bill. Through the classroom and experiences I've had at the church, I am learning how to become a leader in that position.

I believe that the key to effective church leadership is Jesus' statement, "I came not to be served, but to serve." Scripture tells us repeatedly that people sought him. They did this because in numerous situations, he gave himself to them. I want to be that kind of leader. And I'm glad that God has called me to this "second career" opportunity.

Jim

Could there have been any time in the history of the world that was more in need of leadership than these closing years of the twentieth century? Can Christians fail to meet the challenge that is before them today to lead a searching world to the Way, the Truth and the Life?

The answer, of course, to both of these questions is no. The needs are great, and God is actually looking for people who want to serve him. I'm glad that he found me.

It was not easy to respond to God's call, and it isn't easy now as I continue to pursue his will for my life. Following him requires dedication and determination. It requires a fervent prayer life and daily devotion that supplies the enthusiasm which is vital for effective servanthood.

My conversion and baptism were adult experiences. My response to the Lord's calling involved not only my life but also the lives of my wife and three children. It meant relocating from Michigan to South Dakota. It meant new schools for the children. It meant new roles as husband and wife. It meant changing from a lucrative position with a state-wide utility company to a college student, dependent upon veterans' benefits.

For my wife it meant leaving the security of her home to face settling in a "new land" and meeting the challenge of supporting her husband and family. Was there a place to live? Was there employment available in Sioux Falls? Would I be able to manage in school after many years out of the classroom?

ART BOLLAERT

others—loving them, not lording over them. To lead requires tenderness, intimacy and openness. To lead means to be concerned that Christ's goals are met, and not my own.

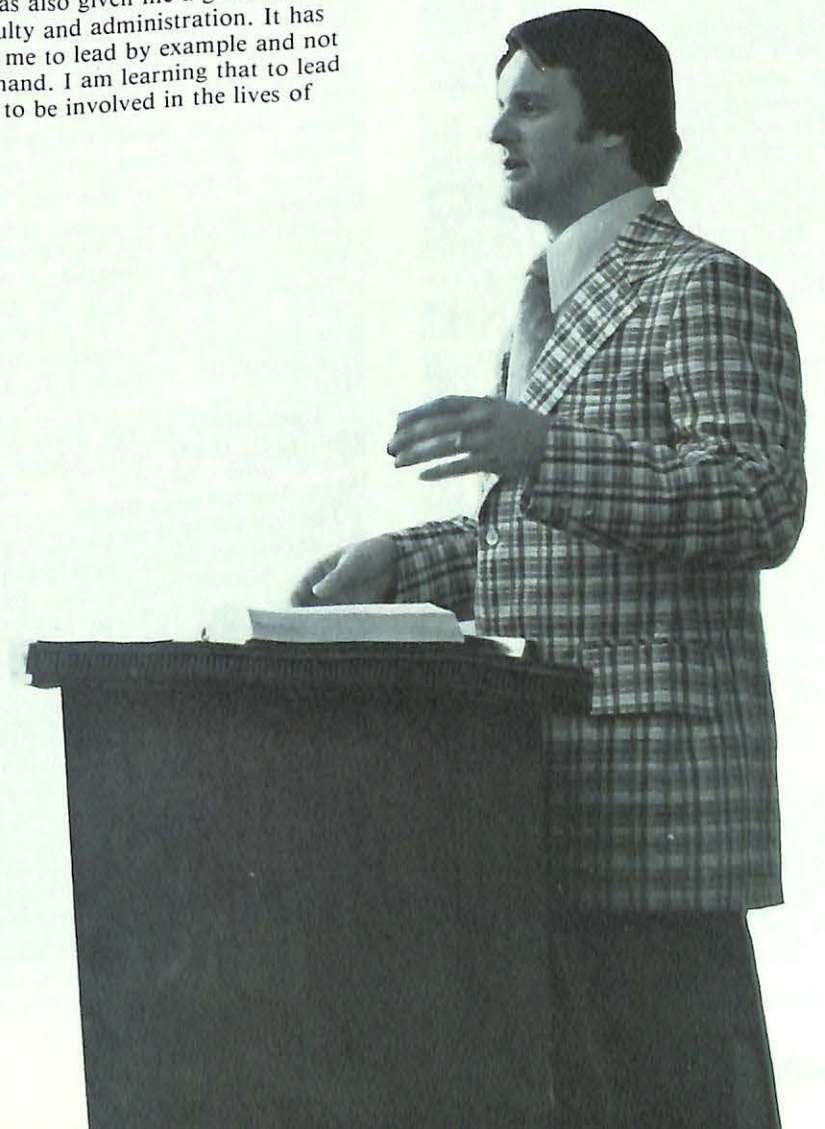
In response to his call, God has provided blessings beyond what I am able to ask or to think. Such are the rewards of obedience to the divine command. □

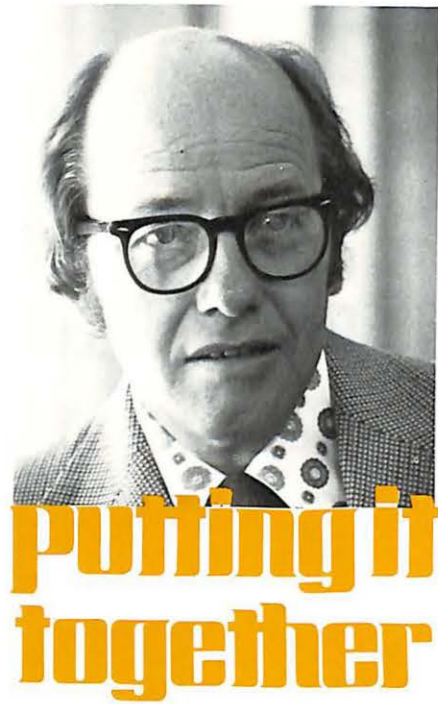
There seemed to be giants in the land, but the resounding cry in my heart and soul was that God was calling me into the ministry. And now, having spent one year studying here, I am more sure than ever that I am where God wants me. The seminary has helped me to develop my spiritual gifts.

I believe that God has entrusted to me the gifts of preaching, teaching and pastoring. In obedience to his command, I want to build the church and bless the lives of others with the peace that surpasses understanding and the love that shows a concern for others, expecting nothing in return.

The North American Baptist Seminary has also given me a good model in its faculty and administration. It has taught me to lead by example and not by demand. I am learning that to lead means to be involved in the lives of

Art





by Ernie Zimbelman

"Dear Dr. Zimbelman:

I am a very tired minister. I know I love the Lord, and I spend literally hours committing myself to him. I want to be a faithful servant, but there are many areas of my ministry which I consider unsatisfactory.

The main area of concern about myself is that I cannot say 'No' to people, and so I find myself constantly doing things that I feel are not my responsibility. As a result I find myself resentful and often downright bitter.

Why don't I stand up for myself?
A Pastor"

Your question: "Why don't I stand up for myself?" can be answered rather easily. You do not stand up for what you want, because you are afraid of rejection. What people think of you and expect of you is more important to you than what you think and what you want. Consequently, they get their way, and you lose respect for yourself. Eventually, you resent people who seem to be able to control and manipulate you in order to gain their goals.

There are several books on the market now to help individuals like yourself:

1. *Asserting Yourself* by Sharon and Gordon Bower (Addison-Wesley, 1977).
2. *When I Say No, I Feel Guilty* by M. Smith (Bantam Books).
3. *Stand Up, Speak Out, Talk Back* by Robert Alberti and M. Emmons (Pocket Books).
4. *Assertion Without Hostility* (tape) by Ernie Zimbelman, (NABS). (\$2.50)

This sounds like very simple advice, and so it is. But to actually change your situation so that you do not feel controlled and manipulated by others demands a basic change in lifestyle. You must remember that where there is a "manipulator" there is also someone willing to be "manipulated." As you discuss your feelings openly, you will find there are many people who share your experiences.

Repression of strong feelings can be destructive. Unless the resentment and bitterness you speak about are appropriately expressed, you will release them inappropriately. An inappropriate way for releasing resentments is to "dump" them on those we love most: our family members. This causes long-range problems.

Another way to release bitterness inappropriately is to convert it to physical symptoms. This may result in organic breakdown in such common illnesses as ulcers, heart problems, colitis, and various forms of hypertension. Or it may be converted to psychosomatic illnesses such as head and backaches, tiredness, "not feeling good," or a vast variety of neurotic and even psychotic reactions.

Christians often put up with a lot of "guff" and then rationalize it as ideal Christian behavior. It is one thing to "suffer for the cause of Christ," and quite something else "to allow myself to be manipulated because I need to be liked."

"Treat others as you want them to treat you" (Luke 6:31, Living Bible). "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 19:19, Living Bible).

The thought in these passages gives us the answer to the problem we are discussing. Usually people who feel used by others would feel very guilty if they used others. Therefore, the next time you feel "pushed" ask yourself, "If he were me, and I were him, what would I want him to do?" The answer usually is, "I'd want him to tell me how I make him feel." In other words, "I'd want him to confront me about my pushy ways."

"Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Do it, in this kind of circumstance, and I can guarantee that if you keep practicing the Golden Rule, your Christian life will never be the same again. □

GOOD-BYES

(Continued from page 9)

horizon. Christ's arms were outstretched as if calling me back. My eyes flooded and blurred away the sight. I laid back on the seat and murmured: "Adeus, Brasil."

New York greeted us with an icy smile on a windy, sub-zero morning.

Spring made the city warm and more colorful. As we drove, we sang together the folk-songs we had learned to love. Those three months had seen us together in the swampy marshes of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as in the frozen nights of northern Manitoba. We had been happy in Anaheim, but now as we sang, the tears choked away the words as we drew near Queens and the Kennedy Airport which would be our parting forever.

We sat around and chatted as though tomorrow would be no different from today. The time came. I handed Martha her coat and soaked the shoulders of several other ones. It happened all so quickly and soon they disappeared behind the gate. The four of us eyed each other with damp eyes as we walked toward the bus which was now so very empty.

The New Jersey turnpike was crowded and bright, but we were quiet inside.

Experiences come and go, and we learn about life. We grow up, and things don't impress us so much anymore. Even so, the thirst for new horizons pushed me on.

It was the end of August, and the heat of summer was beginning to wear off. The squirrels were busily collecting the few nuts that remained on the ground around the hazel trees.

My bags were on the front porch, and I was eager to go. College would be starting in three days, and I felt proud that now I was an adult who could meet the world alone. I bravely walked up to them and embraced them. I was very shocked to notice a lump forming in my throat. I paid no attention to it and managed to mutter a few "farewells." I got the car started and backed down the driveway. They waved from the kitchen window as I turned into the quiet suburban street. The lump grew and exploded when the trees hid them from sight. I recall my visions as a youngster when I dreaded this day. I was shaken by the realization that I still did not know how to say "GOOD-BYE." □



The Three Great Decisions of Life

by Wayne Fischer

At a recent youth retreat I had the privilege of attending, the central theme revolved around the three major decisions we must all face in life—accepting or rejecting Christ, choosing our life's mate and deciding on our career. Those of you young people who have full assurance of salvation, who know precisely who you will marry (or fully know what you are looking for in a mate), and who know without a doubt what your life's career will be, please let one of your friends read this article. But, if you have any questions in one or all of these areas—keep reading. As you read this article I would ask a favor of you. Challenge my thoughts if you don't agree with them. Search the Scriptures to satisfy your spiritual curiosity, remembering that God's Holy Word is the final authority. Let's begin.

Accepting Christ

The first of the three major decisions we all face is by far the most important one. Either we must accept Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and believe that he died for our sins, or we must reject him and all that he stands for. It's that simple. If you are reading this article and are not a born again Christian, and you really want to take the first all important step to knowing God's will for your life, here is how the simple plan of salvation works.

First, remember we are all sinners. "All have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal" (Rom. 3:23 L.B.).

Secondly, realize that the consequence of sin is death. "The wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23 L.B.).

Mr. Wayne Fischer is a member of the Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD, and is taking post graduate work at South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.

Thirdly, understand that God loves you and gives you a way out of death. "It is by God's grace that you have been saved, through faith. It is not your own doing, but God's gift. There is nothing here to boast of, since it is not the result of your own efforts" (Eph. 2:8,9 T.E.V.).

Finally, to have salvation all we need to do is believe. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31a L.B.).

If you're not saved you can personally invite Christ into your life right now by praying in your own sincere, heartfelt words. Merely tell Jesus that you are a sinner and need a Savior. Tell him you believe that Jesus died for your sins. Repent and ask forgiveness for your sins and ask Jesus to come into your life and wholly take control. Finally, dedicate your life to him through full obedience and service.

After making this first all important decision to accept Jesus Christ, your life now has new meaning. You want to serve Christ rather than fulfill your own selfish desires. Keep in mind, however, that being a Christian doesn't necessarily mean your problems are all over, but now you have a new source of strength—one to whom you can turn in time of need. "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us" (Psa. 62:8).

Accepting Christ as your personal Savior is the real key to finding God's will for your life. Now that you're a child of his, he will reveal his wonderful plan to you step by step. It has been stated that finding God's will is like going through a series of doors. We approach a door and try the handle, if it is unlocked we open it and find what is waiting for us on the other side. We continue approaching doors, testing to see if they are locked or not. If we find a locked door we simply go to the next door. You can see that God reveals his will for our lives on a very personal and



The author "doing what I enjoy most—working with my sheep."

intimate basis. Each of us has our own series of doors to go through. Unlocked doors tell us we are going in the right direction. Locked doors signify that something better is waiting for us behind another door—we must place our full trust in the Lord that he will point out the right door for us. This is the part of spiritual maturity that is very difficult for impatient people such as me to accept.

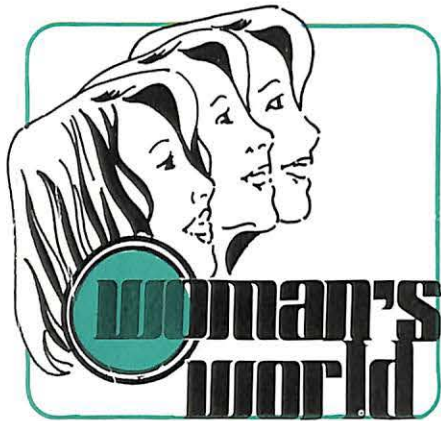
Choosing a Mate

The other two major decisions we must face, choosing a mate and choosing a career, are directly related and dependent upon our first decision. For if we reject God our lives remain a bewildering maze of problems, frustrations and disappointments. If, on the other hand, we choose Christ, he guides us with the Holy Spirit and his Word, allowing us to turn life's trials and tribulations into meaningful and purposeful experiences. I mention these two decisions together here because there may be some difference of opinion as to which of the two is next in importance. I'm of the opinion that choosing one's life mate is not a matter to be taken casually or flippantly, and therefore deserves our full attention. Christ may lead you into several careers during your lifetime, but he dictates that we choose only one mate. You decide where the importance should be.

You lay the groundwork for life's second most important decision during your pre-dating and dating years. One day you are suddenly aware that the little neighbor with whom you used to play Cowboys and Indians, now seems interested in you in quite a different way. You are on the threshold of a new and wonderful period in your life—the dating years. Looking ahead, you are at the same time both horribly frightened yet terribly excited. This is as it should be. God encourages wholesome relationships between men and women. "But in the beginning at the time of creation, it was said, God made them male and female. And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife" (Mark 10:6,7 T.E.V.).

You may say at this point, this all appears to be so beautifully natural and simple, why is this guy getting so concerned about dating and especially whom we date? Well, I will admit I'm not an expert on dating (for good advice on dating, I encourage you to read some of the many excellent Christian books available on the topic), but I have done enough of it to appreciate actually why we date. Let's face it, we simply have to date in order to get to know the opposite sex well enough to marry. Get

(Continued on page 31)



W.M.U. Scholarship Recipients

Each year the Women's Missionary Union provides scholarships for selected students at the North American Baptist College and the North American Baptist Seminary. Recipients from the Seminary are Linda Marek and Carol Ann Bender; recipients from the College are Heidi Fehr and Leona Miller. Following are responses received from the girls.

"Thank You" by Leona Miller, Glen Ullin, ND

"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:6).

This verse has become a special love of mine, because it has provided guidance and direction in many crucial times of my life.

My life in Christ began when I was quite small and has continued to bring me great joy up through each passing year. After high school passed by, I felt a need for more knowledge of the Bible which brought me to the North American Baptist College. After two years of adding to my biblical foundation, I was able to put into practice many of the



concepts I had learned. I worked in a secular situation for a year and then found myself a member of the God's Volunteers team of 1975-76. God's leading in my life made me realize that when I was in full-time Christian work I was happier than in any other place. This realization and a fantastic year on God's Volunteers brought God's call for me to return to NABC to finish the Bachelor of Religious Education program. I asked God why I should go back to college if I didn't have a definite goal in mind, but he provided that in his wonderful timing, too. I've always enjoyed children and hope to work with them full-time upon completion of my studies here.

This year has contributed to growth in my spiritual life, and my prayers for financial help have been so graciously supplied by you, dear people. The best way I can think of to say thank you to all of you is to continue to serve Christ and let my light shine, so that men everywhere would see him in me.

God's Plan For Me



by Heidi Fehr,
Switzerland

For the gift received toward my school account, I would like to convey to you my appreciation and many thanks. It has been a great surprise to me.

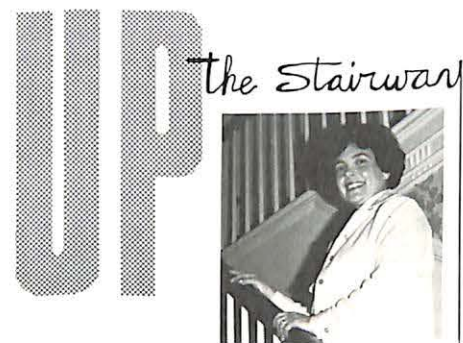
I was born in Switzerland and came to Canada four years ago. My first landing point was Vancouver where I remained for one and one half years. There it was that I sat down and asked myself, "Where is my future going to be?" Because I learned *Kinderpflegerin* in Zuerich before my way turned to Canada, my interests were in children.

NABWU CONGRESS IN THE BAHAMAS, OCTOBER 12-16, 1977
If you are interested in attending the North American Baptist World Alliance Women's Union Congress, be sure to make reservations immediately with Major Travel, NABWU, 2639 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303. For information, write to our N.A.B. Office at Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

Where can I help the children in need, and how? How can I be a witness to them? With the Bible knowledge I had at that time, I wouldn't have been very effective. After looking over various Bible Colleges, I completed an application form for the North American Baptist College and determined that if I would be accepted, I would go; otherwise, I would forget about Bible College.

Yes, I was accepted. In the meantime, Bible College has turned into three years. I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Religious Education program. In those three years I have gained a lot of knowledge in various fields: music, Bible and liberal arts courses. I have learned to live in a dorm, getting to know students from different cultures, accepting each student as an individual person. But my greatest learning experience here was getting to know God in a different way; starting each day anew with him and experiencing him. I have learned to have patience in thinking about my future. It used to worry me, but I know God has a wonderful plan for me, and he will open one door after another as I have experienced until now.

My BRE program will be finished in April 1978, when I would like to get involved with children's work again. Where? I'll go wherever God leads me!



by Dorene Walth,
W.M.U. president,
Bismarck, N.D.

Summer traveling usually involves encountering stretches of road under construction. One Christian couple, who had just finished driving through such an area, came upon a sign to which the wife responded, "That's what I want printed on my tombstone." Her husband chuckled as he read the sign to himself, END OF CONSTRUCTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

Construction work is tedious, unpleasant and monotonous with a few irregu-

larities, challenges and excitements tossed in from time to time. Rebuilding and rearranging are often required in order that hazards can be eliminated. Construction work is costly. There is a price to pay for "smooth sailing."

A complete friction-free life is not possible in this world; even though rough spots can be patched up and short cuts taken over some circumstances.

The construction crew and their foreman must have unending patience with each other as they produce the desired effect. The dust, heat and long hours of the day bring innumerable irritations.

As friends, loved ones and work associates have been patient with me through the years, they have reminded me to more consistently practice patience with those around me. Although God has used others to teach me this virtue, it is he who has demonstrated unending patience with me while I've stumbled along "up the stairway." I often oppose his efforts to chisel off the uneven edges, unaware that he is shaping and molding me into his perfect saint. Only he knows the overall plan for my life. Only he knows when the end will be and what the finished product will be like.

Meanwhile, it is comforting to me to realize that I am a "becoming" person. I am becoming what God wants me to be—slowly, surely and sometimes painfully and rebelliously. I need not feel so frustrated with my shortcomings, because I know these don't have to be permanent. I'm not what I could be. I'm not what I ought to be. But, thank God, I'm not what I used to be!

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me; teach me; for you are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope except in you" (Ps. 25:4,5, Living Bible).



Open Doors
by Linda Marek,
Sioux Falls, SD

The scholarship money you provided has been a big help to us. Many thanks for your support.

Once again the Lord has proved that he will open doors for us and lead the way if we will only rely on his perfect timing. During our time at Seminary, many people asked us what we would do following graduation, but we had no plans. Because we were part of the first group to graduate with the M.A. in Counseling, there were no footsteps in which to follow; we would make the first ones. Neither were there churches waiting with open arms to hire a professional counselor; we would have to help them recognize the need. Meanwhile, we had to wait on the Lord and trust that he had led us to Seminary for a purpose and would continue to unfold his plan, little by little.

Ken and I were too busy with assignments to worry about the summer; therefore, we were surprised when approached to take on a summer internship at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, near Sacramento, CA. The responsibilities involved camp and youth work, visitation and counseling, among other things. This sounded exciting to us because youth ministry was a special interest of ours, and the fact that our visas this year were good until September, whereas, last year they had expired in June, seemed to indicate that the Lord had planned this for us.

By the time this is printed, we will already be in Elk Grove, 3000 miles from our home in Burlington (near Toronto), Ontario. Please don't ask what we will do in the fall. The Lord hasn't told us—yet!



Waiting On the Lord
by Carol Ann Bender,
Sioux Falls, SD

When I told my students that I was returning to school, they thought I was crazy! Yet it was because of them that I felt the Lord was leading me to enter the counseling program at the Seminary. I took a risk and left a teaching position, town and students that I loved, to enter the Seminary. I left knowing that to get back into a teaching position would be difficult, and going back to school after teaching three years may not be so easy.

A verse that comes to mind often is Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the Lord, be of

good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord." It isn't easy to wait, especially if you are one who likes results as soon as possible, but I have learned that to wait on the Lord answers many prayers and gives me the courage to face problems. Prayer has become a very important aspect in learning to wait on the Lord.

There have been times when things have been difficult, frustrating and trying. But I have never doubted that the Lord has led me to the Seminary to do his service, using the abilities he has given me. I have the desire to be used by the Lord for whatever purpose he has planned for me, and I know that he will not let me down and will be by my side for whatever the future holds.

White Cross Filmstrip



by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work
director

The White Cross filmstrip, "Unto the Least of These," has been brought up to date. The revised edition, "Joy in Service," is now available to you for a rental fee of \$2.50. It may be requested from the Communications Dept., North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, or for our Canadian churches, from the North American Baptist College, 23rd Ave., 115 St., R. R. 3, Edmonton, AB T6H 4N7.

The filmstrip tells the story of the work done by the women of our churches to supply the many needs in our hospitals and clinics in Cameroon and Nigeria. This is a vital ministry, for without these supplies, the hospitals, clinics and maternity centers could not function. In 1976, 322 units were shipped with a total gross weight of 38,437 pounds and valued at \$48,613.00. A heartfelt "thank you" to all people who had a part in preparing these materials as an outreach in overseas missions.

"... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

VISITING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN MISSION FIELD

Text and Photos by the Editor

Little did I know what I was in for, when the Frontier 500 Convair left Denver. Out of habit I reached for my briefcase and started writing a letter. Occasionally I looked out of the window and noticed that the airplane was getting closer to the mountain range. The city of Denver is one mile high. But my plane had to climb much higher to cross over the Rockies in order to eventually land in Alamosa, Colorado, which lies in the San Luis Valley, about 8,000 feet high.

The plane began to shake, climb, drop and behave in most irregular ways. A few March days ago this area had been hit by a killer snow storm that had pretty well crippled several of the Rocky Mountain states. Was there another blizzard in the making? I discovered that there was increasingly more snow on the ground below us.

As the stewardess made her way to my seat, she skillfully balanced a tray with refreshments. Just as she was reaching for my orange juice glass, the plane both dropped and jerked sharply to the side. She not only spilled most of my glass, but also the other glasses emptied their contents on the seat across the aisle. Minutes ago I had given up on writing. I had to concentrate on my stomach, because the sight of a few vomiting co-passengers did not really relax me. What was going on?

"Don't worry about a thing," comforted one of the passengers, who looked to me like a veteran user of this airline. "This flight is known for turbulences and is generally called the 'Vomit Comet'." Just then the plane again shivered, shook and jerked in all directions, all at the same time.

Finally, the plane touched down on the runway. When it came to a halt, it was still bombarded by heavy wind gusts. Because the propellers would not stop rotating, the security conscious personnel would not let us deplane. "Please, be careful and hold on to the guardrail with both hands," the co-pilot cautioned the deplaning passengers. Both hands? I had my big camera case and my briefcase, and I badly needed a third hand, for the wind was blowing fiercely. The terminal was obscured by a heavy cloud of sand. I had been in sandstorms before, but this brown, sand-loaded air was worse than what I had ever encountered.

"Welcome to Colorado!" Gradually I dared to open my eyes, just wide enough that they would not be showered with sand and that I could make out who was greeting me. Dr. and Mrs. Earl Ahrens, our N.A.B. missionaries in Monte Vista, extended their friendly welcome. Kay Hunt, missionary nurse in the same city, who had been on the

same plane, joined us, and then we were heading for Monte Vista.

Kay told of her experiences at a medical workshop in Chicago. I listened only with one ear, for I was too eager to take in with my eyes as much as I could.

Then we arrived in Monte Vista. "Where is the mission field?!" asked Earl Ahrens. Could he read my thoughts? "Well, just wait," he answered his own question, "in a moment we will cross the infamous creek, and then we'll be on the wrong side of the creek." When he saw the blank expression on my face, he added, "You see, in other cities some people live on the wrong side of the tracks; in Monte Vista it is a creek that takes the place of the tracks."

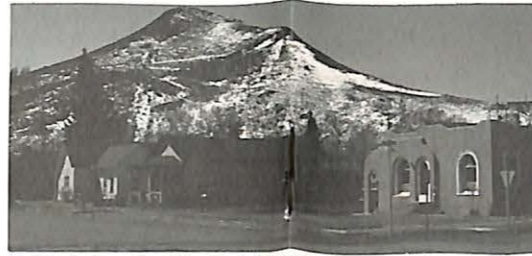
After unloading both of the ladies, Dr. Ahrens gave me a quick orientation tour through his "mission field on the doorsteps," a 24-block poverty-marked low rent area. Every so often there was a nice looking, clean, and modern house, surrounded by mudbrick buildings. A number of years ago, Rev. Ahrens had founded the "Monte Housing Sales," a non-profit construction and sales organization. This organization is able to arrange for 1% house construction loans for low income families in Monte Vista. All the prefabricated houses are the result of our missionary's effort to put these Spanish speaking Americans into decent houses. My first impressions at Monte Vista shocked me, and I had to tell myself repeatedly that this poverty situation really exists today in the U.S.A.

Mrs. Lois Ahrens served a delicious Spanish supper. Then I was ready to look over the church facilities, especially the 2,000 square foot education and fellowship unit, which was dedicated in January 1977. The tour had to be brief, because it was time to leave for a concert at Center.

Dr. Ahrens' van was already loaded to capacity when I came aboard. Suddenly there was a big hello, because the young people in the van recognized me as their "long lost friend." Most of these hugging and yelling kids were part of the "Jesus Express" choir, that had excited the Triennial Conference in Portland. All the way from Monte Vista to Center they were singing and reminiscing about their tour.



A young boy led the singing.



Del Norte is a city at the foot of the San Juan Mountains.



Rev. Keiry and two ladies of the Women's Bible Study Group at Del Norte.



The youngsters were all eye, ear and mouth; whatever was called for.



Mr. Gaspar Blea in his "summer house."



Faith Baptist Church at Center.



The Bethel Baptist Church at Del Norte.



The leader of the Bible Study.



Missionary David Keiry at the Bethel Baptist Church.



Since men are not allowed in the Women's Bible Study group, he decided to play next door.



Mr. Blea demonstrated the "Furno" he built some time ago.



Mrs. Keiry is the leader of the Children's Bible Club.



Some people do not dare to attend the church services, but they read the bulletin board.



They like their Bible Club.



The Keiry Twins win every heart.

The church at Center was packed to capacity, when the 33-voice choir of the Friends Bible College from Haviland, Kansas, began their concert. Their program was quite heavy, with music selections by Bach, Handel, Beethoven and other old composers. The audience listened but had a hard time to catch the spirit of this rather demanding program.

On the way home there was again lots of singing in English and Spanish. The Ahrens gave me their car to use during my stay in the Valley. The Monte Villa Inn in Monte Vista was to be my home for the next three nights.

After a quick breakfast at the hotel, I was off to Center, where the Keiries gave me a typically southern-warm welcome. Their house became my house and their meals my meals.

David Keiry was born in Monte Vista 43 years ago. As a "local boy" he is fully at home in the Spanish language and customs. His wife, Priscilla, is from North Dakota and had hardly even heard a Spanish word, before she was assigned to the San Luis Valley in Colorado as a student service worker among the Spanish-American people, or as they prefer to be called: the Spanish-surnamed people. When David was five years old, his father died, and David lived with his grandparents near Center. His great-grandfather had been a Presbyterian minister, and also his grandfather was a very active church worker who led him to Christ. After some detours in his young life, he finally came to live in Center, three blocks away from his present church. During the following years he received his schooling in Minneapolis, Denver and Sioux Falls. Since 1957 he and his family have been serving as missionaries both in Center and Del Norte.

In 1970 the Methodists at Center sold their church building, and the young Baptist congregation, under Rev. Keiry's able leadership, purchased the building. Our conversation in their spacious living room (another of Dr. Ahrens' prefabricated homes!) could have gone on for many hours. Their life stories are colorful, and we had not even discussed their eight children, which would have added even more spice to the family history.

However, we had to leave for Del Norte, where a ladies' Bible study group was meeting. The picturesque town of Del Norte is only a few miles

away from Center, right at the foot of a snow covered mountain range. To this day, gold mining is one of its main industries. At one time there had been plans to make it the State capital. But it lost its race to the city of Denver. Only the wide streets, planned for parades and other official events, remind the visitor of the ill fate of this would-be capital.

The Bible study group met in a home. While the ladies exchanged ideas and studied God's Word, the young son of the house played in the kitchen, and I shuttled between the living room and the kitchen, snapping pictures.

Then we were off again, this time to look over the worship facilities at Del Norte.

The Bethel Baptist Church has 34 members and was organized in 1958. The church looked clean on the outside as well as on the inside. Rev. Keiry could not praise enough the faithfulness of the congregation which over the years has stood the test against hostility from both local militant groups and other church groups with little sympathy for Baptists.

From the church we drove to the home of Mr. Gaspar Blea, whose wife we had met at the women's Bible study. He was sitting in his customized trailer, which at one time was owned by the Conference and used by the summer student workers.

Mr. Blea, a deacon at the church, was very happy to welcome us to his "summer house." He had only two books: the one a Spanish Bible, the other a biography of a Pope, also written in Spanish. But both books showed the sign of much use. In his small garden he showed us his "Furno," the pride of every Mexican born man. It is being used for baking, cooking, or plainly as an incinerator.

Back in Center, we hardly had time for lunch, because the first members of the Children's Bible Club appeared at the parsonage, asking for a drink of water and balls to play with or other items. The meeting was held at the church. The Faith Baptist Church is not yet officially organized, but it has a vital part in the life of the community. The billboard outside at the church proclaims, "IF GOD IS IN YOUR HEART, HE SHOULD BE VISIBLE IN YOUR LIFE." And the Bible Club proves the truth of this saying.

About 15 boys and girls quoted Scripture verses, sang heartily and had a good time. One of the boys was the song leader, and he took his job very seriously. The entire program, led by Mrs. Keiry, was in the English language.

Then it was my turn to tell them a

(Continued on page 27)

God's Volunteers report

a week in the life of God's Volunteers

The ministry of God's Volunteers, 1976-77, ended with their crusade in Watertown, WI, May 15, 1977.

Photos by Dave Robinson



Music section singing during television appearance.

Bob Walther busy planning a G.V. Crusade.



Beth, Kathy and Scott role-playing in a follow-up seminar.



G.V.'s mingling with people following a service.



Kathy, statistician, preparing packets for door-to-door calling.



Tanell tabulating visitation results.



Packing the van to leave for another crusade.



Dave leading a seminar.

Day off!

insight into christian education

Outreach in the Small Church

by Ray Harsch

It is a known fact that the majority of churches today are considered to be small churches. Being small does not necessarily mean that a church's outreach program is ineffective. Outreach is possible not only in the larger churches but is also very effective in the small church, wherever it is located.

The desire of an increasing number of churches is to improve their outreach ministries. The following suggestions will greatly aid the small church in reaching people.

1. Meaningful Worship

The emphasis given to worship is vital in reaching people. It is here where people meet God in a personal experience of worship and hear the preaching of warm-hearted, biblical messages which ground them in their faith.

It is in the preaching of the gospel in an atmosphere of meaningful worship that people are attracted to Christ. Until they hear the gospel message, people are not reached in a saving way.

Even though some people will attend a worship service without an invitation because they are spiritually hungry, the fact is that most people come to the church because they have been personally invited and encouraged to come by church members. Many small churches are apparently depending upon persons seeking out the church rather than the church seeking out persons.

2. An Outreach Plan

It has been said that "if we do not have a plan for outreach, we may be

following a plan for death." Churches who do not plan for outreach generally do not reach out.

The plan should include a regular program of visitation and outreach. Some churches are so content with the way things are in the fellowship of the small church that newcomers are considered "outsiders" and are not welcomed into the fellowship.

The plan should discover prospects for the church: Families who do not attend church; new residents in the community; lonely people. A visit from the people of the church will cause multitudes to think about their spiritual needs and of the church.

3. An Effective Sunday School

An effective plan of outreach does not overlook the Sunday school, which is at the heart of an outreach program in the small church. When we use the

Sunday school for outreach it is not necessary to organize a special organization. A time is already scheduled for study, fellowship and training.

By a revitalization of the Sunday school many small churches would take on new life and experience growth. An active Sunday school will take the initiative to find people who need Bible study through a regular visitation plan. Classes that feel responsible for certain names will reach out.

4. Looking for a Ministry

People in a small church who look at their community will generally see something that needs to be done. It may be a day care center, kindergarten activities or a family in need.

It is important to know the community in which your church exists. Secure a good map of your area of responsibility and systematically discover every prospect in that area. A small church can cover a large area with system and persistence.

5. Love Makes the Difference

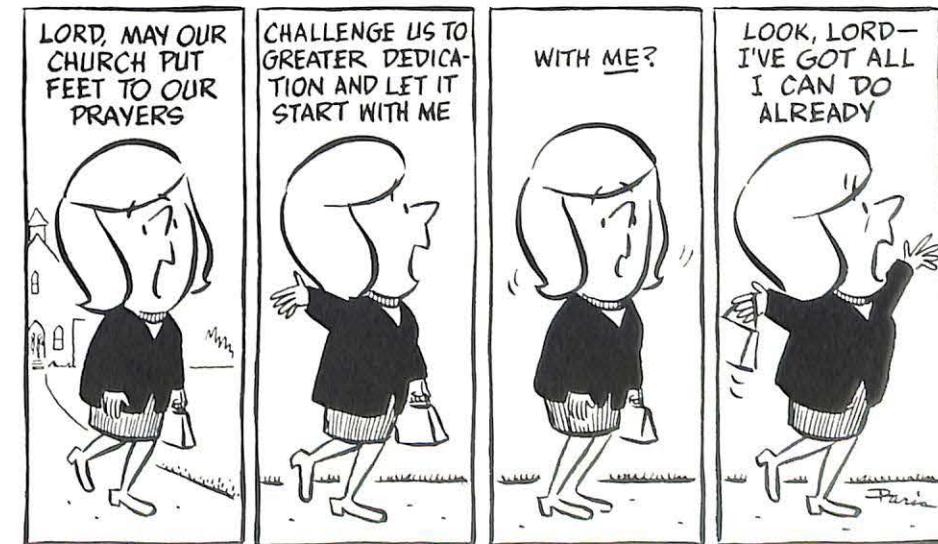
"Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:14 TLB).

Repeated visits by concerned and friendly church members who are genuinely committed to Christ reveal a warmth and intimacy which seem to come naturally in a small church. Love and feeling for each member are advantages in the small church that give that personal touch to outreach.

A small church need not be a little church. It can organize to reach prospects and unenlisted people.

Why not create an image in your community of trying to reach people and to help them as well. A small church = People + Love.

If God's people will reach out and go, then the Lord will bless and his Church will grow. □



The Rev. Raymond Harsch is evangelism director of the North American Baptist Conference.

**WE
AS
NORTH
AMERICAN
BAPTISTS...
PROCLAIM
THE
GOSPEL
THROUGHOUT
ALL THE
WORLD**

by Fred Folkerts

As a Baptist Christian, I believe that the task of the believer is given in the words of Christ when he said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). A command is given in similar terms by Christ when he said to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Again he said, "It is written, . . . that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, . . . and ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48).

I believe the Christian task is summarized by our N.A.B. Conference in a distinctive principle, "the proclamation of the gospel throughout all the world." What our Conference churches believe to be our mission and how we carry it out are governed by the direct commands of Christ. The straightforward task is to proclaim the gospel throughout all the world. Pioneer Baptist missionaries, like Adoniram Judson and Alfred Saker, are examples of obedience to the work given us by Christ. The spread of the gospel by early German immigrants to others who came from Europe and elsewhere and together formed fellowships of German Baptist churches in Canada and the United States is further example in our Conference history of our obedience to Christ's command. Our continued high priority for home and overseas missions, our emphasis on evangelism, our service opportunities for youth as God's Volunteers, our program of Church Extension, and our training institutions for pastors and missionaries are present evidence of our Conference commitment to proclaim the gospel throughout all the world.

The proclamation of the gospel is primary and central to the believers' task. The Lord gave command for other work which is additional and supple-

mentary to proclamation of the gospel. But a distinction should be made between proclamation of the gospel and other tasks which compliment that primary task. When Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, he commanded, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them. . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). Baptizing and teaching the observance of all Christ's commands are additional aspects of the believers' task.

The Proclamation

As a Baptist believer I am commanded to be a witness for Christ. A witness is one who has seen or heard or experienced something. As a believer, I identify myself with the disciples to whom Jesus opened the Scriptures and showed them "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:37). Again I identify with the apostles to whom he said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . ." (Acts 1:8). Jesus said to his disciples, "Ye shall bear witness, because ye have been with me . . ." (John 15:27). As a Baptist believer, I testify of Christ out of my firsthand knowledge and experience of him. I have experienced repentance and remission of my sins through Christ and can therefore speak to others of the gospel of Christ. My witness is a recommendation to others that they too receive what Christ offers them. This conforms to our Conference distinctive of regenerate membership in the church. I have experienced regeneration and testify of it to others. The Apostle Paul describes this experience when he says to King Agrippa, "having therefore obtained help of God, I continue . . . witnessing and saying those things which the prophets and Moses did say should come" (Acts 26:22). Again he expresses my experience, when he states that the ministry which he had received from the Lord Jesus was "to testify the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

My proclamation is also a persuasion. This is linked to my conviction and our Conference distinctive of soul liberty. All persons make a responsible decision for or against God in this life, for which they will be held accountable. Some make that decision on the basis of an incomplete revelation (Rom. 1:20). But as a proclaimer of the gospel, I am to persuade others to make a free and re-

sponsible decision on the basis of the revealed Christ in the Scriptures and the living Christ revealed by the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul says, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade man" (II Cor. 5:11). Again Paul says, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Cor. 5:20). The divinely commissioned task of the Church of Jesus Christ is to do everything possible to persuade people of all nations to turn to the Savior. Believers are to appeal to them to be reconciled to God through him.

The Gospel

The gospel I proclaim is outlined by Christ for his disciples when he appeared to them after the resurrection and opened their understanding of the Scriptures, "Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:45-48). That same gospel is summarized by the Apostle Paul, "I declare unto you the gospel . . . which ye have received, . . . by which also ye are saved. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day" (I Cor. 15:14).

The Apostle Paul gives the central theme of the gospel when he says, "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18-19). The gospel I proclaim is the gospel of Peter and the other Apostles when they answered the Jewish council, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted . . . to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins, and we are witnesses of these things" (Acts 5:30,31).

As a Baptist believer, the gospel I proclaim centers around Jesus Christ and his redemptive work. He was crucified and died according to God's eternal plan revealed in the Scriptures, and he rose again from the dead. His death satisfied the requirement of God to make punishment for the sin of mankind. His resurrection is evidence of the completion of his work and his unique role as mediator between God and man.

The Rev. Fred C. Folkerts is associate secretary for overseas missions, N.A.B. Conference.

It is a life-changing gospel which requires that all persons repent of their sin and ask for forgiveness on the basis of the punishment Christ received on our behalf. It provides cleansing from sin and restoration to fellowship with God when a person repents and has faith in Christ as his or her substitute for sin's punishment. The gospel requires that Jesus Christ be Lord of my life here and now and anticipates his return again to rule heaven and earth. It is a gospel shared with others by those who have experienced its change from death in sin and separation from God to life through Jesus Christ and restoration to fellowship with God.

To All the World

The gospel of Christ is for all persons everywhere in every generation from the time of Christ to the present and will continue to be applicable until Christ's return. Proclamation of the gospel starts at home, in "Jerusalem" (Acts 1:8), spreads to surrounding areas, "in all Judea and in Samaria," and extends to all areas of the world, "unto the uttermost part of the earth." As a believer, I have an obligation to proclaim the gospel to those near me as well as to those who are far away. My obligation crosses all boundaries of race, nationality and geography. What applies to me today was applicable for other believers in former generations. Paul says, "God our Saviour will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. There is one mediator . . . the man Christ Jesus . . . to be testified in due time" (I Tim. 2:4-6). That due time is here and now for every believer until Christ returns. Paul says, "When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, to redeem them that were under the law" (Gal. 4:4). The time was due for believers to proclaim the gospel when the fullness of God's time came, at which time he sent his Son to redeem them that were under the law.

Today I have an obligation to proclaim the gospel to all people of my time in our world. All other believers share that obligation with me. The sad fact is that multitudes of people in the world still live and die without ever being told of the redeeming work of Christ. Salvation through Christ does not automatically apply for them. They must hear, repent and believe in order to be saved. The gospel must be proclaimed to them, and they must exercise specific faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be reconciled to God. These realities prompt in me, and I trust in every believer, a sense of urgency to proclaim to all the world the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God help us to do this by his Holy Spirit. □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Personal Estate Planning Gift Annuity Rates Go Higher

by Everett A. Barker

(These rates apply in the United States. Canadian rates differ and are available upon request.)

The Conference on Gift Annuities met in Minneapolis on May 4 and approved higher rates for payments to gift annuitants. As a member of the organization, our Conference follows these standard rates. This is the third rate increase since 1971. With inflation hurting most older people on fixed incomes, it is good that some benefits are available.

What are gift annuities really about? What can they provide for you?

WHAT IS A GIFT ANNUITY?

A gift annuity, regardless of which charitable organization offers it, is two things: a gift for the organization and a lifetime income for the individual or couple. Charitable organizations are the only ones that legally qualify to issue gift annuities. Insurance companies sell commercial annuities but not gift annuities, and there is a difference. A commercial annuity offers a greater dollar return because no gift is being made. If you have limited dollars and must have maximum income, a commercial annuity is better for you. Because a gift annuity is partially a gift, the United States and Canadian governments provide tax savings on the income which has the effect of raising the rate of your return. The higher your tax bracket, the greater your return. In addition, the United States allows a tax deduction on the gift

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

portion for the year contributed with a five year carryover privilege. An annuity should not come from money you need for living expense but rather from investment type dollars to provide income.

HOW DOES A GIFT ANNUITY WORK?

You permanently give a specified amount of money to the Conference in return for a guaranteed life income determined by your age. You also receive an income tax deduction for the gift portion and an exclusion amount from the annual income, as computed by government tables. The Conference invests the money in a Segregated Annuity Fund to draw interest so that you can be paid; it is legally bound to this agreement as long as you live. Your gift does not go directly to the work until you die. If you live a shorter time than the mortality tables say, the gift is more, and if you live longer, the gift is less. We have had a few people outlive the gift. Incidentally, statistics indicate that people who have gift annuities live longer than average. After death, the gift value, at that time, is released from the fund to the Conference ministry to which you had designated it.

HOW CAN YOU FUND A GIFT ANNUITY?

Cash or securities can be used. Real estate cannot be used, because the regulations of New York State under which we are chartered do not permit it. These strict regulations are intended to protect your investment. If you fund a gift annuity with appreciated securities, there may be a reduced capital gains tax under the complicated bargain sale rule, but there are ways to pro-rate the tax over your life expectancy.

WHAT DOES A N.A.B. GIFT ANNUITY OFFER YOU?

1. Safety of investment
2. Tax savings for the gift and income
Possible estate tax and probate savings
3. Good returns—(see column to the right)
4. A contribution to the Conference

Gift annuitants have found satisfaction in receiving a good return on their investment and peace of mind in knowing that the gift will ultimately benefit the Conference ministries. We have annuitants who have as many as eleven separate annuities. Have you considered an N.A.B. Gift Annuity to provide you with an income now and a gift for the Conference later?

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST GIFT ANNUITY RATES

(N.A.B. Gift Annuities since 1899)

SINGLE LIFE

Uniform Gift Annuity Rates adopted by Conference on Gift Annuities, May 4, 1977

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
35 & under	4.5%	63	6.1
36	4.6	64	6.1
37	4.7	65	6.2
38	4.7	66	6.3
39	4.8	67	6.4
40	4.8	68	6.5
41	4.8	69	6.6
42	4.9	70	6.8
43	4.9	71	6.9
44	4.9	72	7.1
45	5.0	73	7.3
46	5.0	74	7.5
47	5.1	75	7.7
48	5.1	76	7.9
49	5.2	77	8.2
50	5.2	78	8.4
51	5.3	79	8.7
52	5.4	80	9.0
53	5.4	81	9.3
54	5.5	82	9.6
55	5.6	83	9.9
56	5.6	84	10.2
57	5.7	85	10.5
58	5.7	86	10.8
59	5.8	87	11.1
60	5.8	88	11.4
61	5.9	89	11.7
62	6.0	90 & over	12.0

Two Lives—Joint and Survivor table available upon request. Send today for the free booklet, "Questions and Answers about Gift Annuities."

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP _____

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

Minneapolis, MN
May, 1977

Dear Friends,

I've just arrived to begin my commission; I'm the newest member of the Brazil Mission!

My name is Melody Joy Rabenhorst, and I was born on March 19, 1977. Dr. Peter Fehr was my doctor, and he took special care of Mommy and me.

I'm just a few weeks old, and I haven't had much experience in writing letters, but I do want to say "hello" to all of you and say a special "thank you" for the many cards and letters which I've received. Thank you for praying for our family, and please continue to pray for us and especially my Mom, because she's still having pain in her back. Very soon the doctor will decide if she needs to go back to the hospital to have an operation.

I really like my new home and especially my big brothers, Murrey and Marcus. They go to school every day, but after school they play with me. My Dad goes to school too, and his school is called a seminary; so that leaves just Mommy and me at home during the day, and we have lots of fun together.

Melody's parents, Richard and Beth Rabenhorst, are Brazil missionaries, presently on furlough.



My Mom and Dad took me downtown one day to have my picture taken. They said it was for something called a "passport," and I heard them say something about a trip this summer to Brazil. I don't know where that is, but it must be a great place, because Murrey and Marcus are excited, and they talk about all of their friends who live there. I guess I'll like living there too, but I'm going to miss all of you. I hope you'll write to me sometime, and maybe you could come to visit me. That would be just great!

I'm getting tired; guess it's time for my nap.

Lots of love,

Melody

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY POWELL

Dorothy Johnson Powell, born Sept. 16, 1916, in Chicago, IL, died April 11, 1977, in Sioux Falls, SD. She married Ralph E. Powell on Aug. 5, 1944, in Chicago. Dorothy accepted Christ as her Savior as a young girl and used her life as a faithful witness in sharing love and faith, with special concern and effectiveness among children. She moved to Sioux Falls in 1950 with her husband when he became professor at North American Baptist Seminary. She was an elementary school teacher. She is survived by her husband; two daughters: Ruth Dahmen, Janesville, WI, and Elizabeth Fladmark, Sioux Falls; a brother, George Johnson; four sisters: Margaret Johnson, Rose Anderson, Mae Kreston, and Ann Temme.

Deep gratitude is expressed for the kindness of Dorothy's many friends who remembered her so faithfully over



a long period of time with cards, flowers, and particularly with prayer. The loving concern and support during

these difficult months has been much appreciated. She wanted the memorial service to be an occasion of triumph because of Christ's victory over death and the assurance of eternal life through his resurrection. Her request was that the service be a testimony of the peace and joy of salvation which she experienced for over fifty years.

It was the family's decision that Dorothy's body be contributed to medical science with the hope that it will advance the cause of cancer research.

Dorothy J. Powell Scholarship Fund

Memorial contributions may be made to the North American Baptist Seminary, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, SD, 57105, for the establishment of the Dorothy J. Powell scholarship fund.

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Borchert to Leave Seminary

by Donald N. Miller

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Borchert, dean and professor of new Testament, and instructor in Christian Education, respectively, have jointly submitted their resignations to the North American Baptist Seminary. They will assume similar positions at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, IL, effective July 15, 1977.

Dr. Borchert has taught at the seminary for the past 14 years; the past seven years of which he served as academic dean. During his deanship, he has been instrumental in developing a dynamic faculty and in doubling its strength. More than a dozen new programs have been inaugurated, including study programs in Africa and Israel, and accelerated B.A.-M.Div. Program with Augustana and Sioux Falls Colleges, a doctoral program for qualified ministers, several new masters degree programs, and a Lay Certificate Program in Ministry Studies.

In addition to meritorious service to our seminary, Dr. Borchert has been active in the N.A.B. Conference, various educational circles, and in Baptist affairs. He has lectured widely and is the author of numerous articles and two books, *Today's Model Church*, and *Dynamics of Evangelism*.

The Rev. Donald N. Miller is vice president for development at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.



Mrs. Borchert has taught in the area of Christian education at the seminary for a number of years and has been ac-

tive in conducting various Christian education workshops.

The Borcherts have two sons, Mark and Timothy. In their letter of resignation, the Borcherts stated:

"We have made many friends during this time at the seminary both within and outside of the denomination. The people of the N.A.B. churches have been wonderfully supportive of our ministries and of our articles in the Baptist Herald. We have loved the opportunity of teaching and thank God for the students that have passed through our classes. The trustees over the years have become personal friends. The faithful staff of the seminary has been exceedingly loyal and helpful. To them we express our genuine appreciation. Finally, we are particularly grateful to our Lord for our colleagues who have served beside us in teaching and administration. They have come to be more than fellow laborers. They have been close friends and prayer partners through all types of experiences."

The words of the Apostle Paul are an appropriate expression of our gratitude to the Borcherts for their years of ministry among us, "We thank God for every remembrance of you."

Special appreciation was expressed for the ministries of Dr. and Mrs. Borchert at a reception given by the Trustees in the Borcherts' honor on Friday evening, April 1. □

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private instructor will find many hours of teaching helps. There are over one hundred hymns. Many beautiful arrangements are suitable for preludes, offertories, etc. Satisfied customers in sixty countries and forty-nine states. COMPLETE SATISFACTION OR YOUR MONEY PROMPTLY REFUNDED. Offer good until Aug. 31, 1977, or while present supply lasts. Order from: Mary Joe Moore, Dept. BH, 286 Poland Ave., Struthers, Ohio 44471. Please add 50¢ shipping charge. Residents of Ohio add 4% sales tax.

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PARMA, OH. The Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. John Reimer, held pre-Easter services April 5-10. The Rev. Daniel Fuchs, Oak Park, IL, retired Director of Evangelism, N.A.B. Conference, was our special speaker. After the Easter Sunrise service, the congregation, along with the Rev. and Mrs. Fuchs, partook of a breakfast. In the evening service, a young lady accepted Christ as Savior. (Lydia Maliszewski, reporter.)

ELK GROVE, CA. The Nor-Cal Women's Association meeting was held at First Baptist Church. The theme, "The Ministering Church," was introduced by President Esther Woehl. A dinner was served followed by a business meeting. An offering was taken for missions in Cameroon and Brazil. Our guest speaker was the Rev. Richard Rabenhorst, missionary, Brazil. (Pat Hoffman, reporter.)

JAMESBURG, NJ. Following church membership classes for young people and adults, our pastor, the Rev. Karl Bieber, conducted a baptismal service on Easter Sunday. The 13 candidates were welcomed into the fellowship of First Baptist Church on May 1, along with a couple joining by letter of transfer.

The Sunday School Easter program was presented on Palm Sunday. The Youth Fellowship choir, "The New Horizons," also sang.

The Ladies' Christian Fellowship packed kilo boxes for our missionaries in Cameroon and Japan.

Many members became enthused and attended the training institute held at our church for "Here's Life, Greater New York" Crusade. We participated in the telephone and follow-up ministry. (Marguerite Lee, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. The Rev. Jake Leverette, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, was speaker at Immanuel Baptist Church's Spiritual Life Crusade. Nine decisions were made. On Easter Sunday evening, our pastor, the Rev. Walter Dingfield, baptized five young people and adults. Others were received by letter or confession of faith.

The 113th Anniversary of the church was March 24. On March 27 an anniversary dinner was held before the evening service, with three hundred in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sells were honored for their service to the Lord.

The Wheaton College Concert Choir and the Philadelphia (PA) College of Bible Choir gave concerts at our church.

In the spring of 1978 we plan to install a new Zimmer pipe organ. Mr.

Gary Griffin, Olivet College, is our new choir director. Mr. Timothy Nelson, a professor of organ at Olivet College, and a Baptist from the Chicago area, is our new organist. (Alice M. Luhrs, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. Youth from Immanuel Baptist Church are involved in various opportunities with the N.A.B. Conference this summer.

Christine Salzman is with the youth ministry tour to Cameroon.

Three Kankakee area students at North American Baptist College, Edmond, AB, were involved in three-week tours with musical groups. Rick Foster and Steve Matheny are members of the "Choristers," which toured west to the coast, giving 20 concerts in 18 days. Joy Foster is in a girls' sextette which also toured. Dr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson, former pastor and wife of Immanuel, accompanied the group. (Alice M. Luhrs, reporter.)

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD. It was with great joy that we at Immanuel Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of six young people (pictured) upon confes-



sion of their faith in Jesus Christ on Jan. 29, 1977. The Rev. Darwin Stahl is the pastor. (Mrs. Jerry Kludt, church clerk.)

BENTON HARBOR, MI. "Hats off to mothers" was a beautiful setting for 280 great-grandmas, grandmas, mothers and daughters on May 6 at our annual mother-daughter banquet.

Our girl's sextet had translated a choral reading of Joshua's, "As for me and my house . . ." from Portuguese to English. Mrs. Herman Effa gave the devotional with the help of the girls to illustrate how Jesus put so much emphasis on the type of "headgear" one might enlist, such as a helmet. (Lois Breikreuz, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. Quite a number from the Immanuel Baptist Church attended the Illinois Association, April 23, at Baptist Mission Church, Chicago; ladies attended the Baptist Day of Prayer at First Baptist Church of Norridge, also. Some ladies from the Women's Missionary Society visited the N.A.B. International Office, Oak Brook

Terrace, in May. They assisted in packing White Cross material. The W.M.S. held a mother-daughter banquet and style show in May.

The Rev. Fred Folkerts, associate secretary of the church and others recently. The Rev. Everett Barker, associate secretary for estate planning, spoke to several people in Kankakee recently.

In May, the Rev. and Mrs. Roger Litfin, assistant pastor, presented a wonderful sacred concert. Since he had resigned effective May 7 to study further at Dallas Theological Seminary, at this concert the president of the youth group, Paul Dennis, spoke in appreciation of their extensive work with them. Mr. Gilbert Luhrs, moderator, spoke on behalf of the church. Mr. Don Absher, chairman, Board of Deacons, presented them with a love offering. (Alice M. Luhrs, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. Capilano Baptist Church, Edmonton, hosted the 1977 Alberta Baptist Association, March 24-27. Television crews and cameras were on hand to mark the event in honor of Daunovan Buyer, our moderator, and the N.A.B. churches of Alberta. Guest speakers included Dr. Frank C. Peters, president, Wilfred Laurier Univ., Waterloo, ON; the Rev. Lyle Wacker, Church Extension secretary, N.A.B.C.; Dr. Dieter Lemke, missionary, Cameroon.

The young people shared in a sports spectacular program and took charge of the Association Rally.

For 1978, the A.B.A. has been invited to Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, April 6-9. Our new moderator is the Rev. Ron Berg, pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton. (John W. Hoffmann, reporter.)

SHATTUCK, OK. Four persons were baptized and received into the membership of the Ebenezer Baptist Church by the Rev. Edwin C. Ollenburger.

The Oklahoma Association Youth Banquet was held at our church, April 3, 1977, with the theme being "The King Is Coming." Mr. Romero, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Cherokee, was the speaker.

The members of the W.M.S. have been very busy with their monthly meeting and White Cross projects.

On March 25 our church held a surprise dinner in celebration of the 43rd wedding anniversary of our pastor, the Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Ollenburger. (M. Longhofer, reporter.)

TURTLE LAKE, ND. Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schlafmann returned from a six-

week trip to Cameroon, Africa. While there, they made their acquaintance with their new granddaughter, Melody Joy, and visited with their son, Jarvis, and wife, Marilyn.

The Schlafmanns report many unique and varied experiences, as they visited all of the N.A.B. mission stations. They were impressed with the beauty and peacefulness of the country and the friendliness of its people.

ASHLEY, ND. The Women's Missionary Society of Ashley Baptist Church made and donated 12 sofa pillows for the Baptist Home to be distributed in the pews of the Chapel for the comfort of the residents.

The Men's Brotherhood held a workshop on April 5 and discussed the topic, "Educators in Politics." Several speakers took part. Men from 10 area churches attended.

A farewell fellowship hour and program was held April 10 in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Zepik; he has been serving as interim pastor, Feb. 1-April 10. A love offering was presented to the Zepiks. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

ASHLEY, ND. The Rev. Allan Gerber and his family, formerly of North Freedom, WI, were welcomed April 17 as the new pastor of Ashley Baptist Church. Gerald Luebeck, deacon, presided. Leaders of the various organizations participated. The Rev. Arthur Fischer, Berlin Baptist Church, gave the charge to the pastor. Responses were given by Gerbers. The Men's Chorus sang. Many came from neighboring churches for this meaningful service. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

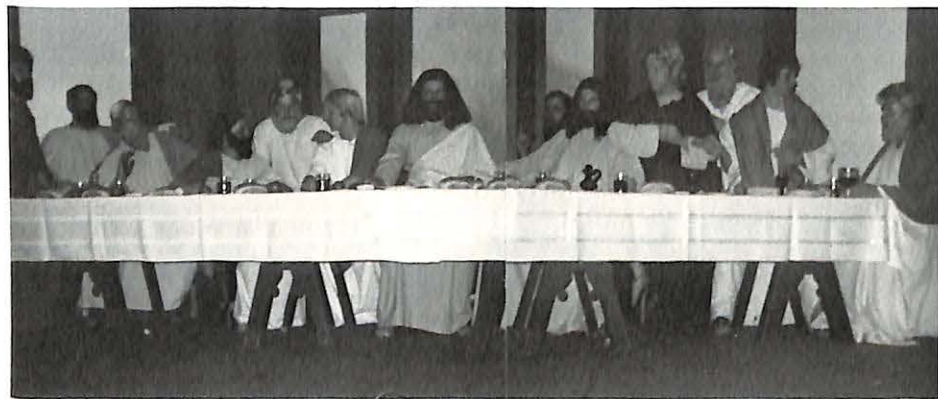
SIoux FALLS, SD. The combined Senior Choirs of Trinity and Northside Baptist Churches presented an Easter Cantata, "The Last Week," by J. W. Peterson, April 3. Consecutive concerts were presented at Trinity and Northside Baptist Churches respectively. The Northside College and Career Young People presented a sunrise service at a nearby park overlooking the city. In the evening service, the Church witnessed the baptism of two young men. The Rev. Walter H. Hoffman is pastor of the Northside Church. (Warren J. Hoffman, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. On April 17, the Grace Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of fifteen candidates during an impressive morning worship service. The hand of fellowship was extended to these new members; several others were received by letter at the observance of the Lord's Supper later in the day. The Rev. W. Ertis is pastor of the church.



The Girls' Club presented their annual program on March 20. The music, the presentation of awards, and the display of handcraft afforded us a glimpse of the outstanding accomplishments of these children and the leadership staff. (Myrtle Ertis, reporter.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. A living dramatization of Leonardo DaVinci's "The Last Supper" was given Palm Sunday evening, April 3. This was sponsored by the Pathfinders Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church. As Matt. 26:20-22 was portrayed, "Lord, is it I?" was very vividly brought to the attention of each one in attendance. Each disciple (pictured) partook of the bread and the cup symbolizing Christ's broken body and shed blood for the remission of our



sins. The Rev. Dennis Dewey is pastor of our church. (Margaret Schuneman, reporter.)

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI. Bethel Baptist Church had a Harvest-Home Dinner. The purpose was to bring a praise offering for God's abundant love to us. A Joash Box was placed in the sanctuary, and the gifts were presented individually. Our goal of \$10,000 was reached; we are praising God! We consider it a privilege to partially support Dr. and Mrs. Earl Ahrens, Colorado, whom we have added to our missionary family.

Mrs. Florence Barrett, age 98, our very faithful White Cross worker, has rolled all 1,999 bandages sent from Bethel for our White Cross quota. (Mrs. Victor Rocho, sec'y.)

DENA MEINERTS was born May 26, 1911, to John and Sebens (Bruns) Meinerts on a farm north of George, IA, where she lived her entire lifetime. She received Christ as her Savior and later, on Dec. 31, 1921, was baptized into the membership of Central Baptist church, George. She died at the age of 65 years, 10 months and 17 days. She leaves as survivors 3 brothers, 2 sisters, and many nieces and nephews. The Rev. Morris Motley officiated at the funeral service, April 16.

EDWARD JONAT of Yorkton, SA, was born April 15, 1896, at Orcadia, SA, and died April 10, 1977. As a teenager, he accepted Christ as Savior, was baptized and became a member of the old Ebenezer Church. On March 13, 1922, he married the former Rosina Muth. He was a faithful church member, having served as a deacon for many years. At the time of his passing, he was a member of Central Bap-

tist Church, Yorkton. Survivors include his wife, Rosina, sons: Lorne, Percy, and Glen; 3 brothers, 3 sisters, and 3 grandchildren. The Rev. Morley Schultz and the Rev. John Kuehn officiated at the service.

MRS. KATHERINE BINDER nee Friedrich died May 2, 1977. She was born in Hungary (Kozor), May 6, 1880, and married in 1900 to Nickolas Binder. They immigrated to Regina, SA, in 1927 and to Swan River Valley in 1933. She became a Christian and joined the Baptist Church in Hungary in 1916, the First Baptist Church of Minitonas, MB, in 1933, the Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, in 1950. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1935, one son and one daughter. During recent years she was a resident of the Swan Valley Lodge. She leaves to mourn her death, one son, Henry, Swan River; three grandsons, and seven great-grandchildren. The Rev. George Adrian and the Rev. John Binder, grandson, officiated at the funeral service.

REV. PAUL HINTZE, 93, born in East Germany, June 10, 1883, died in Waco, TX, March 2, 1977. He became a Christian early in life and was called into the ministry. After finishing university and seminary in Germany, he married Lydia Knopf. Three children were born to this union: Ruth Mattlage Velton, McGregor; Adina Vogan (deceased May 1976) and Frederick, Waco. His wife, Lydia, died in 1940. In 1942 Mr. Hintze married Charlotte Esser, who was an able companion and pastor's wife. When he retired, they moved to Petrolia where they lived until Charlotte's death in June 1976. He was then taken to a nursing home in Waco to be near his daughter. He served many pastorates, including those in Germany; Hilda, AB; Hurneville, TX, and twice in Mowata, LA. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and one brother, George Hintze, Port Arthur, TX. The grandsons served as pallbearers. The funeral service was held at First Baptist Church of Petrolia with the pastor officiating.

FREDA KLATT nee Schamuhn was born May 5, 1906, in Wiesenthal, AB. She was converted and baptized as a teenager and became a member of Wiesenthal Baptist Church. On July 22, 1925, she married Arnold Klatt. This marriage was blessed with one son and two daughters. She died April 26, 1977. Among the survivors are her loving husband, Arnold; her son, Delburne, Leduc, AB; two daughters, Mrs. Dolores Lounsbury, Kamloops, BC, and Mrs. Arlene Irvine, Pigeon Lake, AB; eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. The Rev. Richard Hohensee officiated at the funeral service.

ECKHARD MERKE, 43, Vernon, BC, died April 12, 1977, in an industrial accident. He was born Nov. 17, 1933, in Grosshanswalde, Prussia. He immigrated to Canada in 1951 and became a charter member of Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, where he served the Lord faithfully to the end. His first wife, Frieda Golke, died in 1959. He married Martha Grunewald in 1962. Survivors include his wife, Martha; his father, Emil; three children: Irene, Barbara, Allen; two sisters: Edith (Mrs. Gerhard Hinz), Ruth (Mrs. Gunter Koch); one brother: Rev. Fred; his stepchildren: Uta (Mrs. Lawrence Malkoski), Karen and Brian Grunewald. The Rev. Fred Merke, Chicago, and the Rev. Siegfried Hoppe officiated at the funeral service.

WALTER B. SCHULTZ, son of Daniel Schulz, Washburn, ND, died at the age of 66 in Fresno, CA. He was born and raised in Washburn. Survivors include two sons: Henry, Fresno, CA, and Dick, San Jose, CA; three daughters: Mrs. Barbara Quitariano, Fresno, Mrs. Mari Mooney, Redmond, WA, and Mrs. Signe Hickey, Stockton, CA; two brothers: Leonard and Rupert; and two sisters: Johanna Schulz and Ruth Rees. The Rev. Bernard Edinger, Washburn Baptist Church, officiated at the service.

BERNICE STEINBERG was born to Walter and Emily Steinberg, April 29, 1904, in Lorraine, KS. She died April 8, 1977, 21 days short of her 73rd birthday. At 10 years, she accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, was baptized, and joined First Baptist Church, Lorraine. She was active in the church and worked in the church library. Miss Steinberg taught school for many years in Augusta, Great Bend and Newton, KS. She gave up teaching to care for her parents in their later years of life. Bernice was preceded in death by her mother, father, and two sisters. She leaves to cherish her memory: two sisters, Irene Kohrs, Geneseo, and Ellen Truhlar, Lorraine; nieces, nephews and a great host of friends.

VISITING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN MISSION FIELD

(Continued from page 17)

story. Their big dark eyes were glued to my lips. It is not too often that they get visitors at Faith Baptist Church at Center.

To be at Center means to visit one of the many potato processing plants of the Valley. We stopped at the plant right in the center of the town. David Keiry seemed to know everybody, and everybody knew him. Therefore, although not open to the public, soon we were inside the potato processing plant. For the first time in my life I found out that potatoes must be processed before they end up in a cooking pot.

After a few visits with members of the Faith Baptist Church, I had a delicious supper with the Keiry family. One has to live with this family to understand what makes them click. In addition to their six children, David and Priscilla are trying to adopt a set of girl twins, who in 1976 delighted many visitors at the Triennial Conference in Portland. Then they would have eight children, and they love it! It was a special treat to share their meals and, for a brief time, their lives.

In the evening I met with the young people of the church. A film and a lengthy question-answer period gave me a wonderful opportunity to get to know not only the Keiry family but also some of the people to whom they are ministering.

Back at the hotel in Monte Vista shortly before midnight, I thanked the Lord especially for the work at Center and Del Norte and for the Keiry family, who is ministering in both cities. How wonderful are God's leadings!

In 1944 North American Baptists secured the use of a local Baptist Church building which had been closed for 32 years and launched a ministry to the Spanish-surnamed people of the San Luis Valley. It took the Rev. J. J. Reimer several years, until the pagan-like Catholics began to trust him and his successor, the Rev. Young, and to attend the worship services of our missionaries.

Again God's miraculous leading became visible, when in 1951 a girl from California and one from North Dakota came to Center to teach Vacation Bible School. The girl from North Dakota was Priscilla Haas. The Colorado boy, David Keiry, fell in love with her, and

today they not only take care of eight children in their home, but they are responsible for the spiritual nourishment of hundreds of people in Del Norte and Center.

(To be continued. The next article will contain: Baptist Work in Monte Vista—Heal the Sick and Feed the Poor—Interdenominational Bible Study—Wetbags Versus Citizens—Baptism With Obstacles—Yes May Mean No—Poor but Fashion Conscious.

The third article will deal with my visit to Rio Grande City and to the two Mexican towns, Camargo and Villa Nueva.) □

WHY DO WE HAVE CONFLICT

(Continued from page 5)

ship. The Lord Jesus made this clear when he declared, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me." It is either by him or a life without fellowship with the Father.

My friend, without Jesus you cannot have peace in your heart, nor can you generate peace around you. Jesus said: "Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9).

In one of his Tracian campaigns Julius Caesar captured Spartacus, the gladiator, who soon was sent into the arena to fight with an unknown foe. There Spartacus used a phrase that he had often heard in the home of his boyhood. To his amazement the opponent replied in words equally familiar. Suddenly Spartacus realized that he was standing toe to toe, sword to sword with his younger brother, and was about to take his brother's blood. Then Spartacus did something that all of us would have done if we dared. He took off his helmet and threw it on the ground. He took his sword and sent it spinning across the arena. Reaching across he lifted the helmet from his brother's head, threw his arms around the lad and kissed him. Then Spartacus turned to the box of Caesar and cried out: "Sir, we fight not! We are brothers!"

Those of us who know Christ can surely say: "Sir, we fight not! We are brothers!" □





Communication by Adolph Braun

David Brinkley, of NBC News, announced that since America's one-room school houses have been closed, we have learned that they were good schools after all. The professional educators believed that when all the children of the one-room schools were transferred to larger consolidated schools, they would receive a better education. But now that every child is in a consolidated system, they concede that children are not learning any better. The conclusion they reached was that what happens in the home is far more important than what happens in the schools.

We Christians knew that all the time. But, our liberal, social experimenters refuse the simple revelation of God and his Word. They insist on proving their own method even if it spoils the child and ruins the nation. In fact, we could say that, in many ways, public education has worsened the whole nation. Theodore Roosevelt said, "Men trained in intellect and not in religion and morals will become a menace to the country." A superintendent of schools said, "What good is it if our children learn eight languages and yet cannot tell the truth in any one of them?"

The highest rate of suicide is among our youth. If more of them were taught our Creator's purpose for life, I feel confident that the suicide trend would quickly fall. Flaull said, "The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering and the most comfortable way of dying." Yet, most American youth have never been taught the plan God has for their lives.

I am convinced that Christian parents could turn the tide if they voiced some clear thinking to the school board, or better yet, run for school board membership and open the classroom for some teaching of morality and honesty. How wonderful it is to realize that, in spite of the educational trends of our confused educators, our Christian homes can still make it possible for young people to know the Way, the Truth and the Life. □

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

news&views

AUSTRIAN BAPTISTS EXTENDING HOME MISSION

VIENNA (EBPS)—Membership in the nine congregations of the Baptist Union of Austria stood at 657 by the end of 1976. The churches baptized 22 new converts during the year.

Dr. Helmut Rabenau, Union Secretary, outlined three major projects. They are a new Home Mission activity, a stronger financial base, and the Hubmaier Jubilee events.

The Burgenland Mission is the priority work, with an intensive effort planned by a youth and student team for this summer. The team will be led by Gottfried Rabenau, presently a student at the Baptist Seminary of Hamburg. A new work also is to begin in Innsbruck, directed by the Rev. B. Wagner, new Home Mission Secretary for Austrian Baptists.

Plans for the 450th Hubmaier-Jubilaum are expected to give opportunity for dissemination of information as well as evangelization. During these events, to take place in Autumn, 1978, the Austrian Baptist Union will host meetings of the European Baptist Federation Council.

AUCECB HOLDS EXTENDED PLENUM

MOSCOW (EBPS)—At an extended Plenum of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the

U.S.S.R. it was reported that "more than 6,000 new souls who acknowledged Jesus as their own Saviour were accepted through water baptism" in 1976. This brought the total number of baptisms since the last Plenum, in 1975, to over 13,000.

Reviewing the blessings of God through the past and "highlighting the 110th Anniversary of the history of our Brotherhood," the extended Plenum heard a progress report on a more complete confessional statement. It also especially noted the "zealous free-will offerings" given by the AUCECB churches, as well as the Union's "peaceful labour with our multinational people" over the last century.

The Plenum participants further supported the spirit of co-operation and friendship among nations developing after the signing of the Final Act of the Helsinki document on European security and co-operation, and unanimously approved the AUCECB Presidium's involvement in the international Conference of representatives of all religions in Moscow in June.

In other actions, the participants noted "with special thanksgiving" the centennial of the Russian Bible, observed in 1976 and crowned with a Jubilee Bible edition; and heard reports on distribution of hymn books for Estonian believers and Bibles for German-speaking believers during recent months. It was reported that 97 students now are enrolled in Bible courses of the first and second year.



Three participants in the American Bible Society's 1977 National Advisory Council discuss the book, "Good News for Everyone," a recently published book on the translation principles used in the "Good News Bible." They are (l. to r.) Dr. Kenneth R. Kennedy of the General Association of General Baptists; Dr. Eugene A. Nida, the book's author and the Bible Society's executive secretary for translations; and Dr. Gideon K. Zimmerman, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference. Dr. Kennedy and Dr. Zimmerman were two of 60 denominational leaders who attended the three-day conference in New York.

what's happening

■ *The Rev. Arthur Garling*, pastor of Twin Grove Baptist Church, Buffalo Grove, IL, since 1968, has resigned this pastorate effective June 1, 1977. He plans to go into secular work.

■ *The Rev. Gordon Voegele* has accepted the call to become pastor of the new church extension project to be located in the Littleton area, Denver, CO, effective June 1, 1977. He previously served as pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD, from 1973-1977.

■ *The Rev. Hilton Jarvis* accepted the call to become the senior pastor of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA, effective July 17. His prior pastorate was that of a church in Wenatchee, WA, where he served for 10 years.

■ *The Rev. Walter Damrau* has been serving as the interim pastor of Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA.

■ *The Rev. John Berrier* is the new pastor of Elm Creek Baptist Church, Seguin, TX, since April 1, 1977.

■ *The Rev. Dan Fuchs* began serving as interim pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, on May 1, 1977.

■ *The Rev. John Rasko*, formerly of Lewiston, MT, became the pastor of Sherwood Park Baptist Church, Greeley, CO, on May 1, 1977.

■ *At the Church Extension Board meeting April 22-23, 1977*, the following projects were approved: Red Deer, AB; West Edmonton, AB; and East Littleton area, Denver, CO, (Gordon Voegele, pastor).

■ *The Rev. William Cummins* became senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, in May 1977. He had served as assistant pastor at Calvary Church, Grand Rapids, MI, for five years. He is married to the former Dorothy Fuchs, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Fuchs.

■ *Klaus Issler*, Dallas, TX, has accepted the call to become the Minister of Christian Education of Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma, OH, effective July 1, 1977. He is a member of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, and a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX.

■ *The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney* accepted the call to become pastor of Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, effective August 15, 1977. He was pastor of an American Baptist Church in Dayton, OH.

■ *The Rev. Robert Lennick* has withdrawn his acceptance of the call to become pastor of the new church extension work in Bensalem, PA.

■ *The Rev. Victor Gunst* resigned as the pastor of Meadow Hills Baptist Church, Aurora, CO, effective May 31, 1977. He has served as pastor there since 1974.

■ *The Rev. Bert Milner* resigned as pastor of Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective April 30, 1977. He had served that church since 1971.

■ *The Rev. Robert Schreiber* resigned from the pastorate of Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR, where he has served since 1966 as the senior pastor.

■ *The First Baptist Church, Eldridge, IA*, was excluded from the fellowship of the Iowa Association at a special meeting on March 15, 1977. Fourteen churches of the Iowa Association were represented by 87 delegates and five council representatives; three Conference leaders were in attendance. The action came as a result of a factual report without any recommendations of the examining committee. The committee had been sent to First Baptist Church in order to come to some decision on the issue of charismatic renewal in that church. The Rev. Walter Sukut is pastor of the Eldridge church.

■ *The Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA*, has taken on the responsibility of becoming the "mother church" of the new church extension work in Bensalem, PA, a north-east suburb of Philadelphia.

■ *The Rev. Ted Keck* has accepted the call to become the pastor of the new church extension project in South Fargo, ND, effective August 5, 1977. He has served as the pastor of the Gencullen Baptist Church, Portland, OR, since 1970.

■ *Mr. Gordon Bauslaugh* has accepted the position of associate pastor of the

Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, effective June, 1977. He has served as part-time junior youth minister, Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI.

■ *Mr. Dennis Kee*, a 1977 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, has accepted the call to become pastor of the new church extension project located in Bensalem, PA, effective June 12, 1977.

■ *Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, OH*, was the object of vandalism the first week of May. Vandals set fire to the office and broke twelve windows and two doors. The Rev. Elmer C. Strauss is the pastor.

■ *Mr. J. Eloy Romero* is the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Cherokee, OK. □

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY LIVING FIRE QUARTET TOUR

Jamestown, ND, Temple
Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Bismarck, ND, Bismarck
Aug. 14, 11:00 a.m.

Minot, ND, First
Aug. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Medicine Hat, AB, Temple
Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Creston, BC, Creston
Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Calgary, AB, Brentview
Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Calgary, AB, Temple
Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Leduc, AB, Temple
Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Edmonton, AB, McKernan
Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Edmonton, AB, Central
Aug. 21, 9:15 a.m.

Edmonton, AB, Northgate
Aug. 21, 11:00 a.m.

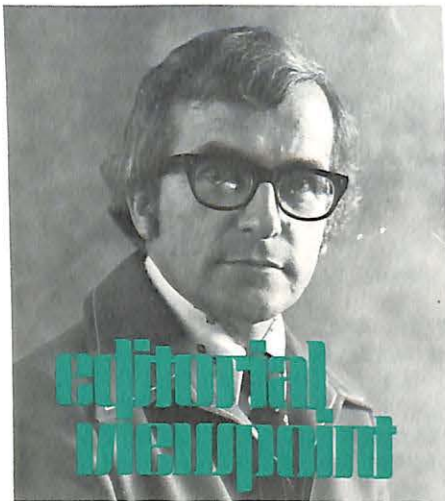
Edmonton, AB, Meadowlark
Aug. 21, 7:00 p.m.

Wetaskiwin, AB, Calvary
Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Carbon, AB, Carbon
Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Regina, SA, Faith
Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Anamoose, ND, Anamoose
Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m.



THE TROUBLED DOWNTOWN CHURCHES

"Ninety percent of the downtown churches in the United States and Canada are dying," discovered Ezra E. Jones, a sociologist with the department of research and survey for the United Methodist Church some years ago. Jones has done a two-year study of more than 300 downtown churches of all denominations in North America to determine the unique characteristics and problems of such churches.

"Just because a church has a lot of money and property isn't a sign that it is successful," said Jones. "Many are dead but haven't been buried yet," he added.

Jones noted the following sociological changes of a "negative character" that are affecting the downtown churches:

"First is transportation. Expressways take you away from downtown. Mass transit usually isn't good.

"Then, crime is increasing in the downtown area. People say it isn't growing any more in downtown than in the suburbs, but fear of crime is greater in the downtown area."

He cited one church which advertised on its bulletin a high quality musical program. Down in small print was a notice that armed police guards would be protecting the parking lot.

"A third factor is that the downtown is hurting economically. It has less of what it used to have," Jones said.

The most significant finding of his study is this statement: "The church that is surviving today in the downtown area is the church that has learned to balance survival and service. Churches that are failing today are those churches which give all to survival or all to service. You cannot give all to survival, because you have to have a purpose. You cannot give all to service, because

you have to survive if you are going to serve."

Recently a letter came to my desk from the Rev. James Correnti, pastor of our famed Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, founded in 1843 in downtown Philadelphia, PA. This church evidently has learned to balance survival with service, because he writes:

"We have been so thankful that our church is built on the rock, which is Jesus Christ, during a period of re-examination of various aspects of church life. Most fundamental is a growing awareness that the church is God's family on earth. To this end the preaching has continued to concentrate on the doctrine of the church—the place where God dwells and works the healing of his people . . ."

That much for provision to survive spiritually. Pastor Correnti then continues:

"Fleischmann Church has taken on the responsibility of becoming the mother church of a Church Extension work in Bensalem, a suburb of Philadelphia." He ends his letter with a jubilant note: "The work continues to go forward. The first regular church visitors began coming about six months ago, including a black woman and her two children. About a month ago, a new group began coming also, so that we have about 20 regular visitors. We're having about 10-12 black people in the morning service—a tremendous encouragement, as the first group is always the hardest to get.

"This encourages me to be all the more bold in preaching the gospel of free grace and the fruits worthy of the repentance that accompanies belief in the Savior."

Yes, the downtown churches are troubled, but with God's help and the prayer support of all North American Baptists Fleischmann Memorial Church, and all of our other downtown churches, will be victorious and will continue to render the God-given ministry in their communities. RJK □

RELIGIOUS ANECDOTES SOUGHT

Would you like to receive picture post cards of Mississippi, Southern recipes, or whatever? In exchange I would love to see religious anecdotes. I will print contributor's name and address in back of collections if they wish it printed.

I am looking for true unpublished incidents—humorous or inspirational—happenings in church or out; from the present or past; from personal experience or otherwise. Stories you have heard preachers tell are fine!

Also cute (religiously related) sayings of children and humorous mistakes in church bulletins. Mrs. Florence Bell, 406 Broadmoor Drive, Jackson, MS 39206.



letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

Several items in recent BAPTIST HERALD's prompt me to write to you. First of all, let me commend you on the new format of your magazine. Frankly, prior to the introduction of such items as "The Seed" by Martha Jayne Clark in the January 1977 issue and "Heavy Thinking" I found the magazine rather dull. With the exception of a few articles on missionaries and an occasional report in "Our Conference In Action," I considered the reading too heavy for enjoyment. I was pleased to see the addition of the lighter touch, despite Rev. Bert Harsch's objections as voiced in the October issue. Guess you just can't please everyone! Maybe you could continue some of these lighter things and Mr. Harsch could just flip the page, thus you'd retain both of us as readers. I especially like "Slow Down" in March 1976 issue. This type of reading ministers to those of us less-scholarly readers and gives your magazine more appeal.

One item did have me confused, though. In November 1976's "Forum" by Gerald L. Borchert, he cites Exodus 21:22 in relation to the abortion issue. To me, that proved nothing. A careful reading of that portion of Scripture will reveal that the "termination of pregnancy" here had nothing to do with a willful desire to destroy the life of a fetus. Abortion, as we are dealing with it today, involves the willful action of a mother to dispose of her unborn child. In Exodus, the child is aborted through accident as two or more men are striving in the presence of a pregnant woman who apparently gets caught in the line of fire. It was unintentional. There is a vast difference in this in my thinking and I feel Mr. Borchert misused it as an example of abortion. Correct me if I am wrong.

Perhaps I'm not sentimental, but I would rather dispose of the pictures and write-ups showing couples celebrating an anniversary, couples whom very few of your total readership would be interested in, than in omitting such items as "Heavy Thinking." You have plenty of thought-provoking and informative articles in every issue and these lighter touches make it much more attractive. Dorothy J. Buitendyk, St. Joseph, MI

YOUTH SCENE

(Continued from page 13)

ready for this. Experts tell us that we marry the type of people we date! They also state that what people are like before they are married, usually carries over into their married lives. Do you sort of get a feel for what I'm trying to get across? I hope so.

Can you see that there is a direct relationship between dating and marriage, which takes us back to making our life's second most important decision. There are so many of them (the opposite sex) out there in the world, how do you narrow it down to just one? One method brought out in the retreat was to simply list on paper the attributes you personally look for in a mate. Allow me to briefly list the qualities I look for in a person I am dating, knowing full well that these are the same qualities I will use when choosing my life's mate. After reading this article, take time to make your own list. It may be of help to you.

First and foremost in your search for a mate should be that you date *only* born again Christians. If you date non-Christians, you are not only wasting your time but also you are playing with fire—hellfire. Satan would love to have you marry a non-Christian, stagnating and destroying your spiritual life. Christ

NEWS FROM OUR FELLOW BAPTISTS

(Continued from page 2)

dian of the cultural wealth of the peoples of many centuries.

Evangelicals began a work in Novgorod in the last century, and by 1919 a Baptist church had been founded. However, its building was destroyed, along with those of other churches, when the city was ravaged during the second World War.

But after the war years, the good news of salvation was again heard in the ancient city. At the dedication in March, the Rev. M.I. Sorokin told of beginning his ministry when there were but eighteen believers. Each year now, he said, new members are being baptized in the nearby river, and the membership has reached 80.

And in a solemn four-hour service recently in Semipalatinsk, the dedication of still another new prayer house took place. Leading the ceremony were four members of the Baptist Ministers' Council, Brothers N.A. Kolesnikov, V. Schults, A. Evstratenko, and G. Yastrebob. This church has been carrying on a witness in the area since 1912.

The beginning of this year was marked by a joyful event—the baptism of 40 new members in the Moscow Church of Evangelical Christians-Baptists. □

plainly teaches us to develop relationships only with Christians. "Don't be teamed with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin! How can light live with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14 L.B.). Clear enough?

Based on the assumption that I'm looking for a born again Christian, here is my list from the retreat.

I am looking for a person who has these qualities:

1. Someone with whom I can communicate: verbally, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically.
2. Someone with a pleasant, understanding personality who can get along with others well. (If she can't get along with others, she won't be able to get along with me.)
3. Someone who is level-headed and intelligent.
4. Someone who is physically attractive.
5. Someone who is emotionally stable.

Choosing a Career

Career choice is the third of life's major decisions you must make. Here again, if you have made the first decision correctly, Christ will open the right

doors to the job he wants for you. In fact, God may have several career opportunities open to us in our lifetime. Above all, pray and be open with God. He knows your strengths and your weaknesses and will channel your talents into the appropriate areas.

As with choosing your mate, making a list of future career requirements will help you plan for it now. Again I will list what I believe to be important criteria in seeking a career. Don't forget to make your own list, too.

Criteria my career must fulfill:

1. It must be personally interesting, challenging and rewarding to me.
2. It must be compatible with my family life.
3. It must be of service to others.
4. It must provide me with enough money to live comfortably.

In summary, I sincerely hope that by reading this article you have gained some insight into the three major decisions we must all make in our lifetime. God does care for you, and he has a wonderful plan for your life. To follow this plan, I would suggest you put these words into action: "Trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success" (Prov. 3:5,6 L.B.). □

MEADOWOOD MANOR WINNIPEG, MANITOBA Invites applications for the position of ADMINISTRATOR

Meadowood Manor is presently under construction in St. Vital. The development is expected to be completed before December 31 and will include two adjoining buildings which will house 90 personal care units and 90 elderly persons housing units.

The administrator is the chief executive officer and is directly responsible to the Board of Directors for the effective and efficient operation of the total complex with thoughtful care of residents as the objective.

This is a challenging opportunity for the right person to join us now and follow the development through to its operational stages.

Desirable qualifications:

1. formal training in health care administration
2. administrative experience at a senior level
3. a basic knowledge of accounting
4. good communication skills (knowledge of the German language would be an asset)

Salary:

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please submit full resume to:

Dr. G. Schroth
2288 Henderson Hwy.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2E 0B9
CANADA

baptist herald

1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,
Oakbrook Terrace,
Villa Park, IL. 60181

Non-profit organization
Second class postage
paid at Villa Park, Illinois 60181
and at additional mailing offices.

1977 Mission and Ministry Budget – North American Baptist Conference

Missions

Brazil	\$ 96,992	
Cameroon	589,847	
Japan	171,939	
Nigeria	177,815	
Home	50,605	
Administration	130,960	
TOTAL	\$1,218,158	43%

Training for Ministry

N.A.B. College	\$ 206,307	
N.A.B. Seminary	280,023	
Inter Campus M-Div	35,563	
TOTAL	\$ 521,893	18%

Church Extension

\$ 416,260 15%

Church Ministries

Evangelism/God's Volunteers	\$ 80,136	
Women's Work	24,084	
Youth Ministry	12,602	
Education	83,952	
TOTAL	\$ 200,774	7%

Development and Administration

Stewardship & Communications	\$ 187,384	
General Council	105,663	
TOTAL	\$ 293,047	10%

Area Ministries

\$ 139,205 5%

Special Projects

Pension Subsidy	\$ 43,223	
Aged Ministers	8,940	
Baptist World Alliance	6,000	
Bible Distribution	2,500	
TOTAL	\$ 60,663	2%

TOTAL \$2,850,000 100%

North American Baptists have set significant goals for 1977 and the next triennium. Each of you is a vital and indispensable part of what will be done. Where will you fit into the picture?



Dr. G. K. Zimmerman

