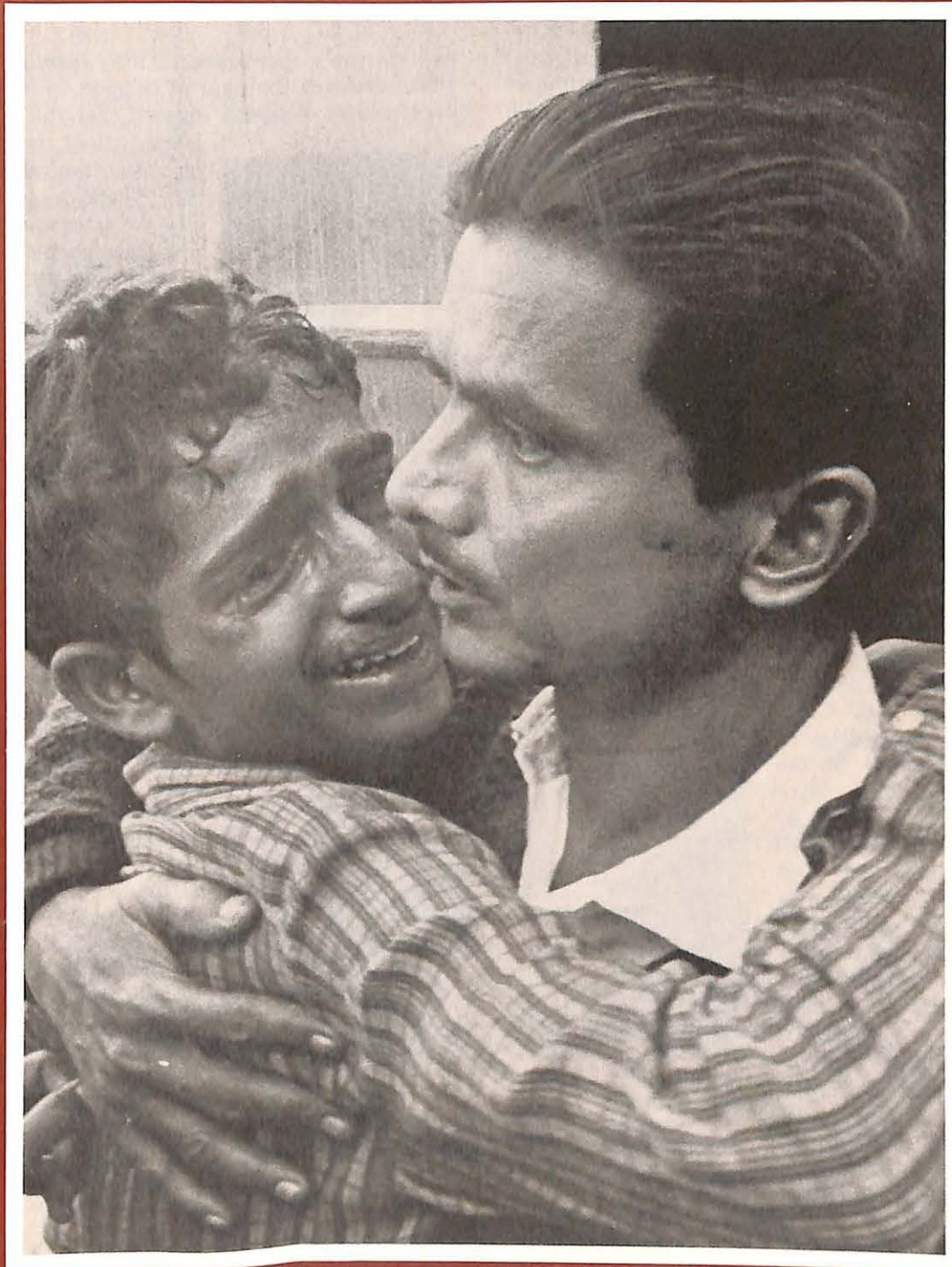


June 1977

# baptist herald



*As kind as a father is to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who honor him. Psalm 103:13*



# BAPTISTS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: THE LEGACY OF ROGER WILLIAMS

by James E. Wood, Jr.

Religious Liberty Day 1977 will be observed on June 12.

The conspicuous role of Baptists in the cause of religious liberty has long been regarded by many historians and theologians as the finest contribution of Baptists to Christianity. An integral part of Baptist faith, religious liberty has occupied a prominent place in Baptist history. In the seventeenth century when Lord Chancellor King sought to recognize John Locke as the author of religious liberty, Locke forthrightly declared that "the Baptists were the first and only proponents of absolute liberty, —just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty."

An important source of our heritage of religious liberty, Cecil Northcott wrote, "lies in the witness of the Baptist churches whose devotion to this idea, through years of persecution in Protestant Europe, makes their place a foremost one in the history of liberty." "This contribution," former U.S. Chief Justice Charles Hughes declared, "is the glory of the Baptist heritage, more distinctive than any other characteristic of belief or practice. To this militant leadership all sects and faiths are debtors. . . ."

The story of Baptists and religious liberty in America is rooted in the legacy of Roger Williams, who has long been acknowledged as the architect of the American tradition of religious liberty and the separation of church and state. The father of religious liberty in America and founder of the colony of Rhode Island and the first Baptist church on American soil, Williams sought to maintain a biblical and theological basis for religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Inspired by John Murton, an English Baptist preacher who was confined in Newgate prison because of his faith, and influenced



Baptist visitors to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. may be pleasantly surprised to see this statue of Roger Williams. The state of Rhode Island presented the striking likeness of "her first citizen" as a gift to the nation in 1872. The sculptor of the marble statue was Franklin Simmons.

by Murton's publication, *An Humble Supplication*, which declared the right of religion to be free from state interference, Williams insisted that the authority of the state is "not religious, Christian, etc., but natural, human and civil." Therefore, it is "improper" for the state to proscribe matters of conscience or religion. "All lawful magistrates in the world, both before the coming of Jesus Christ and since," Williams wrote, "are but derivatives and agents . . . serving for the good of the whole." Hence, "no civil state or country can be truly called Christian, although true Christians be in it."

To Williams, as to Baptists today, church and state must be separate not only for the church to be the church, but for the state to be the state, God to be God, and for Christians to be Christians. The state can never assume the role of God who alone is Lord of conscience. And faith, to be faith, must be free and voluntary. As a consequence, Williams maintained, as do Baptists today, that compulsory and tax-supported religion is un-Christian, that the biblical Israel cannot be a model state for Christians, and that the First Amendment requires an equality of all persons and groups before the law as a fundamental responsibility of all civil government. It would be difficult to overstate the importance of Williams to American and Baptist history. The author of religious liberty in America, Williams became the real founder of the new Republic.

The late Perry Miller, esteemed for his remarkably sound judgment of American colonial history, declared: "For the subsequent history of what became the United States, Roger Williams possesses one indubitable importance. . . . as a figure and a reputation he was always there to remind Americans that no other conclusion than absolute religious freedom was feasible in this society." □

Dr. James E. Wood, Jr., is the executive secretary of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, of which the North American Baptist Conference is a member.

## baptist herald

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Monthly Publication  
of the

North American Baptist  
General Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,  
Oakbrook Terrace,  
Villa Park, IL 60181

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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.)

## NEWS Flash

### MOORE REPORTS ON CRUSADES

Spent, but rejoicing, the three "Crusade Evangelism International" teams have returned from the Philippines. For the first time in the history of the Philippines, an united crusade effort of evangelism has taken place across the Republic. Nine crusade areas—Laoag, Cebu, Legaspi, Davao, Olongapo, General Santos, Cabanatuan, Angeles City, and Metro-Manila, saw a total of 130,000 people ministered to and over 5,500 inquirers respond to the Gospel invitation. Among those responding was a tribal chief, brought to the service by a missionary who will now have free access to this mountain tribe of 15,000 people.

Barry Moore, Alf Rees, and Jim Wilson, the three evangelists, report that one marked "plus" of the whole enterprise has been a new-found fellowship among Christians of various denominations.

Another highlight of the venture was the Pastors' Conference under the directorship of Alf Rees, Moore's associate evangelist. More than 400 pastors from across the nation gathered in Manila for the daily sessions. Drawing on his experience as a missionary, pastor and crusade evangelist, Rees sought to equip the men for church evangelism, follow-up and pastoral care.

Reports indicate that the Moore crusade services broke new ground as Filipinos were attending eight consecutive evening meetings. Used to the one and two-day thrusts, they responded well to the extended approach.

Barry Moore is endorsed by the North American Baptist Conference. □



# We're Looking for People Who Want to Lead

Thoughts regarding the ministry as a life's vocation began in my life when a young pastor, whom I respected and appreciated, asked if I had ever considered being a pastor? After a chuckling "no," God began to use that question which I had considered insignificant to spark within my mind a consideration and a deepening openness toward the ministry.

## Facing God's Call

by Marvin Dewey



After graduation from high school, I decided to go to North American Baptist College for one or two years and then go into farming. During the second semester of that first year, for two and one half months, I had the opportunity to get to know and become friends with a student who was training for the ministry. His life impressed me because of the depth and willingness to do what God wanted. In March of that semester, he was killed in a car accident. As the next days passed, one question seemed to filter through my mind. Would I be willing to be the kind of person God wants me to be, and do what God desires? As I pondered that question, I began to pray, "God help me become the kind of person

*Marvin Dewey, Ellinwood, KS, has completed his first year at North American Baptist Seminary.*

Until 1974, I had never seriously considered the ministry. Having obtained a Ph.D. in Geography and a good taste of teaching, I was content to continue in this field. However, following my final year as a short-term teaching missionary in Cameroon, I was unable to find a permanent university professorship in North America

## When God Calls

by David Lake



*Dr. David Lake, Edmonton, AB, is a senior student at North American Baptist Seminary.*

whom you desire me to be and bring me to the place where I am willing to do what you desire." Yet, even at this time I did not know that God wanted me to prepare for the ministry.

As I look back, I can see that God, following the above experience, brought me through several stages as he prepared me to know that the ministry was where he desired me to be. One stage was during my year on God's Volunteers. It was during this year that I was placed in ministry, and I began to realize, to a greater extent, the needs which people have, whether Christian or non-Christian. It was also during this time that I saw that God could use me to help others in their need.

The second stage was vivid realization that I needed training to know how to better help people and to understand my own relationship with Jesus Christ more thoroughly. I am still involved in this while I am at Seminary, and I must continue to be involved in this the rest of my life.

The third stage was that God allowed me the opportunity to go back to the farm for one year to see if that was really the place that I wanted to be. As I worked on the farm that year, God began to show me that the farm was not where he wanted me to remain. God began to change my desires, attitudes and longing toward preparing for a ministry of working with people.

The fourth stage took place within the first three stages. People my own age, as well as people who were older and more mature in the faith, challenged me to use the gifts which they saw God had given me in the area of the pastorate or some related ministry.

The areas of the ministry are numerous; the pastorate is but one. I am not sure that God will always have me be a pastor; yet I will always be committed to the ministry of God in and through the Church. □

but was offered a position as interim Director of Christian Education at my home church in Edmonton.

This job looked challenging in that I had no academic training in this field and had to rely on the Lord and some past experience as a lay worker in my church. I soon came to feel comfortable in this position and, unexpectedly, found even greater interest and opportunity to use my spiritual gifts than in teaching. I observed the desire of many church members to develop a mutually caring relationship with the pastoral staff. We became united through our efforts in serving the Lord. This nourished my desire to enter the pastorate on a long-term basis.

During this time I recalled words of pastor-friends to me many years back that I should consider the ministry. Support and encouragement offered by my wife and the pastor were also used by the Lord to give me the conviction that at the age of 31, I needed to go to school again, this time to be trained adequately for the pastoral ministry. □

The need for good used clothing in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, and across the border into Mexico gave rise to many exciting moments and great spiritual blessings for us at First Baptist Church, George, IA. How did this happen? We were challenged by a report on N.A.B. Missions to minorities in the U.S.A. given by the Rev. Milton Zeeb, South Central Area secretary, at our annual mission conference in November 1976.

Following the conference, the Mission Board of our church, together with me, as the pastor, made contacts with people in the Rio Grande Valley and began to formulate plans for a clothing drive. It was also recommended that our mission offering, at the Christmas Eve program, be designated for Project Rio Grande. This offering amounted to more than \$1,000.00. The clothes were brought to the church one week in January for sorting and boxing. On Jan. 24, 1977, members of the Mission Board and others loaded my van with 1480 pounds of good used clothing. Deacon Harley Blau and I left with the cargo of love on January 25.



Harley Blau and Pastor B. Itterman unloading the van.

Three days later, we were greeted by Brother and Sister Lindberg Ake at the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas, where Brother Ake is teaching. He is also the pastor of our church in Edinburg. After learning about the work and its needs in Edinburg, and dropping off four or five boxes of clothing, we headed west to Rio Grande City where the Robert L. Sandovals are serving. We were received warmly, both in spirit and weather. That evening we attended a prayer service across the border in the village of Villa Nueva. We found it difficult to believe what we saw. Our emotions ran high. It was impossible to escape the guilt feeling that came over us as people knelt on a hard floor in a simple home to thank God and later stood to praise God via testimony for his goodness to them. There was very little that we could see, as far as material things were concerned, why anyone would be thankful. Needs were screaming at us

*The Rev. Bert Itterman is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, George, IA.*

from every direction, from the need for a decent place to live to some medication for several children who were obviously sick and needed medical help. Nevertheless, that group of born-again believers sang and praised God for about two hours. We shared in the service through Brother Sandoval who interpreted for us.

The next morning, after some preliminary consultation with the Mexican Customs Officers, we were able to cross into Mexico with about 700 pounds of clothing. It is about five miles from Camargo to Villa Nueva on a dirt road. Since it was dry, we had no difficulty getting there; however the road is so bad that I drove in first gear all the way with frequent use of the clutch to pass through holes and over ruts. As we approached the village, we sounded the horn several times. Soon people began to gather at the house which had been selected to serve as the dispersement center. It was a great sight as the clothes were handed out. One lady, through an interpreter, said to me, "God sent you."

We were grieved to see the ruins of what was to be

# Project: RIO GRANDE

their church building, for which the people had saved for about three years. From their limited funds they had purchased brick, and trying to save money, hired a local man to lay them. This man was not qualified for the task. When a storm struck that area last Fall, the walls came tumbling down. The used bricks have very limited value; so the people are almost right back where they started. We explored with them the options that might be open to them and are presently making definite plans to help them.

Officially we do not have mission work in Mexico as North American Baptist Conference. The main reason the Sandovals are involved at all came as a result of the devastation of Hurricane Beulah in 1967. At that time, many who had to flee the Hurricane were air-lifted into the U.S.A. Several families were housed in the Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church in Rio Grande City. When these people were taken back into Mexico, they sent word for

(Continued on page 6)



the Sandovals to come and have services with them. Since then a good number have found the Lord and are zealous missionaries to their own people.

Prior to our arrival in the Valley, the local Mission Board, along with other personnel discussed our coming. Several items, which we could purchase from the funds that the church had sent along, were recommended to us for consideration. This money was over and above our regular support to N.A.B. missions and a special gift to the work in the Rio Grande Valley. For the church in Edinburg we purchased 25 folding chairs, carpet for the nursery, and paint for the classrooms, plus some personal gifts. For the work at Rio Grande City, we purchased materials for an additional bathroom at the parsonage, very much needed because of the guest load, and gave \$200.00 for the work at Villa Nueva, plus personal gifts. The installation of the bathroom fell upon Brother Earl Harms and the Rev. R. Sandoval. Mr. Earl Harms is the chairman of the Mission Board for the Valley.

An extra treat for the people at First Baptist Church were the 35 bushels of oranges and grapefruit that we were able to bring back. To avoid freezing of the fruit,

as we came back into the snow and cold, we arranged to park the Van in the Rev. Milton Zeeb's garage in Kansas City the last night on our way back.

Earlier we mentioned that plans are underway to help the people in Villa Nueva build a church. I shared the burden that the Lord has laid upon my heart with family members in Edmonton, Alberta, and the response was positive and generous. Additional contacts have brought the same results. None of the funds generated thus far will take away from the N.A.B. Conference budget, because these are non-N.A.B. people. The church here has been encouraged to help on this side of the border, especially in terms of donated labor.

It is too early to tell what lasting results Project Rio Grande will have, but as for now, the blessings already have been far more than we ever thought possible, and relationships have been established through it that will last for a lifetime. We were reminded anew of what Jesus said, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." □

ferent types, the method of distribution and the preparation. Initially, I'm sure, everyone who comes here carefully inspects the food, sniffs it and probably does not eat too heartily at first. There are many new taste experiences to be enjoyed here. The marketing is mainly done in the outdoor open market, but there are stores which carry any of the common household items found in your own country for a premium price. There are interesting items for sale, such as, dried crayfish, minnows, termites, various beans and grains. There is always the back and forth bargaining between buyer and seller in the market to keep one entertained. Food preparation is quite involved. Most missionaries hire a cook who soaks and scrubs the meat and vegetables, prepares the meals, and cleans house. Most of the cooks are trained by missionaries' wives and will fix anything. Most homes have "country chop" (or the food of the local people) several times weekly.

We arrived in the middle of the dry

season (which is from November to mid-March usually). During this time in the mountains it is extremely dry and dusty. The air is filled with a greyish haze called "harmattan," which is the dust that blows off the Sahara Desert. We have been assured that when the rains come, the harmattan leaves and the skies become blue, the foliage green, and the mountainsides visible.

One misrepresentation of Africa is that it is ridden with insects carrying deadly diseases and wild animals. Not true. Except for the coast of Cameroon, there are fewer insects than most of the frequented resorts and campsites in North America. It is difficult to get used to the cockroaches, but as soon as people move into the home and insect spray is used liberally, the pests soon

disappear. Tarantulas only appear at night and are more frightened of humans than humans are of them. The most ferocious animals we have seen so far are the housecats which go after the cockroaches.

Our happiest reaction was to the people of Cameroon and the missionaries working here. We have felt at home since we arrived. I think this has been the most helpful thing in our adapting to a new country, a new home and a new culture.

It is most certainly evident here in Cameroon that God's children are all one family regardless of racial origin or culture. The Cameroonian Christians are, as are the other Christians throughout the world, truly our brothers and sisters in Christ. □

## INTRODUCING

## DR. & MRS. E. ARMSTRONG



by Fred C. Folkerts

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Armstrong left Calgary, AB, Feb. 13, 1977, for five months of short-term missionary service at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, West Africa. Dr. Armstrong completed two years of residency in pediatrics in Calgary in January 1977. He volunteered his service for five months in Cameroon to fill the need for a second doctor at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Following his short-term missionary service, Dr. Armstrong will return to North America in June and enter a medical residency in radiology at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Edward Armstrong was born on Sept. 23, 1952, in Regina, SA. He was raised in a Christian home and became a member of the United Church of Canada. On Nov. 14, 1976, he was baptized on profession of faith by the Rev. Frank Berg at South Calgary Community Church where he then became a member. Edward received his undergraduate training at University of British Columbia, Vancouver, where he graduated in 1971. He

*The Rev. Fred C. Folkerts is the associate secretary for overseas mission at Oakbrook Terrace, IL.*

completed his medical training at University of Calgary in 1975, where he received his M.D. degree.

Mrs. Susanne Armstrong was born on May 22, 1953, at Camrose, AB. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Philipp Spiess who are members of the South Calgary Community Church. She was baptized on profession of faith by the Rev. Frank Berg on Nov. 14, 1976, at the South Calgary Community Church. She was married to Edward Armstrong on Feb. 14, 1976.

The Armstrongs were attracted to service in Cameroon through the appeals for more doctors by Dr. Dieter Lemke of Edmonton and through the influence of Susanne's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philipp Spiess. Susanne's parents visited Cameroon in 1976 and saw the many needs there. Ed and Susanne responded to those needs by volunteering their service. Pray that the Lord will greatly use them for their short-term service and give them much joy and fruitbearing. Pray also that two doctors will be found who can accept regular missionary appointment to fill the needs at our hospitals in Cameroon. □

tions, what took the Industrial Countries over two hundred years.

In the costal areas there is twenty-four hour hydroelectric power. In the inland cities and also mission stations there is either part-time power or power from electrical generators. There are paved roads in some parts of the country travelled by jeeps, Landrovers, VW's, Toyotas, Peugeotts, and Datsuns. Many of these small vehicles are used as taxis and rent for about 500 F (\$2.00) for a journey of 40 to 50 kilometers (20 to 25 miles).

The initial reaction of most, I think, would be the racial difference. It certainly, however, does not take very long to adapt to the language and color difference once you start working. Cameroonians are supposed to be bilingual, French and English, but, as occurs in other bilingual countries, such as my own Canada, certain regions take on the language of the majority of the culture group. Almost everyone, except in the isolated mountain villages (or compounds), speaks Pidgeon English. Though at first it is very difficult to understand, it becomes progressively easier to speak and understand, as one works longer with the people. One missionary who has been here for many years sounds just like a native.

Another aspect of the so-called early "culture shock" is the food: the dif-

and Coca-Cola. Very much to our delighted surprise, Cameroon is not an undeveloped, painted warrior, pagan society, but in fact a nation struggling to advance its society to the automated level we are accustomed to in the U.S.A., Canada, and Europe. One must remember that Cameroon is trying to accomplish in one or two generations, as are many of the emerging African na-

# A SHORT-TERM MEDICAL MISSIONARY COUPLE'S FIRST LOOK AT CAMEROON

by Edward and Susanne Armstrong

On a sunny Friday morning, we boarded a UTA Boeing 727 from Paris—Charles de Gaulle Airport destined for Douala, the largest city in Cameroon. I suppose like most North Americans we expected tropical rain forests, teeming with insects, grass huts, bad water, and a complete lack of the simple amenities of our culture, such as, running hot water, electricity, telephones



Fifteen people filled with anticipation, a sense of mission, joy and maybe a tinge of anxiety are beginning their ministry with the people of Cameroon as you read this. Their purpose is to

## Good News Ambassadors

share the Good News of Jesus Christ and the joy of growing in him as a part of his Body.

The 13 young people on this ministry tour were selected from among 26 applicants who were desirous to share in this experience. One student wrote, "I would love to see our African mission field, meet the missionaries and the national people whom I as an N.A.B. member have been supporting. . . . I am very interested in different people and cultures." Another shared, "After re-evaluating personal priorities, some

*The Rev. Bruce A. Rich is the general director of the N.A.B. Church Ministries Department. Bob Walther and Mr. Rich will be the tour leaders.*

**The tour team will include the following persons:**



Mr. Norm Stork  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada



Miss Donna Ehman  
Alpena, MI



Mr. Dan Grueneich  
Rock Rapids, IA



Miss Lois Faust  
Grosse Pte. Woods, MI



Miss Kathryn Sharp  
Colfax, WA



Mr. Paul Dykstra  
Avon, SD



Mr. Robert Walther



Rev. Bruce A. Rich



Mr. Dan Gast  
Steamboat Rock, IA



Miss Christine Salzman  
Manteno, IL



Miss Joanna Derman  
Grand Forks, ND



Miss Dixie Potratz  
Sioux Falls, SD



Miss Beth Malcolm  
Edmonton, AB, Canada



Mr. Rodney Poppinga  
Sioux Falls, SD

years ago, while contemplating on the visits of the Cameroon Singers, the Japan Drama Team and the Brazil Praise Singers the thought occurred to me that we ought to reciprocate in this

## Cameroon Cameroon Cameroon

joyful, beneficial sharing across cultural lines. This thought lingered and gradually became reality.

Pray for these young people and leaders as they minister in Jesus' name. You may also help to cover the expenses of the group while in Cameroon by giving to the Conference budget special of \$3,000 for this trip. In addition, participants are each taking responsibility for investing over \$1,500 toward the travel expenses.

The group will train in the Chicago area May 26-29 and leave for Cameroon on May 30. Leaving Cameroon on June 23, the *Good News Ambassadors* will return via Europe to Winnipeg to participate in the *Youth Encounter*. □

areas of my life were observed to contain some lack of commitment. Upon more fully availing myself to the will of God, and receiving an attitude of service to Him, I enrolled at N.A.B.C. where the Lord edified the direction in my life's vocation to some sort of full-time ministry." These thoughts are just a small sample of the kind of committed, creative, warm young people that make up this group.

While in Cameroon, the *Good News Ambassadors* will be singing, sharing in leading seminars, workshops, story and game times, rallies and worship services in ten cities and towns for three weeks. They will visit governors and chiefs as well as the missionaries.

Why is the group going? Almost two

# A Memorial Chapel in Cameroon

by  
Berndt E.  
Lemke



Missionary Oryn Meinerts relating the life of Gary Schroeder.

March 14, 1977, was indeed a big day in the calendar of events at the Kom Baptist Technical College at Belo in Cameroon. The date marked the beginning of a building project that was long anticipated: The Gerhard Schroeder Memorial Chapel. For one reason or another the start of this project had been postponed from year to

*Mr. Berndt E. Lemke is a missionary architect and has designed the memorial chapel.*



The Rev. Samuel N. Ngum, executive secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, laying the Cornerstone of the Gerhard Schroeder Memorial Chapel.

year. However, Gary Schroeder's memory and the resolve of North American Baptists to erect a fitting memorial never faded during the seven years that have elapsed since his tragic death.

Many changes have taken place since the day Gary erected the first set of buildings on the Belo campus in 1965 and provided access to it via a substantial new bridge. Not only has the physical plant been added to, but the entire program of the college has evolved from a teacher training center into a place where young Cameroonians now find an opportunity for technical and vocational training. Today, 260 students are learning to master valuable practical skills in an environment that seeks to stimulate intellectual and spiritual growth at the same. Student enrollment is projected to be 450 by 1978. It is on this beautiful campus and on a highly visible site that North American Baptists are about to give tangible expression to the importance they attach to a program that has God's Word, Christian fellowship and quiet meditation at its very heart.

To mark the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone for the Gerhard Schroeder Memorial Chapel, students, staff and friends of the college gathered at the site in an outdoor meeting. Mr. Jeremiah Waindim, the principal of the college and himself one-time recipient of a stipend from the Gary Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund, welcomed visitors and guests. On behalf of the entire college family he expressed the joy and gratitude over the historic moment. The Rev. Oryn Meinerts presented a life history of the person in whose memory the new chapel is to be erected. He challenged those present to demonstrate the same kind of dedication and service to Jesus Christ. The architect for the project gave a brief description of the proposed chapel and exhibited plans developed for the site.

As a climax the Executive Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, the Rev. S. N. Ngum, laid the cornerstone on the footings already completed. A representative from the Cameroon Government brought greetings and called on young people to build into their lives the kind of values they saw in the life of this man of God.

As a result of escalation in the costs of building material and labor, an additional amount as a 1978 special project has been requested for the completion of this memorial. Readers of the BAPTIST HERALD will be kept informed as work on the project progresses. □



*'It is time that we cease being apologetic about baptism.'*

# BAPTISM BELONGS TO THE CHURCH

by Winston M. Sherwick

We have come to the point where many of the people in our churches and even some pastors look upon some of our convictions about baptism as man-made traditions. They forget that these beliefs were crystallized during a luminous past by believers who arrived at these common and priceless persuasions through allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through the Scriptures.

Because of this tendency to be unfirm in the affirmation that baptism is a church ordinance, we need to challenge some of these all-too-easy presuppositions by re-examining what the Bible actually says.

## Go . . . Baptizing

Most Christians, Baptists and others, believe that the great commission in Matthew 28:18-20 is addressed by the living Lord to His living church. But we are prone to read, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations—" and then come to an abrupt stop. We do not move on to "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" or "teaching them, to observe all that I have commanded you." Believers' baptism is an unmistakable part of the church's mandate to make and develop Christians. It is as integral to our divine charter as the first amendment guaranteeing religious liberty is to the U.S. Constitution.

As we turn to the very first page of recorded church history, Acts 2, we hear an audience of thousands, under keen conviction of sin, interrupting Peter's preaching and crying: "Brethren, what shall we do?"

The apostle answers forthrightly,

*Mr. Sherwick is interim pastor of Twin Harbor Baptist Church, Westport, WA.*

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"Repent, and be baptized every one of you. . . ." Turning from sin is to be followed posthaste by baptism. Under great pressure of conscience, there is inevitably a ready response! For we see that "those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." The baptized converts were unassumingly counted as personal parts of the local church in Jerusalem.

Of course there was no meeting of candidates with a board of deacons, no giving of trembling testimonies at a business meeting. There was no time for a membership class, and probably no thought of a right hand of fellowship—things which have sprung up as the Baptist movement has grown. But that the church in Jerusalem was made up of believing and baptized persons cannot be disputed or ignored.

The pattern set in Acts 2 appears repeatedly throughout Acts. Baptism occurs so frequently in direct conjunction with the founding of churches that there is no escape from the realization that these companies were composed of bap-

tized believers. A precedent set on Pentecost continued to be followed.

Baptisms were clearly a part of the beginnings of the church in Samaria. Acts 8:12 says that "when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." There was such a wave of immersions that a pseudobeliever, Simon the Sorcerer, was carried along on its crest. His false action indicates the general genuineness of those avowing their faith by being plunged under water.

The faith-baptism pattern persists as the church first emerges on the continent of Europe. It is evident from Acts 16 that in her baptism Lydia identified herself with the budding church in Philippi. After her baptism she entered into the life and work of the church so fully that she invited the missionaries, Paul and Silas, to make her home their home.

The same sequence can be noted as the gospel made its way to Corinth. Here Crispus, the head of the synagog-

and his household became Christians, and the account proceeds to say that "many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized." The entire planting of the church of God in this seaport city is linked with its first baptismal service.

A further example is found in Luke's chronicle of the founding of the church in Ephesus. Twelve men there had been baptized according to the message and practice of Jesus' forerunner, who carried the title John the Baptizer. But when they heard John's message filled out with the good news of a crucified and risen Christ, they asked to be re-baptized, not because John's baptism was invalid but because they must confess the fullness of the gospel. Through baptism they signified their acceptance of the gospel and took their place within the church.

We must pause here to consider the vivid story of the conversion and immersion of the Ethiopian eunuch as a result of Philip's obedience to an order from an angel. Philip left a revival in Samaria to go to a stretch of desert on the Gaza Strip. There the treasurer of Queen Candace believed in Christ before Philip had time to give an invitation. Sighting a small body of water, the treasurer requested to be baptized. Here, away from a church, even one in formation, he was baptized in confession of Christ.

There was no church at home for him to join. For he lived far beyond the Mediterranean, in Ethiopia, where the new faith had not yet gone. This episode needs to be taken into account in the shaping of a biblical theology of baptism. Today's church must react and adapt to it. We'll come back to this later on.

## "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"

Turning from primitive church history to some of the inspired documents of those earliest churches, it becomes obvious that those who were part of those churches were baptized disciples. What we find in the doctrinally decisive letters of Paul has to be decisive for the church now.

First of all, baptism is seen not as a divisive issue but rather a unifying factor in church life. For in Ephesians 4:5, in a rather extended list of unifying spiritual concepts we have "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." This does not mean baptism in the Holy Spirit, as some believe, but baptism in water. In the epistles or any other New Testament book, baptism by Christ in the Spirit is never meant unless a passage explicitly states it, as does I Corinthians 12:13.

So what is meant here, without any reasonable possibility for debate, is "baptism for believers only, and only

by immersion." Christians were cemented together by their faith in Christ and their "baptism into Christ."

In Romans 6:3-5 Paul accents for the Roman Christians and for us the beautiful and impressive symbolism of baptism: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

According to this passage and Colossians 2:12, the new believer, within the context of the church, is lowered into the water to emblemize the death and burial of Christ and his own death to sin in conversion. In being raised from the water he pantomimes Christ's resurrection and his own resurrection to new life.

This symbolism rules out any other form of baptism than immersion, such as sprinkling or pouring. These are not an adequate sign language in any environment.

In Galatians 3:28 another baptismal object lesson is introduced. Paul writes, "For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Baptism is like donning a uniform for the first time. It is a symbol of something which is far more than a symbol. For the reality has to be more wonderful than an act that stands for the reality. Baptism stands for what is greater than baptism.

It is readily apparent that these various allusions to baptism refer to a practice familiar to Paul's readers. These persons in four widely separated churches have been candidates for and subjects of the Christian's initiatory rite. Paul would not be writing as he does of something relatively unknown.

## First Baptism, Then Discipling

What conclusions can be drawn from this mass of material in the Bible? What does it say to our lack of clarity on such a meaning-freighted divine command?

1) It is obvious that Baptism is a part of the life of the whole church, of all the churches. It is as much a part of the church's life as the Lord's Supper. Quantitatively there is much more about baptism in the New Testament than about communion. Yet because of our conditioning and the effects of the general religious culture, we tend to be less sure about the importance of baptism.

2) From the great commission and the whole recorded history of the first churches, baptism is seen to take place immediately after conversion. The greater bulk of what we call "discipling" today, according to the Bible, should occur after baptism. This still seems to leave room for the concen-

trated study of salvation and Christian living characteristic of the membership inquiry class. But there should not be as long a wait for this as there usually is. A crash course as soon as possible is in order.

But intensive training in a Christian lifestyle could continue from six months to a year after baptism. Prompt baptismal obedience, then exposure to a course like those available through the Navigators or Campus Crusade for Christ will almost automatically "bring forth much fruit" if carried on in the holy freedom of warm give-and-take.

3) Place should be allowed for baptism without membership in the church. But this ought to be exceptionally exceptional. The case of Philip and the first Ethiopian believer allows for this, but hardly anything more. Few who request only baptism will refuse to affiliate with the church if they are counseled understandingly and tactfully. Identification with Christ is normally linked to identification with the church for which Christ sacrificed His life.

As a pastor, I believe it is mandatory to bring all potential baptisms before the deacon board or membership committee. I act as a representative of Christ's church, never apart from it.

4) The symbolism of baptism should be made to shine. It is a mistake to say that baptism is nothing but a symbol any more than we would say that our country's flag is nothing more than a symbol. We need to let it give its message and give it plainly. Because it is not a sacrament does not mean that it is nonessential. A symbol can be powerful.

5) Baptism should be treated as the primary source and means of church growth. There must, it is true, be increases by transfer of letter. But we ought to prove untrue the quip that churches no longer extend the kingdom but only redistribute it.

Donald McGavran and his colleagues in the church growth movement have accentuated the connection of the biblical ordinance with congregational increase. They do not hesitate to make this emphasis, even though Fuller Seminary, where they teach, is an interdenominational school.

Yes, it is time that we cease being apologetic about baptism. This doesn't mean becoming controversial, however. While building and maintaining fellowship with other Christians, let us not act as if baptism were secondary. It is a very public and very soul-stirring testimony to faith in Christ. Let us bring our converts to feel without delay that this is Christ's first expectation of them. By all means, let us help them see that it is their emblematic step into what can become the sweetest fellowship on earth, the church of Jesus Christ. □





## putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Dear Mr. Editor:

I read Dr. Zimbelman's article related to the subject of Christians and sex, in which he suggested several books on the subject. Why do you bother printing such stuff? If Christians would just concern themselves about the things of the Lord, we all would be better off. A Concerned Pastor

I will not write another column on sex, but rather on what we mean when we say Christians should be "concerned about the things of the Lord."

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians (chapter 2:2) says: "For I have decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Then there follows an epistle that deals with every kind of problem imaginable.

He deals with salvation, divisions and factions, preaching and preachers, pride, gross immorality, paganism, and fornication with prostitutes. Chapter 7 particularly deals with marriage and sex—very explicit sex as far as husbands and wives are concerned.

He further deals with quarrels, party splits, court cases, property disputes and widowhood. Also he has words on dieting, vegetarianism, getting drunk at love feasts, communion, speaking in tongues,

Dr. Ernie Zimbelman is associate professor of Pastoral Counseling at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. He is also in charge of the Sioux Falls Psychological Services Clinic.

death, funerals, women's dress, and taking up collections.

All this after he says: "I'll know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

I feel it is important that we as Christians address ourselves to the totality of human experience and need. It is necessary to deal with the needs of people in the market place—in the home, office school, factory, farm—where people are!

A young boy defined church as a place where you go to get unwanted information. There is great truth in this. Many times we have answers to questions that nobody asks.

This was certainly not the example of Jesus! Wherever he went, people heard him "gladly." They followed him in great crowds. He did not have to force his message on them. They searched for him.

I remember visiting a church with a large auditorium. There were seven of us present at the main A.M. service—the pastor, organist, and three of us who were visitors. The pastor said, "The reason this church is empty is because I preach the truth—people don't want to hear this." As I heard this preacher preach to an empty church, I realized that what he called truth was his limited, rigid, bigoted value system. I did not sense the presence of Christ.

Jesus not only preached the truth, he was the truth. He is as broad as the universe, and all things are of concern to him. "All things were created through him and for him . . . in him all things have their proper place" (Colossians 1:16-17).

Today Jesus Christ is available to people with all kinds of need—may his Spirit so guide us that we do not limit Christ and his work of healing and reconciliation. "The things of the Lord" are as broad as human need. □

## chuckle with bruno

Wife to husband: "Shall we watch the 5:30 news and get indigestion, or wait for the 10:00 news and have insomnia?"

Student looking at exam questions: "Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight, and tell me just one thing I studied last night."

A thick head can do as much damage as a hard heart.

## book reviews by B.C. Schreiber

Zondervan TOP TEN \*Trade Books

1. \*THE ACT OF MARRIAGE, La Haye
2. JONI, Eareckson
3. HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK, Halley
4. \*CRUDEN'S COMPLETE CONCORDANCE, Cruden
5. \*A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23, Keller
6. I WANT MY MARRIAGE TO BE BETTER, Brandt/Landrum
7. THE LIBERATION OF PLANET EARTH, Lindsey
8. \*STREAMS IN THE DESERT, Cowman
9. \*THE RICHEST LADY IN TOWN, Landorf
10. MAY I HELP YOU, Beers

Zondervan TOP TEN Mass Market Paperbacks

1. MAN IN BLACK, Cash
2. LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, Lindsey
3. HOW TO WIN OVER DEPRESSION, LaHaye
4. ART OF UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF, Osborne
5. NEW COMPACT BIBLE DICTIONARY
6. SEXUAL HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE, Miles
7. EIGHTEEN . . . NO TIME TO WASTE, Johnson
8. WHEN FREE MEN SHALL STAND, Helms
9. FIND FREEDOM, Graham
10. HIS STUBBORN LOVE, Landorf

Some students pursue their studies but they never effectually overtake them.

An optimist is a person who tells you to cheer up when things are going his way.

A little bit of inferiority complex would actually improve some people.

A fifth-grader turned in the following essay on history: "It was Nathan Haley who said, 'I regret that I have but one life to give for my country.' This has come to be known as Haley's Comment."

It's amazing how nice people are to you when they know you are going away.

## youth SCENE

### ACTIVE CHRISTIANITY

by Luann Meissner

In recent years, the theme, "Practical Christianity," has been quite prevalent in youth retreats, magazines, books and discussions. It is sad that such a topic has to be taught; but, surely, little evidence of the practicality of Christian life is seen today. Instead, more and more grumblings, complaints and basic dissatisfaction are voiced against the irrelevance of modern Christianity. It seems that "Practical Christianity" is old-fashioned as it becomes an overworked but underused catch-all phrase. Why?

We attend countless camps, retreats and conventions to be inspired by the glowing reports of numerous speakers who tell of the *life* Christ has brought to them. We learn and memorize techniques for an exciting, successful and practical Christian life. Yet, within a few days or a few weeks of returning home to our routine, we find everything is lost in the shuffle once again. There doesn't seem to be any room for our real life in the new techniques. How can we resolve this conflict?

True learning requires a close and personal relationship between the teacher (in this case, the almighty God) and the student (me). A good education stresses the need for personal inquiry and discovery. It involves thinking and reality and leaves room for growth. It is disciplined because it realizes that meaningful truths are gained only through a long and hard process. Let us demand relevance of our Christian education instead of dying for the lack of it and complaining.

Miss Meissner has just completed her junior year at Wayne State College, Wayne, NE. Majoring in elementary education, she hopes to teach in a bilingual (Spanish-English) classroom and gain experience in urban ministries.

Our Christian objectives, now, are too low. There is no room for growth because we do not demand enough from God, from ourselves or from our life in Christ. We seem to think we have gained our full potential so we either shrink back and start drinking "the milk" again (1 Cor. 3:1, 2) and, therefore, avoid the tough truth of God's Word, or we die altogether from total starvation. We live the remainder of our earthly life as a Christian "has-been."

Now, instead of asking, "How can my Christian life be practical?," let us turn around and ask, "How practical am I willing to be?" Facing Christianity and seeing it centered on a life of diligent faith and obedience, dependent upon a living God who loves us so much he died to give us life, is our first step. Following the most realistic Man who has ever lived is the most practical lifestyle available today. There is no other way; everything else is pseudoism outside of Jesus Christ.

We are torn between a life of practicality and realism on one side and a life of pleasurable romanticism on the other. The world is pervaded by lies. We want to be constantly entertained and told nice things. We are continually urged to escape from reality by all means. These attitudes put us in a direct conflict with the truth of God's holy existence and the knowledge of our own experiences. It is the world that feeds us the false, but, in our blindness, Christianity is blamed for being irrelevant.

If we face the facts, we will find that most of us are not willing to be as practical as Jesus Christ. We want to claim his saving power for ourselves, yes; but when it comes right down to *following* his example and living *now*, it just plain *hurts!* What pious blasphemers we are! Even when we are active—attending church *every* Sunday, fitting in some time to prepare and attend all the social functions the church provides for us, maybe even helping to teach Sunday school—we miss the whole point! We forget God in the midst of all this activity.

How can relevance and practicality be promoted? By being *involved* with our Teacher. He is God. Do we even know him?

We have the same God that Peter and Paul and Abraham and Moses and Noah worshipped. But we do not have the characteristics of those whom Daniel describes: "the people who know their God will display strength and take action" (11:32 NASB). While our God was being defied and disregarded in Daniel's day, God's people could not rest. They felt they must do something. Likewise, as we see God dishonored today we should be compelled into action.



Luann Meissner

If we take a long look at the lives of those involved in the first churches, we can understand why the fifth book of the New Testament is called ACTS. These Christians were alive. They found Christianity—life in Christ—to be of the utmost relevance. There was no spiritual drifting or stagnation. Those who came to know Christ were committed at once to the teaching and guidance of the local church, and they submitted diligently to the instruction and guidance of God's wisdom. This became the lifeblood through their veins until it overflowed to others spontaneously. Those Christians, and many since then, *lived*. They trembled at God's majesty as it shed light on their unholiness, and they delighted in the miracle of God's grace toward them.

What, then, are we to do? How can we return to life?

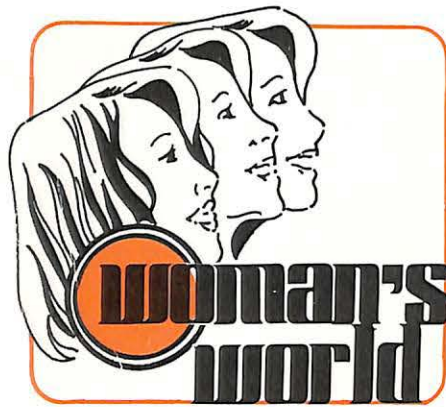
First, we must recognize our position. Many of us have no idea how spiritually poor we really are. We must see the present situation of stupidity and death. We must realize our lack of consciousness of guilt and danger. Where is our joy when a sinner is revived? Why is our Divine Deliverer, whose love we thought we could never forget, forgotten and neglected? Let us seek God and ask him to show us.

Further, let us ask questions that mean something and discover the answers in the Book in which God has revealed himself. Let us spend time *alone* with him and the Truth he has provided. Let us dig *deep* into the wealth that is available and be filled with the infinite wisdom which God can give. Let us seek wise counsel and sound advice but refuse to depend upon it solely; the Bible is the ultimate Truth.

Time with God needs to be set aside. May it be a quiet time to think upon his glorious perfections, to discover reality, to be involved with a personal and living God. Only then will we be able to escape the mirages set up by a romantic world and keep our eyes focused upon the reality of Christ's practical truth.

(Continued on page 31)





## A Life Given Over to God by Eleanor Quiring, Rochester, NY

"Once upon a time" a baby girl was born into a Christian family in Minneapolis, MN, the youngest of three children. Childhood and youth years were spent in the fellowship of the Faith Baptist Church where the members knew the importance of praying for and showing a deep interest in children. It was from her home and church she learned the truth that, above all else, responsibility to Christ's work must come FIRST to have the peace she was seeking. That their first love was Christ and they had a deep faith in him was revealed in the lives of the adults to whom the girl looked for examples, and her motto became "Christ first, others second and self last."

The young man she married attended the Faith Church also and had received the same influences. Happy years were spent together while she worked and he attended the seminary. Their family was complete after five children were added, and they spent 30 happy years serving North American Baptist churches as a pastor's family.

Suddenly the opportunity to become the Eastern Area secretary was offered to her husband. This was a new, exciting challenge, and the anticipation of accepting the call became a reality. It was then she was confronted with necessary decisions. Being a pastor's wife had been fulfilling and happy. This was to be something entirely different. How does one fit into being the wife of an Area secretary when there is neither a job description nor a pattern to follow? She looked to God for guidance to show her how she could continue to serve him. Depending completely on him for direction just had to be the answer. During her childhood and in the ministry, travel had played an important part,

and she enjoyed it immensely. It was decided that whenever feasible, she would accompany her husband as he visited churches and Associations in the area, and she would attend the women's retreats. It became her privilege to meet with and talk to women about their homes and children, W.M.U. work, interests, crafts and careers outside their homes.

Pastor's families usually have no immediate relatives living nearby, in whom can they confide their innermost feelings, and who can be their sounding-boards? She had learned to love and appreciate people where they are without trying to change them; she had experienced the art of listening. She knew the necessity of being a trusted confidant, so she enjoyed becoming closely associated with the pastors' families as she and her husband visited in their homes.

She had attended many of the Pastors' Wives Conferences in Sioux Falls in previous years and felt the women needed more contact with one another than the once in three years offered by such conferences. She encouraged pastors' wives to meet annually and kept them informed about activities within the area in a periodic newsletter. The letter also included a short paragraph "introducing" the wives to other pastors' wives, the arrival or departure of a pastor's family in the area and other tid-bits of news—such as an addition to a family by birth, adoption or marriage. The need for prayer in illness or surgery and the request "what do you do when" became a part of the letters as did the results and answers. Just as the sorrows were divided, the happiness and joys of accomplishments were multiplied in the pastors' homes because they were shared through the letter.

God makes each person in a special mold, and no one else can fill the place he has designated for someone else. So it is with the wives of the area secretaries; each serves him according to the abilities he has given, seeking first the Kingdom of God. □

## His Plan of Love

by Jean Ann Walth,  
Sioux Falls, SD

"Mom, I've met a guy . . ."

Not too long ago that was my telephone conversation concerning what God had in store for me. I was anxious to share with my parents how wonderfully God had led in discovering my

mate. Since then I have shared this story many times which would seemingly make it grow old, but each time I feel as if I draw closer to the Creator when I realize how he worked all things for my gain and his glory.



Jean Ann Walth

After my very involved high school years, I attended California State University at Fullerton. That whole year I struggled with what God wanted for me, always feeling as if there was more I could do for him. That year passed and I just didn't want to go back to University. Earnest desires were given in prayer concerning my direction in life—and then God answered. A former Christian education director called and asked me to go to coffee one Saturday evening. She was on the level and told me exactly where I was at. She said my once-a-month solo in church wasn't enough and encouraged me to consider a Bible school.

The North American Baptist College was the one for me, and within three weeks I was there. Well, people have often termed the College as North American "Bridal" College, but in complete honesty I have to say that marriage was the furthest thought from my mind. But those far away thoughts soon came into perspective the first night the student body gathered for a get-acquainted share time. Carlo Walth was his name, and although I didn't even get to meet him that first night, I knew in a strange way that God had plans for us.

Our dating life consisted of church activities because Carlo was a youth pastor. It was during those months that God's plan for us unfolded. My desire to want to do more for the Lord would be fulfilled in becoming a pastor's wife. It was a beautiful experience to share our past with each other and discover all the ways that God had prepared us for his calling. Our desires were soon shared with parents, relatives and friends, and the date of our wedding was set for August.

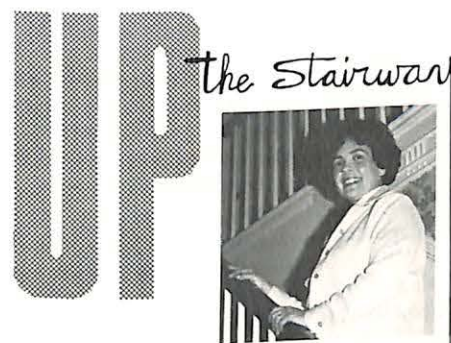
The step of marriage is never one to be taken lightly. During our engagement we set down reasons for our marriage and goals that could be accomplished because of our relationship to one another and to God. (1) We were heading in the same direction. Carlo had a desire

to serve in a full-time church related ministry and I wanted to do more for the Lord. (2) Our backgrounds were similar along with our attitudes and interests. This was an amazing discovery considering he was a pastor's kid and I was a California girl! (3) We could both see how our past experiences would complement and make our ministry together a creative, exciting and fulfilling life for Jesus Christ.

This last reason was an important one. Since both of us had committed our talents and time to the Lord, of course we had to see how marriage would affect this commitment. Christian friends helped us to see how our "together" ministry was furthering the cause of Christ. With those three thought-out-reasons, along with love, physical attraction and many others, we felt secure in our decision to marry.

Our wedding day was planned in two months and our desire was to dwell on God and his Son, Jesus Christ, who really invented the emotion "love." Giving God the glory on that day made it special for both Carlo and me along with all those who attended.

We praise our Father in heaven for "His Plan of Love" in our lives. Our goal is to share this plan with others, helping them to see how he *can* and *is* leading in their lives. □



by Dorene Walth,  
W.M.F. president,  
Bismarck, ND

The June calendar is chock-full of special days. School's out the first week. On the eighth my husband and I will observe our 24th anniversary. The North American Baptist General Council meets in Oakbrook Terrace on June 17 and 18. On the 19th I have a birthday, and it's also Father's Day! The weekend of June 20, I hope to attend the Central Dakota-Montana Association meetings in Billings, MT.

I am able to plan ahead and yet be open to any additions or changes in

scheduling God may allow, simply because I became ready for the future one June day in 1952. I am prepared to *live*, whatever that involves, because that day I became prepared to die!

Until that most special June day, I believed "about" Christ, my Savior, but I had no peace of mind and no assurance that I would go to heaven. That summer I met Clarence, who became my husband. He spoke of having Christ in his life and pointed out that it isn't enough to *believe*, but according to John 1:12, one must *receive* Christ into one's life by simply asking him in.

Christ says, "Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me" (Rev. 3:20, LB).

I heard him calling, but I didn't know what to do about it until it was explained to me that a short communication with God would give me assurance of eternal life. A prayer acknowledging my sin, asking for forgiveness and inviting Christ into my life made all the difference. Now he is constantly making me the person he wants me to be. I'm glad for his patience!

Thank you, Lord, for June and for the reminder of the day when I was "born again." I tend to forget what you have done for me. While on the "stairway," make me more aware of and helpful to others who are looking for the understanding of this miraculous fact! □

## God Is in the Driver's Seat

by Phyllis Froese,  
Edmonton, AB

Larry, my husband, received a call from God to his service in November, 1974. My call came one year later in November, 1975. I must admit that I often felt very hostile and upset about this change with two young boys and all the other responsibilities that come with marriage and a family. Having to make sacrifices didn't make the acceptance of this call any easier. I gave up a beautiful home that had a dishwasher, a lovely garden and shrubbery which I lovingly planted. We moved to a Mill Woods condominium which necessitated giving up two gorgeous white toy poodles, which were more than just pets, and also a dream of maybe some day having a poodle clipping business.

When my teacher, Mrs. Louis Johnson, was a little girl, she always wished she would marry a minister some day. When I was a little girl I always dreamed of marrying a man in construction or an oil rigger. When I met Larry he was a pipefitter on a construction site. I fell in love and my dream came true. Now my childish dream has been changed.

However, I love God so very dearly and in spite of the fight I put up, I want to please him. I know that God sees a potential in me and when he is through and I become truly obedient, I will become a minister's wife.

Basically, I am quite shy and very much a loner. I can sit in my house with my two boys seven days a week (except for church) and be quite happy. I love my husband and children very much. One outing which I enjoy very much is window shopping and buying nice things. I love animals, especially dogs, baby rabbits and kittens. I also love to watch things grow, and I feel very close to God when walking through the woods, looking at a mountain or watching the water rush to shore. I am a perfectionist. I like a neat, tidy house, but my three-year-old manages to undo that in about two minutes. I love cooking—especially with all the trimmings. I hate ironing—thanks for perma-press. I am very dependent on my husband and would say that I am submissive to him, and that is good

(Continued on page 31)

## Contentment

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,  
women's  
work  
director



Have we as God's children learned to be content wherever God has placed us and with whatever he permits in our lives? It is so easy to question God and want to know the "why" of his way of leading, isn't it? As we place ourselves into the hands of God, our part is to trust his leading completely. God is perfect and his ways are perfect; therefore, as we are daily led by him we can rest assured that whatever comes to pass is right. Believing this we can express and experience that which Paul states in Phil. 4:11: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." □



# GOD'S POWER IS EQUAL TO OUR NEED ...even if it's leukemia



by Linda Crocker

*Editor's note: The Rev. Donald E. Crocker, after three weeks of recuperating from his hospital stay, resumed his ministry on a full-time basis. He has never suffered any effects from the drugs, and his white blood count decreased steadily, until eventually he was taken off medication. He is now serving a Missionary church in the Chicago area.*

I had always been taught that God had special power to give his children in times of special need. I never knew personally the depths of his power, however, until my husband, Pastor Donald Crocker, was in St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, Michigan, with a disease that most people would consider terminal.

What I would like to share, may be summed up by quoting I Thessalonians 1:5, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power."

It was on Sept. 17, 1974, that Don's doctor motioned for me to come out into the hallway of the hospital and

began to say how sorry he was to have to tell me his findings about Don's tests. It was like something I had seen only on television or read in a book.

I couldn't believe what he was saying. It couldn't possibly be true; and yet, numb as I felt, I knew this was real.

Seeing my own doctor coming down the hall, I stopped him and said: "This doctor tells me my husband has leukemia . . . I just don't understand . . . The only reason he came here was for the flu."

I remember Dr. Ajluni looking at the chart and shaking his head: Yes. His words to me were: "Now, Linda, try to be calm and don't fall apart. Your husband needs your strength more than anything else."

I felt like saying to him: "You don't know me very well. That's the last thing I could do. I've always depended on Don's strength in problems."

But then a miracle happened for, as I returned to my husband's room, God just poured his strength into me in an unbelievable way.

After a few moments with Don, we decided that I was to call our family and everyone else that knew how to pray. I left and drove home, made several long distance calls, and then headed back to the hospital. God was with me in such a real way. I began singing Bill Gaither's song:

*My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary.*

*O blessed Rock of Ages cleft for me, I'll gladly place my trust in things I cannot see—*

*My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary!*

From that moment until now, I have realized something new about God: He has power above our imagination to help his children in time of need.

When one is going through problems, people try to be of help by saying something. Although they mean well, their statements sometimes just aren't very wise.

I've had things said to me such as: "This can be a blessing in disguise, for when something like this happens you really appreciate your husband more." I could only think how I'd always appreciated and loved Don and enjoyed life with him.

Twice I've had pamphlets sent to me on "How I learned to live with terminal cancer." Others have made negative statements such as, "God doesn't always heal everyone."

Although I have appreciated all who offered help, the words that have come to mean the most to me have been those from the Bible. While Don was in the hospital I really digested God's Word. Here are some of the verses I came to depend on:

"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

"Whosoever putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil" (Psalm 121:7).

"My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved" (Psalm 121:2, 3).

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:5).

"Our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor. 3:4).

Many, many more could be added to this list. Also many people called or sent letters with Scripture God had given them. How I thank him for those many verses that have become a part of me! God's Word was like healing power to a frightened wife.

Not only did God give his strength to me, and his Word to encourage me, but I discovered something in my Christian life regarding God's promises. I had the exciting experience of claiming God's promises for my very own. As I read the Bible, certain verses kept standing out to me and I read them over and over.

"The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5:15).

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead" (Ephesians 1:19-20).

And then the verse that was to be my very own—a verse designed especially for me . . . with a promise . . . and instruction of what I was to do: "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me . . . forsake not the works of thine own hands" (Psalm 138:8).

This verse has especially helped me when the devil has come in with all his doubts. For example: Just recently I knew I needed to do some painting and wallpapering, but I'm the type that finds it easy to let my emotions run me. As I was getting out the paint and moving the furniture, the devil would say: "Why are you doing this? What's the use? Your husband is going to die."

Immediately I focused my attention on the verse God had given me: "Forsake not the works of thine own hands . . . I will make Don perfect."

With all these verses in my mind and heart, God wonderfully gave me the assurance that these promises were mine. On a Friday morning, a few days after my husband had been anointed by some of the laymen, I awoke at six o'clock and felt impressed to read the Bible again and pray. That morning—I'll never forget it!—the Holy Spirit was with me, and through the Word revealed that my prayer for Don's healing had been answered—that God had put his healing hand on him.

Since then, all I have been able to do is thank God. Two days later, on the Sunday morning, as I turned on a church service on television, they began to pray for the sick. I remember kneeling with tears in my eyes to pray for Don, when suddenly I realized I wasn't praying for him but just praising and thanking God for what he already had done.

After my husband was home for a couple of days, he was admitted to Darling Memorial Center at Grace Hospital in Detroit for further tests and chemotherapy. (Darling Memorial is one of the leading centers in United States in research on cancer and leukemia.) A few days later he phoned to say the doctors had found the same diagnosis as St. Mary's Hospital.

This information didn't shake my faith. Instead, within fifteen minutes God gave me another verse that I had never seen before. It was John 11:4, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God."

Throughout those hospital days and right up to the present moment God has given me his peace. He continues to tell

me from his Word, "Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark 5:36). I do believe and intend to continue believing, for God is truly my Father and has a love for me which surpasses even the great love I have for Don and our children.

God's Word assures us: "We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; His perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what He might do to us. If we are afraid, it is for fear of what He might do to us, and shows that we are not fully convinced that He really loves us" (1 John 4:18, Living Bible).

There are times when doubts come, but as soon as I look to Christ my doubts have to vanish, for God can be trusted. A plaque we have in our home is entitled "Living Faith":

*Doubt sees the obstacles,*

*Faith sees the way;*

*Doubt sees the darkest night,*

*Faith sees the day;*

*Doubt dreads to take one step,*

*Faith soars on high;*

*Doubt questions, "Who believes?"*

*Faith answers, "I!"*

I have learned that "the Word of God is quick and powerful," and that my High Priest really is "touched with the feelings of our infirmities." Most of all, however, I have learned to "come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive His mercy and to find grace to help me in my time of need" (Hebrews 4:16, Living Bible). □



PERSONAL  
ESTATE  
PLANNING



by Milton Hildebrandt

Be

Prepared!

No—this isn't an article about the Boy Scouts of America. It's about life and death. I want to share a very personal experience I had in January of this year. I hope you will read these words, but more than that I hope you will act to "Be Prepared" after you have read them.

On Dec. 31, 1976, the officers of my company gathered for a traditional year-end meeting to reflect on the sales and earnings results for the year. It was a very good year, record high sales, record high earnings and record high growth by whatever measure applied. As might be expected, the mood was good, enthusiasm was running high and there was a most optimistic feeling among all present. The future looked very bright and secure!

One of those present was my right hand man, a most capable man 39 years of age, married, with four children from 6 to 16 years of age, in apparent good health. Three hours later that same evening I received a call telling me he had died of a massive heart attack. I still find it hard to believe.

Six days later we were counting securities with our auditors and examiners as a part of our annual audit. The project went very smoothly, which was no surprise, since it had been organized by our treasurer, a man 52 years of age, married, with five children from 15 to 25 years of age, in apparent good health, and incidentally my best friend. The project was concluded in the afternoon without incident. At about 7:00 P.M. I received a call from his wife telling me that he too had died of a heart attack.

It's one thing to read of events like this. It's quite another to experience it as closely and as forcefully as this. My

*Mr. Milton Hildebrandt is the general treasurer of the North American Baptist Conference. He lives in St. Paul, MN, and is a member of Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul.*

real purpose in sharing these experiences with you is twofold, and both are of critical importance in my judgment!

First—I am convinced that both men were Christians. One was of Catholic persuasion, the other Lutheran. Even though our theology may have differed in some points, I am sure that they both had an honest, open and working relationship with Christ as Savior. Therefore the admonition of "Be Prepared" had been followed by these two men in this most important relationship. They had both put their spiritual houses in order!

Secondly—I know that both men had their financial houses in order. Both had only recently completed having a thorough analysis made of their estates and insurance programs. Both had wills drawn and trusts established to provide for their families in the most appropriate way according to their best judgment. Both had reviewed these matters thoroughly with their wives. In short, both had done the best possible job in preparing for just such a tragedy as this. They had indeed put their financial houses in order.

As close as I was to both men it is natural that I have kept in contact with the families. The evidence that good preparation had been made is clearly evident. There is obviously sorrow over the loss of a husband and father, but not despair. There has been no need for a forced sale of a home. The children's educational programs continue without change. Both families are well provided for.

How is it with you? First of all is your spiritual house in order? Do you know Christ as Savior? If so—good! If not—take care of this matter first!

Secondly, is your financial house in order? In my judgment, as a husband and father, as wife and mother, you have a solemn obligation to see that your financial house is in order. Many neglect this responsibility, some until it

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GIVING  
FOR  
INCOME

INCOME CHECK  
#55973 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
#55973 Robert Wimmel

Our way of life is largely based on periodic income. Salary or wages is one type of income while pensions and investment returns are other sources.

It is possible for you to have valuable securities and property but with a low income. In a day of inflation, a rising income is necessary to maintain your standard of living.

There are four ways to increase your income and to give a gift now.

Write today and learn about  
GIVING-FOR-INCOME PLANS.

Please send further information on:

- GIVING FOR INCOME
- GIVING THROUGH LIFE INCOME PLANS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

insight into  
christian education

You And Your  
Child's Education

by Veronica  
Ertis-Kojima

A recent survey taken in Toronto asked the question: "Is education today better or worse than 20 years ago?" Seventy-five percent said it was worse. For those who have maintained an awareness of what is happening in education, all areas included, the consensus would have to be that education today is better in many ways.

Today educators know more about children and their cognitive and emotional needs. Our schools are especially facilitated and structured for all kinds of learning skills. We have special education classes for slow learners, exceptional learners and disturbed children. There are an ever increasing number of schools for disabled, mentally retarded and even blind children and follow-up programs to integrate them meaningfully into society.

Each classroom is equipped with numerous audio-visual aids to help the students and support transmission of data. All teachers now have a college education and are specialized in teaching. One could go on and enumerate all other innovations and features in modern education.

Yet, we slow down a bit—because, no matter how diversive and encompassing our education programs become, we know that our fine school systems are not a cure-all solution. We are becoming quite sophisticated in our knowledge intake; yet, at the same time, there is a moral and spiritual disruption. Our society and our educational system have to deal with new and complex problems. Being well-educated does not imply that one is capable of making mature moral or emotional decisions.

Our schools' main purpose is to impart knowledge to its students, teach them to think objectively and allow them to actualize themselves academic-

*Veronica Ertis-Kojima is a former short-term missionary to Japan. With her Japanese husband she now lives in Canada, where both are teachers.*

ally; but life will require much more. A well-developed person must also have strong and stable moral and ethical guidelines. Here is the paramount importance of a Christian home. It is in the home that the emotional needs of a growing child are met, and moral and ethical guidelines are given and observed. However, it appears that more and more homes are falling short of this primary responsibility. But in times like these, this age of agnosticism, materialism, moral relativity and secularism, our Christian homes must be Christ-centered. They must be homes with warm and open communication, stable emotions, vital spiritual principles and discipline and teach responsibility; because today's child has the same age-old needs, basically, to be loved, accepted, corrected and guided by loving authority.

It is in a world of continual flux, this world of Future Shock, that our children are moving and growing. As knowledge is constantly changing and growing, so is our educational system and thus our school program. Along with the change in data and science comes the shift in values; literature textbooks include J. D. Sallinger, D. H. Lawrence and other writers, who would have been censored years ago. In health and personal hygiene classes, explicit information about human sexuality is given without any moral orientation, with birth control at the top of the list.

So how do we as outsiders to this new matrix identify and relate to the problems and questions of our child? I think, first of all, we have to remind ourselves that all these changes in education are not bad in themselves. They are but a direct reflection of social, scientific, technological and moral orientation in our society. We cannot hide our heads in the sand. We must be prepared and able to face this new situation in bold and daring faith. Christ is still the same as he was yesterday and will be the same forever and

ever. This means we have no reason for panic nor should we be naive.

There are a number of things that we can do as concerned and interested Christian parents to help our children to think discriminately, to live responsibly and learn how to resolve their personal problems. We have already mentioned the importance of a Christian home. This cannot be overstated. Malcolm Muggeridge wrote that a home should be the place where children can rest from the world. Is it such a place of inner rest and peace, where every member is accepted, loved, comforted, even if not always understood? Is it a place for an open, frank dialogue between child and parents? Is it a place where they can bring things up front and talk about matters that appear important to them? They are daily surrounded by their peers of whom many are not Christians; many use alcohol and drugs or are involved in smoking, unrestrained freedom or questionable dating.

We must be willing to accept honest expression of their thinking and lead them so that they learn to sort things out by themselves and to recognize the real values of life. Fostering an atmosphere in our homes in which the growing child feels free to express himself will help him to mature and develop and will give us as parents precious opportunities to see and to touch our child as he or she really is. This kind of open atmosphere of trust and acceptance will diffuse a lot of anxiety which he may have about all these things. In this way the Word of God and prayer will become relevant and supportive. Such open communication will give us various opportunities to express our understanding and base our opinion on the Word of God. The child needs to go through various stages of growing up at his own pace. They are journeys he has to go through all alone; we cannot do it for him, nor can we fully shelter him from it, but we can turn his spiritual eyes to Christ. Our being there, our warm interest in him as a growing person, our dedication to the Lord as a living example to him, our respectful attention to his needs will form and lead him in his life.

Another way is through personal participation in his or her school life. This can be done through organizations such as the Parent-Teachers Association. Your child will know if you are sincerely interested in his development or not. If you are, then he will know that what he does in school will matter to you, and he will try to live up to his abilities and will appreciate your keen interest in him. Being sincerely interested in your child's school will give you many opportunities to express your

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# OUR AFRICAN MEDICAL WORK

by Herbert Pankratz

The term "missions" historically would suggest intrepid missionaries hacking their way through the jungle to reach savage tribes for the Gospel. Modern missions no longer reflects that scene, as a rule; although the ultimate goal of winning the people for Christ is much the same. But the methods have changed. Our African churches are well-established. They have a nationwide Baptist convention structure. Their baptisms in 1975 were 1,814 compared to our N.A.B. Conference figure of 1,864. The figures for 1976 are 1,827 and 2,004 respectively.

Growth is primarily through the founding of new churches; although a start has been made in the evangelistic campaign approach. The evangelists are African with only logistic support from American missionaries. The mission educational system has gradually moved into African hands—certainly on the elementary level and partially on the secondary and Bible school level. All this would appear to suggest that the day for missions has passed. But not so. Financial support is still critical. Administrative direction is still welcomed. One area remains that at the present, at least, would appear to absolutely demand our continued support: the medical enterprise.

Why medicine and hospitals? Is it not enough to save men's souls? The Christian command to compassion is a broad one. Christ healed the body as well as the soul. The point of the Good Samaritan story is primarily one of concern for one's fellowman in physical need. Recall Christ's story of future judgment: "I was sick and you visited me," with its promise of blessedness for the righteous (the doers) and damnation for the cursed (the non-doers). The call is clear. How can we say we love God if we do not show it to our fellowmen? Thank God we have answered in the affirmative!

*Dr. Herbert Pankratz is a member of Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL. He teaches music at North Park College, Chicago.*

Our African medical work is carried on primarily in three locations: Mbingo, Banso, and Warwar, but some comments will be made concerning activities in other centers as well. Reference to doctors and nurses will be limited, unfortunately, to observations during a visit to Africa in early 1975. Many worthy of note from earlier times and since that date are not mentioned. Those who are, then, should be regarded as representative of the work being carried on rather than constituting a complete listing. Even those named have many additional talents beyond those referred to.

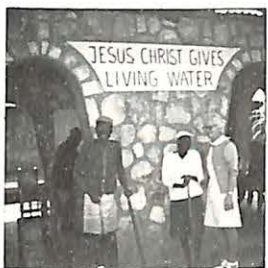
Mbingo has had an excellent practitioner of physical therapy in the person of Pat Lenz. I had an opportunity myself to benefit from her magic fingers when, possessed of a splitting headache, she soothed the pain away in a short time. Pictured here, Pat is treating crippled fingers (1) and supervising a young



girl in traction. Leprosy in its active form is treated directly at the hospital, but the New Hope Settlement some miles outside of the main complex is headquarters for Laura Reddig. Here are patients whose leprosy condition has been arrested and who can carry on productive activity in farming sugar cane and other crops. The application of Scripture to man's condition is illustrated by the building (with the inscription JESUS CHRIST GIVES LIVING WATER) (2) situated over a well set up particularly for the needs of the patients here. Instead of having to obtain water from a nearby stream they merely need dip their cups in the fountain. In spite of loss of fingers, with only stumps remaining, the expression of love and gratitude from this woman is evident. The loss of a limb is equally tragic but here the ingenuity of Dr. Jerry Fluth has helped restore locomotion with a substi-

tute leg that fits over the stump in the manner shown. Before leaving the group recorded their singing in praise to God for his love and mercy.

Banso Hospital is an impressively large complex of buildings with facilities adequate to cope with a considerable range of needs in spite of the lack of a good X-ray machine or such familiar (to us), electronic equipment as an encephalograph or kidney machine. It therefore



takes unusual determination and inventiveness to overcome such deficiencies. Concerned over the increasing incidence of eye problems, Dr. Dieter Lemke determined to launch into eye cataract operations in spite of only minimal preparation while on furlough in Canada in 1972 and with no assurance of a supply of corrective lenses. The latter need was solved by uncovering a supplier in Bamenda whose prices were right. As Dr. Lemke told me, his very first operation was something of an experiment. It went beautifully and gave him the courage and confidence to continue despite some real problem cases that followed. During 1975 he performed an estimated number of 83 cataract operations alone. It was a particular thrill for me to record an entire operation on super-8-movie film, showing the cutting, irrigation, extraction of the lens, and the sewing up. The picture shown here is of that patient after the successful operation as an eye patch is put in place (3).



A problem frequently encountered by our doctors in certain types of injuries is that the injured do not report for treatment until it is too late. Reasons for the delay may include unfamiliarity with the fact that help exists at a hospital, but more often the delay is deliberate: the people may be non-Christian and may try their own remedies or that of a traditional doctor first. One man with an injured hand did not report until gan-

grene set in. When told that amputation was necessary, he refused. Repeated warnings did not move him in time. When he finally agreed, in an advanced state of pain and decline, it was too late; the man died soon after the amputation.

The case of a pretty seven-year old Fulani girl had a happier ending. A cow had stepped on her foot, but the parents waited two weeks before bringing her to Banso. Again it was a case of gangrene, but this time the decision to operate was not opposed. The staff performing the surgery included Drs. Dieter Lemke and David Grabke and nurse, Penny Jucht. Sometime after the operation my wife and I were informed we had three passengers to take along, as we made our final trip from Banso to Bamenda. They were no other than the same little girl and her parents. On arrival she flashed a pleasant smile. Later she had an eye on my wife's shell necklace and soon was the contented owner of the same (4).



In the northeast corner of western Cameroon, we came to Mbem, where, except for monthly visits by Dr. Lemke, Betty Mantay operates a maternity center pretty much on her own, with the help of her assistant, Mrs. Jikong. An excellent example of "make-do" may be seen in this improvised incubator—a washtub with the heat-source below, a simple kerosene lamp (5).



An example of the unusual and unexpected came as the conversation between Betty and myself was interrupted one evening at about 9:30 by an insistent knocking on the door. A group of concerned women greeted us and indicated that a young girl had been badly bitten by a mad dog. Her left arm above the elbow was an open lacerated gash al-

most to the bone. Betty took her to the clinic for treatment. First the gaping wound had to be anesthetized and then cleansed. Finally the stitching. Throughout all this, hardly a whimper came from the lips of this brave girl. After the foregoing treatment it was still necessary to counteract the rabies venom with an injection. The next morning little Anesta looked at me with this deep expression in her eyes (6). She recovered completely as more injections continued in ensuing weeks.



Our final stop, after a river crossing and a journey over the incredible Sabongari Road (7) was at idyllic Warwar, Nigeria (8). Principals at the station were Minnie Kuhn, Barbara Kieper, and Dr. Willi Gutowski. Minnie happened to be away on trek almost the entire time I was there, so I had no opportunity to see her in action. But there was ample action from the other two. As at other stations, there is no lack of a crowd when the outpatients gather for treatment—sometimes 300 in one day!



We move, however, to some scenes from a typical round of seeing the inpatients. Here we saw Dr. Gutowski and Barbara Kieper emerging from a hut where several patients have been checked over (9). Many of them prefer to crowd together with their families in



a smoke-filled room where they do their own cooking, rather than to be in a ward bed. Farther along we saw a burn victim suffering bravely in silence. Shocking as this view was, it was reassuring to know that in six months, after skin grafts, she would be essentially restored. Malnutrition is another affliction which may be seen occasionally, usually from the lack of proper food rather than insufficient quantity (10). This situation, likewise, can be corrected if not in too advanced a stage.

One can hardly say enough and speak eloquently enough concerning the contribution of our medical missionaries to the welfare of our African brothers and sisters. Working against serious disadvantages at times with a lack of sophisticated equipment, fighting ignorance and reluctance on the part of some patients, carrying a work load that far exceeds doctors' schedules here at home, and at a pay scale that would be viewed with disbelief by the profession in this hemisphere, the accomplishments are nothing short of phenomenal. All this on a technical and professional level alone, as a service to mankind would be laudable. But add to this the Christian witness, the Bible reading, the prayers, and the counseling that our workers carry on in conjunction with treatments dispensed and cures achieved, and the full dimension of our work becomes apparent.



The need would seem to go on for a long time to come. But the circumstances of operation are undergoing change. At Warwar the government has taken over the hospital, as they have earlier some schools in Nigeria and Cameroon. In this period of transfer our continued services appear to be necessary for some time. The excellence of our hospitals in the past and up to the present has been recognized openly.

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# CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

## DERBY, NY, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by George Brite

JUNE 1977

The Highland Baptist Church, Derby, NY, is located approximately twenty miles southwest of Buffalo along beautiful Lake Erie in the town of Evans. We are the only church in the immediate area (population more than 6,000).

For the past year and eight months God has been preparing our group of twenty-four active members to claim the community for Christ. He has been so good and faithful in this time of training. In November 1976 God led us through a very effective crusade with God's Volunteers, whose powerful impact gave the residents a new awareness of the presence of Christ's Church. Their genuine witness meant new life through Christ for many, and their enthusiasm helped stir up the Spirit in the hearts of those involved.

We praise God for his goodness and power shown in February 1977. We were unusually burdened financially because of very low January offerings and additional winter expenses. God taught us that as we are faithful and obedient to him, as we give to him through his church as he instructs, our every need will be met. The last Sunday of the month was "Tithing Demonstration Sunday." The purpose was to see our potential in giving. The offering on the Lord's Day more than doubled and tripled offerings received in January. All the outstanding debts were met. We have exceeded the budget on the two following Sundays. Pray with us that we will well remember this important lesson.

Seeing God work in these ways brings a new spirit of revival and issues in a deepening sense of commitment to walk in the Spirit. We are in the exciting process of purchasing 2.8 acres of land for \$22,000, which is located at the entrance to Derby with four hundred foot frontage on Highway 5. It is near an elementary school in the center of three new housing developments projected for the very near future and less than one mile from where we are now meeting.

As soon as we have the sufficient numerical and financial strength, the Lord's House will be constructed at this strategic sight. To give us a more vivid picture of that vision, March 27 was proclaimed "Pack the pews Sunday."

You are in on God's work here with his people who

*The Rev. George Brite is pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Derby, NY. Photos were taken by Russell Gill.*

are on the grow. As the Lord shows you the need and potential of this group to meet that need, please continue to support us through your faithful, fervent prayers and generous giving. Send your contributions to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for Highland Baptist Church, Derby, NY. □



The Adult Sunday School class in Bible study.



The pastor and family (l. to r.): Bonnie, Steven, Pastor George Brite, his wife, Cleo, and Vicki.



The choir of Highland Baptist singing praises to God.

God's Volunteers, a team of fourteen young people—who are they?! This article gives just a brief introduction of each team member and the director and his wife.

**BILL ARNDT**, a pharmacy student at North Dakota State University, is excited about June 18, 1977. He's getting married! Bill is leader of the music section and is not only well known for his bass voice but also for his comical impressions of personalities that have everyone in gales of laughter.

**JOANNA DERMAN**, blonde, blue-eyed and bubbly, is the team's congenial spirit booster. She sings alto in the music section and is also secretary for the team. This summer Joanna will be travelling with the Good News Ambassadors to Cameroon. Next year she plans to study further in Home Economics at University of North Dakota.

**BETH BLEEKER'S** infectious outgoing nature is an asset to the team. As secretary of the team, she keeps busy writing thank-you notes! Beth's plans for the fall are uncertain, but she would like to finish her Special Education degree.

**PAUL DYKSTRA** is the program music co-ordinator and also sings baritone. Paul's gifts of genuineness and sincerity are appreciated by all team members. This summer, Paul will also be a member of the musical group travelling to Cameroon. Next year Paul will be coming back on the team.

**TANELL GERLOFF**, although quiet mannered has a unique way of making people smile with her dry humor! When we're at a restaurant, Tanell is that lucky person who receives the cheque for the meal. She's team treasurer! She will be attending University of Minnesota in fall.



by Marlene Ginter

**MARLENE GINTER** is the team BAPTIST HERALD reporter and keeps herself busy writing reports. Marlene enjoys many sports activities. She has been reappointed to serve another year with the team.

**MERLE HOOTS** sings tenor and is car custodian for the music section. Merle keeps Ernie, "the blue-whaler," (the van) in good running order. He plans to resume his studies at North American Baptist College in Edmonton.

**COLLEEN HUBER**, our little nurse, is utilized often, be it allergy shots or giving professional advice. She sings soprano and is also team statistician. Colleen's plans for next year will probably include nursing.

**SCOTT MAC DONALD** is the capable car custodian of Burt, "the brown-noser," (the van) of the follow-up section. In training, Scott could be counted on to make points with his deadly spikes in volleyball! He has been reappointed to serve another year with the team.

**KAREN OTTO**, being a business major at Iowa State University has given her a good experience to keep careful accounts of the finances as team treasurer. Karen sings alto, and during training she was our jogging enthusiast! She

plans to resume her studies at the university next year.

**BERND RIST** is very likely to do a quick twenty push-ups to revive himself between songs in practice sessions. Besides singing tenor, Bernd is in charge of the sound system and does a capable job of that. He is also BAPTIST HERALD reporter. Bernd plans to attend North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls next year.

**DAVID ROBINSON**, the leader of the follow-up section, keeps busy organizing calling assignments. If it's not administrative paperwork, Dave is out clicking his camera for candid shots of the team. Next year Dave will be back on the team.

**CONNIE ROGALSKI** is well known for her ability to spot ice-cream parlours! She sings first soprano and is program co-ordinator for the team. Connie has been reappointed to serve on the team next year.

**KATHY SHARP** is in her second year with the team and offers the experience she has had very willingly. Kathy's smile and giggly laughs are contagious! As statistician Kathy knows her addition tables!! She will be travelling this summer to Cameroon. In fall she will resume her studies.

**BOB AND MARILYN WALTHER**, the director of the team and his wife, became proud parents of a baby boy, Jeremy Daniel, on March 1, 1977. Bob is finishing his degree in Theology this semester at North American Baptist College in Edmonton.

Over the last seven months that we have been travelling together as a team we have come to know each other's actions, reactions and attitudes. Three

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr. and Mrs. John J. Martin** of Yorkton, SA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married at Maple Creek on March 15, 1917. Members and friends of Central Baptist Church shared in this occasion with a reception at the church on March 20.

**ANAHEIM, CA.** Susan D. Issler, 20, of Anaheim, CA, has completed six weeks of missionary training and has begun her duties at the Christian Service Corps (CSC) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Sue has been an active participant in the program of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, through teaching a sixth grade Sunday school class and by working with junior high girls.

Sue's valuable office skills are now being employed for Christian service as she serves two-and-a-half years on the staff of the CSC International Headquarters and Training Center in Washington, D.C.

**UNDERWOOD, ND.** On Feb. 6, 1977, the Rev. Wesley Gerber baptized two adults at the First Baptist Church.

A Week-end Bible Conference, with the Rev. George Breitreuz as guest speaker for six meetings, was held March 25-27. The Friday evening service and the two services on Sunday were for everyone in our church. On Saturday morning the men had a prayer breakfast and Bible study. In the afternoon the ladies had their Bible study and tea. The Youth Fellowship met in the evening. Every meeting was well attended with the Youth Fellowship having the largest attendance. We were blessed and challenged to do better.

A united service was held on Good Friday with four churches participating: Reformed Presbyterian, Augustana Lutheran, United Methodist and First Baptist. A joint choir of the four churches provided music under the direction of David LeRoy. (Ella M. Sayler, church clerk.)

**ANAHEIM, CA.** The Southern California Association of North American Baptist Churches held its annual meeting in the Sunkist Baptist Church, March 4-6, 1977. Dr. Reinhold Kerstan, associate secretary for communications, the Rev. Wilfred Weick, missionary to Japan, and Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director, were the featured speakers.

Missionary Wilfred Weick presented films on "A Worthy Future in Japan." Dr. Reinhold Kerstan was the keynote speaker at the opening session Friday evening.

Association business was preceded by a devotional led by the Rev. Adolph

Braun, pastor of Sunkist, on Saturday morning. Special music was furnished by members of the Sunkist choir. The Rev. Hans Wilcke, Western Area secretary, brought a report.

Highlight of the Saturday business session was the adoption of the budget which authorizes continued assistance to Thunderbird Baptist Church, Phoenix, AZ, and the inauguration of a church extension work in the Corona, CA, area to be mothered by Magnolia Baptist Church. A weekly Bible study started there in early March.

Following a luncheon, served to the combined men's and women's groups, the Rev. Wilfred Weick, brought a message, "Twenty-Five Years in Japan," to the men. At the same time, the Women's Missionary Society enjoyed special reports, special music, and an inspiring message by Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director, North American Baptist Conference. Miss Mehlhaff remained in the area for a week to visit our women's organizations.

At the evening service, March 6, Dr. R. J. Kerstan concluded the meetings with a message, "Do the Christians Have a Future in Russia?" A special offering for local association church extension was received. Throughout the meetings, special music was provided by the Sunkist Choir and groups.

A special leadership workshop was held March 12 at Magnolia Baptist Church. The 1978 Association will meet at Magnolia Baptist. (Jo Harwood, church reporter, and Carol Hatch, retiring Association secretary.)

**PAUL, ID.** The Rev. Bernard Fritzke, Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, conducted evangelistic meetings March 14-20 at First Baptist Church. A total of 12 decisions were made during the week; all attending received a real blessing.

Pastor Fritzke brought special name tags for each child who attended, polished rocks for each child who brought a guest, and a buzzing Bible bee for those children attending every service. He had special talks for the children. (Judy Uhrich, reporter.)

**EAST DETROIT, MI.** The Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Grams began their ministry at Ridgemont on Feb. 6, 1977. They were officially welcomed March 6. Many friends from the neighboring Detroit churches gathered for a program of praise with singing, greetings and devotionals. Participating in the service were six pastors with the Rev. Kenneth Fenner giving the charge to the church and the Rev. Ron Mayforth giving the charge to the minister.

Great Lakes Area Secretary, the Rev. Willis Potratz, surprised us with a visit

on February 27, and at that time gave the charge to the minister's wife. A time of fellowship with refreshments followed. It was a time to greet old friends and meet new ones. We, as a church, wish Pastor and Mrs. Grams, with children, Elona and Marco, many years of happy and fruitful service with us at Ridgemont. (Shirley Bossner, reporter.)

**SWAN RIVER, MB.** Deacons and occasional guest speakers deliver the sermon each Sunday at the Temple Baptist Church, since we are still without a pastor. Attendance is good; Sunday school, young people's group, choir, and other activities continue during the week, as we seek to do God's work.

Our Ladies' Missionary Society completed the White Cross work for this term. On March 20 we had our annual program. We know the Lord guides us and in time will send us a shepherd. (Gisela Rosentreter, reporter.)

**WINNIPEG, MB.** The Rev. and Mrs. Herman Effa and family of Benton Harbor, MI, and former missionaries to Brazil, were speakers at the Mission Conference of the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, March 4-6, 1977.

Several churches joined our church to observe World Day of Prayer. Mrs. Effa spoke to the women, and Mr. Effa met with the men.

The highlights of the youth banquet on Saturday evening were the beautiful musical selections by the Effa family and an inspiring message, "The Call to Missionary Service," by Mr. Effa. Don Streuber, Ron Rogalski and Esther Patzia were also on the program.

On Sunday the Effas spoke and sang during the Sunday school hour, the morning service and Junior Church. The service closed with a beautiful Communion Service. Fine pictures of Brazil were shown and a description of the work there was given Sunday evening by Mr. Effa. Friendships were renewed, as Mr. Effa was student pastor at McDermot twenty years ago.

The Rev. Richard Goetze is our pastor. (Alice Parr, reporter.)

**BROOKFIELD, WI.** The Ottawa University Concert Choir gave a concert at the Immanuel Baptist Church on March 24. Sandy Harbold, from our church, is a member of the choir.

The Sunday school met as one group for two Sundays in a special program in preparation for the "America For Christ" offering. We learned of many groups in our own area and across the country who are helping people through our contributions.

Youth Month was observed in February. From the youths' enthusiasm and

interest have come several social gatherings, activities to increase their treasures, and a spaghetti dinner, followed by the musical production, "Lightshine." (Barbara Kraemer, reporter.)

**OAK BANK, MB.** Five persons, four in their early teens (pictured), followed the Lord in the waters of baptism on



Jan. 30, 1977. The right hand of fellowship was extended on the following Sunday morning by our pastor, the Rev. Earle Wanamaker. (Margie Adamson, reporter.)

**RAYMORE, SA.** Eight persons (pictured) were baptized at Raymore Baptist Church, Feb. 20, 1977. These were received into the fellowship of the church



March 6, during the communion worship service. Their testimonies were of great blessing to the entire church fellowship. The Rev. Rudy Lemke is the pastor. (D. Lemke, reporter.)

**STEVENSVILLE, MI.** 117 area women representing many denominations were spiritually uplifted at a Spiritual Life Workshop. The Workshop, held March 5, 1977, focusing on the theme, Fill My Cup, Lord, was sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society of Lakeshore Baptist Church. Mrs. Dorothy Love, Wheaton, IL, was speaker.

Mini-sessions, dealing with "Bitterness or Forgiveness," "Communication in Marriage," "How God Uses Testing," and "Prayer Life and Witnessing," were led by local area speakers. Singing, special music, sharing, conversational prayer, a book nook, and a buffet lunch were part of the workshop.

Mrs. James Barsness, ch., Mrs. Robert Schindler, Mrs. R. I. Thompson, and Mrs. R. N. Seel were in charge of planning and arranging for the workshop. (Mrs. Nellie Beath, reporter.)

**WINNIPEG, MB.** The ministry of God's Volunteers, with the Rev. Raymond Harsch, March 16-25, 1977, was a wonderful time of inspiration at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. Attendance was excellent. The God's Volunteers were well accepted at the shopping centers and high schools.

A large group gave their time and help in visiting. 700 calls were made, resulting in 50 prospects. Follow-up visits are to continue by our members.

In the evening service March 27, we were privileged to have Don and Immie Ziemer show their films and sing to us. They have spent almost four years with Wycliffe Translators in Papua, New Guinea. The Ziemers were members of the God's Volunteers 1956 team. (Alice Parr, reporter.)

**REGINA, SA.** At the call of Calvary Baptist Church, North Regina, a Recognition Council composed of the pastors and delegates from the churches of the Saskatchewan Association met in Bethany Baptist Church on Feb. 24, 1977. The Rev. Isador Faszer, Northern Area secretary, was seated as N.A.B. Conference representative to the Council.

A brief history of the church was presented by the church clerk. The Rev. Robert Hoffman has pastored the church since its inception. At present there are 22 members. The Statement of Faith, Constitution and By-Laws of the Calvary Baptist Church were examined by the Council. After a short discussion, the Council by a unanimous vote recommended that Calvary Baptist Church (North Regina) be recognized as a duly organized New Testament church and that it be received into the fellowship of the Saskatchewan Association and thus into the North American Baptist Conference. (Mrs. Bernice Grymaloski, church clerk.)

**REGINA SA.** The second anniversary of Calvary Baptist Church (North Regina) was observed March 2, 1977. Mr. Vaughan Durston, director of Child Evangelism in Saskatchewan, with his wife Melba, and their five children, were guests who displayed their talents during Sunday school and the church service.

We begin our third year anticipating that our plans for building will become a reality. The Rev. Robert Hoffman is our pastor. (Mrs. Audrey Johnsrude, church reporter.)

**MORRIS, MB.** Emmanuel Baptist Church has formed a Church Planning Committee which meets once a week. This Committee is examining the purpose of our church in the community and looking for ways to attract more people to Christ.

We have purchased a new Allen computerized organ, which was dedicated in February during an organ recital. An offering of \$3,149 was received at this service toward the organ.

Our morning worship service is broadcast over local radio every third Sunday. Listeners are responding by letter and telephone.

Our W.M.S. is studying the book, "What Happens When Women Pray." The Rev. Bruno Voss is pastor of our church. (Mrs. C. Bergstresser, reporter.)

**COLUMBUS, NE.** The Rev. Walter Dingfield, Kankakee, IL, ministered nightly in a Spiritual Life Crusade, Feb. 13-18, 1977, at the Shell Creek Baptist Church, rural Columbus. Special music and story-time for children were featured at each service. A fellowship dinner was enjoyed by the congregation on Feb. 13, 1977.

On Sunday morning, February 20, Dr. Daniel Goldberg, Grace Bible College, Omaha, presented the demonstration, "Christ in the Passover."

On February 27, the Women's Missionary Society presented the annual program with Mrs. James Wright, missionary, island of Dominica, British West Indies, as speaker. Mrs. Wright is the sister of Mrs. William Effa, the pastor's wife. James Wright spoke during the morning service.

The W.M.S. also participated in World Day of Prayer services held jointly with several churches in the area, March 4. Sunday evening, March 13, the church hosted a Singspiration in which seven churches participated. The church was filled to capacity for this event. (Mrs. William Effa, reporter.)

**DALLAS, TX.** The North Highlands Baptist Church held an Easter Sunrise service on Flag Pole Hill, located not far from our church. The service included singing, special music, and a fine message by our interim pastor, Vergil Schmidt, on the topic, "The Empty Tomb."

Our church is being advertised daily over radio station KPBC, 1040 on the dial. This station limits itself to Christian broadcasting only. The announcement gives the name and location of the church, the name of the pastor, and invites people to the services. (Rudolph Woyke, reporter.)



**SAN JOSE, CA.** From Feb. 20-25, 1977, Bernal Road Baptist Church conducted its first evangelistic meetings in its young history with Evangelist Theron Spurr from Arizona. The average week-night attendance exceeded the resident membership, with 56 public decisions for Christ.

We are regularly ministering to several hundred people and see people saved in their homes and at the church services. Christians are growing in grace; more people are actively involved in the total church program. Jim Weatherly, a professional football player with the Atlanta Falcons, has been worshipping with us and encouraging our young people to live for Christ. (Barbara Moore, church clerk.)

**VANCOUVER, BC.** The watchnight services, 1976, were particularly significant for the Bethany Baptist Fellowship.



Dr. H. J. Waltereit was privileged to baptize and later welcome into our fellowship ten young people (pictured). The young people of our church presented the musical, "Firewind," at that service. (Mrs. R. Zindler, reporter.)

**CARBON, AB.** For almost a year CBC-TV worked with the Carbon Baptist Church in arranging to feature the church in a documentary film. Dr. Earl Waugh, head of the Department of Religion and Cultural Studies, University of Edmonton, was the main contact person.

The purpose of this documentary was to feature the story of North American Baptists in Alberta. The Carbon Baptist Church was specifically selected for this purpose with the Daun Buyer family being featured within the Church. Actual filming took place in the home of Daun Buyer and in the church itself.

The Annual Christmas Eve Sunday School Program and the Christmas Day service, including the baptism of three persons, were televised, also. Interviews of the pastor, the Rev. Richard Grabke, and the Daun Buyer, Adam Buyer and

Karl Schuler families were included in the documentary.

The film was shown on the CBC-TV program, "Access."

**WARREN, MI.** Redeemer Baptist Church held a Kick-Off Banquet on Feb. 26, 1977, for our Sunday school expansion campaign. Approximately 400 persons attended. The theme was S.T.R.E.S.S. (Striving to Reach Everyone for Sunday School). Our enrollment was divided into three teams: Sharon's Searchers; Gordie's Gophers; Riederer's Raiders. The three captains, Sharon Samson, George Reiderer, and Gordon Bauslaugh, are all members of the Redeemer Staff.

Team captains presented a challenge to their teams in skits and songs. An overall challenge was given by Dr. Kenneth Hall, director of Christian Education, Highland Park Baptist Church. Eye-catching posters made by children and adults appeared everywhere. The winning team, Sharon's Searchers, received a Victory Banquet sponsored by losing teams. March attendance was 595, 100 over average for February. (Doris Kintzer, reporter.)

**ELGIN, IA.** During the morning worship service of First Baptist Church on March 3, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Stewart gave testimony of their belief in Christ as Savior, and were baptized by Pastor Ralph Chandler. At the communion service following, they were extended the hand of fellowship. (Mrs. Leon L. Jacob, clerk.)

**SALEM, OR.** On Dec. 12, 1976, the combined choirs of Salt Creek and Riviera Baptist Churches presented Peterson's Christmas cantata, "Christ Is Born." The Cantata was part of the farewell service for the Rev. Donald Ganstrom and his wife, Verna. Pastor Ganstrom has become pastor of the new church extension project, Centennial Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND. Following the cantata, refreshments were served. We thank the Lord for the Ganstroms' seven-year ministry at Riviera.

Praise God for sending the Rev. Bernard Fritzke who began his ministry with us on May 1. Pastor Fritzke spent the past eleven years at Bethany Baptist Church, Portland. (William D. Neifert, interim pastor.)



## CHURCH EXTENSION NEWS

### KANSAS CITY, MO, Whispering Oaks Baptist

Dave Ewing, pastor  
Growing - March - 5 by baptism, 1 by letter

Growing - February - 2 by baptism, 1 by letter

Growing - January - 1 by baptism  
Membership at 79 - 10 conversions  
Andrew Club for visitation organized

### BOCA RATON, FL, Evangel Baptist

Norman Vernon, pastor  
High attendance February - 146  
Organized - March with 35 by testimony, 4 by letter

Great need - a more favorable place of worship

Great blessing - people are very generous givers

Received into Michigan Association - April 30, 1977

### ELSMERE, DE, First Baptist

Herb Freeman, pastor  
High attendance March - 46  
"Attendance has been up 'across the board'"

### BROOKS, AB, Brooks Baptist

Phil Grabke, pastor  
Pastor Phil - released from hospital after extended illness, still convalescing. Congregation has rallied to build the work; a new unity is experienced.  
High attendance March - 57  
Pray for Pastor Grabke

### STANDISH, MI, Standish Baptist

Norman Berkan, pastor  
High attendance March - 42  
Present small building being sold  
Plans for new construction underway  
Three new families attending

### BISMARCK, ND, Century Baptist

Donald Ganstrom, pastor  
79 involved in the worship hour  
59 to 60 now desire to be totally involved  
12 will follow the Lord in baptism  
Purchased a 5-acre site with nice home for \$73,000

### NORTH CENTRAL TROY, MI, new project

Rev. John Trate, new pastor  
Gordon Bauslaugh was visitation pastor and Bible study leader  
12 families involved

### MT. CLEMENS, MI, Garfield Baptist

Allen Heron, pastor  
Average attendance March - 100  
Offerings - good

### PHOENIX, AZ, Thunderbird Baptist

Lanny Johnson, pastor  
High attendance March - 58  
New attenders  
Offerings good

### SPEARFISH, SD, Mountain View Baptist

Gordon Voegle, pastor  
High attendance March - 123  
New families attending  
Easter service of baptism

### HILLSBORO, OR, Faith Baptist

Jim Green, pastor  
Average attendance March - 100 - a record (S.S. and worship)  
Plans for an extension to educational unit underway

### BORING, OR, Hollyview Baptist

Larry Neufeld, pastor  
Average attendance March - 104  
Many new contacts thru ministry of God's Volunteers

### REGINA, SA, Calvary Baptist

Bob Hoffman, pastor  
High attendance March - 50  
New Bible study groups formed

### FREMONT, OH, Calvary Baptist

Richard Methner, pastor  
March attendance average - 49  
1 baptism, 2 by letter  
"The first quarter of 1977 was the greatest quarter in history...many new adults"

### DERBY, NY, Highland Baptist

George Brite, pastor  
High attendance March - 50  
Voted to purchase land  
New visitors each week  
"Consistent and persistent in visitation," almost 200 calls

### LONDON, ON, Forest City Baptist

Paul Benson, pastor  
High attendance March - 73  
Sunday school attendance doubled over January  
"We are going for a record attendance this spring."  
A good number of youth, not believers, attending

### APPLE VALLEY, MN, Appley Valley Baptist

Don Decker, pastor  
Average attendance March - 143  
"Outgrown some of our (new) classrooms again; need to divide classes."

# The Agate

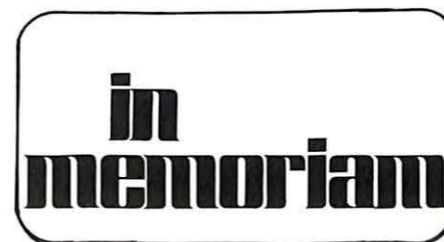
by Wendi Engel

I have many a story to tell,  
Stories of the fertile plants and small animals I have  
come to know.

Stories of the peaceful skies I have seen,  
And of the storms I have weathered.  
I have stories of my travels from the mountain top to  
streams

Where the fine and delicate swirls of color were born  
And show the craftsmanship of my Maker.

I am very old,  
Yet, I still love each new moment that is mine.  
May your life be as mine;  
The hardships only increase my beauty. ☐



MAX C. BUECHLER, Kulm, ND, was born Jan. 3, 1898, and died Feb. 20, 1977. He was in the banking business all his life and retired in 1968. On June 26, 1924, he was united in marriage to Pauline Gieser. They lived in Fredonia and later at Kulm. To this union were born two children: Charles, died in 1969, and Darlene, Ypsilanti, MI. The Rev. Albert Krombein baptized him in 1930. Mr. Buechler was a faithful member of our church, serving as treasurer for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Buechler; one daughter, and two granddaughters. The Rev. Arthur J. Fischer officiated at the service.

ANNA (ZIMMERMAN) HEFLEY, 90, of Hillsboro, KS, was born Aug. 9, 1886, near Marion, KS. She married Fred Hefley on May 3, 1907, at Durham. 13 years of her early childhood were spent in Argentina, South America, where she was converted and baptized at the age of 14. On returning from South America, her family settled in Marion Coun-

ty, KS. In 1910 she was united with the First Baptist Church of Durham where she was a faithful member until her death. Her husband preceded her in death in July 1937. Survivors include 5 sons: Ted, Reuben, Alvie, Harvey, Maynard; 3 daughters: Alma Hilsenbeck, Erlean Cropper, Florence Ehrlich; 2 brothers: Adam, David; 2 sisters: Julia Geissler and Martha Zimmerman; 15 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. The Rev. Harvey Friez officiated at the funeral service.

CHRISTINA LAUTT was born near Long Lake, McPherson County, SD, on Dec. 19, 1892, and died at Ashley, ND, Feb. 19, 1977. She was married to Daniel Lautt in 1910. They lived near Lehr and Fredonia all their lives. She was a faithful member of Berlin Baptist Church for more than 50 years. She is survived by two daughters, one son, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. The Rev. A. J. Fischer officiated at the service.

CLARA KEHREIN was born in Milwaukee on Feb. 1, 1889, to Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Schuelke. She died at the age of 88 years on Feb. 28, 1977. She was united in marriage to William Kehrein in 1912. Three sons were born: Howard, Richard and Russell. She accepted Christ and was baptized on confession of faith by the Rev. F. W. C. Meyer. Mrs. Kehrein was active in various positions in the Bethany Baptist Church, including serving as church clerk and being ac-

tive in the W.M.S. She is survived by one son, Russell, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The officiating minister was the Rev. James Schacher.

PAULINE RENN (nee Kern) 89, of Edmonton, AB, died on March 14, 1977. She was born at Antsunfke, Russia, March 6, 1888, was baptized at 11 years of age, and received into the fellowship of the Lucinon Baptist Church. In 1904 she married Michael Breikreuz, who died in 1918. In 1919 she married Wilhelm Renn. Moving from Russia to Bruce, AB, in 1930 and from there to Onoway in 1935, she continued to be active in choirs, Sunday school, and women's work. She was known for her hospitality. She is survived by her husband; her three sons: Ewald Breikreuz, Edmonton, Erich Breikreuz, Edmonton, Arthur Breikreuz, Onoway, and their wives; 22 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and a number of nephews and nieces. The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. K. Hildebrandt, assisted by the Rev. W. Laser.

MRS. CLYDE (BETTY) TUBACH, 39, of Lorraine, KS, died March 10, 1977. She was born March 9, 1938, at Glasco. She married Clyde Tubach, March 7, 1969. She is survived by her husband, Clyde; 4 daughters: Elizabeth, Janet, Sallie and Teresa; her mother, Mrs. Mildred Brott, Wellington; sister, Mrs. Margaret Richard; and grandmother, Mrs. Grace Thomas. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Lorraine. The Rev. Charles Priddy, Fairview, OK, officiated at the funeral service.





## Communication

by Adolph Braun

It is not unusual for a church not to be able to locate one-tenth of its members. And there are about another one-tenth who seldom attend. The next 20-30 percent, in the average church, attend about once a month. As a Southern Baptist paper put it (with a few of my changes)—

"There was a man who lived in the 20th Century. He had a new house, two cars and a boat graced his garage. He had color TV in his den. His family was healthy and good fortune did smile upon him. As his custom was, when he was in town, when the fish were not biting, when he was not on the beach or at the lake or at the mountains, or company did not come; when there was no snow to ski or skidoo, and when he was not tired and couldn't find anything else to do, he went regularly to church. On these occasions, once every five or six weeks, he spent his time deploring the decaying state of the church. The Sunday school was low in attendance; the choir was scanty; the congregation was small; the offering was poor, and the preacher was discouraged. 'They ought to do better.' 'What do they think this thing of religion is?' 'How do they expect to win the world that way?' After many moons had passed, this man's children grew up. He knew that they did not go to church because *they* (at the church) had not interested them in religion. Then the man's health failed, and *they* did not visit him in the hospital. Verily, verily, he was angry, but being of good heart, he decided he would forgive them and go back to church once more. But behold, when he arrived, there was no church—only a 7-11 Store. 'Where is the church?' he demanded. 'Dead, was the answer.' 'Oh,' he moaned, '*they* should not have let it die.'"

*They* won't reach the world, but we will try. Would you join the "we" of your church? □

*The Rev. Adolph Braun is the pastor of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA. In this column he analyzes current religious news of his choice.*

## news & views

### CHRIST IN THE NEWS IN THAILAND

A 30-minute television program produced last Christmas by Baptists in Thailand has brought hundreds of letters requesting Christian literature and asking questions about the significance of the Christ child. Christianity is a rarity in Thailand; the world almanac shows the population as being 96 per cent Buddhist and 4 per cent Muslim.

### KACHIN BAPTISTS 200 YEARS OLD

The Kachin Baptist Convention of northeastern Burma will be celebrating its centennial in December 1977—recalling the time that Baptists from lower Burma first brought the Christian message to them. Kachin Baptists now number 50,000 baptized believers, living and witnessing near the Chinese border. A massed choir of 3000 will share in the centennial celebration.

### BLEST BE THE TIE . . .

A BWA brochure, "The World Family of Baptist Christians," found its way to J. Saul, a Baptist in North East India. He has written of the delight of his fellow Baptists "in learning how many Baptists are all over the world," explaining they had previously known only of Baptists in Nagaland and some in America. When he told his congregation that Baptists live and work in 141 countries, a Naga farmer "at once stood up, keeping silence in long prayers to God. At last he said, 'Oh, God, bless all my friends, brothers and sisters, Baptist people which I have found. Bless them all in many ways and save us our life for eternity.'"

### BAPTISMAL SERVICE ON TV

A worship and baptismal service at the Adelaide Place Baptist Church, Glasgow, Scotland, was broadcast on every commercial television station in Great Britain on BWA Sunday, February 6. It was the first time a baptismal service had been televised in traditionally Presbyterian Scotland.

### 1978 BAPTIST YOUTH WORLD CONFERENCE TO MEET IN MANILA

WASHINGTON—The Youth Committee of the BWA, meeting recently in Washington, outlined program details and scholarship needs for the 9th Baptist Youth World Conference in Manila, Philippines, July 19-23, 1978.

The conference site was moved from Hong Kong because of the BWA's inability to secure assurance that Hong Kong entry visas would be available to youth from eastern Europe, Cuba and Taiwan.

Daltor Keidann of Porto Alegre, Brazil, chairman of the youth committee, said that plans are being made to permit choirs and other personnel to participate in concerts and youth meetings in Hong Kong both prior to and following the Manila meetings.

Program theme for the conference will be "Jesus Christ—the One Light for All People." The week's agenda will supplement the customary emphasis on mass meetings with smaller group sessions so that all participants may share with one another.

The Rev. Bruce Rich, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, is the program chairman of this conference. The Rev. Ray Harsch, N.A.B. evangelism director, will be the tour leader for the N.A.B. tour group. □

### CHURCH GETS \$2 MILLION IN PUZZLING INHERITANCE

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—A 130-member Baptist Church in northeast Mississippi has inherited \$2 million dollars, to be used to "supplement the pastor's salary, brick the church, (How about gold bricks? Ed.) and keep up the cemetery."

That, along with keeping up the church building and pastorium, appears to be the limit on spending of the money inherited from a former member of the rural Hebron Baptist Church near Pheba, Miss.

The money came from the sale of the 2,500-acre Mississippi delta estate of the late Mrs. W. A. Adair who grew up in the church and was buried in the little church's cemetery.

The will specifies that \$300 per month is to go to the pastor's salary above what the church already pays him.

The pastor, Willard Crawley, 26, said he didn't know what the church, which was organized in 1851, would be able to do with the money, other than spend it on the "preservation" of the church.

"I don't know what that's going to be interpreted to mean," he said.

"We've read the will and the word, 'preservation,' is used all through it," said Crawley.

"One person might think it means upkeep only. Another might think it could include spending for additions and support of missions."

Interest on the money would run about \$200,000 per year, he said. "This year's budget is \$8,000," said Crawley. □

## what's happening

■ *The Communications Committee* of the North American Baptist Conference, which met at Oakbrook Terrace on April 18, 1977, changed its ruling that "only the names and church affiliation of persons celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary will be published." The committee decided to accept also a photo, along with the names and church reference, for anniversaries of 50 or more years. However, no photos or reports will be published for less than 50th anniversaries.

The price for obituaries has been increased from \$2.00 to \$4.00, effective immediately.

For important information concerning church reports, read EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT on page 30.

□ *North American Baptist youth* will meet at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, July 2-8 for YOUTH ENCOUNTER. Pray for them as they travel and meet. For possible late registrations call (312) 495-2000.

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■ *Calvary Baptist Church, North Regina, SA*, was recognized as a duly organized New Testament church and was received into the Saskatchewan Association and thus into the North American Baptist Conference, Feb. 24, 1977. *The Rev. Robert Hoffman* is pastor.

■ *The Rev. John Goetze* is the pastor of Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON.

■ *The Rev. Theodore Frey* of St. John, KS, will celebrate his 99th birthday July 3, 1977. He is not yet 99 as noted in the March BAPTIST HERALD, p. 29.

■ *Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walther* became the parents of their first child, a son, Jeremy Daniel, born March 1, 1977, in Edmonton, AB. Mr. Walther is the director of God's Volunteers.

■ *The Rev. Ted Faszer* is the newly elected president of the North American Baptist Seminary Alumni Association. Mr. Faszer is pastor of First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD.

■ *The Rev. George Breitreuz*, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND, since 1973, has resigned and accepted the pastorate of Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas, OR, effective July 15, 1977.

■ *Dorothy Powell*, wife of Dr. Ralph Powell, North American Baptist Seminary, went to be with the Lord on April 11, 1977. A Dorothy J. Powell Scholarship Fund has been established as a memorial. Funds may be sent to the following address: North American Baptist Seminary, The Dorothy J. Powell Memorial, 1605 S. Euclid Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

■ *Dr. J. Gordon Harris*, N.A.B.S., will be in Edmonton, AB, for the seminary inter-campus summer sessions at the North American Baptist College. *Dr. Ralph Powell*, with support from *Dr. Ernie Zimbelman*, will be teaching in the summer program on the North American Baptist Seminary campus, Sioux Falls, for Doctor of Ministry students.

■ *The Rev. Paul Mohninger*, pastor of Melville Baptist Church, Melville, SA, since 1969, has resigned and accepted the call to become pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Terrace, BC, effective August 1977.

■ *The 1978 Baptist Youth World Conference* will be held in Manila, Philippines, July 19-23, 1978. The site was changed from Hong Kong because youth from eastern Europe, Cuba, and Taiwan could not be assured of receiving entry visas to Hong Kong.

■ *The Rev. Alvin Harsch* successfully passed the National Chaplaincy Certification Committee review for Chaplaincy Certification in Philadelphia, PA, on March 5, 1977, and was awarded the Status of Fellow with the College of Chaplains on March 7, 1977. □

■ *The Rev. Loren Franchuk* is serving as the part-time interim pastor of Hazelwood Baptist Church, Auburn, WA, a Church Extension project.

■ *The Rev. Roger Litfin*, assistant pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, since 1975, resigned, effective May 7, 1977. He plans to take graduate studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX.

■ *Mr. and Mrs. Jim Arends*, 1976 and 1977 graduates of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, respectively, have accepted the call to become the Manager-Director of the Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, ND, effective June 1, 1977.

■ *Mr. Les Ray* terminated his ministry as part-time assistant to the pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN, effective March 31, 1977.

■ *The Rev. Raymond F. Dickau*, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, since 1973, has resigned. Mr. Dickau is serving as a volunteer chaplain at the Central Baptist Home for the Aged, Norridge, IL.

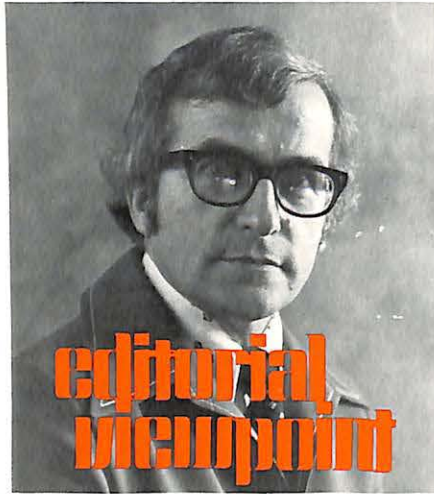
### OUR AFRICAN MEDICAL WORK

(Continued from page 21)

And so it would seem to be in the best interests of the people to allow and even encourage us to remain there for the immediate future.

I am happy to report that there is a remarkably strong morale among our missionaries. Some would prefer to live out the rest of their lives there and die in their beloved adopted land. This dedication and zeal deserves our continued support in turn! To this task let us rededicate our efforts. □





# Why So Old?

There is something noble and dignified about an older person that the vigor of youth cannot match. The prime quality of age is maturity. We seem to have a natural respect for age.

That is not the case in the world of the printed media. We would not buy a two-day old newspaper without feeling cheated out of the real happenings in the world. Television stations, newspapers, as well as radio stations, rush to the scene of action and compete in the attempt to be the first to report.

The pace of a weekly newspaper, mainly published in smaller towns and suburbs, is not so hectic. By the time the readers receive the paper, the news may be almost two weeks old.

Again different is the situation of a monthly magazine. No longer is freshness here the asset but rather the accuracy and interpretation of news. The reader of a monthly publication is not looking for reports of events that just happened; rather he is interested in the "how" and "why" things happened and in the resulting outcomes.

The same can be said about monthly magazines with Christian contents. Most of the subscribers read the BAPTIST

HERALD to find out what is going on at the North American Baptist Seminary, at the North American Baptist College, in the various mission fields and in the Christian community in general. Furthermore, they read human interest stories, testimonies, suggestions and decisions of Conference committees and departments, and stimulating short stories.

It is a very gratifying feeling for the editor that just about every subscriber is happy and satisfied with the contents of the BAPTIST HERALD — with one exception. And this exception is brought up whenever the editor is visiting a church or an Association through questions such as these: "Why is the news in 'Our Conference in Action' so old?" "Why does it take so long until church reports appear in print?" "Can't you print church reports right after you have received them?"

Let me start with a very important assurance to all church reporters: All church reports get processed immediately (edited, retyped when necessary, marked for correct type size and placement). Only very seldom do we have to hold a news item over to the next month's issue because of lack of space. In spite of the instant processing at our editorial office, it may happen that an article may be almost three months old before it appears in print. How can that be?

In our "Guidelines for N.A.B. Church Reporters" we have the following paragraph: "Send the report within TWO weeks following the event, or risk not having it published. It takes about eight weeks for a report to be published after receipt." The deadline for all BAPTIST HERALD manuscripts is the fifth, two months before the issue.

When a reporter meets this deadline — let's assume July 5 — the article will appear in the September issue, which is mailed to the subscribers at the end of August. However, if the reporter misses the deadline of July 5, then the October issue will contain the report.

In such cases, questions are being raised concerning the freshness of our church news; that is when the editor becomes frustrated. He cannot prompt a reporter to follow the Guidelines. However, in order to avoid the reports from becoming too old, he can enforce the Guidelines, which incidentally have just been revised and adopted by the Communications Committee on April 18, 1977.

Therefore, be it again resolved, that each reporter "send the report within TWO weeks following the event or risk not having it published.... Reports of an entire year's activities will not be accepted."

I pledge to readers and reporters alike, that my staff and I will make everything possible, to get the news items into the magazine as quickly as possible. I further pledge that in future we will rigorously look at the date of the event, the date of the report, and eliminate old happenings. Thus no news item will be older than three months.

I respect age, but I have little sympathy with age-old church reports which bore the readers, embarrass the reporters and frustrate the editor. RJK

## open dialogue

### letters to the editor

#### Dear Editor:

With the recent U.S. District Judge's ruling on the unconstitutionality of the television industries "Family Hour," the time, it seems clear, has come for someone to publish regularly a "Christian Guidebook TV Log." The remaining programs with yet wholesome entertainment value, appearances of classic movies that help us to think "on good things," and worthy "specials" could be suggested. Personality profiles on entertainers with Christian values would even be welcome.

The task would involve a great deal of research by someone who had the spiritual gift of discernment, but I think the effects would make the efforts worthwhile to anyone who was able to take on the project. For the very occasional watchers like myself, this would eliminate turning on the set only to be nauseated into turning it off again; and it would make for better family planning of evenings. What average adult can keep up with all the program changes, or wants to try?

Naturally such a publication would not be infallible, and naturally it would be a product of judgment and interpretation. It would have to be kept up to date and could be accused of "inconsistency." Nevertheless, it would be helpful and certainly better than nothing. I'd gladly be the first subscriber. William J. Loge, Valley City, ND.

#### Dear Editor:

Initially, may I compliment you for an inspiring magazine that has in the past few years been transformed from a mere information brochure into thought provoking literature.

A special note of thanks to Mrs. Pam Arends and the Rev. Isador Faszer for their contributions to the April edition. It may be a result of my college days, but I usually underline interesting thoughts as I read, and in last month's issue I ran out of ink on pages 4 and 5. The article "Urgent Challenge in Adult Ministry" provided us with actually more questions than it attempted to answer. My immediate reaction was, "So what?! Where do we go from here in application?" Do we subject our single adults to a heavy dose of married couples classes to achieve maximum interaction (and relief from the "blues"); or maybe we could initiate a new Single

Adult ONLY Class, further diversifying our church body with an even greater chasm!

Mrs. Arends was helpful in providing for us "... specific needs of single adults." Sorry, I don't find these needs as unique to single adults. As a matter of fact it is essential that the church minister to these needs in the life of ALL members of the body.

I'm glad I read on, despite my lack of ink, for it was Rev. Isador Faszer on page 20 who provided me with true hope and concrete answers to meeting the needs of ALL members of Christ's church. David A. Rapske, youth pastor, Grand Forks, ND.

#### YOUTH SCENE

(Continued from page 13)

This objective is far enough away to provide a challenge and stimulate our thoughts for our entire lifetime. Striving to know God will capture our entire involvement for eternity. Christians can be motivated in a way no others can; for what higher, more realistic and more challenging objective can there be than to know God?

So—children of God, let us arise from our painful couches of complaint and irrelevance to face the facts and GET INVOLVED! □

#### GOD IS IN THE DRIVERS SEAT

(Continued from page 15)

because it is better that way. I love laughter and try very hard to be funny. I love reading, crafts and gospel music. The people I enjoy being with the most are small children and the elderly.

I have been a Christian for a long time and must honestly say that I am really aware of the fact, now more than ever before, that God is at the steering wheel of my life. Maybe he always was, but I have never before been so aware of it. Sometimes I don't like the road on which I'm traveling, but I am sure that when I get to the point where I'll stop being a back-seat driver and let him be my chauffeur, I'll really enjoy the ride! Pray for me! □

#### PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

(Continued from page 18)

is too late. They do not suffer, but those who remain well have to—and many times needlessly so! What you do—how you establish the arrangements is clearly up to you. But I would strongly urge you to act without delay if you have not already done so.

Do I have my spiritual and financial houses in order?

You better believe it!  
"Be Prepared"!

#### INSIGHT

(Continued from page 19)

opinions and let your voice be heard regarding curriculum and programs. Through teachers and principals you will find out what is really happening in the classroom today. You will become a well-informed parent. Most teachers will welcome the opportunity to explain to a sincerely interested parent what learning goals and methods are being appropriated. You will be really involved in your community, and you will have the opportunity to let your light shine brightly and publicly. I challenge you, as a

#### WITH WHAT IS YOUR CHILD LIVING?

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.
- If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.
- If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with recognition, he learns it is good to have a goal.
- If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and those about him.
- If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live.

—Author unknown

#### GOD'S VOLUNTEERS REPORT

(Continued from page 23)

aspects in building growing personal relationships that we have found helpful in cementing that bond of love to keep a team a unit have been understanding, consideration and awareness of each other's needs as a person. Underlying the aspect of affirmation of one another helps to cultivate inter-personal growth. Hebrews 10:24 sums this up very fittingly, "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (N.A.S.).

We thank the following churches for their hospitality and cooperation in reaching out and presenting Christ in their communities: Trinity Baptist, Kelowna; Temple Baptist, Calgary; East Olds Baptist, Olds; Onoway Baptist, Onoway; Central Baptist, Edmonton; Calvary Baptist, Wetaskiwin; St. Albert Church Extension, St. Albert; Hudson Bay Park Baptist, Saskatoon; Nokomis Baptist, Nokomis; Melville Baptist, Melville; First Baptist, Minitonas; McDermot Avenue Baptist, Winnipeg; Herreid Baptist, Herreid. □

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