



**baptist
herald**

October 1977



thanks to The LORD
for He is good
celebration
of Gratitude

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE, OAKBROOK TERRACE, ILLINOIS



GENERAL COUNCIL DECISIONS

The General Council held its annual sessions in Oakbrook Terrace, June 16-18. In the BAPTIST HERALD, September issue, page 2, we published 18 photos which gave a visual impression of the Council sessions. In that issue we promised to publish the major decisions of the General Council in the October issue. Some of the decisions have in the meantime appeared in N.A.B. NEWS, August 1977. Along with some other decisions they will be printed here again.

The editor would like to take this opportunity to urge all North American Baptists to read the N.A.B. NEWS. This news service of the North American Baptist Conference tries to get the news out as soon as events of general interest are happening. N.A.B. NEWS is mailed in bulk monthly to all North American Baptist churches, to be used as Sunday Bulletin insert or free distribution items in churches which have no bulletins.

If you want to know what is going on in the North American Baptist Conference, and you want to know it quickly, read the N.A.B. NEWS. For obvious reasons it takes longer to have news items appear in the BAPTIST HERALD.

For the first time in the history of General Councils, the moderators of all 21 Associations were invited to participate in the Council sessions. They had no voting right but were encouraged to participate in the discussions. Sixteen moderators were present and afterwards expressed their deep appreciation for having been invited.

- It was decided, that the moderators of all Associations be again invited to next year's Council sessions, with the Associations paying the travel expenses.
- The General Council voted to expand the God's Volunteers program in fall of 1978, increasing the number of the team members to twenty.
- It was decided that the N.A.B. Conference purchase the Burroughs 1700 Computer System, which will be installed at N.A.B. International Office and will be programmed to specifically meet the needs of our constituency.
- By decision of the Council, one additional missionary couple for Nigeria will be appointed in 1978.
- It was voted that short-term missionaries may solicit financial support primarily from family, friends

and home church in the amount of \$8,000.

- Considering the inflationary situation in North America, the General Council decided to increase the monthly rental allowance for missionaries on furlough from \$125.00 to \$140.00 for single missionaries; from \$175.00 to \$200.00 for a couple; and from \$225.00 to \$250.00 for a family.
- The following persons were voted to serve on the Board of Directors
 - 1) of North American Baptists, Inc.
 - John Binder
 - Peter Fehr
 - Kenneth Fischer
 - M. H. Hildebrandt
 - Robert Mayforth
 - Kenneth Miller
 - Bruce Rich
 - Richard Schilke
 - Harold Stolt
 - E. B. Streuber
 - G. K. Zimmerman
 - 2) of North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada)
 - Norman Dreger
 - Isador Faszer
 - Heinz Kleiber
 - Robert Mayforth
 - Ed Sardachuk
 - Richard Schilke
 - E. B. Streuber
 - G. K. Zimmerman
- The Church Loan Fund Committee is composed of the following persons:
 - Harold Stolt, chairman
 - John Binder
 - M. H. Hildebrandt
 - William Kresal
 - Robert Mayforth
 - Kenneth Miller
 - Richard Schilke
 - Lyle Wacker
 - G. K. Zimmerman
- The Finance and Stewardship Committee made the recommendation that our Conference use the services of the fund raising agency Ward, Dreshman and Reinhardt,

Inc., to assist in the capital funds drive which was approved by the 1976 Triennial Conference delegates in Portland.

The detailed plans are to be developed by the stewardship staff in consultation with the fund raising agency and presented to the Finance and Stewardship Committee and the General Council for approval in June of 1978. The tentative goal is to be \$3,200,000 and it is tentatively to be launched in the fall of 1978. The recommendation was adopted.

- It was decided to form a Canadian Estate Planning Committee to function in an advisory capacity to the Estate Planning Subcommittee of the Finance and Stewardship Committee. The membership of the committee consists of Everett Barker, Larry Bienert, William Konnert, Milton Ohlhauser, Ed Sardachuk, E. B. Streuber.
- The Council approved a feasibility study with regard to an Every Family Distribution Plan for the BAPTIST HERALD, that will include a readership survey of the BAPTIST HERALD; the gathering of information from magazines that changed from subscriptions to the free Every Family Distribution Plan; a survey of all N.A.B. pastors, as to whether they would be willing to share their membership list; and that \$1,000 be allotted for this study project.
- It was decided that the budget for the year 1978 be \$3,200,000.
- The following persons were voted to serve on the Triennial Conference Program Committee for the Triennial Conference in Bismarck, ND:
 - Dr. Peter Fehr, chairman
 - Rev. John Binder—Stewardship and communication;
 - Dr. David Draewell—seminary;
 - Dr. Kenneth Fischer—moderator;
 - Rev. Jim Green—Western Area;
 - Mr. Wayne Heringer—church ministries;
 - Mrs. Irma Norman—Eastern Area;
 - Prof. Richard Paetzel—college;
 - Rev. Donald Patet—church extension;
 - Mrs. Frieda Reddig—WMU;
 - Mr. Ed Russell, Jr.—Great Lakes Area;
 - Rev. Allan Strohschein—missions;
 - Rev. Clarence Walth—area secretary;
 - Dr. G. K. Zimmerman—executive secretary.

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SEMINARY ADDS TO FACULTY

The North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev. Ted Faszer as instructor in Christian Education and Music. Ted began his faculty duties on September 1, 1977.

Ted has been the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Chancellor, since 1974. He also served as associate pastor at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH, 1971-1974. He is presently president of the seminary Alumni Association.

Concurrently with his seminary responsibilities Ted is pursuing a doctorate degree at the University of South Dakota.

Ted is married (Marietta) and has two daughters (Cathy and Debby). □

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

"Give Thanks to the Lord, For He Is Good"

GRATITUDE IN GIVING



by G. K. Zimmerman

I am truly thankful to God for the way he has blessed the ministries of the Conference this past year. Although our current financial needs are great,* God's goodness to all of us is so much greater.

"Celebration of Gratitude" has a jubilant sound to it. My heart is filled with joy and happiness as I reflect on some of the blessings of this past year:

- Individuals coming to know Christ as Savior through the ministries of our missionaries.
- New churches being established and becoming a part of our fellowship. And for many, becoming new persons in Christ through the witness of these church extension projects.
- All of the graduates of the College and Seminary have been placed.
- The growing interest on the part of youth to prepare for Christian service at the College and the Seminary.
- The impact of the trip to Cameroon by the Good News Ambassadors. Some are considering missionary service because of what they experienced.

During this thanksgiving season, you are encouraged to make a special gift for the mission and ministry work of the Conference out of gratitude to God for all of his goodness. Let us give generously and joyfully as unto him.

*We will need almost \$500,000 more this year to meet the 1977 budget than we received last year. That is a great need; it is urgent and crucial.

You can help by participating in the "Celebration of Gratitude Offering" through your church. Family coin folders and children's bands are available for your use. See your pastor for these items. □

GRATITUDE IN CHURCH EXTENSION

by Phil Yntema

Thanksgiving comes to me very easily this year; however, I must honestly say that this hasn't been true every year. That is not to say that each year of my life God has not given me a lot to be thankful for, but it does say, this year is something special. In looking back to find what element may have made this year stand above the rest I found the biblical principle of risking.

I once heard a very successful pastor say, "Until a pastor risks public ridicule and failure his ministry will never approach the potential of blessing that God has intended for him to enjoy." The past three years in Church Extension have begun to teach me that risking is the key to thanksgiving. Whenever we as God's people in Bloomingdale risked, we found many reasons to give thanksgiving to God.

Whenever our people "risked" friendships and gave up the comfort of a secure, uninvolved relationship to neighbors we saw people come to Christ and are now rejoicing not only for those who risked but for the results of their faith. These new Christians have given our church the joy promised with the harvest.

This past year we dedicated our new building. In the planning stage many of us were torn whether to build to suit our pocketbook or ministry. God led us to build for ministry. Although the risks still remain with us, God is fulfilling our needs as we fulfill his ministry. We

The Rev. Phil Yntema is the pastor of the Bloomingdale Baptist Church, Bloomingdale, IL.

are expressing thanksgiving because success in ministry has insured the reaching of goals for finances.

We are finding that although risking sometimes brings uncertainty, it is much to be preferred over the sterile existence of those who lived in the certainty of life, lived by senses alone.

To risk is to invite situations which result in thanksgiving. □

GRATITUDE IN OVERSEAS MISSION

by Peter Fehr

Have you ever given thanks to God for an opportunity of service to him?

God has been leading in unusual ways in my life for the past 30 years providing many opportunities of service, for which I give thanks.

In 1948 during high school, the call to missionary service became real to me. During the next ten years his leading in all aspects of preparation, including a fine Christian wife, were real.

The opportunity of service in Cameroon provided us with the joy of learning to really be a member of the family of God. Our fellow missionaries became closer to us than many of our own family members. Our fellow Christians among the Cameroonians helped us to really exercise our faith and beliefs as we tried to teach them. The privilege of working with young people and seeing them grow in their Christian lives to take leadership roles in the church is gratifying: the school boy with a bad leg now recovered and working as a highly placed government official; the boy with a severe bone infection which required ten major operations and nearly seven years in the hospital, now an active Christian working as a laboratory technician.

Dr. Peter Fehr served as missionary doctor in Cameroon, 1958-69. He now lives in Minneapolis and is in charge of the medical examinations of all appointed and homecoming missionaries.

nician; our former outpatient helper now well trained theologically and serving as field pastor of Bansa Field.

Deputation as missionaries allowed us to visit many of our North American Baptist churches in the United States and Canada. The privilege of meeting and getting to know many members of our churches made this activity a reason for being grateful.

In 1968 an allergy problem signalled an end to Cameroon service, but we offered to be of service in any way we could to the missionary society or Conference. Since that time God has opened many new doors of service.

We currently are able to continue the fellowship with the missionaries, as we have them in our home and office during their medical clearance examinations. The thrill of word about our former associates in Cameroon firsthand causes us to continue to thank God for providing us opportunities of service. □

GRATITUDE IN EVANGELISM

by Bob Hooker

Evangelism has become a real part of our lives. My wife, Nola, was instrumental in seeing that the outreach program of the church became our family burden. It was a few years ago in our church in Nebraska that we really made the decision to help others find Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Nola was secretary of our Kennedy Evangelism Training Course at our church. She and our pastor frequently mentioned to me that I should be a part of it also, but I kept saying no. One Sunday night, at the beginning of another evangelism course, the film LIKE A MIGHTY ARMY was shown at our church. There is a part in it that portrays a deacon confessing that while being a Christian for 22 years he had never won any one to Jesus Christ, one on one. Very suddenly I realized that my testimony was the exact replica of the deacon in the film. That night I asked the Lord's forgiveness for neglecting such a wonderful work, but I also realized that I did not know how to win others to Christ, even though I had held many jobs in the church and knew sincerely that I was

Mr. Bob Hooker is a member of the Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, and a member of the Church Ministries Board.

truly born again. I immediately joined the next class and was taught how this was done.

Since coming to Illinois and joining an N.A.B. Conference church my wife and I both realize the importance of a Conference emphasis in the outreach program in a local church. It seems that you always have help when you need it from experienced and confident staff people who can help you work out your problems locally. Even though our program at Village Green Baptist Church is almost two years old, it is still in its infancy; but one thing we know for sure is that the Church Ministries Department is praying for our local program and is helping to strengthen it in many ways. We praise God for the burden of outreach and for the opportunity we have of sharing Christ. □

GRATITUDE IN GOD'S VOLUNTEERS



by Kathy Sharp

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you" (John 15:16).

God chose you and me, that is an exciting promise, and I thank and praise God for it. I have memorized and studied this verse many times, but I never realized that it applied to me until my experiences in God's Volunteers. It was during this year that God spoke to me about a service on the mission field. We presented a musical, entitled "Go Tell Your World." This musical was designed to challenge others to commit their lives to Christ for some type of Christian service. Everytime I heard that musical, I was convicted about my own life and service for the Lord, but I could never bring myself to say yes to God and to surrender my life to him, to use it as he saw fit. Needless to say, I was miserable because deep down I knew God was speaking to me. Finally, after two months of struggling, I said yes to God, and told him I was willing

to go and do anything he wanted me to do. Guess what? I became very excited to see where God would lead next, and experienced a tremendous peace of mind with myself and a great relationship with the Lord.

Since that day in my life, God blessed me with the opportunity to be a part of Good News Ambassadors, a group of young people from our Conference, who went to Cameroon to work with our missionaries. It was a great experience to see missions and missionaries in action. That trip made me more aware of the needs on the mission field and convinced me that I could fit into that ministry, if God would choose to call and lead me there.

This is just a small example of the way God has blessed in my life, and how he used people from our Conference, the ministry of God's Volunteers, the support and prayers of my parents and my home church to influence me in this excitingly wonderful way. How can I say thanks for all he has done for me? The only way I can express my thanks is by a continuing joyful service for my Lord, no matter what the circumstances may be. All God asks of us is to love and serve him faithfully. He also desires us to praise him, no matter what the situation. □

GRATITUDE IN CHURCH GROWTH

I. by Myrna Seibel

"As a member of the Association Church Ministries Committee you will be presenting the Church Growth Strategy to a few churches in your Association." Nothing could have frightened me more! However, armed with assurance from other committee members, an outline of the plan presented by the Church Ministries Department and much prayer—I studied.

A special joy was mine when I read Ephesians 4:11-16, where Paul speaks of "building up of the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith . . . which belongs to the fullness of Christ . . ." The factors and benefits of church growth listed in the outline really thrilled me, as I prepared the presentation. I live in a rural area which is an impact center for coal development. I

Miss Myrna Seibel is a member of the Central Dakota-Montana Association Church Ministries Committee.

the mission and ministry work of the Conference. You are encouraged to participate in the that the urgent financial needs of the Conference will be met this year.

thought of the people moving into the area and of how our members could reach out to them. I also thought of how our people could grow spiritually and become more aware of the responsibility as members of the body of Christ.

The churches where the plan was presented have been busy outlining their goals in relation to their own needs. Spiritual growth is showing in the fellowship of home Bible studies, in sharing Christ, and in reaching out with love to fellow believers and non-believers.

Some months have passed since the plan was shared with the churches. Yet every time I think of the verses mentioned above and relate it to our situation I am grateful for the opportunity I had and get excited all over again! □

II. by Irene Mehlhaff

The Church Ministries Department helped Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, evaluate their ministries through a G.R.O.W. workshop.

Through this evaluation, they discovered where their strength and weakness were. As a result, they planned ministries of inreach and outreach which are beginning to bear fruit. Irene Mehlhaff shares concerning some of these:

"My heart is filled with gratitude for the way Trinity Baptist Church has grown in the past five years, I believe this happened because of dedicated, stable leaders whose goal is to develop the church into a growing, caring community. Our desire is to grow not only in numbers but also in commitment to the Lord. We have done this with an inreach and an outreach program.

Here are just a few reasons that I feel the Lord has blessed us in this way. The leaders of the young couples' Sunday school class started doing a lot of visitation. The class had struggled for some time with two or three couples. Now we are thrilled that many new couples have started coming to Sunday school and have become actively involved in the total program of the church. We are grateful for the determination in visitation and outreach this group continues to show.

An inreach program that meets the needs of the members is entitled "Lay Ministers." A number of couples are involved. Each couple is assigned to a group of people to show personal love and concern through prayer and visitation.

The greeters that meet each person at the church entry serve both the inreach and outreach ministries. A smile greets you, and visitors are made to feel welcome and shown where to go.

The climax of our growth has been to build on to our sanctuary this summer. As we continue to serve the Lord here, my prayer is that we will never cease to care and love people as we reach out. □

GRATITUDE IN EDUCATION

I. At North American Baptist Seminary



by
Dennis Kee

There's a game that youngsters play called "Hide and Seek." The child who is "it" counts to 100 by fives and then yells out, "Coming, ready or not." After three concentrated years of preparation at North American Baptist Seminary, you might ask me, "Are you ready or not?" My answer is—yes! I haven't yet had the opportunities to put into practice all that I have been taught, but I have confidence that the Holy Spirit will enable me to serve in the capacity for which I have been so carefully trained.

If I were to "pan" for the "gold" of my seminary experience, I would find that the most meaningful and useful training resulted from my associations with professors, staff and other students. I caught the urgency to reconcile the world to God through Christ, developed methods for sound Bible study, accumulated techniques for convincing preaching, formulated plans for a broad range of church ministries and learned to be perceptive in counseling as the result of others pouring their years of specialized studies and experiences into my life. The example of the conduct of the seminary community during day-to-day interaction has heightened my sensitivity to the needs of others. I am grateful for these experiences.

The Apostle Paul recommended a principle to the local church that I observed working effectively at North American Baptist Seminary. That is, the sum of the efforts of "Spirit-filled"

Mr. Dennis Kee is a '77 graduate from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and serves now as the pastor of Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church, Bensalem, PA.

people as a Body is more than the total of individuals working separately (Ephesians 4:11, 12). □

GRATITUDE IN EDUCATION

II. At North American Baptist College

by Erwin Kelbert

Now that I have graduated from North American Baptist College and serve Bethany Baptist Church in Lethbridge, AB, I look back with a sense of regret and gratitude. Regret for every moment that slipped by without having been redeemed to its fullest, and gratitude for all that the College and its faculty meant and did for my life.

The first year I tended to protest when my narrow views and preconceived ideas were challenged. However, as I became more acquainted with the broad spectrum of views and convictions, I soon realized that my professors had no interest in spoonfeeding me. They challenged me to search and to think for myself.

The challenge to search for the truth awakened a desire to know and to learn. At times I was overwhelmed as I pondered the vast sea of knowledge and truth in relation to my limitations.

Sometimes, when facing the task of learning all that had to be learned, I felt discouraged. The faculty, however, seemed to have much faith in their students. This I found motivating and built up my self-confidence. No doubt, from the materialistic point of view our whole family had to sacrifice much. On the other hand, my family and I would not want to miss the influence on our lives by the interaction we experienced with the College.

I sincerely and humbly thank God for his servants at College. They all were tools in God's hands to form a vessel, hopefully fit for the Master's use. A warm thank you to all who contributed in making our College what it is today. I for one believe my life was enriched. It is my prayer to be a worthy steward of the investment our people have made in my life through the College in Edmonton. □

Mr. Erwin Kelbert is a '77 graduate from North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, and is now serving the Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB.



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Dear Dr. Zimbelman:

What is your feeling about Transcendental Meditation? Many of my friends are into it, and they are recommending it very highly. Am I being disloyal to my Christian faith if I get involved?

In your letter, when you used the words "Transcendental Meditation," I notice that you capitalized them. If I then read your meaning correctly, you are asking me: "What do I think of 'The TM' movement? That is, the group related to the Indian Maharishi and various offshoot groups." In spite of all the denials, it is a religious movement; the fee you have to pay to be initiated into the movement is a rip-off; and the ritual has a lot of hocus-pocus connected with it that is unnecessary. But the technique itself is quite legitimate. It does produce many of the effects claimed for it by the faithful practitioner.

The danger for Christians is, as I see it in regard to TM, that we will throw out the baby with the bath. The TM movement (Capital Letters) is an expensive bath, obviously related to Eastern religions. But the concept of a Christian

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.

meditating and transcending this worldly life and reaching God certainly is not foreign to Christian practice. If it is, I've missed the mark for years. I delight in meditating and feeling the presence of God move and dwell in me!

We, as Christians, need to be exceedingly careful that in becoming anti "meditation" we do not move away from God at a spiritual experiential level. "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Too many of our Christian experiences consist of knowledge about God rather than experiences with God!

Let us look at one definition of Transcendental Meditation . . . it is a simple, natural, effortless technique that allows the mind to experience subtler and subtler levels of the thinking process until thinking is transcended and the mind comes into direct contact with the source of thought." Now certainly Christians know that not just the source of thought but the source of all being is God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to know him and experience him with our whole being.

The reason thousands of people are flocking to use this technique (TM) is because so much of what is Christian religious experience is cognitive knowledge about God, rather than knowing God. Let us learn anew the ways of experiencing God and leading Christians into this experience. If we do, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi will go broke, and the Christian fellowship will flourish. But if we spend our time trying to show the evils of transcendental meditation, the opposite will be true. □

chuckle with bruno

The politician had finished his campaign speech when an enthusiastic woman yelled out, "You'll get the vote of every thinking American." He said, "That's not enough. I need a majority."

Dial-a-prayer for atheists: You dial a number and no one answers.

A negotiation with Russia is being worked out. We are sending 3,000 cars from Detroit in exchange for 30,000 parking places in Siberia.

Overheard in an art museum: "I hope things aren't as bad as they're painted."

Employment Opportunity

The Baptist Residence for Women in Manhattan, NY, is looking for a full-time employee. Light bookkeeping, typing and general office work.

Employee may live at the Residence, located in mid-town. Negotiable salary.

Write to
Mrs. Ella Beck,
President of the Board of Directors
The Baptist Residence for Women
225 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022
Phone: (212) PL3-0521

PROJECT MANAGERS

Construction Management firm specializing in construction of churches and church related buildings has openings for supervisory personnel. Applicant must qualify as both Superintendent and Project Manager. Must be willing to relocate.

Write, including resume:
Church Building Associates
1 So. 210 Summit
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

BAPTIST YOUTH WORLD CONFERENCE

Plan to attend the conference, July 19-23, 1978, in Manila, Philippines. About 5,000 youth and youth leaders, 16-35 years of age, from approximately 80 countries are expected to attend. Theme: "Jesus Christ—The One Light for All People."

An N.A.B. tour is planned for July 13-28, 1978, visiting our churches in Japan (five days), attending the conference in Manila, visiting Hong Kong and Honolulu.

Approximate cost: \$1,128.00 (Leaving from San Francisco). Rooms (\$13.00 per day), meals (\$5.00-\$8.00 per day) and registration (\$45) for five days in Manila not included in this price. Anyone interested in information on N.A.B. tour, contact the Rev. Ray Harsch, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

In Canada a tour is being arranged by the Rev. Wenzel Hanik, 842 Minto Street, Winnipeg, MB R3G 2R5.

WHAT CONCERNS YOU



by
Robert Koch

"I hate, I despise your feasts and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and cereal offerings, I will not accept them, and the peace offerings of your fatted beasts I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an overflowing stream."

The Scripture text in the first paragraph is taken from Amos 5:21-24. Before continuing with this article, read it again, so your thinking is clear on what it says.

At the time Amos wrote these words from God, the people of Israel were becoming apathetic toward the social injustices and problems around them. The poor were oppressed, idolatry in the form of greed was prevalent, unethical business practices were common, and yet the Israelites didn't care about what was happening. *They were becoming indifferent to the problems of their fellow man, and, consequently, their faith began to lose its real meaning and became nothing more than a ritual of solemn assemblies and sacrifices.*

God saw what was happening and gives it to the Israelites straight. He tells them, he's sick and tired of their solemn assemblies, he despises their feasts, and he won't even listen to their hymns until they make some changes in their prior-

ities. God wants the Israelites to be concerned about things that really matter. He wants them to be concerned about the establishment of justice and righteousness and wants them to act on that concern. Then, and only then, will their offerings, sacrifices and worship have any real meaning.

Church attendance and the practices that go along with it have always been a major part of my own Christian faith, and it occurs to me that oftentimes church attendance and the practices that go along with it become the sum total of my Christianity. I completely disregard the obligation I have to love others and substitute an isolated selfish belief that by singing hymns and praying prayers, I am in some way pleasing God.

I can just see God observing my attempts at giving him glory and praise and watching him become just plain sick and tired of all the time I've wasted with meaningless rituals, while people around me are in desperate need of anything from food and clothes to salvation itself. God wants us to be concerned for others, and I feel he needs us to be concerned for others, because without that concern followed by action, our church services and worship of God are meaningless. □

Robert Koch is a senior at Greenville College, Greenville, IL, majoring in business administration. He is a member of the Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, IL.

The Dawning

Yield Thy Light, O Dayspring
Remove me from shadows of fear
And the nightmare of darkness
Awake me from wasteful sleep
Shine brightly
Let me not avoid Thy Glory

As day wears on
May I reflect Thy Light
May I not be a candle
Flickering and weak
Burning away in finite strength
But a mirror
Brilliantly revealing Your holiness

Evening approaches
The darkness of death closes in
Yet a more beautiful sight is clear
There is no fear
For the luminous sunset
Is but a doorway to eternal day.

—Luann Meissner

Miss Meissner is a senior at Wayne State College, Wayne, NE, majoring in elementary education.



"It says, 'The modern church tends to be irrelevant to the needs of modern society.'"

insight into christian education

Grow By Goals PART-2

by Henry G. Ramus

A basic truth of the business world works in the church, too. It is that persons achieve more when motivated and guided by positive goals. Successful companies and churches are goal-oriented. Goals are defined, methods are developed for their achievement, the methods are used, adjusted as necessary, constantly focusing on accomplishment of the goal. This process motivates and inspires; therefore it works.

In last month's issue, the importance of setting goals for growth was discussed and guidelines for goal setting were given: (1) focus on a few goals; (2) emphasize attendance first; (3) involve the people in goal setting; (4) develop plans for reaching goals. The following are a continuation of these guidelines.

Guidelines for Goal Setting (continued)

5. Use high attendance days

Some Sunday schools celebrate Rally Day on the first Sunday of October. Everyone is "rallied" for the coming Sunday school year and usually meet together for a special program. Today this activity is often called "the high day" when a church tries to have one of the largest attendances of the year. If a church uses this strategy every year, annual expectation is built up. Using the "high day" idea will stir up dead Christians, visitors will see the church at its best, and the faith of the congregation will increase as they expect God to do even greater things in the future.

High attendance days can also be built around special lessons, seasonal days, such as promotion day, teacher appreciation, attendance campaigns, commitment cards or other ideas. They may come on the first Sunday of a quarter following literature

Adapted in part from the book, *Using the Sunday School to Reach People*, by Charles R. Livingstone. Copyright 1973, Convention Press, Nashville, TN. Used with permission.

delivery to every enrolled member the previous week. They may involve visitation, telephoning, letter writing or other forms of communication. High attendance days must be used in moderation, though. Four during one year would be maximum.

6. Keep numbers in proper perspective

There is nothing wrong with numbers. There is a Bible book called Numbers. Jesus called his early disciples "the twelve" and later sent out 70 disciples. There were 120 in the upper room, 3,000 were saved and again later 5,000 were reached for Christ. Luke, the historian, states that "the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly" (Acts 6:1). Jesus commanded us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Making disciples implies winning people to Christ and getting them to follow him. Numbers must not become more important than evangelism. The danger of becoming enamored with statistics is real. Sunday schools can confuse means and ends. The desired end result, of course, is winning souls for Christ and building strong New Testament churches. The means is an emphasis on numbers. We must never reverse the two. However, the danger of losing sight of people altogether as we forget numbers is even more real and far more deadly. The educational statistic tell us that anything that grows can be measured. Numbers tell us if a church is growing or is dead. Another advantage of numbers is motivation. Attendance graphs and charts stimulate workers to dedication, service and achievement. Numbers encourage the worker in his faith and commitment. Dr. Warren Wiersbe of Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, summed up well the proper perspective on numbers when on one occasion he said, "we count people because people count."

7. Train the workers

Training for outreach is aimed at changing the attitudes and the actions of those being trained. This training cannot be done in a hurry. Usually more than one course is necessary. Church leaders must know what training is needed, and they must set aside time which is most advantageous for conducting

this training. A church must also sell the idea of training. A training program clarifies the objectives of the church and unifies the workers in their intent and in their methodologies. Training plans should be made to meet specific needs. Sunday school leaders need special training for their tasks; and unless the training is planned, it probably will be haphazard and inefficient. Provide for monthly workers conferences and special church study courses throughout the year.

8. Test your vision

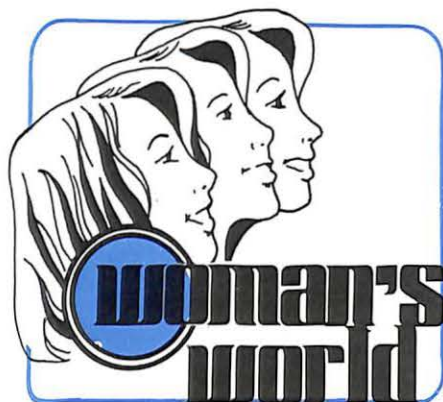
The outreach goals of a church should be comparable to the outreach opportunities of the church. Sometimes God's people set their goals too low because their vision is not adequate. Goals should be not only adequate but also challenging. Many churches do not attempt goals which are large enough because they tend to plan and work in their own strength. The need for prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit and daily spiritual renewal on the part of all who participate in the outreach program should be evident when the plans are put together. When Christians realize that God loved the entire world, they will not allow themselves to become interested in reaching only a small portion of those who are prospects for Christ and church membership in their community. Christ died for all; we must be committed to reach all for Christ.

9. Talk positively about the Sunday school

Never talk negatively about your Sunday school. In sharing with other people, never say anything discouraging. Think positively. You can always find something to praise the Lord for. Praise the pastor, the superintendent, the Sunday school officers, the teachers, the students. Always look up! Things are going great—the Sunday school never looked better—things are beginning to move—people are responding—talk it up positively! Be enthusiastic! People want to come where the action is. Talk about how the Lord is blessing your Sunday school and watch him do just that!

10. Keep at it

Never let well enough alone. Perseverance can swing the balance from failure to success. Today's achievement should be a stepping-stone to do something even greater for Christ tomorrow. Set a goal unashamedly; tirelessly work to reach it. In the moment of achievement give God the glory and set a new goal. □



Loving Is Joyous Living

by Iona Quiring,
English packet editor,
Rogers, MN

preparing the 1978 program packet has been quite an adventure for me. I've had all kinds of feelings, from apprehension and anxiety to joy and satisfaction. And I've "met" so many wonderful women through correspondence! It's been a great experience. But let me tell you a little about the packet.

The quality of the material our women have contributed is just excellent. The only problem is that you can't possibly use all of it! There are ten programs on the theme, "Loving is Joyous Living." Bible studies, discussion guides, learning activities, skits, true stories, case studies—all sorts of approaches are suggested to help you discover what God's Word teaches about:

- Loving God (Is it feeling, faith or fact?)
- Loving my Neighbor (What is the basis for effective social action?)
- Loving Myself (It's biblical!)
- Loving my Family (According to 1 Cor. 13; a Cameroon-type meeting.)
- Loving Fellow Believers (How do I treat other members of the Body?)
- Loving my Community (Church Extension. Why? How? Is it worth it?)
- Loving the Unsaved (Who? Me? Involved in evangelism?)
- Loving my Country (What is my responsibility as a Christian citizen?)
- Loving People of Another Country and Culture (What does it take? In Japan, for instance.)
- Loving Creation (How does my love for God affect my attitude toward his world?)

Twelve of our women have written fine devotionals, sharing Scripture and their own thoughts on experiencing the

"Joy of the Lord" in 12 specific areas: JOY . . . in prayer . . . in praise . . . in adversity . . . in service . . . in obedience . . . in forgiveness . . . in salvation (Christmas) . . . in salvation of others . . . in the Scriptures . . . in thanksgiving . . . in certainty of eternal life . . . in the abundant life.

We've also included some special features: "Come to Bethlehem," a Christmas program, stressing the difference Jesus' coming makes in our lives now; a Mother-Daughter program with several options entitled "The Time of Your Life"; an International Dinner for Missions featuring foods (recipes, even) from many lands. There is also a unique installation service and the biography of a White Cross bandage! A super section called "What is Your Missionary IQ?" gives plain practical ideas on how to keep your family, your WMF and your church informed and actively involved in missions. It's written by a former missionary. You'll want to keep it handy to use all year, and then you'll file it for future reference.

Maybe you've heard about the new approach to WMF called "Circles of Interest" or "Interest Groups." (LaVerna's article, "The Women's Missionary Union: Salt and Honey in the Church," which appeared in the February 1977 issue of the BAPTIST HERALD explained a bit about it.) In the packet is a feature called "Try It—You'll Like It!" which is a report of three WMF's that have actually tried this new concept. One group is in its second year, one has been in it for just three months and one for many years. Maybe this approach would revitalize your WMF. At least it's worth investigating, and this feature will answer a lot of your questions.

You'll find something helpful and worthwhile in the 1978 program packet, no matter how your WMF is organized. The women have done a terrific job! Be sure to order your packet.

Each president and pastor's wife has received order blanks from the Conference Office in a recent mailing. However, you can order by writing to Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, Women's Missionary Fellowship, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace IL 60181. State the number you will need; price per packet is \$2.50. The packets are available in German and English. □

The Joy Of Giving

by Hanni Gebauer,
Kelowna, BC

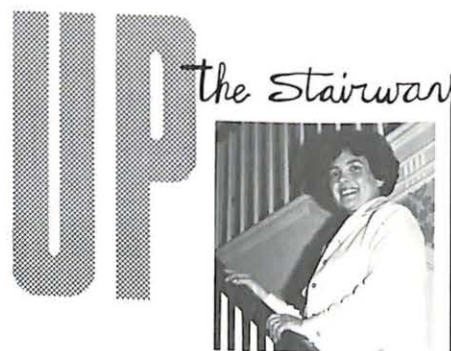
Have you ever asked yourself why you enjoy giving? Never had that thought entered my mind until I was asked to

share on "Why I enjoy giving."

Actually, I think the answer to that question can be summarized in one sentence: "I enjoy giving because God, through Jesus Christ, has transformed me into a new person and has given me a new nature." One aspect of this new nature is generosity and giving. It has grown into a fruit of his Spirit in me.

As a young Christian, giving was motivated, perhaps, by something different; most likely the promises we find in the Bible that are ours when we give, such as: "If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied" (Prov. 28:27, paraphrased) or "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38, NIV) and "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7b, NIV).

These three verses (and there are many more) are beautiful promises that motivate one to give. And those promises have become fulfilled so many times through the years that one could not go back to the beginning or start doubting. As we continue to walk and follow in obedience, God transforms our nature and some of the original motivations are replaced by the fruit of the Spirit taking shape in our lives. The receiver and the giver are blessed. □



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

Do you enjoy your Christian life? Or do you go around acting like the wicked stepmother of Snow White?

Through the most drab of duties and the most serious of situations, a Christian woman can be joyful and have pleasure. One doesn't giggle at unpleasant experiences, nor treat them frivolously. Piety has its place. Sincere concern about important matters is necessary. But when piety and concern take the form of negativism, legalism or

pessimism, the opportunity to shine for Jesus and be a blessing to others is lost.

All of us have dumpy days and mokey moments. If we remember that Christ can use any circumstance to glorify himself, we need only pray that he will give us understanding of the predicament at hand.

There are lessons to be learned through failure, illness, loss, disappointment and discouragement. These are normal "steps" in the stairs of life.

A sense of humor is advantageous when we take time to examine some of our behavior. Eating words and swallowing pride can be a distasteful diet but beneficial nourishment to the soul.

Let's recognize our human helplessness and rely on the superhuman, supernatural power of God to give us inward calm and outward control of ourselves in adverse times.

What could seem worse at the moment than spilled milk, burned entree', or the husband late to dinner? It's tough when your favorite figurine tumbles to the floor in pieces, or you discover you've traveled the wrong highway and need to retrace 36 miles! It takes saintly stamina to nurse a sick child with stomach flu during the night and intestinal fortitude when the washer breaks down during the first of eight loads of clothes!

Big deal! We've all survived such things, and I venture to say God will permit many more such tests for each of us during our days. It is wise to prepare oneself at the beginning of a new day by spending time with God and his Word. Meet Christ in the morning before meeting the family. Armed with the right attitude and internal joy, one can better face the day and all it holds. Others besides ourselves will be the beneficiaries of happiness as a result.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19). □



The Joy Of Service

by Meta Schmeltekopf,
Kyle, TX

I am, at present, president of the Women's Missionary Society of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, Texas.

Eighty years ago the women of this church, then the First German Baptist

Church of Kyle, organized to unitedly serve the Lord. At that time the ladies met in homes, driving to the gathering in horse and buggy, some going on horseback, all taking their little children with them. Twenty years later, with the advent of the automobile, the men would take the women (it was some time before ladies drove) and then they, too, organized.



The WMS of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, Tex.

Why did these women organize? Because together they could share responsibilities, together they could plan and discuss how to do something about the commission "to go," together they could study the Scriptures, together they could learn about the mission enterprise of their denomination. They were challenged to look on the fields and do, in their way, some sowing. Thus a regular time to get together was set and leadership chosen.

As we look on these past years we praise and thank God for the opportunities this united effort has given us.

I joined the "Schwesterverein," now the WMS, after I married in 1930. Then, as now, we met once a month, mostly at the church, sometimes in homes. White Cross work has been a vital part of our service.

For many years our Sunday school has shared White Cross goals with us by setting aside the last Sunday in August for a special offering which is used to buy materials, medical supplies, postage, etc.

One of our joys has been in writing and praying for our missionaries. Each member has a "partner" on the field, and we feel "family" with those who are serving, representing us in fields in foreign and home lands. Our church supports Bill and Luci Lengefeld, short-termers and members of our church, and the Richard Mayforths, former pastor of our church. Mexican missions in our community has been an integral part of our service through giving and teaching.

Now as we prepare to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of our organization, we know the importance and value of the women being united in mission-

ary endeavor, for it has guided the outreach of this flock. An example in recent years is found in the service to the Church Extension project in Houston, when Immanuel became the parent church to that endeavor which today is a self-supporting body.

Why WMS? For the joy of service as we respond to the Lord's command, "go." As a rural church we are today primarily senior adults but deeply grateful for the vision and goals looking on the fields gives us and the strength and opportunities the Lord supplies. We stand on the promise "the joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong" (Neh. 10:8, GNB).

Editor's Note: The WMS of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, Texas is celebrating their 80th anniversary this year. Mrs. Schmeltekopf and the entire group are thankful for their pastor's wife, Mrs. W. H. Barsch, and are grateful for her willingness to serve by teaching, directing the choir, playing her violin and each year compiling their WMS year books. □

Where We Stand Financially



by LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director

The end of June marked the halfway mark for the WMF to reach their \$400,000 goal. At that time receipts totaled \$233,926.00. The triennial year ends December 31, 1978 which means we have 15 months left to reach our goal. We are grateful to each of you who have so faithfully contributed. All the money given towards the WMF goal goes directly to support missions at home and overseas. We depend on each of our societies for their contributions to reach this goal. God bless you as you give because of your love for him.

Continue to send your green stamps to the Conference Office, where we are redeeming them. □

MISSIONS DIGEST 1977 Part 2

CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION



The Convention



by Oryn G. Meinerts,
field secretary

Major Developments and Events. In 1976 we witnessed some notable developments and events in our Baptist work. In *education*, the last remaining class of teacher trainees graduated. The number of primary school managers was reduced from 6 to 4, along with an overall reduction of teachers. In *theological education*, Theological Education by Extension made good gains; plans were underway to upgrade the Baptist Bible Training College program. In *evangelism*, successful crusades were conducted in the Banzo, Oku and Noni areas. The *Medical Authority* along with the *Education Authority* continued to undergo financial difficulties. One new field, *Bethel Field*, was formed and organized. Despite efforts toward reconciliation the rift between *Ndu Field* and the Cameroon Baptist Convention continues. **Missionary personnel.** Our missionary staff remained at the normal levels; although we were very short handed at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, where a second doctor is still

urgently needed. There were no new short-term missionaries during the year. The absence of short-termers during the last six months was keenly felt, especially in our educational institutions.

Finances. Again, the Baptist Education Authority and the medical institutions faced financial difficulties. Due to lack of school fees and government subvention to cover primary school teacher salaries, teachers were not paid for 2½ months in 1976. Our medical institutions were faced with financial difficulties because of rising costs of medicines, supplies, labor and equipment and a reduction in government grants.

Giving by the churches toward field programs was again encouraging. Most of the churches continued to struggle financially since their membership is under 100 members.

Building and Maintenance. There was increased maintenance done on our buildings; most of them are not up to the standard we have maintained in the past. Construction was virtually at a standstill in 1976 due to lack of capital funds. The K.B.T.C. workshop was the only project underway. Some local churches have been built by local funds. A new attractive church building was built in the Musang quarter in Bamenda under the direction of the Rev. Fred Holzimmer.

Transportation and Communication. The cost of motor vehicles continued to be one of the highest items in most operating budgets. Curtailment of travel became necessary for many workers; especially for area co-ordinators for evangelism and church growth. Exceptionally poor roads during the rainy season contributed greatly to numerous breakdowns, and the age of most vehicles made them increasingly vulnerable. Only one vehicle was replaced this year (at Banzo Baptist Hospital). The Land Rovers cost about \$12,500.00. There are about 10 old vehicles that will need to be sold or replaced within two years time. To replace vehicles is becoming increasingly difficult. At the present time we have 19 vehicles.

We continued to utilize the services of Mission Aviation Fellowship, especially when the roads were next to impossible during rainy season. We were hampered by the lack of an airstrip; otherwise, we would have used the plane even more. Plans for constructing strips are underway for Banzo and Mayo Darle.

By the end of the year a 30-40% increase in postal rates was announced.

Integration. 1976 was the first full year of integrated ministries and functions, since the work of the Cameroon Baptist Mission was absorbed within the Cameroon Baptist Convention. The organizational machinery of the



C.B.C. ran very smoothly being guided by capable and mature leaders. N.A.B. visitors. Thirteen N.A.B. Christians visited Cameroon in 1976.

The Convention

by Samuel H. Ngum,
executive secretary



Theological education in the Convention. On July 1, 1977, a significant change in the name of B.B.T.C. and its programs is taking place: the 1977/78 academic year opens with the Certificate of Theology Course, offering both theological and secular disciplines aimed at producing a pastor with education equal to or more than that of most of the educated members of his congregation. The diploma course will follow, leading up to a seminary program hoped for about 1980/81. T.E.E. and Leadership training courses remain the props of our theological education. B.B.T.C. needs teachers.

The Youth Department. The request of the youth department for full-time youth director has been met, Susan Krier accepted the appointment.

The Baptist Men program has ceased for lack of interest and encouragement.

Medical Expansion. Exploration is going on in attempt to extend the medical ministry to Mayo Darle Field to bring about a greater impact of Baptist influence on the people and serve our most distant Christians.

New Field. We have a new field named Bethel, formed by 1,156 members of Ndu

Field. Bethel has been operating for about a year. One hundred and twelve Christians have been baptized.

Yaounde Project. Combining the efforts of the Board of Missions and of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, the Yaounde Project fund holds a little bit over two million francs. The problem now is finding land to buy. The piece of land which was located March 1976 was soon after declared Government land.

Cameroon Baptist Convention representation abroad. The president of the Convention, Mr. E. K. Martin, represented us at the B.W.A. General Council, Melbourne, Australia.

Pastor C. F. Tangwa and the executive secretary, the Rev. Samuel N. Ngum, represented the Convention at the Pan African Christian Leadership Assembly held at Nairobi, Kenya, for fellowship and to examine the factors hindering the witness of the Christian church in Africa.

Changes in Cameroon. Throughout history great changes in every country always affect the Church. In the early years of the Christian church, political stability, peace, one language, good roads and free travel were enabling the quick spread of the Gospel.

This is our experience in Cameroon: political stability, peace, bilingualism, freedom to settle and work anywhere, and freedom of worship. Serious work is going on everywhere to improve the roads to improve travel and communications. These provide opportunity to further Christian witness throughout the nation. New economic resources are being developed; e.g., the oil refinery on the West Coast. This should be reflected in the total giving of the Christians living in the areas of these developments.

More and more secondary and post secondary schools are being opened. Campuses of the University of Yaounde have been expanded. Baptist children avail themselves of the opportunities and witness to the saving grace of Christ. I recall that during the Nso Field Annual Bible Conference about 20 Baptist young people, who had formed a group known as Young Ambassadors for Christ in Bui College of General Education, was presented. This group is having a tremendous influence in the college and in our small church at Tobin, the Capital of Bui Division.

Existing fields. The desire for smaller field units leads to the increase in our number of fields. Small field units work harder.

The entry of a black American Baptist convention in Victoria, Soppo and Kumba undoubtedly will challenge our poor churches to work harder in sharing their witness for Christ and in supporting their churches. We need a trained, experienced Field Pastor in Soppo Field, where the new mission is said to be establishing its headquarters.

Changes in the lives of people by the gospel. Cultural influence and ties are still very strong here and responsible for the weakness of many Christians. Nevertheless, many lives

are being changed by the Gospel everywhere in Cameroon and reflected in individual devotion to the cause of Christ in the general church attendance and in participation in the program of the church.

Women's Work

by Fridah Abraham,
Women's Union president
and Patricia Meinerts,
Women's Union advisor

The work of the Women's Union in 1976 continued on the local, regional and national levels. There was much stability due to continuity of leadership and program. The monthly paper, "We the Baptist Women," and the "Women's Manual" were printed to encourage and to help teach weekly meetings. Leadership training courses, prayer day materials and Bible conference programs were also produced and put into use.

The aim of 1975-76, "Family Devotions in Every Baptist Home" was emphasized in publications and conferences. One church chairwoman said that all women in her church now hold family devotions. She knows, because she has visited them, one by one, and taught those who didn't know what to do, how to have them. She later went back to check up. When we were in her own home one evening, we had family devotions with her and her children. Several children said memory verses; we read from the Bible, sang and knelt to pray.

The officers toured all of the fields with the workshop team. Two big needs that were seen were the needs for better local meetings and for more 3-H groups. Good literate leadership is necessary. In many churches, the pastor is still the key and only such figure, and not all churches have pastors.

Four fields now have trained women's workers (girls with two to three years of Bible college training). The girls are young and primarily trained in pastoral subjects; so a need is seen for a revision in the training to include more practical subjects.

The new project of the Union in 1976 was Home Economics. After years of talk and work, two courses were finally held, one for ten days at Soppo and one for four weeks at Kom Baptist Teachers College, Belo, using college facilities. Attendance was about 40 and 18 respectively. (The Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society gave money for a sewing machine used in the courses). Both courses were very successful. Many kilo package articles contributed to this success.

Testimonies written by two of the students who attended the course at KBTC are as follows:

"We learned how to wash cement floors really clean. Now what shall I do when people want to come in with dirty shoes? . . . I did not know I had been in darkness, but after all I learned, I see things differently now . . . I want to call many women to my house and teach them all I learned . . . We learned how to remove stains and wash clothes in a new way . . . House craft taught us how to take care of our homes and fur-

nishings, and to make them last longer and look nicer . . . I am thankful God allowed me to complete my course before I delivered. . . . I learned so much about nutrition and good foods for my family . . . I want to start a New Life Club at home . . . I will not be afraid of leading any group now . . . I wished I could stay another month . . . I feel many more will attend next year . . . We should have many such courses throughout Cameroon."

The Women's Union sees a need for high level training of a Cameroonian in home economics who will be able to direct this phase of women's work in the future.

Evangelism

by Oryn G. Meinerts,
evangelism secretary

Area coordinators for evangelism and church growth. A great deal of the coordination of field and Convention activities and programs, stimulation of evangelism and church growth on local and field levels and leadership training is done by the four or five area coordinators and the field pastors.

Goals. We encourage the fields to set goals for themselves. At the same time, we have been pursuing the matter of setting goals for the C.B.C. and its departments.

Overseas pastoral scholarship program. This program has enhanced the ministries of seven Cameroonian pastors to date: The Rev. John Nfor, principal, B.B.T.C.; the Rev. Peter Jam and Pastor Charles Tangwa, field pastors, Belo and Banzo Fields respectively; the Rev. Philip Mamngong, pastor, Mbem Baptist Church; the Rev. Stephen Bangsi, Nkwen Baptist Church, Bamenda. The Rev. Samson Khama attended N.A.B.

CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION 1976

Executive secretary, Rev. Samuel Ngum
Field secretary, Rev. Oryn Meinerts

Field	15
Cameroon Baptist Convention Membership	39,027
Baptisms	1,827
Inquirers	3,886
Churches	574
Pastors	
Ordained	76
Non-ordained	359

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL, 1976

Administration
Mr. and Mrs. Oryn Meinerts, field secretary and women's work director
Mr. and Mrs. George Baab, treasurer
Miss Susan Krier, youth worker
Miss Ruby Salzman, C.B.C. office secretary
Miss Irene Hanik, short-term missionary

College; and the Rev. Manasses Nji, N.A.B. Seminary during 1976-77.

N.A.B. Seminary January term program in Cameroon. For the third straight year the Convention cooperated with N.A.B. Seminary in providing maximum exposure to the work of the Convention for two students, Mr. D. Fredricks and Mr. K. Priebe, during the month of January.

Literature and films. Publication of the women's manual, "We the Baptist Women," spiritual Emphasis Days materials for C.B.C. primary schools, "Baptist Voice," Field Bible Conference Lessons, and various courses continued.

Large quantities of literature from over 50 N.A.B. churches were received. Over 10,000 tracts were received from various tract distribution organizations. The demand for literature is always greater than the supply.

We received six films donated by World Wide Pictures. Several filmstrips using a Cameroon setting were made for teaching purposes by Mrs. Patricia Meinerts.

C.B.C. mission areas. The C.B.C. has three areas in which it assists the local fields in evangelism and church growth: Mamfe Central, Mamfe Oversight and Ndian. Many fields and several churches supported evangelists in underevangelized areas.

In order to encourage the mission areas to growth in their maturity, the convention adopted the policy of reduced subvention on a percentage basis and a timetable for complete financial withdrawal. As the mission areas become more mature, other underevangelized areas will be located and aided.

EDUCATION

Baptist Bible Training College, Ndu

by John N. Nfor, principal

Enrollment. On Sept. 6, 1976, the Baptist Bible Training College began its 30th year of service, with 66 students enrolled in the regular 3-year course and 17 in the Theological Certificate Course. Our entire Bible college family consists of 75 men, 8 girls, 18 wives and 43 children making a total of 145.

Teaching staff. The 1976-77 staff consisted of the following: Dr. and Mrs. E. K. Pasiciel, academic dean and vice principal; the Rev. and Mrs. D. Burgess; the Rev. J. S. Fumiak; Mrs. E. Michelson; Rev. B. M. Ngong; Miss T. Schmidt, director, Pastors' Wives Department, and the Rev. J. N. Nfor, principal.

Staff for 1977-78. The staff for 1977-78 gives us great concern. All of the missionaries here at B.B.T.C. are scheduled for furlough with the exception of Miss T. Schmidt.

Upgrading of program. With the 1977-78 school year the College is to begin a general upgrading of the entire academic program, staff, library and teaching resources. As of July 1, 1977, the College is to be known as the *Cameroon Baptist Theological College*. (It is hoped that a certificate of Theology and a Diploma of Theology will be undertaken in the next three years.)

Graduates. 15 students from the third year course and 17 from the Theological Certificate Course graduated on June 19, 1977. (This school provides pastoral leadership and women's workers for the Cameroon Baptist Convention.)

Building need. The most pressing building need is the construction of a Women's Department building which will include a student recreational room and a new staff house. Also, the matter of painting our buildings we consider to be an urgent need.

Pastors' Wives Department, B.B.T.C.

by Tina Schmidt, director



The Pastors' Wives Department boasted of three female teachers as compared to one during last year. Thus two subjects could be taught at the same time. The sewing classes were divided into smaller groups where individual attention was needed.

Housecraft was taught the first term. Useful items such as polish and cleanser were made out of available material; palm oil was used in the polish and wood ashes in the cleanser.



Seventeen wives are enrolled. One encouragement is the unusual fact that all the incoming wives could speak Pidgin English! Much of the progress of the wives can be attributed to their husbands' help, and that in turn depends on what the husband's attitude is toward his wife.

Our long-range hope is that in a few years the College will have a building where we can expand our Home Economics program.

Primary and Post Primary Education

by E. W. Yankuma, education secretary

The Cameroon Baptist Convention educational institutions totalled 74 primary schools in both North West and South West Province. At the beginning of the year the government decided to take over nine primary schools and propose to take over 11 more.

We would be left with a total of 54 schools to supply students to the existing four post primary schools. The drop in attendance in both rural and urban area schools is incredibly steep and consequently threatening. The drop is caused by the introduction of new fee rates.

There are about 390 teachers teaching in those primary schools; a goodly percent of them are Grade II teachers.

Buildings and furniture. The lack of money to either put up new buildings or carry out necessary repairs has an unfortunate corresponding lack of interest in the teachers to do minor repairs with materials children could bring, to the extent that some of the school buildings are torn up and are looking most unsightly. Damaged furniture is hardly repaired much less replaced.

Post primary institutions. We operate four post primary institutions: Saker Baptist College, Victoria, a girls' college, and Baptist Boys Secondary School, Great Soppo; Kom Baptist Technical College, and Joseph Merrick Baptist College, Ndu, both co-educational.

Staffing. Staffing remains a problem in the area of science. Nearly all of our colleges are understaffed with graduates of the Baptist faith, thus this raises the question as to the influences students in our college pass through. We received no short-term missionaries last year. We would appreciate short-term missionary services as well as regular missionaries!

School buildings. Because the financial position of the colleges is healthier than that of the primary schools, the college buildings and their furniture are kept in very reasonable repairs. There is great need for special buildings: J.M.B.C.; a laboratory; K.B.T.C.; a workshop; B.B.S.S.; a laboratory. All four institutions need a chapel.

There is also need for more housing on campus for tutors in K.B.T.C. and J.M.B.C.

School discipline. Tremors of strikes by the primary school teachers for non-salary payments quieted down with news of the availability of government subvention for salaries payment. The principals and staff have main-

tained good discipline in their colleges. The good performance at the G.C.E. examination is due to good climate which is conducive to good teaching and living.

Religious activities. In both primary and post primary institutions, religious activities, youth organizations, inquirers classes, spiritual emphasis and special religious programs are being organized. The purpose is to lead students to Christ and provide means of soul nurturing.

As yet the schools form the most fertile field of evangelization. If we should lose our primary schools, God should show us another way to reach children with his Word.

Saker Baptist College

by William N. Tayui, principal

Saker Baptist College has continued to flourish as a Christian secondary school with an up-to-date reputation within the entire Cameroon population. It has become a common and well-known fact that many Cameroonian parents struggle to have their daughters admitted to Saker College because, as they say, there is strict discipline. Here at Saker, we are concerned about the spiritual needs of the girls as well as their academic achievements.

Staffing. Staffing still remains our major problem. In the history of Saker Baptist College, missionary personnel at the college has never at any one time been reduced to a single missionary as it is now, with only Miss Wilma Binder on the staff of Saker as against twelve missionaries in 1971/72! One great change that is taking place is the fact that our Baptist Christian influence continues to dwindle as a result of the lack of those who were well brought up in the Baptist faith. At present, our staff is mixed; one can hardly keep from employing tutors who have not been brought up in the Baptist way, because we need their field of specialization in the school. This is the main reason why we still need Baptist missionaries and Baptist nationals concerned with our Baptist faith in our post primary institutions.

We need qualified missionary science teachers in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, etc. The Christ-filled missionaries are more devoted, more sincere and more concerned with sharing Christ, as well as devoted in their duties. At the end of the 1976/77 academic year, Miss Wilma Binder, who has been the life wire of the School, leaves on furlough. Miss Eunice Kern is to replace her. We need science teachers. We will need full-time missionaries but meanwhile can manage with the short-term ones.

Students. The student body totaled 360 girls (33% Baptists, 55% Presbyterians, and 12% Catholics and other denominations).

Academic work. Our students give excellent performances in the University of London General Certificate of Education 'O' Level, which the school writes at the end of every academic year. Our acceptance by the general public as a Christian institution of high moral and spiritual quality as well as our academic

standards continue to sell the college to the Cameroon population.

Christian activities. The School has a 3-H group, organized by Miss Wilma Binder. The entire population of Victoria and Fako Division is reached with our annual Christmas concerts and Easter programs. Both students and staff were greatly blessed and strengthened during Spiritual Emphasis weekend in May.

Finances. The school continues to suffer financial difficulties as a result of rising costs and the over-inflation now in the Cameroon society. Staff salaries have gone up considerably. Food costs have doubled. The Government Grant, which was calculated on the basis of the existing staff as was the case in previous years, is no longer the case. The Government just decides on a figure arbitrarily without the assessment of the cost involved.

National social insurance. We are now required to pay for social insurance to cover our staff and non-teaching staff for industrial accidents, pension schemes and family allowances.

Electricity costs. Our source of great alarm is the high cost of electricity which is now 500% higher than what we used to pay. The water bills have more than doubled, too.

Fire accident. On Feb. 13, 1976, the school suffered a fire disaster which destroyed property. Through the aid of Miss Kern, some of the costumes were replaced from her personal money. The building has since been repaired through donations from Cameroon Baptist Convention, Presbyterian churches, the general public and parents of Saker College girls.

Conclusion. Miss Wilma Binder has done an outstanding service to the school in many ways. Miss Eunice Kern is to be commended for her active participation and vitality as a spiritual force in the school. Many faithful nationals are to be commended for their sacrifices and contributions to the growth of the school.

Joseph Merrick Baptist College

by Robinson F. Fominyen, principal

The College is co-educational and runs a five-year secondary school course which prepares the students for the Ordinary Level General Certificate of Education Examinations of the University of London. The enrollment has increased: 270 boys; 142 girls. The staff is composed of 1 American, 1 Indian and 19 Cameroonians. There are only four graduate teachers.

Religious activities. Mr. O. N. Wari, chaplain, is in charge of all religious activities. A religious census of the college shows the following: Baptists, 224; Presbyterians, 110; Catholics, 53; Moslems, 25.

With the non-recognition of Religious Knowledge by the government as a qualification for employment, we are finding difficulties in teaching the subject.

The students attend Sunday worship services in the churches of their denominations. The Baptist members attend Sunday worship

services in B.B.T.C. Chapel. We have a college choir, but we need a J.M.B.C. chapel.

Other activities. The college takes part in all sporting activities in the Division. Farm work was introduced last year. The children take keen interest in this, since it is backed by government. We have also introduced the permanent keeping of cows.

Housing. Housing is not adequate. Dormitories are getting smaller, as the enrollment grows. Tutors' quarters are inadequate; the old buildings are getting bad.

This College needs more short-term teachers especially in the sciences. The college is in desperate need of an engine for the old generator.

Baptist Boys Secondary School, Soppo

by Flavius K. Martin, principal

The second year in the life of B.B.S.S., 1976-77, may be termed a year of growth and progress: increased enrollment, increased staffing and stronger recognition from external institutions. There are 217 students enrolled and 10 staff members. There are 43 Baptists, 100 Presbyterians, 73 Catholics.

Religious Emphasis. With the addition of Miss Bernice Westermann and the Rev. Nteff to the college, religious emphasis has greatly improved. Miss Westermann serves as religious adviser, and Rev. Nteff is chaplain. Pastor Nteff runs inquirers' classes two afternoons a week, a mid-week devotional Bible study and Sunday vespers. On Sunday mornings, students go to their respective churches.

Staffing. A good college depends on the educational qualification and moral qualities of its staff members. Our B.B.S.S. staff is professionally and spiritually good. Emphasis has been placed both on academic and practical subjects such as sports and agriculture. Students are responsible for compound cleaning. They are taught to take pride in manual work. However, we have greatly depended on part-time tutors this year in the areas of math, literature and agriculture. As the college expands, however, one needs permanent staff for stability and continuity. Consequently, our staff needs for 1977/78 would include a graduate tutor in English, in science/mathematics, and in music/arts.

Fees. The greatest setback this year has been in the cutback in fees per student in agreement with government decree establishing fees. This reduction has resulted in a budget cut. Therefore money remains one of the biggest worry items in the survival of the college. B.B.S.S., until now, has no government grants.

Grants to the college. We have received word of a sizable library book grant from the British Council to the college, through the ELTA representative in Bamenda. We are also pleased to report the donation of books to the college library from the British Council, London, through the IVS representative in Cameroon. The books are still awaited.

We need equipment in the science area.

Science equipment ordered from England is still eagerly awaited, and the need to build a new science laboratory is envisaged in the next three years. Equipment of classrooms, replacement of desks and renovation are still a dire necessity.

Goals and needs. Our needs are many; these include personnel, equipment, renovation, construction and transport. One is the construction of a science lab and the other is the purchase of a college vehicle. We have run the college for two years without an official transport. B.B.S.S. would be pleased to receive any vehicle which is to be given away.

Kom Baptist Vocational Technical College

by Jeremiah N. Waindim,
principal

The teachers' program. Due to an oversupply of teachers, the final class of teachers was transferred from B.T.T.C., Soppo, to, K.B.T.C., Njinikijem, and graduated in June 1976. This brought the C.B. Convention's Grade II teachers' training program to an end. All in the class passed the Teacher's Grade II Certificate Examination, thus giving this college a hundred percent success for the first time. B.T.T.C. was converted to a boys' secondary school (B.B.S.S.) and K.B.T.C. to a vocational school.

The vocational technical program has reached its third year. There are 193 boys and 61 girls (138 Baptists, 44 Presbyterian, 52 Catholics, 18 others) enrolled. The staff consists of 12 Cameroonians, two North Americans, and one other.

The college is in need of qualified instructors in trade areas: electricity (degree holder), agriculture, and business education (degree holder). If we do not get an instructor for Electricity, I am afraid that students wanting to take Electricity may revolt.

We need a home economics wing, a science laboratory, a library, staff offices, dormitories, staff residences, and a concrete floor.

Major activities are agriculture and construction.

In the garden are grown vegetables, such as tomatoes, cabbages, carrots and beet root. The produce is sold. One-third of the sales is given to each student and two-thirds to the school for the purchase of seeds and tools and for maintenance during vacation. A poultry house is being constructed by students taking Construction. Students, under the direction of Mr. Lemke, built a kiln for the burning of bricks, a hand-wash basin and enlarged the kitchen.

Religious activities. About 76 percent of the students are Baptists. The college is deeply concerned with the spiritual and moral lives of its students. Religion is one of its compulsory subjects. Since the teachers' program phased out, the third-year students show keen interest in the teaching of Sunday school; although they are still young. Students continue

to go out to teach Sunday school in the near-by churches every Sunday. Morning and evening prayers form the main characteristics of the daily lives of the students. Several choir groups exist in the college, thus students learn to praise God through songs. About eight students have accepted Christ and will be baptized this year.

The staff of K.B.T.C. is trying to work hard to support the spread of the gospel in this area by giving their contributions through payroll deductions. Most members of the staff find joy in giving through this system. □

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL, 1976 Education

Miss Wilma Binder
Miss Eunice Kern thru June
Mr. and Mrs. Berndt Lemke
Miss Joyce Lind from August
Rev. and Mrs. Larry Scheffler
Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Schlafmann
Miss Berneice Westerman
Mr. Darryl Hein* thru June
Miss Marianne Kuhn* thru June
Miss Helen F. Lengefeld* thru June
*short-term

Theological Education

Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary

by Ernest K.
Pasiciel,
vice principal,
B.B.T.C.



By action of the 1975 Executive Council of the Cameroon Baptist Convention the opening of the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary was postponed indefinitely. The entire theological education program of the Cameroon Baptist Convention is to be upgraded. The Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary is a part of this new program; seminary level training is to be instituted in



1981/82 after the implementation of the Diploma of Theology Course.
The library resources have been transferred to the Baptist Bible Training College for the interim.

The need for improved and advanced theological training in Cameroon is great, but so are the resources necessary for its proper implementation!

Theological Education by Extension

by Arthur G.
Helwig,
administrator



The T.E.E. Ministry has made a definite impact on students, churches and fields, where it has been seriously embraced. The most evident, beneficial result is noticed in pastoral efficiency in the local church. Confidence, enthusiasm in evangelism and determined well-planned programs often indicate lessons well-learned.

In 1976 we realized an enrollment increase of 58 percent. Slightly over 300 courses were completed in 10 fields. The Bible College is giving credit for T.E.E. Courses toward the Certificate Program; this has stimulated many trainees to enroll. We have a goal of increasing enrollment by another 50% in 1977. □

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL, 1976
Pastoral Education
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Pasiciel
Rev. and Mrs. David H. Burgess
Miss Ernstina Schmidt

DANKBAR SEIN IN ALLEN DINGEN

Vom Schriftleiter notiert

In diesem Jahr sind alle Mitglieder des Nordamerikanischen Baptistenbundes aufgefordert, den Monat Oktober zu einem Festmonat des Dankens zu machen. Der Inhalt des *Baptist Herald* ist ganz auf dieses Thema eingestellt.

Ich bin persönlich sehr froh, dass diesmal die Danksagungsbeziehung gleichzeitig an unsere Geschwister in den Vereinigten Staaten und in Kanada gerichtet ist. Da das Erntedankfest in Kanada gewöhnlich im Oktober gefeiert wird, fühlen sich die meisten Amerikaner von dem Thema noch nicht angesprochen, weil sie erst an ihrem "Thanksgiving Day" Ende November in die rechte Dankstimmung kommen. Da ist es dann selbst bei der Gestaltung unserer Bundeszeitschriften schwer, zur rechten Zeit den rechten Ton zu finden.

Diesmal aber werden wir als Nordamerikanische Baptisten beiderseits der Grenze durch Plakate in unseren Kirchen, durch Broschüren, durch besondere Predigten, wie auch durch diesen *Baptist Herald/Der Sendbote* zum Danken angeregt, und zwar bereits im Monat Oktober. Wir wollen als Ursachen zum Danken an den Segen denken, den wir in unseren Ortsgemeinden erhalten haben. Unsere Herzen sollten froh werden, wenn wir bedenken, dass trotz grosser Unruhe am Welthorizont unsere Missionsfelder in Kamerun, Nigeria, Japan und Brasilien gewachsen sind. Beim Betrachten der Wachstumskurve der Neulandmissionsarbeit (Church Extension) werden wir gar nicht anders koennen, als Gott von Herzen zu danken. Und wenn wir dann noch an das Seminar in Sioux Falls und das College in Edmonton denken, an die Segensarbeit der God's Volunteers, an den treuen Einsatz der Frauenmissionsgruppen, dann braucht es nicht mehr viel, um uns zum Loben und Danken einzustimmen.

Aber noch ein Gedenktag sollte uns dankbar machen: **Der Reformationstag.** In diesem Sommer hatte ich das Vorrecht, die Stadt Zuerich zu besuchen. Beim Anblick des Grossmuensters wurde ich daran erinnert, wie der Reformator Huldrych Zwingli an dieser Staette sich fuer die unverfaelschte Verkuendigung des Wortes Gottes eingesetzt hatte. Zwingli hatte lieber auf die paepstlichen Renten verzichtet, statt auf den Grundsatz: "Das Wort tut's!"

Auch wenn der Reformationstag eigentlich an das Anschlagen der Thesen durch Martin Luther erinnern soll, durch welches die Reformation eingeleitet wurde, so wollen wir dankbar auch der Hussiten gedenken, die unter der Fuehrung des Prager Reformators Jan Hus das Recht auf freie Wortverkuendigung forderten.

Die Liste der Reformatoren koennte hier fortgefuehrt werden. Aber ich will keiner Heldenverehrung das Wort reden. Mir geht es vielmehr darum, dass wir uns bei aller Dankbarkeit fuer den furchtlosen Einsatz der Reformatoren fragen, ob auch sie ein Recht haetten, auf uns, ihre Nachfahren, stolz zu sein. Trotz meiner Liebe zu vielen Religionsgemeinschaften kann ich doch oft nicht umhin, mich von einigen religioesen oder sogenannten religioesen Gruppen abzusetzen. Wenn mich Hare Krischna Moenche oder Rev. Moon Anhaenger in ein Gespraeche ueber ihre Religionsschriften verwickeln wollen, lasse ich es gar nicht erst dazu kommen. Sie wollen gewoehnlich nichts von Jesus hoeren, und ihre Geschichten anzu hoeren, dazu ist mir die Zeit zu kostbar.

Luther, Zwingli, Hus und andere Reformatoren waren bereit, das Wort Gottes zu verteidigen, wo man es angreifen wollte. Dazu sollen auch wir bereit sein. Aber von unfruchtbaren Gespraechen sollten wir lieber absehen, um frei zu sein, sich der Gotteskindschaft und unserer Erloesung zu freuen. Und Gott sagt: "Wer Dank opfert, der preiset mich." RJK

Noetiger als Brot
und alle guten Gaben
ist, dass wir dich, Herr Christ,
auf unsrer Wegfahrt haben.

Du bist Brot und Wein,
Wer koennte ohn' dich leben
und ohn' den hellen Schein,
den du der Welt gegeben?

Welt, bedenk es wohl,
was Gott dir gab aus Gnaden,
da Lieb' aus Liebe quoll,
geh, Welt, auf Gottes Pfaden.

Noetiger als Brot
Und alle guten Gaben
ist, dass wir dich, Herr Christ,
auf unsrer Wegfahrt haben.

Gerhard Fritzsche

DER SENDBOTE

Monatsbeilage zum
baptist herald

der Nordamerikanischen Baptisten

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

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Durch Reformation zur Freiheit!

von D. Niemoeller

Der Protestantismus verdankt seine Existenz der Reformation im 16. Jahrhundert, der Wiederentdeckung des Evangeliums als der Botschaft, durch die Gott den Menschen persönlich anspricht, und zwar so, dass er auf seinen Anruf eine persönliche Antwort von ihm erwartet. Indem Gott uns in Jesus Christus begegnet und indem er uns in dieser Begegnung eine Stellungnahme zu ihm abverlangt, die kein anderer uns abnehmen kann, macht er uns von jeder anderen Autorität frei. Wir können nicht anders, als ihm selber in eigener, persönlicher Verantwortung unsere Antwort geben. Da hat unsere Freiheit, unsere Glaubensfreiheit, unsere Gewissensfreiheit ihren Grund. Und das, was sich aus dieser Begegnung ergibt, können wir keiner fremden Autorität, weder des Staates noch der Kirche, noch irgend einer anderen Autorität ausliefern.

Diese Begegnung schafft dadurch Freiheit, dass sie ganz an Gott und an ihn allein bindet. Wer diese Freiheit kennt, der wird sie nicht preisgeben können, weil er damit sich selbst als Mensch und als Kind Gottes preisgeben würde. Wir können nichts anderes und nichts besseres und wichtigeres tun als die Botschaft Gottes hören und weitersagen, allen irdischen Autoritäten zum Trotz, die den Menschen unter ihren totalen Anspruch knechten wollen.

Das ist nun die entscheidende Frage für den Protestantismus heute, ob wir Jesus als den Befreier der

Menschen, als Erlöser dieser verlorenen Welt verkuendigen und bezeugen. Hier liegt seine grosse Aufgabe und von hier aus wird deutlich, dass die Noete, in die wir in der protestantischen Welt geraten sind, heilsame Noete sein sollen. Wir haben nicht für die Freiheit zu kämpfen, obwohl die Freiheit der Kinder Gottes unser höchstes Gut ist, für das wir Gott täglich und niemals genug zu danken haben. Wir haben auch nicht die andern davon zu überzeugen, dass diese Freiheit doch mehr wert ist als alles, worum die Menschen sich mühen und wofür sie mit so fragwürdigen Waffen und Mitteln gegeneinander kämpfen und darüber nur immer tiefer in Neid, Feindschaft und Hass hineingeraten.

Was wir zu tun haben, ist die Verkuendigung des Befreiers, dem alle Gewalt gehört. Gegen ihn wird keine Waffe, kein Schwert und kein Hass irgend etwas ausrichten; aber er mit seiner göttlichen Menschen- und Sünderliebe, er mit seinem Opfer und seinem Erbarmen wird den Sieg gewinnen!

Die Gegenwartsfrage an den Protestantismus ist also eine Frage des Herrn Christus: ob wir's auf ihn hin wagen wollen, den Weg seiner Nachfolge zu gehen oder ob wir nach diesem oder jenem politischen Strohalm greifen. Tun wir ihm unser Herz auf und verkuendigen wir in dieser Welt Jesus von Nazareth, die wir durch ihn wieder Menschen und freie Kinder Gottes werden sollen und dürfen. □

Um was es bei der Reformation ging

von Wilhelm Busch

"Nun, wir denn sind gerecht geworden durch den Glauben, so haben wir Frieden mit Gott durch unsern Herrn Jesus Christus" (Römer 5,1).

Es gibt viele Menschen, die feiern das Reformationsfest wie — ja wie einen Museumsbesuch. Wenn ich ein Museum besuche, dann bewundere ich wohl voll Ehrfurcht die alten Münzen, Kleider und Bilder. Aber dann gehe ich wieder fort und lasse alles an seinem Platz. Ich könnte ja auch im Leben nichts anfangen mit diesen Dingen.

So dürfen wir nicht das Reformationsfest feiern! Bei der Reformation ging es nämlich um eine Frage, die mich heute in meiner Lage brennend berührt.

Um was ging es denn in der Reformation?

Es ging nicht um die Frage einer deutschen Sprache und Kultur. Es ging nicht um soziale Forderungen und Refor-

men. Es ging auch nicht um die deutsche Nation oder eine romfreie Kirche. Das fiel alles noch dabei ab, wie die Spaene beim Hobeln. Aber es ging um das Hobeln, nicht um die Spaene.

Um was ging es denn den Reformatoren?

Es ging einzig und allein um die Frage: "Wie bekomme ich Sünder Frieden mit Gott?" Das ist die brennendste aller Fragen. Wehe uns, wenn sie von uns nicht gestellt und beantwortet wird!

Als die Reformatoren diese Frage mit Ernst stellten, da merkten sie: Kein Mensch kann die Frage beantworten. Hier versagt jeder noch so gut gemeinte menschliche Vorschlag.

So kamen sie an Gottes Wort, an die Bibel. Und hier fanden sie das zweite: Kein Mensch kann von sich aus mit Gott Frieden machen, so wenig der Schuldige mit dem Gesetz Frieden machen kann.

Aber Gott hat Frieden gemacht. Als Jesus für uns starb, hat Gott Frieden gemacht mit Sündern.

Als die Reformatoren das erkannten, griffen sie im Glauben zu. Und wir?

Der feiert recht Reformationsfest, der es ebenso macht.

Mit Paul Speratus (1484-1551) bekennen wir:

"Es ist das Heil uns kommen her von Gnad und lauter Güte; die Werk, die helfen nimmermehr, sie mögen nicht behuten. Der Glaub sieht Jesum Christum an, der hat gnug für uns getan, Er ist der Mittler worden.

Sei Lob und Ehr mit hohem Preis um grosser Guttat willen, Gott, Vater, Sohn und Heil'gem Geist. Der woll mit Gnad erfüllen, was Er in uns anfangen hat zu Ehren Seiner Majestät, dass heilig werd Sein Name;

Sein Reich zukomm; Sein Will auf Erds'cheh wie im Himmelsthron; das täglich Brot noch heut uns werd; woll unsrer Schuld verschonen, als wir auch unsern Schuldner tun; lass uns nicht in Versuchung stehn; loes uns vom Uebel. Amen." □

Jesus beschaemt den Egoisten

Text zur Geschichte von der Speisung der 5000 nach Johannes 6 aus: Johnson Gnanabaranam, "Heute, mein Jesus", zur Gedankenanstregung am Erntedanksonntag. Der Verfasser ist in Suedindien beheimatet.

Eine Mutter spricht: "Mein lieber Sohn, mein kluger Sohn, höre, was deine Mutter dir sagt. Als ich aus dem Brunnen Wasser schöpfte, vernahm ich: 'Jesus' von dem wir grosse Dinge erwarten, kommt in unsere Gegend. Er wird predigen, er wird heilen.' Nun gehe du hin und schaue alles an und komme wieder und erzähle mir, was du erlebt hast. Ich habe dir Brot und Fisch eingepackt. Gehe hin in Frieden, mein lieber Sohn, mein kluger Sohn."

"Mein lieber Sohn, mein kluger Sohn, du bist bei Jesus gewesen. Was hat er gesagt? Mein Herz ist voller Erwartung."

"Liebe Mutter, ich kam zu einer grossen Wiese. Die Jünger hiessen die Volksmenge sich in Gruppen zusammensetzen. Ich wollte essen, aber neben mir sass eine Menge hungrige Leute. So öffnete ich mein Paket nicht. Ich hätte sonst mit ihnen teilen müssen. Plötzlich kamen die Jünger und verteilten Brot und Fisch. Ich bekam von beidem übergenug. Es hat herrlich geschmeckt. Ich habe mich rundherum sattgegessen. Und sieh, das Essen, das du mir mitgabst, habe ich unangeboren wieder mitgebracht." "Aber mein lieber Sohn, was hat Jesus gepredigt?"

"Er hat eine lange Predigt gehalten. Weil er alle Leute sattgemacht hatte, wollten wir ihn zum König machen. Aber plötzlich war er nicht mehr da."

Eine andere Mutter spricht: "Mein lieber Sohn, mein barmherziger Sohn, höre, was deine Mutter dir sagt. Als ich aus dem Brunnen Wasser schöpfte, vernahm ich: Jesus, von dem wir grosse Dinge erwarten, kommt in unsere Gegend. Er wird predigen, er wird heilen.' Nun gehe du hin und schaue alles an und komme wieder und erzähle mir, was du erlebt hast. Ich habe dir Brot und Fisch eingepackt. Gehe in Frieden, mein lieber Sohn, mein barmherziger Sohn."

"Mein lieber Sohn, mein barmherziger Sohn, du bist bei Jesus gewesen. Was hat er gesagt? Mein Herz ist voller Erwartung."

"Liebe Mutter, Jesus sagte: 'Ich bin das Brot des Lebens. Wer an mich glaubt, der hat das ewige Leben. Wer zu mir kommt, den werde ich nicht hinausstoßen.' Meine

J. Gnanabaranam lebt in Indien, wo er sich hauptsächlich schriftstellerisch betätigt.

Mutter, sogar ein Kind kann Jesu Rede verstehen. Jesus heilte auch viele Kranke."

"Mein lieber Sohn, hat das Essen, das ich dir mitgab, gereicht?"

"Liebe Mutter, es ist gut, dass du mir so reichlich mitgabst. Bei mir sass ein Kind, das hungrig war. Ich gab ihm von meinem Essen. Dann sah ich bei mir einen der Jünger Jesu. Ich sprach: 'Herr, darf ich Ihnen etwas Essen anbieten?' Ich gab ihm alles, was ich hatte. Der Jünger gab das Essen an Jesus weiter. Jesus segnete das

Brot und den Fisch und gab beides seinen Jüngern. Die Jünger gaben das Essen weiter an die Leute. Alle wurden satt. Mutter, was du mir gabst, machte alle Leute satt."

"Wirklich, mein Sohn? — Hast du Jesus auch von nahem gesehen?"

"Liebe Mutter, der Jünger, der Andreas heisst, nahm mich zu Jesus. Der legte seine Hand auf meinen Kopf und sagte: 'Geben ist seliger als Nehmen' " (Apostelgesch. 20, 35). □

MEIN BESUCH IN DER SOWJET UNION

Schluss

Text und Fotos vom Schriftleiter

Meine Taufpredigt in der Moskauer Baptistengemeinde ist auf dem Text aus Römer 6, 3-4 gegründet, in dem es darum geht, dass wir mit Christus begraben werden und auferstehen. Die andächtig lauschenden Männer und Frauen nickten mit den Köpfen und unterstreichen mit verschiedenen Gesten die Verkuendigung. Da sie jeweils auf die Übersetzung warten mussten, konnten sie das Gesagte langsam um so besser aufnehmen.

Nach der Botschaft singt der Chor, während ich von der hohen Kanzelempore steige und mich neben den Prediger stelle, der gleich die Taufhandlung durchführen soll. Ursprünglich hatte Prediger Tchernopjatov schon einige Tage zuvor mich gebeten, die Gläubigen zu taufen, aber ich hatte dankend abgelehnt. So gerne ich die Verkuendigung angenommen habe, so fühle ich doch, dass die Taufhandlung als solche von dem Prediger vorgenommen werden soll, der die Kandidaten kennt. Auf keinen Fall will ich aus

der Taufe ein persönliches, abenteuerliches Erlebnis für mich machen.

Bruder Michael Tchernopjatov richtet sich mit einigen ermahnenden und erbauenden Worten an die Taufkandidaten, und dann steigt er mit dem ersten Taufling in das Wasser. Die Versammlung geht gefühlsvoll mit. Ein verhaltenes Rauschen erfüllt das Gotteshaus von den Gebeten der Gläubigen, die Gott für die Tauflinge preisen und sie dem Herrn zum Schutz anbefehlen.

Helfer stehen mit grossen weissen Handtüchern bereit, in die sie die nassen Tauflinge hüllen. Um ihnen dann Zeit zum Umkleiden zu geben, singen der Chor (Fortsetzung auf Seite 6)



(Links oben) Helferinnen mit weissen Tüchern

(Links) Tauflinge vor der Taufe

(Rechts oben) Pred. Tchernopjatov bei der Taufe



ERNTEDANK UND WIR STAEDTER

von Hilde Sayers

Das Erntedankfest wird in den meisten Laendern im Oktober gefeiert. Ich entsinne mich noch der beladenen Tische aus meiner Kind- und Jugendzeit, die mit dem schoensten Gemuese, Obst und Getreide geschmueckt waren. Es wurde auch ein besonderes Erntedankopfer erhoben. Ich muss gestehen, dass ich dieses Erntedankfest in unserer Gemeinde sehr vermisse. Nicht weil ich sentimental bin, auch nicht weil ich etwas aus dem Gesetz des Alten Testamentes in eine neutestamentliche Gemeinde hinuberretten moechte. Dennoch ... hin und wieder brauchen wir besondere Anlaesse, um uns zu besinnen, wem wir unsere taegliche Nahrung zu verdanken haben. Auch wenn wir nicht auf eigener Scholle ernten koennen, so haben wir doch das Vorrecht — zumindest vorlaeufig noch — alles in den Laeden kaufen zu koennen, was unser Herz begehrt. Wir sind nicht begeistert, wenn der Zucker-, Brot- oder Kartoffelpreis steigt, aber machen wir uns auch Gedanken ueber die groesseren Zusammenhaenge? Wir schimpfen vielleicht ueber die Bauern, weil sie sich gegen alles versichern lassen koennen und Subventionen vom Staat bekommen, aber waeren wir bereit, ihre Arbeit zu uebernehmen, das Risiko einzugehen, dass ein Obstbaum in voller Bluete oder ein wunderschones, reifes Kornfeld in wenigen Stunden durch ein Unwetter total zerstoert werden kann? Haben wir je einen Bauern ueber seine zerstoerte Ernte verzweifelt weinen sehen?

Gerade im letzten Sommer wurde uns durch die lange Trockenperiode bewusst, dass wir auf die Gnade Gottes angewiesen sind, und dass letzten Endes auch die besten menschlichen Bemuehungen scheitern koennen. Der Welthunger und

Hilde Sayers lebt in Bern, Schweiz, und ist Mitglied der dortigen Baptistengemeinde.

O Herr, ich pfluege mein Feld mit zaeher Geduld.
An dir ist es, den Fruehling zu schenken
und die Ernten ablaufen zu lassen
gemaess deiner Herrlichkeit.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

der Wassermangel sind uns bedenklich nahe gerueckt. Haben wir es nicht noetig, unserem Schoepfer Dank zu sagen, dass er uns vor Schlimmerem bewahrt hat? Waere nicht das Erntedankfest eine Moeglichkeit, einmal zweckbestimmt zu opfern? "... indem ihr in allem reich werdet zu Lauterkeit im Geben, die durch uns Dank gegen Gott bewirkt" (2 Kor. 9,11).

Vielleicht koennten wir dem Erntedankfest auch noch eine andere Bedeutung beimessen, dass wir uns naemlich selbst erneut Gott bringen. Geanausowenig wie Gott an den Suehnopfern der Israeliten Gefallen hatte, wenn sie nicht auch entsprechend Busse taten, haette er Gefallen an unserem Gemuese oder Geld. Gott moechte nicht etwas von unserem Besitz,

sondern uns, mit allem, was wir sind und was wir haben.

Unserer Dankbarkeit unserem Herrn und Erloeser gegenueber koennten wir damit Ausdruck verleihen, indem wir ihm unsere Herzen zum Opfer bringen: "Worueber soll klagen der Mensch, der da lebt? Ein jeder ueber seine Suende! Lasset uns pruefen und erforschen unsere Wege und umkehren zum Herrn! Lasset unsere Herzen als Opfer darbringen vor Gott im Himmel!" (Klagel. 3,39-41), oder wie Paulus in Roemer 12,1 schreibt: "Ich ermahne euch nun, ihr Brueder, beim Erbarmen Gottes, eure Leiber als ein lebendiges heiliges, Gott wohlgefaelliges Opfer hinzugeben: das sei euer vernunftgemaesser Gottesdienst." □

Lass dich gebrauchen

von Ursula Klukas

Wir sind zum Dienen berufen

"Dienet einander, ein jeglicher mit der Gabe, die er empfangen hat" (1. Petr. 4,10). Das ist unser Auftrag als geistliche Menschen, und es ist wichtig, dass wir unsere Gabe erkennen, mit der wir dienen koennen. Jesus sagt von sich selbst: "Des Menschen Sohn ist nicht gekommen, dass er sich dienen lasse, sondern dass er diene und gebe sein Leben zu einer Erloesung fuer viele." Jesus war immer bereit zu dienen, und wir duerfen ihm danken fuer das beste Vorbild, das wir in ihm haben.

Sind wir bereit zum Dienen?

Jesus mutet uns nur so viel zu, wie wir zu tun faehig sind, aber er erwartet unsere Bereitschaft. Wieviel leichter ist es, grosse Worte machen, aber wenn die Arbeit tatsaechlich vor uns liegt, haben wir Entschuldigungen. Petrus sagte auch: "Herr, ich bin bereit, mit dir zu sterben." Als aber die Pruefungszeit da war, versagte er vollkommen. Gottes Wort enthaelt viele Verheissungen, die uns des Herrn Hilfe zusagen fuer den Dienst. Die Voraussetzung zum gesegneten Dienst fuer Jesus ist allerdings, dass ich ein reines Gefaess bin, das gefuellt ist mit Gottes Heiligem Geist. Wir muessen uns taeglich seiner Reini-

gung hingeben, damit wir hell fuer Jesus leuchten koennen. Mir kommt das bekannte Lied in den Sinn:

"Jesus, der Herr, will mich brauchen,
ein Sonnenstrahl zu sein, der alle Tage hell
leuchtet, und nur fuer ihn allein. Fuer
Jesus, fuer Jesus will ich als Sonnenstrahl
leuchten. Fuer Jesus will ich ein Sonnen-
strahl sein."

Wo will der Herr uns gebrauchen?

Die Antwort auf diese Frage ist fuer mich als Frau und Mutter zunaechst: "In meiner Familie." Ich danke meinem Gott, dass er mir einen glaeubigen Mann zugefuehrt hat, und dass wir gemeinsam ihm dienen koennen. Die Bibel sagt: "Ein tugendsam Weib ist eine Krone ihres Mannes" (Spr. 12,4). Wir sind dem Mann zur Seite gestellt und sollen ihm eine Hilfe sein, die in seinem Tun unterstuetzt, ermuntert und nicht vergisst, ihn auch zu bewundern und zu loben. Wir lesen in Sprueche 31,10-31 ueber die Eigenarten des tugendsamen Weibes. Da steht an erster Stelle vom Verhaeltnis der Frau zum Mann. Wieviel segensreicher kann eine Ehe gefuehrt werden, wo die Frau den von Gott ihr zubestimmten Platz einnimmt!

Lass dich Gebrauchen in der Erziehung der Kinder.

Gott hat uns vier gesunde Kinder anvertraut, und ich danke dem Herrn fuer sie. Meine Aufgabe ist, sie zu selbstaendigen Menschen heranzuziehen, die ihre Abhaengigkeit von Gott erkennen lernen. Wie dankbar bin ich, dass ich diese verantwortungsvolle Aufgabe nicht alleine zu meistern brauche, sondern meine Anliegen Gott, dem Vater bringen kann, der mir allezeit dabei helfen will!

Lass dich gebrauchen unter deinen Nachbarinnen, Freundinnen und Arbeitskolleginnen. Die Moeglichkeiten sind gross, wo der Wille zum Dienen da ist. Lasst uns danken fuer jeden Menschen, sympatisch oder unsympatisch, den Gott in unsere Naeheliebt, und vergessen wir nicht unseren Auftrag!

Als glaeubige Schwestern wollen wir auch den rechten Platz in der Gemeinde einnehmen, sei es als Sonntagschulhelferin, im Chor, an Klavier oder Orgel, bei der Weisskreuzarbeit, im besonderen Dienst fuer die aelteren Geschwister oder allein als stille Beterin.

Wie sollen wir dienen?

Die Bibel sagt uns, dass wir mit Freuden, in der Liebe, aufrichtig, von ganzem Herzen und williger Seele, ohne Furcht und unser Leben lang dienen sollen.

Erst dann haben wir den rechten Sinn unseres Lebens erkannt, wenn wir bereit sind zu dienen nach dem Willen Gottes und unsere Erfuellung nicht im Gebrauch der Dinge und Menschen um uns herum suchen. Der Lohn ist uns verheissen, denn Jesus sagt: "Wer mir dienen wird, den wird mein Vater ehren" (Joh. 12,26). □

DAS KLEINE BAEUMCHEN

Im Garten steht ein Baeumchen,
Besonders klein;
Soll unter vielen andern
Es nuetzlich sein?

Die grossen tragen Blaetter,
Doch wenig Frucht.
Da wird beim kleinen Baeumchen
Nicht viel gesucht.

Trittst du dem Baeumchen naeher ...
Welch eine Pracht!
Drei grosse, schoene Aepfel!
Das Herze lacht!

Wir wollen hier im Ernste
Den Heiland nennen:
"An ihren Fruechten
Sollt ihr sie erkennen!"

Wir leben aus der Gnade,
Die ER uns gibt.
Es kommt zu guten Fruechten,
Weil er uns liebt!

Waldemar Laser

Die Liebe hoeret nimmer auf

von Myrtle Ertis

Das ist das Hauptthema fuer unsere Programm-Mappe fuer das Jahr 1978. Diese Mappen koennen nun vom Bundeshaus bestellt werden. Warum haben wir uns fuer ein so bekanntes und oft gebrauchtes Thema entschieden? Weil es durch die Jahrhunderte zeitnah und zeitgemaess gewesen ist, und es kann und will uns auch heute viel sagen. In Liebe begann Gott sein Werk mit den Menschen: in Liebe wird er es vollenden.

Gott ist Liebe. Aber sein Verlangen ist, nicht nur uns zu lieben; er will, dass wir durch seine Liebe in uns den Naechsten lieben. In 1. Kor. 13,8 wird uns diese Liebe beschrieben — ihre uebertragende Groesse und ihre Unvergaenglichkeit.

Um uns zu helfen, schenkt Gott uns seinen Geist. Die Frucht seines Geistes ist Liebe (Gal. 5,22). Unsere Programm-Mappe beschreibt uns die Frucht des Geistes als Liebe, deren Vielseitigkeit geschildert ist als Freude, Friede, Geduld oder Langmut, Freundlichkeit, Guetigkeit, Sanftmut und Keuschheit.

Schwestern aus unseren Gemeinden haben uns diese Liebe praktisch vor Augen gefuehrt in ihren reichhaltigen Beitrageen zu dieser Mappe:

Sie haben sich gemueht, und gearbeitet in der LIEBE;

Myrtle Ertis lebt in Kelowna, BC. Gemeinsam mit ihrem Mann Waldemar Ertis dient sie als Predigerfrau der dortigen Gnaden Baptistengemeinde.

sie taten es mit FREUDEN, waehrend der FRIEDE Gottes ihre Herzen erfuellte. Sie muethen sich mit GEDULD im lebendigen GLAUBEN, und geleitet von der GUETE Gottes, waren sie willig, diese lebenswichtigen Themen niederzuschreiben.

Unsere Missionare haben durch ihre Berichte uns packend und bildhaft ihre Erfahrungen vor Augen gefuehrt. Manche dieser Erlebnisse waren unseren Erfahrungen aehnlich, aber von dem exotischen Lebensstil des jeweiligen Missionslandes eingerahmt. Bitte lest zum Beispiel den tiefen, einblickgewaehrenden Artikel "Die Einwirkung des Kreuzes in Japan"; oder geht doch mal mit einer Frau in Westafrika zur Glaubenskonzferenz!

Bei dieser Gelegenheit moechte ich allen Mitarbeitern herzlich danken fuer ihre selbstlosen Opfer an Muehe und Zeit. Sie haben durch ihre wichtigen Beitrage es ermöglicht, diese Programm-Mappe zu gestalten.

Gott segne euch und leite euch in all euren Planen, in euren Versammlungen und Diensten! Der Herr segne euch, indem ihr von der Mappe gebrauch macht, gemass den verschiedenen Anliegen und Beduerfnissen. Moegen euch diese mit viel Liebe und nach bestem Koennen vorbereiteten Themen, Andachten und Programme zum inneren Gewinn werden und zur Verherrlichung des Jesusnamens dienen! □

MEIN BESUCH

(Fortsetzung von Seite 3)

und die Versammlung mehrere Lieder. Niemand hat Eile. Jeder will dieses Tauffest genießen und lässt sich Zeit.

Dann reihen sich die neugetauften Geschwister in den vordersten Reihen auf, und ich bin wieder an der Reihe. Man hat mich aufgefordert, den Täuflingen einige geistliche Ratschläge auf den Lebensweg mitzugeben. Nie werde ich die strahlenden Gesichter vor mir vergessen. Der Glaubensschritt der Taufe scheint ihre Gesichter noch leuchtender gemacht zu haben. Mit Handauflegung befehlen Prediger Tchernopjatov und ich sie der Gnade Gottes an.

Nach einem letzten Chorlied und Gebet bricht das nicht enden wollende Gruessen los. Von allen Seiten draengen sich die Gläubigen heran, um den Täuflingen Blumensträuße zu überreichen und sie zu küssen. Und plötzlich fühle ich mich nicht mehr wie ein Besucher. Mitten in dem Gedraenge und den Umarmungen geschieht es, dass ich mich ganz eins fühle mit diesen meinen geistlichen Geschwistern. Sprachmaangel scheinen kein Verständigungshindernis zu sein. Ich verstehe jetzt diese Menschen hier in ihrer Freude, in ihrem Leid, in ihrer Freiheit trotz äusseren Einschränkungen, und ich liebe sie! Und sie lassen mich ihre Liebe spüren.

Nach endlosen Umarmungen, Kuessen und Segenswünschen fahren mich die Brüder zum Hotel zurück. Morgen soll es nach Amerika zurückgehen. Die Koffer müssen gepackt werden, aber ich kann all die Eindrücke der vergangenen Stunden einfach nicht beiseite schieben und zur Tagesordnung übergehen. So schlüpfte ich nochmal aus dem Hotel und wandere den dunklen Moskwa-Fluss entlang. Die Stadt ist still. Aber in meinem Innern pocht es laut. Ich möchte diesen Christen hier mit Bibeln helfen, denn nur ungefähr jeder fünfte Christ hat eine eigene Bibel. Ich möchte ihnen Gesangsbücher geben, denn unter fünfzehn Gottesdienstbesuchern hat wohl nur einer ein Buch. Je mehr ich an die eingeschränkten Umstände meiner Glaubensgeschwister in der Sowjet Union denke, desto luxuriöser kommt mir mein Leben vor. Zu Hause kann ich zu jeder Zeit zumindest ein christliches Radioprogramm einschalten. In meiner Bibliothek habe ich nicht nur eine, sondern viele Bibeln in mehreren Sprachen und Übersetzungen. Auch an Gesangbüchern habe ich eine nicht kleine Sammlung. Warum geht es mir so gut, während die Geschwister hier darben müssen? Oder sind sie vielleicht die Reichen, und ich bin trotz meines Besitztums an Bibeln und Gesangbüchern ärmer als sie? Viele der älteren Geschwister haben zwar verhärmte Gesichter, an denen man nicht immer gleich

die Christen entdecken kann, auch wenn ein Liederdichter es einmal so ausdrückte: "Sie kennen sich am Liede, am leuchtenden Gesicht." Aber andererseits leuchten ihre Augen auf, wenn sie einen Glaubensgenossen entdecken, und der innige Haendedruck lässt keinen Zweifel darüber, dass sie sich geistesverwandt fühlen.

Mittwoch, 15. September

Mein Besuch in der Sowjet Union ist zuende. Zum letzten Mal esse ich Frühstück im Hotel. Dann verabschiede ich mich von meinen grosszügigen Gastgebern im Bundeshaus der Baptisten. Sie sind mir keine Fremden mehr. Mit vielen verbindet mich nun eine herzliche Freundschaft, die gewiss viele Jahre anhalten wird.

Noch einmal gehe ich allein in den grossen Kirchensaal, der mir in seiner Lehre ganz eigenartig vorkommt. Ich kenne ihn eigentlich nur zum Bersten voll. Im Geiste sehe ich die Gläubigen, die inbrünstig ihre Lieder singen, wie sie mit Traenen beten, wie sie das Abendmahl mit vorbereiteten Händen dem Bruder und der Schwester weiterreichen, wie sie sich ehrfürchtig beim Gesang des Chores erheben, wie sie kleine handgeschriebene Zettel mit Gebetsanliegen zur Kanzel weiterreichen, wie sie ihre Sitzplätze miteinander austauschen.

Dann begleitet mich Bruder Ilia Orlov zum Flugplatz, wo wir Zeit zu einem schnellen Imbiss haben. Auch bei der Zollkontrolle weicht Bruder Orlov nicht von meiner Seite. Nie werde ich erfahren, wie viel Übergewicht mein Gepäck hat, denn ehe ich begriffen habe, worum es geht, hat er den Aufpreis bereits bezahlt. Noble Gastfreundschaft bis zur letzten Minute! Man kann zwar davon lesen und hören, aber erst wenn man sie an sich selbst erfährt, erkennt man, dass die russische Gastfreundschaft sich tatsächlich nur schwer mit Worten beschreiben lässt.

Das grosse Aeroflot-Flugzeug setzt sich pünktlich in Bewegung zu dem Nonstopflug Moskau — London und weiter nach New York. Der lange Flug gibt mir genügend Zeit, alles Erlebte nochmals zu überdenken.

Nur vierzehn Tage lang bin ich in dem Land gewesen, das man ungefähr ein Jahr lang bereisen muss, um es einigermaßen gesehen zu haben. Und doch — wieviele Eindrücke nehme ich mit! Ich habe nur einen Bruchteil von der Weite der Sowjet Union gesehen, die insgesamt den sechsten Teil des Globus einnimmt. Mein Besuch hat sich auf den Mammutganz der Stadt Moskau konzentriert. Ich habe die Stadt Sagorsk mit seinem Kloster in seiner Goldpracht gesehen. Ich bin durch die sonnenverbrannten Wüsten Zentralasiens gereist mit den Haupt-

städten Alma Ata und Taschkent. Ich bin über die ukrainische Steppen nach Kiew geflogen. Die Sowjet Union hat 240 Millionen mit 130 Nationalitäten. Vielen dieser Menschen bin ich begegnet: auf Marktplätzen, Flugplätzen, in Geschäften, Museen, Hotels, in Autobussen und U-Bahn, in Parks, Restaurants, auf den Strassen und in Kirchen. Ich habe sie bei der Arbeit beobachtet, beim Opernbetrieb, im Zirkus, beim Gottesdienst und beim Gesang. So sehr ich vom harten Umgangstil in den Moskauer Geschäften überrascht gewesen bin, habe ich mich um so mehr vom orientalischen Charm und Lebensstil Zentralasiens angezogen gefühlt.

Beim Überdenken bin ich wiederum beeindruckt von der Grösse des Landes. Die Grenzen der Sowjet Union erstrecken sich 1½ mal um den Äquator, berühren 12 Länder und werden von 14 Ozeanen und Seen gewaschen. Von der äussersten westlichen Grenze bis zur äussersten östlichen Spitze reist man durch 11 Zeitzonen (der nordamerikanische Kontinent hat 4 Zonen). 6200 Meilen spannen sich vom Westen zum Osten, und 3100 vom Norden zum Süden (9 Millionen Quadratmeilen). Wenn es also im Baltikum gerade Abend wird, bricht in Kamchatka am Pazifik gerade ein neuer Tag an.

Die Sowjet Union, reich an allen nur erdenklichen Mineralien, hat ihren Anteil an Problemen: Wasserarmut in Zentralasien, Permafrost in Sibirien, undurchdringbare Sümpfe und ökonomische Rückschläge. Und doch ist man als Besucher beeindruckt, dass ein Land, in dem noch vor 50 Jahren dreiviertel der Bevölkerung Analphabeten waren, solch einen kulturellen Aufschwung erlebt hat, so dass es heute kaum noch einen russischen Bürger gibt, der nicht lesen und schreiben kann, und dass die Sowjet Union unter den Spitzenländern in Technik, Industrie und Wissenschaft steht.

Am meisten aber beeindruckte mich das geistliche Leben in diesem atheistischen Land, dessen Ziel es war und ist, jede Form von Religion abzulegen, und das dabei auch nicht vor Gewaltmethoden zurückschreckt. Die Männer und Frauen, die sich hier zu Jesus Christus bekennen, haben zuvor die Kosten ihrer Nachfolge berechnet und haben sich bewusst auf die Seite des Herrn gestellt. Der Staat garantiert ihnen Religionsfreiheit, aber sie wissen, dass diese Freiheit verschieden ausgelegt werden kann. So muss z.B. die einzige Moskauer Baptistenkapelle 5000 Mitgliedern dienen, weil die Gläubigen nicht die "Freiheit" haben, weitere Kirchen zum Gottesdienstgebrauch zu öffnen. Im ganzen Land aber nutzen unsere Glaubensgeschwister jede ihnen dargebotene Gelegenheit zur Gemeinschaft im Herrn und zur "stillen

Evangelisation", bei der sie ihr Leben sprechen lassen. Die starke und organisierte Opposition hat ihnen nicht den "Luxus" gestattet, sich in viele kleine religiöse Splittergruppen aufzuteilen. Als Christen stehen sie einer für den anderen ein, ob es sich dabei um Baptisten, Evangeliumschröten, Pfingstler, Menoniten oder Orthodoxe handelt. Sie beten für einander, und sie beten selbst für ihre Regierung. "Nur wenn Gott die Herzen unserer Regierungsoberhäupter regiert, werden alle Bemühungen um internationale Verständigung und Frieden Erfolg haben", hatte mir ein Bruder in Zentralasien gesagt. Das Gleiche gilt auch von der Regierungsoberhäuptern in den Vereinigten Staaten und Kanada.

Der Besuch ist zuende. Aber meine Liebe und Freundschaft zu den Brüdern und Schwestern in der Sowjet Union und zu ihrem Land hat erst angefangen. Und so neige ich in 35 000 Fuss Höhe in einem russischen Flugzeug mein Haupt und erlebe Gottes Segen für meine geistlichen Geschwister in den fünfzehn Republiken der Sowjet Union, in den Ostblockländern, in Asien, in Westeuropa und in der ganzen Welt.

Und wie von ungefähr kommt mir plötzlich das Lied von Christoph Blumhardt in den Sinn, das ich als Jugendlicher oft gesungen habe, dessen Text jetzt aber am Ende meines Besuches um so vielsagender zu mir spricht. Zuerst summe ich es vor mir hin, dann formen meine Lippen lautlos die Worte, und schliesslich singe ich dieses Bekenntnis leise vor mich hin:

"Dass Jesus siegt, bleibt ewig ausgemacht. Sein wird die ganze Welt. Denn alles ist nach seines Todes Nacht in seine Hand gestellt. Nachdem am Kreuz er ausgerungen, hat er zum Thron sich aufgeschwungen. Ja Jesus siegt!

Ja, Jesus siegt, se, dass die Finsternis im Trotz wütend schnaubt; se, dass sie wachet, mit ihrem giftigen Biss haet ihm sie viel geraubt. Die Seinen lässt in Not und Graemen sich unser Held doch niemals nehmen. Ja, Jesus siegt!

Ja, Jesus siegt, obschon das Volk des Herrn noch hart daniederliegt. Wenn Satans Pfeil ihm auch von nah und fern mit List entgegenfliegt, löscht Jesu Arm die Feuerbrände; das Feld behält der Herr am Ende. Ja, Jesus siegt!

Ja, Jesus siegt! Seufzt seine grosse Schar noch unter Satans Joch, die sehnend harret auf das Erlösungsjahr, das zögert immer noch, so wird zuletzt aus allen Ketten der Herr die Kreatur erretten. Ja, Jesus siegt!

Ja, Jesus siegt! Wir glauben es gewiss, und glaubend kämpfen wir. Wie du uns führst durch alle Finsternis, wir folgen, Jesus, dir! Denn alles muss vor dir sich beugen, bis auch der letzte Feind wird schweigen. Ja, Jesus siegt!

ENDE

gemeindenachrichten

WINNIPEG, MB. Wir möchten als Deutsche Baptisten Missionsgemeinde hiermit bezeugen, dass der Heilige Geist an der Arbeit ist, und dass der Samen der Wortverkündigung aufgeht und Frucht bringt.

Im Juni wurden 8 Personen durch die Taufe der Gemeinde hinzugetan. Eine besondere Vorfreude war es für uns, als die Taufbewerber in einer vorherigen Gemeindestunde klare und überzeugende Zeugnisse ihrer Gotteskindschaft gaben.



Wir beten für sie, dass sie brauchbare Werkzeuge in der Gemeinde werden mögen. Artur Arndt.

HAMILTON, ON. Als Ende August 1976 Prediger Johannes Goetze der Deutschen Baptisten Missionsgemeinde seinen Dienst kündigte, um einen Posten innerhalb der Ost-Europäischen Mission zu übernehmen, wurde es uns allen klar, dass eine Epoche in unserer Gemeindechronik zu Ende ging. Zwölf volle Jahre hatte uns Bruder Goetze in der deutschen Muttersprache gedient. Der Abschied von Geschwister Goetze wurde mit einer Tauffeier gekrönt, als unser Prediger zum letzten Mal das Wassergrab mit neun jungen Taufkandidaten bestieg und sie auf diese Weise der Gemeinde Christi einverleibte.



Im Aufblick zum Herrn ging die Gemeinde ins Gebet, um göttliche Weisung zu erleben in der Berufung eines neuen Gemeinde-Unterhirten. Es ging

nicht allein um einen würdigen Nachfolger für uns "Alte", die den Gottesdienst in deutscher Sprache bevorzugen, sondern vor allen Dingen galt es nunmehr, den Kontakt zur heranwachsenden Jugend zu erhalten, die in Kanada geboren, sich verständlicherweise der Landessprache bedient.

Wie durch ein Wunder durften wir's erleben, wie der Herr unsere Herzen im Predigerberufungskomitee, im Gemeindevorstand, wie auch in der Gemeinde selber zusammenschmiedete zu dem einstimmigen Beschluss, Prediger Heinrich Goliath aus der Winnipegger Missionsgemeinde zu unserem vollamtlichen Prediger und Seelsorger zu berufen. Diese unerwartete Einmütigkeit war für uns ein deutliches Zeichen, dass diese Predigerwahl im Einvernehmen unseres himmlischen Vaters ausgetragen wurde.



Die Einführungsfeier von Geschwister Goliath war für uns als Ortsgemeinde wie auch für die benachbarten Gemeinden ein besonderer Tag der Freude. Wir sind dem Herrn dankbar für diesen begnadeten Boten, der mit Hilfe seiner Gattin einen spürbaren Segen in unserer neubelebten Gemeinde entfaltet. Gunther Wahl.



DRACHENBERG—Rosalie Drachenberg, geb. Riemer, wurde am 21. Sept. 1907 in Roschotke, Ostpreussen, geboren. Am 23. Juli 1977 ging sie nach längerer Krankheit heim.

In ihrer frühen Jugend übergab die Verstorbene ihr Leben dem Herrn Jesus Christus und wurde am 20. März 1921 von Prediger Knoff auf ihr Glaubensbekenntnis getauft.

Am 20. Aug. 1932 trat sie mit Hermann Drachenberg in den Ehestand. Aus dieser Ehe ging eine Tochter hervor.

Ihr Erdenleben war sehr bewegt. 1945 die Flucht, von den Russen uebereilt, Fluechtlingslager in Daenemark, und endlich im August 1947 die Wiedervereinigung mit dem Ehegatten, dann 1956 Auswanderung nach U.S.A.

Es trauern um sie: ihr Ehemann Hermann, ihre Tochter Margot mit Schwiegersohn Eduard Kersten, zwei Enkelkinder, Schwaegerin und Schwager und deren Angehoerige.

Die Trauerfeier fand am 26. Juli 1977 statt. Der Unterzeichnete diente mit Worten des Trostes aus Philipper 1,21.

Fred Merke, Prediger
Baptisten Mission Gemeinde
Chicago, IL

KOBERSTEIN—Leokadia Koberstein, geb. Hoehn, wurde am 10. Jan. 1901 in Wolhynien geboren und starb am 20. Juni 1977. Im Jahre 1921 verehelichte sie sich mit Rudolf Koberstein. Aus dieser Ehe gingen neun Kinder hervor. Beide Eheleute bekehrten sich, wurden von Prediger Jeske getauft und der Gemeinde Luzenow hinzugetan.

Nach dem Ausbruch des 2. Weltkrieges wurden Geschwister Koberstein nach dem Wartegau umgesiedelt, von wo sie 1945 fluechten mussten. 1949 kamen sie nach Kanada, wo sie zuerst in Minitonas wohnten und seit 1950 in Winnipeg, wo sie sich der Deutschen Baptisten Missionsgemeinde anschlossen. Sie war ein treues Mitglied bis sie der Herr heimrief. Schw. Koberstein sang im gemischten Chor und war auch im Schwesternverein taetig.

Die trauernden Hinterbliebenen sind: ihr Mann, Rudolf; vier Toechter: Lydia Sereda, Elfrieda Wittenberg, Holdina Kaplun und Erika Kelberta; zwei Soehne: Walter und Arthur; zwei Schwiagertochter und vier Schwiegersoehne; 14 Enkelkinder und ein Grossenkel; zwei Schwestern: Lina Kachur und Natalia Lother; sowie ihr Bruder Walter Hoehn.

Die Beerdigung fand am 25. Juni in der Gemeinde statt. Prediger Walter Stein leitete die Beerdigung.

Wenzel Hanik, Prediger
Deutsche Baptisten Missionsgemeinde
Winnipeg, MB

LEHMANN—Christian Lehmann wurde am 14. Okt. 1892 in Polen geboren. Er kam nach Kanada und lies sich in Sued-Manitoba nieder, wo er einen Bauernhof hatte. In frueher Jugend nahm er Jesus Christus als den lebendigen Heiland an und liess sich taufen. 1971 zog er in die Naeh der Deutschen Baptisten Missionsgemeinde, der er sich anschloss. Er war ein treues Glied. Sein Wunsch war, noch

naeher zur Kirche zu ziehen, sodass er auch im Winter zu den Versammlungen kommen konnte. Er starb am 16. Juli 1977.

Seine erste Frau starb bereits nach einigen Ehejahren. Er heiratete dann Rosalie Richter, die jetzt seinen Heimgang betrauert. Ferner vermissen ihn: Drei Stiefsoehne, zwei Stieftochter, 19 Enkelkinder, 2 Urenkel, sein Bruder Karl und andere Verwandte und Freunde.

Die Beerdigung fand am 20. Juli statt. Prediger Wenzel Hanik leitete die Beerdigung.

Wenzel Hanik, Prediger
Deutsche Baptisten Missionsgemeinde
Winnipeg, MB

LOEBER—Adam Loeber wurde am 21. Juni 1900 in Bonyhad, Ungarn, geboren. Im Jahre 1924 heiratete er Kaethe Stickl und lebte 53 Jahre mit ihr in gluecklicher Ehe. Der Herr schenkte unseren Geschwistern 3 Kinder, von denen noch 2 am Leben sind. Durch die Kriegsumstaende kam der verstorbene 1951 nach Winnipeg, Kanada. Hier fand er den Weg zum Herrn und wurde 1965 in der McDermot Avenue Baptistengemeinde getauft. Seit seinem Umzug nach Hamilton im Jahre 1966 war er ein treues Glied der hiesigen Gemeinde. Trotz schwerer Leiden war es Br. Loeber vergoent, noch am 10. Juli die Gottesdienste der Gemeinde mitzuerleben, bevor ihn der Herr ploetzlich am 11. Juli durch einen Herzschlag zu sich rief.

Seinen jaehen Tod betrauern seine Ehefrau Kaethe; seine beiden Toechter: Elisabeth Maerz und Kaethe Tiede und deren Maenner; sowie 8 Enkelkinder und zwei Schwestern.

Heinrich R. Goliath, Prediger
Deutsche Baptisten Missionsgemeinde
Hamilton, ON

SCHMIDT—Alexander Schmidt wurde am 24. Dez. 1886 in Wolhynien geboren und starb am 15. Juli 1977 in Winnipeg. Seine Jugend verbrachte er in Wolhynien, wo er auch zum lebendigen Glauben an Jesus Christus kam. Er wurde 1910 getauft und der Gemeinde in Chernakow hinzuge-tan. Am 6. Febr. 1913 heiratete er Sara Timm und wurde von Prediger E. Werch getraut. Der Herr schenkte ihnen sieben Kinder, von denen die aelteste Tochter waehrend des Ersten Weltkrieges starb. Alexander Schmidt gehoerte im 2. Weltkrieg der russischen Armee an.

Im Jahr 1927 kam die Familie nach Kanada, wo sie sich in Whitemouth niederliess. Hier schloss sich Br. Schmidt der Gemeinde an, der er treu diente, bis er 1956 nach Winnipeg zog und sich der Deutschen Baptisten Missionsgemeinde anschloss.

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

- 1 Noetiger als Brot (Gedicht) G. Fritzsche
- 1 Dankbar sein in allen Dingen RJK
- 2 Durch Reformation zur Freiheit D. Niemoeller
- 2 Um was es bei der Reformation ging .. W. Busch
- 3 Jesus beschaemt den Egoisten J. Gnanabaranam
- 3 Mein Besuch in der Sowjet Union RJK
- 4 Die Seite der Frau
Erntedank und wir Staedter H. Sayers
Lass dich gebrauchen U. Klukas
Das kleine Baeumchen W. Laser
Die Liebe hoeret nimmer auf M. Ertis
- 7 Gemeindenachrichten
- 7 Todesanzeigen

DER SENDBOTE

Beilage zum BAPTIST HERALD
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Frauenschriftleiterin:
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Seinen Heimgang betrauern: Seine Frau Sara, die 64 Jahre lang seine Ehegefaehrtin war; Angela Thompson, Mary Herzog und Helen Vidal; zwei Soehne, Joseph und Herbert; drei Schwiager-soehne; 19 Enkelkinder und 2 Urenkel; sowie andere Verwandte und Freunde.

Die Beerdigung fand am 18. Juli statt. Prediger Wenzel Hanik leitete die Beerdigung.

Wenzel Hanik, Prediger
Deutsche Baptisten Missionsgemeinde
Winnipeg, MB

Radio Ministry

by Flavius K. Martin

Our aim in Baptist radio work is to make a Christian presence in Cameroon by preaching God's Word in answer to the relevant issues of the day. With increased censorship of scripts and selection of speakers, there is a danger that the authorities would want us to preach an innocuous gospel bereft of its powers.

The Rev. Larry Scheffler is helpful with planning ideas and in preaching. Larry leaves on furlough in August 1978. It would be helpful to have a graduate missionary on the staff of B.B.S.S., who may be able to share the load of the radio gospel ministry.

Central Treasury



by George E. Baab,
field treasurer

We regretted the loss of Miss Irene Hanik's services as the assistant treasurer. Mr. Matthew Fonmboh, our NCS bookkeeping machine operator, and I have shared Irene's duties since her departure.

In 1976 *The Baptist Education Authority* continued to experience financial difficulties. We were not able to pay the primary school teachers' salaries for two and one half months due to the lack of sufficient school fees and government subvention. Over \$125,000 is needed to pay these salaries. We are continuing to pray that we will be able to work out a solution to this problem with the Cameroon Government.

Also the post-primary institutions are continuing to experience financial difficulties because of rising operating costs and governmental restrictions upon tuition and boarding fees.

Our *medical institutions* are also having financial problems. In addition to rising costs in salaries, equipment, supplies and medicines, the government reduced its grants to Mbingo and Bansa Baptist Hospital. Mbingo Baptist Hospital was seriously affected by this action.

Our *Church Ministries Department* is in a good financial position at this time.

We will need money to replace vehicles in the near future. A new Land Rover costs approximately \$12,500.

THE FIELDS

Nso, Oku, Noni, and Mayo Darle Fields

by Arthur G. Helwig,
area coordinator



In 1976 we held a seminar in field development with field executives from four fields, meeting to seriously consider what God would have us attempt for 1976-1977. Evangelism and Church Growth received priority. Current programs needed a face-lifting, if not complete revision or even cancellation. The leaders determined to implement new outreach programs by listing them in order of priority and planned an aggressive strategy to achieve them. These exciting plans seemed to overshadow every aspect of the work throughout the year.

Significant events. A program, pastors' salary administration, was initiated whereby funds from churches are centralized to pay and supervise pastors. Results have been systematic giving by local Christians, new awareness of God-given responsibilities, and a unified sense of purpose among pastors. Some fields collected more money in one month than their total field budget less than three years ago.

Over 1,000 decisions for Christ were recorded in Nso and Oku Fields as a result of four crusades; 807 of these are sincere, committed individuals. 250 joined C.B.C. churches. The number will increase as the last Crusade took place in October. Over 3,000 contacts were made and 10,000 tracts distributed. These decisions equal the number who accepted Christ through the efforts of pastors in the local church.

One hundred and sixty-six Theological Education by Extension courses were completed on these fields in 1976. 10% were completed by lay people.

The birth of new congregations, construction of better church buildings and the revival of dead churches has added an air of excitement to our area: two new congregations were formed; six churches revived; and two new prayer groups begun.

Recruitment of pastoral trainees and trained pastors has assisted in the development of the work. In Nso Field we began 1976 with nine workers and closed with 23. Collectively in Nso, Oku and Noni 18 workers were recruited to pastor churches formally without work-

ers. Ten young men left to attend B.B.T.C. this year.

Changes taking place in Cameroon that affect our work are soaring inflation, uncertainty in the financial status of the Education Authority, government requests for our primary school, and new land and survey laws which required surveying of all properties, both private and commercial.

As area coordinator, my main emphasis centers on church visitation, training opportunities for local pastors and recruitment of additional pastoral trainee candidates. As much as possible, other missionary personnel are involved in church visitation, T.E.E. and witnessing. Two college student groups are being ministered to by B.B.H. expatriate personnel. There were 13 leadership training courses, 13 lay training courses, three Boys' Brigade leadership training courses, four 3-H Girls leadership training courses, and four C.B.Y.F. leadership training courses held.

Some comprehensive goals for 1977 are (1) a major crusade for Christ in every field of my area, with increased emphasis on followup; (2) increase in church membership by 10%; (3) every church to conduct inquirers classes; (4) increase total field budgets by 10-20%; (5) recruit 20 new pastors or pastoral trainees to the area; (6) develop Nkong-samba as a new field; (7) start four new churches; revive four congregations; (8) hold four T.E.E. courses with 100% of the pastoral trainees participating; (9) hold one major pastors' conference, teaching and directing church growth and evangelism; and (10) hold one major youth congress in each field.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS

C.B.C. Tadu Crusade for Christ. Tadu Church was dying a natural death, declining from about 50 to nine members over a two-year period. However, in only three days of witnessing, visitation and preaching, the Lord used a crusade to revive this church for his

honor and glory. More than 150 people prayed to accept Christ, and more than 60 rededicated themselves from Tadu and surrounding areas. Three months later, having placed a pastoral trainee in the church, a total active membership of more than fifty was reported.

C.B.C. Nseh Crusade for Christ. For almost three years Nseh Church has experienced much internal difficulty due to its location as a border church to Ndu Field. The church was encouraged by having a trained pastor placed there to serve and teach them. In preparation for the planned crusade, the pastor was led of God in arranging for prayer cells nine weeks in advance. As he arranged families in various quarters to pray together, many of the internal problems were resolved through sharing together this way. The prayer cells were scheduled to meet weekly, but on their own initiative many cells met daily enjoying the fellowship and feeling the power of God at work. About 40% of the congregation joined pastors in daily witnessing throughout the area. Today the church stands strong and firm in testimony of God's love and his power to answer prayer and unite those who approach his throne of grace with a common concern.

Bamenda-Belo - Ndop Fields

by Fred Holzimmer, area coordinator



On the Bamenda, Belo and Ndop Fields there are 174 churches. In 1976 there were 521 baptisms, 1,439 inquirers, 15,259 members, 53 pastors with 2-6 years of training, 59 pastors with no training and 59 churches without pastors.

The great cause for concern in these fields is in the pastoral care of our growing constituency. More than two-thirds of our churches have pastors with no pastoral or Bible training or have no pastor. These are poorly paid or not paid at all.

Theological Education by Extension courses are being offered in each of our fields in the hope of improving our pastors' knowledge of the Bible and

aiding those who have had no training. Twenty-two separate classes have been conducted during the past year with approximately 134 enrolled.

BELO FIELD

Belo Field, the largest in the Convention, has three areas considered "mission fields": Mamfe-Overside, Fongom and Esimbi. The Esimbi area has been growing almost unnoticed and unaided, has 13 churches and is pastored mostly by school boys. Members are mostly young people and young couples. The people are very receptive to the gospel. At its last field conference, Belo Field determined to center more attention on this area and made budget provision for it. Almost half of the Belo Field budget is dedicated to missionary activity and deserves commendation.

A full-time chaplain is employed in our Leprosy Settlement. Eighty-one persons were converted in this hospital in 1976. Bed-to-bed visitation; pre-operative consultations in which the Chaplain writes, "I have introduced Christ to almost every surgical patient to remove fear, suspicion and depression and to prepare the patient to face this procedure with confidence"; and home visitation of patients living in the camp have brought Christ to a host of needy people.

An aggressive youth ministry is effectively being carried on with youth teams visiting many churches and areas in the field, challenging youth and giving evangelistic messages.

A women's worker has been engaged on the field for one year; she will return to Bible school to complete her training.

BAMENDA FIELD

Bamenda Field is struggling under the loss of many trained pastors unable and unwilling to stay in churches which pay them little and irregularly. Giving is poor. There is a lack of even one trained pastor in each association.

An institutional youth minister is employed by the field, who visits approximately 10 high schools, technical colleges and commercial schools each week. He unites Baptist students in training and offers opportunity for salvation and commitment.

NDOP FIELD

Ndop Field shows steady but slow growth. Its giving has doubled, and the membership increased by 50 percent. Ministry to students in technical schools and commercial colleges within the area started this year and will be expanded. Construction will also be started on a field pastor's house.

Needs. This report highlights the need for serious concern to (1) find some

means to stem the flow of pastors out of the field and ministry due to financial difficulties; (2) place at least one trained pastor in each association for teaching and supervision; (3) aggressively evangelize in every area possible; (4) teach and train leaders more effectively; and (5) conserve the gains in church membership through teaching, church participation and witnessing.

Ndu, Bethel, Mbem and Nfumnte Fields

by Edwin Michelson, area coordinator



NDU FIELD

The situation on the Ndu Field has remained a problem. The leaders of the Ndu rift continue to hold many people in confusion. The Cameroon National Union Party and the government noted the seriousness of the rift and have taken a strong stand to resolve the issue.

The Ndu church building, used by Joseph Merrick College and Baptist Bible Training College for worship services on Sundays, was blockaded on a Sunday morning and nailed shut, so the Colleges have been meeting in the B.B.T.C. chapel ever since.

An attempt to open the church at Mbah was also obstructed; even though proper application was made on the part of some of the members for the church to be opened by the forces of law.

The Ndu rift leaders have falsely kept telling the people that they will be getting their own Convention and have tried to get various groups to come in and help them. The government has very definitely proclaimed that there will be no two Baptist Conventions. The goal for the Ndu Field in 1977 is simply peace. In a developing country, steps for the security and unity of the people are necessary, and those who disregard the law are viewed as a threat to the nation.

BETHEL FIELD

In 1976 the now called Bethel Field was still a part of Ndu Field, but functioned as a field with acting field officers, collecting of funds and holding a field Bible conference. The field consists

of 32 Baptist churches; four associations with chairmen; 1,268 Baptist Christians; 11 pastors (three are ordained); 112 baptisms; 246 inquirers; 28 Women's Union members; 63 Boys' Brigade members; 24 Men's Fellowship members; 59 3-H Girls groups and two students at B.B.T.C.

The Bible Conference was well attended with a surprising number of good choirs in competition. The government seat of Nkambe was chosen as the headquarters. Land there has been applied for which could include a new church, field pastor's home, pastor's home, missionary residence and youth center.

MBEM FIELD

As Harvey Motis left on furlough in the middle of the year, I took over Mbem and Nfumnte Fields as area coordinator. Statistics include five associations with an association evangelist in each, holding his own church; 4,034 Baptist Christians; 37 pastors, five ordained and 31 in training; 49 Baptist churches; 359 baptisms; and 356 inquirers.

The largest church (589 members), Philip Mangong, pastor, had no baptisms in 1976 but baptized 60 in February 1977.

Mr. Z. F. Jinkwen, teacher, Mbem C.B.C. School, has done an outstanding job of leading the youth. The area youth number over 1,000. He also leads the Boys' Brigade.

The Wycliffe (S.I.L.) organization has come to Mbem. They plan to involve the church and the community for backing to develop an alphabet and then do translation work.

Fortunately the Mbem Field, having received decades of missionary attention, is able to function quite well without close supervision. The leadership is quite capable.

Goals: A field-wide gospel crusade; the development of the centralized field fund to pay for the field evangelist and eventually the pastors; every pastor in T.E.E.; and pastors for 13 pastorless churches.

NFUMNTE FIELD

This field includes two associations and two evangelists; 13 pastors (3 ordained); 19 Baptist churches, with 47 baptisms and 179 inquirers; 418 Women's Union members with good leadership; 154 C.B.Y.F. members; 146 Boys' Brigade members; 172 Men's Fellowship members, and has five students at B.B.T.C.

Seven churches are pastorless. Several villages could be evangelized, and churches planted there.

The field Bible conference was one of

the highlights of the year. The majority attending were young people. The choirs, in uniform, gave a positive touch; there were several new choirs.

Kumba and Mamfe Fields

by Kenneth C. Priebe, area coordinator



In Kumba Field we are in the process of grouping churches together in order to strengthen the smaller churches and allow the larger congregations to call a full-time, trained pastor. Average membership of our churches is 20-25. By putting two or three strategically located churches together under the shepherding of one trained pastor, they will have good leadership and teaching as well as a new vision for growth. Six groupings are ready to call their own pastor. We only have four ordained pastors in our field; two are in Kumba. Associations and churches are suffering and slowly decreasing in membership due to the lack of leadership. Another reason for the grouping of these churches is to revive communication and a sense of belonging among the Christians.

Kumba Field. Kumba Field is probably one of the largest and least accessible fields in the convention. Over one half of the churches are only accessible after trekking one half to 1½ days. Some churches have never seen a missionary in six years; thus some Baptist churches have disappeared. Remoteness is a negative factor in the field's operation.

In spite of the many obstacles and handicaps in Kumba Field, God's Church is still carrying on and in many areas growing. This is due to a number of influences: (1) the stationing of a field coordinator in Kumba; (2) enthusiasm radiated during our tours giving the churches new zeal and excitement as to what can happen when God's people come together to praise and worship him; (3) churches calling full-time pastors (2nd year graduates from B.T.T.C., Ndu). Example: a pastor from Kumba and I went to a town called Tombel, where there is a cocoa camp. At this camp we had one of our stronger churches present. However, upon our arrival we found out that the group there had decreased to a mere handful. Their pastor had packed up and left. For over a year they had never met for worship. Our stay there lasted three days. During this time a pastor on vacation from the grasslands visited the camp. While there, he felt the call of God to serve them. They in turn became excited and immediately extended a call to him. On my last visit to the camp, the number of Christians worshipping together was between 60-75.

Needs for Kumba Field are effective leadership for the churches and then encourage-

ment and direction in training and evangelism for these leaders. At present we have 1,277 members in Kumba Field and 80 inquirers to receive baptism.

Goals for 1977: to complete my visitation of the churches in this field; to get at least five trained pastors in strategic areas and give them close attention so that these areas will become self-supporting and self-propagating; to get a second year graduate of B.B.T.C. to work with the Kumba Town secondary school youth; to hold two Crusades for Christ, after an in-depth counselling course with our pastors and church teachers; to get a sixth year graduate field pastor of B.B.T.C. to work with the field.

Mamfe Field. Mamfe Field has a very effective field executive. The Field has nine churches, 250 Baptist members, and one nonordained pastor.

Along with being area coordinator of Kumba and Mamfe Fields, I assist the C.B. Convention by being assistant school manager of Cameroon Baptist School in Meme and Manyu division. This position requires the checking and keeping in order of the schools and teachers. Periodically I check the teachers' notes, registers and teaching (week's, month's and year's goals). I also pay the teachers their salaries and try to help them with their personal difficulties. At the present, I am stressing Bible teaching in our schools.

The work in Cameroon is still great. The time for the missionary is far from over. If anything, we need more help and assistance, because the field is ready, and the effective time is short.

Victoria and Soppo Fields

by Raymond Hoffman, area coordinator



Cameroonian church leaders are grateful that missionaries are still coming, and they are asking for as much help as possible.

My task is to instruct pastors in the area of leadership as well as training Christians, especially church leaders, to have a much better concept of what the Christian walk is all about, especially in the area of stewardship. The T.E.E. program has yet taken hold at the coast, as it has in other areas.

Inflation here, as elsewhere, is a serious problem. Just the upkeep of mission vehicles is tremendously costly; replacement is next to impossible. This needs to be a constant reminder to our brethren in our homeland churches concerning the financial problems of missions. Our missionaries of the past have done tremendous work. We are continuing to build upon past work but not always in the same manner because of the changing times. □

Medical Work

Medical Authority

by J. C. Fluth,
medical secretary

In its second year, the Medical Authority is continuing the evangelistic outreach and healing ministry, begun many years ago by North American Baptists in Cameroon.

Up-grading of our facilities and service is proceeding slowly but surely. Laundry mechanization at Banso and Mbingo, shoe machinery speeding production for leprosy patients, M.A.F. air service, newer instruments and surgical techniques are a few of the signs of development.

At times we are rather down-cast because of perpetual financial difficulties (most acute in leprosy work) and burgeoning red tape. Cameroonization at senior levels is nigh impossible under the present financial structure, and over the long range we may have to rely more on nurses aids than R.N.'s. Banso has begun training such aids this year.

Disturbing is the apparent lack of doctors in North America who feel the call of God to missions as something worth prolonged and unreserved commitment! Or is it that we just are not seeing the men God is calling? Do we need to do more to help men hear? Short-term doctors are helpful, but the help is directly proportional to the length of service; furthermore, it is not possible for short-term people to really share in responsibilities not directly concerned with patient care. We plead . . . urgent . . . concern! *We need two new missionary nurse/midwives in early 1978.*

Now, the in-ward look: The Medical Authority introduced the "L. M. Chaffee Award of Merit" as a means of emphasizing its concern for Christ-like compassion, selfless devotion and aggressive witness in its staff. It was presented at the C.B.C. General Sessions.

The out-reach of our hospitals goes to areas remote from Banso and Mbingo. The people of Cameroon have respect for the quality of care provided, and recognize Christ's love. Historically, medical missions has been a spearpoint for evangelism as well as a healing ministry; we maintain this concern.

Area coordinators

Rev. and Mrs. Harvey Motis, until June
Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Helwig
Rev. and Mrs. Robert Lennick, until June
Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Hoffman, from November
Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Priebe, from September
Rev. and Mrs. Fred Holzimmer
Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson

Ashong village in Bamenda Field is building a health centre which we are committed to staff and operate. Mayo Darle Field is urgently requesting a health center, and the need is obvious.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital

The new Glanz Memorial Chapel was completed and dedicated in 1976. The staff no longer has to stand in the cold open veranda for morning devotions; a variety of Sunday evening English programs are spurring interest. A counseling room is included in the building, and Mr. Samuel Jam, son of the late evangelist, Robert Jam, has moved into his new chaplain's office. Mr. Jam reports 81 firm decisions for Christ among hospital patients.

The chaplaincy is only one of many things at Mbingo that are supported largely by American Leprosy Missions, Inc. The leprosy shoe workshop is another, and the second doctor is the biggest single support figure. We are very grateful for the participation of A.L.M. in our work and would urge our N.A.B. churches to avail themselves of the fine educational materials offered by A.L.M., particularly on World Leprosy Day.

This year 24 more patients were discharged as free from active leprosy. Discharge Day is probably always the highlight of the year. It is hard to sit through the service with dry eyes as one sees and hears the testimonies of God's love and healing power.

The rehabilitation unit also provides opportunities to really get to know patients personally, as both general and leprosy patients tend to be here for a long time. Evelyn is a good example of this. When less than a year old, she had her leg amputated at Banso for tourniquet damage after a snake bite. She was sent here for an artificial leg and has been here for several months, trying to learn to walk with a prosthesis when she had never even walked at all before. But she walks now! During all this time, Evelyn's mother has been a concern to us, as she has not yet been able to really commit her life to the Lord Jesus. This, in spite of the fact that she recently acknowledged to my wife that if she died, she "would go to Satan." Rosemary Steen is doing a great job as our physical therapist, while Pat Lenz is on furlough.

Your Mbingo missionaries have all also been active outside the framework of the hospital in women's work, 3-H Girls, youth work and T.E.E. Quite a few of our hospital staff are taking T.E.E. courses. Our financial position is no better, and, in fact, worse than last year. Looking for ways to support costly leprosy work that generates no revenue, in the face of rising costs and decreasing government support, is discouraging to say the least. Yet, the very fact that leprosy work continues at all is probably a miracle for which we should thank God.

Goals. For some time now we have been limping along without a full-time second doctor at Mbingo who could really bite into the work and share responsibilities on a continuing basis. While we are grateful for short-term help, it in no way compensates for the

lack of a full-time man, and the work clearly suffers. The need is acute this year! Particularly so, if we are to make needed advances in leprosy work and have someone ready when I leave in 1978.

The other big concern is a replacement for Ed Hoepner this year. To whom shall all these administrative and maintenance responsibilities be assigned?

Please do your part. Talk about these needs in your churches, gather people for prayer, and encourage possible applicants. Surely God is still calling people to serve him here.

Belo Maternity Center

Full Cameroonization of Belo has been generally successful. A new kitchen was completed this past year, this frees the previous duplex for the use of relatives to prepare meals for the patients; for a midwife's house and additional storage. The boisterous dancing with which relatives celebrate a child's birth formerly made sleep impossible for the midwife, so the new building was a necessity; \$500 was squeezed out of the budget.

A significant staffing change was made this year, replacing the third midwife with a nurse. It is hoped that this will increase general out-patient attendance.

Banso Baptist Hospital

by Helen Marie Schmidt,
M.D.

A new 7-bed ward for general patients was built with U.S. Aid Funds. Running water has been brought to the health center by community development efforts.

The most outstanding health problem this last year was the measles epidemic which threatened to break the walls of our pediatric unit and taxed our staff almost to the breaking point.

Eye surgery (cataract and other) has continued to be an important part of our service, increasing substantially. More people with other eye problems are coming for treatment.

The plans for the Chaffee Memorial Children's Ward are complete; the building remodeling will begin in 1977.

Christoffel Blindenmission continues to help us financially with one nurses' salary, cataract lenses and other supplies for our eye surgery program.

The hospital chaplain reports enthusiastically that during 1976 he counselled 1202 patients: 124 became Christians; 43 rededicated their lives to Christ. We continue to have morning and evening devotions in each ward, plus morning devotions in the outpatient department, morning chapel services with staff and meaningful Sunday evening services.

On Sunday mornings various missionary staff present Bible studies and sermonettes to St. Augustine Secondary School's Protestant students. During the week two of our mis-

sionary nurses are responsible for weekly Bible studies at Bui College of General Education in Kumba Town. Educated women meet together monthly in our hospital chapel as "Life Liners" and twice yearly for retreats. Missionaries continue to be leaders in the 3-H and other youth programs; though Cameroonians are taking active leadership roles as well.

Dr. and Mrs. Doug Blackman and their family have replaced the Dieter Lemkes during furlough. Dr. Blackman has contributed especially in the field of internal medicine.

The most gratifying experiences for me have been in the field of Medicine and Surgery: A middle-aged lady cured through surgery after 25 years of suffering; a great many blind people now able to see; glaucoma patients assured of continued eyesight; the glow on a parent's face as they see a cleft lip closed; a patient praising God as her baby is safely delivered after hard long labor, and a small child with 4 + Malaria smear alive and well.

We are hampered by inadequate staff and equipment due to the high cost of supplies and low salaries.

During the next year we plan to increase the responsibility held by selected Cameroonian staff. This is in preparation for the projected decrease in the number of missionary nurses at B.B.H. from 4 to 3 in about 2½-3 years. At this time we do not have a Cameroonian trained to replace the nurse, but by decreasing responsibility gradually of all the expatriate nurses and dividing it among several Cameroonian nurses, we hope to accomplish this goal.

B.B.H. Nursing and Midwifery Training School

by Eleanor Weisenburger,
R.N., director

Because of government regulated high salary scales for nurses and midwives and because it is difficult to find people with the necessary entrance requirements for these positions, a new program of training was started at Banso Baptist Hospital in September 1976. This is the training of nursing aids who have a basic background (eighth grade) and who, after a year of intensive theoretical and practical training, are expected to be able to carry out most basic nursing procedures. Out of 33 candidates who wrote the government entrance exam for this course, eight passed;



seven were admitted for training. There are two student nurses in their second year of training and one in her first.

Our main goal for the future is to train enough Christian nurses, midwives and nursing aids to maintain our present medical work at a reasonable standard of efficiency. Any plans for expansion by C.B.C. Medical Authority are partly dependent on our training program. It is our hope that we can find a larger number of suitable candidates to fill this need. Other private agencies, such as the Presbyterian church, also make use of the service of our training school.

Mbem Baptist Health Centre

by Kathryn Anne Kroll, R.N.

Significant events during the year included: (1) Seven less deliveries than last year; a substantial reduction in both inpatient and outpatients during the extended illness of senior nursing staff; (2) Staff reduction for economy reasons; (3) Increase in government medical facilities at nearby dispensary and eventual cottage hospital; a second nurse added to the staff of the present facility; a Dutch volunteer working in the area during the year to establish Infant Welfare and immunization programs; (4) A greater interest in seeking medical care by those living within the area of the health centre.

Goals for next year are (1) more clinics in outlying areas on a regular basis; (2) greater evangelistic outreach in present and new clinics; (3) increased health teaching and demonstration; and (4) increase in personal time spent with patients and staff by senior nursing staff. □

BANSO BAPTIST HOSPITAL

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL:

Helen Marie Schmidt, M.D., Daphne Dunger, R.N., Pennie Lou Jucht, R.N., Gertrude Schatz, R.N., Dr. and Mrs. Dieter Lemke replaced by Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Blackman*, Eleanor Weisenburger, R.N.

Bed Capacity	138
Doctors	2
Consultations	27,125
Patients hospitalized	6,072
Major operations	649
Minor operations	2,855
Deliveries	1,643

MBINGO BAPTIST HOSPITAL

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL:

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Fluth, Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Hoepner, Laura E. Reddig, R.N., E. Elizabeth Mantay, R.N., Patricia Lenz replaced by Rosemary Steen*, Myrna J. Goodman, R.N., thru June; Dr. and Mrs. David Grabke, thru March

Bed capacity	75
Total outpatient visits	27,193
Total deliveries	104
Major operations	344
Minor operations	755

MBEM BAPTIST HEALTH CENTRE

MISSIONARY PERSONNEL:

Kathryn Kroll, R.N.

Bed capacity	24
Health Centre Admissions	611
Major Operations	19
Minor Operations	243
Maternity Admissions	480
Number of Deliveries	478

BANGOLAN HEALTH CENTRE**

Outpatients	9,565
Deliveries	241

JIKIJEM HEALTH CENTRE**

Outpatients	2,509
Deliveries	441

BELO MATERNITY CENTRE**

Outpatients	5,896
Deliveries	881

*Short-term missionaries
**Staffed by Cameroonians completely

Part I of Missions Digest appeared in the September issue of BAPTIST HERALD on pages 13-20.

Reprinted copies of Part I and II of MISSIONS DIGEST 1977 are available upon request. Write to
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY • NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE • 1 SO. 210 SUMMIT AVENUE, OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL 60181



CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

TROY, MI, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by John Trate

OCTOBER 1977

"TROY—City of Tomorrow—TODAY" read the optimistic signs surrounding the "fastest growing community" in the metropolitan Detroit area. A tranquil, rural town just a few years ago, Troy, MI, is now the home of luxurious shopping centers, the Michigan State University Graduate Business Center, the S.S. Kresge World Headquarters, and many new housing developments.

While there are several fundamental works in the southern portion of Troy, no other Baptist church ministers in the booming northwest section. The pastoral staff of Redeemer Baptist Church in nearby Warren realized the exciting opportunity for the North American Baptist Conference to minister in this progressive area; a missionary spirit of Michigan N.A.B. churches encouraged the vision. As a result, Mr. Gordon Bauslaugh, while on staff at Redeemer and finishing training at Detroit Bible College, was entrusted with responsibilities for initial visitation last summer. He followed up his efforts with Bible studies in several homes throughout the ensuing year. Mr. Bauslaugh now serves as Christian Education Director at Bismarck Baptist Church, ND.

The actual church planting began in the Spring of 1977 under the pastoral leadership of the Rev. John Trate. Two families from Redeemer, Bill and Donna Ballman and John and Jamie Hanselman, residents of the general area, shared the vision and stepped out in faith to assist in the birth of a new N.A.B. church, the Northridge Baptist Church of Troy.

Public services, held in a lovely school, started in June with a small nucleus. A Bible school program began in September, and a midweek Bible study and prayer fellowship is in its initial days. Bible studies flourish in different areas of the city. Many contacts have been made through a methodical program of outreach, and follow-up is now in progress to develop the ministry.

We have seen God move in miraculous ways. For example, two other groups requested use of the same school which Northridge Baptist uses but were turned down "for some reason," a janitor told us. God has brought the families together with an expectant spirit of faith, reasonable age agreement among the children, and a sweet spirit of unity that permeates the services.

The beginnings are small, but as Pastor Trate pointed out in the initial service, "who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zach. 4:10). What an exciting challenge for this group of believers to establish a Bible-based, missionary-

The Rev. John Trate is the pastor of the Northridge Baptist Church, Troy, MI.

minded, community-oriented New Testament church to meet the spiritual needs of northwest Troy!

If you would like to help us meet this challenge successfully, please pray with us for an expanded program of outreach, a key property location for future building and rewarding evangelistic and discipling efforts. Contributions may be sent to the North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, IL 60181, designated for the Northridge Baptist Church. □



Pastor Trate and Family



Worship Service



The Church body at school meeting place



Midweek Bible study

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rehbein of Mound, MN, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Members and friends of Minnetrista Baptist Church shared in this occasion with a reception on June 12, 1977. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rehbein have been faithful members of this church.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin, charter members of Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, were married July 7, 1927, in Maidstone, SK. An open house for friends and relatives was held at the church in honor of their 50th anniversary on June 5, 1977.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Mulvihill observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 23, 1977. They are members of First Baptist Church, Appleton, MN.

GLADWIN, MI. On July 3, 1977, Round Lake Baptist Church celebrated the second annual Homecoming Day. The all-day affair began with Sunday school, followed by the worship service at which the Rev. Winston Decker, pastor, brought the message, "When We Care."

A family potluck picnic dinner preceded the afternoon activities: playing games, visiting with former friends and neighbors, reminiscing and viewing many interesting and unusual handcraft displays made by our members.

Mark and Mary Bonham gave a challenging slide presentation about their ministry with the Navigators on our college campuses in southern Michigan.

In the evening, a special concert was presented by Johnny Hall, singer, composer and recording artist. Johnny is a former resident of Gladwin and has recently been requested to accompany John W. Peterson as a soloist on a concert tour of the United States. (Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. On June 26, 1977, eight candidates were baptized at Temple Baptist Church. It was a joy to hear their testimonies; we praise the Lord for each one of them. They are pictured with the Rev. Frank Schmidt and four of our Deacons.



Six of our young people attended Bible school the past year. Four of whom have entered into part-time Christian service for the summer months. Debbie

Splett was in Austria working with Child Evangelism; Terry Fowler worked in British Columbia with Child Evangelism. Elli Schock is at present our director of Christian Education. Karl Fech is furthering his ministry at the Seminary.

A graduation banquet was held June 4 to honor our 1977 graduates. The young people, college and career group and parents of the graduates were invited. (Irene Wirzba, reporter.)

OCHRE RIVER, MB. On June 12 Grace Baptist Church celebrated the 50th anniversary. The Lord used men, such as Dr. E. P. Wahl and the Rev. John Luebeck, to settle the immigrants in the St. Rose, Ochre River, and Makinak district. Our church began in 1927 when German Baptists immigrated to Canada. These people were settled on previously occupied "soldier settlement" farms through the American Baptist Mission Board. In June 1927 these Baptists officially organized as a church and as a mission outreach of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, through the leadership of the Rev. John Luebeck and the Rev. F. A. Bloedow. The church was known as St. Rose Baptist Church; it is now known as Grace Baptist Church of Ochre River.

The church began with a membership of 53. During the first 13 years, the congregation met for worship in the Turtle River School. In 1940 the first church building was dedicated. In 1945 the Rev. A. Kraemer became the first full-time pastor. In 1960 a modern parsonage was built. In 1969 a new church was built at the corner of Highways 5 and 480. On Oct. 19, 1969, this beautiful building was dedicated to the glory of God, with praise and thanksgiving. Our prayer is that this church might be a "Lighthouse by the Highway of Life" as was expressed by Dr. G. K. Zimmerman at that memorable occasion.

Three young men of the church have entered into the pastoral ministry: Dr. H. Waltereit, Dr. W. Sturhahn, and the Rev. B. Voss.

On this happy occasion we had many former pastors, sons and daughters of the church, and many friends in attendance, as well as four charter members: Mrs. Paetzold, Mrs. Voss, Mr. Fred DeVries, and Mr. G. Roos.

The Rev. A. Kliever, former pastor, taught the adult Sunday school class. The Rev. B. Voss former pastor, taught the youth class, and the Rev. Bob Orr and Mrs. B. Voss, taught the combined children classes. The Rev. David Unrau, former pastor, was guest speaker for our morning service.

A buffet dinner was served at the church. In the afternoon we had our anniversary service, beginning with a

prelude by the Rowandale Brass Band, Winnipeg. The dedication prayer was led by the Rev. E. Hess, Moosehorn. The junior and senior choirs sang. Dr. E. P. Wahl, Edmonton, reflected on the past. Mr. F. DeVries presented him with a gift in appreciation.

Greetings were brought to us by the Rev. Bob Orr from the mother church, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg. Greetings were extended from visiting friends and former pastors as well as letters of greetings read. The Brass Quartet, German Mission Church, Winnipeg, presented us with a number of selections.

The message was brought by the Rev. Isador Faszer, Northern Area secretary. Dr. E. P. Wahl closed in prayer. We are indeed thankful for God's guiding hand upon us and rejoice that he has counted us worthy of 50 years of service for him. (Mrs. Irma DeVries, reporter.)

LA CROSSE, WI. The youth of Bible Baptist Church, ages three to eleven, have the opportunity of participating in Junior Church ministry which is held during the morning worship service. Mrs. Linda Heisler, wife of Pastor William H. Heisler, Jr., shares her many talents in music, teaching and in leading the growing group. The programs are comprised of gospel singing



and puppetry which Mrs. Heisler has created and produced for the group proclaiming the real message of salvation and God's love. (LaVerne Samb, reporter.)

BENTON HARBOR, MI. On July 10, after the evening service, Napier Parkview Baptist Church had a welcome home food shower and dinner for the George Baab family, missionaries.

We enjoyed hearing the latest reports from Cameroon, listening to Margie's lilting solo, "Welcome Home Children," by Adrian King, and partaking in a joyful time of fellowship.

On June 26, we had a welcome home food shower and time of fellowship for the John Bettigs, home on furlough. They have been serving in West Germany with Trans World Radio. (Lois Breitzkreuz, reporter.)

SPRINGSIDE, SK. It is with great joy we witnessed the baptism of ten young people and two adults upon confession of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Organizations of our church bring praise and glory to God. We had child dedication recently. Our choir is a blessing in the morning worship services.



Choirs from various Bible schools as well as the N.A.B.C. ladies' team, Althea, were enjoyed very much at our church. We were really blessed by the witnessing and friendliness which made everyone more conscious of the true meaning of a dedicated life.

We had pulpit exchange at which time the Rev. Wes Andrei, Ebenezer, SK, gave a challenging message.

Our people attended camp and the Saskatchewan Association held at Good Spirit Lake Camp. William Keith is pastor of our church. (Julia Yanke, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. Seventeen persons (pictured) followed the Lord in baptism



at Central Baptist Church on June 26. We received 19 other brothers and sisters into the fellowship of the Church since January. Our pastor is the Rev. Gerald Scheel. Also pictured are Allan Fredlund and Walter Foth, the associate pastors. (Irma Jeske, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. On Saturday afternoon, June 18, 1977, the Ordination Council to examine Mr. Edwin Fuellbrandt for the Christian ministry was held at Bethany Baptist Church. After an excellent presentation by the candidate and a time of discussion, the Council unanimously voted itself satisfied with Ed's personal testimony, doctrinal statement, and fitness for ministry.

The following afternoon the service of ordination was held at Bethany Baptist Church, with pastors from area N.A.B. churches participating. It was an inspirational service for all. (Len Kageler, clerk of the council.)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. The Rev. Dan Payne, his wife, Mona, and daughter were welcomed to Faith Baptist Church with a coffee and fellowship hour after an evening service recently.

Mr. Payne is a 1976 N.A.B. Seminary graduate and is now serving as assistant pastor of our church.

During a recent communion worship service, we welcomed 12 new members into the fellowship of our church. (G. Zumbaum, reporter.)

LODI, CA. At a recent Sunday evening service the members and friends of Temple Baptist Church spoke words of appreciation to Dr. Albert Felberg for his services in the church in numerous areas, such as chairman of the Gold Age Group, visitation pastor, working with the Mission Board, and other areas of the church. Although officially retired from the pastorate for some



years, he continued to be busy in these areas but because of ill health and upon the advice of his doctor he was forced to relinquish almost all of his duties. Dr. and Mrs. Felberg continue to faithfully worship at Temple Baptist and are involved in the ministry to a small extent knowing that over-exertion could be very harmful. They have served well in many areas and in many places and now welcome a greater amount of rest and relaxation. The Felbergs are pictured with the Rev. and Mrs. Ernie Rogalski. Rev. Ken Fischer is pastor of the church. (Mrs. Leonard J. Fischer, reporter.)

GEORGE, IA. On May 29 ordination services were held for Mr. Jim Arends at First Baptist Church. The Rev. Ken-



neth Unruh, a former pastor, led the service. The Rev. Bert Itterman, pastor of First Baptist Church, gave the welcome. Scriptures were read by Miss Deb Hansen, followed with a double duet by the Janssen sisters, of First Bap-

tist Church, Emery, where Mr. Arends had served as music and youth director.

Dr. Floyd Moore, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, delivered the ordination message. Paul Reemstma sang. The charge to the candidate was given by the Rev. Charles M. Hiatt, Emery, SD, with the charge to the candidate's wife given by Mrs. Donald Miller, Brandon, SD.

After the laying on of hands, Pastor Itterman gave the ordination prayer and presented the ordination document. An offering was received to be used for purchasing books for Mr. Arends. The Rev. Jim Arends gave a response of thanksgiving and closed with the benediction.

Jim received his Master of Divinity degree from N.A.B. Seminary in 1976 and is a member of First Baptist Church, George. His wife, the former Pamela Reck received her M.A. in Counseling from the N.A.B. Seminary, in 1977. She is a member of Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN. They are Manager-Director of the Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, ND, since June 1. (Mrs. John Arends, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MB. The King's Daughters' Society (pictured) of McDermott Avenue Baptist Church had a lovely mother and daughter evening in May. Mrs. Jeanette Stein gave an interesting talk, "Praise the Lord, I'm Free."



On June 21 we had our annual auction sale. The tables were laden with handwork, plants and home baked goods. Almost \$800.00 was raised, most of which will go to missions. Our new president is Mrs. Lydia Spletzer. (Alice Parr, reporter.)

DURHAM, KS. Upon the recommendation of the Southwestern Association Credentials Committee, First Baptist Church proceeded with an ordination council for their pastor, Harvey L. Friez. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, the pastors and two delegates from each of the Kansas Association churches were invited for an ordination council on May 13. A 6:00 o'clock dinner was served to the Council and visitors; this was followed by the Ordination Council session to which church members and friends were invited. The doctrinal statement of Harvey Friez was reviewed and questioned by the Council. The decision of the Council was affirmative. On May 15

at 3:30 p.m., the church held the Ordination Service followed by a reception in honor of the Rev. Harvey Friez. (Marcella Mohn, reporter.)

WATERTOWN, WI. A "Night of Music" was presented by our music department at the evening service on Mother's Day at First Baptist Church. The program featured the choir, K.F.C. chorus, orchestra and other special music. Narrations were read by the pastor, the Rev. Allan Kranz. The program director was Mrs. Allan Krause.

On May 11-15 God's Volunteers ended their 1976-77 Crusade at our church. The impact of their presence here will long be remembered. Their music and witness for God was inspiring to all. (Mrs. Arthur E. Rude, reporter.)

MEDINA, ND. An ordination council was called to consider the ordination of Lyle Spicer into the Christian ministry at First Baptist Church, May 20, 1977. Mr. Spicer satisfied the council in all areas of discussion; the council unanimously voted to recommend that Lyle Spicer be ordained by First Baptist Church. The Rev. George Breitreuz was chairman and the Rev. Ron Norman clerk of the council.

On May 29 members, relatives, and friends gathered to witness the ordination service of Mr. Lyle Spicer. The



Rev. George Breitreuz gave the ordination sermon, "The Successful Ministry." The Rev. Edwin Walter led the ordination prayer. The Rev. Richard Uhler gave the charge to the church, and the Rev. Vernon Schneider gave the charge to the candidate. The Rev. Bill Loge presented the ordination certificate and welcomed Rev. Spicer into the Baptist ministry. Many attended from the surrounding community including Pastor Ken Oswald, Streeter United Methodist, who also took part.

The Rev. Lyle Spicer is pastor of First Baptist, Medina. (Mrs. Oscar Moser, clerk.)

WATERTOWN, WI. Recent highlights of First Baptist Church include several projects of the Men's Fellowship, one of which was establishing monthly all-day prayer meetings.

Our young people, guided by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller, led the church dur-

ing youth week, which culminated with the play, "Even Unto Death," on Sunday evening.

The Watertown W.M.S. hosted the Wisconsin W.M.U. Retreat at Timberlee Christian Center, WI, April 29-30. Mrs. Barbara Binder, Westchester, IL, presented a challenge for setting goals and priorities in our lives as Christians.

Three new members were added to our Church family: one by experience and two by baptism. The pastor of the church is the Rev. Allan Kranz. (Mrs. Arthur E. Rude, reporter.)

WEST ST. PAUL, MN. Members and friends were greatly blessed by a missionary conference on May 1, 4, and 5. Special speaker, Dr. Herman Tegenfeldt, Bethel College, spoke on the theme, "What's Challenging in World Missions Today?", on May 1. In the evening, a panel, including the Rev. and Mrs. Richard Rabenhorst (Brazil), the Rev. and Mrs. Wilfred Weick (Japan), Miss Pat Lenz (Cameroon), with Pastor Douglas Radke as moderator, discussed missionary needs. A time of communion and fellowship followed, and displays of White Cross work were viewed.

On May 4 Miss Lenz spoke and showed slides of the physical therapy work at Mbingo Hospital, Cameroon.

A "Sukiyaki" (fellowship) supper was served on Thursday night under the direction of the Weicks. Participants chose to eat either American style (at tables with chairs) or Japanese style (low tables and pillows on the floor). The film, YONEKI, the story of a Japanese girl, was shown.

We were privileged to have the Rabenhorsts, Weicks and Miss Lenz worshipping with us at Riverview frequently this year. (Mildred Bruce, church clerk.)

ST. ALBERT, AB. We thank the Lord for the increase in attendance, as high as 145 on a given Sunday, at Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church. We are pleased with the increase in Sunday school participation. On our first anniversary, nine adults (pictured with Mr. Dave Emilson,



ch. Deacon Board, and the pastor, Irwin Kujat) were baptized. The baptism took place at McKernan Baptist Church, our mother church. We are grateful for McKernan's active support.

Several people have come to know Christ as Savior in the past months.

Pray with us: two couples are being transferred; we are searching for suitable land, and we anticipate an exciting Fall program under the direction of our Executive Board. (I. H. Kujat, pastor.)

LODI, CA. On June 5, we bade farewell to Dave and Judy Lawrence



and their three children (pictured) at a reception. They left the next day for Manila in the Philippines, where they are serving with the Far East Broadcasting Co. Members and friends of Temple Baptist Church, where the Lawrences are members, witnessed their dedication service a year ago. (Mrs. Thelma Fischer, reporter.)

WASHBURN, ND. At a recent communion service, eight new members were received into the membership of Washburn Baptist Church. Five were



received by baptism and three by testimony. Nineteen members have been received in the past 18 months. Pastor Bernard Edinger is pictured at the right.

STEVENSVILLE, MI. Dr. Alphin Conrad, professor emeritus, Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, conducted a Bible Conference on the Holy Spirit at Lakeshore Baptist Church, April 17-20. When he attended seminary, Pastor R. I. Thompson studied under Dr. Conrad.

On April 28, 115 mothers and daughters enjoyed an evening of fellowship, food, fun and a puppet program, presented by Mrs. Leroy Comstock and daughters, at the W.M.S. annual mother and daughter banquet. The theme was "Pioneering with Christ." Name tags, table decorations, favors and programs all co-ordinated with the theme. (Nellie Beath, reporter.)

ASHLEY, ND. The Woman's Missionary Society of Ashley Baptist Church presented their annual program on June 5 with many W.M.S. members participating. The pastor's wife, Mrs. Leona Gerber, gave an inspiring talk, "The Christian Home." Women from several other churches attended the program and joined in the fellowship hour which followed.

"The Church Growth Strategy," a filmstrip presentation, was shown and explained by the Rev. Richard Uhler, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Lehr, ND.

A special musical program, featuring the Allan Gerber family, two youth groups, two women's groups, the Brotherhood and Men's Chorus, was held following a potluck supper on May 29.

The Tabitha Society held the annual birthday celebration on May 17. The guest speaker was Mrs. Valencia Robinson, Bismarck, ND, who spoke on "The Unusual Day." She also sang two solos. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

ARNPRIOR, ON. Just one year ago, May 1976, a step of faith was taken as First Baptist Church went on the air with a half-hour radio ministry on station C.J.E.T., Smith Falls, ON. Our weekly broadcast was filled with special musical numbers from our own congregation, as well as many others. As the Rev. Ken MacDonald ministered each week, we were greatly encouraged by the response. We look forward to another year, as God leads us.

An exciting evening of worship and praise to God was held on May 1 to celebrate our first anniversary on radio. Mr. Hal Botham, manager, C.J.E.T., was our speaker for the evening. Murray and the Gospel Aires provided the special music. (Rosalie Russett, reporter.)

BILLINGS, MT. The church basement of Calvary Baptist Church has been remodeled to give more effective teaching areas. Along with this, many of our teachers and leaders attended a series of training classes called International Clinic of Learning. Those that attended



found it rewarding and picked up lots of refreshing ideas on better teaching techniques.

Pictured with our pastor, the Rev. Alvin Auch, are nine new members

whom we have welcomed into the fellowship of our church.

A highlight for us this year was hosting the Montana-Dakota Association June 28-July 3. (Sherri Klotz, reporter.)

ROCHESTER, NY. On June 5 the Lat-ta Road Baptist Church celebrated a Music Festival. The whole Sunday worship service consisted of music of praise by congregational singing, adult, youth, and children's choirs, solos and instrumental presentations. Closing by sharing in the Lord's Supper made it a very meaningful experience.

After the service, everyone gathered for a potluck dinner, good fellowship, and another musical program on the lighter side.

We, as a church, rejoice for the number of new members added to our congregation by baptism or transfer of letters. We also praise God for the growth in attendance at our worship services, and the interest expressed in Bible studies and other church activities. (Mrs. Hildegard Metzger, reporter.)

WARREN, MI. The young people of Redeemer Baptist Church continue to follow the Lord's command to "go ye into all the world..." Miss Carla Braun, daughter of our former pastor, left after receiving Nigerian Residence Visa in August to join the teaching staff of Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria. A farewell was held June 12 for Carla. Our love and prayers go with her.

Two of our young married couples, Mr. and Mrs. John Hanselman, and Mr. and Mrs. William Ballman, left to serve for one year in the N.A.B. church extension program in Troy, MI.

Gordie and Sandy Bauslaugh are serving in Bismarck Baptist Church, ND, where he is director of Christian Education.

David Holtzhouse travelled this summer as pianist with the "Proclamations," a singing group from Grand Rapids Bible College. Leeann Riederer worked again at Gull Lake Bible Camp in Michigan. Val Urquhart has been teaching in Osaka, Japan, for two years. (Doris Kintzer, reporter.)

LA SALLE, CO. First Baptist Church had the privilege of helping in the Excitement '77 Crusade for Christ June 3-12. Dr. John Wesley White, an associate of Billy Graham, was the speaker. Tom Bledsoe directed the music. What a thrill it was to see many give their lives to Christ each night!

On June 14 the church had the joy of hosting "Love Hymn," a young people's singing group from Sioux Falls. The young people sang to a full house. (Tylene Schmidt, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. The first Okanagan Ladies' Retreat, co-sponsored by our five Okanagan N.A.B. churches, was attended by a large number of women. The speakers were Mrs. Pearl King, Seattle, WA, and Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, N.A.B. women's work director.

On Sunday of the Retreat weekend the new Green Bay Baptist Camp Lodge was dedicated. Grace, Lakeview Heights, and Trinity Baptist Churches as well as a number of visitors from the coast took part. The Hon. Bill Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia, cut the ribbon, officially opening the Lodge. (Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. Twelve new members were baptized recently, three young couples among them. We thank God for a steady growth in the Trinity Baptist Church. At present, we are profiting from a series of in-depth sermons on the Holy Spirit. The Rev. Richard Hohensee is pastor, and the Rev. Ron Habermas associate pastor. (Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.)

FESSENDEN, ND. In January and May, our pastor, the Rev. Fred Fuchs, had the privilege of baptizing eight candidates who followed their Lord in baptism at First Baptist Church.

Our young people served a spaghetti supper.

A neighboring Mennonite church presented "Cool in the Furnace" in our church, and the Freeman Junior College Choir presented a concert. The Redemption Sounds quartet from Grand Forks presented a concert in our church with the Brotherhood in charge. (Mrs. Adolph People, reporter.)

REGINA, SK. Recently we had a Police Appreciation Sunday with R.C.M.P. and City Police officials participating in the Sunday school and morning worship service of Faith Baptist Church. Pastor Richard Quiring's sermon was "Policemen, God's Ministers." A ladies' sextette from N.A.B.C. gave a concert in the evening.

We received six new members, five by baptism and one by letter. On June 5 we had an impressive commissioning service for the Gordon Barwell family, who will work for Campus Life. We had two showings of the film, "All the King's Horses." We have given tribute to our high school graduates, senior citizens, our mothers, and to our fathers. (Vera Rosom, reporter.)

OAKBANK, MB. "Let's Get Growing" was the theme of our challenging, inspirational Manitoba Baptist Association sessions held March 31-April 3 with Dr. Roy Seibel, N.A.B. Seminary, and the Rev. and Mrs. Wilfred Weick,

missionaries, Japan, as our guest speakers. Highlights of the meeting were an exhilarating youth musical, "Share," and a closing rally on Sunday afternoon.

In his message, Dr. Seibel effectively challenged us to grow for the right reasons. A sacrificial commitment to sharing the love of God supercedes all unworthy motives to grow. In one penetrating message we were given the meaning of discipleship: A disciple is willing to give up all for Jesus Christ.

We also enjoyed the input from Mr. and Mrs. Weick, at the luncheon meetings and at the Saturday evening session led by the Women's Missionary Union. A good spirit prevailed in the business sessions led by our moderator, the Rev. Hero Ulrichs. Our budget for 1977 was set at \$32,200. Plans were initiated to hold our next annual meetings in Beausejour, where we look forward to meeting in the new church building soon to be completed by Elim Baptist Church. (Andrew Wolstenholme, reporter.)

ST. BONIFACIUS, MN. Eleven new members were received, (pictured with Pastor Delvin Bertsch, r. rear.) and three by testimony into the fellowship of the Minnetrista Baptist Church.



During July 24-31 we joined with other churches in the area for "United Crusade for Christ." The speaker was Dr. Dave Breese. (Irene Maas, reporter.)

PRINCE RUPERT, BC. Pastor Doug Kellough was ordained into the Christian ministry by Bethel First Baptist Church on June 12. The service was led by the Rev. Larry Kliwer, pastor, Baptist Church, Kitimat, who also gave the ordination prayer. Deacon Art Sweet gave the report of the ordination examining council held at the Baptist Union Convention, Regina, SK. The senior choir, under the direction of Mrs. Roy (Gloria) Hooper, sang.

Dr. M. R. Cherry, professor of Systematic Theology and associate dean of Theology, Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS, spoke on "The Gifts of the Ministry," Eph. 4:1-16. Dr. Cherry, Pastor Kliwer and pastors of other Prince Rupert churches participated in the laying on of hands.

In three services that day, over five hundred persons were present including three hundred at the evening service when the Des Moines, IA, Y.M.C.A. Choral Bell Choir performed. Mr. Kellough received the M.Div. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY, in 1976. Doug is from Edmonton, AB, where he was a member of Zion Baptist Church and later, Laurier Heights Baptist Church. The Kelloughs have one child.

AUBURN, MI. On June 3, 1977, an ordination council was called at First Baptist Church to examine Mr. Dennis Kee, a candidate for ordination into the Christian ministry. The council elected the Rev. Rubin Herrmann, chairman, and Mrs. Wallace Graham, secretary.

The Council heard the testimony of Dennis Kee, his call to the ministry and his doctrinal statement. The Council was satisfied and impressed with how God works in the lives of people today. Dennis Kee worked about twenty years before God called him into full-time service. He then entered the seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. During his time of study at the seminary, he started a church extension work in Rock Rapids. Upon completion of his studies from the seminary, he received a Master of Divinity degree. He is pastor of the new church extension work in Bensalem, PA.

A recommendation was made from the Council that the church proceed with the ordination service. At the request of Dennis Kee, the following laymen from the church were included in the program: Bert Braun, Rein Braun, Harlan Clarey, Roland Johanson, Gary Miller, James Wayne, and Virginia Graham. The Rev. Fred Penner, Auburn; the Rev. Norman Berkan, Standish, and the Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary, also participated. The Rev. Rubin Herrmann, Bridgman, MI, presented the ordination address. The Rev. Dennis Kee (pictured) gave the benediction. (Mrs. Wallace Graham, secretary.)

APPLETON, MN. Four persons were baptized by Pastor Terrence Jarosch at First Baptist Church. Two were received by letter. Dr. John Hise N.A.B. Seminary, was with us one night to promote the Seminary. The Rev. Clarence Walth was with us in March. The Rev. Doug Radke, pastor, Riverview Baptist Church, was speaker on pulpit exchange Sunday, May 22. Pastor Jarosch spoke at Riverview Baptist Church, St. Paul.

The church observed a week of non-viewing television in April. The men of the church held a program honoring the mothers of the church in May. (Mrs. Charles Giese, reporter.)

in memoriam

ARTHUR C. GIESE was born at Fairfield Township, Jan. 22, 1900, and died March 31, 1977, at the age of 77. He married Esther Mielitz on March 6, 1924. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Appleton, MN. He accepted the Lord as his Savior in 1924. He served the church for many years as treasurer and deacon. Art is survived by his wife, Esther; one son, Dale, rural Appleton; one daughter, Mrs. Delford (Muriel) Von Eschen, Ortonville; one brother, Roy; six sisters; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The officiating minister was the Rev. Terrence Jarosch.

MRS. BERTHA KAISER, 93, was born on Feb. 16, 1883, in Germany, and died July 15, 1977. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Kaleck. On Aug. 4, 1905, she married Fritz E. Kaiser in Germany. He preceded her in death on Aug. 2, 1970. The Kaisers came to Kenosha, WI, in 1913. She was a charter member of Immanuel Baptist Church, a member and past president of the women's Missionary Society and Sunday school teacher. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Daniel (Hertha) Behr, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters. The Rev. Jothan G. Benke officiated at the service.

THE REV. JOHN J. KELLEY was born in Salem, MA, July 10, 1888, and died June 23, 1977. Dr. Kelley received his formal training at the National Bible Institute, New York City. Some years later the National Bible Institute bestowed the Doctor of Divinity Degree upon him. Pastor Kelley was associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York City; pastor of the Woodside Community Baptist Church, NY, for 17 years; and from 1949 to 1964, pastor of Wood Haven Baptist Church, NY. Several years after retirement, Pastor and Mrs. Kelley moved to the Rossmore Community near Jamesburg, NJ. He is survived by his wife, Freda Catherine (Ebner) Kelley. Pastor Kelley was a member of First Baptist Church, Jamesburg, NJ.

MARIE PUSCH (nee Kies) was born Dec. 21, 1896, to Christine and Franz Kies at Nieder-Marsberg, Germany and died July 14, 1977. She came to the United States Aug. 19, 1922. She accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior, was baptized Sept. 6, 1925, and joined Pilgrim Baptist Church, Jersey City, NJ. She married Richard Pusch Jan. 19, 1927. To this blessed union one child was born. Due to a church merger, her membership was transferred to Cornerstone Baptist Church, Union City. She was a faithful member, as well as secretary and treasurer of the W.M.S. in both churches for many years. Due to illness, she and her husband moved to North Dakota in November 1976. On Jan. 19, 1977, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Pusch became residents of Bismarck Baptist Home in 1977. Preceding her in death were her parents, one sister and two brothers. Survivors include her husband; her daughter, Ruth, and son-in-law, the Rev. Fred Fuchs; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; one sister, Mrs. Anna Schemm; and eight nieces and nephews. The Rev. Orville Meth officiated at the service.

GEORGE QUENZER of Herreid, SD, was born July 9, 1910, and died June 22, 1977. He grew up in the Herreid area. He married Anna Kusler at Herreid on Oct. 29, 1930. He accepted Christ as his Savior in November 1947 and was baptized into the fellowship of Herreid Baptist Church on Dec. 31, 1947. He was a past member of the board of trustees and a former Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife; three sons: Wallace, Jerry, and Harlan; three daughters: Phyllis Schaeffer, JoAnna Dieder, and Jaci Quenser, and 15 grandchildren. The Rev. Edward Kopf officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. HELEN SCHREIBER was born in Stettin, Germany, Aug. 31, 1892, and died in Minneapolis, MN, on June 14, 1977, at the age of 84 years. In her early teens she accepted Christ as personal Savior and became a member of Faith Baptist Church where she worshipped and served for more than 70 years. On Aug. 28, 1917, she married John Schreiber, who preceded her in death in 1954. She is survived by three children: Mrs. Alvin (Maria) Quiring, Werner Schreiber, and Mrs. Wilmer (Eleanor) Quiring; two brothers: Otto Hensel and Austin Hensel; one sister, Mrs. Walter (Eva) Gooden; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Pastor Allan Strohschein officiated at the funeral service.



the new old sodomy

by Adolph Braun

The police of San Francisco estimated that about 100,000 people joined in the annual "Gay March." The "New Morality" crowd under the guise of "Civil Rights" is becoming increasingly more bold to flaunt their abuse of themselves upon others.

The Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee held hearings on child sexual exploitation and molestation; especially concerning child

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

porno. However, members of the subcommittee strongly objected to a clear recommendation by Professor Frank Osanko of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The lack of moral values clouds the issue. The greatest tragedy is that so many "Christians" have adjusted their values to be more agreeable with the "new-situation ethics."

The Gallup Poll last year showed that 70% of all Americans want some kind of moral education to be included in public school education. Guidelines for public school personnel is being developed for 40 states. But the problem of soaring V.D., teenage pregnancies, drugs, pornography and child molestation will not go away easily. How will legislators deal clearly with such infections if even Christians are sitting on the fence! Permit me to suggest some Bible references to show what our textbook for belief and behavior says as it relates to homosexuality (Sodomy).

Israel was commanded not to allow a harlot, nor a sodomite to live in their land (Deut. 23:17). Sodomites were called wicked (Gen. 13:13; 18:20). The Lord showed his disapproval with Sodomy by raining brimstone and fire from

heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24). Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed as an example to all who should live ungodly (II Peter 2:6 & Jude 7).

It is very obvious from the O.T. and from the teachings of Jesus that God's people could hold back God's judgment. He promised to spare Sodom if only ten righteous souls could be found in the city (Gen. 18:26). Jesus said, "The same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed (Luke 17:29-30).

God still has the power to change lives. The Apostle Paul wrote that no homosexual would inherit God's kingdom. He reminded the Christians there "and such were some of you, but you were washed and you were made holy . . . in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:9-11).

We have the answer to wholesome and healthy living in the Gospel of our Savior. Let us not be intimidated, but rather let us pray and teach and live that God may change lives for his glory. □

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE GRADUATING CLASS LARGEST IN HISTORY

The graduating class of 1977 was one of the largest in the history of the College with 27 graduates. Five of these received the Bachelor of Theology Degree in preparation for the pastoral ministry.

Commencement Activities began with the graduation banquet held at the College on Saturday evening, April 30. Approximately 400 guests were present to hear the valedictorian speech given by Karl Fech on the theme, "Looking Beyond What Lies Behind." The baccalaureate address on Sunday morning was delivered by Dr. Arthur Patzia, pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

A well-attended commencement service was the concluding feature of the college year with President Sonnenberg's challenge to the graduating class to "Look unto Jesus." This involves an upward look, an outward look and a forward look. The weather permitted the graduates to receive congratulations and best wishes from faculty, family and friends on the lawn of the College campus. □



Church in Sioux Falls was accompanied by a dependable involvement in many areas of responsibility.

Sincere appreciation is expressed for the great demonstration of sympathy and love from the many students, alumni, faculty and friends of the Seminary and the North American Baptist Conference.

"...Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matt. 20:26). Because of his "servant" nature, Harley was "great" in the hearts of many. A memorial fund has been established at the North American Baptist Seminary in Harley's memory. Gifts may be sent directly to the Seminary for this purpose.

In Memory of Harley Radel

by Ron Norman

Harley M. Radel, who faithfully served the Lord and the North American Baptist Seminary for 17 years as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, died of a heart attack on June 30, 1977.

He was born on Dec. 24, 1923, at Alexandria, SD, and was married to Luella Mehlhaff on Dec. 30, 1945. Engaged in the business of farming, they moved to the Parkston area in the early 1950's, and in 1960 they began their employment at the seminary in Sioux Falls.

He is survived by his wife; a son, Richard A., his mother, Lydia Radel; two brothers, Gilbert and Kenneth; two sisters, Rosann and Charlotte, and two grandchildren.

Harley's commitment to the Lord Jesus was exemplified in his willing spirit and cheerful outlook as he "ministered" unto the many who passed through the doors at the Seminary. His membership at the Trinity Baptist

The Rev. Ron Norman is the pastor of the Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND.

■ **Steve Corum**, a 1977 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, accepted the call to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD, effective Sept. 1, 1977.

■ **Michael Seto** accepted the call to become associate pastor/minister of music and discipleship of First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, effective July 15, 1977. He is a 1977 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls.

■ **The Rev. Frederic E. Spalding** has accepted the call to North Freedom Baptist and Rock Springs Baptist Churches, WI, effective Aug. 8, 1977. He is a 1977 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, and was ordained by Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, on Aug. 7, 1977.

■ **The Rev. Chester Strobel** has resigned from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Bison, KS, effective July 31. He has served the Bison Church since 1974. He will teach at a Christian day school in Kansas City, MO.

■ **The Rev. Ralph Cooke** has accepted the call to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Minot, ND, effective October 1977. He has served as pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, since 1973.

■ **Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church** is the name chosen for the Bensalem, PA, Church Extension project of which the Rev. Dennis Kee is pastor.

■ **Northridge Baptist Church** is the name of the Church Extension project in Troy, MI. The Rev. John Trate is pastor.

■ **The Rev. Helmut Poschwatta** is the new pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Ochre River, MB.

■ **The Laura Reddig Mission Offering** totals \$173,355. This is the highest amount received for an Easter offering. Last year it was \$95,668.

■ **The Rev. Victor Gunst** has accepted the call to become pastor of the new Church Extension work in Coral Springs, FL, effective Aug. 15, 1977.

■ **The Rev. Bill Taft** became the pastor of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Michigan, on Sept. 1, 1977. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Cadillac, MI.

■ **The Rev. Peter Unrau** has accepted the call to become pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, effective Aug. 28, 1977. He was pastor of Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Dallas, OR.

■ **The Rev. C. I. Wiebe** has accepted the call to Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, BC. He has served as pastor of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, since 1972.

■ **The Rev. Len E. Johnson** has accepted the call to become pastor of Westland Baptist Church, West Edmonton AB, effective Sept 15, 1977. This is a new Church Extension project. He has served as assistant pastor of McKernan Baptist Church since 1974.

■ **The Rev. Earle N. Wanamaker** resigned as pastor of Oakbank Baptist Church, MB, effective Sept. 30, 1977.

■ **The Rev. Paul Hunsicker** resigned as pastor of Hilda Baptist Church, AB.

■ **The Rev. Dennis Kee** was ordained by First Baptist Church, Auburn, MI, into the Christian ministry on June 3, 1977. He is the pastor of the church extension work in Bensalem, PA.

■ **The Rev. Clifford Pedersen** was ordained into the Christian ministry on June 10, 1977. He is the pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, SK.

■ **The Rev. Henry Geigle**, pastor of Community Baptist Church, Xenia, OH, since 1975, has resigned.

■ **Snow Road Baptist Church**, Cleveland, OH, held its last service Sunday, July 31, 1977. The church has disbanded.

■ **Mr. Kent Carlson** is the youth pastor at Grace Baptist Church, Racine, WI.

■ **The Rev. Loren Franchuk** was ordained July 16, 1977, by Sierra Heights Baptist Church, Renton, WA. He is pastor of Hazelwood Baptist Church, Auburn, WA, since April 1977.

■ **Dr. Barry Moore** held a Crusade at the Stampede Corral in Calgary, AB, in June. The concluding attendance reached 5,200, and total of 232 people were individually counselled during the 8-day crusade.

■ **The Rev. Paul J. Loth** was ordained by Village Green Baptist Church, August 7, 1977. He is a 1977 graduate of Conservative Baptist Seminary, Denver, CO.

■ **The Rev. Ralph Chandler** accepted the call to be pastor of First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA. He resigned from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA, effective Aug. 15, 1977, where he has been pastor since 1974.

■ **Dr. Sydney Page** of Cheshire, England, has joined the faculty of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, in the area of New Testament. He was the pastor of Heaton Moor Evangelical Church for the past two years. He received his Ph.D. degree from University of Manchester in 1974. His academic training includes Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1971; M.Div., Westminster Theological Seminary, 1970, and a B.Th. from London College of Bible and Missions, ON.

■ **The Rev. Herbert Vetter** has accepted the call to First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS, effective Oct. 1, 1977. He previously served as pastor of Valley View Baptist Church, Everett, WA, since 1968.

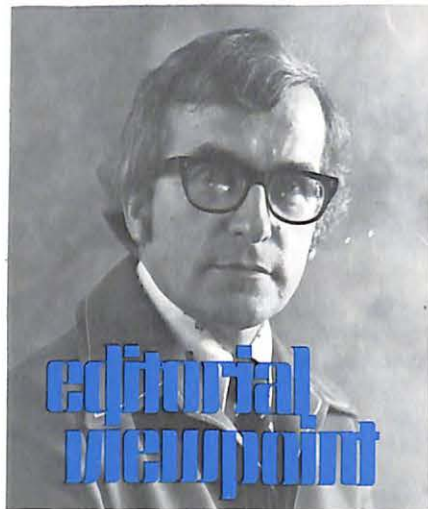
■ **Mr. Michael Hagan** became the pastor of Meadow Hills Baptist Church, Aurora, CO, on July 15. He previously served as youth minister and pastoral intern for four years at Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA.

■ **The Rev. Arthur Freitag** has accepted the call to Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, effective July 31, 1977. He previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND, since 1972.

■ **The Rev. Charles Picos**, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Union City, NJ, has terminated his ministry there.

■ **The Rev. Lyle Spicer** was ordained into the Christian ministry by First Baptist Church, Medina, ND, on May 29, 1977. He is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Medina.

■ **The Rev. Edwin J. Fuellbrandt** was ordained into the Christian ministry on June 19, 1977 by Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC. □



Celebration Of Gratitude

The Book of Psalms is filled with poems, songs and prayers of praise and thankfulness to God. In one of his Psalms, King David exclaimed, "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (34:8).

The Psalmist had experienced life to its fullest. He had been through love and war, through great exhilaration and extreme depression. His was not an account of secondhand witness; he was a participant in life. Yet David became exuberant over the goodness and greatness of God and called upon his people, to express their gratefulness in joyous celebrations.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts" (Psalm 145:3-4).

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 136:1).

We as North American Baptists, who have chosen to make the month of October a special month of celebrating God's goodness, can add to the experiences of King David several thousand years of additional insight and proof of God's unchanging kindness. God has faithfully and safely led his people through times of trial and valleys of

death. God has guarded you and me, so that we are now able to join the celebrating throngs on the North American continent.

While there is a famine in many countries of the world, we did not have to starve; for unlike in the Sahel Desert and other places of deadly drought, we had enough water for our fields and gardens and enough food to satisfy our hunger.

We have much reason to be grateful to God when we think of the ongoing work of home and overseas missions. In spite of the general mood among many Christians and non-Christians (although mainly among the latter), that the times for overseas missions are over, we are enjoying a continuous growth of our mission ministries in Brazil, Cameroon, Japan and Nigeria, as also on the Spanish-American fields in Colorado and Texas.

The Church Extension work, just now in its 25th year, is experiencing an encouraging growth and has high goals and hopes for the future.

The evangelistic campaigns of God's Volunteers seem to have a greater spiritual impact from year to year.

Our two North American Baptist schools, the seminary and the college, register the largest incoming classes, after just having graduated the largest classes early this summer.

The activity in most of our camps had a pronounced spiritual emphasis and resulted in many conversions among young and adult campers. Even the N.A.B. Family Conference in Green Lake, although small in number, was a great spiritual uplift for all who attended.

Celebration of gratitude? Yes, because we have much to be thankful for. How then shall we celebrate? Our thankfulness is best expressed by giving to God part of what he has given to us in the first place. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required" (Luke 12:48b). We usually spiritualize this saying of Jesus by applying it to our talents only. Let's apply it also to our material blessings. By giving generously we will discover how much really we have been given.

Next we celebrate our gratitude by not taking too much time to look back. Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). People who look back too much will soon be headed that way!

As North American Baptists we want to joyfully share our blessings with others and to be open when God calls us to handle priorities according to his holy will. Our obedience and trust will tune in our hearts to the right spirit of celebration. RJK □

open dialogue

Dear Editor:

I am concerned about the appearances of those persons within our N.A.B. churches and those pictured in the BAPTIST HERALD; namely about long hair on men and women wearing pants.

Deut. 22:5 says, that a woman should not wear man's clothing and men shouldn't wear woman's clothing. 1 Cor. 6:9 says effeminate shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

God's Word teaches that women should not wear men's clothing, and that means also in our churches. In the U.S. it's accepted that the man wears pants and that the woman wears a dress. This custom makes a distinction between man and woman. There is no trouble with unisex when this custom is followed. It's against God's teachings for a woman to be masculine and a man to be effeminate. I think it's time for a woman to be a woman and not to be a wishy washy, unisex loving freak. If we take the stand that women can wear men's clothing and we call ourselves Christians, then it's time to either change our conduct or else change our name. If we don't dress and act like Christians, how can we win the world for Christ?

In 1 Cor. 11:14 it says that it's a shame unto a man to have long hair. What is long hair classified as? Is it down to the middle of the back or over the ears? Long flowing hair on a man is definitely a shame, because a man's image is changed from sir to sweetheart when that happens. He tends to lose his masculinity.

I recently noticed a picture in the BAPTIST HERALD where this one person had hair that looked feminine (and there have been many more similar pictures). But this person had a face to match, and this is what the Bible teaches against. This person could have looked masculine if he did not have his effeminate little mind so mixed up. I found out that he was a man, because his name was under his picture. Where, may I ask, are God's men? I say, stand up and be counted!

Men should adopt their own dress code and never change it for the sake of being like the world. If hair can be grown over the ears, why should it be stopped there? Why not grow them shoulder length? Many women have their hair just over the ear, so should

men have theirs the same length? Either the women have to grow their hair longer or the man have to shorten theirs.

2 Cor. 6:17 tells us that we should be separated from the world. If our appearance is unseparated from the world, then our witness for Christ becomes less effective.

Let's end unisex in our N.A.B. Conference! Barry Fischer, Beulah, ND.

Dear Editor:

For the interest of your church news readers, the National Society of Published Poets, Inc. is compiling a book of religious poems by our members.

If any of your readers have written a religious poem and would like our society to consider it for publication, please have them send their poem, with a self addressed envelope to: Religious Poems, The National Society of Published Poets, P.O. Box 1976, Riverview, FL 33569. Phillip B. Shaw Jr., executive secretary.

Dear Editor:

I have just read again the very fine comments in Dr. Zimbelman's column in the June issue of the BAPTIST HERALD. His wise and gracious answer is given to a critical letter concerning an earlier column of his. It is hard to believe that there are still pastors among us who believe in the old adage, "When ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise."

Almost 24 hours a day, both young and old are bombarded by the media with sex in every aspect. All the more reason for wise counseling by our Christian leaders.

I am living in retirement here in California. After 35 years in the active ministry. I still teach a Sunday school class each Sunday morning. On each Tuesday morning I conduct a Bible study in the home of one of the church members. We are just now starting a new study, based on 1 Corinthians. I shall use Dr. Zimbelman's column as an introduction to this study. I love the BAPTIST HERALD and enjoy each copy. Edward Kary, Sonora, CA

Dear Editor:

As I have previously indicated to you in a personal letter, I am very concerned about the exclusion of the First Baptist Church of Eldridge, Iowa, over the matter of the involvement in the charismatic movement (reported in July/August 1977 edition of the BAPTIST HERALD). Since I read this report, I have had the opportunity to carefully study the "Report of the Committee Elected by the Council of the Iowa Association of the NABC Churches for the Purpose of Examining the First Baptist Church

of Eldridge IA with regard to Charismatic Involvement" and the minutes of the special session of the Iowa Association of the NAB Conference, held on March 15, 1977.

A study of these reports have filled me with great concern. It is clear that the decision of the Iowa Association to exclude the Eldridge church was made on the basis of Baptist tradition rather than upon the basis of whether or not the involvement of the Eldridge church in the charismatic movement was scriptural.

The charge against the First Baptist Church was not primarily one of being unscriptural. Rather, the charge was that of going against Baptist tradition. It was because of a straying away from the Baptist tradition in one area of doctrine that the Eldridge church was excluded. It was not charged by either of the reports that the charismatic position taken by the Eldridge church was unscriptural.

The exclusion of the Eldridge church is a dangerous precedent. Is this the first step towards excluding other churches or members of our denomination who are charismatic? Will the ministry of openly charismatic pastors be allowed to continue in our NAB churches, or will these pastors be blacklisted (i.e. will a charismatic pastor be able to get another church in our conference?)? These are just some of the questions raised by the expulsion of the Eldridge church. Hopefully the answers to these questions are *not* yes.

Excluding a church from our denomination on the basis of Baptist tradition and *not* on the basis of the Word of God is an extremely dangerous action. I pray that we as a denomination will not put up our umbrellas of Baptist tradition when God wants to shower us with his blessings in a new or different way. If we do this, he will one day break down those umbrellas, and we will be left standing out in the cold poking our sticks up at God.

I pray that we as a denomination will be open to the moving of God's spirit in both traditional ways and new ways. May we never be so immovable in our tradition or close-minded, that we miss or stand against what God is doing in our time. Karl Mueller, Edmonton, AB. □

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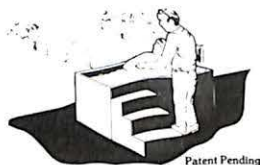
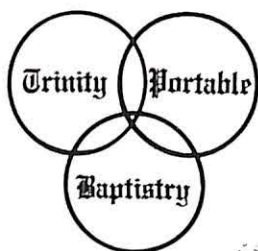
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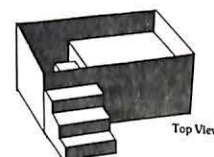
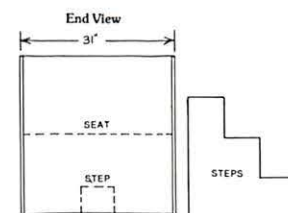
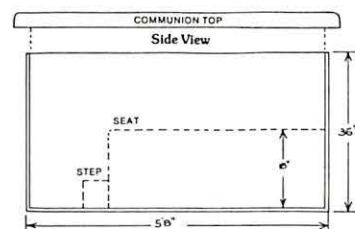
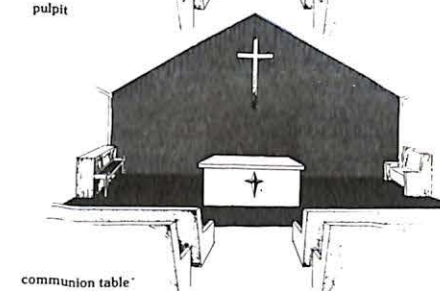
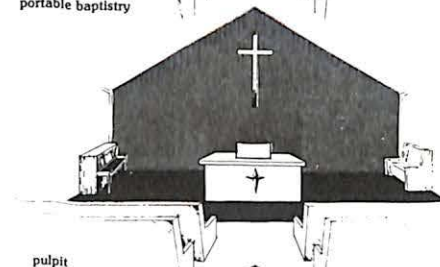
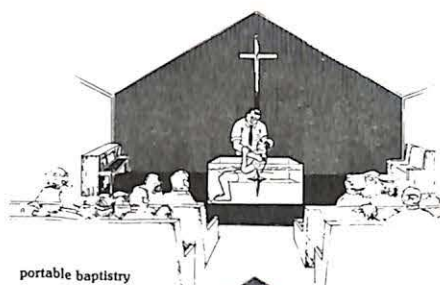
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BAPTISM SCRIPTURALLY CONVENIENT"**



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Features

- Life-time pre-molded one-piece construction.
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- Simple portable drainage system.
- Minister does not get wet, thus enabling him to continue service without delay.
- The only completely portable baptismal on the market, yet can be built if desired at ground level.
- Free standing and self-supporting.
- A versatile product with many uses, such as communion table, display service table, pulpit, business table.
- Small and compact, yet capable of handling persons as large as 7 ft. tall.
- Easy to use, trouble-free, no moving parts.
- Optional accessories available for added convenience, water pump, electrical heater, communion top and speaker podium.



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Steps store inside baptismal when not in use, or when used
as communion table or pulpit.

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Speaker podium, specify finish—natural, light fruitwood, dark	39.95

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