

baptist herald

December 1978



Unto us a child is born

Isaiah 9

The North American Baptist Seminary
1979 January Courses for Christian Workers

TERM A—JANUARY 2-12, 1979

The 1979 January Term offers a variety of stimulating courses, both on and off campus, designed to assist ministers in their effectiveness to their local congregations.

Daily on-campus schedule for the four week program of continuing education calls for lectures and workshops each day. Afternoons and evenings are kept open for personal study, informal discussions, sermon preparation and individual research. The schedule may vary slightly depending on the course.

Participants are free to elect up to two of the eleven courses offered.

W 149 SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS IN AGING (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
A research seminar on the biblical and theological perspectives of aging, and how these relate to the spiritual well-being of older people and to the programs of religious education that the church should provide for and with them.
Dr. Floyd Moore

B 140 BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (Jan. 8-12) (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
Survey of the methods and important sites of archaeology in the Holy Land to assist students in interpreting the Bible in light of its historical and current context.
Dr. Lee McDonald &
Dr. J. Gordon Harris

W 453 ASSERTION WITHOUT HOSTILITY (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
Workshop related to the development of a meaningful assertive lifestyle. Individual participants will be able to evaluate their personal assertion skills and develop new patterns for functioning in personal relationships or as models for others.
Ms. Marge Trankle

W 545 MEXICAN MISSION ACTION STUDY (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
On-site observation and participation in mission activity and missions in the Rio Grande Valley of Southern Texas and Mexico to provide a firsthand encounter to students considering mission service and to pastors and other Christian leaders concerned about mission promotion in the local church.
The Reverend George Lang

W 259 PASTORAL CARE THROUGH PREACHING (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
A course on pastoral care from the pulpit developed through the identification of basic pastoral concerns of the human career and designing sermons to minister to them. Models of supportive preaching will be examined to gain insight into the homiletical concerns of the course.
The Reverend Herbert Dickerson

TERMS A AND B

W 541 JAPAN FIELD STUDY—January 2-26 (1 or 1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
An on-site study of the local churches and mission outreach in its aspects of evangelism and church planting to provide a firsthand encounter to students considering mission service and to pastors or Christian leaders concerned about mission promotion in their churches.
The Reverend George W. Lang, coordinator

W 190 DOCTOR OF MINISTRY SEMINAR: FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (3 sem. hrs.)
A research seminar to develop a minister's resourcefulness and leadership skills in planning and conducting a growth model of pre-engagement, partnership and parent education in the local church. The course emphasis will be upon marriage enrichment rather than counseling. Case situations brought by students will be utilized as well as research projects and reports.
Dr. Richard F. Houts

TERM B—JANUARY 15-26, 1979

B 144 INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS IN BIBLICAL TEACHINGS AND PSYCHOLOGY (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)

A learning experience in interpersonal dynamics, integrating the insights of biblical theology and actualizing psychology to help the participant learn how to form wholesome personal relationships and to function effectively in them as a minister of Jesus Christ.
Dr. Wayne Peterson

W 755 ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND OTHER COMMON REACTIONS (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
The etiology symptoms and treatment of anxiety, depression, and other common reactions such as paranoia and phobias.
Dr. Marvin Faust

W 335 MULTIPLE CHURCH STAFF (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
Seminar on building a multiple church staff into a coordinated team for a more effective ministry in the church and community. The basic principles are equally relevant for the pastor and the lay leadership.
Dr. Roy Seibel,
The Reverend Wayne Bibleheimer,
Dr. Ken Fischer

B 141 BIBLE LAND STUDY TOUR (Jan. 6-26 or 27) (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
A concentrated study tour of the lands where the Christian faith and western civilization originated, including on-site study in Israel and other lands of the Bible. Daily in-depth instruction offered by professors of this seminary and/or those of the American Institute of Holy Land Studies.
Dr. J. Gordon Harris,
Dr. Lee McDonald,
Dr. Ralph Powell

W 242 CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR (1-1 1/2 sem. hrs.)
Workshop on communications designed to explore a variety of media, such as: slides, films, strips, radio, television, video tapes, etc., and to evaluate their usefulness within the program of the local church.
The Reverend Ted Faszer

Table with 3 columns: APPLICATION FEE, PASTORS, STUDENTS ENTERING DEGREE PROGRAM. Rows include one-time fees and regular tuition rates.

DETACH HERE

Please register me for the 1979 January Term,
Term A—January 2-12, 1979
Term B—January 15-26, 1979

Table with 4 columns: Number, Title of Course, Hours, Aud. or Cr.

I would like the following accommodations:
Housing: Single Day
Meals: Single Day
Name: Latest degree
Address:

Return to registrar no later than December 22, 1978

ACCOMMODATIONS

Housing in Glidden Hall, nearby Sioux Falls College conference center is available for \$50.00 per term per person for a double room.

Meals may be taken at Sioux Falls College at a cost of \$4.85 per day per person for 3 daily meals. Arrangements may be made for individual meal rates.

(Paid advertising)

baptist herald

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New Arabic New Testament Survives Lebanon Terror and near Shipwreck

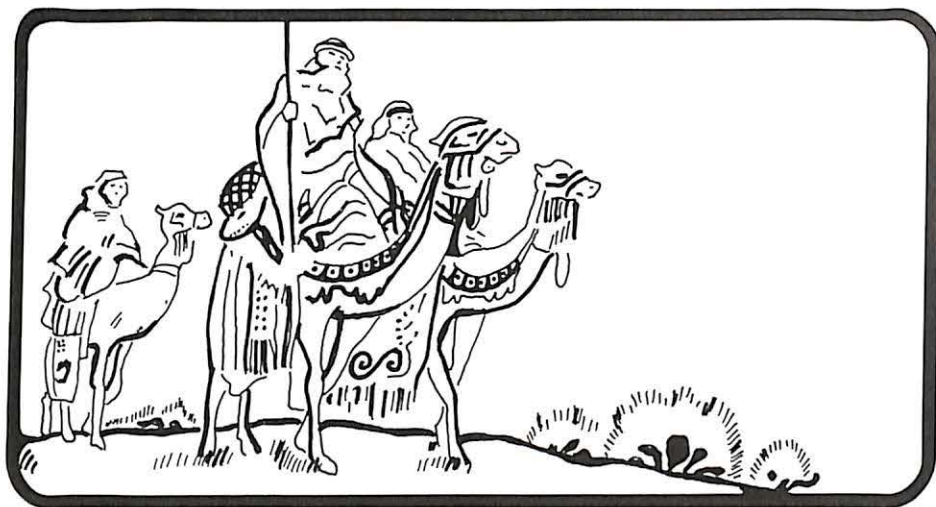
NEW YORK—Despite the turmoil and civil strife raging in Lebanon, and the near loss of the manuscript at sea, a modern language Arabic version of the New Testament is now on press, the American Bible Society reports.

Amidst mortar and bombs came news that the page proofs and films for printing the Today's Arabic Version New Testament were preserved in an extraordinary way.

The acting secretary of the Bible Society in Lebanon, Mr. Samuel Yeghnazar, reported that he and several colleagues braved the gauntlet of fire and heavy shelling to protect the precious manuscript. Fortunately, the equipment, on which composition of the Testament was undertaken, remained undamaged.

Its very survival is being hailed as a miracle by many Christians in war-torn Lebanon. Two years ago, the entire manuscript was feared lost, when a tiny ship carrying it and one of its translators nearly sank off the Lebanese coast. At that time, a dozen Christian Lebanese were also accompanying the priceless document. A violent storm arose on the Eastern Mediterranean, the same sea that the Apostle Paul braved 20 centuries ago. Without radio or motor the vessel drifted to the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut—to be greeted by a rain of bullets.

The long-awaited Arabic New Testament will be ready in December for distribution among the 90 million speakers of this ancient language, who live mainly in North Africa and throughout the Middle East.



Prepared or not- Christmas is Coming

by Phil Yntema

I surprise myself every Christmas by how unprepared I am for this most publicized day of the year. My bank begins by reminding me 15 months before Christmas that it's time to begin my Christmas savings account. The Christmas trees and gifts begin to be displayed in a local department store in September; this heralds the beginning of a non-stop campaign by my three children to keep me informed as to the multiplicity of options Santa has for them. Follow this with a daily countdown of how many shopping days are left until Christmas, and I find I have no excuse to be unprepared.

Just as shocking is the fact that most people were just as unprepared for the first Christmas. God began a campaign over a thousand years before Christ was born on earth to give even minute details of the Messiah's coming. How could so few be prepared for such an event? The answer: although expected, no one was ready for the unpredictable way Jesus was to enter our world. Let's look again at the event, for Christ just didn't enter but came cracking into history, destroying at the same time a lot

of misconceptions about his ministry and motives.

The first unpredictable point of Christ's entry was the place of his birth. Bethlehem, a place whose only claim to fame was that David once lived there. A place where thousands of people lived, died and were never heard about. It would be like being born in my town of Bloomingdale, IL, with the greatest of chances to die in obscurity with the rest of the populace. How foolish of God, men of the age would have thought. Yet God promised, "His name shall be above every name, and the government shall be upon His shoulder," and it was, and it is. What a great truth for us! Even if we were buried in the most insignificant place or position imaginable, it's a place where God can work miracles. We are often guilty of not seeing the potential of our own lives and ministry, because we see them as others do rather than as God does. We need to remember Paul's view of God's work in 1 Corinthians 1:27: "God chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise."

Just as surprising as the place was the mode of the coming of Christ. To be born of a virgin in no way could have been expected. Wouldn't people laugh and scorn if God did it that way?

His Son would be a laughing stock not a King. Yet God promised at "the name of Jesus every knee should bow," and it's happening. Herein lies another great lesson for us. No matter how logical or well-traveled the alternative, God's way of doing things is always the best. I have experienced this truth in the ministry of our own church. Our church began in 1974 through two people already in their 70's. If I had been around to choose the best people to begin this ministry, I would have overlooked Dan and Martha Granzow. Thankfully, God didn't overlook them, and we built our church largely through their efforts. Always go with what God gives you, it's always best.

Somehow, God was able to cope with and even succeed in his Son's inauspicious beginning. Now all he needed was a good agent and a public relations firm to sell this unlikely candidate for King. Whom did God choose but the lowly shepherds. How unlikely a person is a shepherd to spread God's success. They were on the bottom rung of the social ladder. One ancient historian commented that after living with sheep, they needed to be either avoided or only approached in an upwind position. Who would listen? Millions have listened and given their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ as Savior.

Since that date, the shepherds have been followed by an equally unlikely group of kingly heralds. If you feel inferior to the task of spreading the good news, don't forget God's first choice. The success is due to the message not the messenger. In checking back through our four-year history as a church, I have found that our most unproductive time as far as witnessing has been between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Could it be that, at the anniversary of the first heralds, the only tradition to go unrecognized and practiced is the activity of proclaiming the message to the world?

Finally, the most unpredictable thing of all is that Jesus was born to die. The strangest thing about Christmas is Easter. The one perfect man who alone deserved to live died for us. Why God did it, we cannot comprehend; we should just be glad he did.

It is no wonder God caught the world so off guard. Christ's coming had been predicted, but not in the way he came. Through the centuries God's mode of operation has gone unchanged. We should never forget God continues to work in unlikely places, ways, and people. In fact, the more unlikely, ill-prepared, unworthy you feel, the more likely is God to use you wonderfully. □

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

Suppose you suddenly found yourself in the position of host or hostess for the biggest birthday celebration in the world. Your guest list must include names of people from all over the globe. And you as coordinator of the event must be sure everyone is made to feel welcome and at ease with the activities planned. You must be more diplomatic than Henry Kissinger ever dreamed of being—you must be sensitive to the cultural background and customs of each person attending.

The birthday celebration referred to is Christmas, and the way of remembering

Christmas- An International Birthday Celebration

by Roxanne Anderson



the season is as varied as those who participate.

As organizer of the event's festivities, you might seek advisors from different countries to inform you of varying traditions. To save time, you could travel to Rueschlikon, Switzerland, where a unique community of international students live and study together at the Baptist Theological Seminary there. Because the students bring traditions from 19 different countries, advice from them could be helpful in deciding what would be world-wide protocol.

The first question you might pose could logically be, "What date would be most appropriate to schedule the celebration?" You'd quickly discover that December 5 could very well herald the winter activities for those in Central European lands, such as Holland, Belgium and Germany.

On this day, it is said that St. Nicholas, dressed in his red bishop's robe with miter, crosier and jeweled gloves, rode around on his white horse the night before his feast day—December 6—to bring gifts. He was said to jump from roof to roof, then climb

down each chimney. In city shop windows during the holidays, there are usually gingerbread replicas of the good bishop for sale.

In some Swiss communities St. Nicholas' Day is the time to begin the Yule celebrations, while in others it begins on December 13, Santa Lucia's Day, as is done in Sweden. Santa Lucia's Feast Day is celebrated in remembrance of a Sicilian maiden who

supposedly suffered martyrdom in the year 304. Because she is remembered for giving food and drink to the poor, it is the custom to perform such deeds as a memorial to her. The dream of every blond, blue-eyed Swedish girl could very well be her selection as national Santa Lucia bride, through political polls. Once chosen, she would be presented publicly wearing a long white gown and a crown of glowing candles.

Christian believers in Poland actively observe Christmas on December 24 and 25. Throughout the 24th, the families fast together, decorating the tree and wrapping last minute gifts until the evening. The fast is then broken with a meal of beet-root and mushroom soup followed by fish.

Should you as host make plans for a visit by a red-faced, red-dressed, plump old man bearing gifts in a sack slung over his shoulder? In Sweden, traditions tell that little men with long gray beards, the *Tomtar*, leave surprise packages for children under cushions or in other hiding places. In Denmark, boys and girls believe that a small

gnome, dressed in gray and wearing a pointed cap, is responsible for this activity. His name is Jule-nissen, and often large portions of rice pudding, a favorite holiday dessert, are set out for him to enjoy.

In Norway, boys and girls never see the mystical being who supposedly enters homes on December 23rd and moves furniture and dishes around, only to disappear before sunrise.

St. Nick rides a donkey in Switzerland. In the United States he may arrive by helicopter or jet, or he may parachute down to waiting crowds in a shopping center parking lot.

In Portugal, Pai Natal (Papa Noël) comes down the chimney and puts small gifts in the shoes placed on the hearth. But in Haiti, Père Noël would probably find his entrance via the roof's gutter system, down through the drainage pipes into the house.

And what about food for the party? In Norway and Denmark, fish forms the chief item on the Christmas menu. Lutefisk, a form of dried cod, is a delicacy. It is first soaked in lye water, then cooked with melted butter and served with lingonberry sauce.

Carp, with a gingersnap sauce, is a favorite in Poland and Germany. Boiled cod, seasoned with allspice and served with creamed potatoes, might be enjoyed by the Finnish guests, but Spanish guests would rather eat it salted.

Wassail, the historical favorite among the English, may be sweetened with sugared ginger and nutmeg. Cream, eggs, almonds, cloves and cinnamon may be added for an even richer taste.

A Christmas party would not be complete without carols. Which ones should be included? One of the earliest, and perhaps the most universally sung, is "Adeste Fideles," or "O Come, All Ye Faithful." It is used both in Catholic and Protestant churches and has been translated into at least 120 languages and dialects.

In Romania, Christmas brings the opportunity for minstrel gypsies to benefit from the holiday generosity. With violins and tambourines in hand they walk from village to village stopping to sing beneath open windows in hopes of receiving money.

Of course there is Handel's "Messiah"—it is as much a favorite in Christmas concerts in Japan as in Germany.

As for more modern, secular Christmas ditties, "Jingle Bells," is hardly a new tune anywhere. However, Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," may seem somewhat out of place for sunbasking Australians. For many of them, Christ-

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Art Enriches a Christian



by Arta
Mae Moore

I thank God for the gift of craftsmanship! Most of my life I did not consider art a gift because it was not included in the New Testament listing. Perhaps the New Testament does not list it because the emphasis of the early church was to build men rather than buildings.

"God told Moses to build the tabernacle and he named Bezalel and he said, 'I have filled him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship'."

These were gifts, and craftsmanship was included. Bezalel was an artist. His gifts were working in metals of gold, silver and copper. Other workmen worked in wood, stone and cloth (Ex. 31:5,10). The designer, interior decorator, engineer, draftsman and artists were included.

God was pleased to have a beautiful place in which to dwell. He chose craftsmen to carry out his detailed plan in the building of the tabernacle and the Temple which Solomon built.

If God gives us a gift, he will provide ways for us to use it for him and to bless others. I'm aware that we have so many gifts we do not develop and even more aware of how my life has opened up as I have developed my gift of painting. Painting has given me a way to express my feelings. Speaking was not one of my gifts, but because of painting I'm now enjoying teaching an art class each year. It has added quality and enrichment to my life as well as helped me share my joy of living with those I love and with whom I come in contact.

Our gifts differ as they are allotted to us by God's grace. Each of us has been equipped to share something unique about his indwelling life. For every gift God bestows, the spirit has planned a sphere of service. Isn't it wonderful that each one of us has been given one or more gifts? The joyful thing for a Christian is discovering our gifts and exercising them!

Because my parents did not recognize the importance of the gift of painting, they did not encourage me to paint. In fact it was the last thing I was allowed to do in the scale of activities. In school I had a wonderful English teacher who saw the gift I have from illustra-

Arta Mae Moore lives in Sioux Falls, SD, and is a member of Trinity Baptist Church. Her husband, Dr. Floyd Moore, is professor of Christian education at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

tions I did on a theme for her class. She gathered materials and had me paint the characters in the plays we were studying in literature; I was in a new world! The painting hung for twenty years in the high school. My teacher encouraged my parents to send me to art school, but they could not see the value of art school. It was beyond their comprehension that I could serve God and be an artist—and they were loving Christian parents.

My wonderful husband has helped me grow in the Lord and to develop gifts he recognized. I feel I have developed gifts of love and hospitality. I feel fulfilled as a wife, mother, and Christian worker; yet there was something more I wanted to do. I had made posters, murals and done all types of crafts as I worked in the elementary departments of our churches for twenty-five years. Yet all this had not fulfilled my creative drive.

After serious surgery fifteen years ago, I had to give up some of my work for a few months. It was during this time I joined an art class, and I have never put down those brushes. I love to work with pastels and acrylics, but oil is my favorite medium. Through the years I have had a number of good teachers, and I have constantly read about and tried new techniques.

Sometimes people want to know how long it took me to paint a certain painting. I have the urge to say, "54 years," for all my life has prepared me to come to this place of self-expression.

I had to learn how to see the unending variety of life about me, to respond to the colors, sounds, shapes, and textures of things that surround me. To see, feel and respond to things and people is the first step to painting. We are influenced by our surroundings. I have a hard time painting South Dakota trees, the gnarly oaks of Texas keep appearing on the canvas, for they come from my memory bank. I had been a part of them as I grew up.

When I learned to "Stand still and behold all His marvelous handiworks," I was on my way to becoming appreciative of the Creator who created this beautiful world he put me in. God made all of his creation, and he said, "It was good."

Wherever I find myself, I can find beauty. In the morning, I cannot wait to look out my window to see the beautiful South Dakota sky. Whether it is snowy gray, bright and shiny, misty or snowing, it has a special beauty. The simple things, like a jewel-like snowflake, the fragile dewdrop, the last year's bird's-nest resting in the winter elm, the beauty of the first bloom in spring, all remind me that God is keeping his promise of the seasons until he comes again. I'm the first one to greet the robin in spring. I love the renewing of life.

Every age I find myself in is the best and most interesting. I love my role in life; I love my church, my husband, children and grandchildren. I love the Lord for making me, loving me, accepting me, and helping me to become the best person I can be, using the gifts he has given me.

Paul said to Timothy, "Stir up the gift within you." The developing of his gifts is the doorway to becoming our best self.

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with eyes upon the Lord



by Lois Sibley

"Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress: so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God . . ." (Psalm 123:2).

From the first day I gave my life to my Lord, my desire has been to be found pleasing in his sight. Having had no contact at all with the Christian community before my conversion, I looked for an example to follow, and like so many others, I let other believers tell me how to live for the Lord. I was just barely getting settled into the "swing" of it—along with getting the feel of my marriage, and then our first child—when my husband announced that we would move to Minnesota in the fall, where he would begin to prepare for the ministry. During the years of his preparation, I kept busy at home, being a wife and mother. We went off to school with one baby and came out with three little girls!

During the years Bill attended classes, toured with the choral group, took part in Christian service assignments, attended missionary rallies and prayer groups, I spent most of my time at home with our family. But during his senior year, I was able to go with him to the senior retreat. What a joy that was for me, to be in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship with a group of people, who truly loved the Lord and were looking forward to a life of service. It was there that I heard for the first time the chorus, "Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me."

Mrs. Lois Sibley delivered this message in a series to the Ministers' Wives Fellowship at the N.A.B. Ministers' Conference, Aug. 8-11, 1978.

The chorus became the cry of my heart—and it still is. Since this was my desire, I began to "try" to let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me. It's taken me many years to discover that when I'm trying, it isn't Jesus, just me.

Within just a few months after Bill graduated, we took an interim pastorate for the summer months. We were to "fill in" at a community church until fall, when the permanent pastor would arrive. It was delightful! For the most part, the church was made up of young couples, and there was a strong emphasis on fellowship and fun. The people were so good to us and tolerant of these "kids" just getting started!

A few months later we accepted a call to a very small, discouraged congregation that had been in existence for several years. The work was dying! We were asked to go there for six months, and if we could get no response in that length of time, the doors would be closed and the building sold.

I wanted so much to be the kind of pastor's wife the Lord wanted me to be, but I didn't know how, so I let the congregation tell me how. They were tired and discouraged. They tried everything and nothing worked, but it seemed that if I could fill enough jobs and work effectively in all of them (even though I *didn't* know what I was doing) perhaps the Lord would be able to accomplish whatever it was he wanted to do in that community. So I went to work and tried to do everything that was suggested to me. And I suffered stomach pains, headaches, nausea and all that goes with trying to be what one is not! But the Lord was gracious and blessed HIS work, and our little church prospered. We were there for five years and left a much stronger church than the one we found.

Our next church was an old established family church filled with loving, caring people. They were a congregation who had never had a pastor's wife—at least not for many, many years—until the pastor before us married after having served them as a bachelor for several years. He and his new bride lived in the lovely home the congregation had built for them less than a year and then moved on. Needless to say, they had not had pastor's children either! We arrived with three daughters and within a year produced twin boys! The ladies were delighted! They really didn't know what to do with a pastor's wife, so they just put me in a place of honor, loved me and pampered me, and I loved it! So this was what serving the Lord was! Yet, the ache in me to be found pleasing and useful in the Lord's sight persisted.

After a little over five years, we went into a Church Extension work, where I began to learn something I am still learning—the Lord himself will instruct me in how to serve him if I will fasten my eyes on him. I'm neither the servant nor the queen of the church, I belong to him. He will never demand of me anything that he is not prepared to equip me for. The Lord has a place for me to fill, and only he can reveal that place to me. My only responsibility is to follow him in absolute obedience. What a joy to serve others, each in our own place, doing what the Lord has given us to do. And what a delight to know that I serve only one master, a loving heavenly Father! I had been set free to serve!

I found myself in a happy, comfortable state, content

in my function in the church. True, I had a large family to look after (six children by now), but my husband looked after all the shopping, the banking, did all the driving, ran all the errands, looked after any repairs, took the children or myself anywhere we needed to go. We had worked out a "workable" plan of operation for our family. But the Lord had other plans and other lessons to teach.

After a little over six years in a busy, but satisfying ministry, we moved once again to a new church and a new challenge. Before moving, Bill decided that it was time for me to learn to drive, and after we moved the lessons began. As soon as I had my license, I began bit by bit to take over responsibilities that had not been mine previously: paying bills, running errands, taking the children to their appointed places, etc. Within 16 months of the time of our move, I knew why these changes had been necessary.

I was at home packing and preparing for a vacation. We were to leave in just two days, and there was so much to do that never got done! The phone rang, and I was off to the hospital. Bill had been playing football during his lunch hour at the local YMCA with some of the other business and professional men; he had been hurt and was taken to Emergency. To make a very long story short, he had hit his head, ruptured a blood vessel and was bleeding somewhere within the brain. The pressure was building up, and he had stopped breathing. It was necessary to operate, stop the bleeding and relieve the pressure, and it had to be done right away. I signed the papers and called the church secretary to tell her Bill wouldn't be in and asked her to call some of our people to pray. It was highly possible he would not live, and if he did there could be serious problems ahead. While I waited the many hours during surgery, many came to wait with me and offer their quiet support. I experienced that wonderful thing I had so often talked about but never knew as my own! "The peace that passeth all understanding." One portion from the word kept coming to me over and over again. The Lord was whispering deep within me somewhere, "This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The words from the wall plaque Bill had bought just two weeks earlier for his new office floated in and out of my mind over and over again: "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

All of that took place over six years ago. Bill still lives in a hospital environment. He is unable to speak. He is unable to eat. He is unable to walk or hold his head up. But he is able to think, able to communicate by the use of hand signals. He has a full range of motion with his right arm and can move his right leg. He has been very ill, at the gates of death many times, but for the Lord's own reasons he continues to live as he is. He has had a great struggle learning to "be content in the situation he finds himself in," but I believe the Lord has given him victory in resignation. We have both had to struggle separately before the Lord with our own "whys." I wish I could share with you the lessons Bill has learned through this experience, but I can't, because he can't tell me. But I believe that the Lord has taught him many things even as he has taught me.

Probably the most crucial hurdle I had to get over, before I could go on, was the answer to one of the "whys." As the boys and I prayed daily for the Lord's healing for Bill, and we knew that many, many others prayed fervently as well, the weeks became months, and the months—years. Bill was despondent, depressed, unhappy. My visits were a nightmare. I drove away in tears, crying out to the Lord "Oh, Lord, have mercy, please take him home!" I spent hours one day in particular agonizing before the Lord. I *had* to have an answer from him if I was to be able to continue on in faith! I pleaded with the Lord to show me some reason for keeping Bill alive in such a wretched condition. The loving heavenly Father that I thought I knew would never allow one of his children to suffer without purpose. I wanted to follow the Lord "in the beauty of Jesus" in every situation, but I knew I could not go on in this one without an answer. The answer finally came from deep within me somewhere: "Lois, if I can bring glory to myself in the way I care for you and sustain you and your children, will that be a good enough reason?" A great relief flooded my whole being. Again the Lord had shown me that the responsibility for bearing up under the burden was not mine, it was his! I was set free once more in another set of circumstances to serve only Christ!

In his mercy the Lord brought into our lives just what we needed and just when we needed it. In doing this he used people. Our financial needs were met in marvelous ways. Only a book could cover the many unusual things that took place! He provided people to help. A beautiful Christian lady became a close friend and a ready help to look after our three boys, to drive me to the hospital, to just do what needed to be done. A wonderful Christian brother befriended our boys and helped fill the gap left by an absent father. These two filled a need for a time, and then the Lord, at different times, not too far apart, took them both home. Oh, the sense of loss that I felt! It seemed the Lord was deliberately stripping me of everything I could rely on. I felt so exposed, so unprotected, so alone! In years past, when I had felt lonely or weary, or just in need of reassurance, I had Bill to hold me. I remembered the security I felt when he was there, and now I had no one. I shared these feelings with a friend from our church one day, and it was a few days later that she phoned and excitedly told me that she had found a portion of Scripture that was just for me. She read it to me over the phone, and after I hung up, I read it over and over again. It was for me! It was Ezekiel 16:1-14. It speaks of the Lord's love for Jerusalem, but I believe that it also speaks of the Lord's desire to minister to the needs of the desperate, lonely, forsaken heart. As I read the list of all that the Lord had done for Jerusalem, I again saw that he had done all of that for me too, in a very real way. Again in verse 14 my desire that the "beauty of Jesus be seen in me" was brought to my attention, "and thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: FOR IT WAS PERFECT THROUGH MY COMELINESS WHICH I HAD PUT UPON THEE saith the Lord God!" He was trying to teach me that old lesson again! He will provide all things

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INTRODUCING



Pat & Dennis Hoffman

Butterfly Ministries

Dennis and Pat Hoffman nee Johnson, originally from the Midwest, live in Sacramento, CA. After finishing three and a half years in a church ministry—Dennis as pastor of youth and music and Pat as director of children's choirs at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA—they have now ventured out by faith into a full time concert ministry entitled, *Butterfly Ministries*. Together, they have combined their talents to provide an enriching hour for the entire family. Dennis directs their ministry and shares a brief message in the concert hour, while Pat, a soprano vocalist, presents the musical portion.

GOAL:

The goal of their ministry is to present the message of salvation simply and also to stimulate families and individuals to grow together toward a maturity in Christ. The spiritual application of the title of their ministry—*Butterfly Ministries*—is related to the transformation power of a caterpillar to a butterfly. "When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Cor. 5:17).

CONCERT FORMAT:

Each concert is planned with the priority of minister-

ing to the "needs" of people—young and old alike. Therefore, their music ranges in style from "traditional" to "mild contemporary" as well as some songs which involve the children. Because Dennis and Pat are dedicated to meeting the "needs" of people, they focus their "concert format" on music, spoken word and participation of the children.

TESTIMONIES OF THE HOFFMANS:

Pat and I both received Christ as our personal Savior in our childhood years. Because we remember to this day those memorable moments of accepting Jesus, we feel it is important to share not only with adults but also with children. That is the reason why we try to include them in each concert where they are present. Our total message is sharing the simple truth that: *God loves each of us, he knows us, and we need to accept him and respond by living for him.* This truth can be understood by young and old alike, even though our experiences differ.

Because our goal is to minister to families, we trust that each one might be enriched spiritually—as we share our love for Christ letting his love flow through us.

The Rev. Eldon G. Schroeder, pastor of Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, writes about Pat Hoffman:

"Some years ago, while pastoring First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA, a young girl came forward at the close of a ser-

sensitivity to the audience is much appreciated in her concerts."

The Rev. Arthur Brust, pastor of Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, has this to say about Butterfly Ministries:



Pat Hoffman in concert.

vice expressing a desire to follow the Lord in baptism. Since that time there have been years of education, marriage and a commitment to the ministry of music. Several months ago Pat Hoffman was invited to Foster Avenue Baptist Church to present a concert. There was an excellent response from our members and the many friends who joined us that evening. We were particularly delighted to discover the interest in her music on the part of the W.M.B.I. radio staff. They requested an interview, obtained a number of her records and frequently play her songs over their Chicago station. We look forward to future opportunities of hearing her music in the Chicago area.

"My personal interest in Pat and Dennis and their ministry is very positive. This feeling of interest and support is there for several reasons. First of all, I know that Pat, along with her husband, Dennis, has made a commitment to the Lord. This is important. The person and the song need to be in agreement, if there is to be an effective ministry. Secondly, these are *our own* young people. They are from our Conference. There are many singing groups and soloists around today, but one hardly knows much more about them than the songs they are singing. I appreciate knowing where they come from and what they stand for. Then lastly, Pat has a very lovely voice. Her clear bell-like voice quality makes it possible for all to hear and understand the message of the song. Her choice of songs and

"The ministry of Dennis and Pat Hoffman has been one of much thought, prayer and expression to do God's work with the gift of singing. Willow Rancho has not only enjoyed them both, but has also encouraged them to provide the "hope" indicated by the symbol of the butterfly to both the believer and non-believer. Training and experience during the past few years have given Pat the ability to reach from child to adult. She is especially gifted in working with children. Her creativity and ability to teach biblical lessons through music has challenged the child and blessed the parent.

"Dennis's background and spiritual training provide him with the ability to plan, organize and administer the necessary P.R. needed for such work. His knowledge and ability with musical instruments and sound equipment enhances Pat's quality of voice.

"Should you have them for the purpose of entertainment, you will be blessed; but should you invite them for ministry, you will be challenged for further glorification of Christ."

The Rev. R. I. Thompson, pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church, Stevensville, MI, has the following comment:

"Pat ministered beautifully to the whole family and yet spoke to the individual. One person remarked that Pat seemed to minister to her, personally, and just spoke to her.

"But in the truest sense the service was a genuine fellowship experience. We

were one in our worship and praise. God was glorified and Jesus was praised. Pat's ministry is indeed unique and we pray for an ever-widening ministry for Butterfly Ministries."

The Rev. Hilton Jarvis, pastor of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA, gives the following recommendation:

"Pat's selection and quality of music is excellent. We found all of her songs to be stimulating, worshipful, and through her warmth and genuineness of Christian love, the expression of the messages a very enriching spiritual experience. The quality of Pat's voice is outstanding. I feel there are many Christian recording artists today on well known Christian labels whose voices do not compare to that of Pat's. Her husband, Dennis, has been very careful to maintain the highest quality of technical skill in providing taped background music for Pat's songs.

"Dennis and Pat have been in our church twice, once for a forty-five minute concert in our Sunday morning service. It was truly a worshipful experience, and our congregation extended to Pat and Dennis, a standing ovation of appreciation. I trust you will earnestly consider the opportunity of having Mrs. Hoffman and her husband minister to your church."

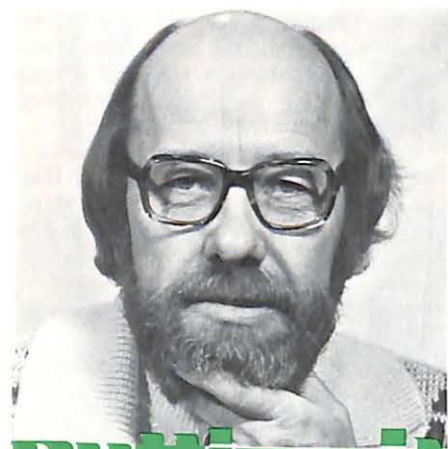
The Rev. Merle E. Brenner, pastor of First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, writes:

"Pat and Dennis Hoffman began their concert ministry convinced that God has opened this door of opportunity to be messengers of inspiration and encouragement.

"They combine Pat's beautiful, vocal artistry with Dennis' electronic skills and communications ability. Together they glorify God and magnify the grace of Jesus Christ. They are yielded to the Spirit of God, and sensitive to his direction.

"Their unique ability to minister to all family members was demonstrated in their concert at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove. Children, youth and adults were blessed through the choice of songs and music. The program built to an appropriate climax with the appeal to let Christ become the Savior and center of our lives. Pat and Dennis are dedicated to the life and growth of the local church. Our people's warm response to their ministry was obvious, and the enrichment therefrom continues through the very fine album that Pat has recorded. It was truly a spiritually refreshing and enriching evening.

"Our congregation heartily commends the ministry of Pat and Dennis Hoffman to our Conference churches."



Putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Last week our local daily paper had a feature article entitled: "Drugs,

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

is it worth it?

by Helga Kahler

This question can be raised for many issues, and no doubt every reader has been exposed to it or perhaps even asked the same question for some reason or other.

Several times I have been approached with this question since my visit to Japan in January 1978, and I have been thinking over this question concerning the mission work there. For the benefit of those N.A.B. members who seem discouraged about the statistics which show a very slow growth on the mission field in Japan, I would like to share some of my thoughts.

Is it worth the effort, in terms of personnel and money, each individual church, both in Canada and the United States, spends for each of its organiza-

Helga Kahler lives in Winnipeg, MB. She is a member of Rowandale Baptist Church.

Alcohol—Junior High Dilemma." The essence of the article is that the smoking of pot and the use of alcohol is very common among junior high students and that hard drugs are also available. The writer implied that most of the junior high students had at least "tried" pot and alcohol. Many felt that peer pressure demanded it.

It seems that the idea of using drugs and alcohol is readily and easily being accepted as a normal part of life. No one has a strong reaction about this kind of lifestyle in the junior high crowd; though there are some who do not participate.

Many parents are very alarmed at this trend in junior highs. The problem is not that junior highs are going to "pot." The problem is that artificial social barriers are being removed. There used to be a time when there were things that men did, but women, young people and children did not do. It appears that these arbitrary standards have fallen. We have had a general equalization of social norms in recent years. Therefore, it is unlikely that we can solve our moral problems by trying to regulate the lives of a specific group.

The real problem is that the predictable is happening. We now have an "open society." People can and are doing their own thing.

Distilleries, liquor stores, advertising

firms, bars, television and magazines are not owned by children. All of these enterprises are owned by adults. Here is where the standards for life in general are set.

As previously stated, it used to be possible to have double standards. But today in the new freedoms we have, double standards will not do.

If we feel that the use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol is harmful to young people, then we must admit that it is also harmful to adults. It is not sufficient just to warn people of the dangers. More specific action must be taken.

The challenge today is no different then it has always been. Responsible living is demanded of all of us.

What are the scriptural commands in this regard? In regard to alcohol used as a beverage, there are numerous references (Prov. 20:1, Tit. 1:3, Lev. 10:9) that warn against its overuse. In regard to the use of pot or even tobacco, we have to rely on more general teachings about preserving the body (1 Cor. 6:19).

The argument that these foreign substances are harmful for the physical body is pretty well-accepted. My statement is that if we are going to keep young people from harming or destroying themselves through the use of them, it may mean that adults must set appropriate, consistent examples. □

ding gift: "I am sorry that I was against you. When I saw the children singing for you, I realized how much Christianity means to you."

Another confirmation of the worth of missions in Japan is a teacher and his family, who are friends of Miss F. Miller. Miss Miller visited them on January 1, 1978, while the family was writing their family motto for 1978 with a paintbrush: "Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). To live up to that motto requires a close relationship to Christ, and that family aspires to do just that. (The rough copy of this motto is one of my precious souvenirs of Japan.)

At the Ikeda Church (Osaka) I encountered the most dynamic and dramatic young male Sunday school teacher I have ever met. Even though I could not understand the language, except for the names of his review lessons, I could get the general idea from his gestures and facial expressions. It was said of him, "He is the most faithful man who is always there."

On January 8 my friend and I could witness the wedding of a couple who was at the same time commissioned on that day for missionary service in

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FAITH IS...

Faith is God's call upon our lives to preach the Gospel to every creature. It is God's faith in us and our faith in him that will enable us as individuals and as a Church to perform that glorious task in this generation.

Faith is going without understanding. Like Abraham, we must go even when we do not know where we are going. God is our guide and shepherd; as he leads, faith enables us to follow.

Faith is sojourning. Faith tells us that our home is not on this earth but in heaven. Faith requires that we free ourselves from Western materialism, and instead find joy in putting up treasures in heaven.

Faith is trust and meekness in adversity. It is living with absolute confidence in a God who rules the universe with love. It is the assurance that we are in his gentle, loving hands, knowing that "all the paths of the Lord are loving-kindness and truth."

Faith is the promise that God is going to do the impossible in and through us. It is the quiet assurance that our Father is able to accomplish more than we can imagine and that he is going to do this through you and me. Faith sees the impossible promise become reality.

Faith is detailed obedience. It is believing that God will do the impossible if we do the possible. Faith obeys every instruction from the Lord. Faith obeys.

—Karl Mueller,

Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB

"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

By faith we understand that the world was created by the Word of God. By faith, Abel offered God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. By faith, Enoch was taken up so that he need not see death. Without faith it is impossible to please God. For whoever would draw near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith, Noah took heed and constructed the ark. By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place he was to receive as an inheritance. By faith, Sarah received power to conceive. By faith, Abraham obeyed

when tested and prepared to offer up Isaac. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land while the Egyptians drowned. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down. By faith, Rahab the harlot did not perish with the disobedient.

By faith, I, Rose, have been saved. Not of my own doing but by the gift of God. By faith, I dare to take a step; I dare to fail, to be rejected, only to realize that by faith God is God and has a plan for me. By faith, I know in an hour of distress that everything works for the good for those who love God.

Faith is allowing God to plant within me the seed of faith, no larger than a mustard seed, allowing him to weed, water and cultivate this seed in my life so that it may grow and maybe become the size of a watermelon seed, much bigger than a mustard seed!

—Rose Merke,

Baptist Mission Church, Chicago, IL

For many people, faith is a different thing, but to me, as well as to many other believers, it can mean only one name, a name that is the most wonderful, beautiful and precious name that there is, Jesus Christ. A personal faith in Jesus Christ can erase all the doubts in one's mind. It can overcome the coldness of one's heart toward others. Of course, putting one's faith in Jesus Christ can and will give one the victory over sin and death and set one's soul on the solid rock that is unmovable.

Jesus Christ is the one in whom a person can believe and put complete trust, no matter what situation or difficulty he may be facing at the time. Jesus Christ is the key to my faith, the object of my love and salvation, when others have failed and disappointed me. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever, will always be there to hold me up when I start to fall. He will be there to comfort me with his promises, "I will be with you always" and "my grace is sufficient for thee."

—Lee Simon,

Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL

Faith is the instrument by which I have been justified. It is a gift of God given by his grace. Conversely, it is the instrument whereby one receives grace. However, faith is worth no more than its object. The object of the historic Christian faith is the death and resurrection of God in the person of Jesus Christ for the redemption of his people. A high-priced ransom, indeed, but an effective one which has made me free. Therefore, my faith is not a mystical thought pattern based on nothing, but rather a realistic experience with content.

Now, this same faith is the instrument of my sanctification. I am enabled to live moment by moment depending on God's supernatural care and guidance. Faith is the strength that allows me to obey the commands he reveals despite apparent discomfort or inconvenience. It is the substance of my union with Christ, making me true to the Bridegroom rather than playing the harlot with the idols of the world.

Finally, this eternal faith is the instrument of my glorification. It offers hope, not an irrational leap. It grants the steadfast knowledge that a God who is holy, righteous and just will fulfill his promise to redeem me—his possession and his child.

—Luann Meissner, Columbus, NE

For many years I was blinded to the fact that all I need for Jesus to be my personal Savior is faith. I was looking for some gigantic sign before I would repent and ask Jesus to take over my life. Through John 20:29, I realized that accepting Christ is a matter of faith—not emotions, feelings or anything else. Praise God!

What is faith? Putting aside all emotion and looking at facts, one can say that faith is total trust. Or as the dictionary puts it, "faith is belief without need of certain proof." We don't need any sign or proof that Jesus really will be a part of our lives. The facts are all in the Bible. All we need is faith (belief without need of certain proof) to accept them and Christ.

Faith doesn't end once we've asked Jesus to be Lord of our lives. We strengthen our faith by staying in close communication with God. This means not only talking with him about our joys but also about our sorrows and about every aspect of our lives. Yes, failures happen. The beauty of it is, though, that faith enters in here again. I John 1:9 tells us what to do when we do fail our Lord. By faith, we claim this promise.

To strengthen our faith, we need to put on God's "full armour" as Paul tells us in Eph. 6:10-17. How can we arm ourselves with God's Word? David sums it up beautifully in Ps. 119:9-16. Arming oneself thusly, we can "do all things through Jesus who strengthens us" (Phil. 4:13). What power! We can do anything; go through any experience because Jesus will give us the strength. Unfortunately, we sometimes let our faith slip when going through trials, but we need and are commanded to put our trust in the Lord in our times of trial (Psa. 55:22 and 27:14). In so doing, we'll know Phil. 4:13 to be true.

If I had to sum faith up by using one

(Continued on page 29)



When a Daughter Marries

by Bernietta and
Gail Graf,
Portland, OR

"Mom, I'm getting married in December—we think it will be the ninth!" What exciting and thrilling words, but also a little scary. This announcement came on Christmas Eve, 1977, by our oldest daughter, Gail. One year to do lots of planning, preparing and praying. A Christmas wedding with all the beauty of the Christmas season. Now, as we are approaching the wedding date, our plans and preparations are becoming a reality; it takes much prayer and patience to work out the many details together. We would like to share with you some of our thoughts, hopes and plans for this important date in our lives. So many of our women experience the joy and planning of a wedding each year. Perhaps you can identify with us as we share with you.

Mom: What does "love" mean to you, Gail?

Gail: Love along with marriage means a lifelong commitment to the one whom God has chosen for me. It deals with all the shared goals we have and the ability to be totally open, honest and committed to one another and to the Lord.

Mom: What kind of wedding would you like to have?

Gail: Gary and I want a traditional wedding in the sense that it will be in our church with our family and friends there to experience the joy and excitement we are feeling.

Mom: Why have you chosen the time of Christmas?

Gail: Christmas has always been a special time of the year. There is a real spirit of joy and giving. God gave his Son, Jesus, and Christmas is the celebration of this gift. On our wedding day, Gary and I will be giving our lives to each other and to the Lord. As we plan

the wedding, Mom, you and I will be giving each other gifts: the gift of time, as we take time to sit down over lunch and make decisions or as we run the many necessary errands; the gift of listening, as we try not to interrupt or act uninterested when the other is talking so that we really hear what is being said; the gift of fun as we will be sharing all these things together; and also the gift of letting others give. Sometimes I worry about how much the wedding is going to cost you and dad, but I need to remember that my wedding is, in a way, a gift from you. What kind of plans have to be made in preparation for our wedding?

Mom: Since you have decided on a church wedding, and it will be at Christmastime, this eliminates a big problem of decorating. The church will be decorated for the Christmas season, and we have to decide what we can use that will blend in with and enhance the beauty of this season.

You have already decided to wear my wedding dress which makes it special for both of us. We will coordinate the at-



Gail Graf and fiancé, Gary Sehorn.

tendants' dresses and tuxedos to match the colors of Christmas.

We will have to decide on the music, the soloists and organist. Since music has such a special place in our lives, this will be an important part of the ceremony. You will have to meet with the pastor and decide on your ceremony.

The wedding reception will take much

Provided opportunity to taste gourmet creations.

Wedding cakes and ice cream in the month of June
Didn't help my figure . . . that of a balloon!

Company and family picnics seemed to fill July.

Loss of weight was difficult, so why even try!

August brought humidity and high degrees of heat.

The nicest way to pass the time was just to sit and eat.

Glorious September . . . the kids went back to school.

I was free to coffee, and with donuts lost the duel.

Fall cleanup in October brought lots of leaves to rake.

Work like that encourages another piece of cake!

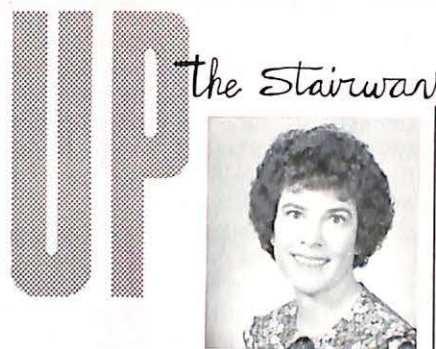
Thanksgiving feasting cancelled out a diet in November.

It seemed a little smarter to wait until December.

Now it is December; the holidays are here.

Calorie counting? Not just now. I'll try again next year!

P.S. Actually, this was the year I did have victory over excess pounds! The steps of my stairway are so much easier to climb now. "I bring my body under subjection and make it my slave!" (1 Cor. 9:27). "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify your body . . . which is God's" (1 Cor. 6:20). □



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

Dieter's December Dilemma

Remember? I resolved to lose some weight last year. But January came and went before I knew 'twas here!

February, shortest month, looked easy to control,

Until those "sweetheart" chocolates began to take their toll.

March was cold and windy, with vicious, angry storms.

Consuming food for "energy" takes on many forms!

Spring cleaning time in April was such a tedious chore,

Eating to keep my strength up, eased muscles stiff and sore!

The merry month of May, with all its celebrations

preparation and planning. It is a time when you will receive the sincere well wishes of your circle of friends and be able to greet those who have come to be a part of this special day. A very precious memory of your reception will be your cake-top. It was used by your paternal grandparents on their wedding cake 60 years ago. May it be a reminder to you of their love and devotion to each other and the Lord.

Remember, too, this is *your* wedding. It is your turn for deciding and making choices. Keep reminding me of this, Gail, so that in all our decisions we will be loving and understanding.

Gail: Do you have any advice to give me?

Mom: I'm going to share a prayer that Aunt Connie Wobig has prepared for you and Gary. Grandma Wobig has also written you a letter sharing her thoughts

on your coming marriage. My advice is to heed the words that are written and love in the light of God's love.

O Thou, who in Thy great wisdom hast chosen to make us incomplete without each other and hast given us each other to love and to cherish; enable us to make our marriage a thing of beauty and joy that it may fulfill all our hopes and dreams. You know all our desires; grant us the courage to live together, as husband and wife, in such mutual intimacy that we may heal each other's wounds, meet each other's needs and enrich each other's lives. Give us a sense of proportion that we may not be so preoccupied with living that we leave no time for loving. Enable us amid the perplexities of this life to hold fast to our faith in an unfolding purpose, and may we ever strive, in our fellowship with each other, to bring all our plans

—Connie Wobig

A Letter to My Granddaughter

by Cecelia Wobig,
Portland, OR

Dear Gail:

The years have slipped by so quickly since we welcomed you as our first grandchild—a healthy, brown-eyed,

dark-haired baby girl. As grandparents, we have

had the privilege and pleasure of seeing you grow physically, mentally and spiritually. You have served the Lord faithfully since you committed your life to him.

You have so much for which you can praise God. You have had the opportunity of growing up in a Christian home. Your parents taught you the virtues of the Christian life. We hope that we, as grandparents, have also been helpful to you in your development and growth in good, sound Christian character.

Now you have reached the age when you want to establish a Christian home of your own with the one whom you have chosen to walk life's pathway. The house you choose for your dwelling place may be small and ordinary or big and beautiful. It may be furnished with just the necessities or with beautiful furniture, but these are not the things that make a house a home.

Let me share with you some of the things that make your house a home. First and foremost, you must choose to make Christ the head of your home. Praying to-aside a time each day to join in reading God's Word and in prayer. Praying together means staying understanding and happiness to your relationship. These are some things for which wives are uniquely qualified. Let us think of these as gifts we can give to make a

happy marriage. Love is more easily illustrated than defined. The best gift we can give is not wrapped with beautiful paper, ribbon and bows, but is the giving of one's self—for love is the sunshine of the soul. To express that love, you will want to make your home a shelter from the storms of life, a place to relax, a place to enjoy and a place of peace and rest. A home is a place where you can be at ease, share your innermost feelings, your desires and your needs in confidence with each other.

We must also realize that we are human and therefore not perfect; thus, we can expect failures and disappointments. This is the time when your unwavering love must be evident by speaking words of encouragement and words of praise for that which has been accomplished in tasks well done. This helps to restore confidence and self-esteem.

Gail, even as you have experienced, may you also have an open door to your home—a place for loved ones, family and friends to come and feel at home to enjoy fellowship, to share experiences and to share a burden or meet a need.

We, as wives, can serve Christ in a way that is ours alone when we make our home a haven for those we love.

Thank you for letting me share these thoughts with you. We love you dearly and pray that you will experience true happiness when you and Gary establish a home of your own with Christ as the Head.

Lovingly, Grandma Wobig. □

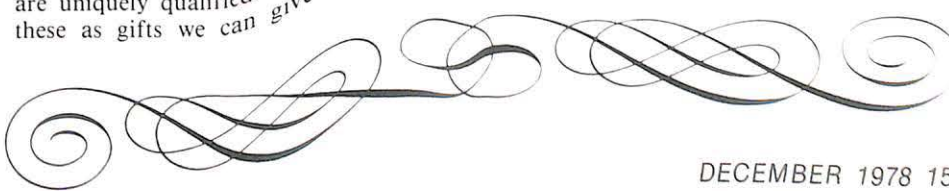
A Different Kind of Christmas Shopping

by La Verna Mehlhaff,
women's work director



It is a privilege to be a child of God and to share in the many blessings that are ours as his children. God is blessing abundantly, and he gives and gives and gives. The admonition is given to us to be good stewards of that which has been entrusted to us. We are part of a sharing, caring and loving ministry.

This month of December, we women have the opportunity to share financially in the purchase of a vehicle for the missionaries in Nigeria assigned to evangelism. Thank you for your generosity in giving. God will grant to you joy this Christmas season as you share through giving. □



"Room 1201 . . . Fuchida and Associates, Architects."

A mixture of thoughts raced through my mind as I opened the door. The room was filled with architects' drawing tables, rolled-up plans scattered here and there, and on the wall, sketches of modern buildings.

"Mr. Fuchida is expecting you," the secretary announced. "He'll be with you in a minute."

I unpacked my recording and photographic gear while gazing out the large window overlooking mid-town Manhattan. And then, suddenly, I realized it was just two blocks from here, many years ago, that I had left my job as a young artist to join the Navy. Japan had made a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, plunging the U.S. into war.

The man who led that attack was Lt. Commander Mitsuo Fuchida. The man I had come to interview . . . his son, Joe Fuchida. The story . . . one of the most amazing testimonies of all time!

Soon, a sharp, young businessman with a friendly smile came bounding into the room, greeting me warmly. It was Joe . . . who began to answer my questions about his Dad.

"My father was a military career man," Joe began. "He was a good man, close to his family, although he spent very little time at home."

"He was always away on fleet maneuvers. About twice a year, he'd come home for two weeks and then leave again."

"In the evenings, he would make sketch after sketch of floor plans for his dream house. I think if he hadn't been following a Navy career, he'd have been an architect."

"Our family moved about every two years as my father moved on to his next post and the next step up in his career. Then, he began to be away for longer periods, and everything was top secret. Nobody knew where he was going."

"Then, on Dec. 7, 1941, the big news came over the radio . . . our air force had made a daring attack on Pearl Harbor. I was eight years old at the time."

"I recall my mother turning to my sister and me and saying, 'That is your father.' Somehow she knew."

"In a couple of weeks, he was home and invited by Emperor Hirohito to the Imperial Palace to tell of his daring exploits that fateful day."

The following (in italic type) is Fuchida's own personal account, taken from his testimony booklet:

"I must admit I was more excited than usual as I awoke that morning at 3:00 a.m., Hawaii time, four days past my 39th birthday."

"Our six aircraft carriers were positioned 230 miles north of Oahu Island. As general commander of the air squadron, I made last-minute checks on the intelligence information reports in the operations room before going to warm up my single engine plane used for level bombing and torpedo flying."

"The sunrise in the east was magnificent above the white clouds as I led 360 planes towards Hawaii at an

William C. Armstrong is editor of THE QUIET MIRACLE, a monthly publication of Bible Literature International.

GOD'S MASTERPIECE

by William C. Armstrong



Lt. Cdr. Mitsuo Fuchida—1941



Mitsuo Fuchida—1970

Thirty-seven years ago, on Dec. 7, 1941, Lt. Commander Mitsuo Fuchida, led the history-making attack on Pearl Harbor. His aim was to destroy and kill. Nine years later he became a new person in Christ, turning into a "happy, contented, gentle man."

With permission of the author,

William C. Armstrong, who had his interview first published in The Quiet Miracle, we are presenting the story of Mitsuo Fuchida, hoping that his testimony will demonstrate God's peace "that passeth all understanding."



Joe Fuchida



"... the proud battleships, one by one, started tilting . . ."

altitude of 3,000 meters. I knew my objective: to surprise and cripple the American naval force in the Pacific.

"But I fretted about being thwarted should some of the U.S. battleships not be there. I gave no thought of the possibility of this attack breaking open a mortal confrontation with the United States. I was only concerned about making a military success."

"As we neared the Hawaiian Islands that bright Sunday morning, I made a preliminary check of the harbor, nearby Hickam Field and the other installations surrounding Honolulu. Viewing the entire American Pacific Fleet, peacefully at anchor in the inlet below, I smiled as I reached for the mike and ordered: 'All squadrons, plunge in to attack!' The time was 7:49 a.m."

"Like a hurricane out of nowhere, my torpedo planes, dive bombers and fighters struck suddenly with inde-

scribable fury. As smoke began to billow and the proud battleships, one by one, started tilting, my heart was almost ablaze with joy. During the next three hours, I directly commanded the 50 level bombers as they pelted not only Pearl Harbor, but the airfields, barracks and dry docks nearby. Then I circled at a higher altitude to accurately assess the damage.

"Of the eight battleships in the harbor, five were mauled into total inactivity for the time being. The Arizona was scrapped for good; the Oklahoma, California and West Virginia were sunk. The Nevada was beached in a sinking condition; only the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Tennessee were able to be repaired. Other small ships were damaged, but the sting of the 3,077 U. S. Navy personnel killed or missing and 876 wounded, plus 226 Army killed and 396 wounded, was something which could never be repaired."

"It was the most thrilling exploit of my career. Ever since I had heard of my country's winning the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, I had dreamed of becoming an admiral like Admiral Togo, our commander-in-chief in the decisive Battle of the Japan Sea."

"I was proud of my father," says Joe. "And although there was some feeling then by the Japanese people, wondering what our nation was getting into, by taking on the giant powers like that, the people rallied around the tremendous military victory. My father was a hero."

"During the next four years, I was determined to improve upon my Pearl Harbor feat. I saw action in the Solomon Islands, Java and the Indian Ocean. Just before the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942, I came down with an attack of appendicitis and was unable to fly. Lying in my bed, I grimaced at the sounds of the firing all about me. By the end of that day, we had suffered our first major defeat, losing ten warships altogether."

"During this Battle of Midway," Joe relates, "my father was blown into the water when a bomb hit the ship he was on, crippling both his legs. Fortunately, he was picked up and brought to safety. But for the next two years, he was on crutches."

"He was brought to a hospital just two miles from our home but we didn't know it. Everything about the war was kept secret. We never knew Japan was losing until bombs began to fall. Then, everyone wondered."

"When my father got better, he started teaching at the War College, commuting back and forth from home. While home, he and I would make model planes together."

"From that time on, things grew worse. I did not want to surrender. I would rather have fought to the last man. However, when the Emperor announced that we would surrender, I acquiesced."

"I was in Hiroshima the day before the atom bomb was dropped, attending a week-long military conference with the Army. Fortunately, I received a long distance call from my Navy Headquarters, asking me to return to Tokyo, thus sparing my life."

"Things took a 180 degree turn after the war," Joe recalls. "Whereas my Dad was a hero during the war . . . after the war, he was looked on as a war criminal by his own people. He had become a disgrace in their eyes. I'd go to school and the students would say, 'Your father lost the war.' It was rough."

"My Dad went downhill. He was very unhappy. Since the U.S. occupational forces issued a decree that the military leaders were not to be given jobs, he could get no work. And with no money coming in, we became poor. By necessity, he turned to farming the land."

"Instead of a dream house which he had planned on paper over the years, my father had to settle for a small shack which he and I built together. But it was an experience I thoroughly enjoyed. Although many of my friends and relatives had always expected me to follow a military career, this wasn't what I wanted. I wanted to be an architect."

"After the war, as I got off the train one day in Tokyo's Shibuya Station, I saw an American distributing literature. When I passed him, he handed me a pamphlet, 'I Was A Prisoner of Japan'. Bible Literature International, known then as Bible Meditation League, had

published it especially for the Japanese people in answer to the plea by General Douglas MacArthur for Christian literature.

"What I read was the fascinating story which eventually changed my life. On that Sunday while I was in the air over Pearl Harbor, an American soldier named Jacob DeShazer had been on K.P. duty in an Army camp in California. When the radio announced the sneak attack, demolishing Pearl Harbor, he hurled a potato at the wall and shouted, 'Jap, just wait and see what we'll do to you!'"

"One month later, DeShazer volunteered for a secret mission with the Jimmy Doolittle Squadron . . . a surprise raid on Tokyo from the carrier Hornet. On April 18, 1942, DeShazer was one of the bombardiers and was filled with elation at getting his revenge. After the bombing raid, they flew on towards China, but ran out of fuel and were forced to parachute into Japanese-held territory. The next morning, DeShazer found himself a prisoner of Japan.

"During the next 40 long months of confinement, DeShazer was cruelly treated. He recalled that his violent hatred for the maltreating Japanese guards almost drove him insane at one point. He wondered why man was so cruel to his fellowman.

"One day, after 25 months in a Japanese P.O.W. camp, he was given a Bible. God's Word spoke to his heart, showing why man was the way he was . . . and who God was and what He had done to change man's nature through the shed blood of Christ.

"The dynamic power of Christ which Jacob accepted into his life changed his entire attitude toward his captors. His hatred turned to love and concern, and he resolved that should his country win the war and he be liberated, he would someday return to Japan to introduce others to this life-changing Book.

"DeShazer did just that. After some training at Seattle Pacific College, he returned to Japan as a missionary. And his story printed in the BLI pamphlet was something I could not explain. Neither could I forget it. The peace he had found in Christ was exactly what I was seeking.

"Since the American pilot had found it in the Bible, I decided to purchase one myself, despite my traditionally Buddhist heritage.

"In the ensuing weeks I read this Book eagerly. I came to the climactic drama, the Crucifixion. I read in Luke 23:24 the prayer of Jesus Christ at His death: 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' I was impressed that I was certainly one of those for whom He had prayed. The many men I had killed had been slaughtered in the name of patriotism, for I did not understand the love Christ wishes to implant within every heart.

"Right at that moment, I seemed to meet Jesus for the first time. I understood the meaning of His death as a substitute for my wickedness, and so in prayer, I requested Him to forgive my sins and change me from a bitter, disillusioned ex-pilot into a well-balanced Christian with purpose in living.

"That date, April 12, 1950, became the second 'day to remember' of my life. On that day, I became a new person. My complete view on life was changed by the inter-

vention of the Christ I had always hated and ignored before. Soon, other friends beyond my close family learned of my decision to follow Christ, and they could hardly understand it."

"Dad came home and we could see him change gradually," the architect son recalls. "He began reading his Bible. Eventually, he began attending church regularly and changed from a dissatisfied, defeated man who would get upset and sometimes scream at us . . . to a happy, contented, gentle man.

"As a naval officer, he drank a lot but now, he didn't touch a drop. But it did take some time before he was able to give up smoking. The desire to smoke was so strong that, even after he began testifying in churches, he would have to hide his cigarettes from the ministers so as not to offend them. He would go into the men's room and smoke. Finally, he was able to stop.

"His ministry began to grow. As an evangelist, he became quite popular and appealed to all ages. As a result of his conversion, our whole family came to Christ and was baptized. I went to several of my father's meetings. He was a good preacher . . . very moving.

"He was 47 when he accepted Christ and was still lecturing and giving his testimony at age 73 when he died last year.

"I would give anything to retract my actions at Pearl Harbor, but it is impossible. Instead, I now work at striking the death blow to the basic hatred which infests the human heart and causes such tragedies. And that hatred cannot be uprooted without assistance from Jesus Christ.

"He is the only One who was powerful enough to change my life and inspire it with His thoughts. He was the only Answer for Jacob DeShazer's tormented life. He is the only answer for all people today."

"Like my Dad, I have felt God's protecting hand upon me," says Joe. "In my early 20's, I was close to dying from tuberculosis. I was hemorrhaging quite rapidly, was confined to a hospital for six months and spent another two years recuperating.

"Before that experience, I was very pessimistic about life. But after God brought me through all that, I became optimistic, feeling that God had a purpose for my life.

"My father's life was spared many times that he might be a preacher and a testimony to the whole world. I feel I was spared to express my beliefs through architecture. I have a strong faith that God's hand is upon me and that He keeps me day by day."

What a picture of God's love . . . from the father's reigning destruction from the skies to the son's building homes and offices for people to live and work in and enjoy. From hatred to His abiding love. From a dream house to an old shack . . . and now, in a mansion prepared for him in glory, Mitsuo Fuchida is enjoying eternal life!

No artist could ever have painted it . . . no preacher could put it into words . . . no architect could build such an eternal structure. It is God's Masterpiece.

I bid Joe goodbye and left, filled to overflowing with a deep awareness of the Presence of the God of All History . . . the One who sees beyond our failures and loves us with an undying love. □

insight into christian education

Who needs discipline?

by Arleta Richardson

"All the hoodlums in colleges and high schools today are a result of the 'permissive approach' to child rearing that has existed the last 15 to 20 years."

The speaker was emphatic. As the lecture continued, he was equally sure about the cure and preventative for all problems connected with youth: DISCIPLINE. Don't let the little monster get the upper hand.

As I left the auditorium, I was convinced. We were the victims of a lack of discipline, all right. But the lack wasn't in the children. It was in the adults who surrounded them and made their world.

As a teacher of children in their first school years, I have been an interested observer of fives and sixes. I watch them not only in the classroom but also in stores, restaurants, theaters, on buses and in their homes. I wonder what helps them survive long enough to get to school? What built-in stamina do they possess that allows them to continue loving, trusting and idolizing adults? What inner spring keeps them laughing, jumping and coming back for more?

Children are treated abominably. Imagine, if you can, your feelings by the end of the day if you had been the recipient of this:

"Put that down!"

"Mike, go to the store for me. Right now. I don't care what you're doing."

"Shut up and listen to me!"

"Give me that book. Do you want to ruin it?"

"Hurry up and finish your dinner, or I'll leave you here in the restaurant."

"Go away and leave me alone. Can't you see that I'm busy?"

"Not like that, stupid. Can't you do anything right?"

"Hurry up! We don't have all day!"

"Don't touch that!"

"What's the matter with you? Can't you hear anything?"

"Ugh! Throw that thing away! No, you can't keep it in your room."

"I don't know what I'm going to do with you!"

"Give that to your sister. She's smaller than you are."

"I don't care if it is your favorite doll. It's filthy, so get rid of it."

"Look at me when I'm speaking to you!"

Had enough?

Children listen to it every day. And the pathetic thing is, they have come to expect it.

Jamie, in my first-grade room, upset a box of letters. "Rita," I said, "would you please help Jamie put the letters back?" I returned to my work, but I was soon conscious of Elizabeth watching me. I looked at her inquiringly.

"Well, aren't you going to hit him?" she asked.

When the letters were restored to the box, Jamie asked me. "How come you didn't yell at me?"

A first-grader on a television show was asked what she had learned the first week of school. Her answer? "I learned that my teacher can yell as loud as mommy does!" The audience howled.

What peculiar chemistry occurs between an adult and a child that produces a different tone of voice, a diverse look and a special brand of manners?

Why is the child always on the giving end of "please," "thank you," "excuse me," or "I'm sorry," but seldom fortunate enough to be the receiver of these common courtesies?

Is there a reason why a human being must reach a certain age before he can be treated like one?

Children are difficult to live with. So are adults.

Children can be annoying, irritating,

disturbing and impossible. So can adults.

Children may be forgetful, disagreeable, impatient and careless. So may adults.

Here the similarity seems to end.

A disagreeable adult is ignored. A child is swatted.

We tolerate a careless adult. We holler at a careless child.

When an adult, who should know better, is discourteous or irritable he is excused on the premise that his ulcer is gnawing. A child, who is just learning, is not excused on any premise.

The hoodlums and rabble-rousers mentioned by the lecturer seem to have one thing, at least, in common: they have no respect for their fellowman. Is it possible that no one had any respect for them while they were growing up?

It is safe to say that most of them were "disciplined" when they were children. All children are wheeled around, shaped up and made to mind to a certain extent. Why then this tragic departure from early precepts? Is it possible that the adults in their lives were not able to instill self-discipline; because they, themselves, were undisciplined?

Children need to be trained, disciplined and taught. They must have rules and limits set for their behavior. There must be understood penalties for infractions. But this can be accomplished without making a child feel something less than human.

Some parents and teachers allow children the same margin for error that they allow themselves, but many do not. Some adults remember to request, not demand, but too many do not.

After 25 years of living, laughing and playing with an average of 30 children a year, I am convinced that they will grow to be as thoughtful, considerate and gracious as the adults who surround them. □

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God's Grace

by Betty Patet



Betty Patet and the painting by Arta Mae Moore.

Twenty years ago, my husband and I were standing in the halls of a hospital. We were waiting for my doctor's final diagnosis of my illness. The doctor turned to me and said, "You have a very rare disease (rare at that time), a crippling disease, an incurable, but not a fatal disease." Silently, my husband and I left the hospital and drove to a quiet place. There we shared our thoughts, and then he prayed a prayer which I will never forget. He asked for God's strength for that moment and for each day that would follow in our lives together.

Following that day, I enjoyed what I call "my eight good years." I was able to do so many of the things I felt called to do as a pastor's wife, such as singing, which I dearly loved, and teaching Sunday school. Then came periods of exacerbations and remissions. During these years of increasing disability, I was hospitalized numerous times. After hip surgery, due to a fall, I was transferred to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I was at Rochester for eight months of intensive physical therapy. This was a difficult time for our family. At the end of this time, my husband was told I would never walk again. This was very difficult for him and our two young children to accept, but as usual, they turned to God and asked for his strength. Then I went through a short period of depression. But again I remembered that God was faithful and was always with me when I needed him most. My husband supported me with his love and encouraged me to participate in as many activities as possible.

Being in a wheelchair was difficult, but the most trying times were yet to come. Eventually I lost the use of my arms. What a frustrating and difficult time this was for me and my family. Again I remembered that God

Betty Patet, who has multiple sclerosis, is known for her warmth through her smile. She is the wife of the Rev. Donald Patet, pastor, Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, IA.

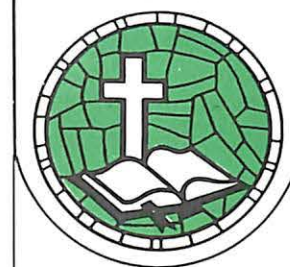
would never leave me nor forsake me and that God never makes a mistake in his plan for our lives. I learned that I was able to give thanks to God for each hospitalization that followed. Through these times I was able to make lasting friendships and was able to be a witness to the nurses and many patients. These past ten years have been difficult for my family, but I must say they have been rewarding and fulfilling years for me because of what I have learned about God's grace and love.

Above my hospital bed in my bedroom, I have a painting that is very precious to me. It was painted by a dear friend, Arta Moore, the wife of Professor Floyd Moore from the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This painting has given me a new thought about our Christian lives. When I awaken each morning, the sunlight comes through the window and shines on this painting. At different times I have noticed how much more beautiful the Texas bluebonnets are, and the sky's color has become more vivid. The grass is greener, and even the little red barn in the background is a brighter red than when it was first brought to me. This tells me that the same things should be happening in our Christian lives. Our lives should become more beautiful in the sight of God and others; just as this painting has become more beautiful in the past two years due to the unique drying process of this type of oil painting.

How sufficient God's grace has been in my life during these past years! My prayer is that our lives may continue to grow and that we may let the light of Christ shine in our lives just as this painting has become more beautiful through the past years. I pray that God will continue to give me the wisdom to know how to use my affliction to serve Christ in a greater way and to let my light shine for Christ each day of my life.

"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9). □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



END OF THE YEAR GIVING

by Everett A. Barker

The clock ticks away minutes, hours, days, weeks and months until finally the year 1978 will end. At midnight, December 31, the year will close with a sense of finality. At that time anything that was left undone will have to be accomplished next year.

For most of us who function on a calendar year, our giving to the Lord's work needs to be reviewed. At this point in time most people will have a good idea of their income level for the year. You can also review your giving record to date to determine if it has kept pace with your income. It's at this point that many Christian people like to make a final gift for the year. If you want to have your contribution count for deduction purposes, your gift must be given or mailed before December 31. It is perfectly legitimate to take advantage of the generous tax deductions made available by the United States and Canadian governments.

One of the basic giving principles taught in Scripture is that your giving is based on God's provision, as Paul suggests in I Corinthians 16:2, "As God has prospered . . ." Since inflation is moving most people into higher income levels, it at least follows that our giving should increase. This avoids the bad practice of giving the same amount as last year.

As you carefully and prayerfully consider your giving, let me suggest some different ways to give:

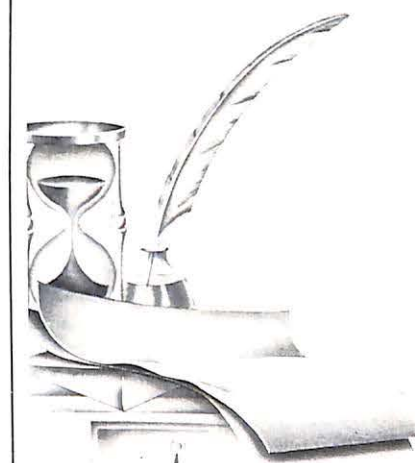
1. GIVE CASH—This is the most popular way to give. This may be a

good time to fulfill any commitments you have made.

2. GIVE STOCKS—Significant tax benefits are available for donation of stocks held twelve months or more. You can avoid the capital gains tax entirely and receive a deduction for the Fair Market Value.
3. GIVE CAPITAL GAINS ONLY—You can sell the stock to the organization for your cost and donate the capital gains. A special formula determines the lowered tax on the capital gains.
4. GIVE REAL ESTATE—You can donate a house, farm, business property or land. Since much real estate has appreciated in recent years there are significant tax advantages in donating real estate.
5. GIVE LIVESTOCK/CROPS—Some farmers give livestock or crops as a matter of convenience.
6. GIVE BUSINESS INVENTORIES—Certain businessmen give inventories. Tax benefits are limited in giving livestock, crops and inventories.
7. GIVE INSURANCE POLICIES/DIVIDENDS—Life insurance offers many advantageous ways to give. Give cash value, dividends or change the beneficiary.
8. GIVE OTHER PROPERTY—Give cars, antiques, gold or other valuable collectibles.
9. GIVE THROUGH YOUR CORPORATION—The owners of family corporations can usually give through their companies.
10. GIVE IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE—A memorial gift can be given in honor of a loved one. Gifts in lieu

of flowers can have a lasting effect.

The end of the year also brings the beautiful Christmas reminder of God's gift of love. Because of what God has done in giving his Son Jesus Christ to us, a response of giving on our part is appropriate. What kind of gift does God want from you and me? First of all, he wants commitment to himself. Then he wants us to further this work through our time, effort and gifts. Your financial gift makes it possible for our missionaries to share the gospel. A special gift at this time helps our Conference continue its ministries through missions, Church Extension and education at North American Baptist Seminary and North American Baptist College. □



For more information send for the following brochures:

- ☐ "December Giving . . . 10 Ways
- ☐ "What Every Giver Should Know About Taxes"
- ☐ I would like assistance, please contact me.

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



CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

CORONA, CA, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by Ron Hartman

December 1978

Sunday, Sept. 10, 1978, will always be a red letter day for the Corona Heights Baptist Fellowship. It was on that day that we first met as God's people in worship. A warm spirit of love and unity was experienced by all, as we worshiped in the living room of Ed and Letha Hoffmann. In all we had 24 adults and 18 children in attendance.

The City of Corona is a charming town of 35,000 people. In recent years Corona has experienced rapid growth and is located in one of the 12 hottest housing markets in the U.S.

Over the years, several North American Baptist families have moved to the Corona area. Since they were unable to find a good evangelical church in Corona, the Southern California Association felt God's leading in planting a new church. Land was purchased, and Ron Hartman was called as the pastor. On Feb. 16, 1978, five couples started a home Bible study. Besides Bible study, time was devoted to prayer, the sharing of needs and blessings as well as fellowship. These couples, along with a few others, formed a strong nucleus for the church.

Shortly after the Bible study was started, four women began to meet to encourage one another and to learn to grow as wives and mothers. In October they began a ministry for women of the church and community.

Spiritual leadership is the concern of the four men who have been meeting for breakfast on Tuesday mornings at 5:45 a.m. They meet to encourage, study and pray for each other. Their goal is for each man to become a man of God at home, at work and in the Body of Christ.

The church as it now exists is Christ-centered, Bible preaching, family-oriented and committed to ministering to one another and to proclaiming Christ throughout the community. Quality growth in the lives of the members is a priority. Small groups of committed Christians supporting each other are the building blocks.

The church site is 7.8 acres of orange grove located on a major thoroughfare. There is a single story house on the land which will be remodeled to meet city requirements for worship. The cost of this project will be \$15,000, \$6,000 for the parking lot alone. This house will hold 70 adults in assembly. Future plans call for the building of a multi-purpose facility.

It is through your continued prayer and support that this beginning has been made possible and that these future plans can become a reality. If you feel God leading you to invest in this project, please send your contribution designated for the Corona Heights Baptist Fellowship to North American Baptist Conference, 1 S. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

The Rev. Ron Hartman is pastor of the Corona Heights Baptist Fellowship, Corona, CA.



The Congregation, first Sunday worship 9/10/78.



Ron Hartman, wife Sherry, and Matt, Mark, Heidi.



Breakfast meetings strengthen friendship and spiritual ties.



Chuck Ball shares the master plan.



Children's church.

CHRISTMAS . . .
(Continued from page 6)

mas holidays bring visions of hot sun and sand, not snow flurries and ice.

"O Tannenbaum! O Tannenbaum!" (Oh, Christmas Tree! Oh, Christmas Tree!) is the familiar German song which expresses such great love for this evergreen. To many it is a symbol of immortality, and although the German people have been given credit for first lighting and decorating trees, the idea actually began much earlier. Primitive tribes revered nature and believed everything had life. By adorning branches and bringing them indoors, they invited the god of nature into their homes. The Druids in Northern Europe put lighted candles on boughs as a tribute to their sun god, Balder. Now Christians use the evergreen tree to denote the bringing of new life to the world through Jesus Christ.

In Germany after the Reformation of Luther, some historians say, the Protes-

tants wanted to substitute a Christ Child symbol (Das Christkindl) for St. Nicholas, the tree-bearer and gift-giver. So, in many homes, when the family had gathered together in the evening, a young girl with blond hair, dressed in a white robe played the part. She wore a golden crown and carried a small Christmas tree in one hand. Even though these Protestants have changed their celebration from December 6 (St. Nicklaus Day) to Christ's birth, many still continue to give and receive small gifts on that day, as before.

Candles have become an integral part of any Christmas celebration. In Spain many families place a burning taper above their door, while in Italy candles glow from windows symbolizing the lighting of the pathway for Christ. On the first Sunday in Advent, church alters and communion tables are lit by the light of a single taper. Every Sunday which follows brings the addition of another candle, until four are shining on Christmas.

Christmas traditions are diverse. People celebrate the season in religious as well as secular ways. As you find yourself serving as host or hostess at Christmas, be careful not to become so concerned with what will be served, what method of gift distribution would be most appropriate. The joy of a Christmas celebration is surely not dependent upon such worldly concerns. Be assured that when God's gift was given, it was given to all men, from all nations. If those celebrating with you are Christians, the songs sung will be from the heart, and the carols will represent universal joy. This is what such an international birthday should reflect . . . the giving of a Messiah to all mankind. □

IS IT WORTH IT?
(Continued from page 12)

Borneo, Indonesia. The groom claimed that Miss L. Wipf had been the first person from whom he had heard about Christianity during his junior or senior high school years. The young people of the Kobe Church sang very heartily for the couple, "We've a story to tell to the nations . . ." And that's what missions is all about.

Or consider the aspect of fellowship

(Continued on page 27)

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW . . .

about
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by Henry G. Ramus.

This is an 81-page manual containing guidelines for establishing a regular and continuous program of training opportunities to develop volunteer leadership in the local church.

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Liske of Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, Alpena, MI, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Aug. 12, 1978. Their son, the Rev. Ferris Liske, was master of ceremonies and showed slides of the family. The pastor,



the Rev. Jacob Ehman, spoke. The Liskes have five children, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They have been members of Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church for fifty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Stobee celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 8, 1978. They were married at Phone Hill. The congregation of Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK, held a social hour in their honor following the evening service, June 18, with a program and refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grunert celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, 1978. They are members of Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK. The W.M.S. hosted a tea, which included a short program, for members and friends in their honor at their home.

KELOWNA, BC. Missionaries Larry Scheffler, Dr. Jerry Fluth and Mr. and Mrs. Curt Radke ably presented the challenge of missions at a missionary conference held at Trinity Baptist Church recently. At the closing rally, the Rev. F. Folkerts, associate secretary for overseas missions, brought the message. Following this and during the fellowship time, missionary slides and displays were viewed. The Rev. Ken Priebe, missionary to Cameroon, testified to God's continuing grace in the life of his family.

The Sunday School reach out campaign, "Count on Me," has brought increased attendance. The series, "How Shall We Then Live," by Francis Schaeffer, are currently being shown at the evening services. The Rev. Richard Hohensee is the pastor. (E. Hoffman, reporter.)

JAMESBURG, NJ. On Oct. 1, 1978, during the morning worship hour at the First Baptist Church, six persons were wel-

comed into the membership of the church by the Rev. Karl E. Bieber. All had been baptized by the pastor recently on confession of their faith in Jesus Christ. (Marguerite Lee, reporter.)

ONOWAY, AB. The Onoway Baptist Church bade farewell to Pastor Gerald Froese and his wife Judi and their small son Greg on Sunday evening, Sept. 24, 1978. An engraved tray was presented to them from the church. The Onoway Women's Missionary Society's president, Mrs. Eileen Schatz, presented a spoon to Judi.

The Froese family is moving to Saskatoon, SK. (Mrs. Bonney Guidinger, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. On Sept. 29, 1978, the Ladies' Missionary Society of Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrated their 50th anniversary. Dr. Laura Reddig, our guest speaker, shared her experiences as a missionary with us following a dinner. Seventeen former L.M.S. presidents were present. Three of the charter members attended the program.

Presently there are 46 members and three honorary members. Mrs. Emma Bush is the president of the L.M.S. (Delila Cichon, secretary.)

OCHRE RIVER, MB. Mr. Herman Prikker (pictured with his wife) is the first church organist of Grace Baptist Church since the church was organized. And he still



faithfully serves the Lord in this capacity after fifty years. He also served as organist for the senior mixed choir for many years. Mr. Prikker was presented a gift on behalf of the church in recognition of fifty years faithful service at a special service, Aug. 20, 1978. (Fred J. Amman, reporter.)

LINTON, ND. On September 17 First Baptist Church celebrated a Harvest-Mission Festival with Dr. Laura Reddig as guest speaker. The Festival began Saturday evening with a tea for the ladies and girls of the church. The tea included special music and a presentation of slides showing the medical work in Cameroon.

On Sunday morning Dr. Reddig spoke in the worship service on the theme, "A God of Miracles." At the afternoon service, a representative from each family

brought their offering to the front, placing it on an open Bible which was included in a display of fruits and vegetables. (Barbara Zimbelman, reporter.)

CHICAGO, IL. On Sunday evening, Sept. 17, 1978, the Foster Avenue Baptist Church held an installation and dedication service for Miss Jennell Mauch, the new director of Christian education and youth ministries. The Rev. Willis Potratz,



Great Lakes Area secretary, brought the message. Words of welcome into the N.A.B. Conference were brought by the Rev. Bruce Rich, general director, Church Ministries Department. Testimonies of appreciation were shared by several involved in Christian education ministries of the church. Pastor Eldon G. Schroeder offered the prayer of dedication for Miss Mauch.

Jennell is a native of California and was a member of the Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento. She is a graduate of California State University, 1976, and from North American Baptist Seminary, 1978. (Ruth E. Navrodtzke, reporter.)

BENTON HARBOR, MI. Having had the privilege of saying goodbye at a farewell party for our dearly beloved music director, church moderator and friend, Don Clements, and his lovely wife, Arlene, we are looking forward to the coming fellowship of our new administrator and outreach pastor, the Rev. Cliff Hamil, wife Beverly, and family (pictured) at Napier Parkview Baptist Church.



The Lord is working in the Benton Harbor area through the young people in schools, sports, Bible studies, visitation, prayer groups and our pastors' counseling sessions. The Rev. Herman Effa is senior pastor, and the Rev. James Calkins is youth minister. (Lois Breitzkreuz, reporter.)

ELGIN, IA. The Rev. Ben Hulsing had the pleasure of baptizing three persons at the morning worship service, Oct. 1, 1978. At the communion service that followed, these three plus two others were welcomed into the membership of the church. (Ruth Jacob, reporter.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Sunday, Sept. 24, 1978, was celebrated as Homecoming Sunday at the Pilgrim Baptist Church. Pastor Paul Meister's message was "God's Yardstick for Today." During the morning worship service, 150 Bibles were dedicated for the congregation's use in the name of Mrs. Emma Kletke. Mrs.



Kletke had been an active member at Pilgrim for 59 years serving in the ministry of music. Pictured are Pastor Meister, Mrs. Jean Kletke and her daughter, Christi, who received the first copy of the dedicated Scriptures. (Paul Meister, pastor.)

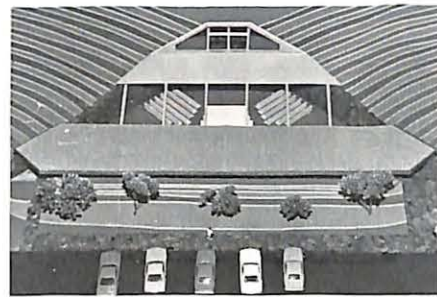
GRAND FORKS, ND. Twenty-five people were recently received into the membership of Grace Baptist Church. Thirteen came by letter, and twelve were baptized by the Rev. Robert F. Penner.

A coffee fellowship was held Oct. 1, 1978, honoring the new members, Mr. and Mrs. Reimer Clausen, missionaries to Japan, and Pastor and Mrs. Robert Penner on their departure for Japan. There the Penners visited their daughter, Diane, who is serving as a short-term missionary.

The farewell for the Penners was a surprise. The fellowship hall was decorated in a Japanese theme with a lovely display of articles and pictures of Japan. The hostesses and members of a skit depicting the Penners' trip were dressed in Japanese apparel. A love offering was given to the Penners. (Mrs. Bonita J. Shambaugh, reporter.)

BEULAH, ND. The Immanuel Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. Herman

Kesterke, had their groundbreaking for their new church building on Sept. 17, 1978. A former pastor, the Rev. George Neubert, spoke on "The Gift of Miracles."



The unique feature of the new buildings (architect's drawing, pictured) is that it is three-sided with two sides dug into a hillside with only the south side exposed. The architects are Be Architects, Inc., of Lake Elmo, MN. The builder is Schoenrock and Sons, Inc., of Hazen, ND.

YORKTON, SK. The Rev. and Mrs. Morley Schultz and family were honored at a farewell service on Sunday, Sept. 3, 1978, at the Central Baptist Church. After the morning communion service, members and friends shared in a potluck dinner and fellowship hour. A program included musical selections by various groups including a quintet by the pastor, three sons and daughter. Church officers commented on highlights of Rev. Schultz's eight and one-half years of ministry there. Rev. Schultz, who ably directed the choir for several years, lead the choir in singing, "The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows." Gifts and a love offering were presented to the Schultz family.

They now are ministering at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB. (Hertha Rowden, reporter.)

TROCHU, AB. Trochu Baptist Church welcomed eight new members (pictured) into the church, following a Sunday morning baptismal service recently. At



that time the pastor, the Rev. John Hoffman baptized six persons. Two joined the church by personal testimony. (Marjorie Haller, reporter.)

RACINE, WI. An ordination council, called by the Grace Baptist Church on Sept. 24, 1978, considered the ordination of David Rushton, who is serving as Church Extension pastor at Sun Prairie, WI, since July 1. The council consisted of 28 delegates from ten area churches in the Wisconsin Association. Pastor Herman Pohl of Milwaukee and Pastor Jothan G. Benke of Kenosha functioned as moderator and secretary of the Council after it was organized under the leadership of the church clerk, Oliver Bonesteel, Racine.

Brother Rushton gave a clear presentation of his doctrinal views and his experience with the Lord. His wife, Carol, also shared her experience and expressed her desire to compliment her husband's ministry. After limited questions and upon recommendation of the Council, it was unanimously agreed that the church proceed with the ordination. The ordination service was held at Grace Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. on September 24. (Jothan G. Benke, reporter.)

XENIA, OH. Three new members were welcomed into the membership of Community Baptist Church during the month of September 1978. Pictured with Pastor



Arthur Bollaert are (l. to r.) James and Karin Gavenda and Barbara Bollaert, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Bollaert. (Joanne Durham, reporter.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. The Iowa Association held its annual meeting Sept. 7-10, 1978, at the First Baptist Church.

The theme of the conference was "We Are One in the Lord." The visiting personnel consisting of the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area secretary, the Rev. Clarence Walth, director of development, N.A.B. Seminary; the principal of secondary education, Walnut Ridge Academy, Waterloo, IA, and the Rev. Art Helwig, missionary from Cameroon, developed the theme.

The Association welcomed a new Church Extension project at South Sioux City, NE, the Tri-State Baptist Church, giving the Association three Church Extension projects.

Miss Becky Heerts, missionary to Japan, spoke at the W.M.U. meeting. The Baptist Men heard the Rev. Art Helwig, missionary to Cameroon. The Rev. Alfred

Weisser advised concerning Estate Planning. The Association closed with a pot-luck dinner given by the host church. (Marjorie Lindaman, reporter.)

NEW LEIPZIG, ND. The New Leipzig Baptist Church building was dedicated to God and to the promotion of his kingdom four years ago in August. Since then individuals have committed their lives to Jesus Christ; others rededicated



theirs to him. Eleven people have been baptized, six of whom were baptized on Father's Day by the pastor (pictured at left), the Rev. Roger Freeland. Two persons joined our church by letter of transfer. We thank God for these individuals and his goodness to us all. (Lillian Bohnet, reporter.)

CHANCELLOR, SD. "New Life in Family Living" was the theme of the 123rd meeting of the South Dakota Association at

the First Baptist Church held Sept. 28-30, 1978.

Dr. Richard Houts, associate professor of church administration and director of field education at the North American Baptist Seminary, was the keynote speaker. His messages challenged us to be not only concerned about our relationships to God but also to each other.

The program began with discussion by a panel lead by Ben Engbrecht and composed of five laypeople of various age groups. The discussion introduced the concern we have as Christians in the area of family life.

Miss Barbara Kieper, missionary to Nigeria, challenged us with news and insights of the work she and fellow missionaries are involved in there. She also spoke to the ladies at the W.M.U. luncheon meeting on Saturday.

The Baptist Men of South Dakota also had a luncheon meeting with the Rev. Clarence Walth, N.A.B. Seminary, as guest speaker.

The most significant budget items approved were the continuation of the Church Extension project at Brandon, SD, and the beginning of a new Church Extension project at Gillette, WY. The Rev. Charles Hiatt was re-elected as moderator of the Association (Ray DeNeui, reporter.)

CRAWFORD, TX. The Rev. Mark Munson was ordained to the gospel ministry Aug. 18, 1978, at the Canaan Baptist Church. Rev. Munson is a 1975 graduate of Baylor University and received his Master of Divinity from Southwestern Seminary in

1978. A council of seven pastors and six laymen met to consider the qualifications of the candidate and were very pleased with his presentation and answers to questions.

Rev. Munson is currently the pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church. He is married to the former Judy Allen of Waco, a 1977 graduate of Baylor. They have one daughter, Micki, age 3. Rev. Munson served in Chicago one summer in a program to start new churches and has been pastor of the Canaan church since August 1977. (Ronald E. Miller, council clerk.)

SOUTHEY, SK. With great joy we witnessed the baptism of seven young people (pictured with Pastor Herbert Bachler) on March 26, 1978, at the Southey



Baptist Church. At the communion service, following baptism, the hand of fellowship was extended to these seven along with one young woman who was received into the membership on confession of faith. (Annette Lang, reporter.)

Grove, CA. She accepted Christ in 1924, was baptized, and joined Herreid Baptist Church in 1930. She was an officer in the Women's Missionary Society. She and her husband served as church custodians. Survivors include her husband, Jacob; four sons: Lloyd, Clarence Jack, Allen, and Vernon; two daughters: Mrs. Ardella Walther and Mrs. Donley Schaefer; four brothers: Emil, Rev. Arthur, Henry and Edwin J., four sisters: Mrs. Alvin Bauer, Mrs. Jake Moulton, Mrs. Otto Bauer and Mrs. Clyde Huber; 20 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The Rev. Arthur Fischer and the Rev. Edward Kopf officiated at the funeral service.

ELSIE BLANDAU, 62, born Sept. 16, 1915, died Sept. 15, 1978. She accepted Christ as Savior at the age of nine and was baptized by her father, at the time pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA. Miss Blandau was a radiant Christian, showing her love for the Lord, and her love for people in everything she did. She taught elementary school for 25 years and was a charter member of the Tacoma Christian Business and Professional Women's group. She is survived by three sisters: Frieda Blandau of the home, Mrs. Roy (Esther) Monschke, San-

ta Cruz, CA, and Mrs. Bill (Dorothy) Baker, Gautier, MS, and a brother, Dr. Richard J. Blandau, Edmonds, WA. The Rev. Fred C. Sweet officiated at the memorial service.

OLGA MARTHA BUCKHOLZ (BUCKLES), born Dec. 10, 1895, to the Rev. and Mrs. Adam Litwin, died June 14, 1978, at Edmonton, AB. She accepted the Lord as Savior at an early age and was baptized. On Oct. 27, 1916, she married Gustav Buckholz and moved to Edmonton, AB. There she was an active member of the Women's Missionary Society and the mixed choir. She served as the church organist and soloist for many years. Mrs. Buckholz was predeceased by her son Arthur in infancy and her husband Gustav. Survivors include two brothers: Emil and Oscar Litwin; one sister, Lydia Miller; four daughters: Agnes Borchert and Madeline Pape, Edmonton; Joyce Jones and Iris Lipinski, Toronto, ON, and eight grandchildren. The Rev. Gerald Scheel and Dr. Donald Borchert officiated at the funeral service.

FRIEDA GASSNER was born on June 3, 1894, at Rabbit Hill, AB, into the family of one of our pioneer pastors, the Rev. F. A. Mueller. At the age of 12, she accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized by her father on Feb. 4, 1907, at Leduc, AB. On May 22, 1917, she married the Rev. Leo Gassner with whom she served in seven N.A.B. churches. In every church she took a very active part as S.S. teacher, in the choirs, and especially in the women's organizations. After the untimely passing of her husband in 1945, she worked in an office in Vancouver, retiring in 1964. She died Sept. 20, 1978, at age 84. Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Irma Biebrich, Vancouver, and Mrs. Ivy Kroll, St. Paul, MN; two sons: Arlo and Arno, Portland, OR; two brothers: Rev. John Mueller and Rev. Fred Mueller; one sister, Mrs. Hanna Falkenberg; nine grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Dr. A. Patzia and Dr. H. J. Waltereit officiated at the memorial service.

ROSE HEPPEL, born Aug. 26, 1902, in Odessa, South Russia, to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mattis, died Sept. 28, 1978. On Dec. 7, 1925, she married Rudolph Hepper. They farmed near Selfridge, ND.

IS IT WORTH IT?
(Continued from page 23)

with others. We were told that very few Japanese people invite guests into their homes. However, the elderly couple,

Following her husband's death in 1964, she moved to McLaughlin, SD, and in 1977 to the Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND. Survivors include eight sons: Calvin and William, Mobridge, SD, Adolph, McLaughlin, SD, Rudolph Jr., Fort Yates, ND, Ronald, Isabel, SD, and Harold, Stanley and Alvin, Selfridge; two daughters: Mrs. Raymond (Emma) Barchenger, Bismarck, and Mrs. Anton (Norma) Schneider, McLaughlin; 53 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; three brothers: Albert, William and Edward Mattis; five sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Seidel, Mrs. Peter Sittner, Mrs. Howard Perdue, Mrs. Emma Albrecht, and Mrs. Edward Follmer. She was a member of First Baptist Church of McLaughlin. The Rev. R. C. Stading officiated at the funeral service.

REV. HENRY HIRSCH was born in 1888 in Austria-Hungary, celebrated his 90th birthday in January 1978 and died May 6, 1978, in Whittier, CA, five days after suffering a stroke. His wife Louise and son Wilmer had preceded him in death. He graduated from the North American Baptist Seminary in 1914 and served as pastor or interim pastor of ten North American Baptist Conference churches



in Bismarck, ND, Corona, SD, Manitowoc, WI, North Freedom, WI, Minneapolis, MN, Cleveland, OH, Goodrich, ND, Midland, MI, Anaheim, CA, and Kyle, TX. A victory service was held at Bethel Church, Anaheim, CA, with the Rev. Berthold Jacksteit officiating and the Reverends William Hoover and Adolph Braun assisting. Survivors include two sons: Ted, Minneapolis, MN, and Bob, Whittier, CA; a daughter, Mrs. Helen

Oliver, Bellevue, WA; a sister, Mrs. Susan Schilling; ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be directed to the Library, North American Baptist Seminary, 1605 So. Euclid, Sioux Falls, SD, 57105.

WANDA JANE MEIER of Wichita, KS, born Oct. 24, 1929, in Marion, KS, died Sept. 12, 1978. Wanda accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and was baptized as a young girl. After marrying Herbert Meier on Oct. 1, 1949, she joined Immanuel Baptist Church, Marion. Since 1964 she had been an active member of Memory Lane Baptist, Wichita, with particular interest in the White Cross work. Survivors include her husband, Herb; two sons: Bruce, Flagstaff, AZ, and Tim, Lindsborg, KS; one daughter, Julie Wigdahl, Wichita; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ireland, Marion, and three brothers: Homer, Ernest, and Roger. Pastor Rudie Matheuszik officiated at the service.

JOHN MITTLEIDER, 86, of Herreid, SD, born Jan. 14, 1892, in Neudorf, South Russia, died Sept. 27, 1978, in Lodi, CA. He immigrated to the Glenham, SD, area with his mother and four brothers and later to a farm near Herreid. He married Austina Hagel Nov. 24, 1914. Upon retirement in 1950 they moved to Herreid. He accepted the Lord as his Savior in 1931, was baptized and joined Herreid Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Austina; three sons: Walter and Mervin, Herreid, and Floyd, Lodi, CA; two daughters: Lorraine (Mrs. Herbert Rudolph), Lodi, CA, and Ardella (Mrs. Elvin Ackerman), Selby, SD; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. The Rev. Edward Kopf officiated at the funeral service.

HAROLD R. SCHRODER was born at Avon, SD, April 19, 1906, and died Sept. 13, 1978. He was baptized in 1922 and joined First Baptist Church, Avon, where he served as S.S. superintendent, S.S. teacher, deacon, and church clerk. He married Virginia Best, Aug. 6, 1955. Survivors include his wife, Virginia; his children: Paul of Pella, IA, and Tom and Beth at home; four sisters: Frieda Schroder, Rena Popkes, Thelma Baldwin and Erma Lenzner; one brother, W. L. (Bob) Schroder. The Rev. Henry Lang officiated at the funeral service.

love streaming from their lives.

These and many other experiences, including the Christian radio broadcasts, are affirmations to me that it is worth it all in Japan—even though it is a slow progress. The missionaries there and elsewhere are dedicated to the cause; and I thank God for them. □

in memoriam

WALTER HUETHER, 65, of Wessington Springs, SD, was born to Jacob and Louise Huether on June 29, 1913, in Hutchinson County and died Sept. 11, 1978. On Sept. 29, 1935, he married Emma Decker at Emery, SD. They farmed near Wessington Springs until 1973, when they retired and moved into town. Walter was baptized in 1938 and was presently a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Wessington Springs. He used his gifts in countless ways for the Lord by holding numerous offices and singing in choirs, quartets, and other groups. Walter was preceded in death by his parents and one brother. Survivors include his wife, Emma; three sons, Elroy, Wessington Springs, and Allen and Ronald, Sioux Falls; one daughter, Mrs. Jack (Elneer) Marshman, Sioux Falls; two brothers, Leonard and Ervin, and ten

grandchildren. Pastor Darwin Stahl officiated at the services.

HERMAN L. SKUBICK, 82, was born Nov. 15, 1895, in Detroit, MI, and died on Dec. 9, 1977. He accepted Christ at age 12, was baptized and joined Ebenezer Baptist Church. He served the Lord in various capacities, using his musical abilities to direct the choir for 20 years, serving as a trustee and leading Ebenezer Church through three building programs. He served on the Pension Committee of the N.A.B. Conference and was vice president of the Baptist Life Association. He is survived by his wife, Esther M. (nee Strauss); one son, Marvin L.; one daughter, Marilyn R. Althouse; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, and four brothers. The Rev. Elmer C. Strauss, nephew, officiated at the memorial service, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Cummins.

MARTHA M. RUEB, daughter of John and Magdalena Fischer, was born Jan. 16, 1911, and died Aug. 9, 1978, at age 67. She married Jacob Rueb Nov. 2, 1929. The couple lived in the Herreid, SD, area all their lives except for a short time in Elk

ROUMANIAN DELEGATION LARGEST

VIENNA—The largest attendance ever recorded at an annual meeting of the European Baptist Federation Council included a large delegation from the Baptist Union of Roumania.

About one-third of the Union's pastors, many accompanied by their wives, came to Vienna to take part in the commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the martyr death of Anabaptist leader Balthasar Hubmaier, and to attend the Council sessions.

Other Union officials and church representatives attended also. The Roumanian delegation made up more than one-half of the total Council registration of 162 persons. EBPS

STUDENTS VISIT HUNGARIAN CHURCHES

BOSCH EN DUIN—Eight students from the Netherlands Baptist Seminary took part in a visit to the Baptist Seminary in Budapest and churches in Hungary in early September.

Travelling by automobile in three teams, the students visited different congregations where they gave their testimony and sang. But a spokesman said, "It was also so good for us to listen to the beautiful church choirs."

The group exchanged ideas and information at the Budapest seminary with students and professors, and were welcomed into Baptist homes in the area. In addition, they were taken around the city of Budapest and informed about Hungary's history. EBPS

GOD AT WORK IN CHINA

George Young, a former British Baptist missionary to China, has been privileged to visit that Asian land where he and his wife spent 27 years before being expelled in 1951. He reported optimistically, on his return to London, that "nothing can ultimately impede" the coming of God's kingdom to China. He noted that "the seed is still there and growing. These cheerful Christians in the Chinese church want us to know

chuckle with bruno

A good teacher is someone who can understand those not very good at explaining and explain it to those who are not very good at understanding.

that despite outward appearances, God has been, and still is, mightily at work with them."

SUN WILL DO DOUBLE JOB IN ISRAEL

SDOM—A new hotel to be opened in the Ein Bokek area near here this summer will be the first hotel in the world to be heated and cooled exclusively by solar energy.

The hotel will be cooled in the hot Dead Sea summer and heated in the winter by a system connected to a solar pool near the hotel. The hotel's owners wanted to supplement the solar pool heating system with a conventional one, but the scientists who designed the unit

CHRISTMAS WEEK IN JERUSALEM TO BE HIGHLIGHTED BY SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

Jerusalem, Israel—Each year in Manger Square, Bethlehem, in the shadow of the Church of the Nativity—the traditional site of Jesus' birth—choirs from around the world sing hymns and festive music as midnight approaches on Christmas Eve. This year some 50,000 pilgrims from around the world are expected to come to Israel and throng the streets of this ancient town, as church bells toll to celebrate the 1978th Christmas.

In addition to the choral program, a week of performances of sacred music will take place in Jerusalem during the Christmas period. A very stirring and impressive program has been planned using various auditoria and theatres in the Holy City, and will include Haydn's THE CREATION Oratorio, J. S. Bach's MASS in B-Minor and a number of other classical and some modern Israeli works.

This year, unusually, the Jewish holiday of CHANUKAH (which commemorates the Maccabean uprising against the Syrian Empire in 167 BC) coincides with Christmas—and the music festival will also include some ritual Jewish music, as well as the magnificent oratorio by Handel, JUDAS MACCABEUS. □



A little girl, who visited her friend in the home, admired her thoughtful and loving father. "Where did you get your father?" she asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I think he came with the house."

Beware of the saint with an open mouth and a closed pocketbook!

Some people suffer in silence louder than others.

insisted that it needed no standby.

The deputy head of the Tamar local council, Sholomo Drori, who is responsible for tourist development in the Dead Sea area, said the plan is for all the hotels in the area to heat and cool their premises with solar energy.

The head of the team of scientists who researched and built the project, Binyamin Doron, said that within a few years he hopes to produce both electricity and distilled water with the help of the solar pools.

In the more distant future, he said, there is a possibility that the Dead Sea, which would make an ideal giant solar pool, could supply energy for the whole country.

■ A new 110 retirement apartment complex at *Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC*, was dedicated Sept. 10, 1978. The Rev. Rudy Rapske is the administrator there, and the Rev. John Wollenberg serves as chaplain.

■ *Dr. John Wobig* has accepted the position of visitation pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR.

■ *Mr. Wayne Williams* began his ministry as pastor of Glencullen Baptist Church, Portland, OR, in August.

■ *Mr. E. Ray Stewart, Jr.*, is the director of youth at Grace Baptist Temple, Upper Sandusky, OH, as of Sept. 1, 1978.

■ *Mr. Charles Whims* resigned from the position of director of Christian education, Grand Forks, ND, effective Sept. 20, 1978.

■ *The Rev. Fred Merke* accepted the pastorate of Humbervale Park Baptist Church, Toronto, ON, effective Jan. 1, 1979. He has served as pastor of Baptist Mission Church, Chicago, IL, since 1968.

■ *Calvary Baptist Church, Hoisington, KS*, in the Southwestern Association has disbanded and sold the church building.

■ *Rev. Robert Coombe* was ordained by the Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN, on Oct. 15, 1978.

■ *The Rev. James Brygger* began his ministry as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church and Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS, on Nov. 5, 1978. The two churches have voted to have a yoked ministry, sharing the pastor.

■ The new *Church Extension* work to be started in Gillette, WY, was adopted

by the South Dakota Association at its annual session in October.

■ *The Rev. David Rushton* was ordained by Grace Baptist Church, Racine, WI, on Sept. 24, 1978.

■ *The Rev. Arlo Grenz* has resigned as pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Bison, KS, effective Jan. 2, 1979. He plans to begin a program of graduate studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX.

■ *The Rev. Willi Kurtz* became associate pastor at McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, on Sept. 17, 1978. He formerly served a Mennonite Brethren church in New York City.

■ *The Rev. Mark Munson* was ordained Aug. 18, 1978, by the Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, TX, where he is pastor.

FAITH IS . . .

(Continued from page 13)

or two Bible verses, I would use Prov. 3:5,6. To totally apply these verses is to have faith.

—Susan D. Jones,
Mountainview Baptist Church,
Spearfish, SD

I open my Bible to Matt. 17:20, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be im-

possible unto you."

I possess the ability to believe and have faith in God, myself and others. Faith is a special force that I cannot weigh or measure, but it is there, just as God is always there. I can place my ideas and problems before him, and through my faith, I am guaranteed his guidance and help.

As a Christian, my faith gives me confidence in myself and in others. If I am sure and steadfast in my faith, I can move mountains. No matter what task, whether it be difficult or simple, I can

approach it with confidence, because I know that with God nothing is impossible. I begin each day with confidence that faith can give, for I am that tiny mustard seed with the Lord God Almighty right beside me, ready to face any task that is before me.

Faith is the source of all my blessings: I believe and I am saved; I believe and my needs are satisfied; I believe in God, and I am content and happy.

—Diane Budnik,
Foster Avenue Baptist Church,
Chicago, IL □

ORIENTAL IMPRESSIONS

Last month we brought a number of reports of young people who attended the B.W.A. Youth Conference in Manila. Because of lack of space we had to hold back the report by Vera Janke which we are printing below.

Being a Canadian and quite unaware of the Japanese culture in general, our visit to the North American Baptist missionary church in Osaka, Japan, proved to me to be a very enriching experience. All of my misconceptions of what a missionary church would be like changed drastically.

Instead of being taken to a setting of thatched huts and very poor living con-

ditions, we were taken to a very small, but very comfortable modern church in typical Japanese style, which also served as a home for the missionaries. The church was furnished with woven floor mats and came complete with Oriental decor.

We experienced the traditional Japanese custom of removing our shoes at the door, as we were introduced to extremely warm hearted missionaries, the church pastor, his wife and the Japanese young people. Here we experienced a precious time of fellowship through singing and sharing of testimonies, as God's spirit bound us as one body.

I think what impressed me the most however, was our responsibility as fellow Christians to support this work through financial assistance and prayer. Meeting Christian young people, who came to know Jesus Christ primarily

through the influence of the missionary church, embedded in my mind the importance of this work.

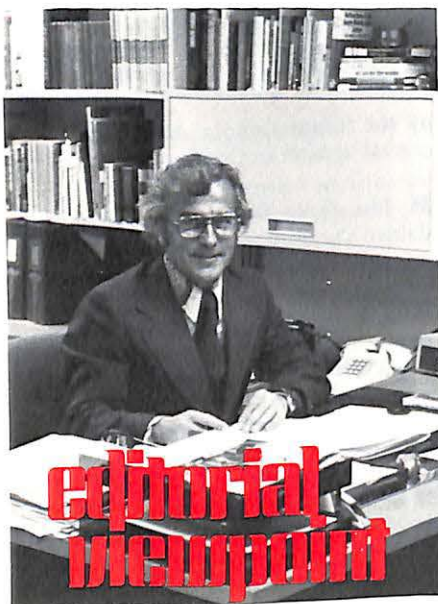
I was very grateful for this visit, in that it opened my eyes to see first hand a bit of what our missionaries are doing, and the dedication which they show to their work.

Vera Janke, Thornhill Baptist, Calgary, AB

FOR SALE

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IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING IN YOUR CHRISTMAS?

A highlight for thousands of Christian pilgrims who come to Bethlehem every Christmas is to walk down the steps to a rock-hewn cave and to look at a 14-pointed silver star set in the floor. This spot is believed to be the very place where Jesus was born.

The star reflects the flickering light of 16 oil lamps hanging above it, burning day and night in eternal remembrance.

When I was in Israel and visited the Basilica of the Nativity, I also climbed down into the nativity cave. Catholic visitors made the sign of the cross upon entering. Other tourists stood in awe and prayed. We Baptist editors, who had been invited by the Israeli government to tour their country, did not fully share the emotions of the other pilgrims; at least I did not. I had looked in deep gratitude at the hills, mountains and lakes, fully aware that about 2,000 years ago, the eyes of my Lord must have looked at the very same scenes.

But standing stooped over in the low and narrow cave, I had a hard time believing that any human being knew the exact spot where Jesus was born. And frankly, to me it really did not matter. The fact that Jesus was born and became the Savior of the world is more important to me than knowing the precise location.

Not believing in the authenticity of the cave, my eyes somewhat irreverently

wandered around the small room and fell on the one ray of the silver star, which has its nail missing. I had read about this missing nail many years ago. Now I saw it with my own eyes.

Right here, where a Latin inscription claims, "Hic de Virgina Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est" (Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary), somebody has stolen one of the 14 silver nails which keep the star in position. This happened in 1847. A wild search for the thief did not turn up any evidence. After some years the search was conducted in a more sophisticated style, but the thief was never caught.

The theft brought about the accusations and counter accusations, charges and counter charges between the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. For many years these two churches and the countries backing them had lived in tensions and jealousy. There was quarreling between Russia and France over guardianship of holy places in Palestine.

With the "missing nail" in the nativity star, the rivalry reached new heights. Passions were inflamed to such an extent that the theft of the nail was partly responsible for the outbreak of the Crimean War in 1853, first between Russia and Turkey, and in 1854 also between Russia and England/France, which sided with Turkey.

I looked at the hole, and my thoughts went back to the thief. What had been his motive for the theft? Was it the value of silver that had made him steal the nail, or was it plain souvenir hunting mania? Or was it perhaps jealous hatred toward another church organization? Whatever the motive, little did he know that many decades later, visiting tourists would still bemoan the loss of one of the nails at a revered place of worship.

I had to think of my life. Was there something missing that others regretted or were even disturbed about? Perhaps I myself did not consider the missing part that significant, just as the star is securely held by thirteen nails and really does not need the fourteenth nail. Still, every visitor of the grotto—in spite of the golden splendor all around—looks at the spot where something is missing, where the harmony is broken.

As we are approaching the Christmas season, we rejoice with countless Christians over the birth of our Savior. God's planning and timing was perfect, including the proclamation of the heavenly hosts on the fields of Bethlehem.

But then human beings, frail and imperfect, continued to pass on the message of Christ's birth. They built shrines, chapels and cathedrals over the sites they considered sacred. For example, where Christ was born in lowliness

and poverty, they erected a huge cathedral filled with precious stones, gold, silver and valuable tapestries—and bitter strife among competing religious groups. Instead of praising God for his "unspeakable gift," they envied each other's possessions. And those who were to be reached with the Good News of the coming of the Savior were distracted by what they saw and what they discovered to be missing.

At Christmastime, let us thank God, the Father, for his perfect gift, Jesus Christ. And then let us ask him to fill us abundantly with his Spirit who will overcome our shortcomings and make us whole. We would be poor witnesses if people, whose desire was to see Christ in us, would be distracted by a "missing nail" in our Christian structure. RJK



letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

Are you in the mood for some compliments?

Before there was time to write to you about your September issue of BAPTIST HERALD, the October issue was in my mailbox. Of special delight was that eye-catching cover on the September issue. That darling little baby looked as if she was just waiting for someone to pick her up and love her. The photographer deserves commendation. As the magazine lay on my kitchen table, the little beads of water on the baby were so real I went to wipe away the drops, thinking I'd spilled something on the cover while eating!

The article on "God's Volunteers" was especially interesting also since our own Bill Kosachuk was a member of the team.

The well-written and intimate article on Alan Littman in the October issue was excellent. Although not a member of First Baptist, (Alan's church) I knew of the fine testimony of his life. That article was a fitting tribute to a wonderful family. It was the confirmation of scripture, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." In Alan's case he was "old" at his teen-age.

The article also serves as an encour-

agement and a challenge to young parents. It IS possible to rear children in today's society to be pure, to love and serve the Lord. Taking the time to obey Scripture pays off.

My heart goes out to Pastor and Mrs. Littman, and I remember them in prayer often. It is my prayer, also, that God may be glorified by this seeming tragedy. Perhaps the salvation of the guilty ones will show us the reason "why?" Regardless, the Littmans have the peace of knowing they succeeded in the task God entrusted to them—the training of a child to glorify God. (Mrs.) Dorothy J. Buitendyk, St. Joseph, MI.

Dear Editor:

The number beside my name sometimes causes me to be rejected and to be looked at as being infra-human. It hurts because people are so narrow-minded and most just can't believe that a man is capable of change. And after he has changed and is seeking a new life, he needs and wants to be with people in that group which the change places him. Today, that's why I am writing this letter to you.

As is evident, I'm in prison and I have accepted "Jesus" as Lord and Savior. I need to communicate with people who are Christians like myself. In this place the majority of inmates are non-Christian, and that leaves a very small minority of believers. If I had to guess I'd say there are 80 Christians out of 1,700 inmates. And some of them are Sunday Christians only. I need help to grow, and to know that someone does

WITH EYES . . .

(Continued from page 9)

for me, if I can just remember that I am not to look to myself or to others for the answers! Set free to be obedient!

One of my major concerns, of course, was how I would be able to raise our three sons alone. So many families around us were having turbulent times with their teens, and I would face those years alone. The twins were just three days under 12 years old when Bill was injured, and the youngest was only eight years old. The friend I mentioned earlier was, I believe, sent by the Lord and had a very positive influence on the boys, but the Lord had also chosen to call him home. I prayed a great deal about the responsibility that was mine, until

ART ENRICHES . . .

(Continued from page 7)

When I am gone to be with the Lord, my grandchildren may forget my cookie jar, but I hope the paintings that are theirs will remind them how much I loved God and appreciated his wonderful creation. I hope the hundreds of paintings I have sold and given as gifts will re-

care. I need your help.

Will you please say something in your publication to the effect of what I have told you, and mention the fact that I receive little mail and need caring brothers and sisters to write to? I need your help, will you aid a brother?

I thank you either way!
-Godspeed-
-En Agape-
Ray Weatherholt #145-767
P. O. Box 5500
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Dear Editor:

Here is a word to the pastors among your readers. Saint Elizabeths Hospital, National Institute of Mental Health, offers ACPE accredited full-time chaplain internship and residency training programs with stipend beginning May 30, 1979. Resources for training include interdisciplinary programs available through the Hospital's Overholser Division of Training, as well as community mental health activities in the city of Washington, DC.

Internship and residency programs prepare pastors for more effective pastoral work and pastoral counseling in a parish, for training as institutional chaplains, or for pastoral work in community mental health centers. Stipends range from \$9,788 per year to \$12,812 per year depending on level of training. In addition, there is an 11-week summer program with stipends ranging from \$628 to \$815 per month depending on educational level. This training is for pastors and seminarians preparing for ordination and involves learning ex-

periences in both the hospital and community settings. This full-time summer program also begins on May 30, 1979.

For further information and application forms, write to the Protestant Chaplains Office, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, DC 20032. Applications must be made by Feb. 15, 1979.

Dear Editor:

I received the September edition of the BAPTIST HERALD with its preliminary announcement concerning our next Triennial Conference. This write-up on page 2 leads me to ask one question: Do we not have pastors, preachers and teachers within our own Conference of a high enough caliber to be featured speakers and to lead Bible studies?

Perhaps I am mistaken, but to me one of the opportunities presented by the Triennial Conference is that of getting to know and hear the men and women of our own N.A.B. Conference. Why is it then that of the five speakers listed, only two come from our own ranks? [Three out of five speakers are North American Baptist. Editor.] Though I have no objection to cooperating and working with others, is not the Triennial Conference to be an N.A.B. Conference?

It may be too late to change plans for the Bismarck conference, but it is hoped that in the future those who plan such things will look first to our own Conference and to the God-given talents available there. Heinz D. Rossol, pastor, Erie, PA.

one day that small voice within reminded me that God had promised to be a "father to the fatherless." I reminded the Lord that he had given me the assurance that this will was his will for us; therefore I could rejoice that he had promised to be their father in Bill's place. I gave God my permission to discipline freely in his infinite wisdom. Once more I was set free from the burden of having to carry this responsibility by myself. My responsibility is obedience.

If I were to try to put into one verse what I believe I should have learned from all these things, it would be found in 2 Chronicles 20:12 (Jehoshaphat's prayer), "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: BUT OUR EYES ARE UPON THEE." □

mind others how I felt about that day. Looking at a painting should cause a person to feel something—peace, tranquility, worship, joy, humor; my paintings speak better than I can. They reflect my true feelings.

If you see a friend with a gift, affirm him or her. God doesn't give a gift that cannot be used for him. It's a shame to miss the joy of discovering and using our gifts. □

baptist herald

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