

October 1978

baptist herald

Celebration
of

Gratitude

for
Changed
Lives
and the
Ministries
of



1978 OFFERING GOAL:
\$250,000

**CHURCH
EXTENSION**

**WORLD
MISSIONS**

**CHURCH
MINISTRIES**

**N.A.B.
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Celebration of Gratitude

The Thanksgiving Season is a time to think of God's blessings and give thanks.

God has richly blessed the ministries of North American Baptists.

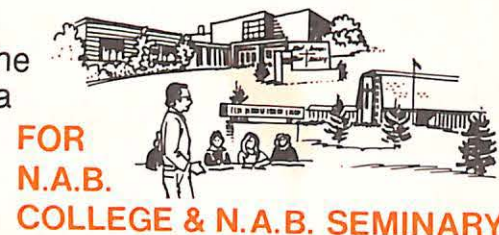
Give thanks:

FOR CHURCH EXTENSION



Nine new Church Extension projects have been approved to date. The tenth will be approved by December 1978.

North American Baptist Seminary is reporting the largest graduating class in its history. There is a spirit of enthusiasm and encouragement found among the students at North American Baptist College.



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FOR CHURCH MINISTRIES

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FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Celebrate your gratitude with a generous offering.
GOAL: \$250,000

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baptist herald

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news flash

1980 World Consultation Set In Thailand

PATTAYA—The 1980 Consultation on World Evangelization will be held here, according to an announcement by Dr. Leighton Ford, chairman of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE). Ford added that the consultation, originally scheduled for January of that year, would be held from June 14-28.

The Thailand meeting will assess evangelization progress since the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization, develop post-1980 strategies, foster coordination of efforts, and encourage sharing of resources. Director of the consultation, which will involve some 500 participants, is Dr. David Howard.

Ford pointed out, "It will not be an international congress on the scale of those held in Berlin in 1966 or in Lausanne in 1974. This will be more in the nature of a working group or a task force which will freely share its deliberations, insights and strategies with the church at large. A series of regional study groups on various issues of evangelization will lead up to the consultation." □

WHO MINISTERS TO THE

by Gladys M. Peterson

MINISTERS?

A few weeks ago I received two letters which had one common denominator. One was from a young pastor's wife, mother of two small children, in another state. It said in part, "Thank you for being my friend. I wrote to you last week, but at the time I was so discouraged the letter was too pessimistic, so I tore it up. *Sometimes I feel so lonely* . . . Last night, however, a young couple had us over and were so loving and accepting that I feel much better today. So I'll try writing you again, a more cheerful letter."

The other letter was also from a young pastor's wife in still another part of the country. It read, in part, "*My husband is so discouraged and lonely*. The deacons and others in the church expect so much out of him, and they fail to realize that he has needs too which no one bothers to meet." Loneliness expressed so poignantly.

Who ministers to the minister and his family? They are usually the one family in the church without a pastor. The area secretary fills this role to some extent, but often he is too far away and has too many other responsibilities to minister to the loneliness and sense of isolation, which many pastors and their families live with.

Baptists believe in the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Pet. 2:4-5; John 20:21; 1 John 3:16-18). What exactly does this mean? In the Old Testament, a priest not only mediated between other men and God, he also led the people in worship, taught them about God, ministered to them in sickness, and intervened in their conflicts.

Gladys M. Peterson lives in Sioux Falls, SD. Her husband, Dr. Wayne Peterson, is dean and academic vice president at North American Baptist Seminary.

The New Testament concept of ministry is expressed in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." And again in Galatians 5:13-14, ". . . through love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" This means not only helping the pastor in his work of ministering to others, but also ministering to him and his family.

In an article called "The Parish Ministry, A Plea for Help," Ed Bratcher said that one pastor has described the minister as "the loneliest man in the world." He goes on to explain:

The pastor soon finds that while he is supposed to be a friend to all people, there is no one to whom he can turn for friendship. The members of his congregation hold him at arm's length . . . This loneliness takes its greatest toll on the minister's wife.

What can the congregation do to change this quandary? I am convinced that lay people want to help fill the emotional and spiritual needs of their pastor's family and some do. Perhaps others are unaware of the problem since they have never been taught how to perform this ministry. My husband suggested to a group of young ministers recently that they would need to teach the congregation how to minister to them and their families. They seemed somewhat surprised, but this is what we did in our pastorate, and we found the people very responsive.

"When our pastor came to the church, he gave us a spiritual banquet in every message, but now his sermons are dry and lacking in spiritual nourishment," someone said to me. If you feel your pastor is not feeding the people, look closely at his needs. He may be

suffering from spiritual and emotional malnutrition himself!

My purpose in writing this article is to share with you some insights I gained while serving as a pastor's wife. The suggestions apply to all staff members of the church and their families, although the pastor is mentioned specifically.

CULTIVATE AWARENESS OF NEEDS

Pastors have found themselves on a pedestal with an image to project and protect. The church has traditionally expected them to be super human with no weaknesses. Many pastors are perpetuating this myth, finding it hard to tell the congregation when they need help. For this reason it is necessary for you to be sensitive to signals from your pastor and his wife which indicate that they are hurting, and be willing to minister to them by helping to heal the hurt.

One ex-pastor replied to the question of how the church could help by saying, "Care! My wife was not in church for months and months, but not one lay person who worked with me came to me and asked, '[John], why doesn't [Mary] come to church?' Now in God's name, why? Not one."

I remember one time, when I unwittingly violated one of the sacred traditions of the church and received a public tongue lashing in an emotional scene in the foyer five minutes before the morning worship. I made my apology but was so crushed emotionally that I went home and dissolved into tears. There had been such a furor that I was not sure what to do next. My husband conducted the service as usual, making no mention of the incident and ignoring the anger and hostility in the congregation then went home to comfort me. I

knew he did not blame me, but I needed some reassurance from the parishioners.

Things were strangely quiet until late that afternoon. I heard a noise at the back door and went to investigate. On the back steps was a long-stem rose with a note attached, and I saw Karen, a newcomer to the church, who was young enough to be my daughter, driving away in her VW. The note simply said, "I love you." I was so touched.

A few minutes later the door bell rang, and Karen had returned. She said "God just wouldn't let me drive away and leave you. I had to come back and see if there was anything I could do. Want to talk about it?" That took courage for a young person, not knowing what my reaction would be. She realized that giving a rose was not enough—she had to give herself. The unfortunate incident—painful as it had been—was a growing experience for the church and marked a turning point in our relationship with the congregation. After a few months we could joke about it.

On another occasion I was attaching a poster to the bulletin board in the vestibule at church with my back to the milling crowd, trying to hide the pain I was feeling, because of some difficult problems I was facing. I felt a hand on my shoulder and looked around. Doty said softly in my ear, "Anything I can do to help? Is it something you can share with me?" At that moment I couldn't, but I knew she had reached out in loving concern and would be praying for me. Later I felt free to talk with her about the problem, because I knew she cared.

Another day, Mary came by and, after chatting about the children and the weather, she said, "As I was praying for you this morning, God gave me a

verse he wanted me to share with you, so here it is." She also had a book she wanted me to read. She ministered in this way to my spiritual needs, as I had ministered to hers on other occasions.

My husband sometimes needed a word of encouragement, too. One person who often ministered to him was Charlie, a janitor with little education. He seemed to sense when things were difficult for the pastor. Watching him meet my husband's needs for friendship, acceptance and fellowship made me realize that a person need not be specially trained as a minister to reach out in love to a fellow Christian.

RESPECT THE PASTOR'S CAPABILITIES

Do you dwell on the wonderful attributes of a favorite former pastor and/or pastor's wife? When we first went to one church, a favorite pastime for some of the members was singing the praises of Rev. Smith and his lovely, talented wife, Jane. He was a marvelous song leader, and she could play both the piano and organ. In fact, there wasn't much Rev. and Mrs. Smith couldn't do! They were so greatly loved that several people left the church when he resigned several years before. Church just wasn't the same without them, so they never returned.

My husband's talents do not include singing, and alas I do not play any musical instruments, but we were able to make our contributions in other ways, and the congregation began to accept our ministry as unique and profitable and soon stopped comparing us to Rev. and Mrs. Smith. They allowed me to develop my role in whatever way I found compatible with my gifts and limitations, and I found great satisfaction.

God gives to each one of us certain

spiritual gifts. I know of no one who has *all* the gifts. Allow the pastor and his wife to exercise *their* gifts and develop their ministry within the scope of their own personalities and abilities, not trying to force them into a preconceived mold.

ACCEPT HIS HUMANITY

In her book, *When All the Bridges Are Down*, Ida Nelle Hollaway wrote of her emotional breakdown which she suffered trying to be superhuman in the role of pastor's wife and missionary. Her attitude that she could admit no weakness nor be satisfied with less than perfection cost the author her mental health. Before she could begin the road to recovery, she had to accept the fact that it is okay to be human.

According to one minister, you should treat your pastor "as a professional but also as a person who has the same rights and needs you have to be loved, to be angry, to be hurt and full of pain and afraid."

Bratcher, speaking from his own experience, says that some churches expect their pastor to "walk on water," and when he fails, he feels self-hatred which often causes him to lash out in bitter sermons at those who expected the impossible from him. "These bitter sermons lead to self-hatred and then to greater anger for being forced to 'walk on water,' so a vicious cycle gets started."

Pastors get tired; they get impatient; they are not always the towers of strength and perfection you might expect. Being on a pedestal is very tiring, because there is not much room to move around up there.

Sometimes pastors make thoughtless statements, lose their temper in public, or commit some other human error. Then the congregation should allow them to make whatever restitution is called for, forgive them and help them to forgive themselves by making them feel loved and accepted.

Remember when Peter, who had walked *daily* with Jesus for three years, cowered behind his fear and failed his Lord in his time of greatest need? And this wasn't the first time either. Jesus forgave Peter although Peter didn't have a chance to ask forgiveness, and Mark tells us that Jesus singled him out by telling the women to "go and tell the disciples *and Peter* . . ." at the time of the resurrection. To make sure Peter felt forgiven and accepted, Jesus cooked breakfast for him and commissioned him for a great ministry.

One Mother's Day, I was having a particularly difficult time, because of some heartache I was experiencing with one of my children (who are also hu-

(Continued on page 18)

CANADA, THE AWAKENING LAND

by Joseph Sonnenberg

The phrase, "Oh, Canada," strikes a responsive chord in every Canadian heart. For some it is a fervent hope, for others a fervent prayer, and for still others it is a question mark; for Canada, "our home and native land," is caught up in a crisis.

The reason why "Oh, Canada" awakens all kinds of emotions within us is because there is so much good about this big country. Canada is a huge land blessed with vast and varied resources desperately needed by modern industrial and technological society. Few countries offer its citizens a form of democracy with its immense freedoms and opportunities as does Canada. Few match her in the kinds of care and services Canada provides for its 23 million plus citizens, particularly the young and the elderly. Canadians feel they have a good thing going, and the present crisis could easily be resolved by the application of a creative political approach, something present politicians are either incapable or unwilling to undertake. Therefore, the pain implied in "Oh, Canada."

Before I proceed to list a few points of contention now debated in this good land, let me suggest my own feeling. Canada will survive the crisis which I believe is both inevitable and transitional. A stronger nation will emerge when all the voices strident and shrill have had their day, and when saner heads get together to put this nation into the 20th century and on course. That task requires haste! The crisis has many facets. I shall comment on only three aspects.

Political Crisis

The political crisis arises out of a Confederation conceived and put in place more than 100 years ago. Confederation, as it presently exists, is based on the British North America Act, which attempts a balancing of powers between the provinces of which there are ten and the central federal government in Ottawa. The act, when formulated, did not anticipate, much less provide for, the kind of complicated society Canada has become. Indeed, some of its provisions are so stated that different interpretations are possible and indeed have been made. In some areas federal and provincial jurisdictions are so poorly defined that they overlap. This is perhaps the most formidable obstacle to the successful resolution of political differences and the basic cause for Quebec separatism and western alienation. The debate at present is simply this. The ten provinces clamor for greater jurisdiction and control of provincial matters, arguing that this is what Confederation is all about, as conceived in the British North America Act. The central government in Ottawa takes the opposite point of view, arguing that the provinces must give up some rights if Confederation is to survive at all. Some synthesis of these opposite points of view must be worked out to resolve this juris-

Canadian-born Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg is president of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB.

dictional dispute. Heavy-handed politics on either side is doomed to fail.

Economic Crisis

What exacerbates the political crisis is a socio-economic development hardly anticipated a few years ago. There is a rapid shift of the economic base from central to western Canada, and with that shift there is a movement of people and power. Western Canada, long taken for granted by Ottawa, has acquired muscle and clout politically. Its voice and demands, long ignored, now demand to be heard. As I write these lines, Sheikh Jamoni, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum, is closeted with Premier Lougheed of Alberta here in Edmonton, the bustling and booming Alberta capitol. Indeed Horace Greely's "Go west, young man" is happening. Edmonton and Calgary welcome 1,300 newcomers each month, most of them young people.

Religious-Moral Crisis

Canadian society, both east and west, is further confronted by a religious-moral crisis. The impact of this crisis is felt acutely by the Roman Catholic Church and traditional mainline Protestant denominations, primarily the Anglican and United churches. These groups constituted a quasi-elitist religious establishment even though Canada, like the United States, supports the principles of separation of church and state—almost!

In the province of Quebec the educational system was controlled by the church until two decades ago. While supported by public funds, that system stressed primarily the classical-ecclesiastical approach to education, while vocational training for a rapidly changing industrial society was largely neglected. All of that has changed. The province has assumed a significant role in vocational training, and the general secularization of society has made its profound impact on Quebec as well.

Not only education, but religion itself is changing. Charismatic Catholics, Pentecostal evangelicals and other similar groups are discovering an openness unknown before. Indeed evangelicalism, formerly ignored, is making an impact on the rest of the country. There is a growing interest in Bible study and, therefore, a growing respect for Bible colleges in Canada. To be sure, the Bible college movement itself is maturing. Because of Canada's rapid economic development, particularly in the West, the need for strong moral constraints and restraints provided by the proper preaching of the Gospel as continued in the Scriptures is acknowledged by all religious groups. It is most heartening to hear people of every denomination now assert that what is needed is a vital relationship to Christ our Savior, if the social dislocations and moral deterioration, let loose by the rapid economic boom most pronounced in the West, are to be arrested and held in check. The awakening land, in spite of the present crisis, provides impressive reasons for genuine hope. □

A Tribute to Alan Littman 1959-78

by Vera M. Zwar



Alan Littman

● The Living Bible paraphrases Isaiah 57:1-2 this way: "The good men perish; the godly die before their time and no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to realize that God is taking them away from evil days ahead. For the godly who die shall rest in peace."

Sometime after 11:30 p.m. during the night of July 15, a tragedy struck in our Southwestern Michigan community. When we arrived at church Sunday morning,

July 16, the greeters informed us that our pastor's son, Alan, had been shot and killed at the supermarket, where he was employed as assistant manager. The apparent motive was robbery. We at First Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, were at first horrified when we heard this news; then we became sorrow filled and began searching our human minds as to why God would let Alan be taken this way. Our Deacon Board Chairman, Mr. Alvin Wetter, led our service on this sad morning. After announcing all he knew of the tragedy, Alvin very wisely turned our hearts and minds to Romans chapter 8 and particularly to verse 28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

The Holy Spirit was able to help us remember what we know about our never changing God. This was not a mere human tragedy; Alan had gone home to Glory! This was the seemingly unorthodox way God had chosen to take him home. Alan was a young Christian totally committed to God and living within His will. When we think of this, we know that Alan's death was not a mistake in God's eye, for he never sleeps nor slumbers—nor is his eye ever turned away from his own. And Alan was and is his own.

Alan's parents are the Rev. Charles and Audrey Littman. An only child, Alan Charles was born June 19, 1959, in Hillsboro, KS, during the Littman's first pastorate at Strassburg Baptist Church in Kansas.

When Alan was nearly four years old, the Littmans moved to Edmonton, Alberta, to accept the call to McKernan Baptist Church. At the age of six, during summer Bible camp, Alan felt the Lord speaking to his young heart, and the Rev. Rubin Herrmann led him to the Lord. One of the highlights of Rev. Littman's ministry at McKernan Baptist Church was the privilege of baptizing his own son Alan.

In July 1969, the Littmans' accepted the call to First Baptist Church of St. Joseph, MI. While living in St. Joseph, Alan attended North Lincoln Grade School, Upton Junior High and St. Joseph High School, graduating in June 1977.

Following High School, Alan attended Lake Michigan

Mrs. Vera M. Zwar is the secretary to Pastor Charles Littman and the church clerk of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI.

College for one semester and was on the Dean's Honor Roll. From L.M.C. he went to work at Miller's Market, Red Arrow Highway, St. Joseph, and subsequently became assistant manager there.

Upon their move to St. Joseph, the Littmans were introduced to Don and Ibba Glaske and their Youth for Christ organization, now Christian Youth Ministries. The prime foundational tool of CYM is Bible quizzing. Pastor Littman and Audrey were supportive of this ministry, because they realized the value of Scripture memorization for Alan and for all young people who participate.

Alan almost immediately became attracted to the CYM quiz program and excelled right from the start. This was a real thrill to Don and Ibba, with whom Alan formed a lasting and loving friendship. Over the next nine years right to the time of his death, Alan was a major participant in quizzing. He earned and won the Grade School Trophy, the Junior High Trophy and the Senior High Trophy. The last year Alan was a group leader in quizzing.

The verse that spoke deeply to Alan's heart was Galatians 2:20: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Alan himself was quoted in the November 1976 CYM Newsletter, regarding Galatians 2:20: *"I realize through this verse the fact that Christ died for me and lives within me. The knowledge of Scripture, gained through quizzing, enables me to enjoy the blessings of this and other promises found in God's Word."*

The key to Alan's excellence in quizzing was his parents. Pastor Littman and Audrey love God's Word—they not only read the Bible, teach and preach from the Bible, they apply the truths of God to their lives. One does not have to be around the Littman family long, before one realizes that they sincerely want to please God. What better way to please God than to *"train up a child"* to love him! Their relationship with Alan was honest, loving and kind. Their discipline was loving and consistent. And Alan responded to this wonderful love and wise training early in life. Seeing them together anywhere as a family was always a good example for another family to follow.

Each morning at the breakfast table Audrey would work with Alan, reviewing the Scripture being memorized and the "Quiz-Time" questions and answers. This was done by candlelight, because the glare of electric lights was distracting to Alan early in the morning. A beautiful picture, mother and son working with God's Word at the beginning of each new day.

During the last year Alan memorized, word perfect, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. Often he would ask his Dad to listen to him, as he quoted these four epistles in their entirety. Pastor Littman always said, "Yes," and listened. He has since said: "There were times when I wanted to say, 'Not now, Alan, later,' but I never did. I always said, 'Sure, Alan.' I'm so thankful now that I did, and this leads me to say, 'If anyone ever asks you for help that will benefit his spiritual life, give him that help now; don't put them off 'til a later time!'"

Because of Alan's dedication to the Word of God, he was spiritually mature far beyond his years. Quizzing was his life; but it was important to Alan that he not only memorize, but also apply God's Word to his life and he did. Alan was always looking for a way to witness to neighbors, to fellow workers and to schoolmates. While in High School, he purposely picked kids who did not know the Lord personally to help him go over his "Quiz-Time" questions and answers. Questions pertaining to salvation, somehow were "missed" and had to be repeated more than once.

Alan was very supportive of his father's pastorate and often invited friends and fellow workers to church services. He was active in church, enjoyed church and wanted to be there for all services. Alan served as a church usher, and to be ushered to your pew by Alan and his smile was a pleasant experience.

Alan was a game director with the "Awana Boy's Club" at First Baptist Church. He was a firm boy's leader, but kind and fair. The Awana Boys loved him and enjoyed working with Alan.

Alan had the knack of being able to identify with all ages. He loved everyone in his church, and the congregation loved him; he could hold an equally interesting conversation with a 2-year old toddler or an 87-year old grandma. Alan had wonderful rapport with his neighbors, young and old alike. They were all his friends. And Alan loved his home life—he often entertained his friends at home. He was proud of his parents, and his friends knew it and enjoyed being in the Littman home.

As with most spiritually mature young persons, Alan had many interests. During much of his Junior High and Senior High years he practiced and worked up "Gospel Magic" tricks that he used in church services and children's meetings. He played basketball in Junior High School and on a church team.

Alan was also on the First Baptist Church softball team. He played with all his heart, the same way he quizzed. His attitude was an inspiration to the team. This year they had a winning season, 11—1.

Alan Littman's funeral service was held at First Baptist Church on July 19, 1978. Attended by over 500 friends and family members, the service was led by the Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary. During the service, Don Glaske, CYM director, made the following remarks concerning his and Ibba's relationship with Alan: "A handsome guy, immaculately clean, polite, liked everyone and liked in return, good sense of humor even on himself, an achiever, beyond his years. At 19 a manager's role of a large store, good salary, his own new auto, had travelled much, was a leader in CYM, in top physical shape with good posture, and above all this—Alan loved God. He loved to go to church, supported his father's ministry, loved and honored his parents. During the 10th grade in school, he made a commitment at a Sunday morning service along with 12 or 13 others. Alan hugged his dad right at the front of sanctuary, as a way of saying, 'Yes, I want to serve God better.'"

"You may ask *why* then did God permit this tragedy to happen? Certainly, we cannot clearly see the reason, but, Romans 8:28 is absolutely true—and claimed by all of us in this matter.

"Perhaps God is using this experience to get your attention . . . and get you to evaluate your goals and your direction. If Alan could speak to us today, after now having a glimpse of what God has planned for his children, he would say: 'Get with it! Move! Go . . . for God! It's important. Work! Time is running out.'"

Don Glaske continued: "I believe every person here—and especially young people—should go back to basics. Say yes to God—and keep saying it. The Word of God should be flowing into your life. Alan used quizzing to instill this basic in his life.

"I would strongly suggest that you take every area of your life, young person, and older person alike. Go back over your life with a fine-toothed comb. Go way back to where you made your choices for Christ, or you have not, and start over again and say 'yes' to God and keep saying 'yes' until you begin to see doors open, if they're not already open in your life."

As Dr. Robert Schindler sang "Because He Lives" at the close of the funeral service, hearts were lifted and blessed.

You may say, as you read this, Alan had help from a lot of good people to accomplish what he did. You're right, he did. However, Alan made the ultimate decisions in his own life—as we all do. Alan said "yes" to God. He *chose* to love God, to obey parents, to serve God, to memorize Scripture and to apply this Scripture to his everyday life. Alan said "yes" to God. He *chose* to live a disciplined life, and for the Christian to be disciplined means that God is in control. God was in control during the night of July 15. God was in control when he said to Alan: *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the Lord"* Matthew 25:21.

A THANK-YOU NOTE FROM CAMEROON

Dear Dr. Schilke:

My wife Hannah and I returned home to Cameroon on June 15, with very pleasant and indelible memories of all that we experienced during our visit with our North American Baptist family in Christ.

Indeed, we felt the bond of belonging more vividly, when some of the familiar faces that we had not seen for a long time became visible again during the Seminary Commencement weekend at Sioux Falls. We became more aware of God's grace and goodness to make us the recipient of such honor as was ours on those occasions of the banquet, the service at First Baptist Church, and the special reception on May 22, when I was given the opportunity of saying "Thank You" to the members of the Board of Trustees and the faculty of the Seminary.

To crown it all, I was overwhelmed

Dr. E. K. Martin is the president of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. He lives in Victoria, at the coast of Cameroon.



Mr. E. K. Martin, D. Hum.

by the kind motive which led the entire executives and the staff of the N.A.B. Conference and Missionary Society to send me that autographed card with such a touching message of congratulation on the occasion which climaxed my humble service in our Lord's vineyard and the people of Cameroon. At the moment I cannot thank them all individually, but I wish that you convey to them my heartfelt appreciation for the encouraging message which the card has brought to me. Thank you very much indeed.

Alan Littman's death has been a sobering experience for the entire congregation at First Baptist Church in St. Joseph. It has made us realize clearly that we do not know when the Lord will call or come for us; nor how he will call or come. For Alan truly, he came as *"a thief in the night."* We pray that we here at First Baptist will say, "Yes," to God with more dedication than ever before and will keep on saying, "Yes," to God as long as we are able.

Our hearts are full of love and prayers for Pastor Littman and Audrey. Alan's parents recently placed a letter in the local newspaper expressing love, appreciation and "thanks" to the community for kindness shown them. In the letter they also expressed their desire that those responsible for Alan's death might experience the transforming power of Christ, that this victory will become theirs, and that they will become a part of the family of God.

An individual was arrested and accused of Alan Littman's murder on August 4, 1978. This person was arraigned in court on two first degree murder charges, murder committed during commission of a felony and premeditated murder. The preliminary hearing took place on August 15, 1978.

Pastor Littman and Audrey have said that they hold no bitterness toward whoever was responsible for this tragedy in their lives. They have repeatedly stated that they harbor no bitterness in their hearts and have asked that no one in the congregation harbor any bitterness whatsoever. To do so, they feel, would hinder the work of God and would give Satan a victory. This we do not want to happen at First Baptist Church nor in our community, and therefore we do pray earnestly for this individual's salvation. □

Victoria
United Republic of Cameroon,
West Africa,
July 12, 1978.

My visits with the brethren of the churches were most inspiring and enjoyable and, I believe, of mutual benefit. We came closer than ever to the knowledge of our work in the Cameroon field. It is my prayer that the feeling of oneness and Christlike love, which was apparent everywhere I went, will continue until our days of service to the Lord on this earth are over. I am especially indebted to all those who lavished such generous hospitality on me in their respective homes.

It was a well enjoyed privilege to share also in the Board of Missions meetings. Apart from the rich fellowship, I gained much from the discussion and deliberations.

Dr. Schilke, thank you for the interest and care that you personally demonstrated when I was in Chicago for the meetings.

*Yours sincerely in Christ,
Ernest K. Martin*

Fifty Thousand Books

A Tribute to a Faithful Seminary Librarian



Miss Joyce Ringering: 1932-1978

by George W. Lang

Fifty thousand books—acquired, cataloged and shelved. Eight thousand slides—mounted, organized and coded. Files upon files of important letters, minutes and dedication or anniversary materials—processed, recorded and neatly arranged. These are just a part of the important contributions that Joyce Ringering has made to the North American Baptist Seminary's *Kaiser-Ramaker Library* and to our Conference during her twenty years of dedicated service.

Miss Ringering was the seminary's first professionally-trained librarian serving on a full-time basis. She provided productive leadership during an important time of the library's development and growth. She participated in the planning of the present library facility. Previously the library consisted of a twenty- by forty-foot room.

When the new two-story unit was dedicated in December, 1961, the shelves needed to be filled with books. Sizeable amounts of money were to be raised. Miss Ringering enthusiastically participated in the promotion of the Library Book Project Drive. Over \$62,000 was raised during the next ten years, making possible the purchase of 17,000 books, which Miss Ringering had the primary responsibility for selecting and ordering.

Such an advance in library development played a significant part in paving the way for North American Baptist Seminary receiving accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools for the first time in 1968.

When the seminary's archives collection was seen to be

The Rev. George W. Lang is library administrator at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

in dire need of processing and organization, Miss Ringering gave this her special attention. She attended workshops and archival collections in various parts of the U.S.; she consulted with specialists. Not only seminary students and professors, but a number of members of N.A.B. churches and individual researchers have been assisted in their questions about important facts of past history available in the seminary's N.A.B. archives.

Because of Miss Ringering's extensive knowledge of the library's collection, she was able to give invaluable reference assistance to students and professors alike in their bibliographic needs connected with class and forum presentations, research, and preparation of term papers.

It was in 1965 that the first symptom of a health problem was noted, the diagnosis being Hodgkin's Disease. Numerous trips to the doctor and laboratory in Sioux Falls as well as to a cancer research hospital in Houston, Texas, were required. Various cure approaches were tried, some more successful than others. Chemotherapy, though causing its own set of pains and discomforts, seemed to be effective in arresting the disease during 1975, '76 and part of '77.

In spite of such health problems during these last thirteen years, she pushed hard to keep active. She took one trip to our mission field in Cameroon, one to Japan, and in January, 1976, she visited Israel. Various seminary courses were taken to keep abreast of developments and to provide helpful background for her cataloging and reference services.

Just when it seemed that she was being restored to full strength, a new complication set in last August. Her body was no longer able to produce red or white blood cells or platelets. Since that time she needed blood transfusions every four or five weeks. Generally slight infections caused her a major problem, usually requiring hospitalization. She tried to carry on as best she could. Joyce came to her library office two or three hours a day, if she possibly could, until weakness persuaded her to return home. Even when at home—or at the hospital, she kept working. When unable to use her right hand because of antibiotics being administered intravenously, she tried writing with her left.

An important project to her was the detailed indexing of the *Baptist Herald*. She managed to complete 23 volumes, from 1921-1945. She wanted this index to be her special lasting contribution to the Seminary and the North American Baptist Conference.

Feeling much better, she took a trip to Kansas in May to visit her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Oliver Ringering, and her sister, Grace Sturtz, and family. Two days after her return to Sioux Falls, a new infection became evident. She was taken to the hospital at once and remained there for eight weeks, never recovering until July when she passed away.

Miss Ringering was truly a dedicated servant of the Lord, carrying out important and at times tedious tasks in a productive way in spite of real struggles of health. Her sense of mission kept her going month after month, year after year, contributing to the preparation of dedicated men and women being trained for the Gospel ministry.

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." □

Music Section:

Paul Dykstra, First Baptist Church, Avon, SD
student assistant to director

Ronald Hait, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC
Roger Heringer, First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND
Bryan Hochhalter, Bismarck Baptist Church, ND
Julie Moran, Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, MT
Barbara Schulte, First Baptist Church, Corona, SD
Norman Stork, Grant Park Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB

Janice Streuber, McDermont Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB

LeAnn Wolitarsky, Turtle Lake Baptist Church, ND

God's Volunteers 1978-79

Follow up Section:

Suzanne Asplund, Dayspring Baptist Church, Maple Grove, MN

Jane Bleeker, Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD
James Calamunce, Jr., Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church, Alpena, MI

Deloris Fritzke, Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK
Wayne Jorstad, Calvary Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Daniel Leverette, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA

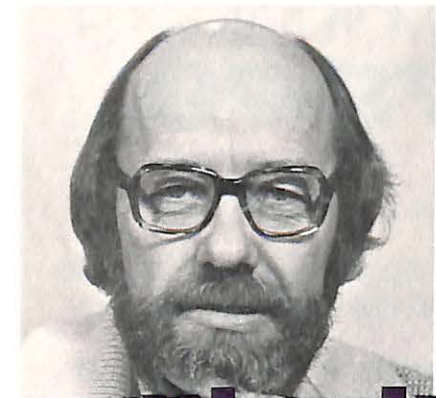
Brenda Moser, First Baptist Church, Medina, ND

SCHEDULE GOD'S VOLUNTEERS CRUSADES, 1978-79

Rev. Bob Walther, G.V. director
Rev. Ray Harsch, evangelism director

Aug. 30-Sept. 29	Central Baptist Camp P. O. Box 6 Lansing, IA 52151	training of team
Oct. 1-5	First Baptist Church Sumner, IA	Music section Oct. 1-3 Follow-up sec. Oct. 1-5
Oct. 4-6	Recording of album	Music section
Oct. 7-12	Tri-Community Baptist Church Roselle, IL	Music Section Oct. 7-8 Follow-up sec. Oct. 6-12
Oct. 11-25	Apple Valley Baptist Church, MN	Music section Oct. 11-17 Follow-up sec. Oct. 14-25
Oct. 18-22	Dayspring Baptist Church Maple Grove, MN	Music section
Oct. 24	Minneapolis, MN Area (Concert)	Music section
Oct. 26-Nov. 8	Southdale Community Baptist Church Winnipeg, MB	Music section Oct. 26-29 Follow-up sec. Oct. 26-Nov. 8
Nov. 1-8	Temple Baptist Church Jamestown, ND	Music section
Nov. 9-21	Calvary Baptist Church Aberdeen, SD	Music section Nov. 9-12 Follow-up sec. Nov. 9-21
Nov. 14	Sioux Falls, SD (Concert)	Music section
Nov. 15	West Side Baptist Church Beatrice, NE	Music section
Nov. 16-19	Bethany Baptist Church Hunter, KS	Music section
Nov. 22-Dec. 5	First Baptist Church Lorraine, KS	Music section Nov. 22-26 Follow-up sec. Nov. 23-Dec. 5
Nov. 28	Calvary Baptist Church Stafford, KS	Music section
Nov. 29-Dec. 3	First Baptist Church Ellinwood, KS	Music section
Dec. 6-13	Sherwood Park Baptist Church Greeley, CO	Music section Dec. 6-10 Follow-up sec. Dec. 7-13
Dec. 12-13	Denver Concerts	Music section
Dec. 14-30	CHRISTMAS VACATION	
Dec. 30-Jan. 2	Tyndall Baptist Church Tyndall, SD	Music section Dec. 30 Follow-up sec. Dec. 30-Jan. 2
Jan. 4-17	Fountain Valley Baptist Church Fountain Valley, CA	Music section Jan. 4-7 Follow-up sec. Jan. 6-17
Jan. 9	Open	
Jan. 10-17	Sunkist Baptist Church Anaheim, CA	Music section Jan. 10-17
Jan. 18-31	Bernal Road Baptist Church San Jose, CA	Music section Jan. 18-21 Follow-up sec. Jan. 18-31
Jan. 23-28	Church Extension San Ramon, CA	Music section Jan. 23-28
Jan. 31-Feb. 14	First Baptist Church Lodi, CA	Music section Jan. 31-Feb. 4 Follow-up sec. Feb. 2-14

Feb. 6	Temple Baptist Church Lodi, CA	Music section
Feb. 7-13	Swain Oaks Baptist Church Stockton, CA	Music section
Feb. 14-28	Sunrise Baptist Church Fair Oaks, CA	Music section Feb. 14-18 Follow-up sec. Feb. 15-28
Feb. 20	Family Baptist Church Tigard, OR	Music section
Feb. 21-25	Calvary Baptist Church Tacoma, WA	Music section
Feb. 27	Cypress Baptist Church Lynnwood, WA	Music section
Feb. 28-March 4	Hazelwood Baptist Church Auburn, WA	Music section Feb. 28-March 4 Follow-up sec. March 1-4
March 5-12	RETREAT	
March 14-28	Ebenezer Baptist Church Vancouver, BC	Music section March 14-18 Follow-up sec. March 14-28
March 20	Immanuel Baptist Church Vancouver, BC	Music section
March 21-25	Pilgrim Baptist Church Vancouver, BC	Music section
March 27	Victoria Avenue Baptist Church Chilliwack, BC	Music section
March 28-April 11	Osoyoos Baptist Church Osoyoos, BC	Music section March 28-April 1 Follow-up sec. March 30-April 11
April 3	Trinity Baptist Church Kelowna, BC	Music section
April 4-8	Brentview Baptist Church Calgary, AB	Music section
April 10	Carbon Baptist Church Carbon, AB	Music section
April 11-25	Grace Baptist Church Calgary, AB	Music section April 11-15 Follow-up sec. April 13-25
April 17	Wiesenthal Baptist Church Millet, AB	Music section
April 18-22	McKernan Baptist Church Edmonton, AB	Music section
April 24	German Zion Baptist Church Edmonton, AB	Music section
April 25-May 9	Greenfield Baptist Church Edmonton, AB	Music section April 25-29 Follow-up sec. April 27-May 9
May 1	Thornhill Baptist Church Calgary, AB	Music section
May 2-6	Brooks Baptist Church Brooks, AB	Music section
May 8	Bethany Baptist Church Lethbridge, AB	Music section
May 9-13	Temple Baptist Church Medicine Hat, AB	Music section May 9-13 Follow-up sec. May 11-16
May 15-17	Bethel Baptist Church Missoula, MT	Music section



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Who finally decides how I'm going to react? I do. What determines the kind of reaction or response I'm going to make? The answer to this latter question is not simple. We are all very complex individuals. The psalmist has stated it well when he says: "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about" (Psalm 139:14 Living Bible).

God has made us in a very complex manner, but he has still left us in charge of ourselves. Which means that the way I speak and act is ultimately determined by me. Too much of our Christian teaching leads us to the conclusion that the standard for my behavior can be outside myself.

It is true that there can be cultural guidelines. These can be called teachings, laws, or rules. If we live in groups, we need to have some of these "agreed on ways of living." But the person who lives only by such standards becomes a bound-up legalist and misses the sense of being a free person in Christ.

The truly free person is the one who lives so comfortably with himself and in harmony with the Spirit of God, that he can become his own measure of right and wrong.

All of us are familiar with the Scripture passage referred to as the Golden Rule: "Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the teaching of the laws of Moses in a nutshell" (Matthew 7:12 Living Bible). The second commandment contains essentially

the same concept: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

In both of these ideals, I become the measure of how I treat and relate to other people. In the first case I ask myself: "What feels good for me?" "What makes me happy?" Then I assume that this also will be good for others and do the same to them. In the second commandment, I love you as I love myself. This is great—unless I have a poor relationship with myself, or instead of loving myself, I really hate myself. If that is the case then things are really messed up!

It is not natural to love myself. In this world with its very distorted value system, with the hostility and competition that surrounds us, it is not easy to have a balanced love of myself.

I must learn to love myself. In Psalm 22:9 we read: "On my mother's breast I learned to trust" (Amplified Version). A child that is raised in an atmosphere of trust and love can learn to live at peace with himself, God and others. Those who develop in circumstances of alienation must learn that they are lovable. Consequently, the fact that God loves them and thus proves that they are lovable is really Good News. □

book reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

The Saturday Night Special. By William L. Self, Waco, TX. Word Books. \$5.95. No, this is not a gun. These are a select number of sermon outlines for the pastor who may have an unusually busy week and had to postpone his sermon preparation until Saturday night. This volume should be used for emergency purposes only and not because of a habit developed out of laziness or procrastination.

A number of sermon ideas are presented in detail form, but the majority are short, meaningful outlines, in which the pastor will have to use his God-given creative power and inspiration.

A good second-hand success is much better than a first-hand failure, when the minister finds himself in a pinch. God can also help and inspire him through the experience of fellow pastors.

Jail and Prison Ministries. By Dale K. Pace, Old Tappan, NJ. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$11.95.

A few churches make a half-hearted attempt at providing a prison ministry at least once a month. It usually involves a young people's choir or a few

instrumentalists, and the pastor's message. Personal relationships with prisoners is kept at a minimum or discouraged because of the danger involved.

Mr. Pace challenges the chaplain, pastor and laity to take a more active part in Jesus' appeal, "I was in prison and ye came unto me." This is a tragically neglected missionary service, and it will not be remedied until God's people are impressed with a sense of urgency. More than 40 percent of the nearly 4,000 jails in the United States have no religious ministry, and 21 of the state prisons have no religious ministry. Only 15 percent of the nation's jails have chaplains or adequate religious programs.

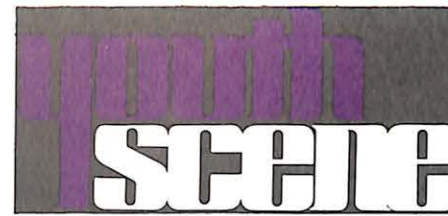
The author has served for many years as chaplain in a dozen correctional institutions and a few halfway-house programs in addition to his teaching an accredited graduate-level course in the correctional ministry. Chaplain Pace's presentation is therefore quite comprehensive. He describes not only the work of the correctional chaplain but also the criminal justice system and areas in which the church can play a major roll in reform. It is late, because the secular professional workers have already pushed aside the church as innovator and leader. □

Zondervan TOP TEN Trade Books

1. A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23
2. HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK
3. WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS
4. MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY IN ONE VOLUME
5. ACT OF MARRIAGE
6. STREAMS IN THE DESERT
7. ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL BIBLE DICTIONARY
8. DAILY LIGHT
9. 1979 PASTOR'S ANNUAL
10. NEW COMPACT BIBLE DICTIONARY

Zondervan BESTSELLER Bibles

1. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION—NEW TESTAMENT
2. AMPLIFIED BIBLE
3. LAYMAN'S PARALLEL NEW TESTAMENT
4. HARPER STUDY BIBLE
5. LAYMAN'S PARALLEL BIBLE
6. KJV GIANT PRINT REFERENCE BIBLES
7. CHRISTIAN WORKER'S NEW TESTAMENT
8. KJV LOLLIPOP CHILDREN'S BIBLES
9. KJV CLEARBLACK REFERENCE BIBLES
10. KJV EVERYDAY REFERENCE BIBLES



"A Youth Director Is..."

by Diane Quiring

What is a youth director? A (1) planner; (2) resource person; (3) date consultant; (4) recreation leader; (5) musician; (6) drama coach; (7) prodger; (8) liaison between parents, church and youth; (9) adult friend; (10) cook; (11) guide; (12) some of the above; (13) all of the above.

It has been five years since I accepted the call to become youth director at the Latta Road Baptist Church in Rochester. I didn't have much of an idea, then, of what the position required. Having been employed two years previously as a counselor at an institution for delinquent boys, I jokingly told the church I could handle anything, but I soon discovered there was a lot to learn.

Included here are thoughts several youth, including the ones I work with, have shared with me on their ideas of what a youth director should be. The Apostle Paul, in giving an account of his ministry to the early church in Thessalonica, gives a pretty good picture of a youth director as well. Combining the two helps to clarify some of the characteristics of a youth director.

Our God gave us courage to tell you the Good News that comes from him. Our appeal to you is not based on error or impure motives, nor do we try to trick anyone. Instead, we always speak as God wants us to because he has judged us worthy to be entrusted with the Good News. We do not try to please men, but to please God, who tests our motives (1 Thess. 2:2-4, TEV.)

The youth say: *A youth director is a person guided by the Holy Spirit and one who has a firm faith. He sets an example in his lifestyle. Outwardly, he*

Miss Diane Quiring is youth director at the Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, NY.

would be a vibrant Christian and inwardly be conformed to the image of Christ. He is called by God and is one to look up to and use as an example to lead my life and grow in Christ.

God called me to serve him in sharing with young people and along with the call came the necessary help. It takes time; it takes commitment; it takes honesty; it takes humility, but the News is so life-giving that it's worth the investment!

We did not try to get praise from anyone, either from you or from others, even though, as apostles of Christ, we could have made demands on you. But we were gentle when we were with you, like a mother taking care of her children. Because of our love for you, we were ready to share with you not only the Good News from God, but even our own lives. You were so dear to us! (1 Thess. 2:6-8 TEV).



Miss Diane Quiring

The youth say: *A youth director has to be sincere with a genuine love for us. He's there to help us express our true feelings and help us help ourselves. He's a person who shows me I'm someone*

OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

(based on Col. 3:12-17)

She glows with compassion, kindness,
She helps us, forgives us, understands us,
Love binds her life with ours.
Christ's message lives in her heart.

She teaches, instructs us with wisdom.
She makes us thankful for everything.
Our youth director, a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Lord, for our youth director.
—Tina Stolze,
Latta Road Baptist Church

and he understands me. A youth director is able to show the Christian attitude towards life and its problems. He's a comfort to be with and at the right place at the right time. He's patient with us as we struggle through rough spots.

Being able to invest one's life in the life of another is a key in working with people. Young people are making the break from childhood to adulthood and the break, for the most part, is not easy. Like anyone, they can be cooperative and great to be with one minute and disruptive and a pain to be with the next. They can say or do the most shocking things as they test limits and morals. One needs love, patience and understanding to accept each as an individual and guide them to develop into adults with a firm faith.

You are our witnesses, and so is God, that our conduct toward you who believe was pure, right and without fault. You know that we treated each of you just as a father treats his own children. We encouraged you, we comforted you, and we kept urging you to live the kind of life that pleases God who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2:10-12, TEV).

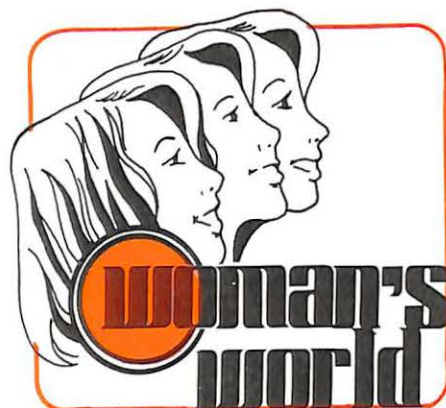
The youth say: *A youth director is the adult his years say he is with the understanding of my teenage problems and thoughts. He must be ready to accept us and be non-judgmental, so that we feel free to express our true feelings. He should have a positive attitude—he can't force us but constantly encourages us in a positive way. He should be a younger person, under forty, so that he can easily participate in activities. (This one made me smile.) He is a good counselor, enthusiastic with new ideas and understands the nature of young people. He's patient and doesn't lose his head and has an endless store of energy.*

I think of a father as one who is always there with support, advice and the ability to help you get out of the mess you got yourself into. And so is the youth director.

And there is another reason why we always give thanks to God. When we brought you God's message, you heard it and accepted it, not as man's message, but as God's message, which indeed it is. After all, it is you—you no less than others!—who are our hope, our joy and our reason for boasting of our victory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes. Indeed, you are our pride and our joy! (1 Thess. 2:13, 19, 20, TEV).

Hours have been spent together: rehearsing plays; Wednesday night Bible studies; Friday night youth gatherings; early morning breakfasts; pizza suppers; youth choir rehearsals; socials; school

(Continued on page 20)



Caring... Sharing... Is Joyous Living

by Iona Quiring,
English Program Packet editor,
Minneapolis, MN

Praise the Lord! He's done it again!

When last year's program packet was completed, I felt good. God had really come through! But in the back of my mind, a little-faith voice asked, "Will he do it again next year?"

Well, he *has* done it again, through more than 36 wonderful women who have contributed to the 1979 program packet. Some of them found the writing difficult; some had to squeeze the necessary time out of an already too full schedule; some felt inadequate; some volunteered. But because they cared, they shared.

There are four sections in this packet:

1. Caring Testimonies. Eleven women tell about times in their lives when they especially experienced the loving care of God and his people—in times of danger, sorrow, decision, change, doubt. These true stories will thrill and encourage you.

2. Caring and Sharing Programs. Learn about caring from a single person, a wife/mother, a retired person, a missionary. What kind of caring does each need to receive? to give? Seven programs consider the subject of sharing—my heart (with God), time, money, spiritual gifts, friendships, home, the gospel, small groups, private meditation, worksheets, Bible studies, demonstrations, projects, discussion questions, skits—all these methods are suggested to help you discover what you have to share and how you can share it. They are practical as well as inspirational.

3. Special Programs. There are a number of really unique things to do in this section: super missionary programs, a fantastic mother-daughter banquet,

Easter and Christmas specials and more!

4. Resources. This is a collection of extras that can make an exciting difference in your Women's Missionary Fellowship this year, like the Mini-Retreat, for instance!

Be sure to order your packet from our Oakbrook Terrace Office right away. The cost is only \$3.00. When you receive it:

Look it over carefully.

Pray for God's direction.

Decide which things will be most helpful to your group.

Save the rest for future use.

Prepare thoroughly the programs you choose.

Try at least one new, really special thing this year. □

Prayer Power



by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

I am constantly amazed as I think of God's interest in every prayer request of his children. It is a thrill to experience answers to prayer and to share the joys of answered prayer with one another. There are times of surprise, as we experience answers to the prayers we call "little requests" and rejoice in those answers. In God's sight, however, all requests are important; he listens to each one and answers the prayer—not always to our liking, but always for our best. We very often receive answers to prayer even before we verbalize the request. We have a wonderful God who cares and loves his children so very much.

We shall again have the opportunity of uniting with Baptist women around the world for prayer on November 6. I would encourage each society to participate in this very meaningful experience. Pray for those who will be planning the programs for that day.

We shall be praying for each other and for the needs around the world. We know assuredly that PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.

Note: The Women's World Day of Prayer materials have been sent to each society. If you need additional copies, write to our office stating the number of copies needed. □

Meet Our Cameroonian Women's Leaders

by Sara Pasiciel,
former missionary,
Ndu, Cameroon

"Let us learn to show ourselves unto God / As people who are all right / To do the will of God / And not to be ashamed. . . ."

These are the words of a Cameroonian song you would likely hear if you attended a women's meeting in our Baptist churches in Cameroon. The women are a strong force in our churches there, maintaining a firm loyalty to Christian principles, eager to learn and develop spiritually, active in giving and serving, ". . . to show ourselves unto God."

The women have a separate governing body, the Joint Executive Committee. Serving on this committee are the president, coastal vice president, grasslands vice president and the secretary-treasurer, all Cameroonian women elected by the women of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Serving with them are the women's advisor, the training chairwoman, the manual editor and the editor of the monthly newssheet, "We, the Baptist Women," these are usually missionary women appointed by the executive committee.

I'd like to introduce to you the current Executive Committee of the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Each woman comes from a unique and interesting background; each has her special gifts and her own way of developing them; each is wholly dedicated to the Lord and his service. (If I sound a bit enthusiastic, I am! I had the privilege of working with these women during two years as manual editor, and I found them all to be consistent and persistent in their Christian lives and a real example to me.)

Our president is Beatrice Nokuri (No-koo-ri). Beatrice is the wife of a Senior Divisional Officer, a government administrator, who often serves in a district away from his own home. During these times, Beatrice usually stays with their six children in their home in Victoria, on the coast. She also works as a home economics teacher at the government secondary school in Victoria.

Beatrice is well-educated, efficient and articulate. During her first year as president, she attended the Baptist World



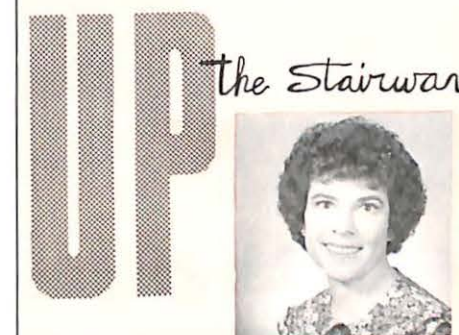
Left to right: Mrs. Ndangason, Mrs. Meinerts, Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Nokuri and Mrs. Martin.

Alliance African Women's Conference at Malawi and was elected to their executive board for the next three years. Her potential as a Christian leader is great, but she gives all honor to God and to his leading.

Beatrice writes: "I came to know Christ very early in my life, as my par-

ents brought up their children in the fear and knowledge of God. I was baptized at the age of 12, and I have during these years of my Christian life found real joy and peace, as I serve him each day of my life."

Beatrice Nokuri has lived in many places, but most of her life has been



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

The story is told of a young boy who fell out of bed. His mother asked him why it happened. He replied, "I guess I stayed too close to where I got in!"

In order to really feast on spiritual things and experience fellowship with my heavenly father, I must persistently go farther into the Word. As I pray, read and study, I will know his commands and be more willing to obey him moment by moment. My verbal and demonstrating witness will be more natural so that God can do the supernatural in my life and the lives of others through me.

Other books can help point me to some truth in the Bible that I have not seen before, but real solutions to my spiritual problems will ultimately be

found in the Bible. It contains everything I need.

I prefer to read the Bible in a modern translation, and pray that the Holy Spirit will make it plain to me and show me the application it has for my life. He can then control me and empower me to be able to trust him for every detail of my life. He will teach me the things I really need to know right now. It would be foolish to try to solve all my problems at once, for spiritual growth is a process. I do not become spiritually mature overnight. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things" (John 14:26).

God, stretch me! Keep me from hiding in the corners and being a wallflower for you. Give me love for your Word in such a way, that I will venture out into the deeper truths and experiences you have waiting for me. How dull my Christian life, if I don't "crawl into the Word further" in order to experience fellowship with my heavenly Father.

On the stairway, the edges of the steps are unsafe, just as the edge of the bed was unsafe for the little boy. I don't want to fall or slip from the fulfilling enrichment you have for me! May it be with me as with Lydia, "whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken" (Acts 16:14). The Lord gave her understanding. □

spent at the coast of Cameroon.

The Grasslands Vice President of the Women's Union, Mrs. Fridah Abraham, grew up at Ndu and now lives at Bamenda, where her husband is the mechanic at the Baptist Centre. His responsibilities include the maintenance and repair of most of our North American Baptist mission vehicles.

Fridah was the previous president of the Women's Union. I will let her tell you more about herself in her own words:

"I have been married to Mr. Abraham Ndzinwa for 19 years. Because of the trouble I had when I had a miscarriage, I did not have any children, but we still stay fine. He loves me and we love each other very well. We waited for so long and God showed us a way and we adopted two children, a boy, Isaac, who is 11 years old, and a girl, Rose; she is three years old. My husband and I love these children and thank God for them."

"My husband is a driver mechanic in the Baptist Convention. He has been with the mission for 28 years. There is no family without problems, but we manage well."

"I was born in a Christian family, but I became a Christian through religious teaching in primary school. I have been tempted several times, but the one that touched me most was the arrest of my aunt as a result of the Ndu/Cameroon Baptist Convention problem. This incident nearly made me to withdraw from the church, but since I serve God and not man, I am still a staunch believer in God. My prayer is that God should use and give me strength to change this growing and changing Cameroon before Christ comes to take us all home to be with him."

Women like Fridah Abraham have the respect and love of others because of their fervent and unchanging belief in God, which they cling to in the rapidly changing society of Cameroon. Their problems are sometimes totally unlike ours, but they are just as real and just as difficult.

The Coastal Vice President of the Women's Union is Mrs. Hannah Martin. Her husband, Mr. E. K. Martin, is the president of the Cameroon Baptist Convention and this year was recognized with an honorary degree from the North American Baptist Seminary at Sioux Falls for his years of service with our mission and with the Baptists in Cameroon.

The Martins live in Victoria. Their family roots go deep into the history and growth of Cameroon. They have always been concerned for the spiritual and academic education of their seven

(Continued on page 31)

CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude For Salvation In Brazil

by Mr. Fujiy

Mr. Shigeuyke Fujiy was born in Sao Paulo in 1940 to Japanese parents. He has five brothers and one sister. The parents developed a sense of responsibility toward work and provided a good education for their children. Today, Fujiy has an excellent job with the Degussa Company which provides dental supplies.



Mr. Fujiy and family.

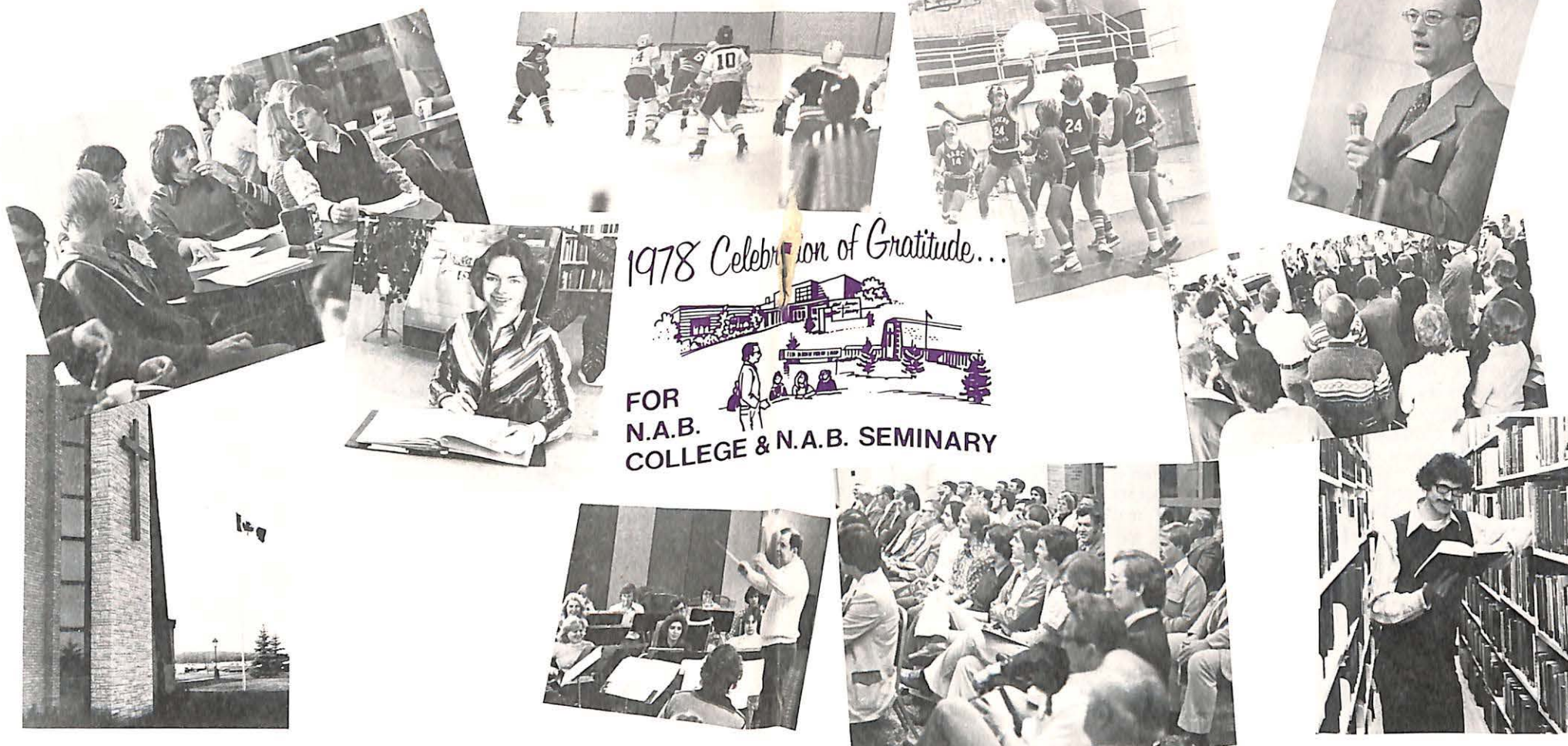
More than two million Japanese descendants live in Brazil. If they had to choose between Christianity and their Oriental religions, they would choose Christianity because of the lack of Oriental religious training in the home and the influence of Christianity in Brazil. Such was the case of Fujiy, his Brazilian wife, Mirian, and her father.

In July 1977, in the Forest Baptist Church in Porto Alegre, through the preaching of a seminary student, Fujiy accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord. He was baptized on April 30, 1978. God provided extra joy in his heart at that time, as his nine-year-old daughter joined him in baptism and in the participation of the Lord's Supper. He expressed his joy by quoting Joshua 24:15 "... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." □

1978 Celebration of Gratitude...



FOR WORLD MISSIONS



Gratitude For Church Ministries Helps

by Marvin Busenius

How much thought do we give to our ministries? Do our activities touch the lives of people? Are individual needs being met? Are there some ways in which we can be more effective servants of our Lord Jesus Christ? These are weighty questions. They cannot be answered casually—they must be answered carefully.

Did you know our Conference Church Ministries Department is prepared to provide consultative help in this process? For some years now the Church Ministries Department has provided this service and ministry to our churches. The GROW (Getting Right Objectives Working) Workshops, organized by the department, have helped many churches to plan thoroughly and to set goals. This goal setting process includes a number of specific steps.

EVALUATE—It is absolutely imperative that we *rethink* the purpose and

The Rev. Marvin Busenius is the pastor of Tri-Community Baptist Church, Elk Grove Village, IL.



Pastor Marvin Busenius

mission of the church. As a young pastor who studied at our N.A.B. Seminary and served in one of our larger established churches, I find that the Church Extension ministry has pushed me to rethink the church's function. I knew the answers intellectually, but have discovered a new and stronger sense of commitment to ministry because of the questions I asked.

A second aspect of the evaluation process is to *identify* needs. Oh, we know what people say! Are you sure? Time changes; people change; interests change; churches change—and could it be that needs have changed since the last time you specifically studied what was expressed?

In order to "scratch where it itches" (H. Mears), we need to know what the real needs are. A "Looking at Our Church" survey is a most valuable tool. The results tell us where we have our major strengths and the areas in which we need to do some work. The 35 questions are grouped to specifically relate to nine areas of ministry and church growth.

ENERGIZE—Rethinking the church's purpose and isolating specific needs provide the motivation to set goals, determine implementation steps and move ahead. All of us may know where we want to go, but we need to plot a specific course of action. I came to the ministry of Church Extension, called of God, and convinced that Christ is going to build his church. He expects stewardship of me in determining an effective plan for ministry. Writing out my vision, goals and a step by step plan has caused me to be energized and able to energize others by God's grace. We know where God wants us to go and are convinced he will guide us in this realization.

EVANGELIZE AND EDIFY—With

time we are soon able to see how we are doing. Are people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ? Are believers being built up in Christ's body? It is only as we get on with the task, that we can find out how we're doing. There is an ongoing need to evaluate and reevaluate those things we believe God wants us to do in ministry. After one year as pastor of the Tri-Community Baptist Church, I can tell you honestly that I've learned a great deal. There are aspects of our ministry which have gone better than I anticipated. There are other areas where we have had to rethink aspects of the ministry process.

Our recent study of the Book of Proverbs has reconfirmed my commitment to careful evaluation and goal setting: "Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts" (Proverbs 24:3-4, Living Bible).

The Church Ministries Department, with its valuable experience of working with churches, and the evaluative tools and resources which they have developed can help you evaluate energize, evangelize and edify. □

Gratitude For Generosity In Cameroon

by Oryn Meinerts

Some months ago, several missionaries and Cameroon church leaders went to Bali, a village 14 miles from Bamenda, to say, "Thank you," to a man who had given a plot of land on which to build a church. Traditionally land is not sold but given. When it is given, it is expected that the receiver says Thank you with a suitable gift in cash or in kind. Churches in the Bamenda Association had struggled to raise the amount we carried. We hoped it would be sufficient. The new Bali congregation had started over a year ago and was progressing well—but they desperately needed land and a building of their own. They had over 50 Sunday worshippers and were meeting on the veranda of an unoccupied house.

The man had offered us the plot of land we were now going to officially receive. We were delighted. This would surely be easier to acquire than if we had started the negotiations. We hoped the man would remember he had said he would give us the land.

We met and presented him the cash gift, and he refused to take it! Too little? No. He said, "This land I have given as an offering to God for the Baptists to use. It is free of charge. I am not a Baptist but want you to have a ministry here."

Why was this Presbyterian man so generous to us? First of all, while he was in the police force he regularly attended the worship services in the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Soppo at the coast. There he enjoyed the preaching. Secondly, he appreciated the literature a local Baptist Christian gave him from time to time. The New Testament, tracts, take-home-papers, etc. were helpful to him. And where do you suppose this literature came from? Yes, from you and many others like you, who have sent us literature over the years.

The church at Bali is what it is today and what it will become, because you shared. □

The Rev. Oryn Meinerts is field secretary of the North American Baptist mission work in Cameroon, West Africa.



Missionaries Oryn Meinerts and Susan Krier sort out literature with the help of Cameroonian Peter.

WHO MINISTERS TO YOUR MINISTER?

(Continued from page 5)

man). It was hard for me to face my class of young parents, all of whom seemed to glow with the joy of parenthood. They knew about the problems I was having and had been very supportive. I decided to be open with them and admit that Mother's Day was painful for me that year. They continued to love me. They were able, by allowing me to be human, to minister to my need. Some of the other mothers privately expressed their hurts to me in a similar way as a result of my openness, and we were able to "bear one another's burdens" in the Lord.

Do you hold a higher standard of appearance, behavior, and academic excellence for the pastor's kids and a higher level of accountability for their parents than you do for other families in the congregation? Such attitudes prevent you from ministering to the pastor and rob you of some wonderful spiritual experiences. With today's social pressures, no family is automatically exempt from teenage rebellion.

Some pastor's kids are fine exemplary young Christians, while others are an embarrassment to the church. This is a time when the pastor and his wife need real understanding and support, and when it is the hardest for them to reach out for it. By accepting the entire family as humans with all their weaknesses and strengths you can show them what real caring is. Perhaps the P.K.'s wouldn't feel they have to prove how "tough" they are, if they felt accepted and loved as they are, not as you think they should be. After all, didn't Paul say, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor. 4:7).

PROVIDE GENUINE FRIENDSHIP.

Bratcher quotes from William E. Hulme as follows:

The minister may find it hard not to resent the congregation that leaves his wife feeling left out. Although he could occupy himself with his work, he feels his loneliness all the more because of her. "We are a deeply lonely people," said a small town pastor. "Particularly my wife is lonesome, and I can see why. We live in an emotional and intellectual vacuum. I thought, if I ministered to the needs of the congregation, they would in turn minister to the needs of my family. This has proved unrealistic." Their marriage, like any other marriage, needs the company of

other couples for its own healthy development. Otherwise they begin to drain each other's emotional reserve.

Because of the widespread feeling that the pastor's family must love all the church members exactly the same way, many congregations are reluctant to reach out in genuine friendship to their pastor. The pastor, in turn, seeks to meet the social needs of his family, if at all, outside the church.

Gordon Allport, the renowned psychology professor, points out the healing power of loving relationships and admits that "the Christian religion offers an interpretation of life . . . based wholly upon love." The church is the only institution (besides the Christian family) which can give the person a meaningful love relationship.

Many pastors are serving in churches far removed from their parents and other relatives. Holidays can be very lonely times for them, particularly in their early ministry before close attachments are formed. Realizing our need for family closeness, two young families in our church asked if they might share Thanksgiving with us one year. We shared the meal preparation and spent the entire day at the parsonage, thirteen of us, eating, watching football, playing games, and just talking and having a good family holiday. Everyone enjoyed it so much we had a repeat performance the following year! This does not mean we loved these families more than others in the church, but they met our emotional needs as genuine friends at that particular time and in their own way.

Others reached out in other ways—inviting us into their homes, to Christian concerts, community plays, out to eat—as friends, not just in pastor-congregation relationships.

And at times they just helped us with menial chores, as good friends often do, and we did the same for them. For example, while I was painting the inside of the 75-year-old parsonage, Dot often came by after work and painted with me until late at night in comfortable companionship. When I was preparing for open house at the new parsonage another year, Dale, a young insurance executive, came over on Saturday and polished all my silver, while his wife Sandy ran errands. I treasure those expressions of friendship.

RESPECT THE PASTOR'S PRIVACY

A few years ago, I visited with some friends from seminary days, a pastor of a rather large church and his family. Each mealtime he set the telephone on the dining table, knowing it would ring repeatedly during the meal. Pastors and

their wives expect to receive some calls which can't wait, but many times the congregation takes advantage of the meal time to make calls, which could just as well be made during office hours. Learning to tell a caller, "I'll call back after lunch," was difficult for my pastor-husband, but family time is very important. Your call may seem like a minor interruption, but it may be the fifth one in rapid succession during dinner.

One pastor of a very large church had so many demands on his time, including evenings and into the night, that his wife, a wonderfully talented woman, broke under the strain. After extensive treatment, the psychiatrist advised them to move to the country and use an unlisted telephone number at home. My friend was able to continue his ministry in this church until retirement, because the congregation finally allowed them to have the time together they needed.

A few perceptive people in our congregation occasionally came to us during our pastorate and said, "You've had so many demands on your time lately. Things have been very hectic for you. Let us take care of prayer meeting this week, and you sneak away for a couple of days. Most things can wait until your return, and we'll look after those that can't. Get away from the telephone, the office, the ministry, and recharge your batteries." We couldn't always do it, but sometimes we did as suggested and returned refreshed in spirit.

Reaching out in friendship on the one hand and protecting the pastor's privacy on the other may seem to be contradictory policies, but with practice, the congregation can discern the fine line which separates the two. Perhaps your pastor's family does not need quite the same kind of friendship expressions as another, but if in doubt, ask them! Cultivate the kind of openness with them that allows them to say, "Some other time" without your feeling rebuffed.

EXPRESS APPRECIATION

Five-year-old Dana slipped this note to me during church one Sunday morning: "To misis pedrsn and misdrpdsn I like you and I love you. Dana." It will be preserved in needlepoint in her own childish printing and spelling as a reminder of all the lovely ways the people—young and old—showed us their love and appreciation.

Shaking your pastor's hand on Sunday morning with a perfunctory "Good sermon, Pastor" is not enough. Express genuine appreciation for particular ways they have met your needs. Everyone likes a sincere compliment. Psycholo-

(Continued on page 20)

insight into christian education

Mission Begins Early

by Anne Neufeld Rupp

The church will make the greatest contribution to mission when it learns that mission begins with the very young. Mission is more than a teaching; it is a lifestyle basic to those, regardless of age, who claim and proclaim the kingdom of God as an everpresent reality.

Mission Begins in the Home

I believe that the spirit of mission is caught in three different areas.

First of all, mission begins in the home, where parents and children learn what sharing, caring and giving is all about.

I thought of this when our three-year-old wheeled his trike down the street on St. Valentine's Day with a card he had made for a neighbor called "the grandma." The grandma, an elderly lady living alone, was our son's primary concern on that day.

I thought of this when a neighbor planned a birthday party for her preschool twins. The guests brought gifts and laid them on the table. Each child then selected a wrapped gift to play with and then later take home. The party had turned from the usual "gimme" experience to one of sharing.

I thought of this when I remembered my own home, which was open to anyone regardless of race or social status. Our table fed rich and poor. No salesperson could leave the yard without coffee and a bite to eat. My parents would associate with people in our church, who were politely ignored by others: an unwed mother, a retarded teenager, a lonely bachelor.

All this left an impression on me. According to child-development theories, the child, during its first seven years, soaks up its world primarily through feeling. It will be the first to notice parents who talk mission but remain uninvolved. In a home which is enthusi-

Anne Neufeld Rupp is a free-lance writer from Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Reprinted from *SPECTRUM/International Journal of Religious Education*, Winter 1974 issue. Used by permission.

astically involved in the needs of the church and community, Christian nurture of the child is taking place, enabling him/her to be in mission now and creating in him/her a mentality which will make mission a base from which to operate in youth and adulthood.

Sharing Experiences at Church

Although mission is primarily learned and caught in the home, I also believe that the church provides an arena for sharing experiences which should not be bypassed. This is the second area in which mission concern is caught.

One of the reasons that much adult education remains a consistent, lethargic, gray matter is because no enthusiasm is generated. It is very difficult to generate enthusiasm if education has been a repetitive discussion of the same subject matter year after year and has not moved from the intellectual plane onto the experiential one.

Again, I believe that if we can see our children as persons, we will believe that they actually have something to share which we, too, can learn and from which we can benefit. Mission and sharing faith can take place when we believe that mission is not only to those outside of the church, but also to us who are trying to grow, benefiting from exposing ourselves to another's experience. Children can teach us many things about the kingdom.

I thought of this when I saw a junior class which had written a song and shared its creation with the congregation at worship.

I thought of this when I saw a group of children who had made collages and a tape recording entitled "God is like . . ." and shared the collage slides and their confession of faith with the congregation.

I thought of this when a class of lower juniors baked bread and then shared it with all the classes, young and old, with the words, "We share this bread with you to remind you that God cares for us."

I thought of this when a class visited

a crippled member's home during the church school hour and shared their lesson with her. They also brought seven gifts, each numbered for a day of the week, to give added joy to the lonely, confined life of this wheelchair victim.

When a child learns that she/he is an important person in the congregation, and that she/he has an experience to share that others find worth listening to, the OK feelings generated will inevitably lead to enthusiasm about the church and excitement about the essence of the Good News.

Community Relationships

The third area is the actual involvement of children outside of the home environment and the local congregation. If children catch the spirit of mission, not in terms of bad/good guys, or inners/outers, or sinners/winners, but rather in terms of sharing Jesus' love and caring about others, they are building the framework for a lifestyle which makes all the difference in a mission mentality when adulthood is reached.

Until I became involved with a children's club, I would not have been this certain of my conclusion. But my two years' experience with eight children in a club convinced me that children, who get so enthusiastic and exuberant, can project more of the excitement of New Testament living than can our listless eyes and well-planned actions.

The club was a spontaneous outgrowth of a Sunday morning class. The children met in our home on Saturday mornings. Their basic premise was, "We are friends of Jesus and want to be friends to others."

The club baked cookies which were sold at a Silver Tea. With earnings of over a hundred dollars, each child was given ten dollars to shop for items for two tropical bundles for overseas relief. They shopped for children their own age, selecting carefully and caring.

The club planned and prepared a Valentine party, inviting children from the community.

The club planned an overnight campout at an old ranch. Again community children were invited to participate in this fun-filled expedition.

The club, at the invitation of a local black church, told stories about Jesus, using puppets to act out the stories.

Perhaps the essence of the club was best expressed in an experience with a club member. Debbie, a club member, developed a serious heart ailment. The mother, raising three children alone, had no hospitalization coverage, and the bills were alarming. The club suggested, "Let's wash cars and bake cookies to raise money." The boys put up a sign. The girls and boys baked and baked.

(Continued on page 31)

WHO MINISTERS . . .

(Continued from page 18)

gists call this "stroking." Pastors must be very skillful in the art of stroking in order to reinforce the feelings of self worth in the congregation, but they need to be stroked too. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he said, "Love one another with brotherly affection, outdoing one another in showing honor." (Rom. 12:10).

In one church a soloist went away with feelings of failure if the pastor forgot to compliment her solo publicly; yet she never showed appreciation for his ministry—even privately. If you assume the pastor and his wife know they are appreciated without your telling them, don't be too sure. Remember, they are human too.

Learn to compliment the pastor. Some of the warmest praise came to my husband from non-Christians after he ministered to them in times of grief. They were so overwhelmed by his honest caring and ministering, that they often expressed their appreciation more warmly than church members, who tended to take his services for granted. His spirits were lighter for days after the prominent city selectwoman, a Catholic, told him how much she relied on his recorded telephone messages for inspiration.

One pastor has said:

Your minister does not have all the answers. He needs your help as much as you need his. He makes mistakes too. He wants most of all to help you. He needs your sympathetic understanding when he fails at times to measure up to what you expect of him. He appreciates very much your expression of gratitude when you know he has helped you.

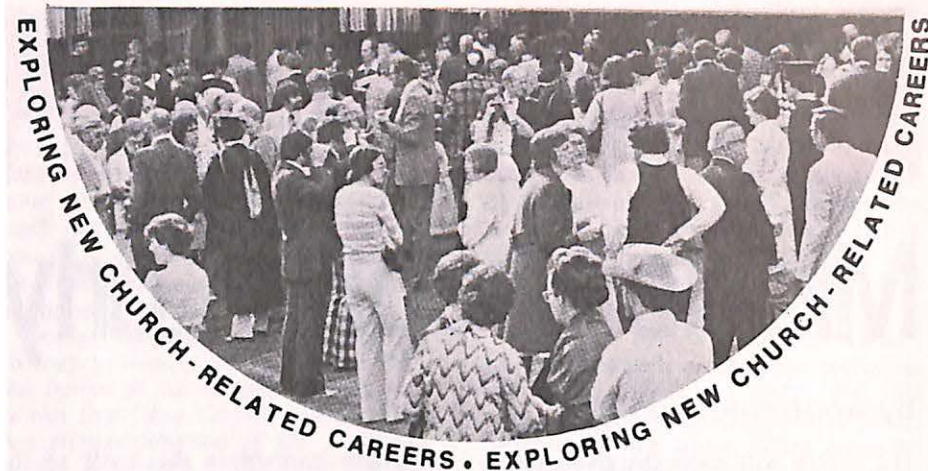
When pastors and their families are ministered to and have their needs met

(Continued on page 27)

YOUTH SCENE

(Continued from page 13)

activities; telephoning; teen core meetings; planning committees; going to retreats, conferences, camps, and then suddenly it all fits together! A young person asks Christ into his heart; another sits down with a newcomer; testimonies are shared; prayer sessions started without the youth director present—God is working. He's working through one individual to develop a relationship with another, where the love of God freely flows. □



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PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



CASH ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO GIVE

by Everett A. Barker

The tax information in this article relating to gifts applies to United States tax laws. Canada and other nations have different laws which must be consulted.

A gift of cash may not be the best way for you to give. While it is true that cash gifts are the most common gifts, it is also true that there are other forms of giving which are more advantageous to the donor. Gifts of property which have increased in value, such as real estate, stocks, mutual fund shares, gold, antiques, etc., provide tax benefits for the donor.

We are fortunate that current tax laws provide favorable benefits for willing and able donors. Why is this so? The basic philosophy of our government has been to encourage philanthropy for religion, education, medicine and other areas of public benefit. This kind of support relieves the government of responsibility in these areas. The trend has been away from this philosophy, with government providing more services and taking an increasing share of income through tax dollars. At this time, there is still considerable incentive to give. The basic Christian motivation continues to be a response to Christ's love and a desire to extend a helping hand to further his work. Nevertheless, a wise steward will want to maximize the use of the resources God places in his control.

GIFT OF CASH

When real estate, securities or other property increases in value, the gain is

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

known as a capital gain. At the time of sale, a capital gains tax is incurred.

Example: \$ 5,000 Cost Basis
10,000 Sale Price
\$ 5,000 Capital Gain

\$ 5,000 Taxable short-term
(less than one year)

\$ 2,500 Taxable long term
(more than one year)

An individual who makes a cash gift of the \$10,000 sale price is entitled to a \$10,000 income tax deduction up to 50% of the adjusted gross income in the year of the gift. Any unused deduction can be carried forward for five more years.

GIFT OF APPRECIATED PROPERTY

The same donor who desires to give \$10,000 can make the gift in a way to save the capital gains tax; however, the property must be donated and the sale completed by the charity.

Example: \$ 5,000 Cost Basis
10,000 Fair Market Value
No Capital Gains for
Tax Purposes

Income tax deduction for fair market value of property.

The above examples show that it is better to contribute the appreciated property rather than to sell it first and give the cash proceeds. Donated long term appreciated property (12 months or more) is limited to an income tax deduction of up to 30% of the adjusted gross income in the year of the gift. Any unused deduction can be carried forward for five more years.

VALUATION

Gifts of stocks or other securities regularly traded are valued on the date of the contribution according to the mean between the high and low sales for that day.

Example: XYZ STOCK
High Sale 42
Low Sale 40
Contribution Price 41

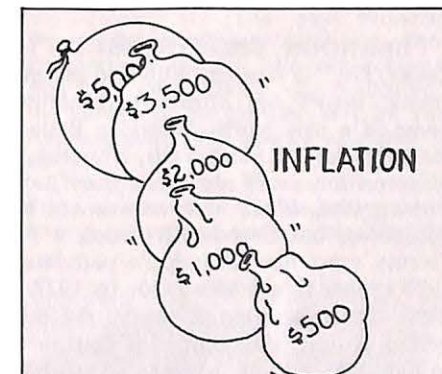
Gifts of real estate, antiques, art, etc., must be appraised for income tax deduction purposes. The appraisal(s) should accompany the tax return. The property must be legally conveyed and the sale completed by the charity; otherwise you incur capital gains tax.

In addition to income tax savings, there can also be estate and inheritance tax benefits for estates which are in a taxable category. Some people are not aware of the fact that the Tax Reform Act of 1976 drastically changed the rules about passing capital gains property to heirs. It is no longer possible to hold capital gains property until death and then to get a stepped up basis. Heirs

will now have to abide by formulas and dates that will obligate them to capital gains tax at the time of sale. If inflation continues, it will become increasingly advantageous to contribute capital gains property. A wise steward needs to be alert to the changes taking place and the effect they have on you.

For more information about gifts of appreciated property, check the appropriate box for free brochures. Estate Planning Counselors are available without cost or obligation to discuss special situations.

Neither the author nor the organization is giving legal or tax advice. The above information is of a general nature; specific problems need competent legal or tax counsel. □



Inflation has increased the value of many assets. Gifts of appreciated real estate, securities and other valuables have income tax advantages.

For additional information about gifts of appreciated property, write today for the following free brochures:

- ☐ What Every Giver Should Know About Taxes
- ☐ Advantages of Giving Real Estate
- ☐ Giving Stocks
- ☐ I would like to talk to an Estate Planning Counselor without cost or obligation to me.

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CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

BRANDON, SD, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by Mervin and Jackie Kramer

October 1978

"BRANDON, GROWINGEST LITTLE TOWN IN SOUTH DAKOTA," is how the billboard of Interstate 90 describes this young, active and attractive community which will be the home of a new North American Baptist church. Situated just ten miles east of Sioux Falls, Brandon is going through a kind of transition much different than most rural South Dakota communities. Many small towns are losing population to urban areas, but Brandon is facing a period of rapid growth. Twenty years ago, Brandon's population was about 250. The 1970 census figure was 1450. In 1977, the growth jumped to 2400, ten times what it was in the mid fifties. In that same period of time, the number of housing units has gone from 60 to over 600, and as many as 60 more homes will be built this year. A recent labor survey shows Brandon to be a young, growing and family oriented community. The survey indicated that 88.7 percent of the population is under 50 years of age. Some 58.8 percent of the people work outside of the city. What attracts people to Brandon? A superior school system and the town's close proximity to interstate highways, railroads and the state's largest airport.

Brandon is a city of contrasts. Although most of its growth is recent, it has existed for many years, celebrating its 100th birthday this past July. And although most of the people living in Brandon work outside the city, thus making it very dependent on outside employment, particularly Sioux Falls, Brandon is seeking to develop its own identity. It is in this transition period of identity-seeking and openness that we are privileged to begin a new church in Brandon. At the present time, there are two existing churches in Brandon: A large Lutheran church, which celebrated its centennial in 1971, and a Presbyterian church, which began in 1963.

Although the beginnings of this new church have been slow, we are pleased that God has chosen to plant a new church in Brandon. The church is being organized by the South Dakota Association, and the "mother church" is Trinity Baptist of Sioux Falls. A house-to-house survey was conducted by Carlo Walth, a seminary student, in the summer of 1977, and it indicated the potential for a Baptist church. Merv and Jackie Kramer and their three children, Nancy, Debra and David, moved to Brandon in February of 1978. They have since begun a ministry of love and concern through community involvement, visitation, neighborhood coffees, calling on new people, and the establishment of Home Bible Studies. Worship services are expected to begin in the fall of 1978. It is the goal of the new church to establish a "Christ-centered, Bible-oriented ministry with special emphasis on the family."

The Rev. Mervin Kramer is the pastor of new Church Extension project in Brandon, SD.

The challenges are numerous as we look to God for his enablement. We ask for your prayers as we seek to minister in the name of Christ. We also ask for your financial support. "Give as unto the Lord." Send your gifts designated for Brandon Church Extension, to North American Baptists, Inc., 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. □



Pastor Merv Kramer with wife, Jackie, and David, Debra, Nancy.



Bible study group in Brandon.



The pastor's home serves as meeting place for Bible studies.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The children and grandchildren of Dr. and Mrs. Albert Felberg hosted a 50th wedding anniversary celebration for them at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, to which friends and members of the



church were invited. A brief program was presented with Pastor Ernie Rogalski as master of ceremonies. Dr. and Mrs. Felberg are retired from the ministry after having served numerous churches as pastor and wife in the N.A.B. Conference and as president of North American Bap-

tist College, Edmonton, AB, 1959-1970. They are members of Temple Baptist Church and live in Lodi.

Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Nickel of Moosehorn, MB, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 13, 1978, in the Moosehorn Hall with a supper and program. A gift presentation by the church and one by the five sons and their families completed the evening.



VALLEY CITY, ND. The Central Montana Dakota Association Women's Missionary Union met for the annual luncheon and business meeting in the Student Center

of the State Teachers College on July 1, with vice president, Laura Metz, presiding. 141 ladies were present, representing 30 to 36 societies. Dr. Laura Reddig, missionary for 40 years in Cameroon, gave an informative and challenging message.

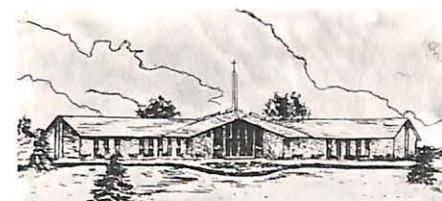
The offering, \$271.07, was designated for therapy equipment at the Baptist Home, Bismarck.

Two ladies' groups, The Century Women's Fellowship, Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, and The Faithful Friends, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, were welcomed into the Women's Missionary Union of the Association.

Mrs. Lorraine Kahler, Fargo, was elected president, and Mrs. Verna Ganstrom, Bismarck, secretary. The mission project goal was raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000. (Alma B. Kremer, secretary.)

BRIDGMAN, MI. The new Woodland Shores Baptist Church (pictured) with a cornerstone reading "No other foundation than Jesus Christ" was dedicated to the service of our Lord on May 21, 1978. Approximately 400 people attended the service.

The Rev. Norman Vernon, Boca Raton, FL, who served in the beginning of the church, addressed the congregation. The



Rev. Rubin Herrmann, (pictured) pastor of Woodland Shores Baptist Church, led the members of the congregation in an inspiring dedication reading.

Others participating in the service included the Woodland Shores Baptist Church Board of Deacons; Pastor Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary; the Rev. Lyle Wacker, general secretary for Church Extension, N.A.B. Conference; the Lakeshore Baptist Church choir, Stevensville; Don Clements; Mrs. Kenneth Behr; Bert Pearson, general contractor, and Wm. Ewald, architect.

The service was followed by a tour of the new church facilities. (Kenneth Kieft, moderator.)



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VALLEY CITY, ND. On July 1, 1978, in the Student Center of Valley City State College, 68 ladies gathered for the annual Prayer and Praise Breakfast. Mrs. Irene Falkenberg, Gackle, brought an inspiring and challenging devotional. Laura Metz, vice president, commented on the Union theme, "Search Me, O God." Emma Hudson, Valley City; Mrs. Allen Gerber, Ashley, and Gladys Birdsall were also on the program.

Dr. Laura Reddig, who was present, was named the missionary of the year. (Alma B. Kremer, secretary.)

CALGARY, AB. On June 18, 1978, Grace Baptist Church rejoiced with five persons, as they followed the Lord's leading in the waters of baptism.



On the same day we welcomed these as well as four others into our fellowship (pictured). The Rev. E. Klingenberg was pastor at the time. (Ruth Benke, reporter.)

WEST FARGO, ND. A joint baptismal service was held in the Grace Baptist Church, on Sunday evening, June 27. One person from Grace was baptized and given the hand of fellowship. The Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, our sister church, baptized three upon their confession of faith. Ministers officiating were Pastors Les Buenning and Ted Keck. (Frances Abrahamson, reporter.)

ROUND LAKE, ON. After months of planning, praying and working (mainly by Diane Quiring, Rochester, NY), young people from several Eastern Association churches met at Camp Bonechere, Round Lake, near Killaloe, ON. More than 50 young people as well as leaders enjoyed the weekend. Mr. and Mrs. David Chui, both medical doctors and members of the Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, gave a presentation on the theme, "Personal Growth." Some non-church young people signed up for an additional week at the camp. (Wenzel Hanik, reporter.)

MOOSEHORN, MB. The Rev. H. Ulrichs, Minitonas, held deeper life meetings for one week at Moosehorn Baptist Church. One girl accepted Christ, and some rededicated their lives.

Mrs. E. Hees' sister, Ruth Huffnagel, missionary, Chad, Africa, spoke about her work and presented the church with a picture made of butterfly wings by a Chad artist.

The W.M.S. had its annual mission program which included a play, filmstrip and fellowship hour.

The annual church picnic at the Shantymen's Camp on Sunday, June 18, included a morning service, dinner and an afternoon of fun and fellowship. (Margaret Gnuman, reporter.)

VALLEY CITY, ND. The Central Dakota-Montana Association met on the campus of Valley City State College for their sessions June 29-July 2, 1978. Guest speakers were Dr. Laura Reddig, missionary for 40 years in Cameroon, and the Rev. Peter Ristau, professor of Old Testament, N.A.B. College. The theme was "Personal Awareness of God." Seminars were held at each session developing the theme.

Two church extension churches, Century Baptist, Bismarck, and Metropolitan Baptist, Fargo, were accepted into the fellowship of the Association.

Luncheons were enjoyed by the women and men at which business of their respective organizations was conducted. The youth enjoyed an evening banquet.

The next association will be at Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, July 9 and 10, 1979. The moderator is Floyd Roehl. (Mary Lou Brenner, reporter.)

GUELPH, ON. Joan Johnson shared her unique experiences as a captive of the Viet Cong for eight months in 1975, and Sara Pasiciel shared insights into our Cameroon mission work. This challenged the women to pray and support missions even more. This happened at the Eastern Association's women's retreat at Guelph, ON, June 16-18, with 220 women attending.

Eastern Association W.M.U. officers elected at the business session include Karen Grenz, president; Gerda Schmidt, vice president; Judy Thole, secretary; Cleo Brite, treasurer, and Annie Gretzinger, White Cross. More than \$1,800 was collected for the three church extension projects of our association and for the national WMU project. A variety of gospel music, skits, and book reviews rounded out the program. (Judy Thole, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. Capilano Baptist Church joyously celebrated the coming of their new pastor, the Rev. Bruno Voss, and his family with a special service on July 9. Special numbers were sung by the junior and senior choirs, Kimi and Kara Klingsporn and Charlene Wolfe. A piano duet was played by Melenie and Tammy Neske. Remarks made by representatives from various church organizations welcomed the pastor and family. The Rev. Ron Berg was the guest speaker. The service ended with a dedicatory prayer for the Voss family by the deacons. (Sharon Neske, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist Church ordained Dr. David W. Lake into the Christian ministry on June 18.

Lake was born in Edmonton on April 2,

1944, and received his early schooling there as well as his Ph.D. in Geography from the U. of Alberta.

He served one year with God's Volunteers and two years as a teacher in Cameroon, where he met his wife, Dorothy nee Reich. Upon his return, he accepted the position of Christian Education Director at Central Baptist Church. During this year, he felt led to prepare himself for the ministry. He graduated in May 1978 with a Master of Divinity degree from the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. He is pastor of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

CARBON, AB. The members of the Carbon Baptist Church reviewed their "roots," as together with many visiting friends, they re-enacted their history. Through a drama-musical under the direction of Bob and Marilyn Ohlhauser, they traced the history of the families, who, as a group of 75, chartered a train and, with their livestock and all their belongings, emigrated from the Dakotas. Many of these were born and raised prior to this in Russia during the time of the Czars. There were humorous as well as very touching scenes.

"A Charge to Keep" was the theme of the day. One of the early pastors, Dr. E. P. Wahl, spoke of the days of revival in this church during the first years of its inception. A communion service, with one cup and broken loaf, was held as in the early days. German hymns were learned and sung by the choir.

A meal, consisting of many favorite German dishes, was served to about 500 people. Five living charter members were honored. Many who attended wore clothes of that period in history. Some came to church in cars from the olden days. A large number of pictures from those early days were enlarged and displayed. The Rev. Richard Grabke is the pastor of our church (David Gieck, reporter.)

chuckle with bruno

A tourist is a person who climbs a high mountain to put a coin in a telescope to see where he came from.

A little boy asked his grandmother if all fairy tales begin with "Once upon a time . . ." His grandmother replied, "No dear. These days most of them begin with, "If I'm elected . . ."

A young boy enrolled in a new Sunday school class. The teacher asked him for his name, address and age, to which he replied correctly. Then she asked for his birthdate. "October 4," he replied. "What year?" she asked. "Every year," he replied. □

ESTERHAZY, SK. On June 29, 1978, nine churches of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association responded to an invitation by the Esterhazy Baptist Church to form a council to examine their pastor, Michael Relton, for ordination into the Christian ministry. Pastor Morley Schultz was elected moderator and Pastor Bob Hoffman the clerk of the council. A clear presentation of his conversion, call to the ministry, educational preparation and doctrinal statements were given. Questions were freely given and answered. The council agreed to recommend Mr. Relton for ordination. Pastor Morley Schultz has been pastor of the Esterhazy Baptist Church for two years, and God is blessing his ministry. (R. Bob Hoffman, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MI. On July 2 the congregation of the Round Lake Baptist Church celebrated their third annual homecoming day with daylong activities. The morning service featured a special choir selection, "I Am Thankful to be an American," and a message by the Rev. Winston H. Decker.

At noon a potluck dinner was enjoyed. Relatives, friends and visitors, many from out-of-town, joined us. Afternoon activities included games, prizes, treats, renewing old friendships and reminiscing.

A musical program by some of our members concluded the day. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

STEVENSVILLE, MI. Lakeshore Baptist Church morning worship service, July 16, was in recognition of Miss Linda Ebel, staff coordinator, with a reception following in Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary, was guest speaker. Martin Pschigoda, representing Search Committee, told of the leading of God in choosing her for this office. Mr. Dick Seel, deacon, gave the Charge to Staff Coordinator; Pastor R. I. Thompson gave Charge to the Church, followed by prayer of dedication by Mr. Doyle Barkmeier. Linda received a B.R.E. from North American Baptist College, a B.A. from Tabor College and an M.A. in Christian Education from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and is the daughter of John and Frieda Ebel of Schuler, AB. (Nellie Beath, reporter.)

GRAND FORKS, ND. On July 23 an all-church, covered-dish supper was held in the auditorium of the Grace Baptist Church honoring the Summer Institute of Linguistics families. The Wycliffe translators had charge of the evening service sharing their many experiences on the mission field in translating the Bible into national languages. The Rev. Robert Penner is pastor. (Mrs. Bonita J. Shambaugh, reporter.)

GOOD SPIRIT LAKE, SK. The W.M.U. of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association met for the annual program at Good Spirit Lake Camp, July 7, with 93 ladies attending. Mrs. Kay Schilke, Oak Park, IL, was the guest speaker and related many interesting incidents of her recent trip

with Dr. Richard Schilke to Cameroon and Nigeria.

The budget for the next year includes two scholarships for students attending North American Baptist College, designation to the National W.M.U. project, church extension, and our Good Spirit Lake camp. President Lydia Pullman, Springside, capably chaired the session. (Isabelle Nornberg, secretary.)

SIDNEY, MT. On July 9, 1978, the Rev. Dale H. Axt was installed as the new pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sidney. At the Sunday morning worship hour, the sermon by the pastor emphasized the Great Commission. A potluck dinner followed. In the evening, a special pantry shower was given for the Axts.

We praise God for the recent program, "people for Christ." People are being reached for Christ through the bus ministry, the motel ministry, visitation outreach, and junior church. Eight people, of whom seven are children, accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Several people expressed interest in joining the church; one has expressed interest in baptism. Exciting things are happening here in the church! (Cyndee Axt, reporter.)

OAKBANK, MB. A baptismal service was conducted at the Oakbank Baptist Church by the Rev. Helmut Poschwatta, Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg. He baptized seven persons, one from Rowandale Baptist Church, upon confession of their faith. They were received into the church membership following the communion service on May 7.

A special musical favorites evening service was held on April 30. Favorite songs were sung, and instrumental numbers played. They had been requested by persons a few weeks before.

The Rev. Ed Fuellbrandt, Vancouver, became our pastor on July 1. Our interim pastor was Ed Hughes. (Sharon Bredin, reporter.)



CALGARY, AB. Six summer Sunday evening outdoor celebrations, Reality, were sponsored by the Brentview Baptist and Foothills Alliance Churches at the Brentwood Village Mall in the northwest part of the city. Businesses of the Mall generously supported the venture, allowing use of the parking lot for the drive-in, as well as financial assistance from some merchants.

Various local musical groups and youth choir from the two churches presented the gospel in instrumental and

vocal song. A short testimony was given each Sunday. The main message was given by a special guest, such as Darrel Janz, anchor man on CFCN-TV; "Jungle Jim" Hunter, professional skier, and Gerry Fowler, Calgary School Board. An average of 270 cars were parked each evening. (Linda Ohlhauser, reporter.)

GACKLE, ND. The Spirit of God touched hearts at Grace Baptist of Gackle on July 9, 1978. The pastor, the Rev. M. Falkenberg, baptized three young women after they gave their testimonies.

Following this, Dr. Rodney Zimmerman, a member of Grace Baptist, gave his stirring testimony before leaving for Cameroon, Africa, as a medical missionary. A prayer of dedication was given by Pastor Falkenberg. The hand of fellowship was extended to the four new members preceding the Lord's Supper. (Mrs. Jalmer Anderson, reporter.)

VALLEY CITY, ND. Nineteen churches of the Central Dakota-Montana Association gathered on the Campus of Valley City State College on June 29 to form a Recognition Council to examine the constitution and charter of incorporation of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, ND. Pastor Keck opened the meeting. The council elected the Rev. Allen Gerber, Ashley, as chairman and the Rev. Arnold Friez, Leola, SD, Church Extension chairman, as clerk. Mrs. Lorraine Kahler, clerk, Metropolitan Baptist, read the letter requesting recognition. George Stading, deacon and moderator of Metropolitan Baptist, read the preamble of the church, the covenant and Constitution. After discussion the council voted to accept the Church as a member of the Association.

tion and into the fellowship of the North American Baptist Conference. Both the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Fargo and Century Baptist Church of Bismarck were extended the hand of fellowship at the Association sessions. (Arnold M. Friez, clerk.)

WEST FARGO, ND. The Rev. Lester Buening was installed as pastor of the Grace Baptist Church, West Fargo, on June 4. Pastor Leslie Albus, Grand Forks, officiated at the morning service when Rev. Buening was installed. A potluck dinner was served at noon, and the Buennings were recipients of a pantry shower.

Buening, a native of Cherokee, OK, attended Sioux Falls College, SD, and graduated from the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in 1973. He served Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS, accepting the position of Abraham-

On Wednesday evening, June 21, we hosted the Detroit Children's Bible Hour Rally. The Children's Bible Hour is a national children's radio ministry which originates in Grand Rapids. The Rev. William L. Cummins is pastor of the church.

CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. "And the Glory of God shone around" as two persons were baptized by Pastor Bernard Thole on July 9. The congregation sang the baptismal candidates' favorite hymns as they entered and left the baptistry. In June two more members were given the hand of fellowship.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held on July 4; we were blessed by a full day of warm fellowship. (Bernice Hartman, reporter.)

MORRIS, MB. June 18 was the last Sunday that our pastor, the Rev. Bruno Voss, and family, were with us at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Two farewell services were held: one during the Sunday school hour when the departments within the church made their farewell, and another in the afternoon to which neighborhood and Manitoba Association churches were invited. Rev. Voss was very much appreciated by the community and Association for his willingness to serve and be involved. After being with us for eight years, he and his family will be greatly missed.

In June, 54 Pioneer Girls and their guides had their annual weekend at our beautiful campsite at Lake Nutimik. The theme was "My God and My Creator." Mrs. Wolstenholme from Pinawa creatively presented the lessons.

On September 10 we welcomed a new

formed to promote inter-personal relationships and special concern among members.

In our recent building fund drive, "Let's Keep the Lights Burning," over \$13,000 was pledged. A special dinner climaxed the fund raising event. (Leslie La Follette, clerk.)



pastor, the Rev. Morley Schulz, and family, from Yorkton, SK. (Joanne Neumann, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. The 20th anniversary celebration of the Temple Baptist Church, June 17 and 18, provided excellent opportunities to be reminded of the riches of God's grace. Members and former members attended the banquet Saturday evening. Music was contributed by the young people of yesterday and today, and a film of our church history was shown. Dr. Wm. Sturhahn was guest speaker for the evening.

The anniversary service was held Sunday afternoon. Greetings were extended by all former pastors as well as the Rev. Bob Simpson, city alderman. The Rev. G. P. Schroeder, former interim pastor, Lodi, CA, shared in our celebration. Dr. Wm. Sturhahn and the Rev. R. Kannwischer were the speakers on the topic, "God in History and Life," and "As an Eagle the Lord Did Lead."

A memorial service was held at the end of the service for former members who went to be with the Lord; we especially remembered our first pastor, the Rev. R. Milbrandt, who felt led to establish our church. Mrs. Milbrandt is still serving the church in her own, talented way.

The Rev. F. Schmidt, is pastor of this church. (Mrs. Irene Wirzba, reporter.)

BELLWOOD, IL. This has been a very positive year for members of First Baptist Church. What can God do with small numbers? We have a small membership and only about 12-15 in our youth group. Yet we are extremely proud that we have so many youth serving our Lord.

One of our young men, David Robinson, has finished two years with God's Volunteers. Tony Dickerson accompanied a group from Moody Bible Institute to Southern Europe and North Africa on a missionary training trip. Jim Grupp attended the Baptist World Youth Conference in Manila, Philippines. An additional three young persons are attending Christian colleges this fall. Another of our youth, who is in the Navy, is driving the Sunday School bus on the base. The Rev. Loren Weber is pastor of our church. (Arlene Storie, reporter.)

APLINGTON, IA. On August 27 the Aplington Baptist Church welcomed home the Rev. and Mrs. Gary Ostercamp who have served one term as missionaries in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Rev. Ostercamp brought the morning message. The evening service was shared by Gary and Colleen as they sang in both Portuguese and English and gave a slide presentation accompanied by Brazilian music and interesting comments on the way of life in Brazil.

Pastor Donald Patet led a commissioning service for Janice Willeke with Rev. Ostercamp offering the prayer. Janice left September 2 for Japan where she serves as a short-term missionary in Ikeda Shi, Osaka. (Gladys Willeke, reporter.)

FESSENDEN, ND. On June 11 the Missionary Society of First Baptist Church celebrated the 75th anniversary. The history of the Society was read as well as letters from former pastors' wives. A charge from our pastor's wife, Ruth Fuchs, was heard and a parade of by-gone fashions seen during the program. The Adine Harsch family presented a musical program.

During family night, the Esther Circle heard the Floyd Roehl family from New Leipzig present a musical program. The Rev. Fred Fuchs is pastor. (Regina Peppe, reporter.)

LASALLE, CO. The new baptistry and addition to the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church were dedicated to God. Gene Robb spoke for the Colorado Conference. The Rev. John Rasko brought greetings from Sherwood Park Baptist Church, Greeley, and Rev. Phillips brought greetings from the La Salle Presbyterian Church. Following the dedication, Don Betz and Nicki Hayward were baptized and joined the church. The Rev. Ronald Stevens is pastor. (Virginia Jepsen, reporter.)

SIDNEY, MT. On July 28, 1978, the First Baptist Church had a small gathering of believers in Jesus Christ witness the baptism of Judy Baxter in Garsite Lake. What an exciting time of fellowship to see the reality of Christ in Judy's life.

The past few months for the Church have been exciting. We started a Visitation Outreach program, "People for Christ," which includes a Bus Ministry, a Motel Ministry, a Visitation Ministry, a Letter Ministry and much more. The Lord is working here in Sidney, MT. The Rev. Dale Axt is pastor. (Cyndee Axt, reporter.)

PLEVNA, MT. A group of six young people from N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls were here August 2 to present an evening of gospel music.

The Rev. Clarence Walth, North American Baptist Seminary, spoke at our morning service and showed slides in the afternoon on July 9.

The Men's Brotherhood sponsored a Sweetheart Banquet on May 10. The Rev. Jack Martin from Rescue Mission in Billings, MT was the guest speaker. The Rev. Richard Lawrenz is pastor. (Paula Fuchs, reporter.)

WHO MINISTERS

(Continued from page 20)

by the people who know and love them in the church, they will not be the "loneliest people in the world." They, in turn, can minister more effectively to those who are hurting and crushed in spirit. Perhaps pastors would not be moving from church to church every two or three years—or leaving the ministry completely—if they felt the kind of warm loving acceptance which filled their spiritual and emotional needs. □

in memoriam

MRS. EMANUEL ENGEL, Bismarck, ND, died July 19, 1978. The former Dorothy Edinger was born May 19, 1892, in Eureka, SD. On Feb. 10, 1916, she married Emanuel Engel in Denhoff, ND. Survivors include her husband; three sons: Walter, Bismarck, Ervin, Minot, and Rueben, Nora Springs, IA; a daughter, Mrs. Alice Johnson, Yankton, SD; 19 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a brother, Edward; and a sister, Mrs. Rose Helm. The Rev. Ron Norman officiated at the funeral service.

HELEN GIESECKE, 89, of Milwaukee, WI, was born April 12, 1889, in Sheboygan and died June 13, 1978. She married August Giesecke, Sept. 14, 1909. Mrs. Giesecke accepted Christ in her late teen-age years. She and her husband served the Lord at Immanuel Baptist Church. Later they were charter members of Bethany Baptist. She took an active part in the church serving as financial secretary and being a member of the W.M.S. Survivors include a daughter, Betty; a son, Harold; two sisters, Mrs. Max Erbach and Mrs. Anton Torrison; four grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The Rev. James Schacher officiated at the memorial service.

ADOLF MAYER died May 15, 1978. He was born Nov. 14, 1897, in Kloestitz, Russia, and came to the United States in 1902. He married Bertha Lauth at Harvey, ND, on Dec. 10, 1919. Adolf accepted Christ as his personal Savior in 1918 and was baptized. In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Mayer became charter members of the newly formed Bethel Baptist Church of Harvey. Adolf served as Sunday school superintendent and deacon for many years. His wife preceded him in death by 11 months. Surviving is their son, Gordon, of Harvey, ND.

JACOB MEINERTS was born Dec. 21, 1897, to John and Siebema (Bruns) Meinerts, George, IA. He lived his entire life on the farm. He was a member of Central Baptist Church of George. Mr. Meinerts died May 17, 1978, at the age of 80 years and four months. Survivors are two brothers: Peter, Sioux Falls, SD, and William, Little Rock, IA; two sisters: Fannie (Mrs. Fred Johnson), Ellsworth, MN, and Anna (Mrs. Wilbur Johnson), George; brother-in-law, Leonard Schrader, and nieces and nephews. The Rev. Morris Motley officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. LYDIA MICHAELSOHN (nee Miller) 77, was born near Venturia, ND, Nov. 2, 1900, and died June 21, 1978. She married Fred E. Michaelsohn Jan. 29, 1925, at Venturia and farmed SW of Wishek, ND, until

her husband died in 1952. In 1954 she moved to Bismarck where she became a nurses' aide at the Baptist Home. In 1973 she became a resident there. Survivors include two sons: Allen, Wishek, and Victor, Ellendale; two daughters: Mrs. Leo (Dorothy) Friez, McLaughlin, SD, and Francine Dollinger, Ashley; two brothers: August and Daniel; two sisters: Mrs. Theophil (Sophie) Haas and Mrs. Albina Huber; 19 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Chaplain O. H. Meth assisted by the Rev. Gordon Husinga officiated at the services.

WILHELMINA MIX, 102, born Dec. 6, 1877, in Wolhynien, Poland, died July 12, 1978. She immigrated to Leduc, AB, in 1899, residing in the Frederickshain district, where she attended the First Baptist Church. She accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, was baptized in her early childhood, and faithfully served her Master. For the past six years, she was a resident of Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman in 1932, and two sons and daughter: John, David and Christine. She is survived by seven of her ten children: Martha Reschke, Arpa Madiuk, Pearl Badger, Daniel, Ferdinand, Reuben, and Benjamin; 24 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. The Rev. H. John Davies officiated at the funeral.

LILLIAN OSTRANDER, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Martin DeBoer, was born on Feb. 17, 1931, in Chancellor, SD, and died June 6, 1978, in Westminster, CA. She accepted Christ in her youth, was baptized in 1942, and united with the Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NB. She married Raymond Ostrander on Dec. 18, 1951. She is survived by her husband, two sons, one daughter-in-law, and one granddaughter. Dr. D. Bailey, the Rev. J. Peterson, the Rev. G. Solum and the Rev. D. Stoop officiated at the memorial service, June 8, 1978.

MATHILDA SCHAMUHN was born Feb. 15, 1890, in Russia and died June 13, 1978. She was a member of Temple Baptist Church, Leduc, AB, at the time of her death. She is survived by one son, Elmer Falkenberg, Salmon Arm, BC; two daughters: Rita Gaetz, Victoria, BC, and Audrey Burton, St. Albert, AB; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren, and step-children. The Rev. John Martens officiated at the funeral service.

WALDAN SERBIAN, 55, was born in Germany on Feb. 13, 1923, and died July 3, 1978. In 1948 he married Erika Adam, immigrated to the United States in 1949, and resided in Oconomowoc, WI, since 1951. He confessed personal faith in Jesus Christ and was a member of Center Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI. Survivors include his widow; one daughter: Karen (Mrs. Joseph Jonston) in Idaho; two sons: Harold (and wife, Patricia), and Ronald, both of Oconomowoc; three grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Olga Schaefer, Milwaukee; three sisters: Mrs. Ruth Horee, Mrs. Irma (William) Julius, and Mrs. Edeltraut Maskus. The Rev. Herman Pohl officiated at the funeral service.

ONCKEN JUBILEE FOR BAPTIST UNION IN WEST GERMANY

KASSEL—This year's conference in Kassel was strongly influenced by the 150th Jubilee of the Johann Gerhard Oncken printing house, operated by the Union. Four churches were newly accepted. Delegates approved the sending of a telegram to Mr. Leonid Breschnev on the occasion of the Soviet leader's current state visit in the B.R.D. The message asked for the release of prisoners—persons imprisoned in the U.S.S.R. because of their religious beliefs, and stated that such an action would strongly underscore respect for basic human rights and freedom of religion in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, and the Helsinki and Belgrade documents. The assembly closed with a two-hour evangelistic service in the Kassel city hall.

ANABAPTISTS REMEMBERED

BUDAPEST—A lecture on Balthasar Hubmaier, whose martyrdom 450 years ago was observed by many Baptist groups this spring, was a featured part of the annual meeting of Hungarian Baptists.

An all-Hungary pastors' conference preceded the annual meeting. Hungarian Church Press (HCP) reported that the conference discussed the problems of communal life.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND BAPTIST UNION MEETS

LONDON—Delegates to the annual assembly in London saw the Union's first woman president installed. She is Mrs. Nell Alexander, a member of the Zion Baptist Church in Cambridge. Dr. Morris West, 56-year old president of Bristol Baptist since 1971, is the new vice-president.

Delegates were also invited to an "open-house" at Baptist Church House, the Union's office building in London. The structure, located at 4 Southampton Row, was 75 years old in April, 1978.

GIFT FOR HOSPITAL PRESENTED

WARSAW—The European Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance have given DM 10,000, to aid in the construction of the International Children's Hospital being built as a memorial to children who perished during the Second World War.

The gift was presented by Dr. Gerhard Claas, secretary-treasurer of the EBF and by Dr. Paul Madsen, a member of the Baptist World Alliance

General Council, during a recent official visit to Poland.

In presenting the gift to Dr. T. Dusik of the State Department of Religious Affairs, Dr. Claas said, "This is a token of our Christian concern for the whole being, for in providing physical aid to those who suffer, it is a part of all we do that war may happen no more."

Dr. Claas and Dr. Madsen also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Dusik for giving approval to the invitation of the Polish Baptist Union for Baptist Evangelist Billy Graham to visit Poland for a series of religious services this October, and for the building permit granted to the Baptist congregation in Katowice, to erect a place of worship near the centre of that city. The Katowice church has never had their own building.

ATHLETE REJECTS BIG MONEY OFFER

NEW YORK (EP)—Ralph Drollinger is 7 feet 2¼ inches tall and weighs 235 pounds. He is a basketball-playing missionary who'd rather play for \$7,500 a year than \$400,000 a year.

It's true. It happened here in New York. The 23-year-old graduate of one of UCLA's great teams told the New York Nets to keep their \$400,000, he'd rather stick with Athletes in Action, a Campus Crusade-sponsored team which plays top college teams (and wins) and devotes much of its time bringing young people to Christ.

Drollinger sat still for a press conference, then announced that he's happy with what he's doing. "Why?" asked the press in one breath.

"As a Christian, I've often asked myself where I can best invest my life to tell others about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Having seen such positive changes take place in my life, I am convinced that now is the time to invest my life with Athletes in Action. I have elected to stay with them at least through 1980."

With Campus Crusade's Athletes in Action, each athlete gets an annual \$7,500 missionary scholarship and a chance to play with a fine team of Christians which, every year, wins at least 30 of 35 games against top college teams.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN CHURCH GROWTH STUDIES

PASADENA—Dr. Win Arn, president of the Institute for American Church Growth, announces the establishment of *The Center for American Church Growth Studies*.

The Center will provide training for lay leaders and clergy in the application of church growth principles, to enable

churches, through their ministry areas, to reach the 150 million unchurched Americans. The Center is the first such institution devoted exclusively to the study of the insights and applications of American Church Growth. A variety of mediated courses, in this specialized field of how and why American churches grow, will comprise course offerings by the Center.

As parent organization, the Institute for American Church Growth is recognized as the leader in the church growth movement. It has trained over 8,000 clergy and 50,000 laity through pastors' conferences and local church growth seminars. Their publication, *CHURCH GROWTH: AMERICA*, currently disseminates information and research in the field of church growth to interested pastors and denominational leaders. Recent studies of the Institute included an investigation of the Billy Graham crusades and Campus Crusade's "I Found It" campaign, to subsequent growth of local churches.

The Center for American Church Growth Studies will serve three purposes: 1) to give lay church leaders practical leadership skills in church growth/evangelism; 2) to provide continuing education for professional church leaders in the specialized field of American Church Growth; and 3) to conduct research, provide data, disseminate information to assist churches and denominations in their evangelism programs. □

ONE GOD—AN UNUSUAL IDEA IN 1400 B.C.

With the display in North America of some of the treasures found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun, attention has been focused on Egyptian ideas of God some 3400 years ago. Most of the attention is directed toward Tutankhamun's father-in-law, who immediately preceded him as pharaoh.

Akhenaton discarded the multiplicity of Egyptian gods to foster the idea of one god, Aton, the sun. He moved the nation's capitol from Thebes, with its worship of Osiris, Horus, Isis, Amon, Re and a host of other gods, to Amarna, 200 miles south.

He was the first monarch to foster the idea of one god. When King Tut took over after his father-in-law's death, the "good old days" of multiple gods returned and it was left to the Hebrews and Christians to rediscover this concept. Akhenaton was obviously a man born too soon, about 1400 years too soon.

Life Line 8/77

■ *The Church Extension Investors Fund* is now registered in the Province of Alberta. Efforts are being made to register in all of the Canadian Provinces. Write to CEIF, Ltd., North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, for further information.

■ *The Rev. Michael Relton*, pastor of Esterhazy Baptist Church, SK, was ordained into the Christian ministry by that church on July 9, 1978.

■ *Dr. David W. Lake* was ordained into the Christian ministry on June 18, 1978, by Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. Rev. Lake is pastor of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

■ *The Rev. Edward Klingenberg*, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, since 1972, resigned effective Aug. 31, 1978. He became pastor of College Heights Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, on Sept. 1, 1978.

■ *Mr. James Erb* resigned from the position of youth pastor at Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, OR, to attend North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, beginning September 1978. He had been youth pastor since 1975.

■ *The Rev. Richard R. Uhler, Jr.*, resigned as pastor of Lehr Ebenezer Baptist Church, ND, effective Sept. 10, 1978.

■ *Crow Canyon Baptist Church* is the name selected for the church extension project in San Ramon, CA, where the Rev. Donald Richter is pastor.

■ *Emmanuel Baptist Church* and *Strassburg Baptist Church*, Marion, KS, have voted to share a pastor.

■ *Mr. Douglas W. Peebles* has joined the staff of Swain Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, CA. He will be giving leadership to youth and discipleship ministries there. He had been serving at First Baptist Church, Riverside, CA.

■ *Mr. Lou Suchenko* is the new professor of Christian education at North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB. He served as director of the summer camping program at Green Bay Baptist Camp, Westbank, BC. Mr. Suchenko was formerly on the staff of Vancouver Bible College, BC.

■ *The Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church*, Bensalem, PA, with the Rev. Dennis Kee as pastor, was organized on June 24, 1978, with 21 charter members.

■ *The Rev. Richard Person* became the pastor of First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD, on Sept. 1, 1978. He was pastor of an American Baptist Church in Storm Lake, IA, prior to this.

■ *The Rev. Alan Knuckles* became pastor of Greenvine Baptist Church, Texas, in February 1978. He is a graduate of Baylor University and is attending Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, TX.

■ *The Rev. Anthony Salazar* became pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, OR, in September. He had served as assistant pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, since 1975.

■ *The Rev. Brian Hayes* began his ministry as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Billings, MT, on Sept. 1, 1978. Mr. Hayes was pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD, since 1974.

■ *The Rev. Albert Fadenrecht*, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Killaloe, ON, since 1972, has resigned to retire effective Oct. 1, 1978. He will reside in Hillsboro, KS, and is available for pulpit supply.

■ *The German Zion Baptist Church*, Milwaukee, WI, sold its church building and is meeting in Bethany Baptist Church until the new building on Lilly Road is ready. The Rev. Erwin H. Babbel is pastor.

■ *The Rev. David E. Korb* became the pastor of Forest Baptist Church, Winburne, PA, effective July 1, 1978. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA, since 1976.

■ *The Rev. Bill Loge* resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND, where he has served since 1976. He is now in ministry as a vocalist and deeper life conference speaker.

■ *The Rev. Henry Schumacher* became pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC, Sept. 1, 1978. Since 1972 he had been pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Camrose, AB.

■ *The Rev. Manfred Taubensee* resigned as pastor of Mary Hill Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam, BC, where he served since 1973. He became pastor of Creston Baptist Church, BC, in October 1978.

■ *Mr. Terri Holley* became minister of youth on Sept. 1, 1978, and *Mr. Neil Stewart* became minister of music on August 1 at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH.

■ *The Rev. Fred Penner* is the new pastor of the church extension project in South Sioux City, NB, effective Sept. 15, 1978. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Auburn, MI, since 1975.

■ *The Rev. George W. Riederer* resigned as assistant pastor at Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, to accept a position with an estate planning agency in the Chicago, IL, area.

■ *Mr. Art Petrie* is the new director of development at North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, as of July 1, 1978. He formerly was employed by the government of the Province of Alberta.

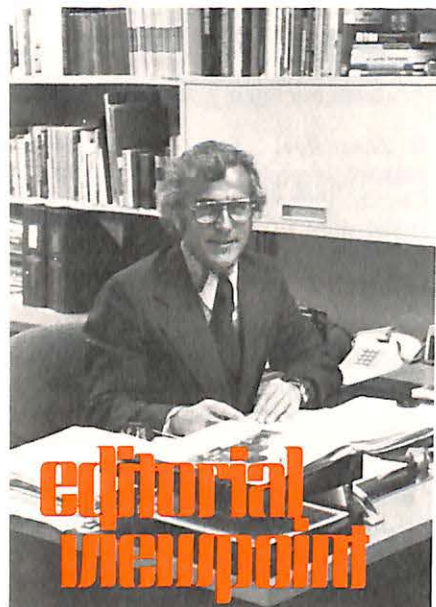
■ At the Ministers' Fellowship Conference in Sioux Falls, SD, Aug. 11, 1978, the *Ministers' Wives Fellowship* elected the following officers: Sharon Mayforth, Bismarck, ND, president; Roslyn Wolf, Ellinwood, KS, vice president, and Alice Johnson, Corona, SD, secretary.

■ *The Rev. Robert Lang* becomes pastor of youth at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, the end of October. He has been pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, MT, since 1976.

■ *Miss Carol Potratz* became the Christian education worker at First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS, Aug. 27, 1978. She is a 1978 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ *The Rev. Victor Gunst* resigned from the pastorate of the church extension project, Cypress Springs Baptist Church, Coral Springs, FL, effective Aug. 13, 1978.

■ *The Rev. Paul Davis* became pastor of the Cypress Springs Baptist Church, Coral Springs, FL, on Sept. 1, 1978. He is a former missionary living in the area.



THANKING IS CELEBRATING

Gratitude is one of the noblest expressions of the heart. Parents eagerly teach their children to say "Thank You." People are willing to overlook many shortcomings, but they find it difficult to forgive somebody's ingratitude.

I remember from my early youth, how angry I was at the nine lepers, who failed to express their gratitude to Jesus for the healing they had experienced. William Barclay, the Great British Bible expositor, has the following commentary on this event, as told in Luke 17:

"There is no story in all the gospels which so poignantly shows man's ingratitude. The lepers had come to Jesus with a desperate longing; He had cured them, and nine never came back to give thanks. So often, once a man has got what he wants, he never comes back."

King Lear, in the day of great personal tragedy, stated, "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." Then Shakespeare puts the following words into the King's mouth:

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
Though dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friends remembered not.

If a thankless child is "sharper than a serpent's tooth," how must God, the Father, feel about most of his children

who live in an almost permanent attitude of ingratitude? The Psalmist reminds himself and us: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

As North American Baptist Conference we again have set aside the months of October and November for the "celebration of gratitude." The Conference Office has mailed out posters, budget leaflets, offering envelopes, mission and stewardship education ideas for Sunday school teachers and offering boxes for children. All N.A.B. pastors have received a schedule, suggesting when and how to use the various items. I am just now looking at the suggestion sheet: "Three weeks before Thanksgiving Sunday, display . . . use . . . make . . ." And so it goes on and on, trying to organize and make the Thanksgiving season as meaningful as possible. But it certainly is quite obvious that neither instructions coming from the Conference Office nor suggestions from any other organizational source will automatically bring about the desired results. Each individual, layman and pastor, will have to pause before God, review the demonstrated goodness of God in his or her life and then thankfully review the pledge of loyal discipleship. Gratitude must spring up in one's own heart. It cannot be dictated. On the other hand, if man's life has been changed through God's gracious dealings with that person, there will be an almost instant desire to testify to the goodness of the Heavenly Father. The testimonies in this magazine and in the "Changed Lives" leaflet prove the truth of that statement.

Grateful people are happy people. God wants us to be happy. It is therefore no wonder that he wants us to be thankful—and happy.

God has given us so much, that this page, this entire magazine would not provide enough space to enumerate all of the received blessings. Yet, just like in my editorial one year ago, I want at least to remind all the readers of the wonderful progress we are experiencing on the mission fields overseas and at home. Let us think with gratitude of the expanding work of Church Extension. The reports of our educational institutions in Edmonton and Sioux Falls are encouraging. The many summer camps and retreats have just enabled us to see Christian education applied in such practical ways.

North American Baptists! The Celebration of Gratitude is our opportunity to say "Thank You" to a God who has given us more than we asked for. We thank our Heavenly Father for changed lives and for the many ministries we are privileged to carry on. Let us demonstrate our thankfulness by giving liber-

ally during these weeks of gratitude-celebration.

Webster's Dictionary defines "celebration" as "formal commemoration." Whether we do it formally or informally, along with many North American Baptists we want to "commemorate" God's grace by telling others about our changed lives and by contributing to these ministries that are bringing about such changes. RJK □



letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

The article "Bounds of the Earth" (May 78) caused me to think a little about some of the paradoxes in our modern day world.

The article pointed out that the natural resources of our earth are fast being used up and that world food production is already inadequate. Already two-thirds of the world does not have enough to eat.

The paradox is that here in Japan there is more than enough to eat, even though Japan imports about 70 percent of the food she consumes. Granted, some items are a little bit expensive, but there is certainly no shortage, and people always seem to have enough to waste. On top of this, most of Japan's trading partners want her to import more agricultural products and food. Japan has a big trade surplus from her industrial exports, but there is a limit to how much food the people here can consume. Meanwhile the farmers in America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia are complaining that the Japanese are overly protective and that they do not have enough markets for their beef, butter, cheese, wheat, etc. Even countries in Europe, which are not net exporters of food, want to export food to Japan, because they can't seemingly sell anything else to Japan. That is also true for many nations in southeast Asia. They do not have enough food for themselves, but in order to gain foreign exchange, they want to sell fish and agricultural products. So the conclusion seems to be that there is enough food around for anybody with enough money to buy it.

If we think we can help the poor by

cutting down on our consumption of food or raw materials, we are mistaken. If we eat less our farmers at home sell less and have less money to buy our industrial products, which puts people out of work, slows down the economy, and makes everybody poor. If we import less from the poor developing countries, they have less money to buy energy and fertilizer to produce food, also they can't buy industrialized products and so stay backwards and poor.

Now, if we invest money in the poor countries and build factories there, so the people will have jobs and money and thus food, then they will swamp us with cheap industrial products, which take away our jobs and ability to buy food.

We could give away food. I know many wheat farmers in western Canada who would love to give some of their wheat to the poor in India, but there doesn't seem to be any way to get it to them. Also it is not a long-term solution.

If anybody thinks he has a good solution, I would like to hear about it. But in the meantime I would like to point out that we have left God out of all our economic planning. We think we can solve the world's problems through science and economics. There are many world conferences on the present economic order and the food situations. But they cannot come up with any real solutions. And also we won't, as long as we leave God out of the picture. We must recognize that our economic welfare is dependent on God's blessing. We need to put God back into his rightful place as the Lord of our lives and as the rightful ruler of our society. We can embark on projects similar to Manhattan or Appollo, but they won't succeed if we leave God out of it. Reimer Clausen, Missionary in Japan.

INSIGHT INTO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Continued from page 19)

On Saturday the congregation and community participated in this venture.

A few weeks later, Debbie was invited to a party the club had planned. After the refreshments were served, Ted handed Debbie an envelope saying, "We want you to have this because we care about you!" In the envelope was a card and fifty dollars the club had earned.

So, when all is said and done, how can I help but believe that a life in mission begins with the child? □

WOMAN'S WORLD

(Continued from page 15)

girls and three boys. All are grown now, all have positions of responsibility in

Cameroon or abroad. Among their children are some who are doctors, one daughter is a representative on the National Assembly of Cameroon. Another daughter teaches at Saker Baptist College and is active in C.B.C. youth and women's work.

Because of their consistent and loving service for so many years, both Mr. and Mrs. Martin are looked to for advice and stability and regarded with affectionate respect.

Mrs. Hannah Martin shares: "I accepted Christ as my personal Savior when I was in the last class in school, but my contact with early missionary friends helped me to experience in a personal way that though we sin, the mercy of God still gives salvation through a personal belief and acceptance of Christ. Bible reading and prayer are my strongest weapons, and Matthew 7:8 has made me what I am. Thanks be to the Lord Almighty for allowing me the privilege of asking, seeking and finding.

"My desire is in the Lord's request that we feed his sheep, and again he said, 'feed my lambs.' With the strength from him, I endeavor to indulge in promoting all Sunday school and women's work anywhere in Cameroon. My little group of New Life Club in our church is doing well."

Mrs. Martin also served for several years as a member-at-large on the executive of the Women's Union of Africa. She currently operates a nursery school for Victoria preschoolers.

Perhaps you are beginning to realize the diversity evident not only in our Women's Union Executive but among Cameroonian women in general. The fact that our Baptist women work together in continuing harmony is a further tribute to their sincere desire to serve the Lord and to do all things to his glory.

Mrs. Susannah Ndagason (nn-dang-a-san) is the secretary-treasurer. She lives in a grasslands village called Wum. Because of its isolated location, she faces a taxi ride of several hours over rough roads every time she comes to Bamenda for meetings or consultation with the women's advisor.

Susannah's husband is a nurse in charge of all the nursing services at the government hospital at Wum. They have ten children. She herself is active in her church and her Association and also works full-time as a nurse!

This is her testimony: "I am married to a Catholic man, and the Lord has blessed us with so many children. Both of us are trying to be active in our denominations. He always donates heavily in my church and I do the same to his own. I have had no problem with my deliveries. But there have been little

problems at home which the Lord has helped us through prayers. I came to know Christ when I was very small, and I was baptized in 1945. I was very small then. I was the first Baptist child to be baptized. I came to know Christ through my parents. I hold the post of secretary-treasurer in the Women's Union. The work is difficult. I need prayers to help me do my work."

After meeting these four women, you can see that our Cameroon Baptist women have strong and faithful leadership. The Women's Union Executive meets twice a year at Bamenda, when they determine policy, set long-range and short-term goals, set up a budget and establish programs and promotion. The missionary women are no more and no less than equal members of the committee.

During the course of the year the executive committee members try to visit all of the women's groups in Cameroon. Each member meets with a certain number of Associations or individual women's meetings, traveling either by mission Land Rover, if it can be arranged, or by taxi. This visible support and encouragement helps to tie the women of the Convention together.

All of these women have a strong Christian testimony, whether they express it in English, Pidgin or a vernacular language. We are grateful for the opportunity of knowing them. Through them we have become more aware of the universality and the uniqueness of the Word of God and the brotherhood of his people.

The women of the Women's Union Executive Committee—Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri, Mrs. Fridah Abraham, Mrs. Hannah Martin and Mrs. Susannah Ndagason—need our prayers to support them in their vital ministry with the women of Cameroon. □

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“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection, aid and favors . . . that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of the country, and for all great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.”

—George Washington