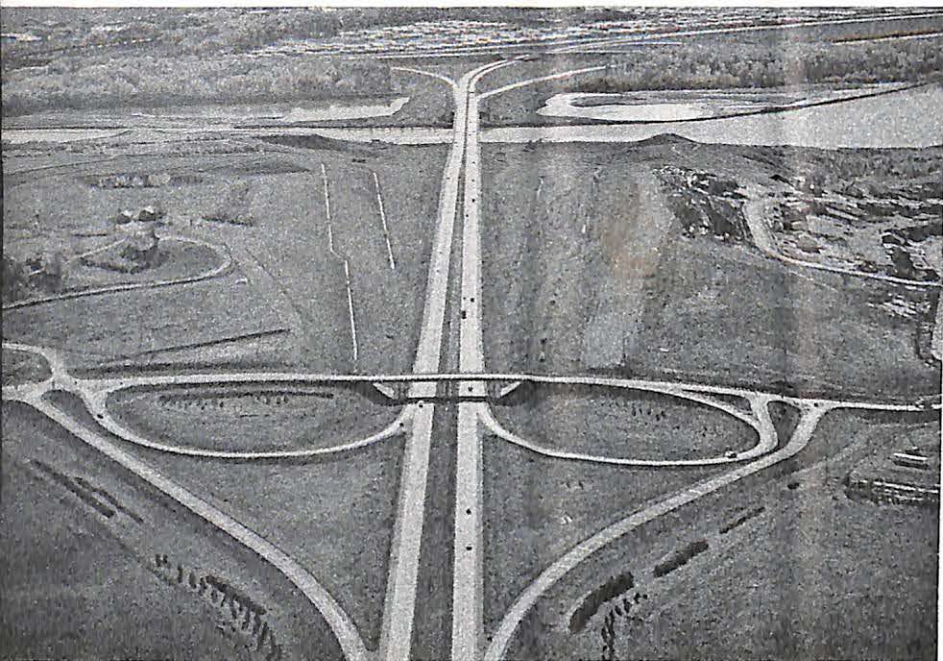


# baptist herald

September 1978







## COME TO BISMARCK!

North Dakota's capital city welcomes North American Baptists. You'll find the city of Bismarck a warm blend of people and things to do and see. North Dakotans are proud of their open spaces, their farms and ranches, their varied heritage and of their capital city.

The 1979 Triennial Conference of North American Baptist churches will add to the fascination of the activities in Bismarck.

Travel to Bismarck in convenience with three major airlines and arrive at a modern airport. Travel to Bismarck by car and you will be enjoying one of the best highway systems of North America. Travel to Bismarck by **Amtrak** train and you will be fascinated by the seemingly endless prairie and softly rolling hills. A simple natural beauty is embodied in North Dakota's rugged Badlands, rippling grasslands and fertile soils of the Red River Valley.

Bring your camera along...you'll have your share of flora and fauna to see and photograph wherever you visit. For a closer look at animals from every corner of North Dakota or from around the world visit one of the zoos in Bismarck, Minot, Wahpeton and Medora.

When you travel in North Dakota, pull off the road for a moment. Stop. Look. Breathe the fragrance of pure, fresh air. Listen to the sounds of nature. — And then get ready to meet about 3,500 North American Baptists at the Bismarck Civic Center. From July 10-15, 1979, members from about 350 N.A.B. churches will be gathering at the Civic Center. The 1979 Triennial Conference has the theme, "Building Relationship Through Christ."

Dr. Stephen Olford, president of **Encounter Ministries**, Holmes Beach, FL, will be the keynote speaker on July 10.

Lloyd Omdahl, professor of Political Science at University of North Dakota and director of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs, will be the speaker during the Stewardship Night, on Wednesday, July 11.

Other speakers are the Reverends Herman Effa and Peter Unrau from Benton Harbor, MI, and Warren, MI, respectively.

The Bible studies every morning will be conducted by the Rev. Ben Haden, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, TN. His radio ministry, "Changed Lives," is heard all over Canada, USA and in the Bahamas.

There will also be reports of all of the cooperating agencies of the N.A.B. Conference, stimulating and important business sessions, inspiring music, special programs for children and youth, luncheons and a multitude of workshops to choose from.

Don't miss the "Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social" on Saturday night, a family event in true North Dakota fashion, which will be topped with the presentation of a musical.

Come, and discover that Bismarck and the Triennial Conference will leave you with unforgettable memories.

**Note: Watch in the forthcoming BAPTIST HERALD issues for more information on North Dakota, Bismarck and Triennial Conference features.**



Bismarck Civic Center

# baptist herald

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September 1978

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## news Flash

### Worship In China Fulfills Dream

RUESCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND—"Last Sunday I worshipped in China with a group of Baptist Christians," Dr. William R. Tolbert, President of the Republic of Liberia, said in a church service here July 2.

Reporting that the occasion "Fulfilled a dream that I have had since I was President of the Baptist World Alliance," he told of attending the gathering while on a recent state visit in the Peoples's Republic of China.

He stated that it was not without difficulties that the arrangements were made, "but they were made," he emphasized.

Dr. Tolbert, President of the Baptist World Alliance from 1965-70, was speaking in a service of the Ruschlikon Baptist Church during a stopover following his official visit to the Chinese People's Republic. He was accompanied by Madame Neh Dukuly-Tolbert, Liberia's Ambassador to France and Switzerland; and by Liberian Consul-General Rolf Jaillet. □



# 1978 General Council Meets

by Barbara Binder

The 1978 General Council sessions with 102 council members, Association moderators and visitors in attendance made a number of major decisions affecting our N.A.B. Conference ministries and missions. The sessions, ably led by Dr. Kenneth Fischer, Lodi, CA, moderator, and Dr. Peter Fehr, Minneapolis, MB, vice moderator, were held at the O'Hare Kennedy Holiday Inn, Rosemont, IL.

The most radical departure from Conference policy came when a recommendation concerning the N.A.B. College and N.A.B. Seminary was approved on a three year basis. This involves giving the Boards of Trustees of the College and the Seminary "the opportunity of determining their own operating budgets, plus the responsibility of raising funds in the amounts of their budgets beyond approved denominational subsidy. Any staff or program expansion beyond that necessary to carry on presently approved program must have prior General Council approval." Each salary committee of each school will determine its own job classifications, set the salary lines, establish salary ranges and fringe benefits . . . and be responsible for the full administration of their salary program, subject to the approval of their respective boards. The actions or plans are to be reported to the General Council annually. Capital endowment funds drives are to have prior approval of the General Council. The annual fund raising efforts by both the College and the Seminary are to be coordinated with the Conference Department of Stewardship and Communications.

Prior to this, the schools recommended their budgets to the Finance and Stewardship Committee which determined how much subsidy would be given through the Conference budget. The Salary Committee of the General Council developed the salary scale for the schools and then recommended it to the General Council for approval. Now the schools will have their own salary committees to determine their salaries, without General Council action.

The Council raised the Capital Funds campaign goal from \$3,200,000 to \$3,300,000, postponed the drive from 1978 to 1979 until the time of the triennial conference, and engaged the Russ Reid Company, Pasadena, CA, to assist with the campaign. This company will also conduct a survey of our constituency to determine what programs our people want to support, expand or discontinue. \$400,000 of the Capital Funds drive is to be used to replenish the Denominational Budget Reserve, and \$650,000 goes to each of the N.A.B. Conference co-



On Friday night, all General Council members and guests met around dinner tables. From l-r: Arthur Fischer, J.C. Gunst, John Binder, Barbara Binder, Fred Mashner.



Vice moderator, Peter Fehr, led some of the Council sessions.

operating organizations: missions, church extension, the Seminary and the College.

A budget of \$3,500,000 was adopted for 1979, which is a 10% increase over the 1978 budget.

The Council approved having Dr. Reinhold Kerstan visit some of the cities with concentrated German church work to sound out the churches about discontinuing *Der Sendbote* and offering a translation of the "N.A.B. News" into German for those churches who request it. This would take effect in 1979 if acceptable. Several council members reported some preliminary negative feedback concerning discontinuing *Der Sendbote*.

The Council engaged Management Programs, Inc., for the purpose of a performance audit of the N.A.B. Conference operations. This is to determine if the Conference is achieving its objectives in the most efficient and economical manner.

"N.A.B. News" has been reduced to 10 issues a year as an economy measure.

The recommendations concerning ministerial compensation by N.A.B. churches was approved by the council. (The complete recommendation and results of the 1978 survey are printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Baptist Herald*.)

Since the Denominational Reserves have been depleted during the past four years and since it is necessary that the Conference maintain fiscal integrity, "in the event that the 1978 and/or 1979 operating budgets are not met, the Finance and Stewardship Committee is permitted to take steps necessary to reduce funding in any or all departments in consultation with the department heads and submit the recommendation to the General Council by mail ballot."

A recommendation that an individual may serve only in one capacity as a Conference officer, General Council member, board member or as a salaried employee, except by virtue of office, was referred back to the Conference Planning Committee.

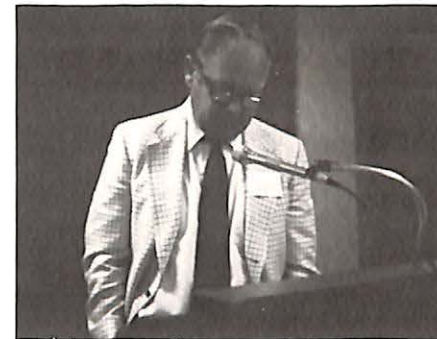
Gerald Scheel and Klaus Hildebrandt of Edmonton were appointed to the Board of Trustees of the N.A.B. College by the Council to fill the unexpired terms until the Triennial Conference of Bert E. Milner and Ron Mayforth, who resigned due to vocational transfers.

Bruce Rich was appointed to serve as Proxy for G. K. Zimmerman at the General Council meeting of the Baptist World Alliance, July 13-17, 1978, in Manila, Philippines, since he would be there for the Youth Congress anyway.

(Continued on page 6)



G.K. Zimmerman, executive secretary, and Ken Fischer, moderator, listen attentively as reports are given.



Richard Russell, vice chairman, Finance and Stewardship Committee, presented recommendations from that committee, in absence of Chairman Ed Streuber.



The General Council in session.



Wayne Peterson, academic dean, reported that the 1978 N.A.B. Seminary graduating class was the largest in history.



Jack Wobig, chairman of the Seminary board of trustees, presenting the new concept of raising funds for the schools.



Joe Sonnenberg, president, N.A.B. College, described Canada as "being in a state of ferment at the present time: politically, due to the unity question; economically, due especially to the oil boom; religiously, due to a religious vacuum."



Ron Norman, general arrangements chairman for the 1979 Triennial Conference to be held in Bismarck, ND, answered the question, "Can any thing good come out of Bismarck?" "1,000 motel rooms have been reserved in Bismarck for the Conference. Many pastors, missionaries and God's Volunteers have come from North Dakota. Norman did state the things Bismarck does not have: "Doesn't have any congestion, no hectic airport terminals, no confusing freeway exits, no 30 minute drives from the convention center to the hotel, no smoggy, exhaust laden air, and we have had no difficult decisions to make as to which convention facility to use. All are invited to Bismarck."

## Isador Fraszter, Northern Area secretary, stated during the Council sessions:

"Never in history have Christians had as much as we now have in Canada and the U.S.A. Never have Christians known such luxury. Never have Christians spent so lavishly on themselves. What accountability we face! Never have Christians and Christianity been on trial as we are today in Canada and the U.S.A. I greatly fear that we find ourselves in the same debilitating crisis as did the Laodicean church. The message they communicated to our Lord was "We are rich and increased in goods and have lack of nothing." In their minds they were achievers, but in the eyes of our Lord, they were in a devastating crisis, failing their stewardship, and in danger of judgment. While we may have few, if any churches, who would make the boast of the Laodiceans, yet there are many who wish they could and perhaps by far the majority are feverishly working towards that position.

"While it is fair to say that our churches have increased their giving substantially, and while this is commendable, yet it has not been in keeping with our prosperity. I am absolutely convinced that we have not given sacrificially. Mere tithing is a disgrace in our affluency. We must do much better. Our Lord sees the desperate needs in the world over against our abundance. And he cares greatly. Now he pleads. Later, perhaps not much later, he will judge.

"The crying need is for an Amos who CAN and WILL tell it like it is. No one can so effectively communicate the message to our constituency as the members of the General Council. No one knows the story better. No one has the credibility with your constituents as you do. We have been given a trust. Let us shoulder our responsibility in confidence, love and compassion."



Isador Faszer was appointed to replace Heinrich Go-liath as a member of the Abortion Committee which met August 10, 1978, in Sioux Falls, SD.

J. C. Gunst, Alfred Weisser, Herbert Stabbert and Wil Dachtler were reappointed as part-time estate planning counselors for 1979.

Action on a request for approval of the appointment of an associate secretary in charge of business services by the Board of Missions was deferred until 1979, when a performance audit of the N.A.B. Conference operations will be completed.

Short-term missionaries were granted the authority to raise \$8,000 for their overseas passage.

The Church Extension Department was authorized to increase its borrowing against the Church Extension Revolving Fund from 25% of its equity to 35% of its equity and to pledge the mortgages of the fund as collateral.

The Council approved the concept known as "Friends of the Conference" with the implementation of this to be developed by the Stewardship Department. This would involve a large number of people who would have a special interest in and concern for our Conference program. Special needs would be communicated to them, and then they would share these concerns with others in their area.

Paul Meister, Philadelphia, PA, was appointed to the Board of Missions to fill out the unexpired term of Gordon Thomas of Troy, MI.

The recommendation coming from the Board of Missions asking that the retirement age be raised to comply with the laws of the countries in which the general workers and faculty members of our N.A.B. College and Seminary are employed was referred to the Constitutional Change Committee for a recommendation. It was expressed that a ruling was needed before the Triennial Conference in 1979.

Douglas Floria, Lansing, MI, and Waldemar Kroguetz, Vancouver, BC, were appointed to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for a six-year term ending in 1984.

Joyce Terveen, Emery, SD, (1980), Jack Rosio, Glen Ellyn, IL, (1981) and Karen Grenz, Oakville, ON, (1981) were appointed to the Communications Committee.

B. C. Schreiber and Barbara J. Binder were continued as part-time editorial assistants for 1979, in view of the fact that no funds were available for a full-time communications assistant.

Executive Secretary G. K. Zimmerman expressed the joy he feels when he acknowledges contributions sent to the N.A.B. Conference missions and ministries budget thus being able to express the gratitude of persons on mission fields, who are grateful that they found Christ as Savior through contributions received to support the mission work. He also reported that we have less pastorless churches than last year, 28 instead of 40.

Conference treasurer, Milton Hildebrandt, pointed out that the reason the Conference budget goes up is due to the fact that the dollar lost 45% of its buying power in the last decade, and it is predicted that inflation will cut the value in half again in a decade, which means we would have to have a budget to exceed eight and one half million dollars in 10 years.

Hildebrandt believes that, as a Conference, we can reach the goal of \$3,200,000 for 1978, even though our financial problems are not solved, our reserves are not up to par, and there is not an adequate cash flow during the summer months. He gives this optimistic report based on the fact that in 1977 there was a super response from the members of the N.A.B. Conference. 1977 was the Conference's first million dollar year. It took 130 years, he said, to reach two million and just three years to reach three million dollars in giving to the Conference budget. Hildebrandt predicted that we will need to raise one and one half million dollars in November and December to meet the budget.

John Binder, secretary for stewardship and communications, gave an analysis of local church giving. He reported that 75% of the giving to each local church stays in the local church for its ministries. Twenty per cent is given for various N.A.B. Conference ministries; broken down it reads thus: 14.33% of a local church's budget is given to N.A.B. Conference missions and ministries budget; 4.20% to the N.A.B. Association for Church Extension and camp work; 1.19% for the N.A.B. College and Seminary, and 1.07% for capital funds; for example conference office building fund and World Relief, and 4.65 per cent of the local church giving goes to non-N.A.B. ministries. Binder pointed out that during the past four years this percentage of giving has not changed. He stated that if our people could be encouraged to tithe, it would have a dramatic impact on our work.

William F. Kresal, N.A.B. Office business administrator, reported that Wycliffe Bible Translators and Church Building Associates are leasing space in our International Office building since 1977. Kresal also reported that a new pension plan is being studied which would give participants the option to pay additional amounts into the fund rather than a fixed sum as at present.

Everett Barker, associate secretary for estate planning, reported that \$877,532 was the actual estate income that has been received by the Conference during the past nine years. He also reported that a Canadian Estate Planning Committee has been formed.

Connie Salios, associate secretary for stewardship, pointed out the results of the 1977-78 "Every Church Visit" feedback form which revealed that 98% of the responses indicated that the conference budget could be achieved or should be higher, and that the greatest felt need was that the Conference should provide help to strengthen the local church.

Richard Schilke, general secretary for missions, stated that due to the shortage of funds, no new missionaries could be appointed this year. Also, because \$15,000 were cut from the \$34,000 allotted for travel for missionary deputation, in order to reduce the budget, those requesting missionaries for assignments will be asked to pay 50% of the travel cost.

Fred Folkerts, associate secretary for overseas missions, stated that he is grateful that no major program had to be dropped in the African mission work and no missionaries had to be brought home in the face of rising inflation. Folkerts reported that there was a net gain of 3,000 members per year in the convention in Camer-

(Continued on page 27)

# God's Volunteers...A Year of Growth

by Marlene Ginter and Karen L. Trax

Tour is ended . . . churches quiet . . . team vans empty . . . but, memories linger on and experience doesn't just "fade away." We as God's volunteers have concluded our 1977-78 tour, and each one of us as team members can reflect upon a year full of growth as well as many rewarding experiences. We

would like to sincerely thank our N.A.B. churches for their financial and prayer support. For each of us this year has held special memories, and each member of the team would like to share personal recollections with you as well as goals fulfilled, future plans and aspirations.

## Connie Rogalski/Music Section

"For I am confident of this very thing, that he who has begun a good work in you will continue to perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). If I had to describe my two exciting years on God's Volunteers in a couple of words, those would be "growing pains". This year I've realized more than ever how important trials are in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Just because I'm one of God's children doesn't mean I'm exempt from the hurts. However, the difference is that each trial turns into a triumph, when I recognize the purpose in God's over-all plan for me, although I may not understand it at the time. This has comforted me many times this year, and I now realize that one can't grow physically or spiritually without "growing pains."

## Brenda Moser/Follow-Up Section

What a tremendous impact God's Volunteers has had upon my life! This experience has given many opportunities to share with others about their needs; it has made me aware of the many lonely and depressed people there are in the world. I've found a genuine love for people, as I've shared Christ with them. The training I've received has given me confidence and excitement in sharing my faith as well as the joy and peace of knowing I am in God's will.

I thank each and everyone who has been an added joy in my life during the year.

## Bruce Felten/Music Section

One of the goals I set for myself this year was learning to share my faith in Christ in a effective way. It's been exciting to see the results, for God has revealed different gifts and abilities that I can use to glorify His name. Also, being on the music section, working with eight others daily, has been quite an experience. I appreciate the "common bond" that we have as God's children. I've been blessed in many ways this year, but most of all I praise him for "all his little children".

## LeAnn Williams/Follow-Up Section

One goal of mine at the beginning of the tour was to learn to love people more sincerely whether they be black,

white, rich or poor. God has given me many chances to work with that goal. He especially taught me, when we as a team were in the inner-city section of Philadelphia, where I saw many people not as fortunate as myself. I saw filth, fear, people of broken homes and slums. During that time God gave me a sincere love, took away my fear and showed me that his perfect love for those people was just as great as the love he had for me. He continues to show me this daily. This fall I'm looking forward to returning to N.A.B. College to see how God will allow me to further share his love with others.

many lives that have touched and encouraged me in many ways. I know that God placed me on the '77-'78 team to touch others, but also for my own personal growth.

## Lynnette Hochhalter/Music Section

I was looking forward to the many ways the Lord would use me in sharing with people in our N.A.B. churches, and as I look back it's these people who have made a tremendous impact on my life! These new friends have challenged and encouraged me; and for that I am very grateful. Next year, as I return to Sioux Falls College in South Dakota,



God's Volunteers 1977-78

## Bill Kosachuk/Music Section

One important thing about my year on God's Volunteers is what I've learned about the necessity of fellowship with other Christians. In my own life, there were times when I wanted to just "hang it all up," run away and hide. It was at times like these when other team members as well as church members encouraged me. I definitely believe in praising fellow Christians for good work and hard effort. This has really given me a feeling of self worth. I may not ever know just how many lives I've touched, but I do know that there are

my desire is to keep on allowing Christ to lead in my life, so that I may be used in his work. The greatest blessing in life is to be able to serve Jesus Christ totally.

## Jim Calamunce/Follow-Up Section

As I look back on these last nine months, I have experienced real growth in realizing God's promises. One of these promises is found in John 16:24 when Jesus tells us that he will answer prayers and guide us in his perfect will. God's faithfulness was made real to me

(Continued on page 28)



# Recommendations From the General Council to N.A.B. Churches Regarding Ministerial Compensation

1. That the responsibility for an annual review of the minister's compensation be officially delegated to a duly constituted committee or board of the church. This annual review should take into consideration the salary increase needed in an inflationary economy to keep one's purchasing power from decreasing as well as raises deserved for effective service, added experience and education.

2. That a minister's salary at least equal that of the community's wage scale for public school administrators and secondary teachers requiring equivalent education, experience, responsibility and accountability.

3. That ministers receive due consideration for salary increases even during church building programs and heavy indebtedness periods.

4. That churches assume their rightful responsibilities for automobile expense. If a church expects its minister to use a car for church business, it should either provide one for his use or pay a mileage allowance.

5. That churches assume full payment of their minister's other legitimate business expenses incurred through:

- Representing the church at Association and Triennial Conference sessions.
- Hosting guest speakers and prospective members.
- Serving an Association camping program.
- Participating in minister's retreats or conferences.
- Carrying out of his office responsibilities such as purchase of letterhead, stamps, supplies and materials.

NOTE: The expenses referred to in No. 4 and 5 above should not be regarded as part of the minister's salary as they are, in the truest sense, expenses of church operation.

6. That each church pay in full its minister's annual dues to the Conference Pension Fund and offer him a minimum of 8 percent additional assistance to enable him to participate in governmental and/or private retirement programs which are necessary to provide adequately for his retirement years.

7. That a portion of the minister's compensation be designated as "Housing Allowance" to enable him to benefit from income tax provisions. This will differ where a pastor owns his home or a parsonage is provided.

NOTE: The following book is available on request:  
*Minister's Parsonage Allowance and Social Security.*

8. That the minister's compensation package be arranged to take advantage of all income tax benefits allowable by law.

9. That the churches provide \$300 or more per year for continuing education for ministers. This annual amount should be allowed to accumulate for a period of up to three years.

10. That each U.S.A. church pay the premium for the N.A.B. group hospitalization insurance for the minister's family. That each Canadian church pay for necessary provincial hospitalization programs.

11. Churches are encouraged, where possible, to allow their ministers to purchase their own home. If this is not possible, then provision should be made for building up equity for future housing needs.

12. That churches which are not able financially to meet most of the above recommendations should consider pooling resources with other nearby N.A.B. churches in congregational mergers or becoming one of two or more churches served by the same minister.

NOTE: The following are some illustrations of what some churches are doing to implement point #11:

- Giving the pastor the option to purchase the parsonage at a later date at the market value when the agreement was made.
- Loaning the pastor the down payment money at a low interest rate or at no interest rate.
- Providing a tax sheltered annuity of at least \$1200 a year in addition to the salary, because it isn't feasible to sell the parsonage which is located on church property.

These recommendations were adopted in 1978 by the General Council of the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

TABLE 1 — TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO SIZE OF CHURCH

(Includes basic cash salary, housing allowance and rental value of parsonage if provided, retirement and insurance benefits, social security benefits, medical and hospitalization premiums, gifts and car allowance.)

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1978 Average	1976 Average	1974 Average
0-99	87	\$21,130	\$ 6,480	\$15,488	\$11,841	\$ 9,615
100-199	74	24,135	11,040	15,835	13,591	10,604
200-299	31	26,260	12,675	18,664	15,351	12,614
300-399	10	21,170	18,350	20,252	17,324	13,950
400-499	8	25,309	19,500	21,894	18,594	13,764
500 & up	10	26,450	19,625	20,030	19,998	17,832
Asst. & DCE	27	21,723	12,000	15,150	13,045	10,417

247\*

Total Responses

\*13 additional forms were returned invalid including 8 indicating part-time service.

TABLE 2 — TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES

(Pastors, Assistants and D.C.E.'s)

ITEMS — 1978 Survey	No. of Responses	Average per Category
1. Basic cash salary	247	\$10,282
2. Total housing allowance	146	3,026
3. Estimated annual rental value of parsonage	162	3,204
4. Retirement and insurance benefits	137	588
5. Social Security provisions	52	562
6. Medical and hospitalization premiums	117	911
7. Gifts from members	98	177
8. Car allowance	179	1,689
9. Additional compensation by church	61	348

TABLE 3 — BASIC CASH SALARY

(only includes item one in table 2)

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1978 Average	1976 Average	1974 Average
0-99	87	\$12,988	\$ 3,300	\$ 9,306	\$ 7,404	\$ 6,132
100-199	74	15,225	5,046	9,278	8,744	6,853
200-299	31	17,450	7,800	11,811	9,642	8,369
300-399	10	19,500	8,320	13,206	11,738	9,104
400-499	8	20,470	11,477	15,000	11,550	9,252
500 & up	10	20,000	10,190	14,047	11,601	11,149
Asst. & DCE	27	15,986	7,225	10,731	8,792	7,413

TABLE 4 — MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ITEMS — 1978 Survey	No. of Responses	Amount
1. Average annual fees from weddings, funerals, etc.	154	\$ 137
2. Average estimated annual car expense	211	2,238
3. Number receiving an expense account	37	
4. Frequency of salary increases in last two years	None 18 Once 56 Twice 145 Three Times 3 Four Times 1	
5. Number of pastors depending on other income to take care of family needs	105	
6. Number of pastors' wives working	81	



TABLE 1 — TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO SIZE OF CHURCH

(Includes basic cash salary, housing allowance and rental value of parsonage if provided, retirement and insurance benefits, social security benefits, medical and hospitalization premiums, gifts and car allowance.)

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1978 Average	1976 Average
0-99	28	\$19,145	\$ 9,300	\$15,039	\$11,701
100-199	24	24,135	12,622	16,581	14,931
200-299	5	20,652	13,650	18,310	14,111
300-399	3	21,160	19,900	20,727	19,363
400-499	4	22,829	19,500	20,957	16,658
500 & up	2	24,279	20,650	22,464	18,858
Asst & DCE	8	18,912	13,400	15,366	12,649

74\*

Total Responses

\*One additional form returned indicating part-time service.

TABLE 2 — TOTAL COMPENSATION ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES (Pastors, Assistants and D.C.E.'s)

ITEMS — 1978 Survey	No. of Responses	Average per Category
1. Basic cash salary	74	\$10,573
2. Total housing allowance	35	2,986
3. Estimated annual rental value of parsonage	48	3,760
4. Retirement and insurance benefits	38	344
5. Social Security provisions	14	243
6. Medical and hospitalization premiums	15	211
7. Gifts from members	24	179
8. Car allowance	65	2,154
9. Additional compensation by church	22	276

TABLE 3 — BASIC CASH SALARY

(only includes item one in table 2)

Church Size	No. of Responses	High	Low	1978 Average	1976 Average
0-99	28	\$11,575	\$ 4,380	\$ 8,933	\$ 7,256
100-199	24	15,225	5,400	9,902	9,141
200-299	5	15,042	8,700	12,096	9,506
300-399	3	19,500	13,850	17,316	13,700
400-499	4	20,470	13,200	16,480	13,250
500 & up	2	14,539	14,000	14,269	12,008
Asst & DCE	8	15,912	7,800	10,968	9,059

74

TABLE 4 — MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ITEMS — 1978 Survey	No. of Responses	Amount
1. Average annual fees from weddings, funerals, etc.	40	\$ 93
2. Average estimated annual car expense	61	2,354
3. Number receiving an expense account	61	
4. Frequency of salary increases in last two years	None	2
	Once	16
	Twice	45
	Three Times	1
	Four Times	0
5. Number of pastors depending on other income to take care of family needs	22	
6. Number of pastors' wives working	16	

## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE



by Bill Loge

Ever wish you'd said nothing? Just what we didn't need. . . . We were trying to be honest—to share a bit of a personal struggle . . . and do we feel foolish now! Should we now allow the pendulum to swing to the other side and to vow to “clam up” about our weaknesses? No, that won't do either. But how then can we fulfill the exercise of James 5:15, 16, “The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” Before suggesting a remedy to deal with indiscriminate listeners, let us consider James 5:15, 16.

James 5:16 is often used to draw attention to the value of “energetic prayers.” However, a closer look at verse 16 and the previous verses reveal that the emphasis is on the “righteous man” more than the ferventness of the prayer. Notice how verses 15 and 16 both speak of healing. The healing is both physical and spiritual. Confession of sin to God is implied in verse 15, where we find the promise that our sins “will be forgiven.”

But the confession is to be brought one step further. We are to confess our sins to men also (16). This passage does not establish a basis for confession to be

*The Rev. Bill Loge is a vocalist and deeper life conference speaker. He previously pastored First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND.*

made to a “religious figure,” but rather it suggests that believers should be admitting shortcomings and demonstrating a genuine and humble spirit of confession to fellow believers. Don't miss the important response to this exercise in humility: “Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” We should not “read into” someone's confession something that is not there; nor should we depreciate the pointedness of someone's need. Taking a sincere confession at face value, we should in turn enter into a sincere prayer response with our brother or sister. It's partly because of a dearth of this kind of “confession and prayer” that our prayers are not effective, for it is in this context that James pens God's truth that prayer can “accomplish much.”

Nice theory, huh? But how to implement it . . . ? We could tend to misuse this “confession and prayer” passage. The subtle scheming of Satan would attempt to get us to fall for harmful extremes. James 5:16 tells us what to do, but 1 Cor. 14:40 does suggest carefulness and thoughtfulness when believers interact with each other. It says, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” Let me suggest an application of James 5:16 (the need to confess faults) that would involve us on three levels of interaction and that might also help us to fulfill the spirit of 1 Cor. 14:40.



The first level is to our church body. It's good for members of a congregation to hear us acknowledge that we are sinners and to hear us also express gratitude to God for our Savior. But a spirit of confession and humility can be shown in other ways as well, such as the very way we “present” and “handle” ourselves before the congregation. Our vocal testimony doesn't go too far if we carry a “proud and superior” spirit where we go. A business meeting loses its chill and becomes so much more pleasant, when in the midst of a controversial discussion a leader exclaims, “Well, you might just be right; I've been wrong before!”

Furthermore, in our Bible classes we can convey a humble and teachable spirit before others that shows others we don't think that we've arrived at “moral perfection.” One caution: The Apostle

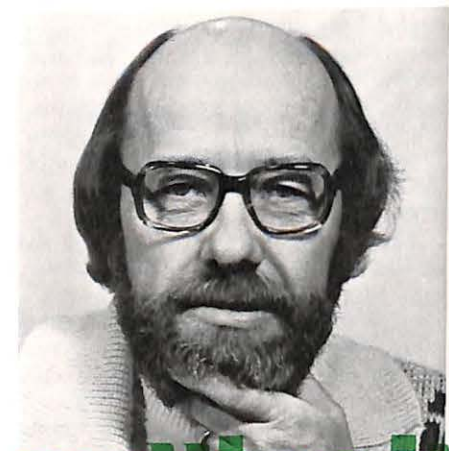
Paul did say that he was “chief” among sinners—and yet he did not elaborate publicly so much on his sin and the details of it, so as to render it a distraction for the church. A. McNab writes: “Indiscriminate confession is like sowing germs of disease in the minds and lives of others.”

Secondly, our confession should be applied in a smaller group setting—perhaps with five to ten people, such as a Sunday school class or a small Bible study, where you know the people better. A party atmosphere is not very conducive to “confession and prayer.” It should be in a serious setting among friends. A spirit of “confidence keeping” is important, but conversations should not become so personal that if something is repeated on the outside it would be seriously harmful. It is proper for a leader to remind the group to “leave these needs with God in prayer.” In such a setting young parents would feel comfortable to share a difficulty in their home, a new Christian might confess his resentment toward being baptized, or an older Christian might share his loss of faith and indifference to Bible reading. Honesty, acceptance and concern in confessions go a long way in building unity and preparing us for powerful prayers.

Thirdly and finally, as we grow in Christ, we should learn to cultivate a personal relationship with another believer, with whom we can “confess our sins and pray with.” A grandmother told me that she felt something special was missing in the human relationships of today as compared to 50 years ago. She said that a very close spiritual relationship with a friend sustained her through severe strain over the years. I believe she had something! Often it seems as though we have many cordial friends, but few really personal friends with whom we can share our most intimate and honest thoughts and needs. This should be in addition to our marriage mate and relatives. Be careful! This can't be done overnight. The one who is the easiest to talk to and the most sympathetic might not be the best one to share your most personal thoughts with. Test the relationship over a period of time, gradually growing in your mutual trust. You should sense a spirit of equality and respect. The confessions should be reciprocal as should be the prayers.

The need for confession of sins to God and to one another is sorely ignored by too many believers today. We must see that “confession” leads to a “mature unity” within the body of Christ and that it enables us to pray prayers that accomplish much. Let's not just “see” this truth, but let us “apply” it in a way that will glorify God. □





## putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

All over the country we have just completed many different kinds of graduation exercises. Before me I have a copy of the Sunday paper, and on one page there are the photographs of 24 young people who were listed by their high school faculty as valedictorians—that is, the top students in their classes. These young people come from various schools of Eastern South Dakota, and it is not a complete list.

What struck me, as I looked at this

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

## book reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

**The Heart of Paul.** By Ben Campbell Johnson, Waco, TX. Word Books. \$5.95. In order to appreciate this book the reader should be introduced to the author by reading his previous volume, *You are Somebody*.

Mr. Johnson refers to his work as a relational paraphrase of the New Testament. His approach to truth, he says, is discovered and expressed through his relationship to God. For example he paraphrases Rom. 6:17 thus: "Thank God that whereas you used to be enslaved by a lifestyle that does not recognize God, now in your inmost be-

group of students, is that out of this group of 24 academic leaders, 19 are young women and five are young men. I'm not at all sure that the percentages (79/21) would show this imbalance throughout the country, but it is likely this could be the case.

What is the meaning, if there is any, of this list? I feel the meaning is this: the women of our society are becoming more and more competent, and by comparison, our men are becoming less competent.

Why is this happening, and what is the meaning of it? There are many reasons why it is happening, if we think in terms of the broad social, cultural, economic and technological factors which are moving in our society. I will not attempt to answer this question in this broad context, but rather I will narrow it down to a matter of attitudes.

In Galatians 5:22-23 the Apostle Paul says: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: against such there is no law."

I feel that for several reasons women in general give better evidence of the attitudes that are, or are comparable to those, characterized by the fruit of the Spirit. Paul says there is no law against such. That means anyone who exemplifies these characteristics will thrive. God's blessing will fall upon such individuals.

For many generations we have trained women to be loyal and faithful; but at the same time artificial barriers were placed so they could not achieve to their full potential. Today those artificial barriers have either been removed or greatly weakened. As a result the faithfulness and commitment is paying off for

ing you have responded to his offer of unconditional love. Free now from your old state of being and way of life, you have chosen to serve God and live a new life."

The author describes his intention as "somewhere between a careful paraphrase and a one-line commentary . . . more interpretive than exacting."

And approach to truth through a relationship to God leaves something to be desired in a paraphrase. An emotional relationship does not qualify a person to tamper with the Word of God, and a purely intellectual relationship lacks the warmth and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fortunately Ben Johnson has both an emotional and intellectual relationship and interprets the Good News in terms that appeal to the present generation. He makes no claim to scholarship, although he has high academic qualifications.

women, and they are literally surging ahead of men!

What will this mean for our society? I feel as a group, men, young and old, will handle it poorly. I predict that men, as a group, will respond with behavior patterns that will be like those Paul describes in Galatians 5:19-21.

The answer for individual men is that they too must seek to develop attitudes that God can bless, and then there will be no difficulty.

I predict that the future will have more turmoil in this regard, but it is not because freedom and opportunity for women are bad, but because men as a general group will respond immaturely to the way women are blossoming in the present warm climate of freedom. □

Please send me the following tape cassettes:

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- ☐ The Christian & Self-Image (Side 1)
- ☐ Families In Chaos (Side 2)
- ☐ Assertion Without Hostility

Cost: \$4.00 each (postpaid)  
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Send your orders with payment to: Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, North American Baptist Seminary, 1605 S. Euclid Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**The Peacemakers.** By Ella May Miller, Old Tappan, NJ. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$6.95.

Through her radio program, and in her previous books, *Heart to Heart* and *The Joy of Housekeeping*, Mrs. Miller speaks to women. *The Peace Makers*, however, speaks to all Christians, even though she dedicated the book to women and writes from a woman's perspective.

Writing in a pleasant *peaceful* style, the author fills her book with down-to-earth and true-to-life experiences, which sometimes seem to be too idealistic. People who have strong, personal convictions may feel that these are more important to them than peaceful settlements at too great a cost. They must decide whether preserving their ego is more important than preserving the peace.

## youth SCHOOL

# WILL YOU EVER BE GREAT AT ANYTHING?

by Carlo Walth

If you've had dreams of being great, you are very normal. I've always wanted to be great at something. Living in such a competitive society challenges us to be very good at whatever it is we set out to do. While we are young, it is very natural to dream all kinds of dreams of greatness. I have dreamed of being the greatest baseball player ever—and the greatest guitar player ever. Perhaps your dreams have been similar in the areas of your own unique interests and abilities. But there comes a time when we need to sift through our hopes and dreams for greatness to determine just what is really possible for us. It didn't take me long to realize that neither baseball nor guitar playing were areas in which I would prove to be anywhere near the greatest. You know, it would be pretty easy to get to thinking, "If I can't be the greatest at *something*, then I really don't amount to much of *anything*." Surely you have confronted this fearful thought. Is it possible that you and I are overlooking the most accessible opportunity to be great—the most worthy kind of greatness possible? It is the opportunity of every Christian to be *great for God*. What could be more fulfilling than responding to the invitation of Jesus, to be concerned with that which has lasting and eternal value, as opposed to that which is temporary (Matt. 6:19-20)!

Perhaps we fail to realize the poten-

Carlo Walth is a student at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. He and his wife, Jean Ann, are serving the First Baptist Church of George, IA, in youth and music.

tial God gives each of us to be great for him. It may seem that there are only a select few who can amount to anything great for God. Not so! If we look at those in the Bible whom we consider to be "great for God," we can see something they all had in common that is the key to amounting to any kind of greatness in God's sight. These people demonstrate the need for and practice of a quiet time alone with God. Moses' fellowship with God is described in Exodus 33:11 as "face to face" and as "a man speaks to his friend." In Psalm 63:1 we see David in his seeking, thirsting and yearning after fellowship with God. Even Jesus had a quiet time of prayer alone with God the father "in the early



Carlo and Jean Ann Walth.

morning while it was still dark" (Mark 1:35). The personal lives of men of greatness in our recent church history never fail to show the important place that a quiet, personal time with the Lord had in their lives. If all of these have depended so heavily on personal fellowship with God, surely it is an indication of its central importance in their being "great for God."

What I've said this far is all fine and good—except I'm sorry to have to say that having a regular quiet time with God is a difficult discipline for many. I'm sorry to say that it has continually been an extremely difficult thing for me to maintain in my own Christian life. And I'm sorry to say that, on the average, nine out of ten Christian young people do not have what they themselves consider to be "an effective daily quiet time with God."

Allow me to be blunt. You and I are missing out in our Christian lives when we fail to seek after a special, intimate fellowship with God. Without it we will never be "great for God." How serious are you about amounting to anything at all in your Christian life? When you consider the personal fulfillment and eternal value involved in developing our fellowship relationship with God, we need to be very serious about it.

Have you *seriously* considered that perhaps you need to get up 20 minutes

earlier each day, or set aside that time slot in your schedule and make a point of spending it alone with God? Have you *seriously* gone out of your way to look over the shelf in your nearby Bible book store, to find that there are dozens of contemporary and youthful helps and guides to encourage and challenge you in your quiet time? Are you *serious* enough to find someone you respect, young or old, who would covenant with you to pray for you and regularly check up on you, in order to help keep you going?

In my own life, I'm *very serious* about responding to all of these things I have mentioned, and I challenge you to join me in doing *whatever* it takes to be victorious in this aspect of our Christian lives.

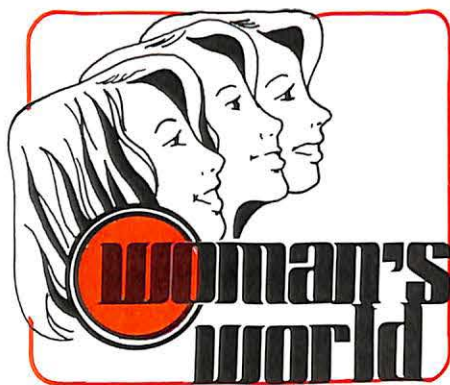
With God's power in our lives, being great for him is a realistic and attainable goal, especially when we recognize the key importance of our quiet time alone with God.

Charles Whiston, a great man of prayer, has illustrated what I am saying in his description of the miracle of a snowflake. A single snowflake, seen through a magnifying lens, is very beautiful in design. No two snowflakes are identical; each one has individuality. Each snowflake is so fragile that one has only to breathe upon it, and it is destroyed. But during winter storms and blizzards God dumps billions of tiny, weak, fragile flakes upon the higher levels of the mountain ranges, where they build up a massive snowpack 20 to 30 feet in depth. The snowpack settles under its accumulated weight, and at the bottom is compressed into solid ice. Loose fragments of granite rock lying on the surface of the ground are frozen into this ice. As the snowpack inches down the mountain, these rock chips become the chisel edges that God uses to grind down solid masses of granite rock into fine granules of sand, which the melting snows in spring will carry down the mountainside to deposit in river and lake beds. Hard granite is broken down by weak snowflakes.

Yes, the times of prayer and fellowship with God will add up and make a great difference in our lives, as God will be able to shape and chisel our lives in the way he sees fit. Day after day of turning to God in a quiet time of prayer and Bible study will allow the same kind of miracle to take place in our lives that tiny snowflakes perform when they are used by God for his purposes.

Let's be realistic about our desires to be great. I challenge you to join me in being committed to achieving GREATNESS FOR GOD, starting with doing *whatever* it takes to get alone with God every single day. □





## The Joy Of Giving

by Diane Fraser

Have you ever sat in church and wondered why you were there? I did. Especially when there were all those interesting things that I thought I could be doing or places I could be. As a child and teenager, I was raised in a church-going atmosphere (not N.A.B.), but somehow Jesus Christ had never become real to me. Oh yes, I knew all about him, how he was born, how he lived and how he died and rose. I even knew that it was for the sins of man that he died, but I never had the personal relationship of knowing that it was for *my* sins that he died.



John and Diane Fraser and their children, Teresa (13), Donald (9), and John Jr. (3).

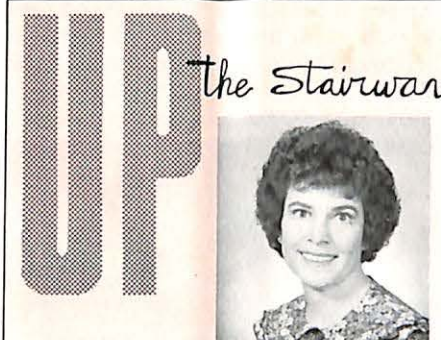
My husband, John, and I were married in September of 1964. John was a committed Christian, and I was very good at playing the role as I knew what was expected of one. Somehow by going to church each Sunday I felt that I was fulfilling my obligations to God. It was very easy for me to be there physically, but spiritually and mentally I could be miles away. Oh yes, I wanted a personal relationship with Christ. I would pray, but somehow I felt that no one answered. I would talk to people, and how it hurt and how inadequate I felt when they shared their glowing testimonies with me. "Lord, what's the matter with

me? Why can't I be like this?"

I would read the Bible, but it was as if reading a novel. This situation went on for a year. I became more and more depressed and grasped for anything that came along, such as the visiting Mormons. Then the summer came and along with it many problems. We had been married for almost two years now and were in the process of buying a new home. Then I had a series of medical problems. Next, for the first time in my life, I had to spend a weekend alone and this turned into a very difficult

emotional time. "Oh, please, someone show me you care. God, where are you?"

Then came the crowning blow. We had an 11-month-old daughter, Teresa. One day we were going visiting with some friends to see a woman who had just returned home from the hospital. While there I put Teresa down on the floor. All of a sudden she came crawling up to me chewing on something. A clear crystal about the size of a marble was in her mouth. I spotted where it came from. The woman had ant poison



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

Christians "on the stairway" are often reminded that they are the only Bibles certain other people will read. The unwritten translations conveyed through the lives of some Christians shamefully read too frequently in the following way:

1 John 2:15: "Love not the world" . . . . *neither the people that are in the world, for one only ends up having to devote hours of time with them and often gets hurt in the process.*

Psalms 119:11: "Thy Word have I hid in my heart" . . . . *so well that no one can see a trace of it in my life!*

Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together" . . . . *there is gossip in the midst of them.*

Ephesians 4:32: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" . . . . *taking mental note of those who don't reciprocate.*

Isaiah 26:3: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace" . . . . *whose mind is stayed on himself, for he trusteth in himself only.*

Luke 10:2: "The harvest truly is great" . . . . *but a church staff of two can easily handle the reaping.*

James 5:20: "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way" . . . . *is a well trained graduate and must use a specific vocabulary coupled*

*with a booklet or brochure.*

Mark 14:8: "She hath done what she could" . . . . *God will take pity on her excuses and good intentions for they impress him very much.*

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things" . . . . *as long as I have the time, money and energy.*

Hebrews 12:1: "Let us lay aside every weight" . . . . *and take it easy, for only then can we really enjoy life.*

Romans 12:2: "Be not overcome of evil" . . . . *Have an open mind. After all, the moral standards of today must be considered.*

Psalms 46:1: "God is our refuge" . . . . *so feel free to flee important responsibilities.*

John 5:24: "He that heareth my Word" . . . . *should protect it from reaching the ears of the neighbors!*

Revelation 22:17: "Whosoever will, let him take" . . . . *all he can get from others, freely.*

Isaiah 1:18: "Though your sins be scarlet" . . . . *they are not nearly as devastating as somebody else's.*

Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first" . . . . *the top position of the company and all kinds of things will be added unto you.*

John 6:27: "Labor not for the meat which perisheth" . . . . *but for the boat, the summer cottage and the trip overseas.*

Proverbs 1:10: "My son, if sinners entice thee" . . . . *be kind to them. Check things out. You may find the activities relatively harmless.*

2 Corinthians 12:10: "For when I am weak" . . . . *it is because I haven't been exercising enough.*

Joshua 24:15: "Choose you this day" . . . . *which outfit you will wear to the party.*

1 John 1:10: "If we say we have not sinned" . . . . *no one will be the wiser.*

Proverbs 14:12: "A way that seemeth right" . . . . *is as good as any.*

Father, I hear your Word. I read it. I study it. May those who read the Bible through me see an accurate translation!

in a container on the floor, and it had crystallized. We rushed my baby to the hospital, where doctors pumped out her stomach and sent us home. That evening Teresa's temperature shot up to over 104 degrees, and she started vomiting. Back to the hospital we went, and when they checked her over, they found that in the process of pumping out her stomach, she cried so hard that some of the poison was sucked into her lungs. She was placed in intensive care with pneumonia and arsenic poisoning. What days followed! I had never realized what wonderful friends we had at the church we attended, Faith Baptist in Minneapolis. Every day someone would come over and drive me to the hospital and watch my daughter with me through the curtain. Their love surrounded me. Praise God for them.

Thank  
You



by LaVerna Mehlhaff,  
women's work director

I wish that each of you could come to the North American Baptist Conference International Office at this time to see the White Cross Room. It is filled with boxes of White Cross supplies which you have lovingly made and shipped to our office for the medical work in Africa. In addition you have sent money towards the expense of shipping the materials to the hospitals, clinics and maternity wards in Cameroon and Nigeria.

You, the women of our churches, are also faithfully supporting the financial goal of \$400,000, adopted at the Triennial Conference WMU Luncheon in Portland, Oregon. June receipts showed \$375,862 towards that goal. We anticipate reaching our goal by December 31 of this year, as our women continue to give faithfully.

All the money is used in the support of home and overseas missions. We thank God for each of you, our faithful women who serve, work, love, share and care in support of projects adopted. God will bless all that is being done for him in his name. "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Four or five days later I was at home in the afternoon and felt as though I could not go on anymore. The burdens of life were just too big to cope with. I got down on my knees and prayed, "God, I need you, help me." Immediately I felt a release, and the pressures were gone. I had met my Lord! I had someone other than me to lean on and to trust. Within seconds the phone rang. The voice said, "Mrs. Fraser, this is the doctor. I just checked Teresa, and I don't really understand it, but she is fine, and you can take her home tomorrow!" Oh, God, you really do care!

Looking back on the whole experience of my search for God, I often wondered why he took so long to answer me. But then I knew, he had been there always, waiting for me. Being a self-reliant, headstrong person as I was, it was very easy to need him one day and not the next. I believe that he allowed me to have to get to the point, where I really couldn't cope by myself but had to take Diane off the throne of my life and put Christ on it and leave him there.

Shortly after my conversion, John and I went forward in our church, were baptized and joined the family of Faith Baptist Church.

During this time my husband worked for Control Data Corporation in Minneapolis as a computer design engineer and later in computer management. In the following nine years after my conversion, we were blessed and had a lovely home, excellent salary and good company benefits. Our second child, Donald, was welcomed into our family. We continued our membership at Faith Baptist and were able to serve the Lord in different areas of the church life. As each year went by, however, we felt that we would like to have more extensive training in the Bible and the different aspects of the Christian life, because we felt so inadequately prepared for some of the jobs that we were doing in the church. We were also leading a neighborhood Bible study and here, too, felt a need for more training.

In early January of 1975, I went out to get the mail. That day we received a *Decision* booklet from the North American Baptist Seminary. I remember calling John at work, telling him about the booklet and then jokingly saying, "Hey, honey, maybe the Lord wants us to go to seminary." Both of us got a laugh out of that one! (To this day, we still don't know how the catalogue happened to be sent to us. There was no reason that we should have been on the mailing list.)

A few months later we were talking about the possibility of finding a job, working with a Christian company where problems could be met with prayer and where employees could work

together for Christ. A former pastor of ours, the Rev. Donald Miller, was working at North American Baptist Seminary in development. John called him to see if he had heard of anything like this. "No, but you know, we're having a Decision Conference in a couple of weeks. Why don't you come out to it. Nancy and I will even take care of the kids." Wow, a free weekend and good babysitters! How could we pass that up?

During the conference the Lord began to speak to us. By the time the weekend was over, deep down I knew the Lord was calling not only John, but me as well, into the ministry. John struggled with the decision longer, as he wanted to be sure that God called him and that it wasn't just something that he wanted to do.

So here we were, changing careers in mid-stream, and I was eight months pregnant with our third child. We had prayed for this child for five years. Lord, why this timing? Our little boy arrived in June. After his arrival we put our house on the market. The first couple to come through bought it. Great! The next day they backed out. The bubble popped. For three months it was on the market and no one wanted it. We had already purchased a home in Sioux Falls. Lord, how are we going to make the payments on one house, let alone two? Lord, are you shutting the doors for us to go? What a time of testing it was. The week before we were to move, I prayed, "Lord, you called us into this and I know you will provide. You can sell our house with or without the furnishings." We decided we would go, even if in the long run we lost our house. A few days later a couple with three boys came through and bought it. We moved out the following Saturday and they moved in on Tuesday and even paid us rent for two months until closing on the house! Lord, why did we even question?

People often ask me, "Wasn't that a difficult decision to make?" No, it really wasn't. Before, we had all the material possessions we wanted, but really weren't happy in life. Now we have found where the Lord wants us to be, and that is truly where the joy of living is.

It has been thrilling to watch the Lord work these past three years. Our biggest concern in leaving John's job was the medical benefits that the company had. Our two older children were asthmatics, and for four years before coming to seminary we never had a clinic bill under \$100 a month. Since coming to seminary, neither has even been into the doctor for anything. Coincidence? No,

(Continued on page 29)



The impressions of the crowded ten churches visited in the Soviet Union will remain an unforgettable spiritual experience for all six of the delegates who had the opportunity to share in worship services. The visit took place from Tuesday, April 25, to Monday, May 8, 1978, which included many Holy Week and Easter services. (Evangelical churches in the Soviet Union observe Holy Week and Easter in keeping with the Orthodox Church calendar, which in 1978 was April 24-30.)

## N.A.B. Delegation Visits Churches in the Soviet Union

by G. K. Zimmerman

The N.A.B. persons visiting the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the USSR included the following: Dr. Kenneth Fischer, moderator of the Conference, and his wife, Donna; Mr. Ed Streuber, chairman of the Conference Finance and Stewardship Committee, and his wife, Gerda; and Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, executive secretary of the Conference, and his wife, Eleanor. The invitation from the Baptist Union of the USSR stated the following: "During your stay in the Soviet Union, you will become acquainted with the life of our country and with the life of our churches. All your expenses, (transportation, board and lodging) will be paid by the Baptist Union within the territory of the Soviet Union." The round-trip airfare was paid for by the respective individuals themselves.

### VISITS TO THE CHURCHES

At all of the visits to the churches this delegation was always seated on the platform and given opportunity to give greetings and also share a message from the Scriptures. The services in the churches usually lasted from two to three hours. There was much heartwarming singing by the congregation and very excellent music by a variety of choirs. Some of the choirs numbered more than 80 persons, including young people. In a number of churches there were orchestras, including both string and band instruments, mostly played by young persons. There was a goodly number of children present, even though there are no special Sunday school and Christian education activities, as we know them in Canada and the United States. The children were always very attentive and none ever disturbed the services, even though these lasted for more than two hours. The churches were always filled to overflowing, including worshippers standing in the aisles, doorways and even outside, listening to the worship services via loudspeakers.

The churches visited were located in the cities of Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad). The attendance in some churches exceeded 1,500 persons. The Easter Sunday morning service had more

*Dr. Gideon K. Zimmerman is executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference.*

than 1,200 in attendance. Each speaker would begin with "Christ is risen," to which the congregation would stand up and reply, "He is risen indeed." This greeting was repeated three times, and the congregation responded three times. The pastor also asked us to give an invitation for persons to make a commitment to Christ, and several persons came forward to the platform, knelt down and prayed, asking that their sins be forgiven and that they might receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

We greatly appreciated the two meals at the homes of three Baptist families. Many of the dishes served were very familiar to the Streubers and the Zimmermans because of their respective background in Germany and Russia.

Since my forefathers came from Friedenstal, Bessarabia near Odessa, I particularly felt much affinity with the people. This was also true for my wife, since also her grandparents came from Russia. Her grandfather was a band master in the army during the rulership of the Czar. The Streubers also felt much kinship with the people because of the many Ukrainian people who live in their community in Winnipeg.



The recently renovated and enlarged Darnitsa Baptist Church in Kiev.

### CHURCH FACILITIES AND WORSHIP SERVICES

At least two of the church buildings visited were newly constructed in recent years to accommodate a larger number of people. Because of the large number of worshippers, the churches are too small again. It became very evident in the fellowship with people and also through observation in their worship services that they have a deep spirit of dedication, commitment and genuine faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. The singing of the people, their prayers and their hospitality shall always be remembered with much gratitude to God.

### THE NEED FOR BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

We are grateful to the government authorities, who several years ago granted permission for 5,000 German Bibles and 20,000 hymnals to be sent into the Soviet Union. As you may recall, North American Baptists provided 3,000 of these German Bibles through our Bible

Fund. The need for Christian literature, Bibles, hymnals and study materials for the pastors is great. It is our hope that through the Baptist World Alliance we will be able to find an additional open door to send in tens of thousands of additional Bibles. This permission has not yet been received. We need to join other Christians around the world in praying for the following two concerns:

1. For our fellow believers in the USSR as well as in other countries of the world, where there is not the same kind of religious freedom that we have here in Canada and the United States.

2. For the persons in authority, that they might recognize the good characteristics of Christians and agree to grant additional permission for sending larger shipments of Scriptures, hymnals and other literature to the Baptist Union of the USSR.

In every church we visited the people sent greetings to you and other fellow believers around the world. Also we assured them that we would ask you and other fellow believers to pray for them in their continued effort to be a living testimony for Christ within the USSR.

### IMPRESSIONS IN THE UKRAINIAN CHURCHES

The warmth and sincerity of the people who came to the various worship services at Kiev and Odessa as well as in the other places stirred the hearts of all the delegates. Because of roots in the Ukraine, the Zimmermans in particular found a very close kinship with the worshippers. It seemed that one could pick out people in the congregation who resembled people in the USA almost like identical twins. The Streubers made the same discovery, comparing the Ukrainian people with people in Canada. In Kiev I spotted a man in the congregation who resembled the Rev. Eldon Schroeder of Foster Avenue Baptist Church in Chicago so much, that I had to look several times to make sure that it wasn't him.

In the Odessa area, I particularly found much affinity with the people, because my own parents and grandparents came from this area. Although I was not able to make proper arrangements to go to their home village, Friedenstal, we did have opportunity to see much of Odessa, which is a very beautiful city in a fertile agricultural area. One of the outstanding sights for me was to go to the train station, where my mother and father and their two daughters had left Odessa in 1905, accompanied by two other families to emigrate to Lehr, North Dakota, where they homesteaded and raised their family. I would have greatly treasured the opportunity to go to the village of Friedenstal and see the area, where my grandparents, parents and other relatives lived for many decades. Maybe some other time this may be possible. My grandfather, who became a Baptist, founded a Baptist church in the village of Friedenstal. Although I never met my grandfather, since I was born in the United States, I was told that he was an extremely dedicated man of God who would read only the Scriptures and thought it somewhat distracting to read other kinds of literature. I was also told that grandfather, as a devout man of God, often prayed publicly that out of his family tree may come ministers of the gospel. Four of his grandsons in America answered the call of God and became ministers of the gospel. It was a very meaningful

experience to me personally to be in the area of Odessa, to where my parents and other kinfolk would on occasion travel, and to know that their prayers were answered and will continue to be answered, as others of that family will become full-time servants of God.

Since my grandfather had gone to be with the Lord in 1928, my visit to Odessa, his home area, was on the 50th anniversary of his departure from this life. In addition to my father and mother, who came to America, there were two brothers of my father and one of his sisters who also emigrated to America. On the Zimmerman side of my family tree, I am the youngest of the first generation. For that reason it was for me a very moving experience to be chosen of God to return after so many decades to the motherland of my grandparents and parents and visit Baptist churches, in which I had the sacred privilege to share the Word of God and to bring greetings from fellow believers of my homeland as well as from my 97-year old mother, who is a resident of the Baptist Home in Bismarck, ND.



Instrumental group in one of the five Baptist churches in Kiev.

In the Book of Proverbs we read, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of sons is their fathers" Proverb 17:6. You become very sensitive to the responsibility you have as a son and grandson and even as a great-grandson, when you know that forefathers in all sincerity prayed, hoped and believed that out of their family tree would come those who proclaim the gospel faithfully and effectively. The experience to visit this motherland communicated to me as a servant of God the sacred responsibility to be faithful, first of all to the Lord God, who has called me to serve him, but also to be cognizant of the fact that my being in the ministry today is the result of those who prayed that out of their family tree may come those who would preach the gospel.

For many years I have identified with this event, as the grandsons of Manasseh and Ephraim must have identified with their grandfather Jacob, when they were brought before him and he placed his hands upon them and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has led me all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and in them let my name be perpetuated, in the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." The manner in which God leads becomes more understandable as one moves through experiences such as these, where one recalls some of the roots from



which one has emerged.

As I have thought upon these things which I knew for many years, I also gathered a keener insight into the devotional life of my boyhood home. It was the custom in our home located on a farm in south central North Dakota that after breakfast my father would read from the Scriptures, and we would unite for prayer. Following the family devotions, my father would go to the parlor of the home, a room which was used primarily for entertaining special guests and not for everyday family use. It was in this parlor room where he would spend some time alone. As a small boy I was always very curious as to what he was doing when he went into the parlor after the family devotion period. Since we had a central heating system, the heating register which heated the kitchen was directed into the parlor. I finally made it a point that whenever he went to the parlor, I would snuggle up to the register in the kitchen and listen. For the first number of minutes it would be quiet in the parlor. I must assume that he was reading from the Scriptures during that time. Then I would hear the chair move and the thump of his knees, and he would pray outloud. I eavesdropped on many of his prayers and heard him pray for himself, for his family and for the church. These did make an impact upon my life.

The visit to the motherland has helped me to put in focus God's leading, as it has been described in the life of my grandfather as well as in the life of my father. I can now account more clearly than ever before that it

We love to travel, but a trip to Russia had never entered our minds. Our immediate reaction, when asked if we would be able to join Dr. and Mrs. G. K. Zimmerman and Dr. and Mrs. Ken Fisher on a tour of the Baptist churches of the Soviet Union, was an excited though somewhat nervous "Yes."

As preparation for this great adventure, we tried to read all we could about the U.S.S.R., its geography, people and customs. We were amazed to learn that there

## An Unforgettable Visit

by Gerda Streuber

are eleven time zones to cover the country east to west, a distance equaling two and one half trips between New York and San Francisco! This immense land has a population of approximately 256 million people, one million of them Baptists. More than a hundred languages are spoken in the Soviet Union.

Then came the challenge of learning a few useful phrases in Russian with the help of a Berlitz English-Russian dictionary, language records and aid with pronunciation by friends fortunate enough to speak this difficult language.

It was suggested that we take gifts for our various

*Mrs. Gerda Streuber lives in Winnipeg, MB. The Streubers are members of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church in Winnipeg.*

was God's leading over these many, many decades that has finally brought me and others in my family to their point of commitment to Jesus Christ, as well as the certain number of us who answered the call of God and said, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

I personally came to the realization that what one is, and what one has become, has come to pass because of the prayers, commitment, faith, hope and love of those who went before us many decades ago.

For a goodly number of years I have been very sensitive to the fact, that my being in the ministry is the result of the prayers of family members and many others, who had a part to shape my spiritual life. Making the visit to the USSR, and particularly to the Ukraine, which gave opportunity to fellowship and to share in services with people whose ways of worship are so parallel to my boyhood days, made me realize that the marvelous leading of God in my life stems back to the deep spiritual convictions of my forefathers.

As delegates, we shall always be grateful to the Baptist Union of the USSR and its faithful and dedicated leaders, as well as the International Department of the Evangelical Christians-Baptists, for making possible our visit to the cities of Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and Volgograd. Our privilege to share in the life of these churches will always be remembered as a very special blessing.

Pray for our fellow believers in the Soviet Union, that God may grant them strength and courage to remain faithful to the teachings of the Scriptures. □

hosts and new friends—but what? and how many? Another concern was—what clothing do we take? This vast country covers varied climatic conditions, and we had no



A typical outdoor baptismal service in Vinnitsa.

idea of where we would be going. Siberia can be very cold in spring!

With mixed emotions our family rather reluctantly bade us farewell on April 25.

Our *Lufthansa* flight arrived in Moscow on schedule at 6 pm April 26, and we were relieved to find that our English speaking interpreter was waiting for us. This young man, Sergei Nikolaiev, had spent two years in seminary in England and is now a pastor in Leningrad. We soon learned that the magic word "Delegatzi" (delegation) could facilitate clearance through customs and immigration and provide other V.I.P. treatment. This was however not enough authority to allow us to take all the Bibles we had taken for the churches there.

A van, belonging to the Baptist Union in Moscow,

with driver "Paul" then took us to the *Sovietska Hotel*. This stately older hotel with its elegant white marble foyer and winding staircase with red carpet and beautiful chandeliers made a grand first impression.

Our room was spacious and comfortably furnished. There was a small table with a bowl of fruit and mineral water, and we were told that supper would be served in our room; this was nicely served by a pleasant maid. How frustrating being unable to communicate verbally. *Spah see bah* (thank you) had to suffice. We were really more tired than hungry.



Superintendent Jakov Doukhontchenko (left) and the pastor of the Darnitsa Baptist Church in Kiev baptizing believers.

Next morning we met for breakfast in the hotel restaurant with our group of travel companions, who grew to be dear friends over the twelve day period we were together. Sergei introduced us to Gregory Commandant, our other interpreter who spoke German, as he had studied at the theological seminary in Hamburg. He pastors a church near Kiev. Breakfast was such as we had never had before, but were to do justice to for each of the days in Russia: Yogurt, juice, cold cuts, apples, cheese, jelly and thick slices of good bread, then omelet and coffee! We felt this was sufficient for the day, but dinner at 2 p.m. proved otherwise. The Russian people love to eat leisurely sumptuous meals and expect guests to do likewise. Dinners included several kinds of smoked fish, boiled eggs with caviar, cold cuts, cucumbers (always!), apple juice, mineral water and bread for first course! Then a hearty bowl of soup ("Borsht" or "Sulianka") with sour cream that would have been a meal in itself. The main course of beef, fish or chicken was served with vegetables, then coffee and dessert. The evening meal, usually after church at 9-10 p.m., was again more than ample. Thus we were assured we would be well fed in Russia.

Sergei had our itinerary all planned and soon informed us, that we would each be expected to speak in church that evening and in each subsequent church meeting. We pleaded to let this "privilege" pass, but to no avail. Sergie and Greg were constantly available to us, and we were so grateful for their patience and help in every way. The warmth and hospitality of the people were overwhelming. We shall long remember the many wonderful people we met and the spiritual feasts we enjoyed in their churches.

Our first church service was especially memorable. It was in the Moscow Baptist Church. We were greeted in the "Headquarters Office", part of the church building, by numerous dignitaries and their wives before proceed-

ing to the platform to begin the 6 p.m. communion service. The church was packed as I have never seen one before, mainly older ladies with kerchiefs sitting, while the men, young people and children were standing in aisles, around the entry, on stairs to the balcony and in side rooms. The beautifully set communion table with large candelabra on white cutwork tablecloth, large silver goblets with cutwork covers (work done by the church ladies) and large round loaves of bread, was an awe inspiring sight. Emotion gripped me as the beautiful assurance of being one in the Lord Jesus Christ flooded my soul. We listened as the believers sang hymns, harmoniously and fervently; and we were happy when songs familiar to us were sung, so that we could join in. Some of the familiar songs were "Ring the Bells of Heaven", "Revive us Again" and "Love lifted me." Closing many of our services with "Blest be the Tie that Binds" was a verbal embrace, as the bond of love shone in their eyes and ours.

The choirs in each of the churches we visited were a very special source of blessing and joy. The volume, harmony and obvious sincerity of the singers convinced us that they were singing from the depths of their hearts. Many of the choir members were young people, and on one very special evening service there was a youth choir concert with orchestral accompaniment. We were lifted spiritually to hear this group of 65 beautiful young people sing out "Glorious is Thy Name, Almighty God." Observing that most of the choir music was hand copied on pieces of paper, made me aware of the special love and sacrifice of these people. The congregation to a great extent, also sang without hymn books as these are not available to them. Church services included numerous songs by the congregation, several choir renditions, lengthy poems recited by memory, prayers and three or more sermons. All services were two to three hours in duration, and many of these dear people stood throughout this time with no sign of weariness. The hunger for God's Word was etched on their faces, as they listened attentively and emotionally. In many of the churches we saw tape recorders, recording the program for those unable to attend. Often many people stood outside on the church yard, to participate in the worship services via loudspeakers. The giving of greetings from surrounding area church groups was done by sending slips of paper to the platform to be read. These were then acknowledged by the audience, as they stood and in unison said, "Thank you for the greetings, please, greet the brethren in return." Our greetings were acknowledged in like manner. The beaming faces, showing comprehension of my crude Russian greetings from Canada, encouraged me to increase my vocabulary to include, "We pray for you and love you in the name of our Lord Jesus, "May God bless you" and other simple phrases.

Our tour included churches in Moscow, Kiev, Odessa and Volgograd. In each city we were officially welcomed and presented with bouquets of spring flowers. Another bouquet was also presented in each church service by children or young people. The warmth and sincerity of their welcome and love, expressed in many hugs and kisses after each service, was heart warming.

Kiev is an especially beautiful city with many flowers

(Continued on page 31)



# insight into christian education

## No Magic Formula For Singles

by Dixie Potratz

The need for a single's ministry in Sioux Falls was evident. As a Christian single, where could you go to meet other singles? Bars and other night spots were the most popular spots at which singles congregated. The people who frequent these establishments do not usually represent the type of individual with whom Christians want to spend time or develop relationships.



A cookout in a single's back yard.

The churches, at least in Sioux Falls, were not ministering to singles; consequently, church attendance was small for singles. If one did not want to frequent the bars, where could a single go to meet other singles? This dilemma is the very reason why Sioux Falls Christian Singles was formed.

SFCS is providing a ministry that the churches aren't providing, but is not designed to take the place of the church. It was formed to supplement the church's program.

Since our society is full of instant services with instant printing, instant pictures, fast-food restaurants and on and on, Sioux Falls Christian Singles (SFCS) was looking for the same magic formula to organize a dynamic program for singles.

Consequently, many singles organizations around the United States were contacted to see how their programs were

*Miss Dixie Potratz is a student at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.*

organized. Some ideas were taken from each, but none of them gave easy answers to meeting the needs of singles in Sioux Falls. The answers came from asking and being responsive to the singles within our own group.

There are many grassroots details in starting an organization. The mechanics in starting SFCS took many months. A difficulty we had was lack of leadership. It seemed that the non-leader type of individual was the first to sense the need for a singles fellowship.

In the beginning, six people tried to provide all the leadership, but as time went by, more people became involved and individuals were helped to develop leadership skills. Then a broader system of leadership was organized. As more people were involved in leadership roles, excitement for the organization grew.

A newsletter is mailed out each month to over 200 people. It contains a calendar of events, a devotional written by a member, and various announcements. The newsletter is the main means of communication to the members.

There are no magic formulas to follow in designing an effective singles program. In our programming, fellowship is the first objective and personal growth the second. Programming re-



Two generations sharing.

quires a constant sensitivity on the part of the leaders to determine where the members are and where they need to grow.

SFCS has tried to meet individual

needs in a variety of ways. We have three different Bible studies each week. The Bible study groups themselves determine the area of study. Twice monthly we have Tuesday-Night-Talk-It-Over (patterned after Robert Schuller's Positive Single's group) for Plus-30's. It is a time of singing, reading the Bible and sharing in small groups about the stated topic. Interspersed throughout the month are various social activities which are separated for Plus-30's and Under-30's.

Finances come from individual contributions. SFCS has a tax exempt status, so gifts are tax deductible. The organization has tried to run without requiring dues and so far has been successful. Members have pledged the amount of money that they feel they can contribute each month, and the organization has been running on that money.



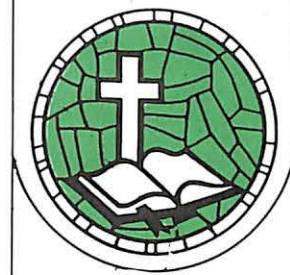
Praying together at the Singles Conference, Green Lake, WI.

Individuals have been helped through the ministry of SFCS. Furniture moved, roommates found, friendships formed and leadership developed are a few of the ways individual needs have been met.

Sioux Falls Christian Singles is relatively new. Since there are no real patterns to follow, the leadership learns what is effective by doing. The organization is continually striving to find effective ways to meet the needs of single persons in our community.

Statistics show that one-third of the population of the United States is single. Secular singles groups are increasing in number. Recently the National American Singles Organization had an organizational meeting in Sioux Falls with 200 hundred attending. The response to this meeting points out that singles are searching for answers. Only through a relationship with Christ and fellowship with his people can these answers be found. Up to this point the membership of SFCS has come primarily from church singles. Now the time has come to reach out to the unchurched singles. This is our next step. □

## PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



### Abraham, The Steward

by Everett A. Barker

Abraham is one of the better known persons in the Scriptures. The one word which stands out to describe Abraham is his faith, but have you ever thought of him as a steward? More specifically, have you ever thought of Abraham doing estate planning? Although this is lesser known, it is nevertheless important.

The manner in which Abraham handled the material dimension of his life is worthy of review. We live in a world that is materialistically oriented. We cannot run away from it as the monks of old did in cloisters and monasteries.

*The Rev. Everett A. Barker is associate secretary for Estate Planning of the North American Baptist Conference.*

As God's people, we need to develop a Christian perspective of money and possessions. Abraham was a tither. In Genesis 14:20 it is recorded that Abraham gave tithes to the priest Melchizedek. This is the earliest biblical record of the teaching that a portion of our material accumulation belongs to God. The New Testament teaches that we are to give "as God prospers" and a proportion of that which he allows us to have. We are not limited to the tithe.

Another insight into the way Abraham handled material possessions is recorded in Genesis 14:21-24. In this incident the king of Sodom offered to divide the spoils of war with the material spoils to be taken by Abraham. His reaction was: "... I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal-thong or anything that is yours, lest you say, 'I have made Abraham rich.'" Abraham was not greedy or grabby, but much concerned about his reputation with man and relationship to God. Greed is an insidious sin that is not easily recognizable.

Abraham also evidenced a generous and unselfish spirit. Genesis 13:5-12 contains the account of the conflict between the herdsmen of Abraham and those of his nephew, Lot. As the elder and more powerful of the two, he could have exerted his position and taken what he wanted. Instead, he gave Lot first choice, and Lot chose the well-watered plain which was the choice land. Ironically, however, God returned this very land to Abraham. There is a thread through the life of Abraham revealing a confidence in God's purpose through him. There are two occasions when Abraham lied, once introducing his wife as his sister, and secondly when Abraham and Sarah grew impatient and

Abraham had a child by Hagar. He suffered lapses of faith such as we do.

Abraham did estate planning. I suspect that a few of us have ever given thought to Abraham doing estate planning. What did he do? There are several verses recorded in Genesis 25:5-8 which suggest that Abraham did two things:

1. He gave the bulk of his estate to Isaac, who was the son of promise.
2. He gave gifts while he was living to the sons of his concubines. I like verse eight which states, "Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life. . . ." Abraham had his struggles but ended life satisfied. There is something commendable about ending this life with a positive testimony.

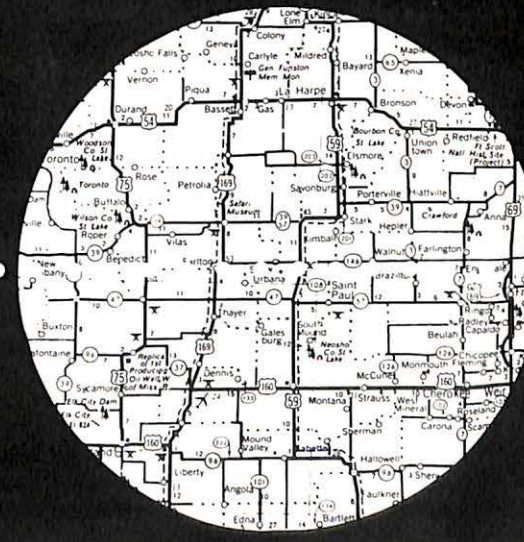
It is evident that Abraham gave thought to the disposition of his possessions before he died. Really, that is what estate planning is all about. It is giving thought and prayer as to how your possessions can be passed on in an effective and efficient way. In our society this can be done through a will, trust agreement or other estate planning vehicles. The important thing is for us to be Christian in our stewardship of possessions, recognizing God as the rightful owner.

There are at least three benefits to good estate planning:

1. Living benefits—to maximize the use of your possessions while living.
2. Family benefits—to help your family members according to their needs.
3. God's work—to benefit the local church and N.A.B. Conference related ministries by sharing from your possessions.

We can conclude that Abraham was a good steward. What kind of a steward are you?

to get from here •



• • • to there:

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





# CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

## RED DEER, AB, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by LeRoy Moser

September 1978

Alberta's fourth largest city is beautiful Red Deer, City of Pines, nestled midpoint between Edmonton and Calgary. With a population of more than 36,000 it continues to grow steadily, about 6 percent a year since 1974.

Community Baptist Church became a reality here on January 18, when four families met for Bible study and prayer to form a nucleus and begin a new church ministry. Excited and enthused we looked forward to our first Sunday school and worship service. We started with four Sunday school classes: pre-school, primary, junior and adults. Our attendance thrilled us, when 82 were present at the G. H. Dawe Community Centre, a school with beautiful and adequate facilities! People met who were there as a result of door to door visitation, radio and newspaper coverage! People from all walks of life! People who were curious, people who were interested, some would be faithful, others wouldn't return, and others were yet to come!

Since our first Bible study we now have a total of 30 people attending three different Bible studies. Our Sunday services are well attended, as we see new people come and show their interest in Community Baptist and its ministry.

We are presently negotiating on a two-acre land site in north Red Deer, where the major residential developments are taking place. About 1635 units will be developed in the next year. With only three evangelical churches in north Red Deer, the potential of winning souls for Christ and reaching the community is far beyond our comprehension.

We do not anticipate any real growth until this fall, and then the Lord only knows where we go from here. "We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, trusting in his holy Word, he's never failed us yet!"

Our task is great! We appreciate your gifts and continued prayer support. Without God's love and power and your concern our labors here would be fruitless! Your designated gifts for the ministry of Community Baptist Church may be sent to the North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. □

*The Rev. LeRoy Moser is the pastor of Community Baptist Church, Red Deer, AB.*



A musical group from Calgary played for the young church in June.



Pastor LeRoy Moser with family.



Sunday school class in session.



Pastor Moser conducting worship service at the Community Centre in Red Deer.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Heffington of Mt. Sterling, MO, were honored on their fiftieth wedding anniversary at a potluck dinner at Pin Oak Baptist Church on April 28, 1978.

The Rev. and Mrs. Assaf Husmann, Boca Raton, FL, observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary at a luncheon program, May 20, 1978, in First Baptist Church, Newton Square, PA. Close to 100 relatives and friends attended with son, George, serving as toastmaster. It was a happy time of well-wishing, Christian fellowship and reminiscing around the tables, interspersed with musical selections.



Predominant tributes paid the Husmanns by those who had been under their dynamic leadership, beginning as newly weds in 1928 in Tacoma, WA, followed by fruitful ministries in Philadelphia, PA, and Woodside, L.I., NY, were their dedication, their hospitality, and their love for their constituents which surmounted difficulties, solved problems and bound them together in the work of the Lord. Rev. Husmann also served the North American Baptist Conference in promotional work and as a professor in our Seminary, when it was located in Rochester, NY. Although "officially" retired in 1965, he later rendered invaluable service in interim pastorates. (Eva Yung, reporter.)

**BANFF, AB.** "Deeper Dimensions into God's Word" was the theme of the 22nd Alberta Baptist Women's Retreat held May 4-6, 1978, as 378 ladies met at the Banff Springs Hotel under the capable leadership of our president, Mrs. Ellen Breitzkreuz.

A special missionary project of \$10,000, designated for our Cameroon and Brazil missions, was adopted for the coming year.

Our guest speaker, Miss Connie Landstrom, Camrose, AB, challenged us to go deeper into God's Word. We evaluated our own devotional life and were given tools and methods for Bible study.

Missionary Sara Lou Pasiciel reported on the changing role of "Women in Cameroon." She said, "The greatest joy for a missionary is to experience the

power of our prayers for them."

Mrs. Verna Michelson, missionary to Cameroon, related many personal accounts as to how God was faithful to his Word. (Lillian Grabke, reporter.)

**COLUMBUS, NE.** Three young persons were baptized by the Rev. William Effa and received into the membership of Shell Creek Baptist Church on May 7.

On May 11 the W.M.S. had its annual mother-daughter dessert supper at the church. Featured speaker of the evening was Miss Jewell Olson, a nurse who is on furlough from service in Zaire, Africa, with the Africa Inland Mission.

Warren Hoffman, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke at a banquet in honor of four recent graduates belonging to the church on May 23.

The Shell Creek Baptist Church honored its pastor with a recognition service for 25 years in the Christian ministry on June 4. A classmate, the Rev. Manuel Wolff, Lorraine, KS, was guest speaker. Also, the Rev. H. J. Waltereit, a former pastor of the William Effas, visiting in the area, participated in the service. A reception in honor of Pastor and Mrs. Effa's silver wedding anniversary followed in the afternoon. (Mrs. William Effa, reporter.)

**NIAGARA FALLS, NY.** Queenston Heights Park near Niagara Falls was the place where about 200 young people from the Eastern Association gathered for their annual picnic on June 4. Planned by the association executive, and in particular by Marg Krueger of Toronto and Mark Woods of Hamilton, all young people had a good time. Mark Woods, the youth pastor of the German Mission Church in Hamilton, led the young people in a challenging service both in the morning and as the young people finished off the day in the late afternoon. (Wenzel Hanik, reporter.)

**EMERY, SD.** On Sunday evening, June 11, an impressive ordination ceremony was held for John L. Terveen who is going into full-time ministry in Oregon. Dr. Lee McDonald, N.A.B. Seminary, gave the ordination sermon. The Rev. Clarence



Walth led the ordination prayer and Rev. C. Hiatt gave the charge to the candidate. The Rev. John Terveen closed the service with the benediction, after which an informal time of fellowship was held.

**WILSONVILLE, OR.** The Rev. Dennis Angell was ordained into the Christian ministry by the Stafford Baptist Church on June 4, 1978. At this service the Rev. David Needham brought the ordination sermon and prayer. The Rev. Duane Dunham and the Rev. Henry Barnet gave the charge to the candidate and the charge to the church respectively. The Rev. Fred Moore welcomed Mr. Angell into the ministry.

An ordination council consisting of 33 ministers, lay delegates and invited guests from 11 churches of the Oregon-Idaho Association met at Stafford Baptist Church on June 1, 1978, at which time the council recommended that Mr. Angell be ordained. The Rev. Henry Barnet was appointed moderator and Mrs. Donna Mitchell, clerk, of the council. (Donna Mitchell, clerk.)

**TURTLE LAKE, ND.** The Turtle Lake Baptist Church held a reception for their new pastor and wife, Pastor and Mrs. Dennis Goodin and daughter, Jennifer, on June 18, when he began his ministry here. Mercer and Underwood Baptist Churches and the local area churches were invited.



Pastor Perry Makeeff led the service in the singing of hymns after which Pastor Perry Schnabel led in prayer. Several people shared in testimonies and through musical numbers. Pastor Allen Gerber gave the message of the evening.

Pastor and Mrs. Goodin responded with their personal testimonies. Pastor Goodin is a 1977 graduate of the Dallas Seminary. (Doris Lindteigen, reporter.)

**CLEVELAND, OH.** Five persons were baptized by the Rev. William McLatchie on June 4, 1978, at the Hillcrest Baptist Church. A time of rejoicing with a potluck dinner followed the morning worship.

The new members received the hand of fellowship preceding the communion service on June 11, 1978. (Bertha Mihovk, reporter.)

**GLADWIN, MI.** On June 11, 1978, nine persons were baptized by the Rev. Winston Decker at the Round Lake Baptist Church. They were extended the hand of fellowship and added to the church membership, along with four others by letter and profession, the following Sunday morning.

Frank Bettig, graduate of the Grand



Rapids School of the Bible and Music, will be our youth worker for the summer months. Great things are being planned for the spiritual uplifting of our youth. (Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

**CRAWFORD, TX.** On April 8, 1978, the Rev. Marcus Munson, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, baptized three persons.

Mr. Munson, his wife, Judy, and four-year-old daughter, Micki, have been our pastor and family since Aug. 28, 1977, at which time he was a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX. On May 12, 1978, he received his Master of Divinity degree.

In the ten months Mr. Munson has been with us, we have welcomed eight new members to our Church fellowship.

On Mother's Day, May 14, the church honored Frank (Pauline) Hodel, the oldest living member of our Church, in recognition of her faithfulness as a mother and church member as well as the oldest mother attending the services. She is 97. A short narration of her life was read; pictures were displayed, and she was presented a corsage from the church. (Mrs. Rose Marie Freyer, reporter.)

**HUNTER, KS.** The Ladies' Mission Circle of Bethany Baptist Church was privileged to have the Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson, missionaries to Cameroon, as their guests for their anniversary program, March 7, 1978.



On April 14-16, the church observed its 100th anniversary with the Rev. Robert E. Salstrom, Dallas Theological Seminary, as guest speaker. Former pastors and wives who also had a part in the program were the Rev. and Mrs. John Heer, Rochester, NY, the Rev. and Mrs. John Wood, Benson, AZ, and the Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Zepik, Bismarck, ND. Area secretary, the Rev. Milton Zeeb, Kansas City, gave the closing message. The Rev. Douglas Anderson is the pastor. (Mrs. Robert Wirth, reporter.)

**ST. JOSEPH, MI.** The Board of Christian Education, First Baptist Church, sponsored an awards night, May 21. Receiving awards were children and young people from the Whirlybird, Trailblazer, Shikari and Awana Boys programs. These young people meet each Wednesday night as a part of the family night program. Many visitors attended.

Leaders of the programs are Whirly-

birds, Audrey Littman; Trailblazers, Wil-meth Buller; Shikaris, Debbie Miles; and Awana Boys, Lloyd Bush. Many other men and women of the church assist these leaders each Wednesday night. The Rev. Charles Littman, pastor, led the awards night program. (Vera Zwar, reporter.)

**PRINCE GEORGE, BC.** With great joy we witnessed the baptism of seven young people and three adults on April 30, 1978, at the Bethel Baptist Church. We praise the Lord for each one of them. At



the Communion Service, immediately following the baptism, the hand of fellowship was extended to these ten new members. They are pictured with our pastor, Ernest A. Hoffmann. (Ingrid Pankonin, reporter.)

**GROSSE POINTE, MI.** May 4, 5, and 6 were days filled with excitement and much blessing at the Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, as they hosted the eighth annual Michigan Association session.

The Women's Union held their annual luncheon and business meeting on Saturday with 160 in attendance. The president, Mrs. Jan Fenner, called the business session to order. It was decided to send \$500.00 to the N.A.B. International Office to be used to cover shipping charges for White Cross work to Cameroon.

The new officers elected for a two-year term were Mrs. Froh Hiller, president, and Mrs. Ardath Effa, secretary. An offering was taken for the continuation of our work.

A short program followed featuring piano selections by Mrs. Dorothy Cummins and vocalist, Dr. Claire Scheele. Our guest speaker, N.A.B. women's work director, Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, brought us an inspiring message on the women's work in the church and how our hands can be used in many ways to serve the Lord. (Mrs. Helen Koppin, retiring secretary.)

**GRAND FORKS, ND.** The Rev. Dale Axt was ordained at Grace Baptist Church on June 4, 1978. He received his bachelors degree from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Divinity degree from the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD.

The ministers present for the ordination service were the Rev. Frank Unruh, Calvary Baptist, Carrington, ND, the Rev. Philip Voss, Grafton Baptist, ND, the

Rev. Alvin Harsch, hospital chaplain, Grand Forks, ND, the Rev. Leslie Albus, Grace Baptist, Grand Forks, ND, and the Rev. Bill Keple, Grand Forks, ND.

Lloyd Axt, father of Dale Axt read the scripture. Rev. Axt is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Sidney, MT.

The ordination council, consisting of 17 delegates from eight churches, met on May 13, 1978, for examination of Mr. Dale Axt. (Mrs. Bonita J. Shambaugh, reporter.)

**ST. JOSEPH, MI.** The Woman's Missionary Guild of the First Baptist Church sponsored the mother-daughter banquet on May 12 in the church fellowship hall. 155 mothers, daughters and guests were served a delicious dinner, cooked by the church women and served by the church men. Program guests were the Sherwood Singers and puppets from Wyoming, MI. The dining room was decorated with miniature puppets and spring flowers.

Outgoing W.M.G. president, Mrs. James Talbot, led the prayer of dedication for the new 1978-79 W.M.G. officers. Newly installed officers are president, Mrs. Kenneth Behr; first vice president, Mrs. Russel Nordine; second vice president, Mrs. Genevieve Sahlin; secretary, Mrs. Elmer Parchert; and treasurer, Mrs. Francis Wilder. (Vera Zwar, reporter.)

**OCHRE RIVER, MB.** The Grace Baptist Church is grateful for the seven new members, pictured along with the Rev. Helmut Poschwatta, who were received into the membership on May 14, 1978. During the evening service six candidates followed the Lord in believer's baptism.



tism. Following the baptismal service, we observed the Lord's Supper; those baptized received the hand of fellowship along with one young woman who was received into the membership by letter. (Fred J. Amman, reporter.)

**DETROIT, MI.** During April 8-16, 1978, the Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrated its 27th annual world missions conference. Our theme was "Our Mission is Missions." Our hearts were challenged with messages from the Rev. Peter Deyneka Jr., president, Slavic Gospel Association, and the Rev. Philip Armstrong, president, Far Eastern Gospel Crusade. We also heard first-hand reports from missionaries from Africa, South America and Europe. We praise the Lord for motivating us to reach a special conference offering goal of \$20,000. This brings our

annual missions commitment to over \$100,000 annually. We are also pleased that several of our young people served in short-term summer missions in Colorado, Haiti, and Israel. The Rev. William Cummins is pastor.

**EMERY, SD.** The Rev. C. Hiatt, pastor, First Baptist Church, was recently honored by being selected for inclusion in the 1978 edition of *Outstanding Young Men of America*. He was selected from nominations received from senators, congressmen, governors, mayors, university and college presidents as well as civic



groups. Rev. Hiatt has been pastor at First Baptist since June 20, 1974. The Board of Deacons and their wives sponsored a pot-luck dinner on June 11 with Rev. and Mrs. Hiatt and family and Barry Seifert, Marion, KS, as guests of honor. Larry Weaver, chairman of the Deacon Board, presented a beautifully decorated cake to Pastor Hiatt as an expression of love and appreciation for receiving the award.

**KELOWNA, BC.** Members of Trinity Baptist Church, as well as friends from neighboring churches, met on June 4, 1978, for the dedication to the glory of God of the new addition to our educational unit. The Rev. Hans Wilcke, area secretary, was the guest speaker. The new addition doubles our educational facilities and includes a lovely multipurpose room, large bright classrooms, as well as a basement area for future development into workshops for Boys' Brigade. This additional space will assist us greatly as we try to reach out to boys and girls in the community. The Rev. Richard Hohensee is pastor. (E. Hoffman, reporter.)

**MT. STERLING, MO.** Dr. Richard Schilke, general secretary of the North American Baptist Missions Department, and wife spoke at the Pin Oak Baptist Church on April 28, 1978. The occasion was the dedication of the new baptistry and classroom along with the decoration of the sanctuary.

Dr. Schilke spoke at the morning service on the development of missions. He delivered the dedicatory message at the

afternoon service. The Rev. Warren Rikard and family provided music for the services. A time of refreshments followed. (Phyllis Rikard, reporter.)

**LEDUC, AB.** On May 28 a baptismal service was held at Temple Baptist Church, at which time four persons followed the Lord in baptism. At a communion service on June 4, our pastor, the Rev. John Martens, extended the hand of fellowship to them and five others who joined by letter. (Vi Fleck, reporter.)

**GRAND FORKS, ND.** During May and June the following families: Harsch, Mariano, Zimmermann, Derman, and persons: Greg Schroeder, Betty Staveteig and Bonita Shambaugh, provided music for evening worship at Grace Baptist Church.

The annual church picnic was held at Turtle River State Park, Arvilla, ND, June 11. A candy hunt, games and vesper services were included in the good time of fun and fellowship had by all. The Rev. Robert Penner is pastor. (Mrs. Bonita J. Shambaugh, reporter.)

**WATERTOWN, WI.** Dr. G. K. Zimmerman spoke at the morning worship service and a special afternoon service celebrating the 50th anniversary of the building of the First Baptist Church, May 21, 1978. The morning service was followed by a fellowship dinner.

In the afternoon service, a brief summary of our church's history was presented, followed by Dr. Zimmerman's challenge for us. The Rev. Allan Kranz is pastor of our church. (Mrs. Allen Timm, reporter.)

**WASHBURN AND BEULAH, ND.** Two churches, Washburn and Beulah Baptist Churches, held a joint baptismal service, at which time a total of 13 were recognized as members of the two churches. The service was held Sunday evening, April 16, at Washburn.

Four from Beulah were baptized, and one was received by testimony.



Two from the Washburn Church were baptized, and two were received by letter of testimony. Others pictured include those who have been received into the Washburn church in recent months.

Pastor Herman Kesterke, pastor at Beulah, and Pastor Bernard Edinger, Washburn, are pictured with the others. Rev. Kesterke brought the evening message and assisted Pastor Edinger in the communion service following baptism. (Bernard Edinger, pastor.)

**CALGARY, AB.** Temple Baptist Church congratulates Elli Schock, a member of our church on her graduation from Prairie Bible School on April 9, 1978. Karl Fech, also a member of our church, is studying at Oxford University, England.

The Laura Reddig Mission Circle of our church presented its annual program with Dr. Harry Hiller, Calgary, AB, as guest speaker on the theme, "Strengthening the Christian Home."

On May 7, eight new members were received into the membership of our church. Five were received by baptism and three by testimony. The Marksmen, a group from Edmonton, presented an excellent gospel concert on May 7. On Mother's Day, May 14, parents dedicated their babies during the morning service. The Sunday school and young people presented a program in the evening; several wrote their own poems as tributes to their mothers. The Rev. Franz Schmidt is pastor. (Irene Wirzba, reporter.)

**SPRUCE GROVE, AB.** On March 26 another special day of rejoicing occurred as our congregation witnessed four baptisms. Pastor Harold E. Weiss (pictured at right) welcomed seven new members into the church.



Our church family was greatly blessed by Mr. and Mrs. Doug Gilmore's Family Crusade, April 23-27. Dressed in the Eastern shepherd's full attire, and with his delightful pet lamb, Patty, by his side, the shepherd captivated the young audience each evening as he recounted and dramatized Bible stories. Many neighborhood children were also drawn to the program; approximately 50 decisions were made. Through this outreach, there are several enthusiastic newcomers to our Stockade, Pioneer Girls and Sunday School. (Christa Brazil, reporter.)

**SPRUCE GROVE, AB.** A time of sharing thankful praises to the Lord by our Parkland Baptist Church congregation occurred on March 12 when an appreciation service was held in honor of our mother church, Meadowlark Baptist, West Edmonton.

Personal and family testimonies were shared as well as a brief account of the growth of the Christian Service Brigade



program. Special musical numbers by the youth orchestra, children's and adult choir, youth group, a family piano solo, and a Pioneer Girls duet were interspersed in the program.

Our heartfelt thanks for many gracious supportive ministries to our Parkland Church and for continued prayerful and financial assistance by our mother church was expressed by several leaders to the congregation of Meadowlark Baptist Church. The Rev. Harold Weiss is pastor. (Christa Mrazil, reporter.)

**REGINA, SK.** Faith Baptist Church held another baptismal service May 14, 1978. The 13 persons baptized during the past year were all adults. We thank the Lord for the conversions during the past few months.

In the evening service on May 21, the film, "Pilgrim's Progress," was shown to a large audience. On May 28 we observed "Happy Birthday, Regina" in recognition of Regina's 75th anniversary. The mayor brought greetings on behalf of city council. The Rev. Richard Quiring is pastor. (Vera Rosom, reporter.)

**BURLINGTON, IA.** Pictured are 34 of the 40 new members received at the Oak Street Baptist Church from November 1977 to March 1978. Twenty-four of the



new members were received by baptism. The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney is the pastor. (Carol Leider, reporter.)

**ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL.** May was a most meaningful month with great historical significance at Tri-Community Baptist Church. On May 19 the Illinois Association met in council session to officially hear our presentation for membership into the Association and the North American Baptist Conference. The Recognition Council is recommending that the Association accept Tri-Community Baptist Church into the Association by extending the hand of fellowship at its fall session.

On May 21 we shared in our second joint baptismal service with the Bloomingdale Baptist Church. Seven adult candidates gave witness to their faith and desire to follow their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On May 28 we officially opened our charter membership. What a special joy to see the birth of a new dynamic Christian fellowship. The Rev. Marvin K. Busenius is the pastor of this Church Extension ministry.

**ANAMOOSE, ND.** On May 7, 1978, the Anamoose Baptist Women's Mission Society observed their 75th anniversary with a program and a tea. Mrs. Fred

Fuchs, Fessenden, ND, was the guest speaker. She challenged us with the scripture verse, Psalm 40:3a. Guests from the neighboring churches enjoyed the fellowship and lunch around small tables amid spring flowers and decorations. (Agnes Faul, reporter.)

**LORRAINE, KS.** of the First Baptist Church, experienced many blessings since Jan. 1, 1978, as we celebrated our 100th anniversary. On one memorable occasion, we removed the box from our cornerstone. It was placed in our present church on Nov. 28, 1937. Names of many



of our members were enclosed in this box along with a *Baptist Herald* and many other precious items. Dr. Pieter Smit, who placed the items in this box at that time, removed the box and told many interesting stories from our history. (Elda Perkins, church reporter.)

**MEDICINE HAT, AB.** Temple Baptist Church hosted the Alberta Baptist Association June 6-9, 1978, with the theme being "Christian Maturity." The moderator is the Rev. Ron Berg.

Mrs. Sara Lou Pasiciel, missionary to Cameroon, did a fine job of presenting missions. Dr. Roy Seibel, our keynote speaker, made us mindful of our need to grow daily toward spiritual maturity.

Among the highlights of the services were personal testimonies by laymen and laywomen, who had passed through deep waters or had otherwise experienced God's presence in a special way.

Friday night was youth night with Dr. Seibel challenging young people to make up their own minds as to who Christ is. The youth then met informally at a fellowship time at Grace Baptist Church.

Saturday afternoon the Medicine Hat High School was the scene of youth activities.

At the Saturday evening banquet, Mr. Dick Sherman explained and demonstrated various types of music, with his personal testimony of how God had led him from sinner to Christian. (Art Freitag, reporter.)

**JAMESTOWN, ND.** Temple Baptist Church invited an ordination council consisting of delegates and pastors from seven area churches to examine Douglas Bittle for ordination into the Christian ministry on May 27. He had previously

served our church as youth and choir director while attending Jamestown College. While he served here, God called Doug to full-time service for him. He then attended and graduated in May 1978 from the North American Baptist Seminary.

On Sunday afternoon, May 28, after the church and council minutes were read, Dr. J. Gordon Harris of the North American Baptist Seminary gave the ordination sermon; the Rev. B. A. Itterman gave the ordination prayer; the Rev. George Robinson the charge to the church; the Rev. Clarence Walth the charge to the candidate, and Mrs. Dorene Walth the charge to the candidate's wife. The hand of fellowship and welcome into the ministry was extended by the Rev. Ron Mayforth, North Central Area secretary. The Rev. George Robinson, host pastor, presented the certificate of ordination. Special music was provided by Carol Staiger and the Rev. and Mrs. Ted Faszter.

A fellowship dinner was served by the Jamestown and Medina ladies. Mrs. Doug Bittle is the former Patty Staiger of Medina. This was a great day for all who attended this very impressive service. (Mrs. Theodore Meisch, reporter.)

**BURLINGTON, ON.** Flags of the nations, dolls of the world, articles from our mission fields and flags made to represent the various organizations of our church decorated the Pineland Baptist Church during our Missionary Conference, April 23-26, 1978.



Miss Ruby Salzman reported about the work being done on the mission field. During the service, a long distance call was made to Florence Miller, a missionary we support in Japan. It was exciting to hear about her work, as the Rev. Walter Kerber, pastor, asked her questions. The phone was hooked up to our P.A. system, so all could hear the answers. The Rev. Edwin Michelson, Cameroon, helped us identify with people of Cameroon through a slide presentation.

Monday evening, after a pot-luck supper, the Randells told us about preparing for the mission field in New Guinea. We saw the movie, "Peace Child."

Tuesday we had an enriching evening listening to a panel discussion with three missionaries, Mr. George Baab, the Rev. David Burgess and Dr. Ernest Pasiciel.

The conference ended Wednesday with Mr. Ed Hoepner, missionary, Cameroon, sharing the growth he has experienced in his spiritual life through the various trials he faced. (Maria Hanik, reporter.)

## in memoriam

FRANK ALBUS was born March 17, 1885, in Foster County, ND, and died on June 4, 1978, in Bismarck, ND, at the age of 93 years. On Dec. 12, 1912, he married Louise Kuehn. He was baptized, became a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND, in 1920 and served as Sunday school teacher and deacon for many years. Preceded in death by his wife, he is survived by two daughters: Ella Gerlitz, Springfield, OH, and Mrs. Phil (Marie) Brennan, Bismarck, ND; one son, Col. Leslie Albus, Grand Forks, ND; one brother, Arthur; one sister, Mrs. Pauline Seibold; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. The Rev. Frank Unruh and the Rev. N. E. McCoy officiated at the service.

EDNA E. (KROLL) BANSMER of Lodi, CA, was born June 29, 1902, in Parkston, SD, and died March 20, 1978, in Lodi. She committed her life to the Lord in January 1911 and was later baptized in American Falls, ID, in May 1916. She married Emil N. Bansmer on Aug. 18, 1922, in Lodi. Together they worked for the Lord in Melrose Baptist Church of Oakland for over 30 years. During World War II they had several hundred service men in their home where they ministered to their physical and spiritual needs. She was a special friend to a number of German displaced persons whom the church sponsored. During the last years she was an active and faithful member of the First Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband, Emil; her daughter and son-in-law: Beverly and Roy Lee; two granddaughters: Cheryl Clark and Gail Washer; four great-grandchildren, and a brother, Curtis Kroll. The Rev. Jake Leverette and the Rev. Gus Rauser officiated at the funeral service.

## GENERAL COUNCIL (Continued from page 6)

oon; there are 17 missionaries in Nigeria now as compared to 2 in 1965. There are stable political conditions in Nigeria and Cameroon, so we need to work now. The Baptists of our mission work in Nigeria and Cameroon send an urgent request to us to continue supplying missionaries and subsidies to the conventions.

Lyle Wacker, secretary of Church Extension reported that there is a good outlook for establishing 12 new churches in 1978. Skyrocketing costs present a real problem in this phase of N.A.B. Conference ministry. Church sites cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000, and church loans are needed up to \$300,000. In the eleven years of Wacker's administration in Church Extension, he has seen a greater amount of decentralization to grassroots control in starting new churches. Forty Church Extension committees or councils now do the work. Wacker also stated that Church Extension projects gave \$52,000 toward the 1977 Conference missions and ministries budget.

The Church Ministries Department is seeking to help the local church improve in these areas: church fellowship, Christian education, developing leaders in the church as well as helping people discover their abilities for service and outreach evangelism, according to Bruce Rich, general director of Church Ministries. There is a

MRS. EVA GARTNER, 85, a resident of Bismarck Baptist Home, ND, died there on May 19, 1978. The former Eva Buechler was born Dec. 1, 1892, in Wishek, ND, and grew up in Tripp, SD. She married John Gartner on Jan. 9, 1913. They farmed near Tripp and Goodrich, ND, moving to Bismarck in 1969. Mr. Gartner died in 1969. She leaves four sons: Reuben, Lodi, CA, Herbert and Harry, Bismarck, and Willis, McClusky, ND; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two half sisters, Mrs. Leora Geselchen and Elsie Lang. The Rev. Ron Norman and the Rev. Orville Meth were the officiating ministers.

HERBERT W. JANZEN was born to Henry and Carrie Janzen on Oct. 25, 1900, near Lorraine, KS, and died March 25, 1978. At the age of 19, he accepted the Lord, was baptized and joined First Baptist Church, Lorraine. He married Inez B. Janssen, June 2, 1921. He was a farmer and stockman. Survivors include three sons: Theibert, Geneseo, Melvin, Lorraine, and Edwin, Hays; a daughter: Mrs. Edna Perkins, Lorraine; four brothers: Edward, Wilbert, LeRoy, and Albert; three sisters: Mrs. Edna Schroeder, Mrs. Nelly Nelson, and Mrs. Thelma Kinneer; 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. The Rev. Herbert Vetter officiated at the service.

HENRY MATTIS, 73, of Coeur d'Alene, ID was born Oct. 14, 1904, at Eureka, SD, and died May 25, 1978. He farmed near Hettinger, ND, and moved to Coeur d'Alene, ID, in 1970. He was a member of First Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Lydia; two sons: Eugene, Hettinger, ND, and Bill, Potlatch, ID; two daughters: Elsie Clairmont, Bismarck, ND, and Lorraine Fulker, Aberdeen, SD; three brothers, six sisters, and nine grandchildren. One brother and his parents preceded him in death. Pastor Kendrick Gould officiated at the service.

THE REV. MAX G. MITTELSTAEDT was born Aug. 13, 1905, in Zgierz, (Lodz) Poland. He accepted Christ as Savior, was baptized in 1917 and became a member of the Schmidt Strasse Baptist Church, Berlin, Germany. In 1926 he immigrated to Canada. He entered Rochester Baptist Seminary, NY, in 1928 and graduated in 1933. He was ordained in 1935 while serving Liberty Street Baptist Church, Meriden, CT. He served the following N.A.B. Conference churches: Liberty Street

Baptist, Meriden, CT, 1934-1935; Shaker Square Baptist, Cleveland, OH, 1935-1938; Immanuel Baptist, Kyle, TX, 1939-1943; and an American Baptist Church—First Baptist, Lebanon, OH, 1943-1970. After retirement he continued to serve as interim pastor in Dayton, Cleveland, and Wilmington, OH, until the Sunday before his passing. He died April 7, 1978. The memorial service was held in the First Baptist Church of Lebanon, where he had served for 27 years, with several ministers participating. The Rev. Peter Kemper, pastor of the church, officiated.

ALVINA C. QUENZER, 75, born Oct. 27, 1902, in Mound City, SD, died May 9, 1978, in Meridian, ID. In 1920 she accepted Christ as her Savior. She memorized many Scripture passages which she referred to in her time of suffering. She married George Quenzer on Feb. 14, 1922, in Herried, SD. Both were baptized and joined the Baptist Church in Friedenfeld, Selfridge, ND, in 1931. They farmed near Maple Leaf, SD, from 1922-35, and then southeast of Meridian, ID. She was preceded in death by her husband, George, and a son, George A. Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Alvina Unser, Kuna, ID, and Mrs. Irene Wilper, Fair Oaks, CA; four sons: Reinie, Emmett, ID, Milbert, Boise, ID, Herbert, Star, ID, and Eugene, Meridian, ID; three brothers: Andrew H. Kunz, John Kunz, and Reinhart Kunz; four sisters: Rosalia Quenzer, Emma Schaible, Lydia Geigle, and Marie Schaible; 25 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. Dr. Mack McCray officiated at the funeral service.

MARIE BECKER SCHRENK, born June 25, 1901, at Goodrich, ND, to John and Barbara Mauch, died May 24, 1978, in Salem, OR. Marie was baptized and joined First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, in 1919. She attended Northern Baptist Seminary. She married the Rev. Emil Becker on June 25, 1926. Together they served seven churches in Ableman, WI, Hutchinson, MN, Washburn, ND, Herried, SD, Bethany, Vancouver, BC, Buena, WA, and New Leipzig, ND. After Rev. Becker's death in 1958, she served as matron at the Bismarck Baptist Home for four years. Marie married Henry Schrenk on July 20, 1962. He died in 1973. Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Orville (Virginia) Chapman and Mrs. Charles (Elaine) Morrison; two step-daughters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

growing awareness in our churches for the need to share Christ.

Joe Sonnenberg, president of North American Baptist College, introduced Len Semrau, the new chairman of the Board of Trustees. Sonnenberg announced the appointments of Arthur Petrie as the new director of development beginning in July, and Lou Suchenko as professor of Christian education as of May 1978. Sonnenberg went on to speak of Canada being in a state of ferment at the present time: politically, due to the unity question; economically, due to the boom, especially in the oil business; religiously, due to a religious vacuum where evangelicals can and are making inroads for the first time in Canada. There is a great need for us to expand our work in Canada.

Len Semrau brought a request from the College Board of Trustees for a stand-by loan, with a maximum of \$250,000; they are raising money to construct a much needed library building.

Wayne Peterson, dean, N.A.B. Seminary reported that the seminary has graduated the largest class of students in its history.

David Draewell, president of N.A.B. Seminary, reported that the Seminary is purchasing the president's home belonging to Sioux Falls College. This home will be remodeled into an administration building for the Seminary. A half block of adjacent land is also being

(Continued on page 31)



## GOD'S VOLUNTEERS (Continued from page 7)

in his provision of a summer job, doing his work. As I look forward to a summer of growth, I am also anticipating another year as a God's Volunteer on the 1978-79 team. Praise the Lord for answered prayer!

### Karen L. Trax/Music Section

"In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:6). I've experienced great joy this year as a God's Volunteer through discovering just exactly what God wants from me. I've found that total commitment means acknowledging him in every area of my life, and then all the oppressions and problems I used to let rule me will fall into place. I know that God used me in many ways on the team this year through music, evangelism and sharing, but I also know that he made me strong through my service. Not a day goes by that I don't thank God for claiming what is rightfully his, and that is *all* of me. Jesus is Lord of my life!

### Paul Dykstra/Music Section

"The joy of the Lord is my strength!" I've experienced joy in so many ways on the team this year that it would be difficult to name them all. As I continued to look unto Christ for guidance and direction this second year of G.V. service, he answered prayer and prepared me for a bright future. My decision to go into full-time Christian service was enhanced by my opportunities to gain confidence in my abilities through acting as section leader and taking a leadership role in services and performances. My greatest joy was in discovering just exactly what great things the Lord had planned for me, when I found out that I had been chosen as the assistant director of God's Volunteers for the '78-'79 year tour. It's the opportunity I've dreamed of, and I can only keep praising his name for the joy he has brought into my life.

### Miriam Enslen/Follow-Up Section

One of the many things that stand out in my mind from the past year is the discovery of an uncounted number of people who are without Christ in their lives. Calling experiences opened my eyes to heart-breaking incidents involving many lonely people, people who have had the unimaginable happen to them, people who are at a real low point in their lives. I've become aware of the responsibility we have as Christians to reach out to others around us every day, and that it takes repeated contacts for them to realize Christ is the only way and that he gives real joy and growth. I plan to continue sharing

Christ and will make it a life-style, as I go back to a job situation.

### Barry Seifert/Music Section

In summing up my year with G.V.'s, I would say I've seen the importance of commitment, meaning a daily, growing relationship with Christ. This does not mean calling upon God only when we are in dire need, but rather disciplining ourselves to communicate with God at all times whether we feel the situation is good or bad. This type of commitment develops trust, a trust which brings the type of peace and joy that only God can supply. I have been challenged to continue to seek a deeper daily relationship with Christ, and through this be a more influential witness for him.

### Marlene Ginter/Follow-Up Section

In my two years on God's Volunteers I've experienced many things. The greatest impact upon me is seeing prayer, total faith and trust in action. What we as Christians can enjoy and experience if we only trust and pray is truly a great promise! In Arnprior, Ontario, we saw a body of believers that had been praying fervently for literally months before our work began, and the results of our crusade there were phenomenal. It was beautiful to see how the Lord answered prayer, and it served as an example to me in my own life of how I could rest in placing my complete trust and faith in Christ. Now I am putting that into practice and am placing my life and future in his hands. I no longer worry about tomorrow, for God knows already what tomorrow will bring, and he will be with me!

### Scott MacDonald/Follow-Up Section

With three and a half weeks of tour left I found myself wrapped up in the busyness of the Lord's work, so busy that I found I lacked not in "quantity time", but in "quality time" I actually spent *with* Christ, listening and awaiting his guidance. About this time when I thought everything was going great the Lord tested me. I pinched a nerve in my left hip during a basketball game, but I thanked him for it, even though I didn't understand it, because in I Thess. 5:18 it says, "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I also had a case of laryngitis, which meant I couldn't even teach my seminars. So, I felt totally useless in my role on the team, but even though I didn't understand, I thanked him for it, and this drew me closer to God and to rely upon him for my strength each day. I look forward to my future days with Christ and to next fall, when I will be attending Biola College in California.

### Janette Streuber/Music Section

A promise that has become real to me while on tour this year is that of God's faithfulness to his own. With each new day bringing various activities and situations, he has provided blessings to learn and grow by, and has shown his goodness and encouragement in times of joy and praise and in loneliness or discouragement. I have been comforted by his strength and constant nearness. I am in agreement with the songwriter who said "Great is Thy Faithfulness," and I can confidently claim that "Blessings have been all mine with ten thousand beside"! Praise the Lord, for I also have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to give of myself on the '78-'79 team next year!

### Dave Robinson/Music Section

The Lord has given me the privilege of serving with God's Volunteers for the past two years, one year on the follow-up section, and this past year with the music section as sound technician, and it has been exciting! Matthew 9:37 says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." True, there are many people who haven't heard Christ's Good News, but the labors are few to share. This year my main goal is to be able to train and work with lay people in one-on-one discipleship. There will always be memories and joys in my mind, when I think of sharing with others while a God's Volunteer—and excitement!

You may feel thanks are due us as a volunteer team, but we wish to sincerely thank you for all you have given us with your love, support, and prayerful cooperation! This common bond of love we all share as Christ's children is a beautiful thing to experience. It's true that "We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land"! Remember, we're all God's Volunteers forever! □

## chuckle with bruno

A riot is what happens when a non-violent demonstrator meets a peaceful protest.

Sign in a waiting room of the maternity ward in the hospital: "Call us any time of day or night. We deliver."

The government believes that we taxpayers have what it takes.

Gravestone inscription "He lies here like he did elsewhere."

## what's happening

■ Three new churches were received into the Alberta Association at its annual session: *Park Meadows Baptist Church*, Lethbridge, AB, the Rev. Bruce Merrifield, pastor; *Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church*, St. Albert, AB, the Rev. Irwin Kujat, pastor; *Smokey Lake Baptist Church*, Smokey Lake, AB, with the Rev. August Grymalski, part-time interim pastor. The first two churches are church extension projects while the latter is a congregation which was organized under the Slavic Gospel Association Mission.

■ Rev. Richard D. Lord has accepted the call to be pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Warren, MI. He has been pastor of Central Baptist Church, Waco, TX, since 1976.

■ The Rev. Edwin J. Fuellbrandt became pastor of Oakbank Baptist Church, Oakbank, MB, on June 11, 1978. He had been assistant pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, since 1976.

### WOMAN'S WORLD (Continued from page 15)

the Lord knew we couldn't handle those problems and took care of them.

Another concern of ours was finances. How would we support a family of five? One of us needed a part-time job, and if it was me, John could study as he babysat. I began working part-time with Worldbook/Childcraft. Each month the amount of money that we needed came in. I was only able to work two days a week, and it was exciting to watch the Lord provide. In our second year John was able to secure a job as pastor of a small church 40 miles from Sioux Falls. How great it was to watch him grow in the Lord and see the Lord use him to reach out to people.

Well, now you ask me if it has been worth it. YES, without hesitation I would do it all over again. Twelve years ago when I accepted Christ as my personal Savior, he never promised me an easy road. Many times, though, since then I would start to worry about things, and over and over a still small voice would say, "Diane, trust in me. I love you and won't let you down." Yes, there have been some rough times, but until we start trusting in the Lord and relying on him, we miss many of the blessings of seeing him work in our lives. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass" (Ps. 37:5).

■ The Rev. John L. Terveen was ordained by First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, on June 11, 1978. He is the new assistant pastor at Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas, OR.

■ The Rev. Dennis Angell was ordained June 4, 1978, by Stafford Baptist Church, Wilsonville, OR. Mr. Angell is the pastor of the church.

■ The Rev. Dale Axt was ordained by Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, on June 4, 1978. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Sidney, MT.

■ The Rev. Douglas Bittle was ordained into the Christian ministry by Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND, on May 28, 1978. He is the pastor of West Center Street Baptist Church, Madison, SD.

■ Mr. Bruce Ewing is the pastor of the new Church Extension project in Tulsa, OK, effective June 20, 1978. He previously served a church in Newton, KS.

■ *Corona Heights Baptist Fellowship* is the name of the Church Extension project in Corona, CA, with the Rev. Ron Hartman as pastor.

■ *The Walnut Street Baptist Church*, Cincinnati, OH, was removed from the Penn-Ohio Association at the Association sessions on May 5, 1978.

■ The Rev. Ray Hinsch entered the Air Force chaplaincy in August 1978. He has been pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Hutchinson, MN, since 1976.

■ Mr. Curtis Congo became the minister of Christian education at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, on July 1, 1978. He previously was the minister of Christian education at Eagle Rock Baptist Church in Los Angeles, CA, and recently received his M.A. degree in Christian education from Talbot Seminary.

■ Mr. Mark Woods became the youth pastor of German Baptist Mission Church, Hamilton, ON, on June 1, 1978.

■ Mr. Dave Rushton became the pastor of the new Church Extension work in Sun Prairie, WI, on July 3, 1978. He previously served at Midwest Bible Church, Chicago, IL.

■ The Rev. Morley Schultz has accepted the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB, effective Sept. 10, 1978. He has served as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK, since 1970.

■ The Rev. Larry Salsburey begins as pastor of the new Church Extension work in Richland, WA, on Sept. 1, 1978. He previously served as youth pastor at McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, since 1976.

■ Miss Jennell G. Mauch, a 1978 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, became director of Christian education and youth ministries July 24, 1978, at Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL.

■ The Rev. Wilbert Harsch resigned as pastor of College Heights Baptist Church, a Church Extension project in Prince George, BC, effective August 30, 1978. He is awaiting the Lord's guidance for the future.

■ Mr. Dennis J. Goodin became the pastor of Turtle Lake Baptist Church, ND, June 18, 1978. He is a recent graduate of Dallas Seminary.

■ Mr. George Webb became the minister of youth at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, on June 5, 1978. He is a graduate of Vancouver Bible College and served as a youth minister in the Vancouver area the past year.

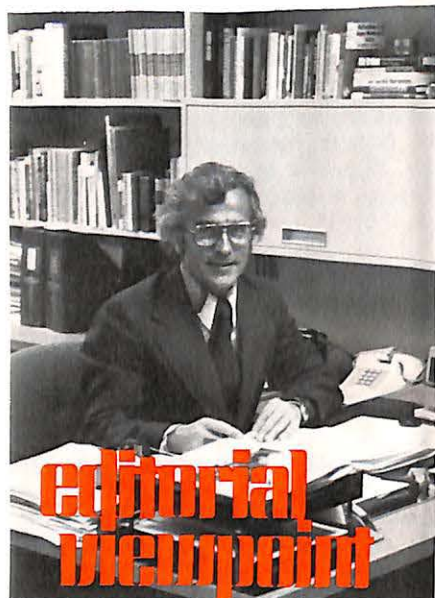
■ The Rev. Allen Heron resigned from the pastorate of Garfield Road Baptist Church, Mt. Clemens, MI, effective June 30, 1978. He is now on the staff of another Christian agency in Arlington Heights, IL.

■ The Rev. Arthur Boymook, Lansing, MI, received the doctor of ministry degree from North American Baptist Seminary, May 1978. He is pastor of Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing.

■ Mr. Harold Schroeder has accepted the call to be the director of Christian Education at Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC. He is a 1978 graduate of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB.

■ The Rev. Waldemar Ertis becomes the associate pastor for German ministry at Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, on Sept. 1, 1978. He previously served as pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC.





## Yes, I Pick Up Hitchhikers

I have been picking up hitchhikers for I don't know how many years. At first I did so out of gratitude for the years when I as a student used to thumb my way through Europe. Some years later, I discovered that the picking up of hitchhikers was a wonderful opportunity to witness to total strangers. Except during vacation, there is never a week, when on my way to work I do not pick up hitchhikers: college students, high school students, men with car trouble or other men (I never pick up female hitchhikers; that is one iron rule! Sorry, girls.), who indicate that they need a ride.

In my conversations with friends or acquaintances, I have often caused a shock reaction, when I admitted my "roadside activity." Many were eager to point out the dangers of picking up strangers. Others did not really warn me but stated that they would never do "such a foolish thing."

Just when I was wondering what topic I should discuss in this month's editorial, I came across the July/August issue of THE AMERICAN BAPTIST, the magazine of the American Baptist Churches, USA. I usually begin reading a magazine by reading the editorial first. Phil E. Jenks, the editor, calls his editorial "The Little Scroll." This time it has the subtitle, "The Jericho Road." To my great astonishment, I read that Phil has been brought up with these three rules: To study hard, to keep his

hands to himself, and to never pick up hitchhikers. Right away I agreed to the first two rules, but I could not settle for advise number three.

Then I read on: "I might still be assuming that all three items were the eternal credos of a moral life, were it not for a book by Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, *I Pick Up Hitchhikers*."

Now, neither have I read Dahlberg's book nor have I ever heard of it. However, the editor gives the author the highest credentials, calling him even possibly "the greatest living American Baptist." I will therefore make it a point to read what this theologian, scholar, pastor and former president of American Baptist Churches has to say on this subject. From Phil's editorial, I surmise that Dahlberg reports that in the decade he has picked up hitchhikers he has never had a bad experience. "He doesn't look upon the services he provides to hitchhikers as being any more risky than the activities required of other professionals," reports Mr. Jenks. "He is merely in a new stage of his ministry."

I wholeheartedly concur with Dahlberg. In the ten years of my traveling to the Conference Office I have had many delightful conversations with hitchhikers, which have enriched my outlook on life. Everytime I stopped to pick up somebody, I quickly prayed that Christ would give me a meaningful encounter with that person, and the Lord has never let me down. On a Monday morning, our conversation would usually start with the question, whether the traveler had been in church on Sunday. Depending on his answer, I would then intensify my searching questions. Never did I hide the fact that I was mainly interested in the spiritual well-being of my traveling companions. And they, either out of thankfulness for the ride, or out of politeness, or perhaps even out of genuine interest in my questions, were, without exception, always willing to play my question-answer "game."

I could fill many pages with exciting reports about these hitchhikers, who suddenly would open up and use my car as confession booth. Neither the color of the skin nor the degree of cleanliness mattered to me. I figured, the more downtrodden a person looked, the more he needed my ride.

Once a long haired, tattooed hippie with a ribbon around his forehead, in unbelief stuck his head into my open window and said: "Mister, you mean you want me in your car?"—"Why not?"—"Well, I guess I'm not exactly what people call clean." After a few miles, we had a delightful discussion going, and I was glad that Jesus Christ does not distinguish in his love between cleanshaven citizens, hobos, hippies and

vagrants. He loves them all alike, and he wants us to love them too.

On another occasion a young man gave me a puzzled look and then asked, "Aren't you the guy who talked about God and church to me some weeks ago?"—"I may be. Did it help?"—"Yep, kind of; I went to church two or three times. But then I stopped going." "Hop in, man, you need another talk." And off we went.

Dangerous? Yes, I admit, as does Dahlberg, that this activity is a bit risky. But so was the Samaritan's job when he stopped to help the man on Jericho's road. For Christ's sake, I have learned not to be afraid of people but rather to reach out to them in love in Christ's name.

Phil Jenks concludes his editorial by saying that "not everyone who reads Ed Dahlberg's book will want to take the risk, and he offers no moral judgment against them . . . Neighborliness is, after all, often as much an act of courage as an act of friendship."

I am glad that my friend Phil has corrected one of his three teenager rules and might now be willing to be a Good Samaritan of the road, in spite of the possible risk. I know I am willing to take the risk. I should call him and tell him about it; I better do it right now. RJK □



Dear Editor:

The BAPTIST HERALD June '78 copy is a manysplendored issue. Thank you. Helmut G. Dymmel, Salem, OR.

Dear Editor:

This year's subscription will be my 51st year as a subscriber. God bless you in your work.

I enjoy especially your German articles very much in DER SENDBOTE, the German insert in BAPTIST HERALD. Especially the reports about the trip you made to Russia were interesting. I have a sister in Alma Ata, Russia. I believe you were there. The last time I heard from my sister was a few months ago. She is 86 years old. I left Russia 64 years ago and haven't been back since. I called them by telephone two years ago, which was a thrilling experience. Jacob K. Nuss, Lodi, CA.

Dear Editor:

We were pleased that our church voted to use the Every Family Subscription Plan for 1978. I was pleased that our new moderator, a new man to our N.A.B. family of less than a year, promoted and sold the idea to our church. Terrific!

We do appreciate the BAPTIST HERALD and the fine work you are doing. We look forward to getting our copy; it is always priority reading for information and inspiration. God bless

## UNFORGETTABLE VISIT

(Continued from page 19)

and blossoming trees. The people appeared more prosperous than in other areas.

We were very happy for several opportunities to visit in the homes of the people. We marvelled at how the ladies prepared the many delicious dishes, in kitchens with minimal facilities. After dinner speeches pledging mutual concern and prayer support as well as the exchange of gifts, were part of each gathering. It was a special joy to present the Word of God in their own language to those who are unable to buy copies of it. How we regretted that we could not give Bibles to all who asked!

Our schedule was packed with attending church services to the extent that we saw little of the cultural wealth of Russia. We were happy though to get to see the Moscow-Circus on our last evening there.

Points of interest in each city were shown to us by In-tourist guides who spoke excellent English. No city tour was complete without a visit to the War Memorial with its eternal flame, guarded by a troop of well disciplined school children in their early teens. It was rather interesting to see numerous wedding parties proceed to the

## GENERAL COUNCIL

(Continued from page 27)

purchased as a site for future student apartments. The seminary has also acquired three homes near the Seminary campus as a partial site for future expansion. Draewell also stated a concern, "It is important for all of us to recognize that, despite the fact that we are living in the so-called 'Age of the Evangelical,' there is a danger which evangelicalism faces today which has the potential of destroying much of the gain it has experienced in recent years. The danger does not seem to come from without but rather from within the evangelical camp itself. The key issue involved relates to similar, yet technically different, ways of looking at the Bible.

you and all your co-workers at Headquarters. Harold E. Weiss, pastor, Parkland Baptist Church, Spruce Grove, AB.

## MEDIA MINISTRY

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memorial to place their flowers there.

Other experiences we shall not soon forget include our "no frills" *Aeroflot* flights, breakfast at the airport, and the close fellowship on overnight train trips.

The countryside we travelled through reminded us of rural northern Manitoba, with its grain fields, wooded areas and lakes, though the style of houses set us back a decade or two.

Our stay in Russia coincided with their Easter week celebrations, and the Soviet brethren do celebrate all week. Every speaker prefaced his or her comments with *Christos Vos Cryest* (Christ is risen), to which the audience stands and responds emphatically *Voyessteno Vos Cryest* (Risen indeed). This is repeated three times, and all of us felt quite at ease with this meaningful greeting, after hearing it and saying it numerous times each day. It is thrilling to know that Christ is risen indeed, and that there are people all over the world, whose lives have been changed because of this glorious fact. A song came frequently to my mind, as we were blessed to worship with these fellow believers: "We are one in the bond of love." What unites us is so much greater than the political difference between us. It is my prayer that we could someday "join our hands, so the world will know. We are one in the bond of love. □

Unless the Holy Spirit miraculously intervenes in the course of events, every evangelical denomination and school may face the possibility of serious fragmentation over this matter in the coming years. Our own faculty is seeking ways to become effective mediating and reconciling agents in this controversy, even though some persons would say that no middle ground exists. Let us be in fervent prayer that the strong historic commitment to the Bible, which is present in our Conference and in all of its agencies, will free us from unfortunate divisive experiences in the days which lie ahead."

The Council meetings were informative; business was conducted in an excellent spirit, and much responsibility lies on the representatives to inform and challenge the constituency to reach the goals set. □



## Church Extension

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### 1978 Conference Budget Goal—\$3,200,000

World Missions	40%	\$1,276,006
Church Extension	14%	458,312
Education	19%	612,217
Ministries	16¼ %	496,933
Development & Administration	10¾ %	356,532
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,200,000</b>

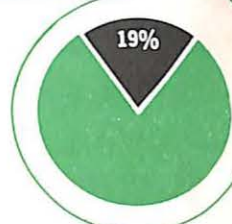


## Education

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N.A.B. College for 1 week	\$ 4,752
N.A.B. College for 1 day	\$ 677
N.A.B. College for 1 hour	\$ 28