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December 1980



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From the Father's Viewpoint

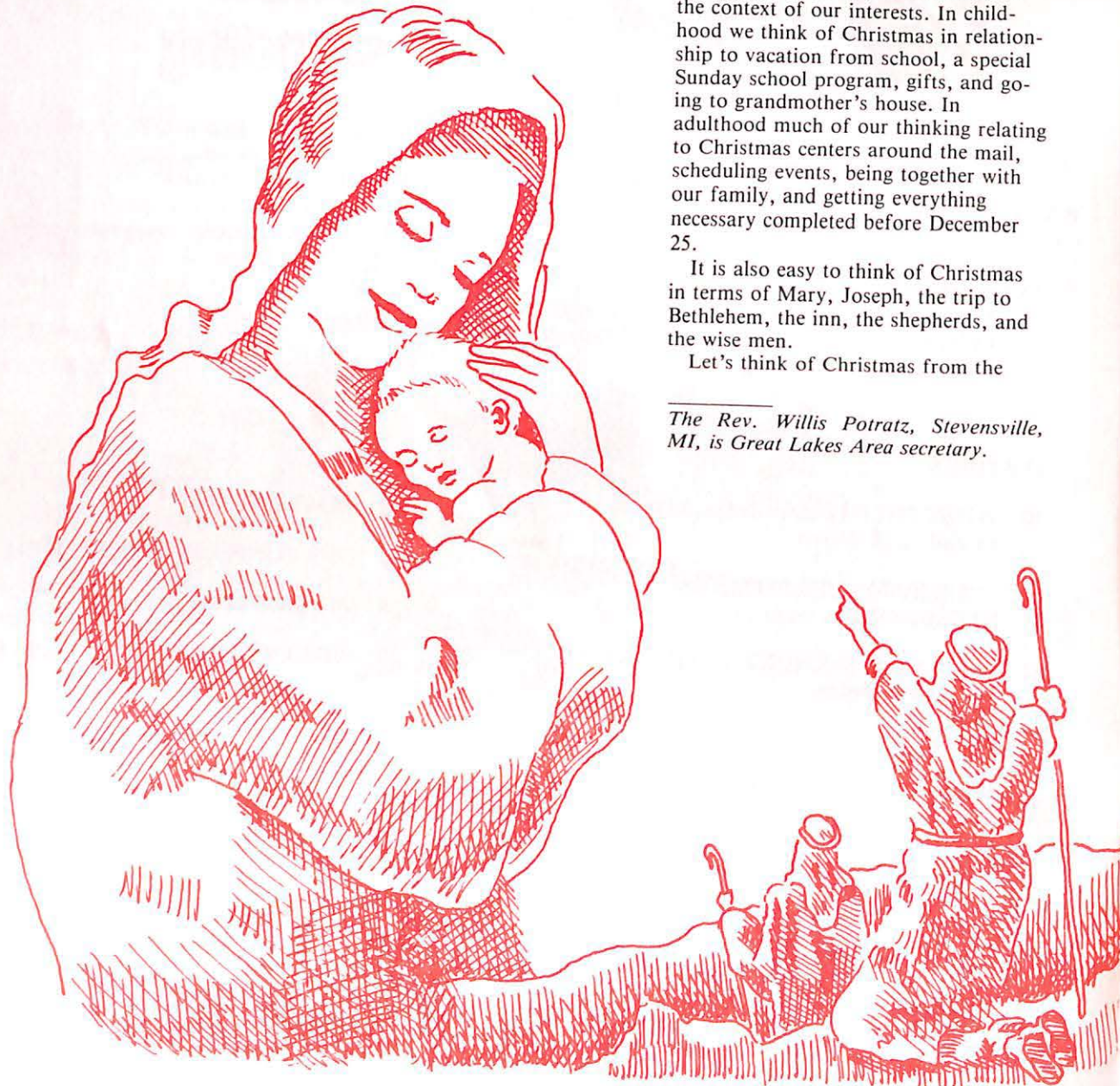
by Willis Potratz

It is natural to think of Christmas in the context of our interests. In childhood we think of Christmas in relationship to vacation from school, a special Sunday school program, gifts, and going to grandmother's house. In adulthood much of our thinking relating to Christmas centers around the mail, scheduling events, being together with our family, and getting everything necessary completed before December 25.

It is also easy to think of Christmas in terms of Mary, Joseph, the trip to Bethlehem, the inn, the shepherds, and the wise men.

Let's think of Christmas from the

The Rev. Willis Potratz, Stevensville, MI, is Great Lakes Area secretary.



Father's viewpoint, as presented in Romans 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

God Sent His Son to This World

God spared not his own Son but sent him to this world. He came as a baby that he might be one of us and provide perfect redemption for us. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed both his human and divine essence in this summary statement, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . ." (Isaiah 9:6a). He was born into this world. Even in this, God spared him not in a day when infant mortality was high. It seems that the cleanest inn would have been the smallest consideration. Instead, God's Son was born in a stable. Someone has written:

"We think it strange
The Son of God should in a manger lie!
His room a stable floored with sod
And animals close by.

We think it strange.
We sigh and mourn
A stable seems so odd.
But, where else should a lamb be born?
Behold, the Lamb of God!"

" . . . when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4, 5). From the Father's viewpoint, Christmas proclaims God's redemption for us in Christ Jesus.

God Gave His Son a Human Body

God spared not his own Son in giving him a human body. Jesus Christ was "Immanuel," that is, "God with us." This body and mind were without the blemishes of sin and perfect in every way. Therefore, he was keenly responsive to all of life. The demands, which were placed upon Jesus Christ in life, as recorded in the Gospels, reveals again

that "God spared not his own Son." Moreover, the book of Hebrews declares that Jesus was also not spared being tempted to sin in all points like as we are that He might be our all-sufficient high priest (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15).

Jesus Christ came into this world that we could come unto God. In becoming one of us, and dying for us, Christ became the one mediator between God and man for all who see their need of redemption from sin and who trust in Jesus as Savior.

From the Father's viewpoint, Christmas proclaims God's perfect provision for us to come unto himself in Christ Jesus.

God Gives Freely

God spared not his own Son that with him he might freely give us all things. Even though we deserve banishment from God's presence, because all of us have and continue to sin, in love for us, God spared not his Son. In this love, God, the Father, desires to shower upon us his boundless and unlimited provisions.

God is not just our Creator and benefactor. In Jesus Christ, God has expressed his unique love for us. The richness of this is underlined in David's prayer: "For thy people Israel didst thou make thine own people forever; and thou, Lord, becamest their God . . . Let it even be established, that thy name may be magnified for ever, saying, The Lord of Hosts is the God of Israel, even a God to Israel" (I Chronicles 17:22, 24). "The God of Israel is a God to Israel." Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse highlighted the difference in these prepositions by this analogy. "A man begets a son, and he is always, in consequence of that act, the father of that son. But there have been men who have never been father *of* their sons. On the other hand, here is a man who begets a

child and gives himself to that child . . . It can be said in the highest degree that he is not only the father *of* the boy but that he is a father *to* the boy."

God spared not his own Son that with Jesus Christ he could be a God to us and with him freely give us all things! The greatest of these is: "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

Christmas Proclaims God's Provisions

From the Father's viewpoint, Christmas proclaims God's boundless provisions for us in time and for eternity.

The Christmas season is a wonderful part of the year. Even though traditions abound, which obscure the message that God spared not his own Son, the significance of Christmas, from the Father's viewpoint, is declared in a multitude of carols, cards, pictures, programs, sermons, magazine, and newspaper accounts. Look for that message anew. Let it warm your heart, strengthen your faith, and increase your love for our heavenly Father. Use this Christmas season, with all the opportunities which it affords, to tell many that "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18) □

¹Barnhouse, Donald Grey, *Exposition of Bible Doctrine*, Vol. III, Grand Rapids, MI: Erdmans, © 1963 by the Evangelical Foundation, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, p. 180.

What Hath God Wrought!

by B. C. Schreiber

More than a hundred years ago, the world was thrilled and excited over a new invention. Samuel Morse transmitted the first four well-known words: "What hath God wrought!" He must have been well-acquainted with the Bible to recall these few words hidden in Numbers 23:23. Since then the telegraph has transmitted bad news as well as good news.

Almost two thousand years ago, the angel of the Lord appeared, saying, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11). "What hath God wrought!"

At no time of the year are these words more appropriate than at Christmas. No invention and no historical event are comparable to "God's unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). With awe and wonder, we are often at a loss for words of thanksgiving. We can only say, "What hath God wrought!" For the true Christian, thanks can also be "unspeakable."

But like the telegraph, Christ is also a bane and a blessing: Bad news for some, good news for others. He is the cornerstone as well as the stumbling-stone: the rock of salvation as well as the rock of offense (Rom. 9:33); for the fall as well as the rising again of Israel (Luke 2:34). He brought peace as well as discord, love as well as hatred.

Selfish people always feel threatened. They look on everybody as rivals for their position. This was the case with Herod. With the birth of Christ, he became aware of the danger of being

dethroned. That the heart could also be a throne never entered his mind.

Christ is a threat to anything or anyone that occupies the heart. This is his rightful dwelling place, and this is where he wants to rule. Christ's purpose in his coming is not to dethrone but to elevate, not to cast down but to lift up, not to demote but to promote. To millions who have experienced this, they, too, have exclaimed with wonder, "What hath God wrought!"

Lowly people need not feel excluded. Indeed, the lowly shepherds were the first to be included. The shepherds probably knew little if anything about prophecy and the Scriptures. Because of their responsibility as shepherds, they were not able to worship in the temple in Jerusalem, or even rarely in the synagogue, for they had to literally live with the sheep.

The lowly, common, ignorant people have since discovered that they, too, have been included in the "whosoever will," and with the shepherds have experienced the wonder of God's visitation. With the shepherds, they also came "to see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us" and exclaimed, "What hath God wrought!"

The educated and the intelligensia, however, need not feel that the coming of the Savior in the form of a babe is not worthy of investigation. The wise men also came. Who knows how much time and effort was spent in their study and search for the Christchild, how many obstacles they had to overcome, and how much preparation had to be made for such a venture. Their desire to worship the King must have been overpowering.

Christ is not afraid to be investigated by the scientific world. He welcomes such investigation. "Seek and ye shall find" is his invitation to the best minds

in the universities and scientific laboratories. The wise are not excluded. Many have found him and worship him as King. They, too, exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

The truly religious will always find him. Simeon had no difficulty in recognizing the Lord's Christ in the temple. He knew whom he was waiting for, and old age did not prevent him from his life-long faith that his dream would one day be fulfilled. The prophet Joel said that "old men shall dream dreams" (2:28), and Simeon's revelation through the Holy Spirit was the culmination of his dream. He may have been looked upon as being peculiar, perhaps even a little senile, but no one was able to shake his faith in the fact that he would one day see the Messiah before he died. The fact that he prophesied and spoke through the Holy Spirit is an indication that God does not forsake a person in old age. He, too, can say, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation," and he often sees it more clearly than the younger generation.

It cannot be emphasized too much that Simeon waited in the Spirit; he received the revelation through the Spirit; he was led into the temple by the Spirit, and he prophesied through the Spirit. There is no doubt that he departed from this life in peace through the Holy Spirit.

"What hath God wrought!" No one could have said it more enthusiastically than Simeon on that glorious day when he held the Christchild in his arms and blessed God for such a high and holy privilege.

There has always been an area of loneliness in our society. This was also true when Jesus was born. Hannah became a widow after seven years of marriage. Now she was 84 years old. It was unusually difficult for a widow in

Jesus' time to make a living, to be accepted in society, and to make any meaningful contribution to the welfare of others. Hannah found a niche where she was able to minister in behalf of others. She served God by fasting and praying. Who knows how many were helped through her intercession. Because of her faithfulness she, likewise, recognized the Christchild and gave thanks for this special privilege. But she did not stop there. She became an immediate witness to all those who looked for the redemption of Israel.

It is difficult today for many singles to be accepted in all areas of society. More attempts are made than ever before to organize groups and activities for single adults. Their needs are different; they have a desire for closer and more meaningful fellowship. At the same time, they should not be excluded from other activities in the wider fellowship of God's kingdom. Many have found a special place of ministry as followers of Jesus Christ. Their lives have been productive, because they have been able to witness where others have failed. Their special kind of freedom and independence have given them areas of ministry, which have brought honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. With Hannah they can also exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

At this sacred time of the year, let us take an honest look at our personal lives and see God's loving guidance—his salvation. Meditate on the past and see how our Conference has grown. Thank God for the many churches that are spread throughout North America. Be grateful for the many students and faculty members in our North American Baptist Seminary and North American Baptist College and Divinity School. How thankful we should be for our dedicated ministers and missionaries who are spreading the gospel of salvation throughout the world.

When we think of "God's unspeakable gift" at Christmastime, we can unitedly exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" □



“I wouldn't be a minister if you paid me a million dollars!” is a comment every clergyman has heard, with or without slight variations. Those who say or think it react in several ways. One person, very much at odds with himself, his job, and his home, is on the look-out for trouble, and if he or she can't find it, makes it. He picks, pouts, criticizes, and tries to keep something stewing or tries to influence those few who pay any attention to him about everything he thinks is wrong with the church and the pastor.

There is another way people react to this quite common attitude (and it includes the vast majority). Generally they are sympathetic but shrug off any responsibility for making the pastor's work easier. Many don't get involved in the really where-it's-at life of the fellowship, thus ridding themselves of their obligation to minister. They attend Sunday morning worship if there is nothing more interesting to do that weekend, and this is their only participation.

Then there are those few jewels who say lovingly, “I don't see how you do it, pastor. I just couldn't do what you do, and take what you have to take.” They stand by in the wings, ready in hundreds of ways to serve the minister, his family, and their church. One positively beautiful couple comes to mind, who stop by with gifts from trips they take, love and thank-you notes, and birthday remembrances with loads of love. They are not beneath painting the church, ushering, cooking, or helping in any way. “No” is not in their vocabulary when asked to help.

Because of the ministering of these people to their pastor, he regains a renewed sense of worth.

Clergymen are human. What does a minister do when someone says, “You will have to come and apologize to me personally before I set foot inside that church again,” but that person refuses to tell the minister for what he should apologize? How does he cope with a disturbed woman who periodically comes to set him straight spiritually and then proceeds to tell this beleaguered minister all that she thinks is wrong with him and the church? Does the pastor stand by when a layman attacks his child, when the child is being normal? Or ignore a lay person who uses the telephone in a destructive way to try

From the book, They Cry, Too, by Lucille Lavender, © 1976, by Lucille Lavender, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL. Used by permission.

to convince others that this is not what “they ought to do in my church.”

These are not fabricated, isolated incidents. Many were told to us in our years of traveling, as we listened to pastors and their wives. Their need to confide in someone they felt would understand was overwhelming and often full of pain.

What the Congregation Expects

When a congregation chooses a man to serve as its pastor, expectation naturally is high on both sides. The church expects him to be a wise leader, who will be a perfect minister for their needs. The pastor also has his ideals. He feels sure that in this new situation he will profit from past ministries and looks forward to achieving new goals. There is the usual honeymoon, during which time everyone puts his best foot forward. It doesn't take long to discover that in this new marriage there are imperfections in each partner. The minister is not perfect and is not an expert in everything expected of him. The minister discovers the weaknesses of the congregation and sees their need for maturity. Perhaps he is more realistic than lay people, because he knows there are no perfect people, including himself, and no perfect churches! This is a man sent by God. Sometimes he doesn't have time to call on all the sick and the shut-ins, spend the time he ought to for his own personal and spiritual needs, and prepare for the unending demands of preaching and teaching. He cannot split himself into enough segments to attend all meetings, dinners, social gatherings, youth functions; to administer the budget, fix broken faucets in rest rooms, try to eat with his family one night a week, and find time for a haircut.

By and large, church members still expect the clergy to perform their religious duties for them. After a pastor has gone to theological school, been ordained and licensed to preach, it is assumed that he knows all there is to know about the ever-growing ministerial haberdashery. That he will be able to wear expertly the increasing number of hats thrust upon his head in the ever-widening areas of pastoral responsibilities.

Outwardly, there is not a believer, or church member, who, if asked, “Do you expect your pastor to be perfect? Is it possible that he is capable of making mistakes?” would not agree that, of course, he is not perfect and does make

Understanding Your Pastor

by Lucille Lavender

mistakes. But heaven help him when he does!

Paul, in his first letter to young pastor Timothy, lays down some high principles for pastors (1 Tim. 3:1-7). Don't stop your reading there. He goes right down the line with deacons, elders, and church members. The straight talk in his letters was directed primarily to lay members. Paul showed much concern for his young pastors and sent instructions to the church about their care.

The Reverend Mr. Stuart P. Benson, a minister to ministers, in an article entitled “The Making and Breaking of Pastors and Churches,” writes: “Every pastor makes mistakes. He, like the members of his church, is only human. Church members are inclined to pass lightly over their own faults but to hold the pastor rigidly accountable for his. He is expected to be above reproach in word and deed, but it does not take long to discover that he, too, is a child of Adam. A church that is willing to try to save the pastor when he has made a mistake will not only save a man for the ministry but experience a rich return for being gracious.”¹

The Pastor's Humanity

One of the most difficult aspects of the ministry should be discussed at this point. It is a built-in hazard. It strains the minister's humanity, and makes him vulnerable to criticism or hostility because of *seeming* oversight and preoccupation. Some call this “gear-shifting.” It involves many different kinds of ministering and the meeting of all kinds of needs within a short time span. It involves running the gamut of emotions, and entering into and becoming a part of each mood and situation—and it happens to everyone.

The very important point to be made here is that if a pastor is guilty of things, like preoccupation, rudeness, tardiness, forgetting something, or not returning a phone call, Christian people, *who should be most understanding*, are not. One of the questions, given to a sampling of a hundred lay people in

three churches with three different denominations, was: “If, in your estimation, the pastor makes a mistake, or is seemingly negligent to you or someone close to you, how would you feel?” The answers were honest. Some were vague; some indicated they'd not bother the pastor, but they would feel cool towards him. Too high a percentage admitted they would be hurt.

This was brought home again when I addressed a group of women in a church. After the meeting I met a young woman whom I had known some years before, who was now a member of that church. As we visited, she expressed herself—that she liked the church and community, but the minister was unfriendly. I knew him well, he was an especially warm person, so this came as quite a shock. She explained that a few days before she had stopped by the church to get something. At the same time the pastor came out of his office, smiled, and asked “How are you?”

“I answered ‘fine,’ ” she continued, “but he was so preoccupied that he didn't really see me!” Any sort of explanation I volunteered was rejected by her, because she was bent on hugging her hurt.

Naturally I was concerned about this episode, and that evening I asked the pastor if he was aware of how she felt. He was surprised by her reaction. He explained that on that particular day, before 6:00 a.m., he had received a phone call from the emergency ward of a hospital. There had been an accident, and a young woman had been killed. The young man who was driving was a member of his church, and in critical condition. The pastor went to the hospital immediately. When he returned to his office, his secretary was nervously waiting, wondering if he would get to the mortuary on time for a memorial service. Back to the office again, without breakfast or lunch, and there on the desk a message to return a call marked “urgent!” The chairman of the finance committee wanted to know which bills to pay or to leave unpaid this month. A young couple waited and watched the clock. It was their lunch hour, and they were there for premarital counseling. Another call, from the wife of a sick man. He was not in a critical condition, but she was irate over the fact that the pastor had not yet called on her husband.

Books and notes were scattered all around, and as he looked at the disarray, he wondered in fatigue and

discouragement when he would be able to get back to his sermon preparation. Another call came from the hospital. The young man was responding, though still on the critical list, and wanted to see his pastor. He did not know if this would be his last chance to talk with the young man. He dashed out of his office to get to the hospital. It was at that moment the young woman walked down the hall of the church. The fact that he was collected enough to smile and say anything to her at all was a miracle. Of course he was preoccupied! Now, in addition to his guilt feeling about not getting everything done, he had another problem. What could he do to help win her confidence again?

Dozens of times each day a minister is torn apart, shifting gears from one emotion to another: joy over the birth of a baby; despair over a marriage torn apart. Always he is concerned about someone's need: That tragedy, this grief, worry over the financial concerns in the church or in his home, and his family's need for him. Last, but not least, there is no time for his own needs. Not every day for a pastor is like the one just described, but many of them are.

Understanding Your Pastor

A minister wrote an editorial for a religious publication, entitled “What's Wrong with Ministers?” Here is part of it:

“A perennial question was tossed to me on one of my recent preaching missions. ‘Why are ministers so wacky?’ You'll notice this is in the same category as ‘When did you stop beating your wife?’ But, for the sake of argument, let us allow the assumption.

“One of the reasons that ministers tend to be wacky is that the demands are immense. No one, least of all the minister, can know what it is he's supposed to be or what he's supposed to do. He is essentially a lover and an enabler of love.

“The physician, the psychiatrist, the various quasi-shrinks, the lawyer, the dentist, the businessman and the manufacturer all have clear-cut job descriptions. . . . Seldom are they forced to make a professional response on the basis of personal emotion and love.

“But the gospel is overtly about emotions. It's about joy, ecstasy, fear, dread, guilt, loneliness, and personal in-

volvement in all of these. Naturally, ministers are going to be a little wacky with this kind of a crucible in which they must constantly perform.

“We must lower our expectations, rather than glibly assuming that all ministers are nuts and should not be taken seriously. You'd be nuts too if you were facing the same 24-hour life and death pressures every day from hundreds of people, each one of whom had different rights and different expectations.

“Be kind. Take a preacher to lunch this week.”²

A missionary, home on furlough, was invited to speak to a group of ministers and their wives. Having been at the conference from its beginning, she must have sensed among these spiritual leaders some of their feelings of inadequacy, loneliness, and failure in not being able to do everything that was required of them.

When she got up to speak, instead of referring to her work, she addressed herself to them. She gave a message of praise and gratefulness for their love and support. Then, in a moment full of deep empathy, she said:

“So many of our Christian church members need a ‘monk’ to do their repentance for them. You are more spiritual if you drive an old car, don't wear expensive clothes, live in a small house, don't show emotion when you want to belt somebody (and you may have every right to) but if you do lose your temper or say anything that borders on talking about someone, it's much worse than if one of your congregation does it. Both because they believe it's a no-no for you and because you feel you shouldn't.”

She closed by reminding them about the greatest opportunity in history for world evangelism—the largest mission field—our own country. She then led in fervent prayer that these pastors would be blessed with growing Christians, that they wouldn't have to spend their valuable and overworked time in dealing with pettiness but in the larger work of true pastoring—enabling others to minister.

Her final plea was eloquent: “Lord, instead of having to be an example, let each of these dear servants be an opportunity.” □

²Norman R. DePuy, appeared originally in *The American Baptist*, July-August 1973, pp. 44, 45.

¹Appeared originally in *The American Baptist*, October 1972, p. 6.

When the Furlough Was Over

by Nobuko Clausen

Here we are, back home again! The same small, choky sanctuary, the same old pedal organ, with the off keys at the same old places, the same smelly toilet, and oh, no, cockroaches in the same small kitchen! But wait, I know something is different. What is it? Doesn't it feel nice and cool in the room? It is so hot and humid outside. It's strange; the windows are closed. An air conditioner! Wow, we've got an air conditioner now at the church!

But of course, the air conditioner wasn't the only change we found in Japan when we came back from our one-year-furlough last summer. Among the warm, familiar, welcoming faces, we noticed a few young new faces. We had been told that Pastor Hata had baptized two people, one of them was a high school boy from Reimer's English class. Now, from the same class, two more students were getting ready for baptism in the fall. What struck me most was the change in the young mother's face who was sitting beside her husband. We had learned previously that her husband had accepted Jesus at Christmas the year before and had started coming to church regularly. But no one had told us about the big change that had taken place in Mrs. Imagawa, his wife.

I remember the hot September Sunday when Reimer baptized her three years ago. It was the day after the typhoon, or rather, the very day the typhoon had been predicted to hit where we lived,

straight on. We had planned to have the baptismal service by the river, but as the days drew nearer, the weather changed quite unfavorably. The radio news gave constant, serious warnings of the coming typhoon. When I heard that the pastor and Reimer were thinking of postponing the baptism, I made a big speech and said that the typhoon was not going to come, as we were having the baptism in the name of Jesus. We had so little harvest; it was one of God's precious occasions; therefore, he would not postpone it.

Well, sure enough, the typhoon made a big U-turn. It hit the Japan Sea, leaving us a beautiful day. Mrs. Imagawa was baptized in the slightly muddy water under the bright, hot sky. In spite of the rather dramatic baptism, I saw no change in her. Her face was always down, even when one spoke to her. I didn't remember hearing her say anything at all. Her eyes were looking down, counting her toes; she came and went away without greeting anybody. Everything was just the same as before.

But the very first Sunday, after our return from furlough, we saw her looking straight at us, with sparkling, wide-open eyes. She was even laughing! Mrs. Imagawa looked so happy and proud with her husband and four-year-old daughter.

At Easter 1980, Mr. Imagawa was baptized. The family attends the Sunday service faithfully. How proud and thankful her husband is of and for his

wife. It was through her that he was led to Jesus. Though I could not see any change in her after she became a Christian, her husband did. In less than three years he, too, was baptized. The thrilling thing is that the obvious change in the wife came after the husband became a Christian. She is a different lady now. She talks; she laughs; she gives her opinions openly, even the negative ones. Sometimes she even raises her voice and says, "Watch out, what are you doing!"

God's blessing is tremendous when the whole family is committed to Jesus. His blessing is more than doubled in those families; I've seen it with my own eyes. It was such a thrilling, learning experience for me. For God, even the smallest is important. Through the weakest, he works his great work. How abundant God's blessing is toward the one who does his work!

Is your husband not a Christian? Is your wife still rejecting Christ? Are you weeping for your parents, for your children, for your brothers or sisters? Don't be discouraged. Mrs. Imagawa was just like you, or even weaker. She couldn't even look up at her husband and talk to him before she met Jesus. But I've seen God's wonderful work in this unbelievably shy lady.

Keep praying. Be happy. Don't look miserable, because you are always watched by your beloved. It is through you and me that God is going to work the wonderful and great work of salvation. Isn't it wonderful? Isn't it great? God is going to work through us! □

Preserving Our Freedom

Gideon K. Zimmerman

Baptists in North America are a large segment of Christians numbering more than 26,000,000 members. This does not include family members who attend Baptist churches but are not members. Baptists are also a very diversified group of believers belonging to more than 20 different conventions, conferences and associations. Diversity is one of our distinctives because we love our autonomy. The Baptist Joint Committee is composed of nine Baptist bodies including the Baptist Federation of Canada. These nine groups account for the vast majority of Baptists in North America. We have found great strength by belonging to the Baptist Joint Committee, because we speak as a group standing together and not as one individual body. We have basic commitments such as the Lordship of Christ and the proclamation of the biblical message. Basic to our charter is religious liberty without the restrictions imposed by government.

My own parents left South Russia at the turn of this century, because they longed to be in a land where freedom of worship would not be hindered by the decrees of government. Fathers have had a significant role in preserving the priceless freedom of religion in our two

countries, U.S. and Canada. My father was an enthusiastic teacher to his family, his church and community, and shared his belief that religious freedom in the United States is to be greatly honored and regarded as sacred. He urged his family, church and acquaintances to defend religious liberty. We have the privilege in America of expressing our concerns regarding religious liberty, even with those who are lawmakers in federal, state or provincial government. We need to become involved with our legislators to keep church and state in its proper separate role.

About two years ago, my visit to the Soviet Union gave me the opportunity to speak in eleven Baptist church services and to fellowship with our fellow believers in that vast country. My observations discerned how restrictions and the loss of religious freedom can be imposed by the state. Although the opportunities for worship have been broadened in the U.S.S.R., it is far from the extensive privileged freedom we enjoy in the U.S. and Canada. It made me realize once again how grateful I must be for the freedom to worship in my beloved country, the U.S.A. Furthermore, I resolved that as a father and grandfather I have a sacred trust to help preserve this God-given freedom.

Members of the Baptist Joint Committee, meeting with representatives from other Baptist bodies, have an obligation to help maintain and uphold freedom to worship God without the intervention of the State. The opportunity of the Baptist Joint Committee members to meet with representatives of government has been a constant open door to communicate our principle of separation of church and state. The religious commitments of many people in government are reassuring to us, as citizens, that God's help is sought by our political leaders and lawmakers.

In recent years, and especially in recent weeks, there has been much debate about prayer in public schools, including the overthrowing of the Supreme Court decision of 1963. The Supreme Court decree did not say we cannot pray in public places such as schools or for that matter in other state owned facilities. The Supreme Court decision stated that the state shall not be made responsible to teach prayer or make it a mandatory practice by students. Voluntary prayer has never been forbidden. A student choosing to read Scriptures in schools has not been forbidden but rather encouraged as part of the curriculum. The responsibility for teaching prayer and practicing prayer, the teaching of the gospel of Christ

belong first of all to the home and secondly to the church. We cannot delegate this to the state supported secular educational system. First of all not all teachers are eligible or qualified to do this. Some may not be believers. How shall they lead or teach others to pray? If the schools are to become involved in this, whose prayer will be taught and spoken? Will it be Jewish, Islamic, Christian or Buddhist prayer?

The recent legislative recommendations by Congressman Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.) and Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to remove all rulings by the Supreme Court regarding the issue of prayer in public schools simply take away the freedom that Christians have cherished. Why give to the state our inherited religious liberty? When viewing the history of nations where this has been done, it is very evident that religion began to decay and deteriorate. As a first generation son born to immigrant parents from a totalitarian country, I plead with the fathers of our nation to covenant with God to take the divinely ordered responsibility of teaching their families how to pray and how to understand the words of the Lord.

If the fathers and mothers of our nation will honor God by practicing and teaching their Christian faith, we will see less crime and a spiritually fortified nation, because its inhabitants and its future leaders will be well-grounded in biblical teachings. If we do our job in the home and church, we will not need to ask the state to do such "band-aid" type of religious emphasis as having students repeat words of a prescribed prayer, which will have no meaning to an uncommitted soul to God. Christians revivals in America and in the world have taken place in the past because Christian fathers and mothers practiced faith in God, which was alive and vibrant. To my knowledge Christian revivals have not been produced by state or federal legislation. As a Baptist, I want my faith to be meaningful to me because God and I have a right relationship and not because the state dictates what I ought to do as a Christian. Thank God for religious liberty and let us vow never to give it up.

Our forefathers in biblical times and in history since Christ were repeatedly commanded to teach the statutes and commandments of the Lord to their children. This also meant living what has been taught. We cannot live by double standards where we say, "Do what I say but don't do what I do." What we teach from God's word must also find expression in day to day living. It is still true today that "religious teachings are more caught than taught." □

Nobuko Clausen and her husband Reimer are N.A.B. missionaries living in Kyoto, Japan.



Reimer Clausen, Pastor Hata, Mrs. Imagawa, Chie, Nobuko Clausen, and Mr. Imagawa



Reimer Clausen baptizing Mr. Imagawa

Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, former executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, served as chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee for the past two years.

Bountiful Blessings with Beatrice

by Laura E. Reddig

Since my appointment as a missionary in 1938, I've often dreamed of attending the Baptist World Congress. Imagine my delight and joy when I received the news from LaVerna Mehlhaff, N.A.B. women's work director, and the Missions Department that I was chosen to accompany Beatrice Nokuri as she visited a number of our churches following the Congress.

Working with Beatrice Nokuri in the Cameroon Baptist Women's Union for many years helped me to love and appreciate this interesting person on whom God had placed his hand. Her father was our mission school teacher in 1942 when I was stationed at Soppo. His newest daughter, Beatrice, was just seven months old then. In 1964 while I was teaching at Saker Baptist College, Beatrice was active in all the young people's activities of her Victoria church. But working with her on the women's executive committee for the last seven years was a beautiful experience.

Beatrice's easy adjustment from hot and humid Victoria, Cameroon, to the air-conditioned, larger, noisier, faster-moving cities of Canada and America was a delight to behold. She preferred the very hottest days! Not only was she able to eat all our strange and foreign

food, but she thoroughly enjoyed them all!

Whereas many persons visiting from foreign countries were not completely at home with the English language, and may have had difficulty understanding the messages, Beatrice grasped the entire Baptist World Congress easily. Beatrice teaches in a high school in Victoria, using only English. Though there were four Cameroonians attending the BWA Congress, Beatrice was chosen by her people to walk with the flag of the Republic of Cameroon in the Parade of Nations.

Beatrice received her invitation from the BWA Women's Department three years ago. Immediately, our WMF Director, LaVerna Mehlhaff, decided this was a tremendous opportunity to have many Canadian and American churches meet Beatrice. A total of 44 churches were touched by Beatrice's testimony.

Beatrice's appreciation was beautifully expressed, whenever and wherever she spoke, "for your loving interest, support and prayers, and for sending us missionaries." Her report included what the Cameroon women were doing: Having their own manual; supporting youth work, Boys' Brigade and 3-H Girls, Life-Liners; witnessing; visitation, and planning for their own Domestic Science Center.

Beatrice believes in prayer and has a vital faith in our Lord and God. She frequently quoted many Bible verses, telling of the strength she received from the Lord to meet her problems. She told of her only sister returning from England as a mental patient. Her only brother had to leave Cameroon, never to return. Her 24-year old son has sickle-cell anemia, and for one month was completely deaf and dumb. How she praised the Lord for her son's miraculous recovery. She told of how hard it was to leave her eight children, especially her four and one-half month old baby, Beatrice Mesanga Nokuri, to come to North America. She often asked for prayer that the government might transfer her husband to a new place, so the family could live together. (Now her husband is a district officer in an isolated but important area, which is accessible only by canoe. There are no medical facilities nor is there an adequate school.) Just try to imagine Beatrice telling her family and friends about her trip!

It was a joy to travel with Beatrice. More than ever I believe in missions, and am thankful God still has work for me to do. I am anticipating a visit to Cameroon in December to see my large God-given family there. Of course, there must be a fish dinner with Beatrice in Victoria!

Remembering the BWA blessings, and travelling with Beatrice, I can only say as Cameroonians often do: "I thank God, and I thank you, too." □

Dr. Laura E. Reddig, Bismarck, ND, is a N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon.



Beatrice Nokuri, Thelea Wesseler, Dr. E.K. Martin, LaVerna Mehlhaff, and Laura Reddig at the World Fellowship Celebration, BWA Congress



Beatrice Nokuri



Sisako Yuzawa, Japan and missionary Lucille Wipf were also at the BWA Congress

Churches, Politics, and Tax Exemptions

by John W. Baker

Both the printed and electronic news media have recently discussed an upsurge among church-going Americans of interest and participation in the political processes. This is a most encouraging development. People with religious commitments should evidence a deep concern for and involvement in the process of seeking solutions to the problems which face our nation and the world. Many solutions to society's problems will be found either in governmental action or in restraints on governmental action. If Baptists and others are to be good stewards of their influence, they must be active in the political arena.

However, it is one thing for individual Baptists to be active politically and another for a church, an association, a state convention, or a national denomination to become involved in partisan politics or in the endorsement of candidates for political office. The brief legal summary which follows is not definitive but should serve as a guide to the church's political "dos" and "don'ts."

The freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment clearly protects the right of the individual, with the exception of federal governmental employees, to endorse and support political parties, candidates, and political issues. A pastor as an individual may do so, but he must be sure that his political activities cannot be interpreted as an action of the church. For example, the endorsement of a candidate or a party from the pulpit would probably be considered an endorsement by the church and would have a potentially devastating effect on the tax status of a church.

The income of a church—tithes, offerings, dividends, etc.—is exempt from federal income taxation by §501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, which conditions exemption of churches and other charities by stating, among other things, that ". . . no substantial part of

the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation . . . , and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office." Contributions to churches which meet these tests are tax deductible under §170 of the Code. If a church loses its §501(c)(3) status, it must pay taxes on its income and its contributors cannot deduct their gifts from their gross income. In 1976 §501(h) was added to the Code to provide a mathematical definition of what constitutes a "substantial" attempt to influence legislation. However, churches were specifically excluded from §501(h).

An example of enforcement of §501(c)(3) provisions is the Internal Revenue Service's removal of the tax-exempt status of the Tulsa-based Christian Echoes National Ministry Inc. on the grounds that it had substantially attempted to influence public policy and that its leadership had endorsed candidates. The ruling was challenged, but even though the court held that Christian Echoes was a church the I.R.S. action was upheld. *Christian Echoes National Ministry, Inc. v. United States*, 470 F.2d 849 (1972), cert. denied, 414 U.S. 864 (1973). Despite this decision, a strong First Amendment argument can be made that a church, as a part of its religious mission, may speak to government on moral issues without loss of tax exemption. However, it would be difficult to make a First Amendment argument that a church could be involved in partisan politics and retain its tax exemption.

Funds for particular candidates or for a particular political party should never be solicited in or by a church. It is permissible to encourage members of a church to be active in the political processes and to contribute to the party of their choice, but a partisan solicitation of funds is an indirect participation in a political campaign and could result in the loss of tax exemption. The I.R.S. will probably monitor this activity closely.

Voters registration and education in and by churches are other areas of

political activity which need to be examined. Again, the emphasis must be on the church remaining nonpartisan. If the state permits it, registration booths may be set up in churches to register members on a nonpartisan basis and without an urging to register in order to vote for or against a particular candidate or for or against a particular issue.

For example, though the U.S. Catholic Conference strongly favors a constitutional amendment to ban abortions, all Catholic churches have been directed to forbid anti-abortionists to distribute leaflets in churches or church parking lots in support of such an amendment or opposing candidates for Congress who have supported abortion. They rightly fear the loss of tax exemption.

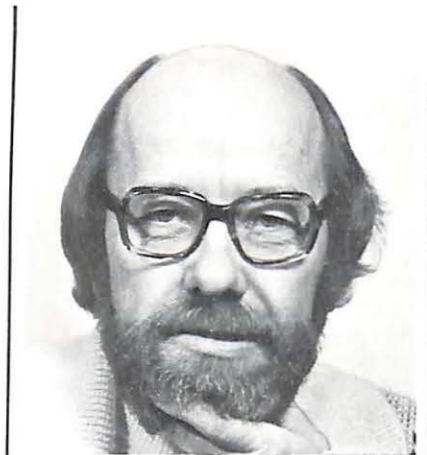
The I.R.S. has also clamped down on church voter education when that education involves reporting on the voting records of members of Congress. A report which includes the voting records of a substantial number of members on a wide range of issues, without editorial opinion or implication of approval or disapproval would probably not put a church's tax exemption at risk (see Revenue Ruling 78-248). However, an indication of approval or disapproval would be read as an endorsement of the candidate or his/her opponent, and the use of a narrow range of issues or a few members' records would have the same effect. It is just not worth the risk.

What can a church or its minister do in the political arena without putting the tax-exempt status of the church in jeopardy?

1. A minister may preach on any ethical, moral, or social issue he/she may want—the sermon just must be nonpartisan and not mention candidates either favorably or unfavorably.
2. Nonpartisan voter registration may be encouraged and even set up in the church itself.
3. Voter education may be undertaken to the extent that it remains nonpartisan and no endorsement of candidates are made.
4. All candidates for an office may be invited to address a church or a public forum involving all candidates may be held in a church.

The emphasis on the church's involvement in politics must be on non-partisanship and non-alignment, but this should not hinder an individual church member from being highly visible in the political process. A Christian is obligated to be so involved. □

John W. Baker, General Counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, is a member of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association.



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Why is it so hard to be good? This question is asked by a wide variety of people and in a variety of situations. Some variations of the question are: Why can't I do what is right? Why can't I discipline myself? Why do I always say or do the

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.

wrong thing? Or why do I think that way? It has been said, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." I feel this statement is not true for Christians, but a less harsh statement is "the road to guilt and lack of Christian joy is paved with good intentions."

If just for one day, all Christians were as good as they would like to be—we would have a day of paradise. It is a rare bird—I mean Christian—who makes it to noon being as good as he would like to be.

Why is it so hard to be good? The Scripture tells us. In Matthew 7:13 (LB), Christ said: "Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate! The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who choose its easy way."

In Romans 7:21 (LB), Paul says: "It seems a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong." Paul then goes on and elaborates just how difficult and complex this struggle has been for him.

Following are specific examples of people whose beliefs and practices differ:

Doctors who smoke or abusively use alcohol. No reputable physician will defend the practice of smoking, but some will be leisurely sucking on a cigarette, while readily admitting that the act is indefensible.

People who don't exercise. Most of us believe that exercising is good for us and necessary for health, but we have no difficulty not exercising. We can usually rationalize why we do not.

People who overeat. That's just about everybody. We do it every day and sometimes even at night. We all know more about good eating habits than we practice. Some of us strongly dislike our physical appearance, but we continue to eat and maintain that appearance.

People lacking in patience. Young parents feel especially bad in this regard. It's not that young parents are less caring or more impatient than the rest of us. It is just that when there are young children around the opportunity to practice patience is greater.

What is the answer to this struggle? Am I always going to "live on the broad way" and is the "spirit always going to be more willing than my flesh?" The answer to these latter questions is "YES," while we are in this life. But for the Christian, the "Yes" is a relative one.

Paul concludes this lament of how hard it is to be good with these words: "Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death? Thanks be to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 7:24-25, TEV).

I may still be on the "broad way," but if I'm living the Christian lifestyle, my "broad way" may really be a "quite narrow way." The gap between what the "spirit wills" and what "the flesh" is willing to produce in reality can be a small gap.

As my life is filled with the Spirit of Christ, I am motivated to good works, and good behavior comes more spontaneously. I worry less about discipline and strive to be more like Christ. □

A beautiful thought comes to mind as the New Day team for 1980/81 begins their new year. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22, 23). We have come to feel the steadfast love of the Lord and the unity we have as a team through him.

For Dan Heringer, our director, and for Tim Walker, our assistant director, this is a new experience. This is Tim's

Peggy Walther and Brenda Arndt, reporters for "New Day"

"New Day" Begins New Year

by Peggy Walther and Brenda Arndt

second year on "New Day," but with added responsibilities of assistant director, it's a little different. Tim is doing an excellent job, and we really appreciate not only his leadership but also the way he ministers to each one of us personally. He makes a great coworker with Dan Heringer who is also doing a great job as new director of "New Day." Dan takes naturally to his responsibilities. We respect Dan's leadership as well as who he is as a person. Dan always has a big smile and encouraging word. We are thankful for him.

A tired, but very excited, music section of "New Day" met on the evening of August 25 at beautiful Central Baptist Camp in Lansing, IA, to begin training. The better part of each day, that first week, was spent in singing, singing and more singing. It was a special week not only as we sang together but also as we started to get to know one another. The family bonds formed quickly, but our family was not yet complete.

The disciples joined us the following Monday. Now our family was complete! That evening we got together and shared how the Lord had led each one of us to "New Day." We spent time in prayer committing the year ahead to the Lord.

In the weeks following, "New Day" busily prepared for the upcoming tour, which began September 27 in Chancellor, SD.

The music team continued to work on music as well as door-to-door surveys, some drama, puppets, their testimonies, and a variety of other things.

The disciplers were also busy with their door-to-door surveys, working on seminars for the adults and youth, preparing for core group training sessions and working on children's stories. As part of their on-the-job training, the disciplers went to LaCrosse, WI, where thirteen people came to know the Lord. It was exciting to see the Lord's hand at work. The music section was the first core group that they trained. Later they also took them to a nearby town to put into practice what had been learned.

Of course, it wasn't all singing and studying, we did take time to eat the excellent meals prepared for us and enjoy the fellowship of those cooking for us. They were special people, and we really appreciated all the good meals and extra little things they did for us, like making birthday cakes, home-made ice cream, and popcorn.

As a team, we would also try to spend an hour each evening, right after supper, in some kind of physical activity. This usually included volleyball or hiking in the beautiful countryside around us.

On the whole, our month of training was just fantastic. There are some people to whom we would like to express a special thanks. Central Baptist Camp was beautiful. The people who live there are a very special group.

In the family of God, you always meet people who unselfishly give of themselves and their time. Another such person is Paul Dykstra, who is presently working on his masters degree in music. As you know, Paul has been involved with "New Day" for the previous four years. His experiences and great talents are greatly appreciated.

A big thank you also goes to the "New Day" team of 1979/80 for your contribution to our team outfits and for your encouraging words and letters.

A month never went so quickly. As the new "New Day" team, we look forward to the year ahead. Thank you for your prayers. Continue to pray for us that we may be used effectively for his work. □



Music Section training



New Day prayer group



Study



God Was in Christ

in a stable bare
the Christ was born that Christmas
morning.
naught of honour there,
no royal crown His brow adorning.
He came from heav'n above, He came
with heaven's love.
His glory power and beauty disguised in
human form so poor and lowly;
He came, the Son of God came, from
heaven's throne, majestic pure and
holy.

flesh of mary's flesh
in human frailty incarnate;
at Christ's birth God came to earth,
He came to win men's hearts from sin.
love, eternal love;
the love of God for sinners
paid the cost to find the lost,
their sins forgive that they may live
forever with the Lord, redeemed by His
blood
believing on His word, the children of
God
through faith in Jesus Christ . . .

oh, behold the Babe
celestial light reveals His splendour,
angels at His feet their praise and
homage humbly render,
bow low in adoration, all ye of His
creation,
who see in that rude manger the Christ
sent forth to die for man's salvation;
then share abroad God's gospel, that
whosoever will may come . . .
and live through Him.
—Edward D. Hughes, Winnipeg, MB



We say good-bye to Josiah, our Mbem Health Centre driver, and four-wheel drive. From here it is two-foot drive! Jonathan checks the weight of the medicine box to decide who gets the privilege of carrying it. Then the L.A.P. team, Banso nursing students, and the church choir members (who have come to carry our loads) set out for the village of Bom.



After a pleasant get-acquainted meeting, a group photo of the Chief, his council of traditional rulers, some of us, and the local L.A.P. committee is taken.



Daphne asks some children from the Chief's palace about their enjoyable singing and dancing.



On our way to one section of the village (about 1.5 miles distant), to do a physical findings survey, we encountered a steep hill, but it was slippery due to loose gravel.

God Works Through Health Care Ministry

by Daphne Dunger

Today in Mbem Field, Cameroon, grateful people in four villages no longer trek up and down mountains for four to six hours (one way) just to get worm medicine, aspirin, or malaria medicine. These people from villages with populations of more than 1,000 each are finding practical ways by which they prevent much of their illness. To top it off . . . it is a ministry of the local Baptist church!

Two chosen, mature, active Christians from the church are involved in the L.A.P. or Life Abundant Programme as a part-time job for two to three hours a day. They learn simple diagnosis, treatment, and how to be an "agent of change," working toward physical and spiritual health promotion. The church and community purchase medicines from the Baptist Medical Authority, stock medicine supplies, and then dispense them for the same cost as at the other Baptist hospitals and dispensaries. Thus there is a constant supply of drugs as well as remuneration for the two Life Abundant promoters. A "governing" committee from the church guides the local programme.

In answer to the persistent and patient prayers of some God's children, the spark was lit almost two years ago. The actual leg work began in October 1979 when Baptists of several villages considered the possibility of becoming in-

Daphne Dunger is a N.A.B. missionary nurse piloting the Life Abundant Programme in Mbem Field, Cameroon. This December she transfers to Banso Baptist Hospital to replace two missionary nurses going home on furlough.

involved in this Primary Health Care ministry. One month later at the second meeting, their eagerness and effort was clearly evident. During the months of December and January, five weeks of classes were held for the trainees (two from each of four villages). In February the village work began with preliminary church life and physical findings baseline surveys being conducted.

Health teaching, the top priority, is done by story, song, and drama as well as by other usual methods. Active immunization, under-five, and ante-natal care clinics will also become an important part of the programme. In addition, excellent learning opportunities are available for nursing students from our training school at Banso. The government preventive medicine sector has encouraged us in our efforts to assist the population of this area. With the blessing and encouragement of the Cameroon Baptist Convention's Medical Authority to continue the programme, our legs are all set to carry on. Other churches and villages are asking to be included. BUT . . .

Two missionary nurses not being replaced (as of December 1980) and inadequate numbers of Cameroonian medical staff (until new graduates can be hired next year) means that without "someone standing in the gap" it is going to be very rough going for some time. *But God* has prospered and blessed these efforts in his name and for his sake. We trust in him "who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:20). Your prayers of intercession can even be that "someone standing in the gap." □



Helen, a Banso nursing student, does a finger-prick to check the hemoglobin of a school child. Only about ten percent of the population have hemoglobins of over 10 grams.



Matthew Metop (left), and Comfort Njaprim (seated), the L.A. Promoters from the Bom Baptist Church, carry on a good work in Bom. Jonathan Njap (tall man in white) is Miss Dunger's field assistant.



Abraham, another student, does a urine check for albumin.



Miss Dunger reaches out as a friend to a small child showing beginning signs of malnutrition. Malnutrition tends to be too frequent a problem, particularly of children recently weaned, and there are deaths from it.

the GROWING edge

FEATURES FROM YOUR CHURCH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT. Brief, provocative articles to expand the growing edge of the mind and soul—to suggest, perhaps, new avenues of thought and action.

Denny's Column

by
Denny Miller,
short-term
missionary
in Cameroon



"Dear sons and daughters,
"I love you so very much, more than you can imagine. My love goes out to the sparrows and lilies of the field. I take care

of them. Aren't you more important?

"I feel your aches and your sorrows. I cry for you, and I wish you would come and throw your arms about me and tell me all that has hurt you. Since I have suffered on earth, I can help you in your pain.

"Come to me. I will hold your hand. Take refuge in the shadow of my wings. I will heal you.

"I have set you aside for a very special purpose. It is not that you alone can do it. But I have chosen you. I wish I could tell you all that awaits you and all that you will do and become, but the time is not right. You are not ready.

Meanwhile . . . consider it all joy when

you encounter these various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result that you may be perfect and complete—lacking in nothing.

"Seek after me. I am the only one who will give you lasting happiness. People and material things will always let you down. They wither as the grass in the sun. Know that I am always with you—not physically, but in spirit. There is nothing hidden from my sight. I know all, see all and experience all. Therefore, draw from my strength.

"Remember my love for you is constant. I will wait for you. Please come.

"Your Father."

Principles for Effective Intercession

1. Make very sure that your heart is clean before God by having given the Holy Spirit time to convict, should there be any unconfessed sin. "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened" (Ps. 66:18)

2. Acknowledge that you cannot really pray without the direction and energy of the Holy Spirit. "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words" (Rom. 8:26).

3. Die to your own imaginations, desires, and burdens for what you feel you should pray. "Do not rely on your own insight" (Prov. 3:5). "He who trusts in his own mind is a fool" (Prov. 28:26). "For my thoughts are not your thoughts"

(Isa. 55:8).

4. Ask God to utterly control you by his Spirit. "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). Then *thank* him for doing so. "Without faith it is impossible to please him" (Heb. 11:6).

5. Praise him now in faith for the remarkable prayer experience you are going to have. He is a remarkable God and will do something consistent with his character.

6. Deal aggressively with the enemy. Come against him in the all-powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ and with the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

7. Wait in silent expectancy. Then in obedience and faith, utter what God brings to your mind. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). Be sure not to move onto the next subject until you have given God sufficient time to discharge all he wants to say to you regarding this par-

ticular burden, especially when praying in a group.

8. Always have your Bible with you should God want to give you direction or confirmation from it. "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).

9. When God ceases to bring things to your mind for prayer, finish by praising and thanking him for what he has done. Remind yourself that "from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:36).

A Warning: God knows the great weakness of the human heart toward pride, and if we speak of what God has revealed and done in intercession, it may lead to our committing this sin against God. God shares his secrets and burdens with those who are able to keep them. There may come a time when he will definitely prompt us to share, but unless this happens, we should remain silent! "And they kept silence and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen" (Luke 9:36). —Joy Dawson. □

About Those Young Adults

For those interested in demographics, these statistics help pin-point this age group as a challenge for ministry:

While the percentage of the U.S. population in the 25-34 age range amounted to 12.3 percent in 1970 and

14.5 percent in 1975, in 1980 it was projected to reach 16.3 percent. That population segment is projected to peak in 1985 at 17.1 percent of the population.

Persons in the 18 to 34 age range accounted for 24.4 percent of the U.S.

population in 1970 and 27.4 percent in 1975. In 1980, it was projected that 18 to 34-year-olds will account for 29.5 percent of the population. In 1985 that population group will account for 29.1 percent of the population.

In 1980, persons in the 20 to 29 age range were expected to number 40.6 million. No other 10-year population breakdown will be as large. (Population estimates for other age ranges were: ages

10-19, 37.7 million; ages 30-39, 31.2 million; ages 40-49, 22.6 million.)

In a *U.S. News and World Report* article entitled, "The Way Singles are Changing the U.S.," it was noted that singles now make up one out of every three households. The number of Americans living alone or with unmarried roommates has risen more than 40 percent over the last six years—seven times faster than the increase in married couples setting up homes. This trend is affecting things

socially and economically. However, one observer noted that single persons are looking for a more stable life-style now, becoming less satisfied with the carefree, irresponsible approach to life. Surely this indicates an inner hunger to which the church should be ministering. One cannot help but ask, what more can our churches do to meet the spiritual and stabilizing needs of this sizable segment of society. (from *Pass It On*, The Wesleyan Church.)

12 Myths About Careers

by John William Zehring

Myth No. 4: A Test Can Tell Me What I Should Do.

No test can tell you what to do. All a test can do is give you some information about yourself, about your aptitudes, your personality, your interests. That can

be valuable information if you use it properly; although many people already have a good sense of these components without testing.

A testing expert who designed what is one of the most valuable interest inventories has said, "The most valid and reliable way to ascertain a person's interests is to ask, 'What are you interested in?'"

Incidentally, tests are not always properly interpreted. More than one student has been told what he or she should

become on the basis of an interest test.

If you do not have a grasp on your self-concept and don't know, by experience, what you enjoy and what you are good at, then a test may give you a starting place for your self-understanding. But no test can magically spit out your life's work.

(John Zehring is the director of Career Planning and Placement, Earlham College, Richmond, IN. Reprinted by permission from *GROUP Magazine*, copyright 1979, Thom Schultz Publications, Inc., Box 481, Loveland, CO 80537.)

Teaching As Jesus Did

The characteristics of an authentic teaching-learning church would include some of the styles of the Master Teacher himself—Jesus. Therefore, the church is . . .

A Questioning Community. Jesus refused to be bound by traditional interpretations of his day. Knowing that external authority can never force belief and acceptance on a person, he encouraged in-

dependent thinking and questioning (Mark 10:17-24; 7:1-13).

A Community of Change. Learning requires change. The entire ministry and message of Jesus was an attempt to "change the world and to change people." The teaching church is not afraid of change.

A Community of Acceptance and Love. Jesus himself was a ministry of acceptance and affirmation. People were able to hear his message because they felt loved and accepted (John 4:1-30). Jesus would rather lose a disciple than win one under false pretenses (Matthew 7:13-14).

A Relational Community. The best teaching is done in relationships—exemplified in the relationship between Jesus and his disciples. Jesus could convert the skeptics because he lived what he taught. Likewise the church teaches more by what it does than by what it says.

A Community of Responsibility. Discipleship cost something, but the rewards were greater than the costs. Jesus emphasizes this over and over. It is the responsibility of the teaching church to focus on the fact that "education is for discipleship" and that it is a lifelong studying program. (from *The Torch*.)

Gifts a Father Can Give

A HUG A DAY keeps hate away. Would your family become better at expressing love if each family member made a point of hugging the others at least once a day?

"**WARM FUZZIES**" are those special favors and good feelings given us by others, especially in our own family. How about making this week "Sally's Warm Fuzzy Week" (put in the name of your child or wife). During the week, each family member does something special for that person, and at Friday night's dinner finishes the sentence, "I like you because . . ." about the featured family member. It then becomes another per-

son's "Warm Fuzzy Week."

BUSINESS TRIPS don't have to eliminate communication with your children. Next trip, try leaving behind one of these: 1. Tape-recorded messages to your child, which can be played each day at breakfast and/or bedtime. Include in your comments a prayer for your child and read a section from his or her favorite storybook. Offer a riddle or mental puzzle to solve, with the answer on the next taped segment. 2. A collection of small gifts (gum, bubble soap, finger paints, pea shooter, etc.) individually wrapped to be opened on each day you are away. 3. A series of short love notes containing clues to some surprise or activity you will reward the child with upon your return.

SURPRISE YOUR CHILD (especially a teenager) by serving him or her break-

fast in bed one morning this week. The love and servanthood expressed can diffuse any tensions that might exist between you and sponsor some great moments of sharing and conversation. Works wonders with wives, too. Who knows, the favor might soon be returned.

IS IT TIME your kid's names appeared again in your appointment book? If priority time with each of them is getting squeezed out by less important pressures, sit down with each of them, decide how you'll spend an hour together this week (breakfast or lunch together, a special outing, working on their hobby or special project in the garage, etc.), then let them watch you write their names into your book. (from *Dads Only*, Julian, CA. Dads and Publishers are Paul Lewis and Ray Bruce.)



EDITOR'S NOTE: Gifts . . . God's gift of his Son created in us the idea and the desire to give also: to share the "gift" of Jesus Christ; to give joy, pleasure, and peace where we can; to give tangible objects, do specific acts, to show our own love to relatives and friends.

The articles in this issue are "gifts" to you. Mary June's article gives back to you some of the joy you have provided through the sending of kilo packages to our missionaries. To you who have shared your warmth and your homes with others, the editor's article provides a reminder of the far-reaching and long-remembered effects of your hospitality. Have a blessed Christmas of loving and sharing, giving and receiving, thanksgiving and reflection.

Magnets, Corks, Watches, and Sugar

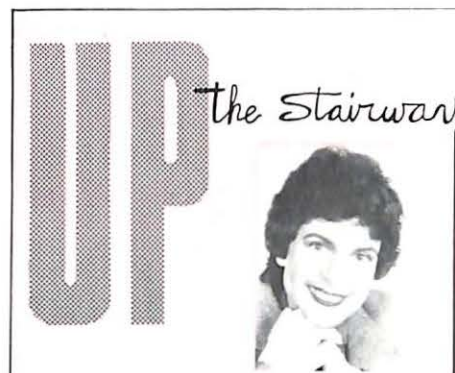
by Mary June Burgess,
Ndu, Cameroon
West Africa

Question: What possible connection can there be between these unrelated objects? Answer: None—but they each illustrate God's sovereignty and his promise to supply all of our needs. This is the story of how God has used *you* to "bless the missionaries."

For several years now, you, North American Baptist women, have gone above and beyond your call of service and have sent kilo packages to the missionaries. Although we smile a bit at the bachelor receiving a package full of panty hose, hair nets, and perfumes, and the children have been disappointed to have broken pencil stubs and wheel-less toy cars sent to them, these cases are rare.

Sometimes the packages may take six or seven months to reach us, but we do receive most of what you send and in good condition. We do appreciate so many of the little touches of home you send to us.

Several of the missionaries have spoken of something that they received which came just in time—a box of pudding to stretch a dessert for unexpected guests; some throat lozenges to relieve a dry season "tickle;" some peacock blue



by Dorene Walth,
WMF president,
Citrus Heights, CA

It's December, and my sanctified stairway is getting the rush!

Myrna stopped by this morning. I had little clusters of "mess" all over the house. Near the door was a pile of magazines to take to the hospital. A folding table cluttered the living room where I had been doing some writing. "Coffee" dishes were still on the kitchen table. Latch hook rug fuzz was floating on the end tables.

Wouldn't you know, that's just the time someone would drop by. I hesitated at the door before welcoming her inside. It was just long enough for me to debate momentarily between my self-conscious desire to keep her at the door, making the visit short and impersonal, or to let her come in in spite of my disarrayed home.

For some time now, I've been working to develop the right attitude so that I wouldn't apologize to a visitor for the state of my environment when caught like this. In fact, I had been teaching this to others. "Let your friends get to know the real you," I tell my students. "Let them see you human with things not always perfect in your life."

A sage housewife once advised me to set out the vacuum cleaner when the house was in its worst state. In the event of unexpected company, they would assume that you were then in the midst of cleaning, and think nothing of it!

thread to match the cloth in a sewing project. I firmly believe that the God who is concerned about the number of hairs on our head is also concerned about what is needed in these kilo packages that come at the right time. Let me share three short stories from personal experience to illustrate this.

Last September, I was asked to make a wedding cake for a pastor friend of ours. I have no aptitude for this kind of thing, but agreed to try. Glenda Eitel came over

My vacuum cleaner was not out, but I'm so proud of the fact that I could invite Myrna into my living room to chat and share from our hearts.

Even though her apparent reason for stopping by was to return a book, it was soon obvious that she needed to unload a heavy burden under which she had been laboring for several days. When she saw I had time for her and loved her enough to let her see me with my home a bit frazzled, she began to open her heart to me.

Myrna decided to take some real positive steps toward cleaning out some sin in her life and, consequently, left with a new taste for abundant living.

She's gone now, and my clutter still remains, but my heart is bubbling over with the satisfaction that God used me—his vessel—to bring comfort and direction to another's life. That is exciting! He arranged the context of my life to share the right blessing with the right person today!

At first, it seemed Myrna was the one that received the help from the experience, for she felt that during our time together God revealed his divine will to her regarding some very personal matters. She was so grateful.

On closer scrutiny, I find I was the one that benefited, perhaps even more. For one thing, I gained greater confidence in using the gifts God has given me. I received affirmation that "Christ is in me . . ." (Col. 1:27) and that "rivers of living water do flow from my innermost being" (John 7:38), when I keep my body as the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Cor. 6:19).

God, thank you for teaching me that although I fail at so many things, I, myself, am not a failure. I am just a vessel, perishable and weak, but created by you and able to be used by you to help others see your power. Thank you for the gift of your Son. That's what this December sanctified rush is all about!

"But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in a perishable container, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own" (2 Cor. 4:7)

Friday evening, the night before the wedding, to help. I had misjudged the amount of icing sugar we would need, and the cake looked bare with what we had. It was nearly 10:00 p.m., and electricity would be going off soon. The little bit of sugar I had left was hard and lumpy, difficult to roll smooth with a rolling pin. Then I remembered the kilo package we had just received. It contained a box of icing sugar, soft and smooth—just enough to finish the icing on the cake! God knew, and he provided through you.

Like most of the missionary mothers of small children, I am teaching mine by correspondence. I was a bit puzzled as to what to do about a science unit on magnets coming up. One experiment involved putting a magnetized needle in a cork, then floating it in water, "steering" it with another magnet. We had a little magnet holding notes on our refrigerator door. But a cork? We had no idea where

Hospitality: Giving and Receiving

by Sara Pasiciel,
Steinbach, MB

"I wish I could sing like you." "I wish I could play the organ as you do." "I wish I could cook like you." "If only I had the gift of writing . . ." We have all either heard a phrase like this or said it ourselves. "My gift is not like *her* gift. . . ."

A funny thing happened on the way to this December issue. . . . I wanted someone to write an article on the joys she had *received* by using and developing her gift of hospitality. So I wrote to two women and spoke to a third—and all said, "Thanks for asking, but I don't feel I can write well enough."

Finally my husband reminded me, "You're asking them for articles *because* their gift is hospitality, why don't you write *about* them?" So I'm writing about three women who have shared their gift with us, and these few represent all of you who have accepted and developed this gift from God.

Mrs. June Kern lives on a farm near Millet, AB. As with so many of you, her door is often open to welcome visiting missionaries, pastors, speakers, and

to buy one in Cameroon, except perhaps in Douala, 300 miles away. But the Lord knew. About a week before the science lesson, we received a kilo package from a supporting church with four small magnets and two corks! We had never received corks before—but I guess we hadn't really needed them!

Finally, an illustration to show how God uses different ways and different people to supply our needs. In September a church in Canada mailed us a package with some things especially for the children. Three months later, another church in the Midwest did the same thing. Both packages were received the same day. It was like Christmas! The children were excited to see all the crayons, balloons, barrettes, and little toys packed especially for them. We would lay everything out, then sort it later.

But some sadness came; there were on-

friends her family has made over years of entertaining and loving. We were delighted to stay with June and her busy family while we were on deputation. At no time during our visit did we feel that we were causing inconvenience, upsetting schedules, or stimulating anxiety.

I especially remember a sunny Sunday morning breakfast, relaxed, unhurried, "fuss-less." The bacon and eggs were great, but our lasting impression is of laughter, conversation, and a feeling of being at home with God's people that swept us into the morning worship service without a hesitation or qualm. How grateful we were for women—and their families—who enjoyed and shared their gift of hospitality.

Mrs. Ruth Bienert has been a pastor's wife, a Conference worker's wife, and a college vice-president's wife (same husband, different responsibilities). I have seldom met a woman who is so much herself, yet so supportive of her husband in his work with people. You also have met women who have accepted themselves as they are, have been content in the place they happen to be, and have then been free to concentrate on others, to be concerned for *their* comfort and needs. Ruth has been an example of gracious and whole-hearted hospitality to me for many years.

A third example of selfless giving and generous hospitality is my own mother, Mrs. Irene Gunst. Among my earliest memories are Sunday dinners at a crowded table, the wedding-gift tablecloth

ly two toy watches in the package from the Midwest, and we have three children. Any mother who has young children close to each other in age knows the difficulty of not having an equal share to go around! MK's are no exception. We had almost decided to have a family council to determine who would get the watches.

But then we opened the remaining package. Across the span of hundreds of miles and three months, God knew our need that day. Just a small thing, bringing happiness to young children. He supplied! There in the last kilo package we opened was one more toy watch.

I believe these examples do not show "just a coincidence," as some would say, but they illustrate the power and perfect timing of God. They also show how he is using *you* and your "caring packages" to help supply our needs; even though those needs may be as seemingly insignificant as a cork or a toy watch.

gleaming white, the conversation often centered on the Lord's work in the church, the Conference, and on the mission field. What a privilege to learn to know neighbors, members of our church, visiting ministers and Conference workers. What fun to know that missionaries were people just like us, whose peas rolled off their forks just as mine did! Mom didn't wait until she had the best china and silver before she began entertaining; we would have missed many years of enriching fellowship if she had. What we had shared with friends and with strangers. What we received was knowledge, understanding, an interest in others, and a great delight in meeting and getting to know people. This has been one of the greatest gifts my mother has given me. Because of her "open heart and open home," countless people have said to me, "Is she your mother? She's one of my favorite people!"

Hospitality—a gift from God, a gift which adds meaning to the words, "It is in giving that we receive." □

DID YOU KNOW . . . that our sisters in Cameroon, Japan, and Brazil pray regularly for us and for our needs? Let's remember them especially during this season celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, who made it possible for us to be one in him.

Church Extension Project

True Riches for Gold Country

by Dale Cundall

East of the State Capitol of California, in the foothills on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, lies the Mother Lode. Gold was discovered in this area in 1849. People came from all over the states to search for what they thought would make them rich.

It is to this area that Pastor Dale and Marion Cundall were called of God to establish a church, which would give to people riches far beyond the value of gold: the truth of God's word. The primary target area of Gold Country Baptist Church is Shingle Springs/Cameron Park.

The work began in October 1979, with 40 people meeting in Buckeye Elementary School, Shingle Springs, for a worship service. In March 1980, the church was officially organized. Three thousand two hundred invitations were distributed to the homes of the area. In July, Gold Country Baptist became a Church Extension project of the North American Baptist Conference.

God blessed this ministry in many ways. A record attendance of 92 was reached on September 7. Most of the church families are active and want to use their gifts to build up others. An executive board of nine men meets at least once each month to take care of church business. Faithful Sunday school teachers serve each Sunday morn-

ing. Ten to fifteen high school youth meet on Sunday evenings in a youth's home. Persons use their musical talents to glorify God in the worship services. A men's Bible study class meets in a real estate office each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. The elders meet in a barber shop each Saturday morning at 6:30. We are very thankful for the dedicated, capable and willing people who want to be "laborers together with God" in reaching this community with the Gospel.

People have responded to Christ. Eighteen people were baptized Sunday afternoon, September 14, a highlight experience.

Property is very expensive, and much of the choice land is zoned commercial. We believe that God has a spot for us where we can build facilities to more effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the people. We set a goal of regularly ministering to at least 150 people before the end of 1981. We believe that acquiring and developing our own property will help us to reach that goal.

Thank you for your financial and prayer support. Special thanks to Northern California Association for their help and encouragement.

Please continue to pray for us, that we will always be sensitive to the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. □

Your financial contributions may be sent to the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, designated for Gold Country Baptist Church, Shingle Springs, CA, 60181.

The Rev. Dale Cundall is pastor of Gold Country Baptist Church, Shingle Springs, CA.



Worship service



Pastor Dale Cundall and wife Marion



Executive Board of Gold Country Baptist Church

As a Pastor Sees It

by James D. Frey

You may become numb sometimes reading what the Estate Planning director and counselors write in these articles month after month. Therefore, I thought you may be interested to read what someone, who is not associated with this ministry, has to say.

Recently I received a church newsletter from a pastor. I want to share with you a portion of this newsletter. It is not

James D. Frey is the associate secretary for estate planning with the North American Baptist Conference International Office.

News & Views

MRS. TOLBERT REPORTED FREE FROM HOUSE ARREST

Mrs. Victoria Tolbert, widow of the slain President William R. Tolbert of Liberia, is reported to be living comfortably in Monrovia following her recent release from house arrest.

Dr. El Tiomu A. Reeves, pastor of the Providence Baptist Church of Monrovia, told Baptist World Alliance officials on a visit to Washington that life in the Liberian capital is returning to normalcy following a coup that elevated Samuel K. Doe to the post of Liberia's chief executive on April 12.

Dr. Tolbert was president of the Baptist World Alliance 1965-70, and Mrs. Tolbert has long been active in the Alliance's Women's Department.

BWA SENDS AID TO HURRICANE VICTIMS ON CARIBBEAN ISLAND

The Baptist World Alliance has sent \$10,000 in emergency relief assistance to the Baptist Convention of Haiti in response to a telegram that Hurricane Allen left 600 persons dead and heavy property damage in the southern region of that Caribbean Island.

Erna Redlich, coordinator for BWA

necessary to name the pastor. I'm sure there are other pastors who could write a similar message to their congregations.

"Several years ago in this column, I reported to you that I had rewritten my will. What I didn't tell you at that time is that I included our church in it.

"My reason for doing so is three-fold. *First*, the church means more to me than anything else. Almost everything that is good and beautiful in my life has come to me through Christ and the church. And our church is part of that. *Second*, like many others in the congregation, I tithe my income. But a number of years ago, it occurred to me that unless I make provision for it, I will never tithe on my capital gains. Thus, it seemed only logical that when I rewrote my will I should give ten percent of my estate to various aspects of the Lord's work. *Third*, why should I give my money to Uncle Sam in the form of inheritance tax when the Lord can do so much more with it?

"In short, I want to be part of the

relief and development, said funds were sent also to Jamaica as soon as communications were restored. Food, shelter and reconstruction aid was sent to the islands of St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent and Haiti, where it was estimated that more than 700 lives were known to have been lost.

Miss Redlich also said that additional contributions are needed, and all designated funds will be sent directly to the point of need.

The storm, reported to be the second worst in weather bureau history, struck the islands and Texas August 4-9.

CROWDS TURNED AWAY AT GRAHAM OSAKA CRUSADE

Osaka, Japan, October 13, 1980—Police had to shut the gates of Osaka's Nissei Stadium when 27,000 people crowded into spaces provided for 25,000, and hundreds more still waiting outside tried to get into the Billy Graham Crusade held here. On the last night over 29,000 jammed the stadium. It was listed as the largest crowds ever recorded in the history of the baseball stadium. American missionary, Michael Simoneaux, who has spent ten years in Osaka said, "I have never seen anything like this before in Japan."

In welcoming Billy Graham to Osaka, Masuru Kishi, Governor of Osaka Prefecture said, "Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ was born. Why is only one percent of Japan Christian? I think it is because Christians have not made their message clear." Billy Graham's response

ministry of this church, not only while I am able to give my time and energy but also even after I have moved on to eternity."

I couldn't do a better job outlining the purpose of the Estate Planning Ministry. This pastor has hit the nail right on the head. Many folks have found help in this area through our ministry. How about you? Do you want to let the U.S. or Canadian government spend your estate tax money, or would you prefer to see it go to the Lord's work? Who do you think could do more with it, God or the government?

We stand ready to give you help in Estate Planning matters. Our service is offered to each member of our N.A.B. family. There is no cost to you. Please feel free to contact me if you want to have help in this matter.

On behalf of everyone associated with the Estate Planning Ministry, I'd like to wish one and all God's unique peace for this Holy Season and throughout 1981. □

to the Governor came in his opening Crusade message. "I want to make the teachings of Jesus so clear that every one of you will understand." Graham explained over and over the cost of following Christ and the fact that people had to forsake all other "gods."

BWA GIVES "PEACE GUNS" TO CHINA

The People's Republic of China has invited Brother's Brother Foundation, an interfaith medical group at Pittsburgh, USA, to come to China to instruct Chinese health workers in the use of modern immunization techniques, especially the jet immunization gun developed by Robert A. Hingson.

Hingson, a Baptist deacon and founder-director of the BBF, made his announcement at the Washington office of the Baptist World Alliance, which sponsored his round-the-world medical survey in 1958 and has helped finance immunization projects on four continents since that time.

The unique injection device Dr. Hingson developed has been widely known as a "Peace gun" because it vaccinates painlessly without use of a needle.

Dr. Hingson and his colleague, Dr. Thomas Welty, toured China in May 1980, studying Chinese medicine and sharing details of preventive medicine programs. They demonstrated the "peace gun" and presented the Chinese health ministry with six of the devices as a gift from the Baptist World Alliance.

Mrs. Barbara Erfle Schmiedt, who attributes her longevity to her good health, family, love of life and faith in God, celebrated her 100th birthday on May 30, 1980.

On the Sunday before her birthday, she was honored at an open house at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, by 260 relatives and friends. The festivities began with an invocation by Dr. J. C. Gunst, Temple Baptist, which was followed by the presentation of an orchid corsage by the mayor of the City of Lodi.

Mrs. Schmiedt was born in Teplitz, South Russia, on May 30, 1880, and at the age of 13 moved to Bowden, ND, with her parents who took up a homestead there. In the fall of 1903, she came to Lodi to visit her sister. While here she met John J. Schmiedt, whom she married on Dec. 27, 1903. The newlyweds bought twenty acres of bare land northeast of Lodi and established the home ranch, which still remains in the family.



The couple had eight children, two of whom are deceased. Mr. Schmiedt died on April 10, 1959. Mrs. Schmiedt has 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The Schmiedts were members of First Baptist Church, Lodi, for many years and then became charter members in 1948 of Temple Baptist Church. Soon after joining, they built a home directly across from the church making it possible for Mrs. Schmiedt to attend all church activities, take over the responsibilities of the church kitchen, and become "official coffee maker" for all occasions. She was still working in the kitchen at 88 years of age when she fell and broke her hip. Attesting to the mettle she is made of, she completely recovered and, at the present time, is still able to get around by herself. Her most serious disability is her impaired hearing.

She is now living in a local nursing home and is the "daily greeter," making her rounds in the morning to greet each guest, wishing them a good day and encouraging them and at night to wish them a good night's sleep. She is also the spokeswoman for her group, always giving special thanks to those who bring the weekly church and musical programs.

She is truly an inspiration to all who know her and especially to all her family. (Ella Schmiedt, reporter.)

ROCK RAPIDS, IA. Faith Baptist Church celebrated a climax and a beginning—the finishing of their building project and the beginning of ministry in their new church.

Dedication week began June 21, with a banquet. The Rev. Reuben Gruenelch had the members "recall steps along the way." The Rev. Bert Itterman, Sioux Falls, SD, composed a song, which he and Mrs. Itterman sang for this special occasion. First Baptist Church, George, IA, is the "mother church" for Faith Baptist.

Rev. Itterman gave the morning worship message, and he and Mrs. Itterman sang a special number.

In the afternoon, 225 attended the dedication service. The Rev. Helmut Strauss, present pastor of First Baptist Church, George, IA, delivered the dedication message, and Mrs. Strauss sang "Bless This House."

Taking part in the service were the Rev. Dan Payne, Central Baptist, George, IA; the Rev. Merv Kramer, Brandon, SD, church extension pastor; Dr. George Dunger, retired seminary professor and missionary to Africa (Faith Baptist Church helps support his daughter, Daphne, on the mission field in Cameroon); Randy Kee, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Kee, who served Faith Church at the very beginning; Rev. Grueneich and the Faith Baptist choir. A time of fellowship was enjoyed in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, June 27, open house was held, and 265 toured the new building. The ladies served refreshments.

What began as a survey effort by Carlo Walth, now associate pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, became a reality in 1980. Now the church presses on with the "high calling" of Christ. (Eleanor J. Stump, clerk.)

ABERDEEN, SD. On August 17, we were blessed to have our missionary to Japan, Lucille Wipf, with us at Calvary Baptist Church for both the morning and evening services. It was interesting to hear how our work is progressing in Japan.

On Aug. 24, our pastor, the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman, brought their ministry to a close. He is now the associate pastor of South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD. It was a short but happy year with the talented Hoffmans. We wish them God's blessing. A farewell was held in the church fellowship hall.

On August 31 we welcomed our new pastor and family, the Rev. Monte Michaelson, his wife, Leslie, and their children, Loryn and Dana. They came to us from Salem, SD, where he was pastoring two churches. We thank God for sending us a pastor (pictured) in such a short time. (Viola Tesky, church clerk.)



GLADWIN, MI. On Sunday afternoon, August 3, round Lake Baptist Church installed the Rev. Robert Brown as its new pastor. A fellowship hour followed, welcoming Rev. Brown and his family to the community.

The Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area secretary, was the guest speaker.

Rev. Brown and his family began their ministry in Gladwin on July 27, coming from Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD, where he was pastor since 1977. His wife, Gail, is serving the Lord with her beautiful singing. They have four lovely children: Jeff, Joel, Amy and Amanda. We are trusting the Lord for many blessings. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, church clerk.)

MILWAUKEE, WI. Temple Baptist Church had the joy of witnessing a baptismal service on April 27. Seven adults and three children (pictured with Rev. Elwyn Zimmerman) made a public profession of their faith in Christ through baptism. This service followed an 11-week pastor's class with four of the sessions devoted to the study of the scriptural doctrine of baptism.



This group represents the largest group ever baptized in a single service by Pastor Zimmerman, and the largest for the church in many years.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. On June 6, Dennis Thum, his wife, Nancy, and their twin sons were welcomed to Faith Baptist Church with a welcoming service and a social hour.

Dennis is a graduate of North American Baptist Seminary. He has taken the position of associate pastor with his primary ministry in youth work. He will also be working in the area of Christian education.

In recent months we have had two baptismal services. We praise the Lord for the 14 people who have followed the Lord in baptism and have become members of our church. Another four people were received as members by transfer of letter. We are thankful for what the Lord is doing. The Rev. Harvey Mehlfaff is pastor of the church.

EMERY, SD. On July 2, 1980, First Baptist Church had a welcome home service for Lucille Wipf, missionary in Japan. Mrs. Setsuko Yuzawa of Japan was also an honored guest. She represented the women of our churches in Japan at the Baptist World Alliance Women's sessions in Toronto, ON, July 3-8.

Sunday morning, July 6, we had baptismal services for two new converts. The hand of fellowship was given to them at

our communion service following baptism.

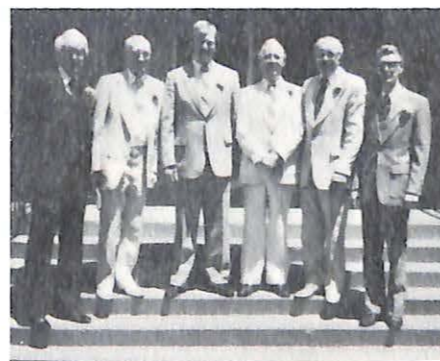


Our church also had the privilege of hearing the Cornerstone Quartet from Calvary Baptist Church of Aberdeen, SD, on July 13. The Rev. David Korb is the pastor of the Emery church. (JoAnn Weber, reporter.)

PORTLAND, OR. Bethany Baptist Church recently celebrated its 101st anniversary with an all-church potluck and Challenge Fund Drive. The church adopted a healthy budget of \$200,000 for the year and in order to maintain this budget, we challenged ourselves to meet a goal of \$11,000 to be received on our Anniversary Sunday. We are excited to report that \$17,500 was given, and our weekly giving since that time has been over and above our budgeted amount.

After the potluck, we met together as a congregation and heard testimonies from a few of the 70 new members that have joined our fellowship since our last anniversary. The Rev. Donald N. Miller is pastor. (Jean Ann Walth, reporter.)

PEORIA, IL. North Sheridan Baptist Church officially installed its new pastor, Terry Stoltenow, at its morning worship service on June 29. Moderator Calvin Stone was in charge of the service. Guest speakers included the Rev. Willis Potratz, area secretary; Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, the Rev. David T. Priestley, former pastor, and Jim Frey, associate secretary for Estate Planning.



A fellowship dinner honoring the newly installed pastor and his wife, Sharon, was held immediately following the service.

Left to right in picture: Jim Frey, Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, the Rev. Terry Stoltenow, Calvin Stone, moderator, the Rev. Willis Potratz, the Rev. David T. Priestley.

PRINCE GEORGE, BC. On June 22, 1980, the Rev. E. A. Hoffman baptized two young people during the morning worship service at Bethel Baptist Church. The hand of fellowship was extended to them.

The church honored several high school graduates at a banquet in June. (Robert Katzberg, clerk.)

WEST ST. PAUL, MN. On Aug. 24, 1980, the winners (pictured) of the Library Lalapalooza Summer Reading Contest, Riverview Baptist Church, were honored.



The ice cream theme was carried out by awarding first, second, and third prize ice cream certificates to the top seven readers. For each book read, a scoop of ice cream was added to their cones or sundaes building up to a Lalapalooza. Sixty people entered the contest with 680 books and magazines being checked out over the two month period. It was encouraging to see the library being used, particularly by leaders and new people in the congregation. The Rev. Doug Radke is pastor. (Karen Factor, reporter.)

MISSOULA, MT. Five adults followed the Lord in baptism at Bethel Baptist Church, and one joined the church by testimony.

On May 11, the church hosted a potluck supper honoring Dan and Arlys Van Gerpen and Danae. Dan resigned as director of church ministries, a position he held for almost three years, to attend N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. Dan and Arlys served the Lord in more than one "job" each, so now there are several vacancies to be filled.

A mini-retreat at Lolo Hot Springs Resort, September 12 and 13, was attended by 33 ladies, who enjoyed a program of music, testimony, swimming, food and fellowship. This will become an annual event by enthusiastic request.

A Harvest-Mission Festival, featuring a banquet on Saturday evening, September 20, hosted by our Men's Fellowship, presented Lloyd Graves, World Concern, as the speaker. He also spoke at the Sunday morning worship service. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruits and vegetables in a traditional observance of harvest time. Hero Ulrichs is pastor of our church. (Kathryne Staiger, reporter.)

WACO, TX. On Sunday, September 21, 1980, with Dr. Roy Seibel, a former pastor and professor at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, as guest

speaker, we celebrated our 90th anniversary with more than 200 present. Lunch was served at noon followed by a special musical program. There was fellowship among members, friends, and former members.

The year was 1890. Several immigrants from Germany and Wacoans who had been attending the mission auxiliary of the First Baptist Church of Waco met at South Ninth and Clay to organize the Central Baptist Church. There were nine charter members. The church was designed to meet the special needs of the immigrants. All services were conducted in German.

By 1917 a second church building was built at the same location, and eighteen new members were added by baptism.

In 1925 under the leadership of the Rev. A. Becker, 24 persons were baptized, and the church reached self-support status. Services were still conducted in German. After Rev. Becker retired, serving 14 years as pastor, the church engaged a Baylor University graduate as pastor. He could not speak German, so this broke the ice. The services were conducted in English, and more people joined the church.

The Rev. Roy Seibel became pastor in 1944. During his ministry, the church was sold. Land was purchased at 29th and Connor. A new church was built in 1950, and the parsonage was built on the same city block. The membership totaled 158.

By 1956 with the Rev. Louis Johnson as pastor, there was new growth, and membership reached 208. Also, the Sunday school annex was completed at this time.

Between the years of 1967 and 1972, there was a period of refreshment and vitality, due to enthusiastic leadership of the Rev. Leroy Schauer and family. There was a visitation program in the neighborhood and beyond. God's Volunteers came.

During this time, membership declined, as several young couples moved to other cities due to their employment. Some members sought new church homes for a variety of reasons.



After the Rev. Jesse Hood and family left in 1975, the Rev. Jerry Walters served as interim pastor. His was a ministry of encouragement, keeping faith alive, exhortation, and building up the remnant of the local body of Christ.

The arrival of the Rev. Joe Cook and family in June 1979 brought a renewed spirit of hope, growth in numbers and Christian life: fifteen baptisms, puppet ministry, children's church and a vision for the future.

We have come a long way, but with

God's help, we look to the future with enthusiasm with the goal of saving the lost for Christ. (Louise Hoeffner, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. Pastor Elmo Herman, youth director at Immanuel Baptist Church, was ordained on Saturday evening, Aug. 23, at the church.

The Ordination Council of the North American Baptist Conference met in the afternoon, presided over the Rev. Loren Weber. Mr. Gilbert Luhrs opened the service. Mrs. Donald Salzman, church clerk, took the minutes. After the candidate presented a satisfactory statement of his Christian conversion, call to the ministry, training and doctrinal beliefs, he was cross-examined by the council. In private session he was recommended to the church for ordination which followed.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Herman, parents of the candidate, from Eureka, ND, were present. Mr. Herman took part in the ordination service, as did Mrs. Salzman, Mr. Walter Kohrs of Peoria, the appointed clerk and reporter, Dr. Richard Schilke, from the N.A.B. International Office, and Rev. Willis Potratz, area secretary. Mr. Darwynne Pucek, father-in-law of the new pastor, composed and sang a solo, "I Am Thy Child, Lord," for the occasion. Mr. Timothy Nelson was the organist.

A supper was prepared before the service in the fellowship hall, as was a reception after the service. (Alice M. Luhrs, reporter.)

SUMNER, IA. We praise the Lord that God heard and answered our prayers in sending us our new pastor, the Rev. Dan Payne, his lovely wife Mona and their three daughters: Tasha, Tanya and Tara.



On September 7 the First Baptist Church presented a program to welcome the Paynes and held a reception in their honor. May God bless Pastor Dan and Mona. (Retha Menke, reporter.)

KYLE, TX. The Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Barsh were honored Aug. 31, 1980, with an Appreciation Dinner at the Immanuel Baptist Church. He resigned as pastor of the church effective Sept. 1, 1980, after serving the church for sixteen and one half years. He has been active in the Christian ministry for fifty-two years.

Following the morning worship service and communion service, the congregation gathered in the fellowship hall of the church to honor Rev. and Mrs. Barsh. Immediately after the meal, a program of

songs and tributes was held.

Representatives of the different organizations of the church and others gave tributes to Rev. and Mrs. Barsh for their many years of faithful service in the church.

Several members of the Elm Creek Baptist Church, Seguin, TX, were present for the occasion. They also expressed their gratitude to Rev. Barsh for ministering in their church for twelve years. Gifts of appreciation were presented to Rev. and Mrs. Barsh from both the Immanuel Baptist Church and the Elm Creek Baptist Church.

On Sunday evening at the community-wide fifth Sunday service with all churches of the community in attendance, Rev. and Mrs. Barsh were honored again. The entire service was dedicated to them.

May the Lord richly bless them and use them as they continue to serve him. (Adolph Hill, church clerk.)

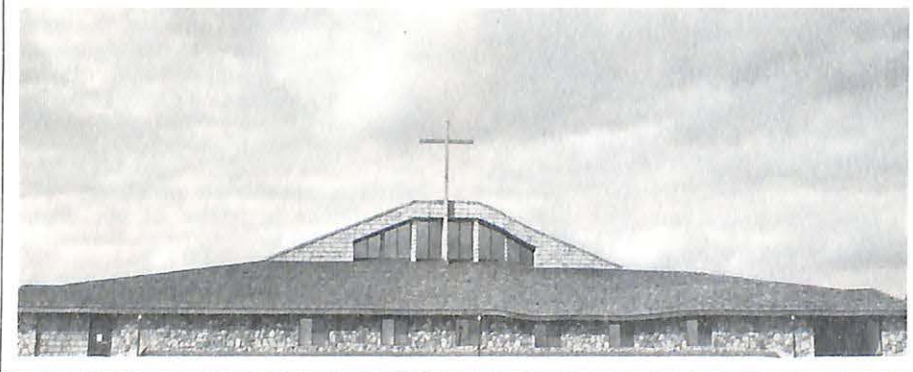
SUMNER, IA. The First Baptist Church dedicated its newly acquired and remodeled church building at a service on Sept. 14, 1980. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area

BEULAH, ND. With much joy and gratitude following nearly two years of contracting, donating labor, praying and sacrifice, the dedication of the new Immanuel Baptist Church (pictured) was held on Aug. 24, 1980, with more than 400 present.

The activities began during the Sunday School Hour with a challenging devotional by Sunday School Superintendent Mike McLaughlin. This was followed by a children's Sunday school program consisting of singing and telling Bible stories.

Leading the morning worship service was the pastor, the Rev. Gordon Voegele, who introduced the Rev. Herman Kesterke, former pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, who was on the field when the building of the new church started. Kesterke brought the morning message, after which a fellowship dinner was served to about 250 guests and members.

The dedication service began with the reading of greetings from friends and pastors and with those present conveying greetings. Other special guests were the Rev. George Neubert, former pastor, who gave a short message and led in the dedicatory prayer. The Rev. Connie Salios, associate secretary for stewardship, N.A.B. Conference, brought the dedicatory message in which he commended the church on their record of phenomenal giv-



secretary, was guest speaker.

During the Rev. Ralph Chandler's ministry, the former E.U.B. church building was purchased and extensively remodeled. The first service held in the church occurred on April 9, 1979, for the funeral of a charter member, Herman Schulte.

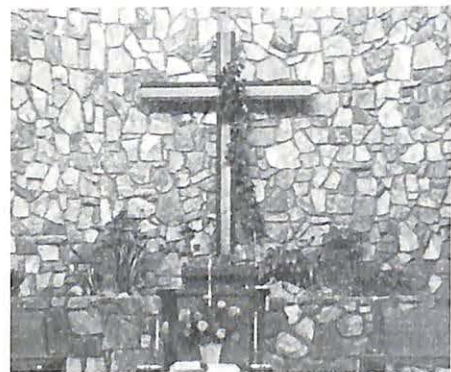


Before the church began, the Sumner Baptist Mission met at the Potratz farm and was under the auspices of First Baptist Church of Elgin. The group purchased the C. W. Dickman home as a church house, which was dedicated May 21, 1944,

ing. Mr. Gilbert Ost gave a summary of the history of the church, and Mr. Clarence Jaeger presented the building. An offering of \$7,250 was received.

Land for the building was donated, and the cost of the building is \$260,000. This structure has a seating capacity of 350 in the sanctuary (over 6,000 sq. feet) and provides a church office, restrooms, nursery, mechanical room, kitchen, library area, baptistry, and portable classrooms.

Special music was furnished by the local church choir, directed by Miss Myrna Seibel, and Mrs. Jerry Becker, organist, a solo by Mr. Randall Karges, and the youth. (Mrs. Gordon Voegele, reporter.)



with the late Rev. Paul F. Zoschke.

In December 1947, the congregation became self-supporting and called their first pastor, the Rev. William Jeschke, now of Bethlehem, PA. The old U.B. Church building was purchased in 1952 with the Rev. Fred Mashner, Rochester, NY, as pastor.

Members of N.A.B. churches of Iowa and churches of the community attended the dedication service. Letters of congratulations were read.

The Reverend Dan Payne is the present church pastor. (Retha Menke, reporter.)

SIoux FALLS, SD. On Sept. 18, 1980, a Recognition Council composed of twelve churches in the South Dakota Association met at Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, to examine the Constitution of Brandon Valley Baptist Church, Brandon, and to decide whether or not to recommend Brandon Valley Baptist Church to the 1980 South Dakota Association for membership in the South Dakota Association and the North American Baptist Conference.

The Rev. Merv Kramer, pastor of Brandon Valley, welcomed the delegates. The Rev. Leon Bill, Trinity Baptist, Sioux Falls, was elected chairman of the council.

Nora Sittig, a member of Brandon Valley Baptist, read a brief history of the church and a portion of the minutes calling for the recognition council. Rev. Kramer and other representatives of the church answered questions of the delegates. The Recognition Council voted unanimously to recommend to the 1980 South Dakota Association (Sept. 25-28) that Brandon Valley Baptist Church (Church Extension Project) be admitted as a member of the Association and the North American Baptist Conference. (Norbert Stubel, clerk.)

MOOSEHORN, MB. During the winter months at Moosehorn Baptist Church, the Rev. S. Zukowski, pastor, taught discipleship classes, which several attended. These, in turn, are now discipling new converts. Two adults (pictured) have been baptized in the nearby lake and welcomed into our fellowship.

ELK GROVE, CA. An Ordination Council consisting of ten pastors and fifteen delegates representing nine churches of the Northern California Association of North American Baptists convened in session on Thursday, September 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church in Elk Grove. The purpose was to examine Mr. Carl F. Brenner as a candidate for ordination.



Our family joined us by transfer of membership.

On August 23, during a painting bee, most of our church and parsonage received a fresh coat of paint. The young people did the finishing-up work the following week. (Mrs. Margaret Grauman, reporter.)

CORONA, SD. The 134th annual South Dakota Association was held Sept. 25-27, 1980, at the First Baptist Church of Corona. The theme of the Association was "Our Great Advantage," (John 16:7). Dr. Herb Dickerson, professor, N.A.B. Seminary, and Dr. John Binder, executive secretary, N.A.B. Conference, were our resource people who directed our thoughts and challenged us throughout the Association on this theme. The Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Woyke, guest missionaries from Japan, challenged us to continue to support missions through prayer and giving. The Association business was conducted in a warm spirit under the able leadership of Mr. Ray DeNeui, vice moderator, Chancellor. A record budget of \$31,790 was adopted; 61 percent of the budget goes to support three Church Extension projects in Spearfish and Brandon, SD, and Gillette, WY. Mr. Ray DeNeui was elected our moderator. (Darwin Stahl, recording secretary.)

EMERY, SD. Mr. and Mrs. Barry Seifert (pictured) ended their ministry as youth and music director at First Baptist Church in August. Special numbers were presented by various groups, followed by a lunch and fellowship hour. Barry is attending the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls.



Jim Derman of Grand Forks, ND, and a student at the Seminary, began his duties as our new youth and music director on September 7. The Rev. David Korb is pastor. (Mrs. JoAnn Weber, reporter.)

The Rev. Clarence Walth was elected moderator and the Rev. Walter Dingfield as clerk. After statements and questioning, the Council unanimously voted to recommend to the First Baptist Church to proceed with an ordination service. (Walter Dingfield, clerk.)

MILWAUKEE, WI. On Aug. 9, 1980, the Center Baptist Church had the privilege of celebrating the marriage of our youth

pastor, Dan Edzards, to Rita Bonkowsky, our organist, (pictured). A number of church members, relatives and friends participated in the wedding celebration with love and joy. Pastor Dan came to serve our church in the summer of 1979, and in the absence of a senior pastor had more responsibilities in serving us and our Lord.

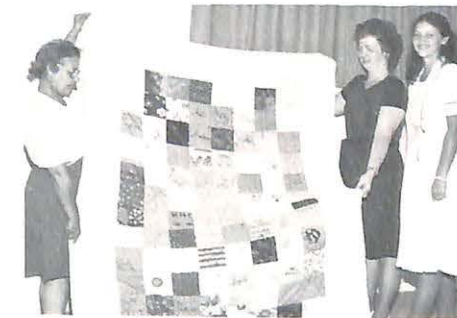


At another occasion, the "Spirit of Praise" groups from St. Joseph, MI, blessed us with a beautiful program in song. (Annette Schroeder, reporter.)

GEORGE, IA. A baptismal service was held Sunday evening, August 3, at First Baptist Church. Six persons were baptized that evening by the Rev. Helmut Strauss. Following the baptismal service, Rev. Strauss welcomed those baptized into the membership of the church.

A grocery shower for Dave Glover was held in conjunction with the fourth of July picnic at the church. Dave is the new youth pastor and adult choir director at First Baptist. (Mrs. Harold Scheiderman, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. Sunday, September 7, was Karin Haas's last Sunday at Redeemer Baptist Church before her departure for Cameroon as a short-term missionary. In the morning service she read Scripture, after which she was presented with a Friendship Quilt (pictured). The quilt, made by Mrs. Marcia Berger, was made from squares that had been embroidery-autographed by many different families and individuals.



Following the evening service, there was a time of fellowship in Karin's honor. The Rev. Elmer Strauss is pastor. (Mrs. Ruth Strauss, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. An evangelistic crusade with the Rev. Theron Spurr resulted in numerous decisions and commitments to Christ at Trinity Baptist Church.

our conference in action

We experienced the joy of sending out two missionaries: Miss Trudy Spletzer, teaching at Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria, and Dan Major, serving with Operation Mobilization in Europe.

The church bade farewell to the assistant pastor, Ronald Habermas, and his family who will be furthering their education as well as serving in a church in the Chicago, IL, area.

We are pleased to report that the Rev. and Mrs. Reinhold Neuman joined our staff as assistant pastor and wife. Miss Dixie Potratz will become the Director of Christian Education. The Rev. Richard Hohensee is pastor. (E. Hoffman, reporter.)

RAPID CITY, SD. On Sunday, Aug. 31, 1980, the South Canyon Baptist Church welcomed the new assistant pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman.

That day, Lucille Wipf told about her work in Japan, also. A picnic followed the service at which time the people became better acquainted with Lucille and the Hoffmans.

On September 3, a "coffee" was held for the Hoffmans, at which time they were presented with the items given for their kitchen. The Rev. Elmo Tahrn is pastor. (Mrs. Maxine Bettenhausen, reporter.)

RIDGEWOOD, NY. In August, the Rev. Edward A. Bacon became pastor of Ridgewood Baptist Church.

On September 21, a formal installation service was held for Rev. Bacon and his wife Bonnie at an afternoon service. The moderator and the pulpit committee chairlady gave charges to the minister, and Rev. Bacon made responses to each. The superintendent of the Sunday school gave a charge to the congregation as did the chairman of the diaconate, who also gave a charge to the pastor, who responded. The prayer of dedication was given by the moderator.

Several pastors of our Atlantic Association churches as well as local pastors of various denominations brought greetings.

The pastors and laymen who had served the church during the time there was no pastor also participated in the service.

Following the formal service, the fellowship was enjoyed around the tables in the Fellowship Hall. (Marion von Ahnen, reporter.)

BENTON HARBOR, MI. On September 7, the Rev. James Calkins, assistant pastor and youth minister, served his last Sunday with Napier Parkview Baptist Church, to the great regret of the entire congregation. He delivered his final sermon Sunday evening, after which there was a farewell fellowship. He and his family were presented with a love offering. The youth of the church previously honored him at a dinner and presented him with a love offering.

Pastor Calkins and family are located in Cedar Springs, MI, where, with nine other couples they will be starting a new church to reach "unreachables." He will also be working full-time with a printing company. The Rev. Herman Effa is pastor. (Doris Badgley, reporter.)

TROCHU, AB. The ladies of Trochu Baptist Church presented the annual "Flower Sunday" program recently, the theme being "Fruits of the Spirit." The program consisted of readings, poems, musical numbers and a short devotional. Following the program, everyone enjoyed coffee and a time of fellowship.

In the fall, the boys' and girls' clubs began meeting again on a weekly basis. Our prayer is that we may have a great outreach into the community through the clubs. The Rev. Leonard Pye is pastor. (Phyl Henkel, reporter.)

BEATRICE, NE. The Nebraska Baptist Fellowship met September 5 and 6 at Westside Baptist Church. Guest speaker for this event was Prof. J. Gordon Harris, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, South Central Area secretary, was also present.

The theme for the meeting was "The Bible, God's Holy Word," (II Tim. 3:15-17). Topics developed and presented by Prof.

Harris were "The Bible as God's Gift," "The Bible as the Power of God," and "The Living Truth of God." "The Text and Translations of the Scriptures" was presented by the Rev. Ken Mercer, pastor, Westside Baptist Church. All messages were followed by discussion periods led by selected leaders.

Participating churches presented special music. The Mission Society of the host church served the meals. A mission offering was taken at the final session. (Ruth Effa, reporter.)

CAMROSE, AB. Eight new members were extended the right hand of fellowship and became willing workers in Century Meadows Baptist Church.

The Church was honored to hold the ordination service for the pastor, Larry Froese, on September 14.

The Rev. Ron Berg, Edmonton, AB, was chairman for the special afternoon program. Dr. Joe Sonnenberg, Edmonton, AB, preached the ordination sermon. The Rev. Harvey Wilkie gave the charge to the candidate, and the Rev. Isador Faszer gave the charge to the church. Following the service, members and friends were served a buffet supper by the ladies of the church. (Winona Roth, reporter.)

HILLSBORO, OR. More than 70 people gather Wednesday evenings at Faith Baptist Church of Hillsboro to study God's Word. A new program, developed by Church Bible Studies of Walnut Creek, CA, is being used. A directive study of the book of Nehemiah involves fifty adults and young people. Using study notes, discussion groups, and a teaching time, as well as a time of prayer, the Church is learning the history of the period, important characteristics of the man Nehemiah, and the faithfulness of God to his people.

Child care is provided for pre-school children, and a children's program is used for elementary school children. The people of Faith Baptist are excited about studying God's Word. The Rev. Jim Green is pastor.

daughter, Lois R. Kannwischer, Houston; two grandsons: Dr. Stephen A. Kannwischer, Sacramento, and Dr. L. Richard Kannwischer, Waco, and four great-grandchildren. Services were conducted by the Rev. Herbert Berndt, pastor, Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, and Chaplain Raymond Probst of St. John Nursing Home.

JOHANNA RISKE, nee Bartsch, was born in Grunde, Lublin, on July 6, 1881, and died Aug. 23, 1980. She accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and followed him in baptism at an early age. She remained faithful until her death. After she married Rudolf Riske in 1911, they left Grunde and settled in East Prussia, Germany. In May 1928 the family immigrated to Canada to the Trochu area where they became members

(Continued on page 31)

What's Happening

■ A Conference on Church Extension sponsored by the North American Baptist Fellowship is being planned for October 26-29, 1981, at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. Participants in the 1980 church extension conference chose the Rev. John Zeigler, secretary for church extension, N.A.B. Conference, as chairman of the planning committee and chairman of the next scheduled meeting.

It is hoped that all Baptist groups who are members of the North American Baptist Fellowship will participate as well as all persons actively engaged in church extension for the N.A.B. Conference.

■ Rev. Anthony Guenther, pastor of Brook Park Baptist Church, Brooklyn Center, MN, since 1973, became pastor of First Baptist Church, Corona, SD, in November 1980.

■ Rev. G. Donald Ganstrom, pastor of Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, since 1977, resigned effective Nov. 30, 1980. He has accepted the pastorate of a new N.A.B. church extension project in Vancouver, WA, Dec. 1, 1980.

■ Mr. John Nicholson, youth pastor and Christian education director, Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, has resigned effective Sept. 1, 1980, to continue theological studies.

■ Rev. Willis Carrico became the pastor of the Hart Highway area church extension project, Prince George, BC, on Oct. 1, 1980. He previously served Thunderbird Baptist Church, Phoenix, AZ, since 1979.

■ Rev. Allen Herron became the pastor of Forest City Baptist Church, London, ON, during the summer of 1980.

■ Rev. David Hornok resigned as pastor of Victor Baptist Church, IA, effective Oct. 31, 1980. He now pastors a Bible church in Elgin, IA.

■ First Baptist Church of Streeter, ND, officially disbanded on Sept. 21, 1980.

■ Rev. Harry Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Corona, SD, since 1973, has resigned. He is awaiting the Lord's guidance in regard to future ministry.

■ Brandon Valley Baptist Church, Brandon, SD, was admitted as a member of the South Dakota Association and the North American Baptist Conference dur-

ing the sessions of the South Dakota Association Sept. 25-28. Rev. Merv Kramer is pastor.

■ The Rev. Larry Froese was ordained by the Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB, on September 14. Froese is the pastor of that church.

■ Rev. David Berg became associate pastor of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, on Sept. 15, 1980. He previously served a Baptist General Conference church in Langley, BC.

■ A daughter, Kelly Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frey on Oct. 9, 1980. Frey is associate secretary for estate planning at N.A.B. International Office. They have one other daughter, Kristin.

■ Rev. Ronald Parrott, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Drumheller, AB, resigned effective Oct. 31, 1980. He now pastors a non-N.A.B. church near Red Deer, AB.

■ Mr. David E. Dwyer is the new pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha, WI, as of Sept. 7, 1980.

■ The Rev. Alvin Auch is the new pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church and Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD.

■ Victoria Avenue Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC, purchased another church building and changed its name and address to *Evergreen Baptist Church*, 428 Wellington Ave., effective Oct. 1, 1980. Rev. Leonard Strelau is pastor.

■ Dr. W. H. Barsh resigned as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX, effective Sept. 1, 1980, to retire. He has been active in the Christian ministry for 52 years.

■ Mr. Dave Glover, Omaha, NE, assumed the position of youth pastor and adult choir director at First Baptist Church, George, IA, on June 8, 1980.

■ Mr. Carl F. Brenner was ordained by First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA.

■ Rev. Donald Harder began his pastorate at Nokomis Baptist and Raymore Baptist Churches, SK, effective Aug. 10, 1980. He has served as youth pastor at Capilano Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, since 1978.

■ Rev. Richard Lawrenz, pastor of First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT, since 1970,

resigned and became pastor at Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD, the end of October 1980.

■ Rev. Bernd Rist became the associate pastor of German Zion Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, on Sept. 14, 1980. He was a 1980 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ Rev. Lyle Spicer is the new pastor at Napoleon, ND. He had served First Baptist Church, Medina, ND, since 1978.

■ Rev. Uve Knaak is the new pastor at Whitemouth Baptist Church, MB.

■ Mr. Dale Fuchs was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church, Billings, MT, on Sept. 6, 1980. He is associate pastor at Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI.

■ Rev. Carl Weisser is the pastor of visitation at First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON.

■ Dr. Daniel N. Leininger, assistant professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at N.A.B. Seminary, has received the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for ministry completed as a Reserve Chaplain with the 5010th U.S. Army Hospital in Louisville, KY. Since joining the faculty of the seminary, Dr. Leininger has also become the chaplain for the 114th Tactical Fighter Group of the South Dakota Air National Guard in Sioux Falls, SD.

■ Dr. John Binder, executive secretary, N.A.B. Conference, was elected second vice chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

■ Mr. Paul Eklund, Seattle, WA, began his ministry as minister of family life, Oct. 1, 1980, at Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA. Eklund is a 1980 graduate of Western Conservative Baptist Seminary.

■ Mr. James Leverette accepted the call to a staff position at Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, effective Jan. 1, 1981. Leverette is a December 1980 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ Rev. Robert Hoffman accepted the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Valleyview, AB, effective Nov. 15, 1980. Hoffman served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Regina, SK, since 1975.

■ Barbara Binder (Mrs.) has assumed the position of interim editor of *Baptist*

(Continued on page 31)

in memoriam

HENRY WILLIAM BERTULEIT, 92, was born in Minneapolis, MN, Aug. 9, 1888, to Michael and Anna Bertuleit, and died in Portland, OR, Aug. 29, 1980. In 1902 he came to Portland with his parents and family. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized Feb. 26, 1905. On June 10, 1920, he married Elsa M. Ritter. Three children were born to them: Eleanor Grace, Paul Stanley and Daniel. Henry was a faithful member of Trinity Baptist

Church throughout his entire life, serving as a Sunday school teacher, trustee, Church Board member, choir member and director. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Baptist Manor. Survivors include his widow, Elsa; three children: Mrs. John Baird, Castro Valley, CA; Paul, Fondulac, WI, and Daniel, Tigard, OR; seven grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Emma Schade. A brother, Walter Bertuleit, preceded him in death in 1965. Dr. John Wobig and Pastor E. B. Wesner officiated at the memorial service.

EMMA BRETSCHNEIDER was born July 18, 1887, in Rochester, NY. She was the wife of the late Dr. Albert Bretschneider, former President and Dean of the North American Baptist Seminary. Survivors include her daughters: Mrs. A. E. Kannwischer (Ruth), Houston, TX, and Grace Bretschneider, Rochester, NY; one grand-

Editorial Viewpoint

For Whom Did God Send His Son?

The children's choir, which I direct at our church, loves to sing, "God sent his Son to be our Savior, He is the Way; He is the Truth; He is the Life." As we are in the Christmas season, the words have added impact.

For whom did God send his Son? Did God send his Son for the woman whose husband walked out on her leaving her with five children and the bills? Some would say, "Get your marriage straightened out, then you can become a part of the family of God." Did Jesus come for the divorced black man who married a divorced white woman? Did God send his Son for the child who causes so much trouble in the neighborhood? Some would say, "Keep away from him." For the girl with the illegitimate baby? "Don't be seen with her." For the man or woman in jail? "Can't trust him/her, even if..." For the person with a different color skin? Did God send his Son for the poor, the alcoholic, the drug addict, or the refugee?

Jesus Christ did not condone divorce. He did not condone extramarital affairs or pre-marital sex. He did not condone ruining our bodies and minds with alcohol or drugs. He did not condone crime—but he also did not condone

hatred or prejudice for someone different than I.

Granted, many of our churches as well as individuals, have dealt with these problems and have seen Christ miraculously change lives. They have walked with and helped people in their personal struggles.

Recently in a conversation with one of our pastors, he said, "You know, for the first time, people from our community are viewing our church as a place where their needs can be met. They've come to me for counseling, and they want to become a part of the church. I can lead them to Christ, but I am worried about whether or not my congregation is going to accept these people with questionable pasts and allow them to join our church. How can I prepare my congregation to receive these people as part of the family of God?"

Last Christmas at the beginning of a Christmas program in one of our churches, a bedraggled, poorly dressed man, who had seen the lights of the church as he came up the road, entered the church - alone. With no help from an usher, he tried to find a seat in the congregation - no one moved. Some men were even ready to escort him from the church. Finally, a little boy said to his dad, "Daddy, isn't anybody going to move over and let him sit down?" And no one did. He finally found a seat up front in the corner. Afterward, only the children were concerned whether or not the man had a place to stay or if he would continue on along the road in the night.

The church, of which I am a member, about five years ago discussed the possibility of ministering to a changing neighborhood. It wasn't easy for some to begin to move from prejudice to love. It took several years of prayer and discussion. We had a choice - be a live church or die! Through God's leading, we chose to live. Now the church is reaching persons in the surrounding community for Christ. It is a process, not a finished product, as in any church. We have an integrated church, and we don't see color - we feel a love - a family feeling for each other. Last Wednesday evening, some of our black brothers were elected to leadership positions in our church. An older black lady said at prayer meeting the other night, "I thank you so much for how you all loved me when I came forward to join the church last Sunday."

Because he so loved the world, God sent his Son "that the world through him might be saved... whoever believes." Whom did God want to gather unto himself? Did God send his Son for only those fortunate to be brought up in a Christian home - who never strayed or never got into trouble? Or did he send his Son also for those who really need him? Do we really believe that Christ is able to give "new life" - to change lives?

Jesus said: "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are ill. But go and learn what this means, I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matt. 9:12-13).

In all the joy, the bustle, the gift-giving, the beauty of this Christmas season, how about being instrumental in bringing someone who really needs Christ to the place where he can receive the best, the most lasting Christmas gift of all? Salvation through Jesus Christ!

—BJB

Charles Littman Appointed Area Secretary

The Rev. Charles Littman, formerly pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, was recently appointed to the position of North Central Area secretary. This appointment, made by the N.A.B. General Council upon recommendation of the North Central Area Secretary Search Committee, took effect Nov. 1, 1980.



Littman who comes to the area secretary position with 23 years of pastoral experience, succeeds the Rev. Ronald Mayforth who is now on the faculty of N.A.B. College, Edmonton.

Littman was born and raised in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. He received his education for the ministry at Sioux Falls College, SD, and the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls. Following his graduation from Seminary, he

became pastor of the Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS, which he served from 1957-63. This church also ordained him on Oct. 11, 1957. Following this pastorate he served as pastor of the McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, 1963-69, and the First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, 1969-80.

Littman and his wife, the former Audrey Stroschein, now reside in Bismarck, ND, where his office is located. Their only child, a son, Alan was killed in 1978.

Draewell Resigns as Seminary President

Dr. David J. Draewell, president of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, announced his resignation to the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting in Sioux Falls, October 9-10, 1980. The resignation takes effect



August 30, 1981. Draewell has served as the president of the Seminary since 1970.

During Draewell's term as president, the student body grew from 69 in 1970-71 to 223 students in 1980. The following degree programs were established: M.A. in counseling, M.A. in religious studies, and the doctor of ministry. Special emphasis on family and adult ministries as well as continued education for Japanese pastors were also initiated.

One of his many achievements as President was the formation of the President's Council—people vitally interested in the ministry of the Seminary.

Three 18 to 20 unit apartment buildings were constructed for married students and an administration building was also acquired under Draewell's leadership.

His future plans have not been determined.

Kerstans Honored at Dinner

A recognition and farewell dinner was given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Reinhold

Kerstan and their family, Sept. 29, 1980, at the Sheraton Hotel in Oak Brook, IL. The event was attended by members of the Oakbrook Terrace International Office staff, pastors and wives and friends from the Chicago area and southwest Michigan. Dr. Kerstan served for twelve and one-half years in the Conference office beginning first of all as editor of German publications and then later becoming editor of the BAPTIST HERALD and associate secretary for communications.

Words of appreciation were expressed to Dr. Kerstan for his warm and friendly spirit. It was noted by those who shared in the event that throughout the N.A.B. Conference, Dr. Kerstan has been warmly

Book Reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

GOD'S JOY IN MY HEART by Ruth Youngdahl Nelson with Karen Matison Hess. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN. \$7.95.

So many books are written about marriage and family problems that it is a blessing to pick up this volume, sit back, relax, and enjoy the story of a family that had it all together. Although it was "sweeter as the years go by" for Clarence

received and appreciated by all kinds of people, children through adults. Some of the qualities that Kerstan possesses and that were noted on this evening are his love and concern for his own family, the commitment and dedication to his local church, his appreciation for pastors, his creativity, his many and varied talents, and his love for life.

Kerstan has traveled throughout the world and is able to speak several languages. Dr. Kerstan is well qualified for his current position, which he assumed October 1, as associate secretary for communications for the Baptist World Alliance. Our thanks and appreciation is expressed to Rein for his many years of service. Our prayers go with him for his

and Ruth Youngdahl, it was far from problem-free. Some tragedies and near-tragedies would have been insurmountable to the average family, but the Youngdahls were an unusual family, far above average.

The young Lutheran pastor and his wife began their ministry in St. Paul, MN, then Duluth, and Washington, DC. Not content to minister in the States they applied for overseas service and landed in Saudi Arabia. Some of their children were already missionaries in Indonesia, Africa, and the Orient.

The brother of Ruth is none other than the former governor of Minnesota and District Judge, while another, Reuben, became the pastor of the largest Lutheran church in America.

IN MEMORIAM

(Continued from page 28)

of Trochu Baptist Church. Her husband preceded her in death in 1953, after which she moved to Calgary and joined Grace Baptist. Survivors include two sons: Walter and Herbert of Calgary; one daughter, Mrs. John (Wally) Haller, Trochu, AB; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two sisters: Olga Schad and Alwiene Bartsch. The Rev. W. Kerber and Rev. Kanwischer officiated at the funeral service.

FRIEDA SCHROEDER, 47, nee DeVries, was born Dec. 15, 1932, in Ochre River, MB, and died Aug. 31, 1980. On Oct. 14, 1955, she married Herman Schroeder.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 29)

Herald, "N.A.B. News" and other publications until a successor to Dr. Reinhold Kerstan is appointed.

Ilse Mollenhauer (Mrs.) is the interim assistant editor of *Der Sendbote*, German insert in *Baptist Herald*.

success in his new ministry. He has left the International Office staff, but he will continue to be a part of the North American Baptist Conference as he represents the Baptist World Alliance of which we are a part.

At this dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frey, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Salzman, and the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Lang and their families were welcomed to the N.A.B. International Office. Frey is associate secretary for estate planning, Stewardship and Communications Department; Salzman is the associate secretary for business services, Missions Department, and Lang is associate secretary for personnel and promotion, Missions Department.

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF C. S. LEWIS by Thomas Howard. Harold Shaw Publishers, Wheaton, IL. \$5.95.

In order to get the full benefit of *The Achievement of C. S. Lewis*, it is necessary to claim the achievement of reading all of his fiction: *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Out of the Silent Planet*, *Till We Have Faces*, et al.

Lewis's fiction is similar to Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland*; it is written for children but it takes an adult to discover its meaning. But to explain the meaning to children would be boring. They enjoy it just the way it is.

If any more books about Lewis's fiction are written, someone may get the idea of writing a commentary. God forbid!

Professor Howard's presentation should be definitive. He reveals Lewis's theme: that nothing is more important than living in the true world. This theme is revealed further in his emphasis on human freedom, choice, obedience, goodness, the will of God.

An excellent volume for the Lewis buff.

The Board of Trustees of the North American Baptist College/Divinity School Edmonton, Alberta is seeking a President

The Presidential Search Committee invites letters of nomination, application, or other written submissions as soon as possible in order to assist them in their deliberations.

Address all correspondence to: The Presidential Search Committee North American Baptist College/Divinity School 11525-23 Ave. Edmonton, AB, Canada T6J 4T3 Phone: (403) 437-1960

THE IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH of Vancouver, BC will celebrate its 25th Church Anniversary on February 19-22, 1981

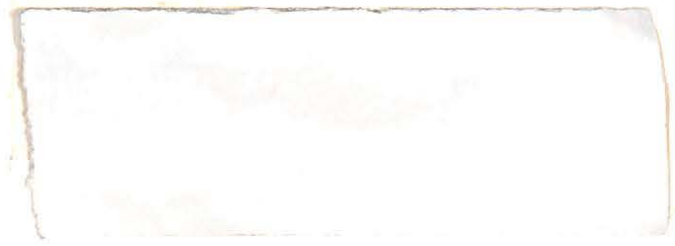
All former members and friends are cordially invited to attend this joyous occasion.

For more information and registration write to: Immanuel Baptist Church 109 E. 40th Ave., Vancouver, BC, Canada V5W 1L6

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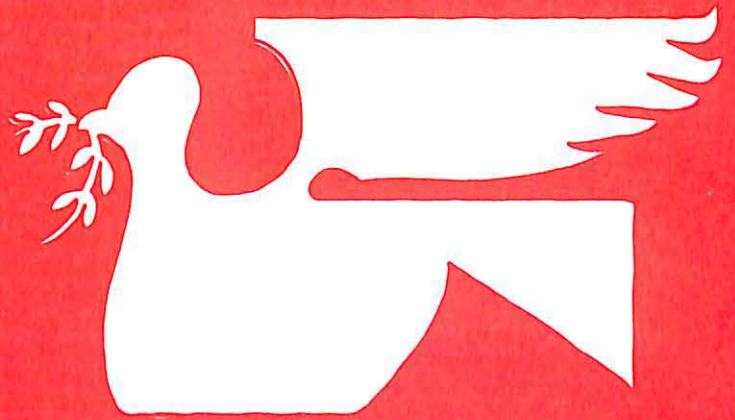


Thanks be to God for a Savior,
Christ the Lord.

Thanks be to God for all
who know and follow the Savior.

Thanks be to God for committed Christians^s
whose prayers and gifts help to share the gift of God.

*We wish you a happy Christmas and
God's leading for the new year.*



The staff of the North American Baptist Conference International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois