

baptist herald

June 1980

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Church Extension
a ministry that works
... because of you

Churches Growing Churches

by John Ziegler

God delights in church growth. The book of Acts communicates joy as Luke records the baptism of 3,000 souls (Acts 2:41). You can feel the growing enthusiasm when he reports in Acts 6:7, "the number of disciples multiplied greatly." But then a still greater achievement is to be found in Acts 9:31 where Luke says, "the church . . . throughout all Judea, and Galilee, and Samaria . . . were multiplied." Acts 2 talks of addition, Acts 6 of multiplying members, and Acts 9 of multiplying churches. The joy comes not because of numerical growth but mainly because people in cities and then nations are won to Christ.

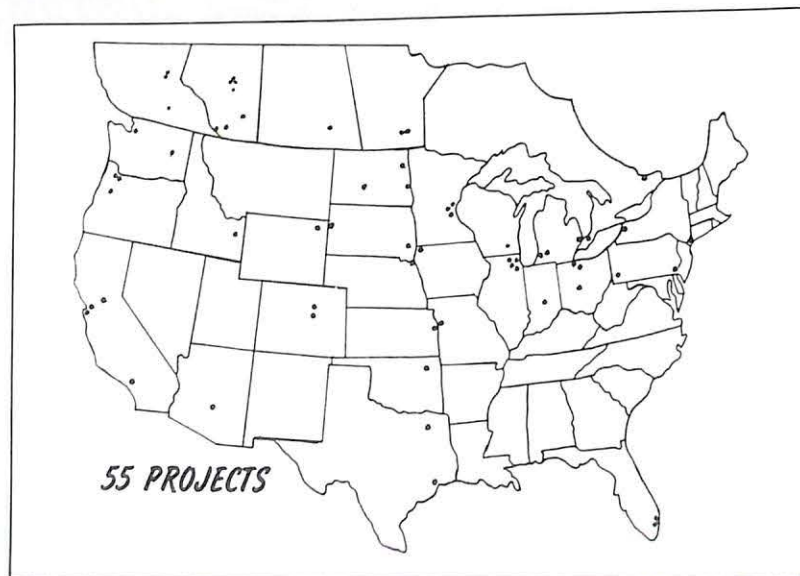
That is the heart beat of Church Extension. Three out of four Americans and Canadians don't know Christ as their Savior. Calgary, Alberta, will double in population by 2000. California will need 6,000 new evangelical churches to keep up with the population growth. It is our goal to multiply churches to reach the lost in these burgeoning areas.

One hundred and fifty new churches have been planted in 27 years. Six churches were planted in 1979: Blairmore, AB; Carrollton, TX; Evans City, PA; Hart Highway Area, Prince George, BC; Middle Island, NY, and Lenexa, KS. Hopefully there will be six more new churches in 1980. They will be in West Boca Raton, FL; Calgary, AB; Mt. Clemens, MI; Lacey, WA; and two other locations.

We can plant even more churches with your help. Will you consider becoming a Church Extension Builder who is willing to make a monthly contribution of \$2.00 or more to assist a new church to purchase property? Will you consider reinvesting your savings in Church Extension Investors Fund so that your investment will earn a double dividend? It will be a double dividend, because it will earn interest for you, and it will help plant new churches. Your investments will be used to make low-interest loans to new churches to build a first church unit to minister to people in growing communities. Your pastor can provide additional information on the Church Extension Builders program and the Church Extension Investors Fund.

If you will continue to pray and support our Conference ministries, more pastors can be called to reach people with the gospel through Church Extension. Your faithful support will bring joy to yourself, to your fellow Christians, and—according to the Scriptures—even the angels in heaven will rejoice over those who have found Christ through the ministry of Church Extension.

The Rev. John Ziegler is general secretary of the Church Extension Department at the North American Baptist Conference International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



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NEWS Flash

Liberian President Killed; Missionaries Take Precautions

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—Liberian President William R. Tolbert Jr., since 1971, also president of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention since 1958, and president of the Baptist World Alliance, 1965-1970, was killed April 12 in a military coup led by national guard Master Sergeant Samuel Doe. His death came one day before Baptists in Liberia were scheduled to break ground for a new Baptist convention building as part of a three-week centennial celebration of Baptist work in the country. Tolbert was also pastor of Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bentol City, his hometown about 30 miles from Monrovia.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks and John E. Mills, board secretary for West Africa, were to have participated in the centennial celebration, with Parks speaking during the groundbreaking.

Ironically, a telex message from Tolbert to Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, arrived at the Baptist Press office April 11. The message asked Rogers to delay his trip to Liberia to participate in the centennial, because Tolbert planned to be in Zimbabwe for independence festivities April 16.

Southern Baptist missionary Jane Park reported April 12 that most of the 46 missionaries currently in Liberia had gathered in Monrovia for the groundbreaking ceremony before the coup.

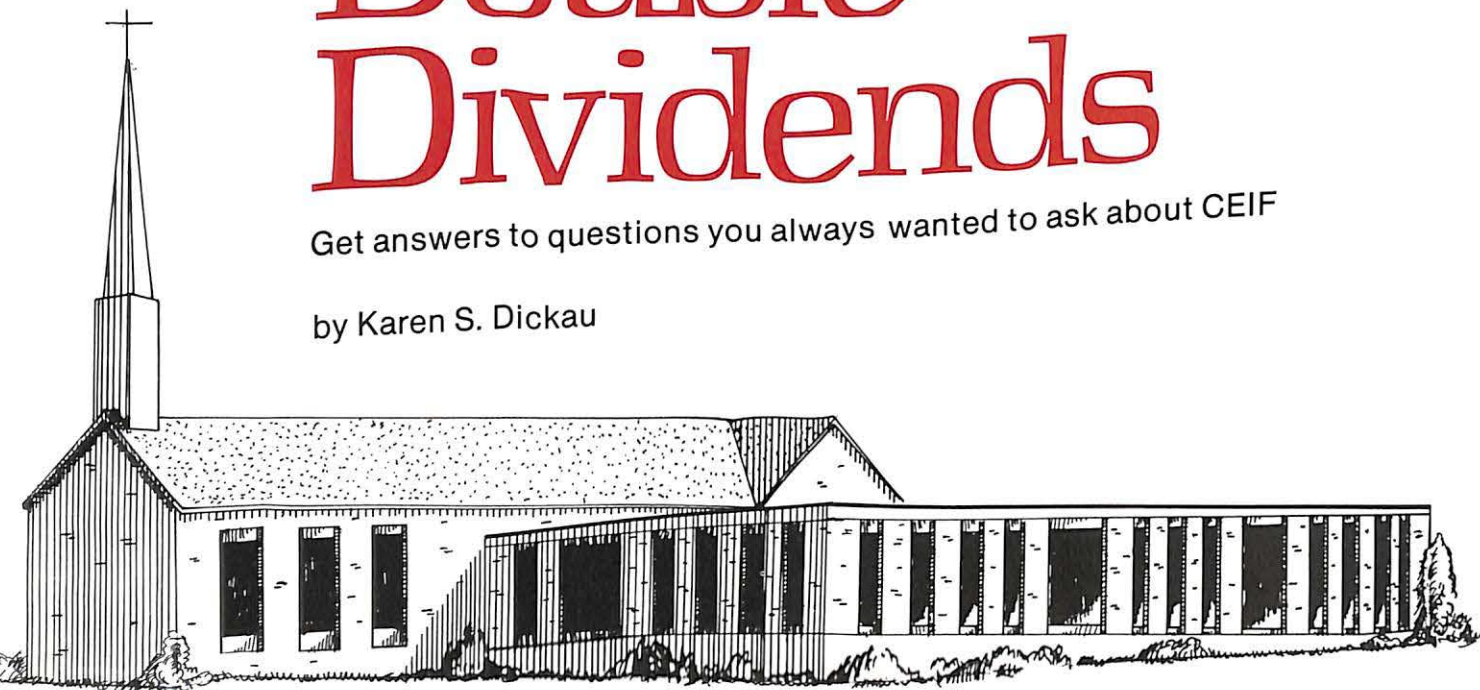
Through a ham radio operator, it was learned that the situation was calm enough on Sunday, April 13, for at least some of the missionaries to attend church services. □

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Earn Double Dividends

Get answers to questions you always wanted to ask about CEIF

by Karen S. Dickau



Interest rates are causing people to re-examine their savings and investment programs. Have you ever wondered how your savings or investments are used? What are YOUR dreams? How do you want YOUR savings or investments to be used?

Some people hoard their savings in a vault—where they won't be used. Some invest in stocks—hoping to make a profit. Savings accounts earn interest for you, and the bank uses your savings to help other people ful-

This information is to acquaint you with some of the advantages and ministry possibilities of CEIF investments and is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation of offers to buy. □

Karen S. Dickau is the administrator of the Church Extension Investors Fund at the N.A.B. International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

fill their dreams: a vacation, a house, a new car, a business or some other purpose which you may not approve. Is this how you want your savings to be used—to help finance the dreams of strangers? Or do you want your savings to fulfill your own dream—to help spread the gospel—and earn interest for you at the same time? Your savings CAN do both!

Through Church Extension Investors Fund you can invest your money in churches and receive a DOUBLE DIVIDEND: earn interest and help spread the gospel.

Many members of our North American Baptist Conference recognize a profound truth: NEW CHURCHES ARE THE MEANS OF BRINGING MORE LIVES TO A GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. For many, "church" is a living room, school or rented building. As congregations in these tem-

porary places grow, the need for more space follows. Then comes the decision to seek more adequate facilities or building a church.

Because CEIF can offer low-interest loans, many churches are able to proceed with building programs early in their development. In this way many more people have come to know Christ. Churches grow and prosper sooner than would have been possible without CEIF assistance.

Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, began worship services in September 1974 at a nearby campground. For four years they held services in two schools, the camp and another public building. Once in their own building, in one year the attendance grew by 61% with 25 baptisms. The building has already become too small to accommodate them, and they are currently in the process of building a second educational addi-

tion.

CEIF has helped thousands of North American Baptists in five Canadian and eleven U.S. congregations by aiding them building their own churches. Currently there are several church extension congregations in Canada and the U.S. that must delay their building plans or pay the extremely high commercial interest rates because of the lack of new funds in CEIF. The longer the churches have to wait for a CEIF loan, the higher the building costs become. CEIF's goal is to have four million dollars in the Fund ready to loan to approved Church Extension projects.

CEIF Certificates and CEIF Agreements have a minimum deposit of \$100. The annual interest rates are as follows:

Demand/90 Day Agreement	8.25%
One-year Certificate	9 %
Two-year Certificate	9.5 %
Three-year Certificate	10 %

Four-year Certificate	10 %
Five-year Certificate	10 %
Six-year Revocable Charitable Gift Certificate	10.5 %

Interest on all securities is computed quarterly and can be remitted to the registered owner quarterly, semi-annually, annually or at maturity. CEIF is an expanding program and currently is registered in twenty states and the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan. To find out if CEIF securities are registered in your state, contact your pastor or the CEIF Office in Oakbrook Terrace.

Most of the investors are members of North American Baptist churches. They have worked hard for their savings, and they want their money to be used wisely and well. They like knowing that their savings are helping to spread the gospel in North America. They care about the people around them.

Some members of extension churches have said, "The Church Extension Investors Fund has enabled us to build at a time when the availability of loans and high interest rates would have made it difficult for us to build the type of structure we need to adequately minister in our city."

To date, nearly 1,000 people have invested \$2-million in the Church Extension Investors Fund. Each has received dividends on his or her investment. The Board of Directors of CEIF realizes that it cannot match some of the higher commercial rates investors can earn elsewhere and still provide loans to churches at its current rate of 1½% over a five-year term investment. CEIF does not want to burden an extension church's ability to keep pace with its building needs, but rather, as CEIF investors (churches, organizations and individuals), we are investing in our Lord's work—receiving interest and helping Christ's churches grow. □

Excerpts From the Diary of a Church Extension Pastor

August 12—Farewell Sunday. Many tears. Church assures us of their prayers in our new field.

August 13—Loading Day. Truck and trailers are not sufficient for all of our household items. Another trailer is miraculously provided.

August 14—Moving Day. Travelled one-half of the distance. One flat tire. One narrow escape.

August 15—Arrival Day. No church people awaiting us. We unload furniture by ourselves.

August 22—House and family quite well settled. Children have not found any friends.

August 23—Called on some people whose names were given to us. They were either already involved in other Baptist churches or not interested.

September 25—After much canvassing and prospect calling still no families that are really interested in working with us.

Conclusions reached—

1. Friendly people.
2. Definitely a good field for a church.
3. Other churches are not really meeting needs of the people.
4. 75% of people in the community

These are the factual diary notes of an N.A.B. Church Extension pastor, whose name has been withheld by request.

attending church.

5. Beginning a church will be difficult and slow.

September 27—People of the Association are asking when we will start services. They don't understand how difficult it is.

September 28—Have set a tentative date for starting services for November 4.

September 29—I am not at all discouraged. I recognize these difficulties are normal in Church Extension. Family is beginning to find friends. I am convinced our church in this community will some day be one of the best.

October 14—Visitation of prospects continues daily. Results are still weak.

November 2—First services planned for Sunday. I have great doubts about any local people coming. Mother church will send some.

November 3—Getting ready for the first service is exciting. Many church items needed. Pie plates have to serve as offering plates.

November 4—Small attendance, however good support from mother church. Only three from our town besides my family members.

November 9—I worked hard this week, but I am afraid we may have no people at all next Sunday.

November 11—Very stormy and snowy day. My faith was too small. Two, who were present last Sunday, returned and a lovely couple with three children came. We had a

fine Bible study.

November 14—While we were rejoicing over last Sunday's attendance, a couple called that had been contacted earlier, stating they wanted to attend our church and asked if we also have a midweek Bible study. Date and time for first Bible study was set.

November 18—Attendance even higher than last Sunday. One family requested a Bible study for young people.

November 25—Only one person came besides our own family.

December 2—Again only one person came, but she is growing and responding more readily to questions during Bible study.

December 5—Young people's Bible study is growing. Youngsters from another family came.

December 12—Trying new things to get the attention of the community.

December 22—Young man with marital problems called. He became the first convert in this new field.

December 24—Couple with problems reunited. We are rejoicing over what God can do.

January 3—Counseled with wife of couple with difficulties. There is much confusion on spiritual matters. Will need much patient guidance.

January 4—Wife and I counseled in another home with many marital and emotional problems. Community seems to be opening up to our ministry. □

"John, just what makes you think I'm cut out for the Church Extension?" It was a long distance call from the Rev. John Ziegler, N.A.B. Church Extension general secretary. "I certainly don't visualize myself in that role," I told him. The conversation focused around the project in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, recently organized as Tri-Community Baptist Church. But church extension was far from my mind. Somehow I, too, had stereotyped the church extension pastor as an aggressive person, exuding charisma: a "back-slapping, door-knocking go-getter." John assured me that such stereotypes are not generally true of the N.A.B. men involved in that ministry.

When I arrived on the scene in May 1979, I was hoping John Ziegler was right. And when my wife, Doris, our not-yet-2-year old, Nathan, and I walked into the huge, empty school gymnasium for our first service with only 10 other adults, I knew it would somehow require more than pas-

the usual trappings, and practically no congregation?

After a month a few visitors started trickling in. Was it fruit from my door-to-door survey? No. Was it in response to our own nucleus reaching out? Not really. Actually, it was just God's timing that brought in our first new family—a couple searching for direction in their lives, pointed our way by a neighbor. Dave and Mary have since been baptized and used by the Lord to touch many other lives.

Next came a family that mistook us for another church, somehow got the phone numbers confused, and ended up at "Tri-Community Baptist" instead of "Tri-Village" Baptist Church several miles closer

Where Do They All Come From?

—A Church Extension Profile—

by Frederick Sweet



Pastor Fred Sweet with wife Doris and Nathan.



Young and old are happily enjoying the rich worship experiences.



The Tri-Community Baptist Church during Family Fellowship Time. Pastor Sweet at left.

toral "charisma" to build a church. Today, a year later, we are still small, but we expect our 50 to soon reach 75 and then exceed 100 by Spring of 1981.

I'm sometimes asked (and wonder frequently myself), "Where do they all come from?" and "Why do they come back?" I ask myself, what would ever make persons walk into a school building for a worship service, where they know no one, where there is no choir, no organ, none of

to them. They've been with us ever since.

A middle-aged couple, active leaders in their Methodist church, found themselves searching for assurance in the midst of a health crisis, "stumbled" across our church sign and into our fold.

With our church just 15 miles from the N.A.B. Conference International Office, one might think we have an abundance of members with "N.A.B. background." But no, there was just one such family, that is, until the Lord just "dropped" a second young N.A.B. family right across the street from the pastor's house, (a family which already had experience in two previous N.A.B. extension works).

It is quite evident that the "coincidence" of God's timing is probably the biggest single factor in drawing new people.

This hardly excludes the necessity for diligent planning and aggressive outreach. There are people who will never come to such a church, to any church, "by chance." There must be a magnetism that will draw people and bring them back again and again. Everyone has theories as to what that magnet is, and I've sensed five "magnets" in our own congregation, which others also seem to single out when I ask them. They are:

1. **HIGH VISIBILITY.** This is one area where Church Extension may be at a disadvantage without a church building. Visibility to the community must then focus around our people who represent their church, a pastor who's "out there" making contacts in the community, and other very visible factors such as a large, prominent church sign which has, in itself, attracted several new people. People must know you exist if you expect them to come.

2. **GOAL CLARIFICATION.** Not only must the community know we exist, they must know why we exist. To our neighbors we are trying to convey the message that a) we exist for them; we are not an exclusive club, (We capitalize on the fact that "community is our middle name"); and b) we have something positive and unique to contribute to their lives. Communicating these two goals to the uninitiated is not always easy. It's much easier to clarify our goals for our congregation. We spend considerable time together thinking through our goals in terms of evangelism, Christian nurture and rich experiences of worship and fellowship. When people know what we're all about, they're most apt to find their place among us.

3. **NEED AWARENESS** is absolutely necessary to determine our goals. Whoever said "you will succeed if you just find a need and meet it" must have had church growth experience. If the unchurched community could sense that its church exists to meet real people needs, it might be open to listening. And so we try to scratch where people itch. Example: The main questions in our door-to-

door canvassing ask, "What kind of needs do you see in our community? Are the needs of your children being met? Teens? Singles? The elderly?" We then try to do something to respond to those felt needs.

4. **LEADERSHIP STYLE.** This seems to be an important factor in making visitors come back once they've "looked us over." There's an enthusiasm among our leaders that's contagious; there's flexibility and creativity that is critical, if we are to reach people who have previously had stifling experiences with the traditional Christian church.

5. **GROUP COHESIVENESS.** As Lyle Schaller says in *Assimilating New Members*, "We need to discover the 'glue' that holds a group together." With many of our N.A.B. churches the glue has long been our common German heritage. For others it was some distinctive ministry. For many Church Extension projects the glue has been the rallying around a building project.

Until now, I believe our glue has been the natural cohesiveness of a family homogenous group: we are much alike; we enjoy being together, whether it's the men erecting our new church sign (pictured) or the entire group squeezed into a living room for a potluck and fun-time. Group cohesiveness has come naturally. We recognize that this will not always be true. As Schaller says, "Many churches fail to see that they cannot continue to function as one large single group." We are now at this stage of transition—new groups must be formed with their own cohesiveness. People must feel that they themselves are part of the glue that holds their congregation together.

Our young growing church anticipates major new steps in numerical and spiritual growth, in launching its building project in the year ahead, and in developing a distinctive ministry that will touch countless lives in this exploding population center. To achieve these goals, we find the five priorities to be among the key reasons that people will be attracted to the gospel ministry of Tri-Community Baptist Church. □

Praise God for Growing Churches!

by John Ziegler

In an annual church report we read: "What a joy to extend the hand of fellowship to 67 new members, bringing our membership to 137." The church has almost doubled its membership in one year. The pastor further reports: "Our morning service average attendance increased from 116 to 220. That's a 90 percent increase." Pastor Ed Hohn of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, begins his report by quoting Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto

me . . . and I will show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." This church will dedicate a new eight-classroom educational building, which will be fully occupied the day it is used.

At Lethbridge, Alberta, Pastor Bruce Merrifield and the Park Meadows congregation spend each Sunday celebrating new and exciting developments. In November 1979, they, too, dedicated a beautiful new sanctuary. Attendance has nearly doubled, and two baptismal services have been conducted since the dedication. The church is beginning to look seriously at the possibilities of planting new churches in their area.

Shakopee Baptist Church was slowly declining during the first five years of its existence. God has intervened in power, and in March they enjoyed an attendance of more than 100. They plan to launch their building program this year. The churches of the Minnesota Association have provided solid support. They have been able to generate almost \$100,000 in new investments in the Church Extension Investors Fund to make this new building possible. There is a spirit of joy and anticipation in their fellowship.

The Rev. John Ziegler is general secretary of the Church Extension Department.

(Continued on page 15)

Ebenezer's Lifeline Crisis Center Marks 2nd Anniversary

by William L. Cummins

The Ebenezer Baptist Church Lifeline Crisis center in Detroit marked the second anniversary of its existence with the dedication of new offices and an open house recently. Lifeline staff, counselors and congregation alike celebrated the new facility with a week of emphasis on the Lifeline ministry and with the conviction that the services offered by the Center are truly essential in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Lifeline was established in 1978 in answer to the great demand locally for a personalized, confidential answering service for thousands of people who find it difficult, if not impossible, to cope with serious problems. In 1979 the Crisis Center received 2,900 calls, and nearly 900 individuals received literature on handling problems arising from stress, loneliness, marital difficulties, alcoholism and suicide. One of the Center's major services is appropriate referrals to as many as two hundred secular and Christian family and medical counseling facilities in the Detroit and outlying suburban areas. Callers hear of Lifeline's ministry from different sources, including four radio stations, eleven local newspapers, canvassers, and Pastor William L. Cummins' daily radio broadcast. Calls are confidential, and follow-up is provided when requested.

The Lifeline Crisis Center (313-882-LIFE) is open seven days a week and is operated by dedicated, concerned Christian volunteers. While reaching out to meet the needs of those in crisis, the ultimate goal of Lifeline is to direct callers to Jesus Christ. God has blessed the telephone min-

The Rev. William L. Cummins is pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI.



A Lifeline Crisis Center Training Course in session at Ebenezer.



Crisis volunteers at work at the Crisis Center.

istry with approximately 25 professions of faith in Jesus Christ in 1979.

The current staff includes thirty-nine counselors under the direction of Mr. Ted Winters. On February 12, a new training course for the instruction of new counselors began for thirteen weeks of intensive instruction. Credit for continuing education is awarded by Detroit Bible College upon completion of the course. Instruction focuses on biblical counseling to meet the various problems that will be encountered.

Another vital aspect of this telephone ministry is the "We Care" calls. In 1979, over 500 calls were made by our counselors to specific individuals who are elderly and live alone. Many of these dear people are isolated and lonely. They look forward to the cheerful and positive words of encouragement from our counselors. Mrs. Jean Chapman has been directing this phase of Lifeline.

As the result of the tremendous response to Lifeline's services, the offices of the Crisis Center have been expanded to include a large office area to accommodate more counselors, and more telephone lines to handle expected calls. Our expectations for this ministry continue to grow, as we pray that hundreds of people in our area will be drawn to the Savior. □

Farewell, Friend!

by Shari Hildebrand

"Goodbye" is never easy to say, and for *New Day* of God's Volunteers it was one of the hardest things they'd ever done, when they said farewell to Bob Walther, *New Day* director. He and his wife had been on the staff of this ministry for six years; so the move was difficult for them as well.

In November Bob shared with the team that he had resigned, but was not certain as to when he and his family would leave. Team members had mixed emotions as they faced the fact that they may be without a director for a portion of the year. In the past years much of the positive changes and developments of the ministry have been due to Bob's leadership. Since he'd added so much, they knew he would be missed, and yet they also realized the joy that he would experience in working in one place with one congregation for a longer period of time. He has gained much experience from his years with *New Day* and is looking forward to applying them in his ministry with a church.

In January, the team learned that in one month he would be leaving. Not wanting Bob to depart without numerous

Shari Hildebrand is reporter for God's Volunteers.

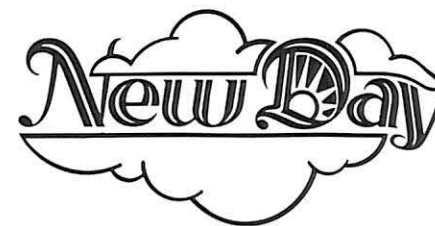
remembrances of "his last days," the team planned several going away parties.

Tradition has it that at any appropriate (or inappropriate) time Bob be honored with a birthday cake. So the discipling section decided to have a cake in honor of "his last travel day" with the team. The birthday cake bore the title "his last trip." The party was complete with cake, balloons and streamers.

Later, on a day when the team was free, the discipling section had a cake ordered and brought out to him at the res-



taurant. Of course we sang the traditional "Happy Birthday" song. Little did anyone else know, it was actually a cake in honor of "his last day off" with the sec-



tion.

Greater yet was the going-away party given by the entire team. When the music and discipling sections were together for the "last time with Bob," there was a party with (you guessed it!) a birthday cake and ice cream (we went *all* out this time). Tim Meier and Shari Hildebrand shared original writings about Bob. Others spent time recalling past events, experiences and other such "memorabilia."

Not wanting Bob and his family to forget the super years with the team, he was presented with a silver platter with the *New Day* logo engraved on it. We're surely sorry to see Bob go, but are delighted at the work that he, Marilyn, Jeremy and ?? (they're expecting a second child in July) will be doing in Carrollton, Texas. We love them very much and wish them the best! As Paul said in Philippians, "We thank our God upon each remembrance of you." □

G.V.'s Enjoy Spring Retreat

by Shari Hildebrand

Riddle: What has two legs, two arms and a messy face?

Answer: A *New Day* team member (i.e. Doug Harsch) in the World Records Pie Eating Contest.

Riddle: What is blue-faced and wet?

Answer: A *New Day* team member (Bryan Hochhalter) who just held his breath under water for two minutes in the



World Records Contest.

Riddle: What has two legs, two arms and an upside down face?

Answer: A *New Day* team member (i.e. Holly Roehl) who is participating in the World Records headstand contest.

No, I'm not trying to put together a new joke book! I'm just about to tell you about the team's spring retreat. It was on the Niagara Bible Conference grounds near Olcott, NY, on Lake Ontario. The retreat was well-timed as break for the travelers. Since it was a time of fun and relaxation, we had such events as the World Records, slides and Gong Show for evening entertainment.

The World Records has become a tradition, and so our team worked to break the records set by previous years' groups. Other contests included: marshmallow toss, cracker eating, penny catch, lemon eating, and bubble gum stuffing. Winners received prizes—a box of Cracker Jacks . . . and of course the personal satisfaction of victory.

One evening we pooled slides and showed a recap of the year. Of course

(Continued on next page)

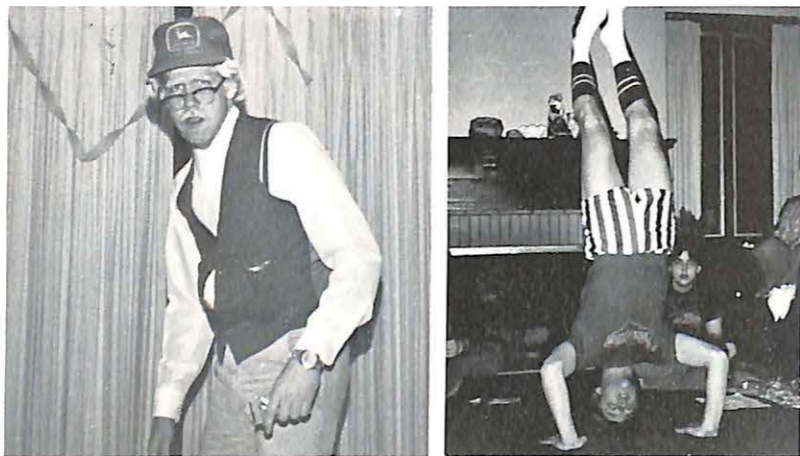
games in the family room were also often enjoyed. Someone was always there to serve popcorn or toasted marshmallows which had been made around the fireplace.

The Gong Show was hosted by Emil Hutzenbuhler (alias Bryan Hochhalter). Guest judges were Colleen and Pauline (Connie and Paul Dykstra). Team members put together acts . . . and commercials. Creating their own laughs was quite entertaining.

The break also gave opportunity for physical exertion, when the team went snow skiing at nearby Bluemont ski resort. Unfortunately, Paul Singer suffered a separated shoulder when he fell on the hill. (We kept trying to get him to go down on his feet, ha!) We almost wiped out the entire Discipling Section at retreat, because in addition to Paul's injury Shari Hildebrand got ear infection, and both Tim Walker and Linda Patzia sprained their ankles!

In addition to the recreational activities, there was spiritual encouragement as the Rev. Wil Quiring from Rochester shared several sessions on the Bible beginnings. Getting to sit and chat with fellow team members offered quite a lift as well. Riddle: What has a peaceful heart and happy smile?

Answer: A *New Day* team member who has just finished spring retreat! □



Students & Faculty Participate in Biblical Literature Conference

Dr. Gordon Harris, professor of Old Testament at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, member of the Society of Biblical Literature, presided over the society's upper midwest meeting on the campus of Luther-Northwestern Seminary, Minneapolis, MN, April 11-12.



Joining Harris were Professors Dr. Wayne Peterson, Dr. Stephen Brachlow, Dr. Lee McDonald and five seminary stu-

dents: Frank Thomas, Susan Mitrovich, Ken Gabert, Gladys Peterson and Randy Mitrovich.

A certain young man moved from one province to another. Due to the distance, he lost contact with all his old friends; and thus he became lonesome and an outsider. But not long afterwards there were others who became interested in the transient. They all banded together and forced their company on him. They filled

his ears with dirty jokes, showed him their pornographic literature and battered his body with strong liquor and other unwholesome drugs. It did not take long and the young man was a total wreck, both physically, socially and spiritually. After that the band of loafers discarded him as though he was dead.

Who is my Neighbor?

(Luke 10:30-37, paraphrased)

by Christel Schlak

At this time the government agencies became aware of his condition. But since he was not a local resident, his helpless condition became only a file in their statistics.

Next his condition was noticed by the Community Services, but they too disregarded his helplessness.

Next a Lord-lover got to know him. At once he felt compassion for him. He soothed his spiritual thirst with the living

Word of God. Into the hurt of his soul, he gave him the oil of true friendship, he invited him to share his living quarters, and made every effort to restore him into a wholesome lifestyle. When he realized that the social scars were deep and would need consistent treatment, he enlisted professional help. All this he did out of love and at his own expense.

Which of the three groups receives your

active support, the Government agencies, the Social Services, or those that practice true Christian love? Are you obeying the words of Jesus: "Go and do likewise"?

Mrs. Christel Schlak lives in Chilliwack, BC, where her husband, Arthur, was the pastor of Victoria Avenue Baptist Church from 1972-78. He is awaiting the Lord's leading in further service.

How N.A.B. Publications Help Us in Our Devotional Time

by Ken and June Goodman

Part I.

Early in our association with the North American Baptists we were impressed with the "family" nature of the Conference. This sense of family was strengthened when we were able to visit our churches during our early furlough years. We soon made it a practice to pray daily for those members of the family that we met along the way.

When the devotional booklet, *MOMENTS WITH GOD*, was initiated, our prayer time became a highlight of our day. We began to recall pleasant encounters we had with the various contributors. As various features were added such as "Missionary of the Week," "Thought Starters," "Church of the Day" and "Pastor of the Day"—these prayer encounters became even more exciting.

We began to desire and seek more information about the people mentioned and used the N.A.B. DIRECTORY for this information. As we gained more knowledge of the brothers and sisters mentioned, our devotional discussions were punctuated by such expressions as, "She must be the pastor's wife" or "How is he related to the pastor at Salt Creek?" or "I want to meet her or him the next time we are home on furlough."

Another benefit was our better understanding and growth and needs of our churches. When did they have their beginning? We began to ask ourselves: "What are the special problems or needs of each congregation?" We became aware of where our missionary coworkers came from.

Ken and June Goodman have been missionaries since 1948 both in Cameroon and Nigeria.

We had the opportunity recently to visit churches in Saskatchewan for the first time. Each church had new meaning to us. They were identified in our thinking as, "This is the church that Pete Schroeder built" or "This is where Reily Neuman's family lives."

We are grateful for these helps to our prayer time and look forward each morning to more precious memories. The N.A.B. family has become near and dear to us. We consider this to be only a preparation for that greater and everlasting fellowship in heaven.

Part II.

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." Hearts overflow with feeling as we sing. Keep that feeling alive as we share in prayer. Strengthen that family spirit by getting to know your North American Baptist family.

Association meetings, camps and other special activities help you to become acquainted with other Christians who love and support and pray for the missionaries. At these meetings our interests and goals are shared. A special thrill is in store for you when you connect a face with a name you have been praying for.

MOMENTS WITH GOD, the devotional booklet, keep us praying for special people on special days. The pamphlet, *MISSIONARY UPDATE*, is the latest news on the Missionary of the Week. Read this before you pray and keep it with your devotional material.



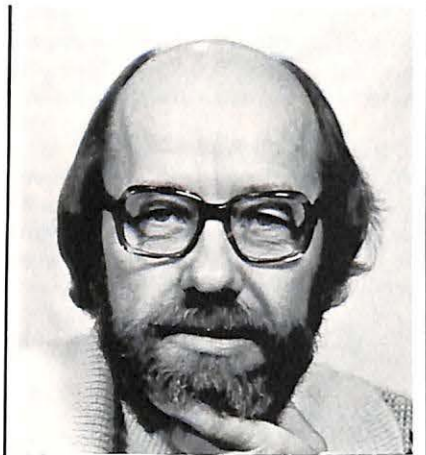
The N.A.B. DIRECTORY adds depth to those we pray for. We have an intense interest in new churches and church growth, and so we search the DIRECTORY. We find the church. What year did it begin? What is the membership today? Up or down from last year? Who is the pastor? Now we can pray with more understanding and meaning. Sharing is fun. Understanding is great. Praying together is excellent.

Missionary furloughs are special to us. We meet new people. Our prayer life expands. New interests come into our lives. We experience your love and concern for us. This is family spirit again.

Who are the people who make up our churches? They are special—specially saved by the blood of Christ Jesus and ready to serve. Together we share in the work of God.

Start your day with the Word of God. Use *MOMENTS WITH GOD*. Keep your *MISSIONARY UPDATE* handy. Expand your interests with the DIRECTORY and sing with us.

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." □



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

When you *dread* being with your husband or wife, your marriage is in *serious* trouble. Even if you only find it *dull* to be

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.

with your spouse, consider your marriage in trouble.

Recently a husband said to me, "I wish my wife wouldn't talk so much." He laughed after he said it, but I could tell he wasn't joking. Her talking did bother him. It apparently put distance between them. He appeared to feel lonely.

Married people today generally demand companionship from their spouses. They demand this to a greater extent today than in times past. The major reason for this is that couples so frequently live away from their relatives.

A husband who has a brother or brother-in-law with whom to do things as a companion demands less of this same type of companionship from his wife.

A wife who lives near her mother or sisters, and they enjoy doing things together, will be less likely to say to her husband, "Won't you please just talk to me."

Married people who have good, close friends will also demand less of each other. Sometimes these friends can be mutual. At other times both a husband and wife have individual friends. These may be neighborhood friends or friends from the work situation. This can be helpful to the marriage, provided both have adequate friendships and still find each other interesting.

Recently I talked with a wife who had many friends. She is very pleasant and outgoing and people are readily attracted to her. Her husband, although an intelligent and attractive man, is less well so-

cialized. He does not have a personal friend. Therefore, he looks to his wife to fulfill almost all his companionship needs. On the other hand, she depends on him for less of her companionship needs. Consequently, the husband has become jealous and possessive. This reaction on his part has put considerable strain on their marriage relationship.

Husbands and wives need to talk about the nature and dynamics of their marriage. Many couples wish to do this but actually lack the skills for effective communication. A married couple should avail themselves of at least one "marriage growth" experience per year.

This yearly experience may consist of a seminar or workshop on family life. It may be a family camp. If so, the camp should relate to family life. The experience could be a class related to marriage or children. The least a couple should do is read a book together. If your church does not have, or does not cooperate in a yearly family-type experience, talk to your church leaders about it.

The following are titles of books that couples may find helpful:

Carefronting by David W. Augsburger, Herald Press

Talking It Over (A Communication Instrument for Husband and Wife), by John M. Drescher, Herald Press

Marriage Takes More Than Love, by Jack and Carol Mayhall, Navapress

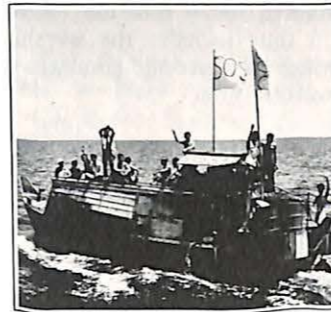
Intended for Pleasure, by Ed Wheat, M.D. and Gaye Wheat, Fleming H. Revell Company. □

by loving hands. On other occasions we would pick wild cherries which grew in wooded areas near our home. It was genuine excitement to do things together. These were occasions to which all of us looked forward with great anticipation.

I vividly recall father and mother giving each other a supporting role. Children were given varied assignments within the family structure. Each one played a significant role within the family unit. Family devotions were a daily routine in which we all participated. The Bible was read, prayer was offered, and often the family sang together. It was indeed "Home Sweet Home."

We have sought to carry over into our marriage that which was so meaningful in our parental homes. Our family life has been a great adventure. My husband and I sought to be supportive of each other. While both of us lived busy lives, we tried to incorporate the ideals of our parental homes into our own family circle. Each summer we made a trip to a beautiful lake in Minnesota for vacationing purposes and for family togetherness. On other occasions we would find our way to camps

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Jerry Ballard, president



The Family
(Photo Oscar Poss)

should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). The twentieth century home could be and should be the greatest bulwark of modern society.

A recent issue of *U.S. News & World Report* stated, "American Youth—Angry, Bored, or Just Confused?" Unfortunately many of our young people from our fine homes are included in this category. This is certainly a sad commentary on our homes and possibly also our churches. Wherein have we failed? Have we perhaps withheld an out-stretched hand? Have we been silent to their cries? We cannot afford to let them drift upon the waves of uncertainty and bitterness. Ask yourself, "What are we doing in our family to bring about togetherness and to express sensitivity to those who are angry, bored, or confused?" Someone said, "Love will do more than anything else to hold us together." How true of the fam-

ily. The motto given to us forty years ago still applies in our day of family disintegration, "Home Sweet Home where each lives for the OTHER, and all live for GOD." Let's replace anger with love, boredom with creative togetherness, and confusion with sensitive guidance. If yours is a house, turn it into a home.

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established" (Prov. 24:3). □

Mrs. Otila Veninga has written the inspiring booklet, *GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT*, which has received a second printing. Thousands have read this booklet and have been touched by the author's testimony based on her own life's experiences.

Order your copy from the author, 1025 Zanzibar Lane, Plymouth, MN 55447. Price \$1.75.

Home Sweet Home

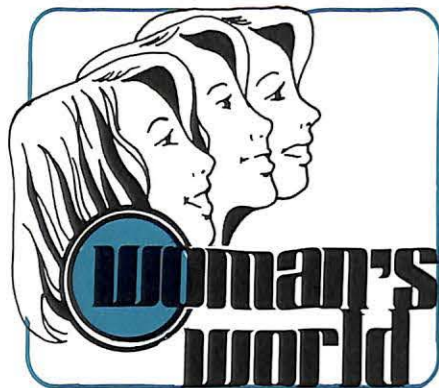
by Otila Veninga

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." This old song brings a nostalgic feeling for my parental home from which I have been removed for many years. The love that flowed freely in this home is still very much a part of my life. Much of the early parental home was carried over into our beautiful marriage of forty years. All of us take a great deal of our early training into our adult life. My parents were never so busy that they could not spend time with their eight chil-

Mrs. Otila Veninga is the wife of Dr. Frank Veninga, former president of North American Baptist Seminary and now living in retirement.

dren. As children we found the warmth and love we needed later in our maturing years. "Home," as someone has said, "is the most beautiful word in the English language." I thank God for pleasant memories of my parental home.

There was much that we did together as a family. We prayed and played together. How true are the words of the familiar motto, "The home that prays together, stays together." While "praying" was important, so was the "playing." I still recall the family picnics. It was fun to eat outdoors. Mother would place a table cloth on the grass and then followed the display of delicious picnic food, prepared



Vacation Heritage

by Ruth Becker,
Anoka, MN

Vacation! I love it!

What could be more inspiring than to be in God's beautiful out-of-doors standing by a clear, rushing creek, surveying majestic mountain peaks, breathing the delicious fresh fragrance of pine. Who but our God could put it all together and fill my heart to bursting?

I was "raised" on vacation. My high-point of the year was summertime and family plans for travel. After starting out tenting, our whole family definitely "got the bug." Soon we graduated to trailering, so we could "rough it" in comfort. And we luxuriated in our schedule: eating, playing, eating, swimming, eating, reading, walking, driving, eating, doing nothing—all part of vacation fascination.

You've heard it all before. Then what's so special about our vacations? Nothing spectacular, except to us, I guess. We grew up knowing that as a family the five of us would vacation together: digging clams in the Pacific Ocean, reliving our country's history in Williamsburg, exploring the Yellowstone wonderland, enjoying the excitement of Disneyland, sharing visits with relatives and friends coast to coast, or simply taking it all in, in gorgeous Northern Minnesota, our home state.

Though my memory for the factual side of when and where we've been is rather hazy, I do have a great memory for the warm feelings of fellowship and togetherness. Our family on vacation meant entering another world. We walked rocky trails, swatted enormous, pesky mosquitos, skipped stones, waded in cold mountain streams, splashed in the ocean. We even caravanned with relatives to N.A.B. Triennial Conferences. Thirty of us traveled together on those trips, singing around the campfire and toasting

sticky marshmallows; traipsing in never-ending lines through museums; posing for pictures; running out of gas; regimenting ourselves to Conference schedules.

On any vacation, Sunday was, and is, a special day. A day of worship. A day set aside. A day of meeting together with other Christians, whether at a hillside amphitheater, auditorium, or small town church. Isaiah 58 says: "If you keep the Sabbath holy, not having your own fun and business on that day, but enjoying the Sabbath and speaking of it with delight as the Lord's holy day, and honoring the Lord in what you do, not following your own desires and pleasures—then the Lord will be your delight

... and you will get your full share of the blessings."

"If you give up the Sabbath, it will be taken from you." This famous quote from my mother becomes more and more meaningful as my husband and I share the importance of these words with our own family. For now our three children naturally expect that on vacation, too, we observe the Sabbath. It has become their joy and delight to follow that tradition handed down by Grandma and Grandpa—a treasured legacy from Scripture. The children know that the beauty of vacation time includes the worship of God, whose presence and goodness make it all possible.



by Dorene Walth,
WMF president,
Citrus Heights, CA

Taking up a new residence 1,700 miles across the country required us to evaluate our earthly belongings and rid ourselves of furnishings and "low grade possessions" that were no longer useful to us.

After all, our children are on their own, and it was a perfect time to weed out the well-used and no-longer-needed items. Besides, our new home in California would have much less space than we had been accustomed to for many years.

In our minds, we tried to pretend we were going to "the mission field" and could only take along things in the functional category.

It helped us, also, to try to imagine leaving this world and to empathize with anyone else trying to dispose of our things after we are gone. We decided it would be a favor to our loved ones to dispose of and discard what we could now!

Pieces of "early marriage" furniture were not too hard to give up. Much of it was second-hand when we purchased it on a shoestring. It had served us well.

Twin bed mattresses were still firm

after providing hours of sweet dreams and adequate rest for growing boys. Blemishes and mars on the wooden headboards proved the wear and tear they had survived. I hadn't noticed the carved name of one son on the footboard of his bed until that rancher was carrying it out of the house to place in his own children's bedroom!

We were happy to discover that the things which no longer had value to us were wanted by classified ad readers. People actually came into our home and carted off much of our "junk" and paid us for it!

Of course, there were numerous keepsakes and fine pieces with which we wouldn't part. They will remain a part of us for a while yet.

The headache of handling years of accumulated treasures these past months has caused us to vow we will stop collecting and hoarding useless type materials. (I suspect it will be hard to keep this vow!)

It is interesting that the higher we get on the stairway to heaven, age-wise, the less value we place on having lots of things, and the more value we put on what we can take with us there. For years I lived under the false notion that I couldn't take anything with me to heaven. Of course, that isn't true. I can take other people with me!

When I think of this fact, I determine in my own heart to work more zealously to share the news of eternal life through belief in God's son, Jesus Christ.

When that celestial moving van comes to transport me to eternity, may it not be empty, but full of other souls that I have helped influence to become God's children.

"If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2).

Hold Things Lightly



by Lenore
Lang, Sioux
Falls, SD

(Mrs. Lang first presented this devotional for the Seminary Guild of the North American Baptist Seminary.)

About 54 years ago, a young man from Iowa married a Kansas girl and brought her back to Iowa, to the house he had built with his own hands, for he was a carpenter by trade. A brown house, with red roof, nestled among cedar trees: so they called it Nestledown. Through the years there were changes: a small headstone in the local cemetery; three children, later, to fill the gap; and the house was enlarged somewhat. But in all those 54 years, the house plants in the neat bay window never suffered the trauma of being moved to another house. The piano in the "front room" stood in the same spot, suffering patiently the grime and the thumps and the melodies produced by three pairs of small hands. The cedar chest in the bedroom, containing wedding

veil and wedding dress, love letters, and other treasures—that cedar chest has never known the inside of a moving van.

I tell you this by way of contrast. Not in our wildest imaginings, I believe, does any of us think that we will be settling down in the same spot for 54 years. Four years maybe, or five or ten perhaps, but fifty? It may well be that we wouldn't even want to if we had the chance. Today's world is a world of change and movement and excitement, and somehow living in the same house for 54 years doesn't always fit in that world.

So—by contrast, you'll be moving, some more, some less. You'll be sorting out what to take and what to leave. Sometimes you'll be disgusted by the amount of things you've accumulated just in one year or two or three. You'll say, "Why did I ever keep this so long?" or "Well, I'll certainly leave that behind!"

And probably you'll live in a variety of houses. Some will be better than other houses—some will be worse, and frustration because of comparisons can occur. I believe a small key that may help to unlock the door to freedom from this frustration is found in three little words: *Hold things lightly*. Please don't take me literally the day you're doing down a steep flight of steps carrying a family heirloom! In that case, hold on tightly! But I think you know the sense in which I say, "Hold things lightly."

In 2 Corinthians 6:10 we read, "as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." If I really *did* lose everything I have, every single thing, would I be able to stand outside and breathe in the air and look at the sun in the sky, feel the wind on my face, and be able to smile and say, "I possess all things?" To tell the truth, I doubt it. But I also think that perhaps the Lord doesn't really intend that we have nothing at all. The point is, do we have things, or do they have us? How tightly do we hold them?

I had to learn the hard way how things had *me*, and it happened the year we came back from Cameroon to settle here.

A neighbor invited me to a Friendship Bible Coffee, and I went each week for a whole year, getting many, many blessings. But I also got a lesson that I don't think the leader ever guessed. You see, these Bible studies were held in a number of homes, and in these homes I saw deep carpeting, fine furniture, beautiful knickknacks, things that I would have liked to have, and didn't. At least I didn't *think* I did.

Having just come back from the mission field, I found very evident the contrast of living *there* and living *here*, and I thought, "People on this side of the ocean just have *too much*, and it isn't fair." However, I had to come to realize that there are many steps on the economic ladder, and that people who have much by way of earthly goods need to know the love of Jesus Christ as much as those who have less. As I thought about all this and saw the lovely things in those homes each week, I learned that things had *me*, that I was paying too much attention to outward appearances, that I needed to loosen my grip on *things*, to be content with what I had, to be able to say with Paul, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

I'm still learning. The Lord has to nudge me back on the right road many times. I thank him for his patience. And I'd like to pass these words on to you, hoping to spare your frustration and wasted days and bitter moments. "Hold things lightly," never tightly, and perhaps in a small but significant way you may be able to know what Paul was talking about when he wrote, "as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

DID YOU KNOW . . . that you can get information and material about women's work from the North American Baptist publication STIMULUS? Your pastor and Christian education chairmen have copies. Start planning now for an exciting year for the women of your church.

Visitors Coming

by LaVerna
Mehlhoff,
women's
work director



Representatives from two of our mission fields will be attending the special women's meetings plus the sessions of the Baptist World Alliance Congress, July 3-13, as guests of the Women's Department of the B. W. A.

Mrs. Setsuko Yuzawa from Japan will also visit some of our churches on the West Coast prior to the Congress, and Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri will visit our churches in the Midwest and East following the Congress.

Pray for these two women as they prepare to attend the Congress, visit some of our churches and share reports of God's work in their part of the world. We praise the Lord that we have a part in the spreading of the gospel in the world.

PRAISE GOD . . .
(Continued from page 7)

Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church is being planted in a community where the population is predominately Jewish. God has blessed the ministry of the congregation and their pastor, Dennis Kee. In an extraordinary way he has guided in making possible the purchase of a very favorable acreage from the local Jewish Synagogue. The two congregations enjoy a good working relationship in developing the property. Their new church is blessed with constant growth through conversion and baptisms.

Each new congregation has its own exciting story of God's marvelous grace. Our young Rocklin-Loomis congregation in California is organized and enjoys rapid growth in one and a half years of ministry. They have outgrown the "PTL Delicatessen" facilities, where they began their ministry. The community building they are now renting will soon be too small to house a congregation whose attendance has grown to the 80s.

North American Baptists have great cause to rejoice as they see God's Family growing. The year 1979, a year that tested

(Continued on page 20)

Helen Keller's Christian Faith

by William H. Gentz

The story of the childhood of Helen Keller, the blind, deaf-mute who became one of the world's greatest citizens, is well known to many Americans because of the drama "The Miracle Worker" presented on both stage and screen some years ago and recently revived for television. During 1980, other events are being planned (including a U.S. commemorative postage stamp, issued in June) to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of this remarkable woman (June 27, 1880).

Most people are unaware of the large influence that Christian faith had on Helen Keller's life and work. It is an important aspect of her development that should not be overlooked.

Born a healthy child, Helen was left blind, deaf and unable to speak, from an illness she had at the age of 19 months. The disease was diagnosed as brain fever and, according to popular theory of the time, it was believed to leave its victim an idiot. Strong physically, Helen grew into childhood wild and unruly, with little understanding of what went on around her.

When she was seven years old, her parents consulted Alexander Graham Bell, because of his work with training deaf persons to speak. He referred them to the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. They sent Anne Sullivan, a young, partially blind, recent graduate of their school, who eventually found a way to communicate with Helen through the spelling out of words in her hands.

Overcoming tremendous odds, Helen Keller mastered hand signals, Braille reading and writing, and even speaking. Eventually she graduated from college with honors, and became a world-authority on work with the blind and deaf. She wrote eleven books, appeared on the stage for four seasons, and toured the world lecturing on behalf of the handicapped. Many honors were bestowed on her, and she became a living legend.

Through the years, Helen's teacher Annie Sullivan, a Baptist Christian, had a great influence on Helen's spiritual development. But her pupil's mature faith in God was not arrived at without difficulties along the way. As a young girl, Helen read some unfortunate Braille literature that implied that handicaps, such as blindness, were the result of our own or someone else's sin, inflicted on us by God as punishment. Later, during several visits with the famous clergyman, Philip Brooks, she came to realize the error of this belief and replaced it with a strong and radiant faith in the love of God that lasted until her death in 1968.

In her young adult life, Helen Keller was much influenced by the writings of Emmanuel Swendenborg, the Swedish philosopher. She was comforted and reassured by the thought of God's ministering angels guiding her, protecting her, breathing God's love upon her, and radiating

out from her to the most lonely, afflicted and forgotten. The principles that guided Helen are made clear in her book, *My Religion* and by many references to her faith in her other writings.

But Helen Keller's faith can be seen even more clearly in the work which she did to bring spiritual guidance and religious literature and materials to the deaf and blind. It was her desire to bring to other handicapped persons the inspiration which the Bible and its message had been to her. She expressed her feelings thus: "I have read the Bible with an ever broadening sense of joy and inspiration and I love it as no other book. The Bible gives me a deep comforting sense that things seen are temporal and the things unseen are eternal."

To help spread this faith to other blind persons, Helen persuaded the leaders of several Protestant denominations to develop a ministry with the blind, which continues today. In 1928, she was one of the founders of the John Milton Society for the Blind, and for 30 years its president. During her presidency, the Society began publication of a monthly Braille religious magazine (now also published in a large print version for the partially sighted) and a religious Braille magazine for children. Helen said of this publication, "I welcome *Discovery* for blind boys and girls because it will be to them a wonderful guide in exploring the world in which we live. Happy will they be if they learn from it, to see in everything, God's love for his children and that life lived in him is a constant joy."

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Helen Keller (right).



On behalf of other blind persons, Helen visited all 48 states in the Union and covered every continent and many countries in six gruelling world tours. She raised vast sums of money to provide better care and education for the afflicted. In this great and unselfish work, she accomplished more for the silent and sightless of the world than anyone who has ever lived. And the work which she helped begin and guide in its early days has expanded and continues to minister to the needs of blind persons throughout the world. Braille, recorded and large print religious literature are available, without charge, to the visually impaired from the John Milton Society at its headquarters at 29 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

During her long lifetime, Helen Keller stubbornly refused to permit her three-fold handicap to keep her spirit earth-bound. She once said, "I have looked into the heart of darkness and refused to yield to its paralyzing influence. In spirit, I am one of those who walk in the morning. What if all dark, discouraging moods of the human mind came across my path as thick as the dry leaves of autumn? Other feet have traveled that road before me, and I know the desert leads to God as surely as fruitful orchards and green, refreshing fields."

Helen Keller learned and taught others not only to accept physical handicaps but to use them as opportunities that would not be theirs with normal sight and hearing. The following words convey some of the understandings that made Helen Keller the great Christian that she was:

"Being blind and deaf to the material world has helped me to develop an awareness of the invisible, spiritual world. I know my friends not by their physical appearance, but by their spirit. Consequently, death does not separate me from loved ones. To me there is no such thing as death in the sense that life has ceased.

"We who are blind have time to think. We can stop long enough to use our minds, which are our real selves, to discover new meanings in life and to draw out beautiful memories from their treasure-house. No, the dark need not take beauty from us. The things that give beauty can be touched—form, size, texture and proportion. They bring endless delight when the soul within illumines them with imagination, poetry and memory.

"The sightless who possess this gift are infinitely happier than people with perfect eyes who are emotionally blind—who cannot appreciate literature or the glories of nature. Blessed are we who can withdraw into this world of the Inner Eye that gives us quiet and strength to all difficulties." □

"I believe that life is given us so that we may grow in love and I believe that God is in me, as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower—the light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence."

From "I Must Speak" by Helen Keller.

Submitted through the courtesy of The John Milton Society for the Blind.

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

mans. Particularly, I thought about how Screwtape instructed Wormwood to try and get his charge to accept things in his life as right without really looking at his change in attitude. Screwtape advises, "When this or any other distraction crosses his (Wormwood's charge) mind, you ought to encourage him to thrust it away by sheer willpower and to try to continue the normal prayer as if nothing had happened."

Instead of exploring my feelings and laying them before the Lord, I tried to thrust them away. Still, I couldn't rid myself of a feeling of unease. Nothing was solved.

Often when I have relied on my emotions to tell me the whole story, I have found them to be deceptive. However, I cannot discard them entirely. I have to look at their origins. Often feelings are symptoms pointing to various ills.

When feelings consistently prod us, as in my case of not *feeling* Christian, sev-

For a while, I didn't *feel* like a good Christian. I didn't *feel* as though my heart was in the right place. I didn't *feel* like I was in communication with God. I had half-heartedly prayed about it but hadn't seen any results.

On a walk one evening, I thought about how C.S. Lewis' character, Screwtape, advised his nephew, a junior devil named Wormwood, on how to discourage hu-

eral things should be looked at. First, am I living in obedience to God's Word? In 1 John 2:3 we read, "By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments."

Secondly, we need to approach our feelings with reason. What basis do they have? What deeper problem may they be indicative of? How can it be solved? Am I blowing things out of proportion? We need to remind ourselves that even when our hearts seem to condemn us, still the Lord is greater than our emotions (1 John 3:20).

Sometimes we also need to seek the counsel, insight and reflections of reliable Christian friends.

Then, if my feeling is founded on sound ground, and if I can somehow pin down the problem, I can begin to work on solving it. If my feeling is unfounded, I must move beyond it. I must let my mind rule. I must constantly remind myself of the truth, until I am convicted of it.

and what a "hrrumph" he can make!

Seriously, this story is taken from the Bible and is found in Deuteronomy 32:11 where it says: "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over her young, he spread his wings and caught them, he carried them on his wings."

This verse tells how the Lord wants to watch over us as we begin to spread our wings, make decisions and graduate from high school into adulthood.

You may be wondering what this has to do with success! If I went up to each of you and asked, "Are you successful?" what would you say? More importantly, how do *you* measure success, and how will you achieve success in the future?

Webster defines success as "attaining one's desired goals." This is fitting, because what you do and how you think determine how you live—whether you are going to be a success or a failure. Webster also defines success as "the gaining of wealth and fame."

Success means many things to many people. To me, success is equated with neither fame, wealth, nor power. It cannot be measured in the size of bank ac-

counts, honors, or the number of trophies of achievement. God's Word says, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). Jesus said, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36). The Bible's principles tell us how to think and live so that we can be truly successful.

In the final analysis, success is finding

the will of God for your life and then doing it to the best of your ability. God has given each of us certain gifts and abilities, and he created each of us different and special. I believe that my personal faith in Jesus Christ has been the impetus that has driven me onward to my highest achievement. I would discredit my God if I didn't endeavor to fully use the abilities and potential he has created in me.

College is Ending

by Janet Tharpe

Dear Father, college is ending; I'll graduate soon and have to make my own way in this sick world!

"You are bread and salt and light."

But Father! The world is so big. And I am so small—and afraid.

"Fear not, I have overcome the world."

I'll miss my friends; they'll all scatter. Some have already gone. I am lonely.

"I am with you always."

Look! See that hazy horizon, Father! It's my future, and it's not getting any clearer!

"Don't panic . . . consider the lilies."

So many questions; I feel so insecure—so uncertain about everything!

"Be still and know that I am God."

Forgive me. I guess I am overreacting again. Will you help me?

"Become as a little child."

I suppose that means to trust you; I have no reason to doubt.

"Your faith has made you whole!"

Here is my life, then; it belongs to you anyway. I believe you will do what is best for me.

"Take up your cross."

I am coming, though I am weak. You know something, Father, it's easier to face the future when I know you are designing the outcome.

"I love you."

I love you, too, Father.

(From *The Student*, June 1974. © Copyright 1974 The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

I Love to Tell the Story

by Joe Bayly

I guess I'm not different from most other teachers in wanting to see immediate results, sudden changes in the people I teach.

Yet this seldom happens, and I must

admit that my own life is an example of the time it takes to change, or be changed.

I find some comfort in the fact that when St. Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11), he was an old man. How long did it take the great apostle to learn the lesson of contentment in adverse circumstances, I wonder.

My responsibility is to teach God's Word; his is to change people. I have to learn to teach by faith—just as I'm to do

everything else in my life by faith—rather than by sight.

The accomplishing may take years. Meanwhile, I planted a bomb in people's lives this morning, a delayed-action bomb that will go off at some future date. My responsibility is to plant the bomb. God's responsibility is to detonate it.

I hope I'm around to see it go off.

(Reprinted by permission from *I Love to Tell the Story* by Joseph T. Bayly, © 1978 David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL 60120).

What Does Success Mean to You?

by Sharon A. Rice, LaCrosse, WI

ing a close watch over her eaglets. Suddenly the eagle soared to 100 or 150 feet above the nest. She hovered for a moment and then, swish, she swooped down and hit the nest with a big "hrrumph!"

The eaglets and the nest were stirred up, and the eaglets felt the sharp objects for the first time. The man had never heard such a noise. The eaglets began to jump, and the more they jumped the worse it felt. They started to flutter their wings. The mother eagle had again flown to a great height and . . . "hrrumph!" . . . down she came, again and again, until one eaglet ventured out of the nest. But its wings were too weak and it started to fall. The mother spread her wings, caught the young eaglet just in time, and carried it back up to the nest.

This story can be compared to our high school class. We're the baby eaglets fluttering our way out of the nest called "Logan High." For the past three years we have been hovered-over by our mother eagle, our principal, who now is "hrrumphing" down on our cozy nest—

One day, as a man was walking by a river, he looked up into the high trees by its banks and noticed a large bald eagle, majestic and noble; its snowy head and tail feathers gleaming against the storm clouds. He watched it swoop down (with its seven-foot wing span) and collect twigs and sticks for its massive nest. Then, to his puzzlement, it gathered many sharp objects including broken sea shells, chips of glass, and very sharp rocks. The eagle carefully placed these objects in the bottom of her nest and then covered them up with feathers and other soft bedding.

Sometime later, after two big white eggs were hatched, the man observed the eagle hovering over her nest, keep-

him that I didn't like. His hair style didn't suit me. His bathing habits (if left to his own choice) were revolting. His schoolwork was unsatisfactory. His moodiness drove us to despair.

So we fell into the trap inhabited by innumerable families. Disapproval and complaining produced more rebellion and moodiness.

During this unhappy period, we attended a conference where a wise leader made a suggestion which spoke to our situation. He asked us to take slips of paper each morning. On these papers we were to write something good about each family member and slip it under his breakfast plate.

I thought, "Well, it won't take more than a couple of days to exhaust the list of good things about this child of ours!" I was desperate, though. Later, therefore, when I was alone, I took out a piece of paper. Clicking the ballpoint pen aimlessly, I tried to think of some positive char-

acter traits that he might possess. Before I knew it, I was writing steadily.

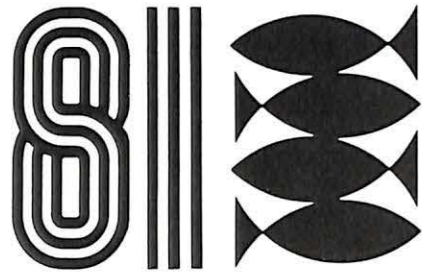
The more I thought and wrote, the more ashamed I became. I had let normal adolescent changes blind me to all the good things I already knew about my son. I didn't follow the breakfast plate suggestion, but my own change of attitude toward our son, along with a conscious effort to praise more and blame less, caused a big change in our home atmosphere and in him.

Just as polishing up our old car made us value it more, so did emphasizing our son's positive characteristics cause us to appreciate him more.

Whether you are selling a car or establishing personal relationships, the positive approach is best. The next time you find yourself being critical and disapproving of someone—try the praise principle. It works!

(From Four Square Christian Education Resources.)

KANSAS CITY



July 27-30, 1981

American Festival of Evangelism

by Paul Benjamin

The American Festival of Evangelism is a call for concerned Christians to consider the United States as a mission field. Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, July 27-30, 1981, the four-day gathering will focus on the unreached peoples in America. Twenty thousand participants from more than 150 major church bodies in America are expected to attend, including members of the North American Baptist Conference.

The first planning meeting took place nearly one year ago, when the North American Lausanne Committee challenged church leaders to pick up the Lausanne call to world evangelization. At that time a steering committee began to develop plans and engaged an executive staff for this massive evangelism congress. The Rev. Ray Harsch, evangelism director, is representing the North American Baptist Conference as a member of the planning committee.

Each day will begin with a plenary Bible study. Each day will close with a plenary worship service. Sandwiched in between will be nearly one hundred workshops and seminars meeting daily. All sessions will focus on the importance and the methods of carrying out the Great Commission in this nation.

According to the latest estimates, 80,000,000 Americans are not members of any church or religious group. Of the 132,000,000 who are members, only

about fifty percent have any active relationship with a church in their community. Using the term in a broad sense, we can therefore refer to 146,000,000 Americans as being "unchurched." Here is the "mission field" in the United States which embraces nearly three out of four homes in every community.

The regard for almost 150,000,000 unchurched Americans, coupled with the commission of Jesus to "make disciples of all nations," is the mandate for the American Festival of Evangelism. The focus of the Kansas City gathering will be upon the local churches in this nation, with the Festival program designed to help congregations carry out the Great Commission more effectively in their own community.

While some of the unchurched may deeply resent any intensified efforts toward Christian evangelism, the polls clearly indicate that millions of Americans are now open to a more active faith. Thirty-two million, in fact, indicate that they are willing to become Christians sometime in the near future.

The American Festival of Evangelism is an attempt by American churches to assess its responsibility to those who are willing. Furthermore, it seeks to encourage every local church to reach out in love to the people of its own community,

were almost able to achieve one baptism for every day of the year—324. They have grown by 416 members. Their total reported membership is 2,443 with an average attendance of 3,136. This growth came as a result of over 30,000 personal contacts. Together they contributed almost \$62,000 to our Conference world mission ministries.

and to help provide the evangelistic tools and resources.

In many instances, Christians themselves must be encouraged and taught before they are willing to share the "good news" with their neighbors and friends. For the most part, they are not unbelieving or unconcerned, but they are afraid of being rebuffed by those who are disinterested. The majority of American church members are not brash and overconfident evangelists. Instead, they are timid souls who must muster up all their courage before they will speak a word about Jesus to anyone.

The American Festival of Evangelism is not one more effort on the part of Christians to drag unwilling Americans into the church fold. It is a planned endeavor to encourage American churches to be more sensitive to those outside the faith, and the attempt to build bridges to the vast numbers in this country who are now indicating deep concern for the Christian way of life.

The theme of the Festival, "Let the Church Obey His Voice!" indicates the intent "to reach beyond sponsoring a major religious convention only—to a point where the whole nation will feel the impact of millions of Christians who will assert the principles of justice and a pervasive moral and spiritual renewal for the nation." □

While God is mightily blessing the ministry of Church Extension, the challenges and opportunities are constantly increasing. We have known for some time that Canadian cities like Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta will double in population in ten years. On a recent trip to British

(Continued on page 31)

Returning With Tears

by Helen Marie Schmidt

Dear God:

I'm on the plane to Chicago, returning from my furlough to the work you have given me to do. Thank you for a good furlough—packed full, overflowing. Thank you for the time with my family and friends. Thank you for the time of sharing with your people in the various areas of our Conference, and thank you very much for the clear indication of their prayerful support.

The one big question I have is this, what am I going to tell your tired workers in Cameroon? I thought I'd have some good news of help coming, especially in evangelism. They've sent word, saying they are tired, discouraged, overworked. Their total number has dwindled to a skeleton crew, and yet

Dr. Helen Marie Schmidt is missionary doctor in Cameroon, West Africa.

they are trying to keep the whole operation going strong. God, I'm asking, the burden is heavy, tears are coming to my eyes. I wonder if the other passengers will notice.

I know your people are concerned. Help them know that as a mission we have overused our credit card in sending out missionaries and now the debt has to be paid back before new ones can be appointed to fill the gap. Help them to feel good about diminishing the Conference debt; help them see the challenge of erasing the debt so that more missionaries can be sent out.

Father, wipe my tears, give me a joyful countenance, help me encourage those I meet. Help me to be confident in you and your ability to bring in the lacking funds, send out more missionaries and strengthen those who are bending under the load.

Thank you.

Helen. □

Hungarian Baptists Rejoice

(from Hungarian Baptist Press Service)

BUDAPEST, Hungary—"The Lord gives a dwelling-place to his people." This is also true in Hungary, and true today. The Lord created those favorable circumstances that made it possible for a fellowship of believers having 400 places for worship to start and continue 57 buildings projects last year. Nothing like this had happened for decades.

Several conditions led to the need for so much construction. For one thing, church buildings and parsonages dating from the early decades of this century were built under poor circumstances. Also many buildings had been damaged by floods, underground water and earthquake, for instance at Békés. On the other hand, urban renewal required that one chapel be rebuilt on a new site to fit into the modern neighborhood. Old structures could not be called "historic buildings."

In many places the congregations had outgrown their old buildings. Among the favorable conditions were the generosity of our brethren. Many of

them are devoted tithers. Their generosity, however, is promoted by the fact that in our country everyone can work in a job most suitable for him or her. Furthermore, the authorities have recognized the reasons for new buildings. Our Church is no longer considered as a sect and can wisely utilize the equal rights with other denominations, granted by a bill of 1947.

Church buildings and parsonages are being built in those cities where we never had such buildings, in the so-called socialist cities, like Kazincbarcika, Komlo or Tatabanya. In Vac, a Roman Catholic pontifical see, after many futile attempts from the beginning of this century, we now have an opportunity to build a chapel. In Székesfehérvár, the ancient city of the first Hungarian kings, the Baptist congregation has only limited quarters, transformed from a family house. In the near future, however, it will have a new chapel at a new neighborhood. In Budapest we have nineteen congregations, and seven of them have building projects under way. For example, at Ujpest an important music center is being built. The Budafok, Pestlőrinc, and Pestimre congregations are building completely new chapels.

Renovations, repairs, modernizations to some extent are needed or are under way in most of the congregations in our country. The rebuilding and extension of our two Old People's Homes require a lot of sacrifices.

As our older buildings remind us of believers who stood fast for the gospel in the past, we hope and pray the new ones can be used to glorify God in the modern world. □

PASTORAL STAFF POSITION

The Challenge:

A Growing church in a booming city seeks to increase its effectiveness through an addition to the current staff of two pastors

Traits Desired:

- solid organizational skills
- spiritual and emotional maturity
- proven ability and professional competence
- willingness to become part of a ministry team of other staff and lay people

Areas of Responsibility:

Negotiable but require leadership in the following areas

1. Christian Education
2. facilitator of lay participation
3. visitation
4. family life education
5. church administration

The church has identified the first area as the most important but some combinations of interests in the other areas are also thought desirable

Nominations, Applications or letters of exploration are invited and will be treated confidentially (Write or phone as soon as possible)

Pastoral Ministries Committee
Brentview Baptist Church
3512 Charleswood Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2L 2C3
(403) 282-2412

PRAISE GOD . . .

(Continued from page 15)

and challenged the best efforts of our pastors and the congregations, demonstrated splendid growth. Although not all of the monthly reports are in, fifty new churches reported more conversions than one per day for a total of 427. These churches



CHURCH
EXTENSION
PROJECT

At Southdale People Are Important!

by Jerry Edinger



Pastor Jerry Edinger and his family.



A Sunday school class in action.

Southdale Community Baptist Church, ministering on the southeast side of Winnipeg, Manitoba, exists for the purpose of bringing glory to God as we serve the needs of people in this community. The Lord has blessed with many opportunities to share and greater spiritual maturity within the fellowship of believers.

Southdale is one area of Winnipeg still growing in size. Recent surveys also indicate an 85% unchurched population among the about 2300 homes in this immediate area. The potential for growth is real. Weekly visitation by our trained staff has put us in contact with many who need Jesus as Savior and Lord.

One of our concerns at this stage of growth is to build a strong fellowship base. New families are brought closer to the work through home fellowships—for Bible study, house warmings, small group recreation and times of prayer. It has been very encouraging to see relationships building to the point where commitments are made to the Lord and his Church, in regular attendance, in some of them now teaching Sunday school, and in local giving which went over the budget in 1979.

Growth in numbers has come as a result of greater community involvement. Last June we had five of our key min-

The Rev. Jerry Edinger is pastor of Southdale Community Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.



The Adult Sunday School Class.



Andy Lohse (left), deacon, directing a Home Bible Study Group.

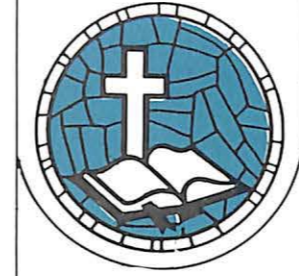
istering families move away; growing back has been difficult, but the Lord has been faithful in providing—daily strength, as well as new families to help fill our needs. One family that began attending in October has since brought two other families. This is happening more and more, and we praise the Lord for this kind of outreach. Average attendance has grown to 40, and we anticipate an average of 50 or more by the end of 1980.

Our future is limited only by our willingness to trust God for his resources. We are trusting him for greater spiritual quality and more people. People are our focus as they provide resources, leadership and funds to do the work. We believe that God has a great plan for people and that his plan includes people in Southdale.

At the present time, we are meeting at Shamrock School, in the center of our community. With the help of the Manitoba Baptist Association, we are anticipating the purchase of 2.3 acres of land (\$75,000 per acre), located along one of the main roads leading into the community and near another potential growth area to the south of us. The challenges in this area alone are staggering, but God is greater! Please pray for God's continued blessing. Thank you in advance for your financial help.

Your financial gifts for Southdale Community Baptist Church should be sent to the North American Baptist Conference International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, designated "Southdale Community Baptist Church." □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Abraham, the Steward

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

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

This is a reprint of an article by the Rev. E. A. Barker.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are at least three benefits to good estate planning:

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

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

to get from here •

••• to there:

YOU MUST HAVE AN ESTATE PLAN . . .

- To meet your personal needs . . .
- To provide for persons of your concern . . .
- To achieve your giving goals . . .

Write today for the free brochures.

.....

"Better Estate Planning"

"Wishing Won't Make It So . . . but Estate Planning Will."

Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Rev. C. Salios, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone (312) 495-2000.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

On March 16, 1980, members and friends of Sunkist Baptist Church were invited to join in the celebration of the 65th wedding anniversary for **MR. AND MRS. CHRIS ANDERSEN**. Freda and Chris Andersen were married on March 17, 1915, in Potter, NE. They lived in Nebraska and Colorado before moving to San Diego, CA, in 1920. They were members of Scott Memorial Baptist Church for 33 years. Mr. Andersen taught classes on the New Testament.



Mrs. Andersen also taught small children in Sunday school for many years. They moved to Anaheim in 1978, at which time they became members of Sunkist Baptist Church. The Andersens have four children: James, a retired university professor; Marion, a retired Baptist minister; Richard, a Jr. College instructor, and Helen, a Released Time Religious Program teacher. The reception was hosted by their daughter and husband, Mrs. and Mrs. Don Colburn of Anaheim. (Jo Kwast, reporter.)

GUSTAV AND ALBERTINE ZIEMER celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married in Poland on Jan. 25, 1920. In 1928, they immigrated to Canada and came to Vernon, BC. They are charter members of Faith Baptist Church. They



have six children, 30 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Ziemer held an open house in their home on Dec. 28, 1979, when friends and family gathered and celebrated with the happy couple. (Lorraine Harter, reporter.)

NAPOLEON, ND. The Rev. and Mrs. Edwin F. Walter have resigned their ministry at the Napoleon Baptist Church effective June 1. They have served here since July

1973 and will retire from forty years of active ministry, pastoring six churches in South Dakota, Kansas and North Dakota. They will retire in Freeman, SD, in the Cedar Shake Apartments. They will be available for interim and supply work.

LORRAINE, KS. On March 8, 1980, delegates representing churches from the Kansas Fellowship, met at First Baptist Church of Lorraine to examine Bob Cornwell and Bill Klein as candidates for ordination into the gospel ministry.

Following a luncheon served in the fellowship hall of the church, the two prospective candidates were examined and questioned by the council. Following their well prepared and delivered presentations, the council unanimously voted to recommend that First Baptist Church of Bison, KS, and First Baptist Church of Lorraine, KS, proceed with the ordination of their respective candidate. (Jim Zier, Council Clerk, reporter.)

RAPID CITY, SD. On March 28-30, 1980, South Canyon Baptist Church hosted a youth retreat at Storm Mountain in the Black Hills. The guest speaker was Dr. M. R. DeHaan II from Grand Rapids, MI. About 50 young people attended. Dr. DeHaan spoke during the evening service at South Canyon Baptist on March 30. The Rev. Elmo Tahran is pastor of the church. (Maxine Bettenhausen, reporter.)

SUMNER, IA. A recognition service was held at First Baptist Church on March 23, in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Chandler for their many years of service for the Lord. The program was based on the theme, "His Banner Over Us Is Love."



Throughout Pastor Chandler's ministry he has shown his love toward all people. The congregation sang songs, expressed words of appreciation, and a monetary gift was presented to them with love. Rev. Chandler retires after 43 years in the ministry. They have two children: John of Elgin, IA, and Judy (Mrs. Kenneth Bower) of Sumner, and five grandchildren. (Retha Menke, reporter.)

FESSENDEN, ND. For Youth Week the Omega Group showed the film "Welcome Home," and the following Sunday took part in the evening service. The Esther Circle invited their husbands for a surprise supper and program. The brotherhood in-

cluded the young people and wives to hear the local highway patrolman tell how they are trained and what their duties are. It was our privilege to have Pat and Dennis Hoffman with us for a Sunday morning. Pat gave a musical concert and Dennis brought the message. The Rev. Clinton Grenz was the speaker for our appreciation night and conducted a seminar on "Fruits of the Spirit." The Rev. Fred Fuchs is pastor of the church. (Regina Pepple, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MI. On Sunday evening, March 30, 1980, members and friends of Round Lake Baptist Church gathered and, with mixed emotions, bade a fond farewell to their faithful and dedicated Pastor Winston and Harriet Decker and their children, Allyn and Joy. Pastor Decker and Harriet have served the Lord at Round Lake for eleven years.

Several tokens of appreciation and love were presented to the Deckers. We praise the Lord for the many souls that were won, persons baptized and the growth during their ministry. We shall miss them very much. The Decker family moved to Woodland Shores Baptist Church in Bridgman, MI. (Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

TROCHU, AB. A special welcome service was held for Pastor Leonard Pye, his wife Shirley, and baby Lisa on Feb. 3, 1980. They came to us from Seattle, WA. The Rev. Richard Grabke of Carbon Baptist Church presented the charge to the church, pastor and family.

The service and fellowship were enjoyed by all, and we are looking forward to serving together with the Pyes.

In January, we were privileged to host a choir rally in which four choirs and musical groups took part.

Everyone was blessed as Larry Brons from Victoria, BC, shared his musical ministry with us on February 24. (Phyl Henkel, reporter.)

PORTLAND, OR. There are many evidences of new life and spiritual vitality among the people of Bethany Baptist Church in Portland, OR. We received 45 new members last year, and over half of those were by baptism (pictured). Attendance has reached 300 in the Sunday morning worship service, and our giving



has been excellent. We have adopted a record budget of \$200,000 for this year. A Discipling Ministry has resulted in cultivating spiritual growth in Christians young and old. A thrust in the area of drama has brought about positive results among our youth.

A Needs Assessment Committee completed a lengthy study of the life of our church. Through the work of this group, our church has adopted an over-arching goal for 1980 that includes "identifying, recruiting and training members for ministry." New Agape Groups have been formed in order to foster fellowship and spiritual growth among members. The Rev. Donald N. Miller is pastor and the Rev. Carlo Walth, assistant. (Jean Ann Walth, reporter.)

NAPOLEON, ND. Ninety young people gathered at Napoleon, ND, on March 28-30, to hold their triannual spring retreat. The Napoleon Baptist Church hosted the event by accommodating the youth, and by serving delicious meals.

These North American Baptist youth let their enthusiasm shine for the Lord by participating in skit and talent shows, group discussions and the Palm Sunday worship service. The Rev. Connie Salios of the N.A.B. Conference Office, main speaker of the retreat, led the devotionals, seminars and worship service. Saturday evening the youth organized a banquet. The highlights were a program by the Cornerstone Quartet from Aberdeen, SD, and an inspiring message by the Rev. Connie Salios.

The retreat was an experience the youth will remember far into the future, for with the excellent turnout of Christian young people, the Lord worked in wonderful ways. (Cynthia Knoll, reporter.)

HOPE, KS. Deeper Life meetings were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church of rural Abilene, March 16-19. Participating churches were Emmanuel and Strassburg of Marion, First Baptist of Durham, First Baptist of Dickinson County of Hope, and the host church. Dr. Herbert Dickerson of the N.A.B. Seminary was the speaker. The theme was "The Work of the Holy Spirit." (Mrs. Carl Pschigoda, reporter.)

APLINGTON, IA. The deacons of Aplington Baptist Church surprised the pastor, the Rev. Donald Patet, with a birthday coffee following the evening service, Sunday, March 23. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship for all, including Mrs. Patet who recently returned from the hospital.

On Wednesday, April 2, Mrs. Donald Patet was honored with a birthday card shower. The deacons presented her with a cake. As a church we covet the prayers of each of you for God's continued strength and healing touch for her every need.

The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area secretary, spoke at the morning service on March 23, and presented the congregation with their second certificate, awarded for rating among the top 25 churches for Conference mission contributions. (Kay Ostercamp, reporter.)

PRINCE GEORGE, BC. Our hearts were filled with thanksgiving and praise as we gathered to celebrate our long anticipated College Heights Baptist Church (pictured) dedication on March 2, 1980. Over 300 people, including friends from our mother church, Fort George Baptist, and our Grandmother church, Bethel Baptist, as

well as the community joined with us on this happy occasion. The Rev. W. Muller, professor of Pastoral Theology and Psychology at N.A.B. College, Edmonton, AB, challenged our hearts. We were also privileged to have the Rev. John Ziegler, general secretary of Church Extension, with us.



Our building has 10,400 square feet of floor space on two floors, with a seating capacity in the main sanctuary of about 325. It is highlighted by a unique roof design and spacious foyer. This date was also our sixth anniversary. On March 9, we held an open house for the community and friends of other churches in the city.

The two nights following the dedication, Prof. Muller focused our thoughts on "Personal Witness and Evangelism," and "The Work of the Holy Spirit." These two nights gave us very practical challenges from our friends, neighbors and community for Christ. The Rev. E. Klingenberg is the pastor. (Mrs. V. Kwiatkowski, reporter.)

REGINA, SK. We were very privileged at Faith Baptist Church to have three of our N.A.B. missionaries take part in a Round Robin Missionary Conference in our area. Robin Missionary Conference of the work at The graphic portrayal of the work at Woyke House, the hostel for missionary children at Hillcrest School in Jos, Nigeria, was most informative and very inter-generational. The Rev. Reinhold estingly presented by the Rev. Neuman on March 23 and Mrs. Mildred Neuman on March 25. We were also able to fellowship with them at a potluck luncheon at the church. At a final meeting, the Rev. Ralph Nelson challenged us by his report and pictures with the great opportunities for outreach in the land of Brazil. The Rev. Richard Quiring is the pastor of the church. (Mrs. Helen Kupp, reporter.)

MEDICINE HAT, AB. Nearly 100 fellow Baptists came from Brooks Baptist Church, Hilda Evangelical Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, as Meadows Baptist Church and Temple well as Grace Baptist Church and Medicine Hat, AB, to take part in a Body Building Seminar. We were all blessed by the teaching and sharing of Dave Follack, Rudy LaVerna Mehlhaff, and Bruce Merrifield.

Last January we welcomed our "boat family" from Vietnam. The Truongs have five children aged 5 to 15. During a unique trilingual service, the parents related their experience of three months on the China Sea, five months in a refugee camp in Hong Kong, and their great joy upon arriving at their new home in Canada. Our congregation has responded to them in love,

with the prayer that they, too, will accept the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

During a communion service, five adults were welcomed into our church fellowship, four through baptism and one through transfer of membership.

Eleven groups within our church gather weekly for prayer, and six of these groups are following the study, "Ten Steps Toward Christian Maturity." Our prayer is that we will achieve a measure of Christian maturity as we move forward into our 25th anniversary year under the warm leading of Pastor and Mrs. Norman W. Dreger. (Mrs. Shirley Moss, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. In March, the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Effa were a blessing to Redeemer Baptist Church. Rev. Effa ministered for five days, using Scripture topics to help Christians in their personal and church relationships. Mrs. Effa held some morning ladies' sessions on being "The Women God Wants Us to Be."

Though the meetings were an immediate blessing, we also believe they laid a foundation for God's further working among us in the future. The Rev. Elmer Strauss is pastor of the church. (Ruth Strauss, reporter.)

BEAUSEJOUR, MB. Eight people were baptized on confession of their faith in Jesus Christ at Elim Baptist Church. Pastor Allen Unger is pictured on the right.



The individuals who were baptized were welcomed into the local fellowship of believers. We wish God's blessing upon each of these as they continue to follow and obey Christ in their lives. (Mrs. Brenda Newman, clerk.)

EBENEZER, SK. Ebenezer Baptist Church has inaugurated the Pioneer Girl's Program with an attendance of 25 girls.

A "Men's Prayer Breakfast" was started a short while ago. They meet on Saturday morning so that the working men have a chance to attend.

On February 23, the Ordination Council met at the church for the purpose of examining Pastor Ed Schellenberg, to set him apart for the ministry. They gave their approval to go ahead with the ordination service.

On Sunday, Feb. 24, we were privileged to have Prof. R. W. Paetzel and Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg from N.A.B. College in Edmonton with us. Prof. Paetzel brought the morning message. The ordination ser-

our conference in action

vice was held that same afternoon with pastors from the neighboring churches taking part in the service.

Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg delivered the ordination message entitled, "An Approved Workman." The ordination vows were given by the Rev. I. Faszler, area secretary. He also led in the ordination prayer. The charge to the minister was given by Prof. Paetzel, and the Rev. I. Faszler gave the charge to the church.

Sunday, March 9, was a day of rejoicing, when we had a baptismal service. At the evening service we celebrated the Lord's Supper, and the hand of fellowship was extended to four new adult members. The Rev. Ed Schellenberg is the pastor of the church. (Mrs. Martha Dreger, reporter.)

LA SALLE, CO. On March 18, First Baptist Church of La Salle, CO, had a potluck dinner, followed by a welcome program for the Rev. and Mrs. Lester Hirst.

The Hirsts were greeted by Pastors Prill, Kimball, Phillips and Dr. Glenn Disco. Several church officers spoke, and a ladies trio sang, "The King is Coming."

The Rev. and Mrs. Hirst responded to the welcome gratefully.

As a church we look forward to working for higher goals with our new pastor. (Virginia Jepsen, reporter.)

GACKLE, ND. Grace Baptist Church has experienced the presence of the Lord in the past few months. We were delighted to host the Central Dakota-Montana Men's Song Fest with over 500 attending.



Our greatest cause for rejoicing is that 18 people, mostly adults, followed the Lord in the waters of baptism. All but one of those who were baptized are pictured with Pastor Falkenberg. (Dian Dockter, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MI. On March 2, 1980, Round Lake Baptist Church held an evening bap-

tismal service. The Rev. Winston Decker baptized seven adults and two children.

During the March 9, 1980, morning service, ten people were welcomed into our midst as new members and received the Lord's Supper. We praise the Lord for the growth in our church. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, reporter.)

EMERY, SD. About 80 senior citizens of First Baptist Church were special guests of honor at a potluck supper on Sunday evening, March 9, 1980. Pastor Dave Korb presided at the program which consisted of readings, musical numbers, interesting comments by two senior citizens and a short devotional by Pastor Korb. He expressed the appreciation of the entire church for the senior citizens and their participation in the church body, a very necessary element. The deacons and their wives were responsible for all the arrangements which proved to be a very enjoyable time for everyone.

Pastor Dave Korb extended the hand of fellowship to four new members on Sunday, March 2, 1980, as part of the Communion Service. (Mrs. Otto V. Bleeker, reporter.)

LORRAINE, KS. Bill Klein, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, was ordained into the gospel ministry on March 9, 1980. An ordination council made up of 22 delegates from nine churches of the Kansas Fellowship plus the Rev. Milton Zeeb, Rev. Rubin Herrmann and Dr. Richard Nollmeyer questioned him and heard his testimony. They recommended that our local church proceed with the ordination. Dr. Richard Nollmeyer, member of Biola College staff, who encouraged Bill to go into full-time Christian service, gave a challenging ordination sermon and prayer. Pastor Vetter gave the charge to the candidate. Bill Klein responded by offering a prayer of thanks and praise to our Lord. Standing devotedly beside him, his wife, Audrey, was happy and blessed. Our hope for him is continued blessings from God. (Mrs. Harold Wilkens, reporter.)

CHEEKTOWAGA, NY. Temple Baptist Church was blessed with God's Volunteers directed by Paul Dykstra. The church hosted these dynamic young people for three days. During that time they were on television twice, visited the elderly, a public school for handicapped children and a

March 9, 1921, at Pekin, IL. Although handicapped from birth, she was a faithful witness in the many communities where she lived. The last 15 years, Sylvia lived in George, IA, thirteen years with her sister, and the last two years in the Good Samaritan Home in George. Survivors are her sister, Mrs. Helen Sudenga, George, IA; two brothers: Gordon J. Brenner of Carlstadt, NJ, and Carl Brenner of Peterson, IA; two nieces and one nephew. Funeral services were conducted at Central Baptist Church, George, IA, with Pastor Dan Payne officiating.

businessmen's group. These young people never seem to tire. Pastor Bernie Thole kept pace with them, but as one of the "oldsters" he started to tire. It was truly a "New Day" for everyone attending because we all received a complete spiritual recharge. May the Lord bless these young people as they take this ministry to other churches. We will long remember the "New Day" and dedicate our all to the glory of God. (Mrs. George Hartman, reporter.)

ARNPRIOR, ON. An installation service for Pastor Dave Glader was held Sunday evening, Feb. 17. Greetings were read from various churches.

Honored guests were Mayor Johnson, Federal MP Paul Dick, the Rev. Simmons of the Arnprior Ministerial Association and the Rev. Bernie Thole of the Eastern Association of N.A.B. The Rev. Wilmer Quiring, area secretary, was guest speaker. Following the laying on of hands and prayer of dedication, Pastor Dave shared how his ministry here was based on John 15:15-16.

A time of fellowship followed the service as we welcomed our new pastor, his wife, Kathy, and their two children, Rachel and Paul. (Mrs. Roselie Russett, reporter.)

BEULAH, ND. The Ladies Missionary Society met on February 29 for "White Cross Work Day." All materials were cut and much of the sewing was completed. A delicious lunch was enjoyed.

We are very pleased with the progress that is being made in our new church. The Rev. Gordon Voegelé is pastor of the church. (Rose Voegelé, reporter.)

EUREKA, SD. Three girls and three boys (pictured) were baptized at Eureka Baptist Church, where the Rev. Walter Weber is



the pastor. The hand of fellowship was extended to them at the communion service. (Mrs. Clifford Beneth, reporter.)

ELMER A. BUENNING, 67, of Concordia, KS, was born in Dickinson County, KS, Aug. 15, 1912, and died following an extended illness, March 5, 1980. He was baptized and became a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in June of 1923. He received his education at Emporia State College and the German Baptist Seminary in Rochester, NY. On May 18, 1941, he was united in marriage with Helen Thayer in Rochester. To this union two sons and two daughters were born. He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Elmo, KS, June 1941. He served

the following North American Baptist Churches: Ingersoll Baptist Church, now in Cherokee, OK; First Baptist Church of Hallaway, MI, (now Appleton); Germantown Baptist Church, Cathay, ND; First Baptist (now Memorial Baptist), and Memorial Baptist Church of Parkston and Tripp, SD; and American Baptist Churches in New York, Iowa and Kansas. He retired in 1971. At the time of his death Rev. Buening was a member of First Baptist Church of Salina, KS. He was a kind and friendly man who devoted his life to the service of the church.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; two sons: the Rev. Lester Buening, West Fargo, ND, and Fred Buening, Lawrence, KS; two daughters: Mrs. Phil (Jane) Watson, Abilene, and Mrs. Laura Schwiekhart of Manhattan, KS; one brother, Walter Buening, Castiac, CA; two sisters: Mrs. Manuel (Mabel) Riffel, Hope, KS, and Mrs. Bill (Pearl) Semple, Sarahsville, OH; four grandchildren, other relatives and a host of friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Henry Buening. Funeral services were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS, with the Reverends W. W. Dachtler and Elton Kirstein officiating.

IRMA PAULINE THEIS SIGMUND died in her home in Cumming, GA, March 11, 1980. She was born in Bridgeport, CT. She attended University of Rochester, Boston University School of Nursing, and graduated from Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago. Irma was baptized by Dr. A. W. Beaven of Lake Avenue Baptist Church in Rochester and became a member there. In 1933 she was united in marriage with the Rev. Reinhold Sigmund and, together with her husband, served the churches at Fessenden, ND; Manitowoc, WI; Hettinger and Bison, SD; and Billings, MT. While her husband was superintendent of the Baptist Home for the Aged in Bismarck, ND, and also in the Central Baptist Home in Chicago, she worked along with him. She also worked as bookkeeper at the Roger Williams Press in Cleveland, OH. Until her death, Mrs. Sig-

mund retained her membership in Hillcrest Baptist Church of Cleveland, OH, where she had served as church organist for many years. Upon retirement, the Sigmunds moved to Ormond Beach, FL, and the past year, to Cumming, GA. Irma leaves her bereaved husband, two sons, Noel and Wayne, three grandsons, four sisters, and a host of friends. Her brother-in-law, the Rev. Edward Kary, officiated at the funeral service.

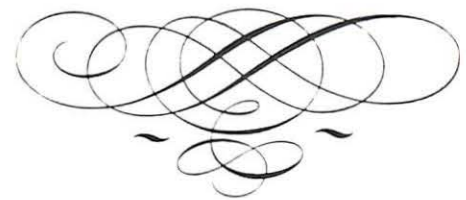
EMMA KESTERKE (nee Cirankewicz) was born July 2, 1902, in Kerelucha, Poland. She accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and followed him in baptism at an early age. She remained a faithful believer until the Lord took her home. She was married to Julius Kesterke in Poland on July 5, 1927. In June 1928, they immigrated to Canada, settling in the Trochu, AB, area, at which time they became members of Trochu Baptist Church. They farmed in the community until 1968. When they retired, they moved into Trochu. Mrs. Kesterke died on Feb. 9, 1980, at the age of 77 years. She leaves to mourn her husband, Julius; four children: one daughter, Mrs. Wilma (Selma) Forsch, Drumheller, AB; three sons: Elmer, Herbert and Oscar, all of Trochu; eight grandchildren, two sisters and one brother, and a host of relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her son, Edwin.

AUGUST LEHMBERG, 84, was born in Germany on Aug. 16, 1895, and died on Jan. 31, 1980. On Jan. 12, 1935, he married Katy Ernst. He was a faithful member of Valley Stream Baptist Church (formerly the Second German Baptist Church of New York City) and served in various capacities since 1944. He is survived by his wife Katy, a son Walter, a daughter Margaret Burgard, and six grandchildren. The Rev. Eldon L. Janzen officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. EMELINA NEHER, nee Ohlhauser, 85, died on Feb. 28, 1980. She was born in Longlake, SD, April 2, 1894. Her family relocated to the Carbon district in Alberta in

1909, where she lived until retiring with her husband, Theodor, to Calgary. She was a member of Carbon and Bridgeland Baptist churches and a charter member of Brentview Baptist Church. She leaves to mourn her children: Ida Neher, Calgary; Carl and Irene Mayer, Burbank, CA; Fred and Violet Burling, Glendale, CA; Reg and Darlene Martin, Greg, Brent and Trevor, Calgary, AB. The Rev. Ron Kernohan officiated at the funeral service at Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary. (L. Ohlhauser, reporter.)

EWALD PUDWILL, 72, was born Jan. 25, 1908, at Avon, SD, and died on Feb. 9, 1980. He accepted Christ, was baptized and became a member of First Baptist Church, Avon, in February 1952, where he remained a faithful member. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; three sons: Clayton and his wife, Alma, West Covina, CA; Robert and his wife, Shirley; and Larry and his wife, Leatta, all of Avon; seven grandchildren; two brothers: Elmer and Allan of Avon; four sisters: Johanna Pudwill, Portland, OR; Rose Conklin, Fairmont, MN; Alma Hoff, Mitchell, SD; and Luella Voigt, Avon, SD. Two grandchildren, Pamela and Kevin, preceded him in death. The Rev. Henry Lang officiated at the funeral service.



INVITATIONS

Grace Baptist Church, 202-4th Ave. E., West Fargo, ND, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on August 2-3, 1980. We cordially invite all former members and friends to join us on this happy occasion.

News & Views

BAPTIST WORLD RELIEF DISTRIBUTED \$807,000 IN 1979

WASHINGTON—Baptist World Relief was able to channel \$807,272 in 1979 to numerous areas where there is human need and suffering.

Chester J. Jump, chairman of the Baptist World Alliance Committee on Relief and Development, said that this total was expended to help finance 42 projects in more than 30 countries, covering disaster

relief, development and fellowship assistance.

The program was financed by \$525,743 in new contributions from 21 member conventions/unions, plus organizations, individuals and churches; \$281,529 was taken from balances on hand from previous years.

"This report gives evidence to the wisdom of maintaining such a reserve of funds," Dr. Jump explained. "People have given generously so that the staff in our Washington office is in a position to respond immediately when an emergency occurs."

"In cases of earthquakes, hurricanes and other disasters, we usually are able to cable money the same day the appeal is received."

Disbursements in 1979 included \$320,486 for disaster relief and an expenditure of \$290,000 in assistance to development projects. Such funding helps people in underdeveloped countries to dig wells, grow gardens, plant trees, build houses, clinics, schools, or start fish hatcheries and chicken farms that will enable them and their communities to become more self-sufficient.

The story of contributions has been inspiring in many cases. One small church in Goodwood, Ontario, Canada, was so compelled by the urgency of meeting hunger needs in Cambodia, it borrowed \$2,500 from the local bank in order to get a check off immediately.

(Continued on next page)

in memoriam

SYLVIA E. BRENNER died on Dec. 26, 1979, at the age of 58 years. She was born to the Rev. and Mrs. O. W. Brenner on

This and other gifts has made it possible for the BWA to send a total of \$150,000 to relief of refugees in Cambodia and Thailand.

A major portion of the 1979 development money went to an immunization program aimed at protecting children against major contagious diseases.

The category called "fellowship assistance" ranges from providing medicines to the publication of Bibles and hymnbooks, and the construction or renovation of Baptist church buildings in various areas, especially eastern Europe.

C. Ronald Goulding, BWA associate secretary with responsibility for relief and development, said that a "goal" of \$1,275,000 has been projected for 1980. This encompasses meeting continuing needs and the financing of new projects.

"The purpose of this compassionate arm of the Alliance is to join in partner-

ship with its member bodies to bring physical and spiritual aid to both needy Baptists and the communities in which they live," Dr. Goulding stated. "To enable such a program to continue, it will be necessary for more of our BWA member bodies to provide the funding so desperately needed.

ROME RADIO MAY BE JAMMED

ROME, Italy—The Baptist radio station in Rome, "Tre-Vi", is being jammed, claims Missionary Stanley Crabb, manager of the station.

Spurious signals interfering with reception of the radio broadcasting station operated by Baptists, seem to originate near the center of downtown Rome. Listeners reporting the interference describe it as an irritating, rumbling buzz which is not always present.

Crabb has noticed that if he takes the

station off the air to attempt to locate the jamming source, the interference is also soon turned off. The jamming seems never to appear, however, when the station engineer, Wes Miller, tries to track it down.

The jamming has been noticed since last November when improvements were made to the station to increase its range. On occasion Crabb has spoken over the air to those causing the jamming to explain that the station is not commercial, not political, and is attempting only to serve the listeners in Rome with good radio programming. He pleaded with them not to interfere.

The station staff considers the jamming as an indication that the station is effectively reaching its audience in Rome. Every day there are telephone calls from listeners desiring more spiritual help from the program personnel.

When a man has spent forty years of his life in the pulpit in almost every corner of the world, has served as a seminary instructor in at least three seminaries, and led his church for thirty years to a membership of 12,000 persons, he should know something about preaching. Dr. Gardner Taylor has been active in practically every area of ministry. It is therefore no surprise that he was called to present the 1976 *Lyman Beecher Lectures*. His presentations are based on the experience of dedication to the highest and noblest of callings—a minister of the gospel.

The reader will be surprised to find a bonus—the inclusion of Dr. Taylor's five Lenten sermons.

THE FORTY PLUS HANDBOOK. By David Ray, Waco, TX. Word Books. \$5.25.

The subtitle gives a positive note to the fear of old age—*The Fine Art of Growing Older*.

One of the worst decisions in life is to say, "I'll wait until I retire to find out what I will do." Seldom, if ever, does such a decision bring health, happiness and contentment in old age. The ideal time to prepare for retirement, according to the author, is twenty years in advance.

Dr. Ray does not believe in forced retirement, because in many cases it is a great waste of potential. It seems strange that age should be a retirement policy. The system needs to be shifted from chronology to contribution. However, since retirement is in most cases inevitable, intelligent and practical preparation should be made.

Because the author arranged the material in the form of a *handbook*, it would

(Continued on next page)

What's Happening

■ *Mr. Leland Bertsch* was ordained on April 13, 1980, at Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, MB. He has been the pastor there since 1977.

■ *Mr. Bill Klein*, part-time associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS, was ordained March 9, 1980.

■ *The Rev. David Wick*, since 1977 pastor of Dayspring Baptist Church, Maple Grove, MN, resigned and will become pastor at Forest Park Baptist Church, IL, effective July 1, 1980.

■ *The Rev. Rudy Lemke* will begin his ministry as pastor at Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church, Saskatoon, SK, on Aug. 1, 1980. He was pastor at Nokomis and Raymore Baptist Churches, SK, since 1975.

■ *The Rev. E. C. Ollenburger* resigned from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck, OK, where he was pastor since 1972. He retired May 1, after 32 years of pastoral ministry and will reside in Hillsboro, KS.

■ *The Rev. Woody Wood* began his ministry as pastor at Highland Baptist Church, Junction City, KS, on April 27, 1980.

■ *Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Hiller* resigned as medical missionaries effective Jan. 31, 1980. They served in both Cameroon and Nigeria since 1971. Dr. Hiller is now practicing medicine in the Vancouver, BC, area.

be valuable as a studybook for people in the 40-year age group.

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN. By F. F. Bruce, Grand Rapids, MI. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. \$3.95.

Although he has retired from the University of Manchester, England, Dr. Bruce continues to give us the benefit of his biblical and historical studies. His scholarly approach to his subjects is appreciated by both clergy and laity. This particular study is intended primarily for the serious student of the Bible who is interested in the meaning and message of John's three epistles.

In his introduction, the author presents the background and occasion of the epistles, and how they were used in the early church. Each epistle then is treated with its own introduction followed by analysis, text and exposition.

(Continued on page 31)

AB, were officially welcomed into the Alberta Association during the annual meeting, March 27-31, 1980.

■ *The Rev. Duane Westing*, pastor of Plum Creek Baptist Church, Emery, SD, since 1978, resigned and returned to farming in Kenesaw, NE, in April 1980.

■ *Mr. Elmo Herman* became the director of youth and Christian education at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, in April 1980.

■ *The Rev. Daniel L. Heringer* will become the director of God's Volunteers on July 1, 1980. He resigned from Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, where he served as associate pastor since 1975. He will reside in Bismarck, ND.

■ *The Rev. Winston Decker* became pastor of Woodland Shores Baptist Church, Bridgman, MI, on April 1, 1980. He previously was pastor of Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin, MI, since 1969.

■ *Dr. Leander E. Keck* was installed as Dean of Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. Dean Keck grew up in Start-up, WA, where he and his parents were members of Startup Baptist Church. The late Rev. Daniel Klein was his uncle. □

Book Reviews

GOD, REVELATION AND AUTHORITY. By Carl F. H. Henry, Vols. III and IV. Waco Books, Waco, Texas. \$24.95 each.

Believing that "evangelical theology is heretical if it is only creative and unworthy if it is only repetitious" (Vol. I, p. 9), one of this generation's foremost evangelical thinkers set himself the task of writing in four volumes his reflections on Scripture and theology. His plan was to address "preliminary considerations" of theological history and method in Vol. I, then to discuss "fifteen theses" on divine revelation in two volumes and, finally, to conclude the series with a volume on the doctrine of God. Dr. Henry published the first two volumes of this ambitious project in 1976. Vols. III and IV were released in 1979.

He discovered, however, that his "fifteen theses" required lengthier exposition than he had expected, therefore it takes both of the new volumes to treat Theses #8 through #15. The doctrine of God will be dealt with in a fifth volume scheduled for publication in 1983. The sheer bulk of these books (the two newest volumes have nearly 1,100 pages of text, not counting indexes) will intimidate many, unfortunately, for mind and spirit alike benefit from the effort to understand the subject with which Dr. Henry deals.

The nature and authority of Scripture are issues which threaten to divide the evangelical family as the family once

properly separated from the liberalism of an earlier generation. Dr. Henry's contribution to understanding these fundamental resources for theology and Christian life is warm, incisive and makes for peace. It cannot be expected that everyone will agree exactly with every expression and idea the author uses, but in an issue so basic to Christian understanding, faith and fellowship, it is irresponsible to ignore the insight and assistance which such a master can provide.

One wishes he might have been more concise. Occasionally his sentences get over-long or complicated; his vocabulary sometimes sends the reader searching for the dictionary. The fine indexes aid in spotting his mention of a particular person, Scripture or topic. The bibliography provides a formidable reading list.

In a book like this, every word need not be read to profit from his labor. Using the table of contents, find and read his "theses," then locate attractive chapter titles under those that interest you. Find what he says on specific points by using the indexes. Dip here and there, and you will discover in abundance new facets of the issue and fresh clues to help your own understanding. The interrelations of the subject of Scripture with other aspects of theology and Christian living are richly exemplified in the diversity of his sources and applications.

This massive effort, the fruit of 25 years of "teaching, researching and lecturing," will serve the church well by helping us think through a matter of crucial importance today. (Reviewed by David T. Priestley.)

HOW SHALL THEY PREACH. By Gardner C. Taylor, Elgin, IL. Progressive Baptist Publishing House. \$3.00.

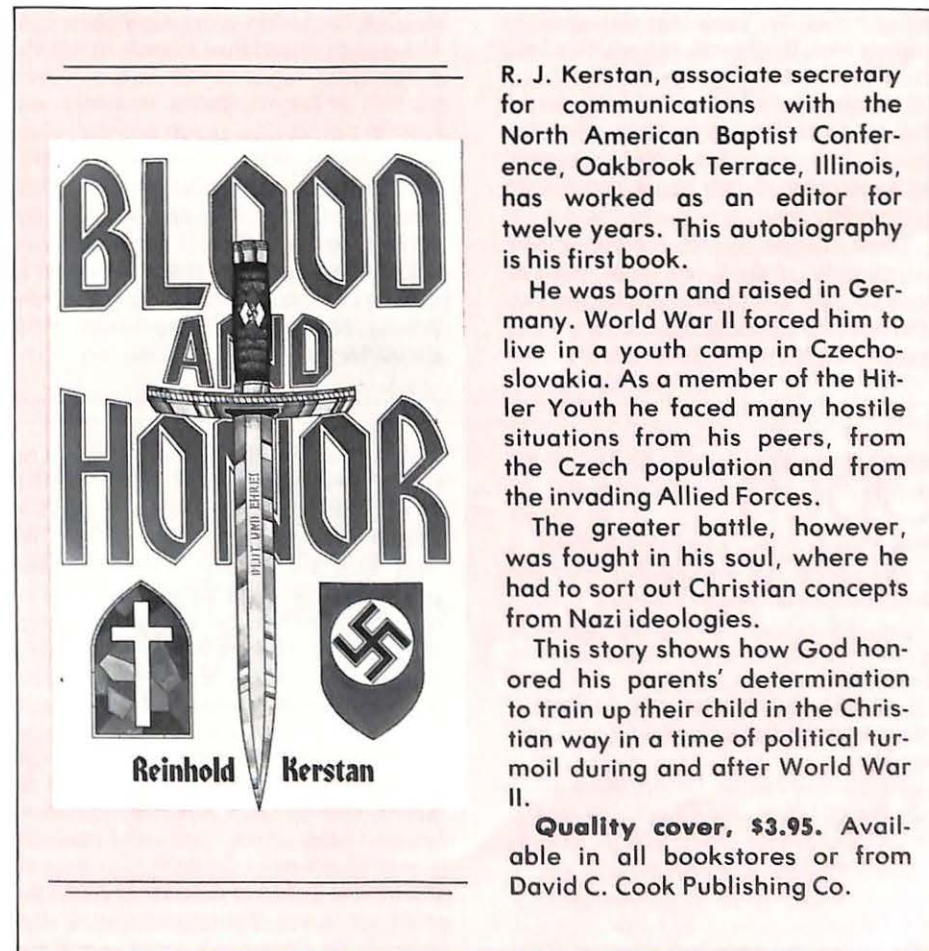
R. J. Kerstan, associate secretary for communications with the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, has worked as an editor for twelve years. This autobiography is his first book.

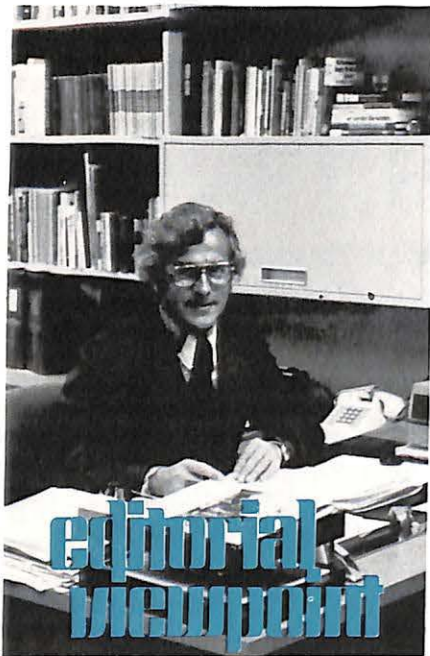
He was born and raised in Germany. World War II forced him to live in a youth camp in Czechoslovakia. As a member of the Hitler Youth he faced many hostile situations from his peers, from the Czech population and from the invading Allied Forces.

The greater battle, however, was fought in his soul, where he had to sort out Christian concepts from Nazi ideologies.

This story shows how God honored his parents' determination to train up their child in the Christian way in a time of political turmoil during and after World War II.

Quality cover, \$3.95. Available in all bookstores or from David C. Cook Publishing Co.





Experiencing Church Extension

About six years ago, when we as a family moved to a western suburb of Chicago, we had to look for a new place of worship. It was an exciting experience to visit several of our North American Baptist churches. We knew that we wanted to join an N.A.B. church, but which of the churches should it be?

One church had beautiful facilities including a spacious gymnasium. Another church had an active youth program. Again another church had a pastor with outstanding qualities.

There was also this small group of people who met in the living room of an elderly couple. They had no name, no pastor, no church building, no organized groups, but they had the vision to start a

new church in a relatively new community. We visited one of their weekday Bible study meetings. Was this the place to come to? Would my children have wanted to go "to church" when this little congregation did not even resemble a church?

"Wouldn't it be great to be part of a brand new church?" Holding on to the steering wheel of my car, my head spun around to face my son, who had just put into words what I had been silently thinking.

"Would you really like that?" I asked, directing my question to the entire family.

"Yes, I would" answered Annette, my daughter. "So would I," came the audible support from her other brother. And my wife just nodded silently, but her face lit up with a big smile.

This was the beginning of our exciting membership in a Church Extension project. Our church now has a name, a pastor, a building and a number of groups. The visionary concern for the community has not weakened. A day care program for about 100 children from ages 2-6 is a successful ministry that has greatly impressed (and helped) the community. From 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., the Friendly Corner Learning Center offers both day care and preschool services.

And just as in any other Church Extension church, there is a never-ending attempt to reach out into the community through friendship evangelism visitation. The church attendance exceeds by far the membership figure. There is excitement, warmth and love among members and friends.

"This is a church that really cares," commented a new visitor a few weeks ago. "I love especially the way you are praying for each other."

The other day I paused to assess what this church has meant in the life of my family, and my heart was filled with gratitude.

My wife and I are happy to attend all of the worship services and special activities of our church. But more importantly, our three children have experienced a spiritual growth to an extent we hardly had dared to pray for. Presently our second boy is youth president, and our 16 year-old daughter wouldn't want to miss one single youth or any other church meeting.

Last year they had the joy of helping one of their friends to find the way to salvation. How touched we were when at the baptism one of our children stepped up to the baptistry, read a Scripture portion and prayed for the candidate.

As Christian parents, we had always encouraged them to attend church services. But since our membership in this extension church, they have developed their own enthusiasm and responsibility, which frequently has been exemplary for us parents.

June is the month of special Church Extension emphasis. The cover and many pages of this BAPTIST HERALD issue are dedicated to this ministry. There will be posters and several pieces of literature in our churches describing the role of Church Extension. What will we do about them? Some of us can pass them up and pretend that they have no challenge for us since our membership is not in a Church Extension church. On the other hand we can open our hearts and minds to new thoughts and insights and then experience, that all of us in the North American Baptist Conference are very much a part of Church Extension. Church Extension is not necessarily a matter of personal membership in such a congregation, but rather the obedient love of a disciple of Jesus Christ, to do his or her very best through praying, giving and planning for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God in our communities. May all of us truly experience the truth and the challenge of this year's Church Extension motto: Growing Churches Growing. RJK

Open Dialogue

Dear Editor:

You and your readers are invited to send names and addresses of blind persons to:

John Milton Society for the Blind
29 West 34th St., New York, NY 10001
for free Christian materials in braille, talking records and large type.

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have just returned from

a short visit to the United States. Our contacts were largely confined to Baptists of various denominations in the middle west and central parts of the U.S.A. We went with a feeling of admiration and gratitude to a great people, which had contributed so much to our own ministry, and certainly with no intentions of being critical. One could not help being drawn into the political arena, and particularly feel a deep sympathy toward the hostages in Iran, towards the American people out of whose midst these hostages were so cruelly drawn, and towards President Jimmy Carter. As a Christian I must interpret all events in the light of Scripture, and by that I do not necessarily mean the prophetic aspect of interpretation. I refer rather to the Christian's peculiar sensitiv-

ity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and his resulting attitude towards contemporary happenings and personalities. I believe that President Carter is a Christian who seeks guidance and wisdom through personal meditation from the Holy Spirit. Without a doubt he is also a key person in the present confrontation with Iran. (As Canadians, many of us wish that during the last federal election we might have had such an option.)

With these introductory remarks I now come to the real purpose of these lines: In my all-too brief contacts with evangelical Baptists—I preached both Sundays—I was a bit stunned about the apathy and outright critical attitude of Christians towards the President. At no time did I hear or participate in a prayer for Mr.

Carter. On the contrary—we were somewhat shaken by the critical comments in personal conversation. Is it actually true that the American people, and specifically the evangelical Christian community, could be so completely absorbed in their dollars and cents, that the greater issues have been pushed aside? Almost everybody seems to be concerned about the high cost of gasoline and high interest rates, but nobody cares to pray to God about these things. Our comfortable and luxurious way of life is being threatened and we blame the President. Since he seems to be unable to change the economic dilemma by tomorrow morning, we give him uncomplimentary names, and desperately look for a savior in the next election for president, and this could be a certain senator whose name begins with K, and whose moral and ethical concepts are on a questionable level; or it could be a man who served his country well for nearly seventy years. During this economic crisis, the Christian seems to be unaware of the real issues and therewith connected personal obligations. With the outbreak of hostilities with Iran, the entire world could be cast into the holocaust of the most cruel, devastating war ever battled. By this time it must become evident that the Iranian conflict is not with "normal" people of intelligence and reason. The conflict is, as illustrated by the apostle Paul in Eph. 6, "against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

To be realistic in our analysis—if the Iranians touch the lives of the American hostages (and at the present time there appear indications, the U.S. government is sure to retaliate with cannons and bombs. The Russian Bear is poised in Afghanistan, a stone's throw away from Iran. Let us not be fooled into believing that the Ayatollah will not have Russian support. As soon as the first shot is fired, Soviet

might will be unleashed in the Middle East—and the world will be at war, a war as we have never before gone through (the writer lived through two wars)—a war in which not only our young men will be sacrificed but in which our cities will be devastated. Our precious way of life, our vacation trips to Hawaii or Florida will become less than dreams.

And let us not for a moment think that President Carter or any other person, or the Congress, can save us from such a holocaust. What then is the purpose of my less than optimistic analysis? There is not a human being or power which can stem this course of events, but I firmly believe that God, the God of Jesus Christ, the one and only who directs human history, can and will resist the onslaught of demonic powers. God has dealt with similar situations. Have we forgotten what he let us know through the Prophet Jeremiah? He clearly states: "If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will . . . destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will repent of the evil that I intended to do to it" (Jer. 18:8). In other words, God reaffirms his absolute authority over the destiny of nations and the course of history, regardless of the twisting and winding of men and nations.

And what is our responsibility as Bible-believing Christians? In the same chapter where the enemy is described by the apostle, he also outlines the battle strategy for God's people: "Be strong in the Lord, put on the whole armor of God . . ." I can only interpret this as a divine call for spiritual fortification, a call to complete faith in God, a commitment to the proclamation of the gospel of peace, in other words—a total spiritual commitment.

The next biblical requirement, taken directly from the lips of Jesus, would probably be the most adverse. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus commands,

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father, who is in heaven." Imagine a pastor praying publicly on behalf of his congregation for the Ayatollah Khomeini and the militant Iranians.

Thirdly, and I return to my original statement—pray for the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, who among all people has the heaviest burden. Basing my conviction on Romans 13, I would submit the same request on behalf of any person in this office; but having a man in this high office, who is, by his own profession, open to divine guidance, I am doubly sure of my task. I am also certain that many Baptists in Canada and in other parts of the world are lifting hands of prayer on behalf of Mr. Carter.

In praying for President Carter I am not suggesting that we try to bend the will of God to ours, but that we pray that God's Spirit may truly fill Mr. Carter with wisdom to guide America to an ultimate submission under the will of God, to a crushing defeat of the demonic powers of evil, and to a peaceful solution of the present conflict. It would seem to me such intercessory prayer is the Christian churches' greatest order of the day. It would lend meaning to some of our patriotic expressions, such as flags in our sanctuaries, repeating the oath of allegiance or reviewing the lives of American patriots. Patriotism could become a deep spiritual action, an intercessory, vicarious prayer through which our priestly function and calling is implemented. Peter states "but you are a royal priesthood" (1. Pet. 2:9).

We may not be leaders as Moses, but we can, as Aaron and Hur, hold up our president's hands. This kind of vicarious intercession would most certainly be preferable to sending our sons and daughters to be mutilated or killed in a war. God is still in control of the affairs of the nations of the earth. William Sturhahn, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

PRAISE GOD . . .

(Continued from page 20)

Columbia, I discovered that cities like Kamloops and Prince George are growing just as rapidly.

The new Florida church, to be launched when Dr. John Hisel begins his new ministry in West Boca Raton, is located in just one of the many areas in Florida that are booming. The 1980 U.S. Government Census will reveal many communities that are growing. Since North American Baptists take the Great Commission of Christ very seriously, we will want to respond by planting new churches in these growing cities.

At the same time we must temper our response to the opportunities by the

financial support our churches are providing. We are a generous people. The needs are great. The fields are ripe unto harvest. The ardent prayers, faithful giving and investments of every North American Baptist is needed. We thank God for the faithful support that so many have demonstrated. □

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 29)

Professor Bruce has no doubt condensed a great deal of expository material into 160 pages. His aim is to show how we can learn important practical lessons that are just as applicable today as they were to first century Christians.

HOW TO BE THE LORD'S PRAYER.
By Norman Elliott, Waco, TX. Word Books. \$4.95.

When a man talks about prayer, he is not only judged by what he says about prayer, but more importantly, what he does after he prays. Norman Elliott is a prayerer, and he is acquainted with others who were and are known to be men of prayer. Therefore, the reader will come across the names of many of God's saints.

Throughout the study, the author presents, out of his personal experience, new and thrilling insights in the understanding of the *Lord's Prayer*.

The book was first published more than ten years ago, but its practical application is valid in any decade or generation. □

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