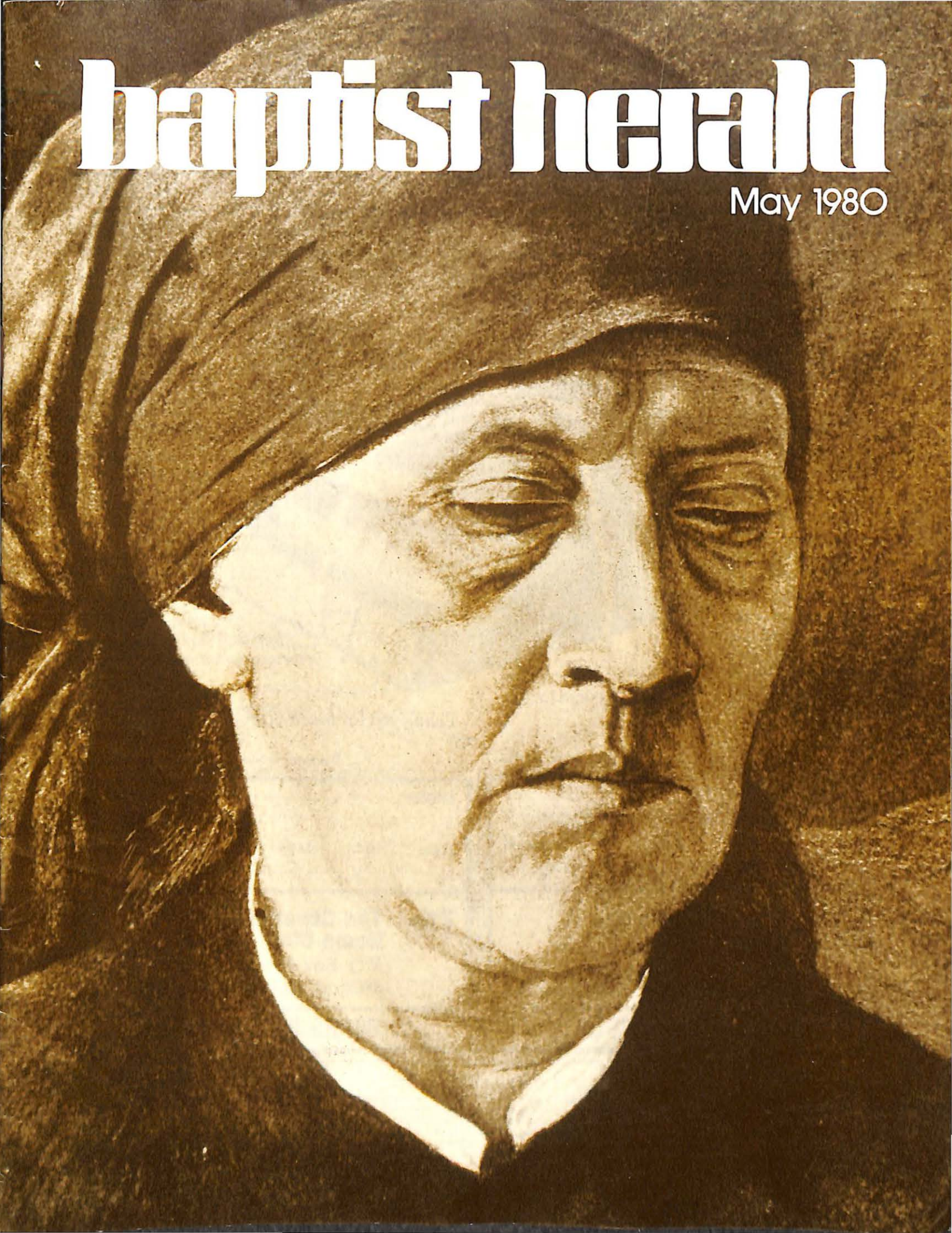


baptist herald

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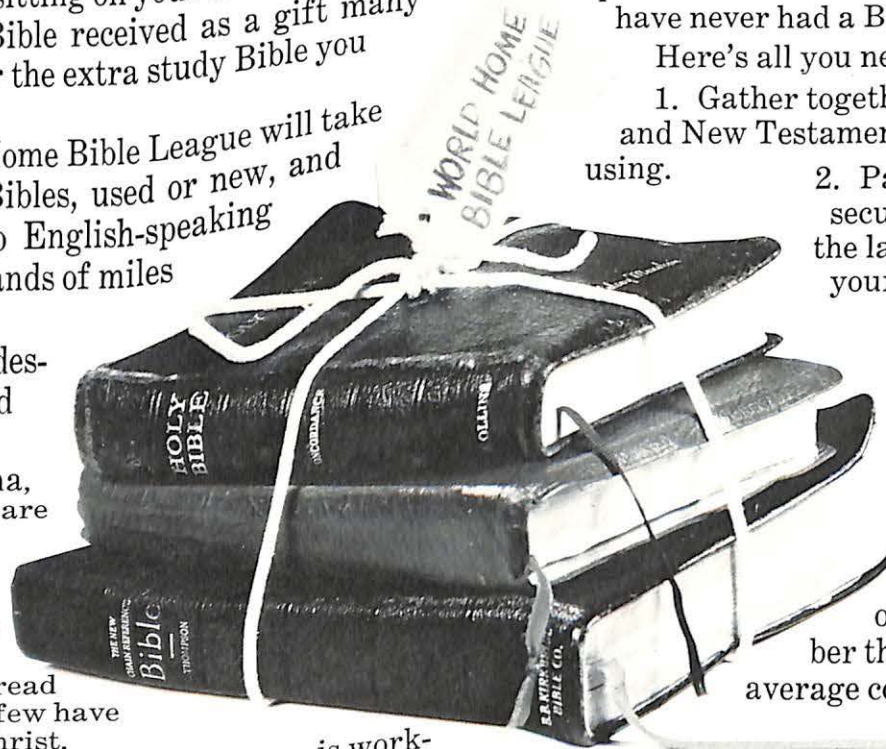


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NEWS FLASH

Refugee Act Clears Congress, Goes to Carter

WASHINGTON (BP)—Baptist concerns for the admission and resettlement of refugees in the United States were served as the House of Representatives cleared the Refugee Act of 1980 for action by President Carter.

The measure, which initially passed in the Senate and House last year, triples the number of refugees which can be admitted annually, broadens the definition of persons qualifying as refugees, and provides a more uniform basis for the provision of assistance to refugees.

The House vote on the conference report was a surprisingly narrow 207-192 in favor of the measure, one week after it had been approved by the Senate.

A consultant on refugees for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board called the passage of the act good news and said it will effect a more equitable assistance program for refugees. The new definition of persons qualifying as refugees is even more important than raising the annual limit of refugees entering the U.S. to 50,000.

The act defines refugees as persons who cannot live in their own countries because of "persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on the account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

The act provides for the admission of 50,000 refugees for fiscal years 1980-82 and authorizes the President to increase that quota, after consultation with Congress, should conditions warrant it.

The final version of the act provides for refugees to be admitted conditionally as refugees with a retroactive adjustment of their status to lawful permanent residents after one year. □

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How to Get More Faith

by Ronald R. Susek

The apostles of Christ had the same need for more faith that all of us have felt. One day the request was made: "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).

It is interesting to put that statement into the context of the conversation being held between Jesus and the apostles. First, Jesus warned them of the disastrous end of a person who is an originator of sinful practices. Second, he told them that they were to be abundant in forgiveness. It was the weight of these two thoughts, along with the difficulty which they knew would be involved in making it happen, that caused them to ask for more faith. That was a proper request because faith determines conduct. There are some practical things we can do to increase faith.

INCREASE BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE

First, we must increase our biblical knowledge. The Scriptures instruct:

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith . . . (Jude 1:20, NIV).

. . . faith comes from hearing the message . . . (Romans 10:17, NIV).

. . . brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed (I Timothy 4:6, NIV).

And in Acts 16 we find that the faith of the early Christians was strengthened when they **heard the teachings** of the apostles.

The business of living is difficult. In all of our lives, discouragement, depression and defeat stand waiting in the shadows, as ever-ready as death itself to receive us. When we are abounding in the knowledge of the truth there is such power and victory that we look at the shadowy trio and laugh at their pitiful state. But let us ease up on our learning habits a bit too long and they then begin to grin back at us.

There is no short cut. We must be willing to invest the time and energy into exercise and growth in the area of spiritual knowledge or the ingredients that spawn, inspire

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This article was taken from the author's book, Seeing is Not Believing, published by Master's Press, Inc.

and develop faith are not present. It is imperative that we dwell in the truth. Our lives are like buckets with holes in the bottom. One can keep a full bucket only by pouring constantly into the top. Never does a person "arrive" so that he is able to drift successfully.

It is also true that it is not always some new or gigantic truth that we need to give us the needed faith. At times it is a word or a simple reminder of a truth that we learned years earlier. One small piece of information can do much for our life of faith.

Jesus taught his apostles: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you" (Luke 17:6, NIV). Obviously he was not promoting carnival side-shows; he was drawing a ratio between faith and what it can produce. A mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds in existence—and that amount of faith could perform the unusual feat Jesus described. There is no need for you to uproot mulberry trees, but you certainly need to uproot economic pressures, job pressures, family pressures. There are major pressures in your life that need conquering, and at times only one small word can spark the faith-confidence that rises above all in overwhelming victory.

Cordell Brown is a man with cerebral palsy. He speaks with a slur and lacks coordination. Well could this man wrap himself up in self-pity and relax in the welfare system. But through his knowledge of Christ and the responding faith, he has built a camp for the handicapped. He has built a beautiful nursing home. He has raised multiplied thousands of dollars to be used in alleviating the plight of the handicapped. Once I heard him speak to such a group. With his finger pointing and the fire of victory in his eyes, he preached, "There is nothing wrong with us that can stop us from being a mighty force for God." Where does such conquering faith come from? Cordell is a student of the Word.

DO GOD'S WILL

A second way to increase faith is to do what you know is God's will for you today. Most of us are not acting on what we know, and then we wonder why our faith is not growing. For example, are we ready, by faith, to reject the world's values and give ourselves to God's values? Take money, for instance: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many

griefs. But you, man of God, flee all this . . ." (I Timothy 6:10, 11a NIV).

Are we ready to exercise faith in God's values in the area of social attitudes? Speaking of the economic imbalance between the rich and poor we read: ". . . as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ don't show favoritism" (James 2:1 NIV).

Another area directly related to the health and growth of our faith is how we are tending to our family responsibilities. "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (I Timothy 5:8, NIV).



Evangelist Ron Susek preaching the Word of God.

Obviously one could go on developing areas of application. The point to be made is this: there are many obvious areas where faith needs to be applied to everyday situations. And one of the greatest ways to develop faith is to exercise it in the areas where we know what to do. Recall again that it was the weight of the known areas of conduct that caused the apostles to ask for more faith. Rest assured, your faith will develop if you are exercising what you have to the fullest measure.

RISE TO THE OCCASION

Third, after you have been practicing by faith the conduct God would have for you in the known, God will give you the ability to rise to the occasion when unusual things occur. It is senseless to want the faith of a Daniel if you are not about to be thrown into a den of lions. Why say "Oh, to have the faith of Moses" if you are not leading an exodus?

If faith is quantitative, picture it was water filling a cavity. If the cavity is not there, there is nothing to fill; hence no need for water. But if a cavity is created by a shifting of the earth, water can rush in and fill it.

Some of us become inspired to believe that God will conquer battles that are not being fought, or to fell giants that do not exist. But if we exercise faith for the struggles at hand, then when the Goliaths do appear, God will increase our faith to meet that need. Think of Elijah the prophet, who had the faith to believe God to take on the big battle but could not trust God to cope with the small battles! So he sat under a juniper tree in depression. Eventually, by faith he rose to the occasion to challenge an entire nation regarding pagan worship—and he did so in a flamboyant, entertaining style. But then he fled in fear from the threat of one woman.

TRUST GOD TO SUPPLY

Finally, learn to trust God to give you the gift of faith needed for your calling in life. Saving faith is given to all of God's children (Ephesians 2:8,9). But there are certain measures of faith in the area of accomplishment. The Holy Spirit manifests himself in different ways throughout the body of Christ, yet they all come together in one unit to fulfill the purpose of God. Some speak with wisdom; some speak with knowledge; others have faith (I Corinthians 12:6 ff.). The important thing to remember is not to want the other man's gift. Utilize your own, and benefit from his—and God will measure the faith you need for the purpose of his calling.

Consider this verse: "For by the grace given to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you" (Romans 12:3 NIV). In other words, to evaluate your role in life with honest appraisal is proper. One way to determine what you are to do is to see how much faith God has given you. One thing is certain—God will give you the measure of faith needed for the task of your calling. The world without God says it another way: "Find yourself." The world with God says, "Find God's will." And when that is discovered you will not lack the faith to fulfill it, because God will give you the faith.

In conclusion, realize that there is no mystery to getting more faith. Press on in the areas you know—that will more than occupy your time and attention. And God will certainly tend to measure out the amounts of faith needed for each area of his calling.

God has not equipped us with lungs that store air. He supplies us with the air needed for each breath, whether it be a small breath or a deep breath. So He will supply your faith. Keep breathing. □

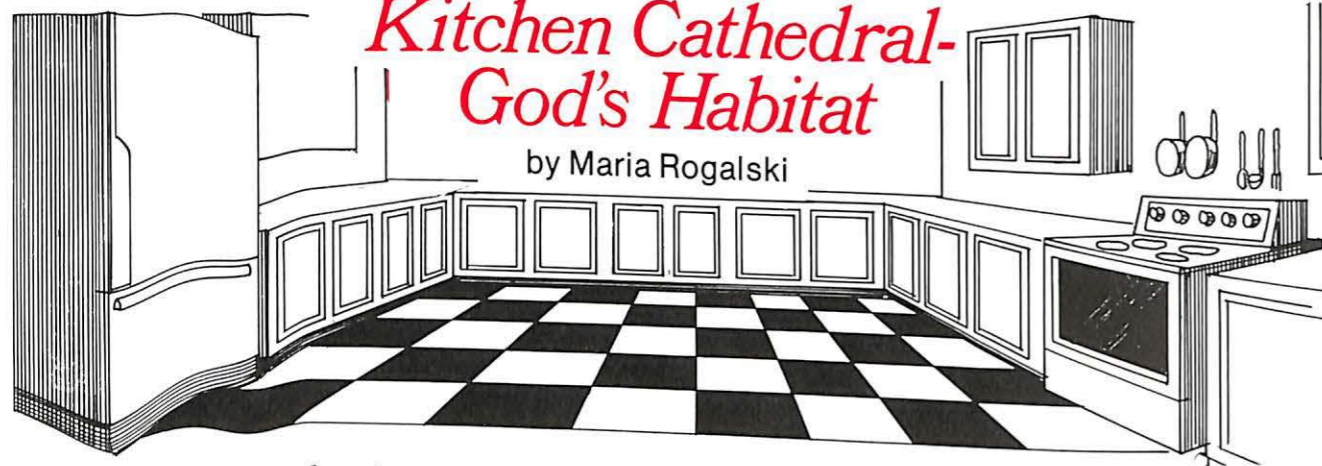
Incredible!—Where am I?

I've stood in cathedrals before, cathedrals of great splendor that were masterpieces of architecture inside and out, with elaborately adorned facades, majestic high-domed ceilings and magnificent altars. They were replete with intricate and imposing sculptures depicting scenes and events from the Bible and boasted spectacular and priceless stained glass windows.

Our 12-year old daughter is sprawled on the dining room floor close to the telephone, her blue-jeaned legs high up in the air, munching on an after-school snack in one hand and holding the receiver to her ear with the other. She is talking to Linda, her girlfriend from church, the one she only sees on Sundays, since she lives at the other end of the city.

I cannot help overhearing this side of the conversation, all about the special in-

... I remember years of 'tucking-in times', first with lullabies, then with Bible stories and children's devotional books, Scripture memory verses, times of childish and 'grown-up' talks with me sitting on the edge of her bed and she sometimes saying: "I feel a lot better about it now that we've had a little talk." I have to think of Moses' words to the children of Israel: "You must think constantly about these commandments I am giving



Kitchen Cathedral-God's Habitat

by Maria Rogalski

The word "cathedral" comes from the Greek word "Kathedra", meaning seat or bench. Standing inside those cathedrals I had the overpowering feeling of being in a holy place, the very habitat of God, saturated with his presence, which compelled me to whisper so as not to disturb the infinite peace and stillness of that place. I felt a strong impulse to kneel and worship a great and holy God.

Right now though, this very same feeling—but with far greater intensity and much more personal and authentic—is sweeping over my innermost being with an exuberant and uncontrollable jubilation wanting to find expression in shouts of joy.

Yet I'm not standing inside a cathedral but rather at my kitchen counter. I'm not kneeling in worship and prayer, rather I am preparing supper for my family. I'm coring plump, juicy apples and filling them with a pat of butter and a generous sprinkling of brown sugar and spices, ready to be put into the hot oven to bake and fill the house with aromas that only baked apples can produce. These savory smells from the kitchen do not only tickle our family's palates but fill their memory banks for years to come, long after they have outgrown the nest. Sure, it takes time and is a little bit more work and bother—but how much thought and care can one put into opening a tin of fruit cocktail?

Maria Rogalski lives in Winnipeg, MB, where she and her family belong to McDermot Avenue Baptist Church.

terests and ups and down of a pre-teen in junior high, math and science assignments, home-ec projects, books and boys. But suddenly I want to listen closer. "I know just how you feel, Linda," I hear her say, "when they don't want you to be part of them because they say you're different and not 'with it'. It used to bother me an awful lot too, and I felt all crushed out. But now it doesn't bother me anymore. You see, that means you are doing all right as a Christian, and that you really are different from them; that's good, don't let it bother you. . . ."

... My mind goes back to times when she was hurting inside, because she felt left out and not accepted by the 'in'-gang. Just like Jesus said: "The world would love you if you belonged to it; but you don't, for I chose you to come out of the world, and so it hates you" (John 15:19, LB). I remember trying to comfort and encourage her at those times by pointing out that there is no disgrace and shame in being "different," in standing up for values that really matter, as long as she was kind, honest and loving to everyone. I pointed out positive areas in her school life such as sports and music, where she was fully accepted.

... I remember talks at lunchtime, when one part of me wanted to rush off to the sink full of dirty dishes and to other household chores that never seem to get done, and the other part of me wanting to stay, realizing how important it was to 'be there'—to talk and listen and to share, often choosing to wait with the tasks at hand till after she had again gone off to school.

you today. You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning" (Deut. 6:6-7, LB).

... I remember nights of tip-toeing into her bedroom (even now, although she is 'grown up'), touching her forehead ever so lightly and letting my hand rest on it for a while, blessing her in Christ's name and whispering a prayer: "Lord, make her an instrument of your peace."

Having heard her make this statement to her friend gives me a little glimpse of something of infinite beauty and value taking shape in her young life, and I feel as though I'm treading on sacred ground. Paul's words to the Christians in Rome come to mind: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you" (Romans 12:2, LB).

I realize, flesh and blood has not revealed this truth to her. This very miracle gradually and quietly God's own Holy Spirit accomplished in her heart and mind. An enormous sense of gratitude and praise to God floods my soul. Profound and boundless joy reverberates in the innermost depths of my heart.

Suddenly my kitchen ceiling has risen to lofty heights. Strains of jubilant organ music fill the air and drown out all other so familiar everyday household noises. God's presence engulfs me, and I touch the hem of His garment. I'm in your temple, Lord—I worship and adore! □

What is a Mother?

by Rosa B. Bieber

country in 1905 with her husband, Henry Bieber. She went to be with the Lord in 1969. □

What is a Mother? She is different things to different people. To a child she is one to run to with a mashed finger. As a mother kisses the wound and caresses it, pain seems to leave. To a teenager, a mother is a leaning post. They lean upon her love, her advice and always upon her understanding. Teenagers rarely appreciate mothers. It seems this comes only with age. The older one becomes the more we realize what mothers have done to make us what we are. Wasn't it Abraham Lincoln who said, "All I am or ever hope to be I owe to my mother?"

This Mother's Day my thoughts are of one mother in particular. Her children all call her "blessed" even though she's passed on to her eternal reward ten years ago.

This woman was a real helpmate and companion to her husband. Together they raised nine children in a time before washing machines. Many were the days her back was bent over the rub board. She kept her children clean and her house in order. Each morning as she dressed she would put on two fresh aprons. As she did her chores the top one possibly would become soiled. Then, if unexpected company arrived, she'd quickly take off the top apron and greet her guest with a smile and a clean apron.

And much company did come. People from far and wide knew that if they "just happened to be passing by" they would be greeted with the aroma of bread baking or be invited to stay for coffee and that famous German coffee cake. Oh, I, too, loved to smell it. There was nothing like it—and we were all welcome in her home.

This mother was everyone's friend. She had an ear for everyone. I remember too well that children liked to go there. Not only did they get

a listening ear, but a slice of homemade bread spread with real churned butter topped with homemade jam. What more could a child want, or anyone, for that matter?

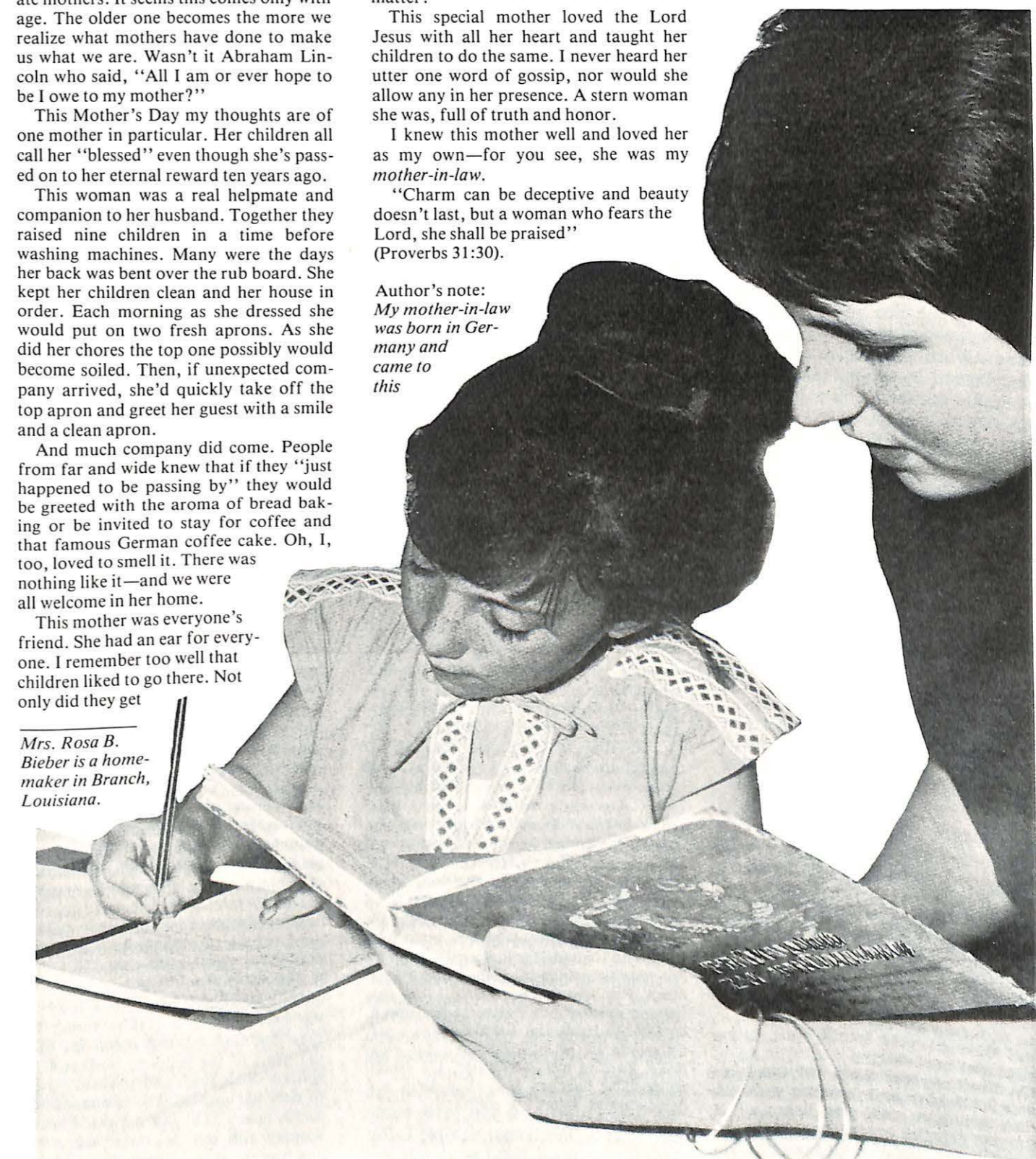
This special mother loved the Lord Jesus with all her heart and taught her children to do the same. I never heard her utter one word of gossip, nor would she allow any in her presence. A stern woman she was, full of truth and honor.

I knew this mother well and loved her as my own—for you see, she was my mother-in-law.

"Charm can be deceptive and beauty doesn't last, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30).

Author's note:
My mother-in-law was born in Germany and came to this

Mrs. Rosa B. Bieber is a homemaker in Branch, Louisiana.



A Tribute to My Mother-In-Love

by Margaret Grauman

Mother-in-law . . . I don't like that word because it doesn't describe my Mom as I have always called her . . . she is a Mother-in-love. Proverbs 31:13-20 aptly applies to her. Mom is a gentle, loving and caring person. I don't see her often now because she is so far away, but I write to her at least once a month and often send her pictures of the family.

Mom came to Canada as a young girl and had to go out and work while very young. As the oldest of a large family she learned early what hard work and responsibility meant. When only a teenager she married Pa and came out to Moosehorn to homestead, not far from where we live now. Those were hard years; clearing the land, fighting the elements and the many other difficulties. In winter, Pa worked in the bush and Mom fended for herself, caring for the animals, and wrestling with an overflowing well. They went to the little Baptist church in the country. Pa helped build that church. Mom told us often how after her baby was born, she took him with her into the hay field. It was just expected of her to work alongside her husband in the fields. When their son, Otto, was little they moved south and farmed in various places in that area, experiencing drought, grasshoppers, a lack of good drinking water, poor crops, depression years, lack of electricity, plumbing and modern conveniences. There were other times of tragedy and hardship too, when their first girl almost died of pneumonia, and later one of the twins died in infancy. Mom cared for her mother while she was dying of cancer and after her death took in the younger brothers to mother

Mrs. Margaret Grauman lives in Moosehorn, MB, where she belongs to Moosehorn Baptist Church.

them. I admire Mom's tremendous courage and pioneer spirit.

Mom raised her children with much love and in the fear of the Lord on whom she depended and whom she loved so dearly. She loved singing hymns. Through her I learned to be content and make the best of a situation that can't be changed. She taught me to bake bread, make a garden and be a good farmer's wife. Also I learned to cook potato soup as well as other things my husband likes. When Pa died suddenly just shortly before we were married, we agonized the loss with her because she missed him greatly. After that we watched with admiration how she picked up the pieces and made a good life for herself raising her last child by herself, keeping a rooming house and later a rest home in Vancouver. These occupations gave her opportunities for witnessing and service. All her six children are walking with the Lord. One is a school teacher, one a deaconess and Sunday school teacher, one a pastor's wife and one a church moderator. I have seen mother really grow in her spiritual life, and had many wonderful sharing times with her. Her home was always open to us and our many little children. She never seemed to get tired of them and loved them all very much. Now Mom works as a volunteer at the Gospel Mission, mending used clothing and being a friend to the lonely and other widows. I know she prays for us each day and also for each of our children. This is a great source of strength and comfort to us. I thank God for dear Mom. I love her and I know she loves me. I may not always have agreed with her, but I admire, respect and love her for many reasons . . . most of all for giving me my wonderful husband. May God bless and keep my dear mother-in-love. □

coming vital, alive and life-changing. This change sparked my interest in studying the subject of worship. Let me share some of my discoveries with you.

Thousands of Christians faithfully attend church services every Sunday. The service is referred to as a "worship service." Ordinarily included in the framework of the service are prayers, singing, music, preaching of the Scriptures, and receiving an offering. The people leave at the close of the service. But how many leave without ever having a true worship experience? How many have been observers rather than participants?

In order to answer these questions, we shall have to answer another one first: "What is real worship?" Perhaps you are thinking, "Anyone knows what worship is." Try posing this question to several people, and you will be surprised at the different answers you will receive.

Many people will say worship is ritualism, ceremonies and observing ordinances of a church. But worship is not outward; it is inward. The heart, soul and

spirit must be involved.

The word *worship* is derived from the word *worth* and the term *ship*. Worship is our response to God's *worthship*. The substance of the thought in the Hebrew and Greek word means to prostrate, render homage, venerate, hold in awe and serve devotedly.

Worship is the communication of the human spirit with God's Spirit. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

Man is body, soul and spirit. It is the spirit of man that enables him to communicate with God's Spirit. However, there is another truth we must not omit. This communication is impossible until one has been born into God's family. It is then that God implants the divine life in the heart of the believer; touches man's spirit with his Spirit and quickens the soul to new life in him. The communication line is open, "The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16). Unless

this communication transpires there is no real worship.

It is the Holy Spirit within which inspires and directs our worship. I was excited over this discovery. Then I read in John 4:22-24 LB, where Jesus says, "For it's not where we worship that counts, but how we worship—is our worship spiritual and real? Do we have the Holy Spirit's help? For God is Spirit, and we must have his help to worship as we should." When I discovered this truth—that the Holy Spirit within me was my helper in truly worshipping God—I began asking him as I entered the sanctuary on Sunday morning to help me worship God with an acceptable spiritual attitude.

I discovered in my study that there were degrees of worship among any group of corporate believers—degrees of sincerity and degrees of excellence—depending upon the spiritual maturity of the individual believers and other contributing factors.

What is your concept of God? This will be a significant factor in determining your worship. Do you see him as he really is? Do you have a heart as well as an intellectual knowledge of him? Does your knowing him cause you to trust him implicitly? Do you have an understanding of his attributes?

My thoughts turned to Isaiah, the prophet. He is an example of one who saw God as he is, and the result is an illustration of a true worship experience.

In chapter six Isaiah tells of his vision of God. He says, "Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Seeing God as high and lifted up, Isaiah was overwhelmed by his greatness, sovereignty, holiness and glory. He then saw himself as he was before God—inferior, sinful and helpless. In humility and brokenness of spirit he confessed his sins and received God's forgiveness. He was reconciled to God.

This is the norm of worship. When we see God as he is, we see our own corrupt hearts. The result is complete submission and humility, allowing him to be all in us. Unless this happens our worship will be shallow and superficial.

When I made this discovery, I began reading and thinking about the attributes of God; his greatness, holiness and glory. I also read some good books such as J. I. Packer's "Knowing God." I have found the more I read God's Word and meditate on his attributes, the more meaningful my worship.

Is prayer worship? If it is sincere and from the heart is worship. It is the vehicle by which we worship. It is through prayer that we confess our sins and give God our adoration, honor, praise and

thanksgiving.

One day, as I sat in the worship service while the pastor was praying, I became aware that I was listening to him, but I was not praying with him. I was glad the Lord caused me to be aware of this, because I became conscious of the need for myself and other members of the congregation to pray "in one accord." I became a participant in prayer rather than an observer.

One of the most important elements in worship for me is "adoration." God is satisfied with nothing less than the highest degree of love from us, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matt. 22:37, 38).

I have no problem when it comes to adoring God. And I like to tell him of my love and adoration. I think the majority of believers will delight in giving God the admiration, reverence, honor and love he deserves. Worshipers enjoy the art of true worship in adoration.

Do you praise God in worship? Praise is as natural to the worshiper as the song is to the bird. It is the spontaneous response of the soul in communication with the Father. It is the expression of the heart's gratitude and thankfulness for God's grace and blessings in life.

William Law, an English clergyman of the eighteenth century, said something I like very much, "If anyone could tell you the shortest, surest way to all happiness and perfection, he must tell you to make it a rule to yourself to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that whatsoever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing."

God's presence and power are near when we praise him, "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel," we read in Psalm 22:3. Do you want to feel God's presence near? Just praise him for everything!

The pastor has the responsibility and privilege of bringing a message from the Word of God in its truth and purity and in the power of the Holy Spirit. The believer has the responsibility to receive that Word as truth into the heart and life. The Word must become a living substance of ourselves. It is in obedience to the Word that we present a genuine worship to God.

James encourages us to be obedient in these words, "But if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it, but he will do what it says, and God will greatly bless him in everything he does" (James 1:25 LB). What a promise from God!

I'll have to admit that I never had given

too much thought to the importance of music in worship until Paul McNeff came on our staff.

But I found through my study that music has always been essential in worship. Numerous references are made of music and songs both in the Old and New Testaments.

The minister of music in a church has the privilege of leading the people to experience a meaningful worship. His efforts can make the difference between a congregation that worships God through music, and one that sings or listens to music merely as a matter of routine or entertainment.

Music which is honoring and glorifying God will be leading the worshipers to give him their sincere praise, thanksgiving and adoration.

Do you worship God through the offering? I like the advice the Apostle Paul gives us, "Remember what Christ taught and let his words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts" (Col. 3:16).

Our Bible tells us the Lord loves a cheerful giver. It seem the people in the churches of Macedonia found the secret of cheerful giving. Paul speaks of them as having given far more than they could afford. Then he writes, "But best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to rededicate themselves to the Lord . . ." (II Cor. 8:5 LB). When we have given our hearts to him in love, we have no difficulty in giving him our offering cheerfully. The heart that gives cheerfully is the worshiping heart.

Christians can find great joy in true worship. ". . . in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11).

To love him with all the heart; to know we are loved by him; to know he is ours and we are his; to adore and worship him is to delight in him and brings a joy that cannot be expressed in words. As one writer states, "Worship is something that cannot be defined, it must be experienced."

It has been helpful to me to remember that when I come into the sanctuary for corporate worship I am to be a participant and not a spectator. With sincere heart I endeavor to participate in each aspect of the worship service.

I have found true worship to be an enriching life-building experience. Sins are forgiven, minds renewed, souls enobled, faith increased, love for God and others expanded. God prepares for service and gives a great desire to serve him.

God is seeking true worshipers today, ". . . for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23b). □

New Perspectives in Worship

by Ruby M. Forsberg

Our minister of music, Paul McNeff*, had been on our church staff only a short while when I began to notice a change in our worship service. Paul was teaching us to worship through music. And this change was setting the tone for our entire worship program. Our worship was be-

Mrs. Ruby M. Forsberg is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Lodi, CA.

*Paul McNeff is Minister of Music at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

College student Rick Weber nervously dialed the number of someone he didn't know.

"It's kind of hard to know what to say," he said, while listening to the phone ring at the other end of the line.

"How do you ask someone for money?"

But asking for money was what 47 volunteer callers at the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, were doing this past winter.

For eight nights in December, youth and adult members of nearby N.A.B. churches dialed their fellow Baptists and friends of the seminary to ask for \$100-\$500 pledges.

The school is trying to raise \$194,000 in operating costs by June 30, 1980.

Who's On The Phone?

by Dan Merritt

Charles Hiatt, vice president for development, and Clarence Walth, an associate, supervised the calling program which gathered more than \$20,000 in pledges.

"We needed to discover more people who were willing to give," Hiatt said of the phone-calling addition to this year's Annual Fund efforts.

Volunteer callers contacted friends of the North American Baptist Seminary throughout the United States and Canada. Of almost 700 calls made, over 100 persons made definite commitments to the seminary. The average contribution was \$128.

A total of 336 "maybe" answers were recorded. These persons were sent covenant cards to allow them time to prayerfully consider a donation. Many of these have already responded with covenants totaling over \$7,000.

The letters, phone calls and covenant cards all mark a more aggressive campaign to support the spiralling costs of educating potential ministers and missionaries at the seminary.

"But it's all needed," Hiatt said. "Up until a few years ago the North American Baptist Conference met the needs of the school's operating costs—which includes salaries, costs for library books, and other expenses."

Last year, the school had to raise \$90,000 toward its own



A busy "Phothon" secretary (Janet Erb)

expenses. This year, that figure jumped to \$194,000 by the end of June.

Calling and asking for funds is not something new or unusual. "A lot of other colleges do it," noted associate Walth. Hiatt agreed, "It's gaining in popularity."

But isn't asking for money a form of harassment to people who have other bills to pay?

"Some people might feel they are being bugged," Hiatt acknowledged. "But I feel we have a responsibility to remind our friends of the needs of the N.A.B. Seminary."

Hiatt said a low-key approach was used to ask for donations. No one was pressured.

Yet at the same time, a specific amount was suggested to



Seminary conference room is transformed into a "Phonothon" center.



Callers enjoy visiting with friends of NABS during the "Phonothon".

those who indicated a willingness to give. "We were hoping to get a specific amount in faith-promises."

Not all responded favorably. A total of 275 persons chose not to donate.

The seminary was hoping to raise \$32,000 in pledges over the phone. Persons who have contributed sizeable amounts in the past will be contacted personally and asked to help complete the \$194,000 Annual Fund goal.

Other groups also help meet the operating expenses of the school. These include alumni, associations, Baptist Women's groups, camps, churches, faculty, friends, nursing homes, office workers, parents, trustees and the students themselves.

Even those who made the calls were not immune to being asked to donate. "Some wrote checks and made covenants right there," Hiatt said.

Hiatt doesn't see asking for money to be un-Christian. He looks to the Lord.

"He said we should ask and we will receive."

"If the seminary hadn't asked, many wouldn't have given," he added. □

North American Baptist Seminary Woman's Auxiliary

by Evelyn Itterman

"In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good" (Heb. 10:24 LB).

This verse of Scripture expresses the desire of the members of the Seminary Auxiliary as the organization serves the Lord by helping meet needs at NABS. Since organizing in 1966 many ladies from area churches have become actively involved in the Auxiliary.



MEETINGS OF THE AUXILIARY
Those unfamiliar with the Auxiliary are invited to attend
Mrs. Evelyn Itterman is the president of N.A.B. Seminary Women's Auxiliary.

Celebrate with the world in Toronto
The 14th Baptist World Congress in Toronto, Canada July 8-13 1980

either our Fall Tea or Spring Dinner. During our Fall Tea we have opportunity to become acquainted with our new and international students as they share in testimony and song.

PROJECTS OF THE AUXILIARY

At the last meeting we accepted our project for the year. Our goal is \$2,500.00.

SPECIAL AUXILIARY FUNCTIONS

The first project in 1966 was \$300.00 for an electric typewriter. It's exciting to see the Seminary grow and also to invest in our students through the financial aid fund, assisting individual students, meeting a need for the kitchen, dining room or students' rooms. Another act of love is shown by furnishing cookies for daily coffee times and special occasions such as a pastors' conference, etc.

At the Spring Dinner we recognize all women graduates and wives of graduates, by having them share how God has led in their lives and their plans for the future. As a token of our love and concern a guest book is presented to each one.

We welcome any questions and encourage you to join us for a meeting or in support of our projects. Here is my mailing address: Mrs. Evelyn Itterman, 2709 Arcadia, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105. □

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINARY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

To stimulate interest and concern for the North American Baptist Seminary; to unite women in fellowship of Christian service; and to assist materially in the growth and development of the Seminary.

(taken from the Constitution of the Seminary Women's Auxiliary, NABS, revised 1974.)

Chuckle With Bruno

Most of us are just like we were thirty years ago—only in slow motion.

If you must be blue, then for the sake of others, make it a bright blue.

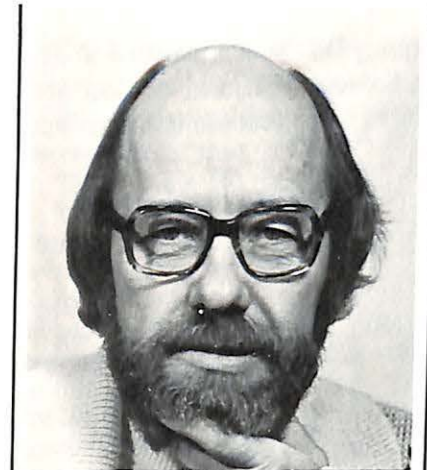
When your out-go exceeds your income, then your upkeep will become your downfall.

Relatively speaking, different levels of income use different terminology. The poor have *kinfolk*; the middle-class has *relatives*; and the wealthy have *heirs*.

Biting remarks are often the result of snap judgments.

The best way to compliment your wife is frequently. □

Daniel Merritt majored in journalism at South Dakota State University. He hopes to incorporate writing-reporting into his ministry. He is a first year student in the Master of Divinity program. Dan and his wife, Jane, are members of Central Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. He is active there in the choir and visitation program.



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

"I hate you! I hate you!" the 16-year-old teenager screamed at her Christian parents. "This place is nothing but a prison. Everything I want to do is wrong. I have absolutely no freedom. I think I'll run away!"

This type of outburst, or something similar, on the part of a teenager is common behavior in many Christian homes. Notice that I have not referred to this as "normal" behavior for teenagers. I believe that although such scenes are very common, they could be avoided or at least diminished in intensity by proper planning.

The presence of children in the home, especially during the teen years, can add a great deal to family turbulence. There can be many violent arguments about a vari-

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.

ety of issues. I will list a few of the most common: friends, use of the family car, school grades, smoking, time to be in, allowances, drugs, working hours, bedrooms, help around the house, sexual practices, and disrespect for other family members.

The danger of frequent family arguments and long-range alienation of family members is very real. Many families have the ongoing experience of "strangers" in the house. The "strangers" are family members who are not speaking to each other.

Is the threat that a child makes to run away or commit suicide an idle one? No. Runaway children is a problem of epidemic proportions. The problem is so large that many police departments give a report about a runaway teenager minimal attention. Suicide among young people is one of the leading causes of death.

Young people are faced with a great variety of complex life situations. When they are facing these conditions, many times parents or other family members are not consulted. As a result, serious misunderstandings can arise and conflict in the home can be very real.

What is the role of parents when a strong difference of opinion arises? In a two-parent home (less than half of American homes fall into this category), if the parents can agree that a problem exists, then they should plan to confront it in an appropriate manner. Let us take as an example a 14-year-old girl who is regularly dating a young man of whom the parents greatly disapprove. The parents feel their own integrity is involved, and they feel stupid "standing by watching her destroy herself." When there is unity, the daughter should be confronted with some options. The greater the variety of options, the greater the likelihood of a resolution of the problem. By options, I simply mean the parents have some suggestions for behavior that could replace the behavior they find objectionable. In this case, for example, instead of four dates a week, she have only one.

tions, there is little doubt that this one will help satisfy the longing for spiritual growth and personal fulfillment.

Each chapter begins with a memorandum—from Bruce to Keith and Keith to Bruce—in which they touch on an area of concern. The first chapter is in the form of a biographical sketch, highlighting their early spiritual experiences. We are then invited to join them on an adventure in which we learn how to love our neighbors and ourselves. The goal is to discover what lies beyond conversion, witnessing, and to relieve the gnawing, restless feeling that always lies at the bottom

The actual confrontation can take various forms. Sometimes it is best done by one parent; at other times both parents. It may be done quietly over lunch, or it may be a stormy session at 1:30 in the morning. Flaring tempers are not the sign of a good or poor confrontation. In effective confrontations, people hear each other and some resolution is worked out.

When parents feel a problem exists, they should carefully talk it over with each other, where possible, or with someone else whose judgment they value. This may be the pastor, youth worker, or a professional counselor. But it could also be another relative, friend or neighbor. When the parents clearly understand what they believe the problem is, then they should confront it from that viewpoint. Hopefully this will bring about discussion; but if not, they should hold to their position until they feel the problem has been solved or their present approach is non-productive. Then a new position may be adopted. I believe parents have a responsibility to be concerned about their children and their lifestyles. I believe Colossians 3:20 is very relevant: "Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."

But for Christian parents the words from the same chapter are also relevant: "Since you have been chosen by God who has given you this new kind of life, and because of His deep love and concern for you, you should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them but be ready to suffer quietly and patiently.

"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:12-14 LB).

Wherever confrontation has not been effective, I urge you to consult with someone knowledgeable in the ways of teenagers, but do not let highly objectionable behavior go on unattended. □

of a life not completely surrendered to God.

Many know that we are called to love, but are too concerned about the cost of loving.

LIFE SENTENCE. By Charles W. Colson. Chosen Books, distributed by Word Books, Waco, TX. \$9.95.

If I had any idea that I would read this book casually, I was soon in for a shock. Some pages were inspirational; some challenging. Some made me extremely resentful; some brought tears to my eyes. The whole gamut of my emotions was

constantly going from one extreme to another.

Charles Colson is continually aware of the desire to tear down people who represent high moral character. It is evidence of an insidious sickness. "We wait in ambush," writes British journalist, Henry Fairlie, "for the novel that fails, for the poet who commits suicide, for the financier who is a crook, for the politician who slips, for the priest who is discovered to be an adulterer . . . we gloat at their misfortunes . . . we feel cheated . . . if no one is leveled in the dust . . ."

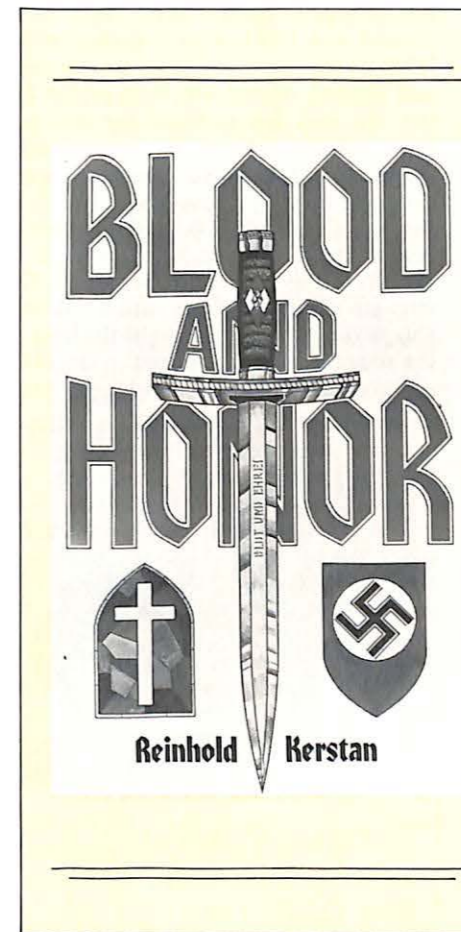
The media had lost their star "Watergater," and are determined to knock Colson down in the gutter. Other enemies are also lurking in the background, but he has learned, through God's help, to live victoriously in spite of them.

The book, however, is not about his persecution, intense as it may sometimes be, but about his prison ministry through Prison Fellowship, a group he founded in 1976. The transforming power of God, which is evident in Charles Colson, is also revealed in hundreds of the most hardened criminals. As a former prisoner, he has become a prisoner of the Lord who gave him a "Life Sentence" to perform one of the most difficult, but also the most meaningful ministries in the world: "I was sick and in prison, and you visited me" (Matt. 25:36 LB).

Members of our Conference will be pleased to note that Mr. Colson has fulfilled a compelling desire to be baptized by immersion and is a member of a Bap-

tist church in Virginia. He would be pleased if we were part of his dream of visualizing Prison Fellowship going into

prisons with the help and cooperation of all the churches in the surrounding communities. □



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.

Conference Leaders-Made of Flesh and Blood

A Pastor Reports On His Orientation Trip to the Conference Office

by E. Duncan Hughes

O'Hare airport, the world's busiest, was made busier February 18, when fifteen new N.A.B. pastors flew in for a two-day orientation visit to the North American Baptist Conference International Office,



The new pastors and one pastor's wife posing for a picture in the Conference Room at Oakbrook Terrace.

Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Traveling from cities and rural points across the continent, the men came for an overview of total N.A.B. ministries. Some were neonates to both pastoral work and our Conference. Some were children of N.A.B. families, graduates of the N.A.B. Seminary in their first pastorate. Some were experienced, mature ministers from

The Rev. E. Duncan Hughes is pastor of Grant Park Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

other denominational backgrounds. All were first-time visitors to Oakbrook Terrace, and all were impressed.

"Seeing the integrated missionary efforts of over 500 churches is really something," one pastor enthused.

"No one church could accomplish the educational and medical evangelism in Cameroon. It's no wonder our African church outstrips us numerically."

Lectures by all department members presented the work of Stewardship and Communication, Missions, Church Extension, and Church Ministries. Each lecture was followed by lively discussion and questions. The personal introduction of all staff members helped pastors to see that the Conference Office, like each N.A.B. church, is an aggregate of flesh and blood people serving the Lord in the place of his appointment.

Hospitality, in the homes of staff members, allowed deeper probing of denominational policy and practice. And, as familiarity increased, pastors shared burdens and blessings.

(Continued on page 31)

Book Reviews

THE PASSIONATE PEOPLE, CARRIERS OF THE SPIRIT. By Keith Miller and Bruce Larson. Word Books, Waco, TX. \$5.95.

Both of these names are well known to the Christian literary community. If readers appreciated their earlier contribu-



Growing not Aging

Thoughts of a Woman on Turning Forty by Eva Helwing, Skokie, IL



Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth;
Clad in salvation's full armor,
Join in the battle for truth.

Upon turning forty, I contemplate this song. I sang it so ardently in my youth, giving what it demanded of me at that time in my life: active in the choir, Sunday school and youth group. "Give of your best to the Master; give of the strength of your youth," the song writer admonishes. He is challenging young people, as he should, for there is much to be done for the Master with youthful exuberance and energy.

But what about me now? I am turning forty. I do not feel middle-aged by any count. No, sometimes I feel younger than I did in my youth when I craved maturity and seriousness. Yet I cannot pretend to be young at forty, and the lines of this song haunt me: "Give of your best to the Master; give of the strength of your youth." Is the strength of my youth the best that I had to give? I doubt it. I am reminded of the words we have hanging on our kitchen wall: "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be." It may seem trite, but I feel very strongly that the best that I have to give was not in my youth; the best is now. It never was any better than in the present. Let me explain.

In youth, maturity was phony, experience was lacking, and knowledge was a put-on. Impatience and intolerance were the rule, but now I have survived.

I survived as a married woman. Our first years together were wonderful, exciting, new and turbulent. Looking back,

however, those years seem shallow compared to the beautiful relationship we now experience in every aspect of our married life. Where once needs were hidden, now every nuance of our needs is expressed and fulfilled by a caring other. Where once there was love, now a deep and abiding respect has been added for the one who has survived the ups and downs of life with me. The strength that grows out of this kind of bond can be understood only by those who have lived through this kind of beautiful, growing commitment. There is so much more to give from this vantage point in life. The strength that comes from such a relationship makes me want to rewrite the lines of the song: "Give of your best to the Master; give of the strength of a happily mar-

ried, middle-aged woman."

"You have survived," I tell myself, "the four-o'clock feedings, the soiled diapers, the 24-hour demands of young motherhood. You have achieved," I tell myself, "those little babies have grown into healthy, independent children with minds of their own." They need me in a new way; they need to see new strengths. And miraculously those new strengths have come. The doubts of young motherhood have been replaced with self-confidence. I have much more to give now to the Master as a self-confident mother than I did in my youth.

"You have survived the beginning years of your career," I tell myself. In those years I never admitted not knowing the answer; after all, I was the teacher. A

but it is interesting to note that I feel happier and more comfortable with friends of "like mind," that is, Christian friends.

My friends can know me well and still love me! I want and need good friends. They serve as an extension of my family, and even a replacement for family support since loved ones do not live nearby.

It feels normal to crave absolute trust in another person. When that trust is there, it is a bond that provides me the freedom to disturb that friend at work or even in the middle of the night if I'm in need.

An attempt could be made to list rules for being a friend or for keeping friends. Such lists would be very restrictive and human. How does one achieve and sustain friend relationships?

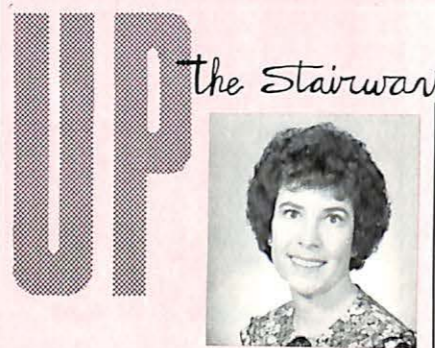
Why do my mother and my sisters, for instance, remain my best friends even after we mutually have discovered that we are not as perfect as we had once thought? We stick close to each other.

Simply stated, to have friends, I must be a friend! I know what that involves for me. It seems to be a very personal interpretation. I set my own standards for friendships, just like everyone else.

Because standards are often high and human relationships are fragile, friendships can become impregnated with tiny barriers which can grow to become iron curtains of separation. Friends are imperfect and can even turn into enemies sometimes!

Thankfully, life's stairway does provide us each with one perfect friend—Christ. He is constant, unchanging, always present, and the most faithful of all. He is the perfect One!

"A man (woman) who hath friends must show himself (herself) friendly; and there is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother (sister)" (Prov. 18:24). □



by Dorene Walth,
WMF president,
Fair Oaks, CA

I had two "best friends" in high school who helped me have a normal teen life. What one of us didn't think of for excitement, the other two did! Between the three of us, we always had a car at our disposal to "drag main."

The intimacy shared was often frivolous and of shallow subject matter. We discussed boys, basketball games, boys, parents, boys, Home Ec class, boys, the current popular music, boys, the church youth group, boys, clothes, and boys. It was fun scheming for and arranging for meeting places with peers.

Going off to college changed all that! Or did it? My dorm roommate and the two girls across the hall became my best friends. We shared some innermost secrets along with more sophisticated discussions of the same old topics covered with high school friends!

The exchange of Christmas cards with these friends gradually tapered off through the years and there is only one person from that era of my life with whom I still annually keep in touch.

The friends that last through the years are the ones with whom I have the most in common. Some of them come and go,

strength has since developed that only time and humility can bring. I know now that answers are not final, that people, students, cannot easily be classified, but that all are unique individuals. I learned that much in life is relative to each situation, that all is not answerable and that my knowledge is piecemeal. My new tolerance of human weakness is a real strength compared to my intolerance of human failures in youth. My best for the Master was certainly not in the beginning years of my career, but is now in the maturity of a middle-aged, career woman.

Lessons in Trust

by Judy Schmitke,
Milwaukie, OR

It was a peaceful fall day in Salem, Oregon, when the telephone rang and everything began to change. My husband told me that a job promotion would result in a move to Portland. We had mixed feelings of joy and sadness, but confi-

dence and peace that God was in charge of every area of our lives.

In Genesis 22 we read that God tested Abraham's faith and obedience. Because Abraham knew that God was loving and all wise, he did what God said. Now my faith and obedience were to be tested. I had often heard of others who suffered and were praising God through it. Did I have sufficient faith and obedience to praise him when everything seemed to go wrong in my life?

Early in November we left our three children with Grandma and Grandpa and began house hunting. We were slowly traveling through a residential area when a young man raced through an intersection and demolished our car. Neither my husband nor I were seriously injured, and we thanked God and praised him that our children were not with us.

In December, God led us to a home in Portland and provided us with a buyer for our Salem home in two weeks.

In January I began to have colon problems; not that that was new to me! I began to lose a great amount of blood. My condition deteriorated quickly and by January 22, the day we moved, I was critically ill and was taken to Providence Hospital where I spent 27 interesting, challenging and blessed days. You see, God had not only moved us to Portland because of a change of jobs, but for a change of medical help which I definitely needed.

A team of internists did everything they could to help me, but to no avail. The next step was surgery—removal of my colon. I spent one day crying and struggling with unknown possibilities and then I acknowledged Jesus as Lord of my total life and said, "I accept this, Lord, and I thank you for it."

God was leading me step by step and at just the right time. They had originally planned to postpone surgery for a few days. Then my Mom, because of an urg-

strength that is stronger than youth, more binding than youthful promises because it is based on a great foundation: total dependence on your Lord and Savior. Knowing that he has forgiven your past, that he is taking care of your present, and that he will be there in your future.

Don't hanker and long for the turbulence of youth, the uncertainty of it all, but relish the present and give in joyful hope and anticipation of whatever age brings with it. God will surely be there and have need of whatever you have to give. □

ing of the Holy Spirit, called the doctors and said that they must do surgery immediately. They did and found that my colon was so infected that it was ready to burst. I was learning how to praise God through my trials and to marvel at his perfect timing.

There were complications and a second surgery occurred. My faith was being stretched. Christian friends prayed and expressed their love to me in so many tangible ways. My husband and family were outstanding in their loving support. Jesus kept whispering in my ear, "Trust me, I love you!" I believed him.

What did I learn from all of this? God's love is greater and more wonderful than I had ever imagined. He is in complete control of my life—all of it! I can endure suffering and pain through Christ's power. God's family is loving and caring. I can and will thank and praise him in the midst of trouble. Philipians 1:6 expresses it well: "And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns." □

Measuring Up

by La Verna
Mehlhoff,
women's
work director



As we begin a new decade, it's a good idea for us as women to evaluate our ministry in the church, community and world. Take time to review the purpose for your women's organization and to set goals. We need to ask: Does our program meet the needs of today's women of all ages and all walks of life? Does our program include plans for women who are alone? Does our program meet needs of women who must work outside of the home and still find time for their family and home? Do we set a high priority on having programs that will provide spiritual growth for the women who attend our meetings?

Each society needs to take a look at their own situation, study their needs, and then plan a program to meet those needs. Be optimistic! God is our source of wisdom and, as we seek his will, he will guide us. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally" (James 1:5). Depending upon God for guidance, we cannot fail but will be able successfully to minister to the needs of women of today. □

DID YOU KNOW . . . that we, as a national WMF, have a four-minute slide presentation on our *White Cross Work*, available for use by each of our women's groups? Simply write to LaVerna Mehlhoff at the N.A.B. Conference International Office and request the "Mini-White Cross Story."

DID YOU KNOW . . . That you can get a sample constitution to help you write or revise one for your own Women's Missionary Fellowship? Send your request to LaVerna Mehlhoff at the Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, international office.



Reaching Out

Introducing Ron and Diane Susek

by the Editor



WHERE THEY COME FROM

Ron Susek was born and raised in New Kensington, PA. After his conversion experience in 1958, he totally dedicated his life to the ministry of evangelism. At the age of seventeen, he began traveling with his own teenage evangelistic team. Upon graduation from high school, he attended and graduated from Washington Bible College. Following his association with Youth for Christ, Ron gained valuable experience while pastoring two churches.

At the age of 25 he married the lovely Diane, a talented singer and musician from South Carolina.

Diane's singing career began as a child when she sang in her father's evangelistic meetings. Already during her grade school years, Diane appeared regularly on the York City School District television program. As a teenager she played violin in the York Symphony Orchestra. During her high school years she performed in many musicals. Therefore, when she entered Ithaca College, she did so with the intention of pursuing a career in Broadway musicals. She studied drama and voice. But already as a freshman, she felt a change had to be made in her life's direction. She then committed her talent to Christian service, expressing it this way:

"When the stage lights would go out, and the audience applause stopped, my world was empty. I knew then I wanted something more satisfactory out of life. Serving Christ has always been meaningful."

Now Diane is the featured soloist for her husband's evangelistic ministry. She has released six sacred albums, one of which received the award of Best Album of the Year from the National Evangelical Film Foundation.

Thinking back of her childhood, Diane relates:

"Singing at evangelistic crusades comes almost natural to me. My father was a musician and evangelist, and my mother was a wonderful singer."

For a moment Diane seems to be forgetting her environment, and her dark eyes seem to reflect some of her happy past, as she continues:

"So when I was born, from the time I was just a little girl, I was singing—in lots of different things, not just churches. At

the age of seven I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Asked whether she feels that by going into the Christian ministry instead of seeking fame on Broadway, she might have sacrificed too much, she shakes her raven-haired head:

"No, I haven't given up anything by rejecting worldly standards of musical success. To me, communicating the gospel message is more important than the acclaim and material rewards in a worldly musical career."

God has honored her humble decision by giving her the outstanding honor in 1969 to be named Best Female Soloist of the Year (by NEFF).

"It's far more fulfilling than anything I ever expected or dreamed of," she says of her and her husband's ministry, that has taken them across the United States and Canada, to the West Indies, South Africa and the Netherlands.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING

My wife and I saw them in action during their crusade in Aurora, IL, in October 1979. The Rev. Calvin Marcum, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Aurora, where the crusade was held, introduced them in an article in the local newspaper with these words:

"They are good people, sound, sensible, attractive, a credit to any pulpit . . . You can bring a friend from any walk of life and neither you nor that friend will be embarrassed by these people."

As we walked into the packed auditorium in Aurora, we had the impression that the crowd had been there for at least one hour. There was a warmth of fellowship and closeness which one doesn't expect within the first few minutes of any church service. But then I remembered that this was not the opening night; these folks were already into the crusade for a number of days.

Even before the official opening by the host pastor, Diane Susek was singing one song after another, either from the platform or moving right through the aisles or front rows. Her handshakes left and right were genuine, and her smile accented the lovely songs.

When Ron Susek began preaching, the audience was warmed up for "a celebra-

tion of Christ." There was no clowning around; he had no entertaining opening jokes. Ron came right to the point of preaching the Good News.

"That is his strength," comments Sandy Norman, thinking back of the city-wide crusade in Bismarck, ND, where her husband was the pastor of Bismarck Baptist Church and crusade chairman. "Ron has the gift of making God's Word come alive to every listener." Asked what she thought of Diane's supporting ministry, her eyes glow in remembrance, and she quickly adds:

"Their ministry is truly unique, with Ron preaching and Diane singing. A person could sit and listen to Diane's singing all night long."

We have the same impression. After Diane's beautiful singing, Ron's preaching is like a continuation of this celebration of Christ. We feel it, we know it, Christ is present. The Holy Spirit is at work, and hearts are opening up to the redemptive work of this Spirit.

When it is time for the invitation to commit their lives to Christ, the audience is truly ready.

The Rev. Jacob Ehman quotes a convert who told him, "When Brother Susek gave the invitation, and I was coming forward, I felt that I was making the most important decision in my life. And even though the burden of my sin made me feel sad, I made the decision so much more joyfully."

Pastor Ehman enthusiastically volunteers this further information:

"Of the 199 people in Alpena who came forward to make a profession of faith, there were 75 percent first-time decisions. But the really exciting news is that 80 percent have since become members of various evangelical churches in our city. I think every participating church in Alpena has gained new members through this crusade."

Then he tells me that the churches in Alpena are planning a second crusade with the Suseks.

"Last Sunday we had the first pre-crusade meeting," Ehman relates. "Close to 500 people packed out our church, and they all were agreed to invite Ron and Diane Susek back again. We'll have them in Alpena for one week in April 1981."

After the service in Aurora, my wife and I stay behind to have a few hours of fellowship with the Suseks. Ron, Pastor Marcum and a host of counselors are busy with those who have come forward in the desire to commit their lives to Christ. Diane is autographing her albums in the church vestibule, where people are lingering, looking over the wide selection of her records and buying Ron's two books, *Seeing Is Not Believing*, and *Stress*.

Then Ron walks over to us, his arms

spread wide open. His embrace is warm and strong.

"Thank you for coming tonight," he says in his melodious low voice, and within seconds we feel the warmth and vibrant strength of this man, who should be exhausted after all the activities of this crusade.

Weeks later, when I shared my impression with the Rev. Ron Norman, now pastor of Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, he quickly agreed:

"I know how you felt. Ron makes everybody feel good. He has the sincere desire to help others see their own worth. He is one of those rare individuals who rejoices when others are honored and successful."

And then Rev. Norman pays Ron Susek one of the highest compliments:

"I see in Ron not only an evangelist with a great gift to preach the Word, but above all an example of what it means to lead a Christian life in relationship to others, honoring one another for Christ's sake."

"And we know what we are saying," adds Sandy. "They stayed in our home in Bismarck, where we could observe them in their everyday living. They are pleasant, personable people. I just love them both!"

Then we sit in a quick-service restaurant and talk; Rev. Marcum with his wife, the Suseks and my wife and I. When Ron leaves the table for a moment, Calvin Marcum bends over to me and says quietly so that Diane cannot hear him:

"He's more dynamic than Billy Graham; he's just not as well known." Then he tells me how the attendance of the crusade has grown from night to night up to 800 persons. Mrs. Marcum is especially pleased with Diane's supportive role at the crusade.

"Yes, I agree, Diane has a wonderful way of establishing rapport with the audience," laughs Ron, who upon returning just overheard the praise of his wife, "but she's cutting into my sermon time."

"I don't mind," counters Mrs. Marcum, "I could listen to her singing all night long."

"I'll remember that and send her next time alone," says Ron, and we are all having a great time of laughter and relaxation.

Suddenly Ron's face turns serious. "To me, the make-or-break thing is not stepping up to the altar; taking a public stand has its place, but it isn't everything." After a short pause, he continues,

"Our crusades are not geared primarily to the church, but to the secular public. I'm trying to help the church go outside its four walls. Yes, we are working toward a revival. But when we talk about a revival we're not talking about a burst of emotion, but a commitment that

changes lifestyles and the fate of a nation."

When asked how to interpret this statement, Ron qualifies:

"America is suffering an attitudinal problem mainly in the spiritual realm. At this moment we could be in position for a Great Awakening: Nineveh repented and was spared God's wrath; Rome didn't and perished."

I want to know how he determines the crusade cities.

"Well, somebody has to invite us," he says jokingly. Still smiling he then adds,

"The crusades happen in cities where local Christians have gone beyond the 'help themselves' phase and are ready to 'reach out' in a cooperative style."

There was still one question I just had to ask the Suseks.

"What about the cost of such a crusade?" I inquired. "I understand that you just returned from a crusade overseas where you invested \$8,000. But usually the supporting churches are coming up with a surplus. Where does the money go, and why are the crusades relatively expensive?"

"Brother," Ron replied friendly, putting his hand on my shoulder, "nobody gets rich in our Continental Christian Crusades organization. There's no way a person can make a lot of money working for us. We have a governing board that determines even my base salary, which incidentally is about \$15,000 a year. The other money goes to development of materials and to finance crusades in communities that cannot pay."

That's it. He leaves it right there. I appreciate that Ron is not trying to give a long dissertation on the inflationary prices of transportation, hotel accommodations and others. But the host pastor, Calvin Marcum, not a Baptist, but an effective energetic disciple of the Master, has this answer to my question:

"The greatest value of this crusade had been our working together and growing together. Considering all the blessings and the spiritual fruit that came and can come from this, it's an incidental amount of money spent; we feel very satisfied. We need just about the same amount of money it costs to keep one person in an Illinois prison for one year. We have a better residence than that in mind for scores of people. And they may stay for eternity."

I agree with my Presbyterian brother. Let's put our hearts and money where they count most. And I agree with Ron and Diane Susek: At this moment we could be in a position for a Great Awakening—but it will take you and me.

Preach on, Ron!

Sing on, Diane!

North American Baptists are praying for you and are proud and thankful to count you among their own. RJK

For many months I had the intention of introducing Ron and Diane Susek, the husband and wife evangelistic team, to the readers of this magazine. Then it occurred to me that they probably don't need any introduction, because over the years they have established an outstanding professional track record that speaks for itself, and is known to most of the pastors and laity of the North American Baptist Conference, which officially endorses their ministry.

Then still another thought struck me. Why not tell the readers what I know and how I personally feel about the Suseks? This thought appealed to me more than merely printing a paid advertisement or a promotional article. They are my friends, therefore this article will be dictated by feelings of friendship. But they are also the friends of many, many North American Baptists, who have worked with them and who have been impressed and excited with their effective ministry. The Rev. Jacob Ehman, pastor of Riply Boulevard Baptist Church in Alpena, MI, assured me with great gusto:

"We had a city-wide crusade with the Suseks. What a time of blessing we had! Brother, they could come back anytime—and they will." Pausing for a moment, as if to find the right words, he added:

"Ron Susek is one of the top evangelists with whom I have ever worked. God is really using him in a very positive way."

His remark brought back memories of the 1973 Triennial Conference in Wichita, KS, where Ron Susek was the banquet speaker. I was impressed with his poise and with the clarity of his thoughts. After the banquet I overheard two pastors exchanging thoughts on the banquet. "Boy," said the younger pastor to his older colleague, "that was quite a message. Susek is the future Billy Graham." And the older pastor did not even chuckle, because he was convinced of it too.

That was a number of years ago. In the meantime the Suseks are operating a well-reputed organization, called *Ron Susek Continental Christian Crusades, Inc.*, with headquarters in York, PA, where they live. (Founded in 1968.)

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



no choice but to tell her.) I talked to a friend of friend No. 1 to find out what No. 1 thought. Then friend No. 1 heard me casually (and so subtly) allude to the problem with friends No. 6, 7, and 8. And everyone keeps checking back.

You're thinking this is absurd. It is! But it's true and it's only the beginning. I thought it would help things to talk about them. Well, it might've, had I talked directly to friend No. 1. Instead, it only magnified my feelings because I kept hearing them over and over again. And I only told my friends my side. Then I made sure I told them every little detail and in such a way as to make myself look innocent.

I tried to study. I ended up spending hours in the library mulling over how the other person had hurt me and how to deal with my resentment. My devotions were a joke because I just daydreamed about the problem, entertaining imaginary conversations with the friend within my head.

One morning it occurred to me to confront my friend about how I had been treated. I was chicken. So I just threw open my Bible ("pick and choose" devotions) and there was the story of the adulterous woman. "He who is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7).

Obviously, I was not to confront my friend. (By the way, I don't recommend the "pick and choose" method. It's far too easy to twist a verse to mean what we

want it to, such as my interpretation of John 8:7.) I am, meanwhile, doing little things to make life uncomfortable for my "friend." Like sitting so I can stare at her in the library.

I am shocked by the animosity in her voice when we accidentally meet. It makes me look at myself. I replayed conversations from the previous weeks—and cringed.

My mistakes; I had no discretion. I didn't attempt to work it out with my friend. After the first prayer, I left Christ out of it. I dwelt on it. I was openly critical. I did tons of negative things, not the least of which was to forget that I had been telling my friend about how important and vital it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Oops!

Naturally, my friend wasn't totally in the clear herself. But I was the Christian. I knew better. I encouraged things to get worse.

I asked Christ for forgiveness. Granted. Now will my friend forgive me? I must apologize. Perhaps time and divine intervention will heal the wounds.

It's amazing, the trouble I can get myself into. Proverbs 5:20-27 admonishes us (and especially me) to keep the words of God within our sight and heart: "... Watch over your heart with all diligence for from it flow the springs of life... put devious lips far from you... watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established... turn your foot from evil." □

Perfect Mothers

by Bernice Maddux

"May I go now?" the almost completed, eager mother asked.

"Not yet. There are essential parts and finishing touches to be added," her Maker replied.

"I look pretty good to me," she said, peering into the crystal pool at her feet.

"True, you're looking better all the time. But bear with me."

"What does a mother have to do, God, besides wash, feed, and clothe little bodies?"

God only smiled and continued working.

"What are you doing now?" the curious mother-to-be questioned.

"Tightening your anger valve. If this doesn't work, everyone is in trouble."

She watched as he reached for the container marked *patience*. "And what do I need patience for?" she asked as he poured in quite a supply.

"After a week you will know, my

child."

"And whatever could that be?"

"This is your *bypass mechanism*. It enables a mother to operate efficiently for long periods of time without compliments from her children."

"I'm sure I won't need that."

"I'm sure you will."

Then God reached for a bundle labeled *insulation against loud noises*. "You can skip that," she told him. "I don't mind a little noise."

"That's nice," he said.

Seeing all the *energy* he was preparing

to give her, she shifted uneasily from one foot to the other. "I wouldn't need all that energy in a million years."

"Little you know. You will use all of this and be begging for more before long."

"I didn't know there was so much involved in being a mother. You're not just putting me on, are you?"

"No, Little Mother."

With much apprehension, "Are you sure I can handle the job?"

"Quite sure... with help. I'm always available when you need me."

"I'm glad to know that. What could I possibly need all these for?"

"A certain amount of *pain*, so that you will be fully equipped to sympathize with and minister to the needs of your children when they feel pain; *tears*, so that you will be able to cry with them when they are

hurt; and *laughter* to blend with theirs for happy times."

The mother-in-waiting fidgeted while God attached *yes* and *no* buttons. "Wouldn't it be nicer just to say yes to my children all the time?"

"Definitely not! Good mothers need to say no—and often. Say it with kindness and they will respect you for it."

"Have you equipped me with this thing called *kindness*, Lord?"

"I have indeed."

"And what about *respect*? Do I have to respect my children?"

"Absolutely."

The anxious mother tried to be patient as God installed a *question answerer*, *advice giver*, *get along without sleep*, and a *pretend not to notice*.

"I know I wouldn't use one of those!" she said, as God came toward her with a

let-go lever.

"Sure you will, though it's hard. This is a vital piece of equipment. Until this little lever is released, your children will not have room to grow properly, make their own decisions, or develop their own personalities."

"I guess that is important."

God stood back a few steps to appraise his work, then reached for a coat of *love* and wrapped it around her. "Wear this at all times and you'll be a good mother."

"Am I ready now, God, to get on with the mothering bit?"

"You can go now," said God gently. "You're not perfect, but you will do."

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Confusing Love and Money—A Common and Sad Mistake

"We want our kids to have things easier than we did," parents say and they usually mean "things" in the most literal sense. "We make kids work very hard to earn our love, respect and emotional support—and give them money. It should be

the opposite. We should give them love, respect, and support and make them work for money," observes financial expert Tom Taylor.

The stockbroker's interviews with 600 children and 300 parents revealed that the more parents overindulged their youngsters, the less the children respected them. It was the parents who were able to overindulge and *didn't* who had their youngsters' respect.

An allowance, however, is an essential teaching tool, the author of *Kids and Cash* said. At every age, children need a steady, dependable trickle of cash to teach them how to use money. The sum should be appropriate for the child's age

and needs and should in no way be connected with the youngster's performance of household chores or behavior. Kids learn how to handle money sensibly by using it. Taylor frowns on cash as reward for achievement; achievement, like virtue, must be its own reward.

Youngsters who have grown up handling their own money and been encouraged to earn more will be able to get themselves the things they want. "When we rob them of self-reliance and the adventure of earning money, we are sending them out in the world having to re-invent the wheel." (From *Today's Child News Magazine*, School Lane, Roosevelt, NJ 08555.) □

I Love to Tell the Story

by Joseph Bayly

Frank, who's in my class, told me about his daughter Yvonne today. She's home for the Christmas holidays, with her husband and little boy.

Her family seems to be strongly Christian. But she's gone through a period of doubt and rebelling.

Now she's on her way back, according to Frank.

He says that he came into the living room a couple of days ago and found her sitting alone, just sitting and rocking in a chair.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"I'm forgiving people," his daughter replied. "I've learned that it's necessary for me to be healed of hurtful memories, and forgiving people is a very important part of it."

"Such as, forgiving whom?" her father asked.

"Well, I've just been forgiving a Sunday school teacher I had as a child."

"Why do you feel that you have to forgive her?"

"Because she forced a stupid curriculum on me and never hugged me."

That was 20 years ago, and I think there's been a big improvement in Sunday school curriculum materials since then. But children still need attention from the teacher, the sort of attention that says, "I like you. I don't just teach because I have to, I teach you because I like you." And if you like someone you'll give them a hug once in a while.

I hope nobody has to sit and forgive me, or the way I teach, sometime in the future. (Reprinted by permission from *I Love to Tell the Story* by Joseph T. Bayly © 1978 David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL 60120.) □

Family Activity Ideas

The "atmosphere" of your home depends more upon the words spoken than the furnishings. Ask each family member to list

the words they feel are most often heard in your house—loving, strife-filled, considerate or selfish words, complimentary or demanding, quiet or harsh words, etc. Compare lists and talk about the results. Then read James 3:6 in the *Living Bible*. (From *Dads Only*, June 1979, P.O. Box 20594, San Diego, CA 92120.)

TV watching is de-emphasized in our household, and our family *does* things together. At least one night a week is set aside as holy. We schedule no outside activities. On these special family nights we cook a favorite recipe together. Or sing

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Rev. Theodore Frey, 1878-1980

Oldest N.A.B. Pastor Dies

The Rev. Theodore Frey was born on July 3, 1878, on a homestead in the Dakota Territory. He went to be with the Lord on Monday, Feb. 4, 1980, at the age of 101 years, 7 months and 1 day. Rev. Frey was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS, which he had joined in 1952 at the time of his retirement. At the age of six, Rev. Frey moved with his family to Scotland, SD, three years later to Portland, OR, and the following year to Stafford, OR. In 1893 they again moved, this time to Jefferson, OR.

As a family, they attended the Baptist church in a county school house, six miles from their home. It was there that Rev. Frey heard the Rev. Peter Wedel, the first missionary to the Cameroons in Africa. This was their only meeting, due to the untimely death of Rev. Wedel from black water fever.

At the age of 17, Rev. Frey received Jesus Christ as his Savior, and followed the Lord in baptism. He had to leave school in order to help his father on the farm until the age of 21. At that time he left his home to seek employment in Portland, OR. It was during this time that, after much prayer and consideration, he accepted God's call to serve as a minister. His home church in Portland, OR, recom-

mended him for the seminary in Rochester, NY. After completing seminary he was ordained in June 1907. On Oct. 8, 1907, he was united in marriage to Louise E. Ehrlich at Marion, KS. Together they shared in the blessing of helping people. Two daughters were born to them: Irene (Mrs. Henry Georg) of St. John, KS, and Mrs. Nora Hall, of Wichita, KS. He has one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. He has two living sisters: Mrs. Jennie Boehi, Portland, OR, and Mrs. Rose McAdams, Oregon City, OR.

During his seminary training, Rev. Frey served the following churches as a summer worker: Waterbury, CT; Victor, IA; Mt. Zion and Herrington, SK; Plum Creek and Bridgewater, SD. As a pastor he served seven churches: Lodi, CA; Hillsboro and Durham, KS; Gatesville, TX; Trenton, IL; LaSalle, CO; Creston, NE; and Napoleon, ND. In 1952 Rev. Frey and his wife moved to St. John, KS, where he resided until his death. His faithful wife preceded him in death in 1967.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 7, at Minnie Chapel, St. John, KS, with the Rev. Elton O. Kirstein officiating, assisted by the Rev. Charles Thole. □

A Happy Celebration in New York

Ridgewood Baptist Church Celebrates 125th Anniversary

by Marion von Ahnen

The members and friends of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Ridgewood, NY, were privileged to celebrate 125 years of witness to the upholding power of the Lord on January 20. From humble beginnings in 1852, when Jeremiah Grimmell started a Sunday school in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, a rural part of New York City, the German immigrants of the area united to form the First German Baptist Church. In 1873 Jeremiah Grimmell's son, the Rev. J. C. Grimmell, began a fruitful ministry of two terms totalling 35 years. Rev. Grimmell served in executive positions in a larger ministry of the N.A.B. Conference and then resumed his pastorate at First German Baptist Church. During our 125-year history, several church buildings were occupied and many changes took place. As in every endeavor, there were gains and losses, periods of discord and

Marion von Ahnen is the reporter of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Ridgewood, NY.

of progress and harmony. Sometimes a number of people withdrew to join other German churches. Missions were formed locally, and an active ministry was always carried on. Ethnic changes in the city led to our relocation to our present community which was predominately German. In 1925 we erected our present edifice and later tore down the "enchanted barn," where we had held meetings and built an attractive brick parsonage.

In 1965 we were strengthened by the merger of the Evergreen Baptist Church into our congregation. The population of the area where Evergreen had ministered for many years had changed drastically, and Evergreen sold their building to another Baptist group. Since then we have been mutually blessed through our relationship.

In October 1965 we suffered a severe loss, when a fire destroyed the church interior and the steeple. We held our services in the nearby YMCA until the church was restored, and in June 1966

were able to rededicate the church. In 1967 we dedicated the extension edifice which had been built as part of the restoration.

The pastors who served long and faithfully following Rev. Grimmell were the Reverends Paul Wengel, William A. Mueller, A. E. Kannwischer, Rubin Kern and Alphonz Lamprecht.

At the worship service, the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Eastern Area secretary, brought the message. The 125th anniversary hymn was written by Mrs. Helen Neithardt, long-time member. Mr. Eric Jeschke of Canada sang a solo. Three adults were baptized by the pastor, the Rev. A. Lamprecht.

Later, the Willing Workers served dinner in the fellowship room where former and present members met in joyful reunion. Mr. George Poulos wrote and read a historical poem. Greetings were brought by the Rev. Ulrich Laser of Immanuel Baptist Church, the Rev. Eldon Janzen of Valley Stream Church, Dr. Frank Woyke, former executive secretary, the Rev. Wilmer Quiring and several neighboring pastors. Slides of various happenings were shown.

The one sad note of the celebration was the imminent departure of our pastor, the Rev. A. Lamprecht. The Lamprechts served us faithfully for over 16 years and take them with our gratitude and best wishes as they depart for Moscow, USSR, where Rev. Lamprecht will serve as Protestant chaplain to the English speaking people in the city. The members and organizations of the church presented the Rev. and Mrs. Lamprecht with gifts of recognition to which they graciously responded. The Anniversary Program concluded with the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again." □



by Shari Hildebrandt

"All things work together for good . . ." (Romans 8:28) is a promise we as God's Volunteers had to claim. Things didn't look like they were working so good when Paul and Connie Dykstra, two music section members, were involved in an automobile accident. They were traveling to Kansas to meet the team for the first cru-

Shari Hildebrandt is reporter for God's Volunteers.

sade after a two-week Christmas break. The roads were icy, and a lady swerved into their lane hitting them head-on. Paul and Connie weren't seriously injured, however they had some recuperating to do. We were very thankful that their injuries were only minor.

The discipling section's van, which Paul was driving, was not quite as fortunate . . . it suffered serious injury and was diagnosed as being "totaled."

Clearly the injuries of Paul and Connie (and the van) caused some concern for the ministry. Paul, sound technician, and Connie, first soprano, were missed from the music section's ministry. Other team members began learning different lines for the drama, and there was also some

re-assigning of parts in the songs to compensate. Bob Walther, the director, took Paul's place with the sound system, leaving some of his responsibilities to others. The discipling section had planned on Bob to preach Sunday morning at the church where they were, but since he was unable to, Tim Walker and other discipling section members took on the responsibilities.

The van's "illness" also caused a few problems. The discipling section was NOT in favor of "hitchhiking" across the U.S., so some form of transportation had to be found. The team began to see and hear of people everywhere with possibilities of vans to purchase. At the same time, men's fellowships began supporting it financially. The Director of Evangelism, Ray Harsch, is most appreciative

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"Go into the country lanes and out behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come . . ." (Luke 14:23 LB). Sometimes people with needs live right next door. As we as West Lenexa Community Baptist Church in Lenexa, Kansas, got to know our neighbors, we soon found that behind their smiles and graciousness lay

ing. On Sunday, February 3, we had our first service in our home with 16 persons present. A school or some other facility for our worship services would be much preferable, but none is available in the immediate area. We are asking God to give us a good nucleus to work with, people to teach the children and assistance in

ectory lists over 400 manufacturing, warehousing, commercial, professional and retail firms. Some of the familiar names are J.C. Penny, Whirlpool, Michelin Tire Co., Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Ford Motor Co. and GM Corporation. Lenexa has "planned district zoning," which compels developers to build what they said they would. Lenexa has been referred to as "the country club of industry" with no smokestacks and a low tax base, which makes it a desirable place

Ready to Challenge a Growing Community

by Rubin Herrmann



Pastor Rubin Herrmann



The enlarged Rubin Herrmann family. Rev. and Mrs. Herrmann at right.



The young congregation meeting in Rev. Herrmann's home.

hearts filled with anxiety about death. What a joy it was to present Christ to them and then to have them receive him, who is life and is the answer to those hearts' needs. This couple is the first of many receptive, needy people living around us whom we have come to love and serve on your behalf.

We are grateful to Whispering Oaks Baptist Church for releasing the God's Volunteers to us for one day on January 17. Almost 400 homes were contacted and 39 prospects were reported. Many of those prospects have been called upon by the pastor, and the response is encourag-

The Rev. Rubin Herrmann is the pastor of West Lenexa Community Baptist Church, Lenexa, KS.

the calling program. We are confident that the Lord will build his church. It is exciting to see how he is going to do it even from such a small beginning. The Word of God declares: "Is there anything too hard for the Lord?" Not if we are faithful to him!

Lenexa is really two communities under one roof—a sprawling, growing city overwhelming a sleepy village of the past, only 11 miles southwest from Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area. It combines a country flavor and city all in one.

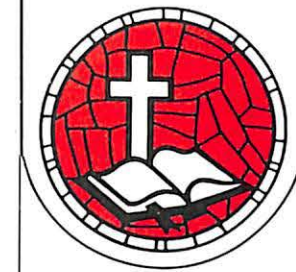
Few communities have experienced the kind of rapid growth Lenexa has over such a short period of time. In 1960 its population was 2,487; in 1970 it grew to 5,242, and at the outset of 1980 the population is 19,500. Lenexa's business dir-

to live.

The city continues to grow mainly westward. It is in the heart of this westerly area that we are looking for a church site, and here we have established a witness for Jesus Christ. We think it's a mighty challenging place. Your earnest prayers and sacrificial giving are needed. We are encouraged by the many of you who share in Church Extension with us and thank God for each of you who is responding to supply the need. God bless you all for being good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

"If I have but enough for myself and my family,
I am steward only for myself and them;
If I have more, I am but a steward of that abundance for others." □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Financial and Estate Planning

Financial and estate planning are the "in thing" in the United States and Canada these days. When I started in this field ten years ago, the idea of financial and estate planning was left to the rich and sophisticated people. I suspect that inflation, taxation and money problems have caused more people to be open to the idea of financial planning. Another reason is the fact that insurance companies, brokerage houses, farm organizations, colleges, hospitals and religious organizations have been doing much by way of literature, magazine articles and audiovisuals to alert a larger segment of our population to the importance of financial planning.

The need for personal and family financial planning can vary all the way from the family that is struggling to keep the bill collectors off the doorstep to people who can set aside funds for investment and to those who want to maximize investment income. At this point, it is well to understand the terms we are using. Like with other terminology, you can find as many definitions as you have books. I have chosen to define the terms as follows:

Financial Planning—The management of money and resources in order to develop and conserve them for the purpose of achieving the chosen goals of the individual or family.

Estate Planning—A plan for the prayerful and careful distribution of resources through the use of appropriate planning vehicles (wills,

This is a reprint of an article by the Rev. E. Barker, former Estate Planning director of the N.A.B. Conference.

trusts, etc.) so as to maximize their benefit for family members and for the use in the Lord's work.

Why should a Christian be concerned about planning for finances when God will take care of us from day to day? This is true, however, God is not against planning as long as our plans and lifestyle are within the will of God. Our Christian commitment touches all aspects of life, and finances cannot be compartmentalized and relegated as a less spiritual function of Christian living.

A new financial planning booklet called, "Bold Living for Christian Stewards," has recently come to my desk. I am relating in the broad outline the five steps which they suggest for good stewardship of resources:

STEP 1 SET GOALS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God . . ." (Matt. 6:33)

GOALS—for family needs and special ministries to others

GOALS—for this year (priority)

GOALS—for the next five years (priority)

STEP 2 EVALUATE YOUR LIFESTYLE

"Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

1. Determine how much God has entrusted to you.

a. What you own . . . what you owe . . . result = net worth

b. Average monthly income

STEP 3 DECIDE HOW TO USE YOUR RESOURCES IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

" . . . let us not live in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

1. Look for ways to claim growth in Christian lifestyle

2. Follow proven guidelines

Be personalized

Be flexible

Be written

Control credit

Include planning for life-time—savings and investments—retirement—insurance

3. Plan your spending program

Fixed expenses . . . flexible expenses

Plan for the things your family needs and wants

STEP 4 DISCIPLINE YOURSELF IN FULFILLING A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

"Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

1. Record your income and expenses, monitor your spending plan

2. Credit card record

3. Record the location of important papers

STEP 5 EXTEND YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

"Honor the Lord with thy substance . . ." (Prov. 3:9).

1. Plan your distribution

2. Secure information about your will

These five steps are merely a sketch of what is involved in financial and estate planning. You will be amazed what God can do through good financial and estate planning. The detailed booklet is written in understandable style and is available upon request at no charge by filling out and sending the coupon on the Personal Estate Planning page. □



To assist you further in your financial and estate planning, the above booklet is available without charge.

Please send the booklet, "Bold Living for Christian Stewards"

I desire a personal contact by an estate planning counselor

Please send information about a financial and estate planning seminar for our church.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

MR. AND MRS. LEO JAROSCH of Inver Grover Heights, MN, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A family dinner party was held at the Lakeside Inn, after which coffee and cake were served in their home.



A surprise reception was held in their honor at First Baptist Church, Appleton, MN, where their son, the Rev. Terrence K. Jarosch, is pastor.

MR. AND MRS. REUBEN BORGENS celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at First Baptist Church on January 27. Their daughters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Robb and Mr. and Mrs. Dice McKnight, hosted the event.



They were assisted by their seven grandchildren and their families. Mr. and Mrs. Borgens are members of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO. (Virginia Jepsen, church reporter.)

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM DICKAU marked their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at Calvary Baptist Church on Dec. 9, 1979.



The couple was married in Calgary, AB, Dec. 27, 1929.

Mr. Dickau was born in Pittsburgh, PA, coming to Wetaskiwin as a young child. Mrs. Dickau (nee Freda Ohlhauser) was born in Leola, SD, and moved to Carbon, AB.

The couple farmed five miles west of Wetaskiwin for 25 years before retiring to Wetaskiwin in 1954. They have one son, Leroy, and four grandchildren: Gerald, Brenda (Mrs. Neil Barker), Julene (Mrs. Cal Strauss) and Tim, who were all present at the anniversary along with friends, relatives and neighbors to extend their good wishes.

MILWAUKEE, WI. In Dec. 1977, German Zion Baptist Church sold its building, planning to relocate in Brookfield, WI. After the sale, we approached Bethany Baptist Church for permission to use their church. Bethany's invitation was gratefully accepted. Through this combined work, Bethany and Zion churches merged. The result of this merger brought Ridgewood Baptist Church into existence. The new church edifice is nearing completion. Most of the work is done by our own members, making it truly a labor of love. We praise God for the unity and harmony that exists in this merger. We are anticipating great things from God in our new location, with new and exciting opportunities. At present, the Sunday morning services are held simultaneously, English in the sanctuary and German in the lower auditorium. The Rev. Erwin Babel and the Rev. Dan Fuchs, as interim pastor, challenge us with their inspiring sermons, often alternating their pulpits. The Sunday evening services are in the English language, with the Rev. E. Babel bringing the messages.

We are also grateful to God for answered prayer in that Klaus Joujan, a 1980 N.A.B. Seminary graduate, has accepted the call as assistant pastor, beginning July 1, 1980.

At a recent baptismal service we had the joy of baptizing 12 candidates, and extending the hand of fellowship to them. (Erna Ziegler, reporter.)

OKENE, OK. On Feb. 23, 1980, Zion Baptist Church called an Ordination Council to consider ordaining Mr. Christopher Creech to the gospel ministry. Pastors and laymen from Oklahoma and Kansas served as members of the council. The Rev. Elton Kirstein was elected moderator, and the Rev. M. D. Wolff, clerk. After an introduction by Mr. Harlan Gieb, Mr. Creech shared his conversion experience, call to the ministry and doctrinal beliefs. After cross examination and discussion, the members of the council met in executive session. It found itself satisfied with the candidate's presentation and recommended him for ordination on Feb. 24, at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, father-in-law of the candidate, preached the ordination sermon. (M. D. Wolff, clerk of council.)

ANAHEIM, CA. On Sunday evening, Feb. 24, 1980, members and friends of Sunkist Baptist Church were inspired by the or-

dination service for Pastor Fred Martin. Dr. Vern Doerksen gave the ordination sermon, Dr. Ray Niederer the charge to the church, the Rev. George Pontius the charge to the candidate; the ordination prayer was spoken by Dr. Adolph Braun; welcome to the ministry by the Rev. Ron Hartman; presentation of certificate by Mr. Jerry Tedder.

Fred Martin was born in Wayne, MI, on Aug. 12, 1946. He was married to Becky Wallace on July 3, 1970. They have three children: Fred Jr. (8), Isaac (4), and Judith Anne (2). Fred received his BA degree from Arizona Bible College in Phoenix, AZ. He is presently attending Talbot Seminary in LaMirada, CA. Rev. Martin came to Sunkist Baptist church in September 1977 as minister of youth and music.

A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the service. (Jo Kwast, reporter.)

EBENEZER, SK. An Ordination Council met to examine Pastor Ed Schellenberg for ordination in February 1980. Thirty-six members of the Saskatchewan Association met at Ebenezer Baptist Church to hear and examine Mr. Ed Schellenberg for the purpose of recommending to Ebenezer Baptist Church the advisability of setting apart publically our brother for the gospel ministry. Pastor Delvin Bertsch was elected council chairman and Pastor R. Hoffman the clerk. The ordaining church introduced the candidate with recommendation, and the council heard a clear, concise presentation of his conversion, call to the ministry, view on ordination, educational background and doctrinal beliefs. Members of the council entered a question and answer period with the candidate, and after a brief closed session recommended through unanimous vote that Ebenezer Baptist Church proceed with the ordination. We wish and pray God's blessing on candidate and church. (R. Hoffman, clerk.)

CHICAGO, IL. A baptismal service was held at Baptist Mission Church. This was the second baptismal service since the Rev. Peter Duncan became our pastor last summer. Pastor Duncan spoke on Matthew 28 emphasizing the importance of teaching and learning before and after baptism. The service was held in English and was very well attended by our own members, friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. John Gray. (Eva Helwing, reporter.)

CORN, OK. An installation service was held at Calvary Baptist Church for its new pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Klose. As each department leader shared a welcome, followed by a time of dedication led by the Rev. Albert Epp, a feeling of oneness was experienced. After the service, a reception and grocery shower were held. Our former pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Albert Epp, have retired from the ministry after faithfully serving the Lord, not only as the pastor of local churches, but as missionaries to South Texas. Our church is especially blessed to have them remain in our fellowship.

"Howdy, Partners!" began an evening

of fun and fellowship, February 14. The occasion was a Sweetheart Banquet with decorations depicting the Old West. A delicious buffet dinner was served, followed by special music and a humorous skit. The highlight of the evening came when Pastor Chris Creech, guest speaker from Okeene, OK, shared a portion of God's Word about the unity in marriage: Christ, husband and wife. (Rita Williams, reporter.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Feb. 17, 1980, was a memorable day for the Pilgrim Baptist Church, as four of their young people followed the Lord in the waters of baptism.



The four, Joseph Perrone, Linda Richter, Mary Perrone and Noreen Meister, shared their testimonies of their conversion experience with the congregation earlier in the month. Pictured with them is the Rev. Paul Meister who is the pastor at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

XENIA, OH. On Jan. 27, the Great Commission Company, a gospel group from Washington, D.C., Campus Crusade International, sang and shared their testimonies in the morning service of Community Baptist Church. They presented the claims of Jesus Christ and encouraged the Christian community to consider its part in reaching the world with the gospel of Christ. Immediately following this presentation a potluck dinner was served and enjoyed by all.

Pioneer Girls and Boys Brigade groups have been organized in the last few months. Both groups are growing in number, and we thank God for this outreach in our community.

We are experiencing a special loving relationship in our fellowship. We thank God for sending the Rev. Art Bollaert to be our pastor. Pray for him and for all of us in our church family. (Esther L. Lucius, reporter.)

YORKTON, SK. In the fall of 1979, when the church board met to plan the calendar for 1980, it chose the theme "In Christ, Church-Family Relationships." That theme has already been carried through a number of activities in which the church family has been involved, including a family supper, the pastor's messages, music and fellowship during the services as well as informally. Tuesday evenings are reserved for family participation at church, when we have Bible study for youth and adults and children's club for grades one through seven.

Pastor Delvin Bertsch, pictured on the left, was privileged to baptize eight candi-

Six people were baptized. We rejoice in the numerical and spiritual growth in our church. (Annette Schroeder, reporter.)

BLAIRMORE, AB. The Crowsnest Community Baptist Church was recognized as an extension project last year with church extension becoming a reality upon the arrival of the Rev. Herman Kesterke. Since then the work has grown and continues to do so, with new persons expressing interest regularly. Average attendance is between 50 and 60. Sunday school and evening worship services are well attended. The congregation is exploring the purchase of land with the Canadian Pacific Railway in central Blairmore. Neighborhood Bible studies are planned. Weekly ladies Bible studies have been well attended. The congregation intends to continue to emphasize the family in all aspects of congregational life. It is working towards recognition as a church by the Alberta Association and hopes to be accepted in March 1980.

LETHBRIDGE, AB. The Park Meadows Baptist Church met on February 17 for a baptismal service. We praised the Lord, as seven people were baptized and became members. Another eight people gave their public testimonies and were received as



members. Following the service, a fellowship lunch was enjoyed by all. The entire group of new members is pictured. We thank the Lord for what he is doing in our midst. The Rev. Bruce Merrifield is pastor of the church. (Eric Dyck, church clerk.)

WEST FARGO, ND. The W.M.F. ladies of Grace Baptist Church elected the following officers for 1980: President, Octavia Bertsch; vice president, Lucille Walker; secretary, Ruby Apperspach; assistant secretary and reporter, Julie Saulsbury; treasurer, Arlene Franchuk.

On February 14 we had our Sweetheart Banquet. "Joyfully His," a team consisting of six women sang "love" songs for our Lord and Master at that occasion.

On August 3, our church will celebrate the 25th anniversary. W.M.F. ladies are in the process of making a cookbook to defray traveling expenses for our former pastors, who have been invited.

This year, we have a time for Bible study in our program. The title of our lesson book is "Coping with Life and Its Problems" by Joyce Marie Smith.

We enjoy our prayer time, when we divide into small groups and pray and "pour our hearts out" to the Lord. The Rev. Lester Bueening is pastor of the church. (Julie Saulsbury, reporter.)



dates. They were welcomed into the church family. We look forward to what God is going to do in and through us in the coming months as a church and as individuals. (Evelyn Bertsch, reporter.)

MISSOULA, MT. On Sept. 2, 1979, Bethel Baptist Church was happy to welcome its new pastor, the Rev. Hero Ulrichs, his wife, Judy, and their family. We greeted them with a potluck dinner, food shower, and a welcoming service with responses from various leaders in the church.

Our Women's Missionary Fellowship welcomed LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director, who led them in a missionary workshop challenging them to effective mission service. LaVerna was joined by Wayne Jorstad in conducting a "Body Building Seminar." They challenged our leaders and members to more effective and efficient work of the ministry of our church.

Youth Week was observed during the last week in January. Our youth was involved in various activities.

Our church family is excited by the family film series entitled, "Focus on the Family," by Dr. James Dobson. We anticipate spiritual growth within our families as a result of this series. Over a dozen people are currently involved in a membership class led by Rev. Ulrichs. (Kathryne Staiger, reporter.)

MILWAUKEE, WI. Center Baptist Church called a youth pastor, Daniel Edzards, in addition to a new senior pastor, Walter Foth. We are continually praying that Pastor Foth would receive his immigration papers from Canada very soon and anticipate his arrival. We have been richly blessed since the arrival of Pastor Dan in August 1979. He is doing a tremendous



job with the youth. Our church membership and attendance has increased during the last five months. Seven children were dedicated to the Lord. We pray that these children will grow up to serve the Lord with a willing and available heart for him.

our conference in action

MISSOULA, MT. Bethel Baptist Church was privileged to have as interim pastor, the Rev. William Hoover from Anaheim, CA, from February to June 1979. During his ministry 32 members were added to the church, 18 by baptism and 14 by trans-



fer of letter. A majority of them are pictured with the Rev. and Mrs. Hoover in the lower left corner. During the time that we were without a pastor, Dan Van Gerpen, director of church ministries, served in various capacities in ministering to the needs of the church. (Kathryne Staiger, reporter.)

ABILENE, KS. Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted a "Body Building Seminar" for N.A.B. churches of the eastern Kansas area, February 2. Thirty-one persons representing Memory Lane Church of Wichita, First Baptist of Durham, and Ebenezer Church attended. Classes were taught on Dynamic Fellowship, Committee Leadership, Biblical Teaching and Diversified Outreach. Instructors were Carol Potratz of Ellinwood, the Rev. Bruce Rich of Oakbrook Terrace, the Rev. Rubin Herrmann of Lenexa, and the local pastor, the Rev. W. D. Dachtler. (Mrs. Carl Pschigoda, reporter.)

CORONA, SD. A baptismal service was held in a recent morning service, when five candidates (pictured) publicly confessed their desire to follow Christ. Pastor Harry Johnson gave each of them a Bible verse as they stood in the waters. That evening, the church extended the right hand of fellowship to each of them.



A recognition service for 25 years of work with grade school students was held in honor of Mrs. Mabel DeBoer. She has faithfully supervised Bible memory, Bible study and leadership development for youth. The present group sang old and new songs, and former "Juniors" recalled some of their memories from those early days of training. (Sheila Dailie, reporter.)

HERREID, SD. On February 14, the annual Sweetheart Banquet, sponsored by the

Men's Brotherhood, was held in the Country Cafe in Herreid. There were 145 people in attendance. A lovely program was presented with our pastor, Edward Kopf, acting as toastmaster. A special poem suiting the event, was written and read by Lenore Pfeifle. A ladies double duet sang several appropriate numbers. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring message on "Love" given by the Rev. Rodney Hackett, pastor of the local Assembly of God church. The banquet room was decorated appropriately with a Valentine theme. (Pearl Huber, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. Grace Baptist Church has experienced many wonderful blessings throughout the year. Membership has grown in every phase of the church to the extent where we are considering the expansion of the facilities. The climax came in a service when we witnessed 12 youth



and adults step into the baptismal waters (pictured with Rev. W. Kerber at the far right). A fellowship hour followed after we participated in observing the Lord's Supper and prayer. We praise God for the many blessings we have been granted and are praying for continued blessings in the future. (Esther Reschke, reporter.)

PLEVNA, MT. A lively and well-planned Bible Quiz was conducted on Jan. 20, 1980, by our Senior BYF members. The women were winners over the men.

The Men's Fellowship hosted our Sweetheart Banquet on Feb. 14, 1980, for 66 people. Interesting games were played. Then our guest speaker, the Rev. Brian Hayes from Billings, MT, presented a challenging message on "Love."

The Senior BYF young people were in charge of the afternoon service on February 17. They presented the film, "Journey to the Sky." On the third Sunday of every month, our young people are in charge of the afternoon services. With only seven members they plan a variety of programs. Their advisors this year are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burkle and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Fuchs. The Rev. Richard Lawrenz is the pastor of the church. (Alberta Couch, reporter.)

LEDUC, AB. On February 24, Pastor John Martens and the deacons of Temple Baptist Church extended the hand of fellowship to the three new members who were recently baptized. Pictured are Denise Mayrinck, Mrs. Verna Taylor, Mrs. Helen Tischer and Pastor John Martens.

The pastor and a group of members are involved in special evangelistic classes on



outreach in our town. We as members are behind them in prayer that many will be reached for Christ. (Mrs. Vi Fleck, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CA. It was the unanimous recommendation of the ordination council, that Sunkist Baptist Church proceed with the ordination of Mr. Fred Martin, and thereby acknowledge the call of God that is already evident in Fred's life. This decision was reached on Jan. 31, 1980, by the leaders, ministers and guests of the North American Baptist churches of the Southern California Association. The candidate was examined for two hours concerning his conversion, Christian growth, call, doctrine and approach to the ministry. (Ron Hartman, clerk of the ordination council.)

MADISON, SD. West Center Street Baptist Church has much to be grateful for because we welcomed twelve new members into our fellowship. Those baptized were:



Dawn Jung, Steve Hofman and Greg Robson. Members coming by way of transfer were: Mary Hofman, Wayne and Gail Kerlake, Jim and Thelma McAthie, Wes and Elaine Tschetter, and Albert and Shirley Walker. All are pictured. The Rev. Douglas Bittle is pastor of the church. (Joy Reed, reporter.)

SAN JOSE, CA. The Northern California Association held its annual sessions at Bernal Road Baptist Church on Feb. 23, 1980. The theme was "Effective Teachable Disciples." Dr. John Binder and the Rev. Jack Wilcke were the guest speakers. Nine churches comprise the Association of which three are extension churches. Rev. Binder remained with the host church as speaker for the Sunday services.

On Sunday evening, Feb. 24, Pastor Buhler baptized six persons, bringing to almost 300 the number of people who have joined this church since it was organized

five years ago. The present membership is 207.

Our church-sponsored Pre-school Day Care Center has an enrollment of 56. (Nancy Glover, church clerk.)

ELK GROVE, CA. The Rev. Arthur Helwig accepted the call of First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, CA, to become their minister of Christian education. He and his wife, Dorothy, and children Jared, Leighton and Eva, began their ministry on February 4.

The Helwigs were forced to return from Cameroon because of Art's severe eye infection which threatened the loss of his eyesight. His eyesight appears to be improving through treatment. They are ap-



JACOB F. OHLHAUSER, age 90, was born in South Dakota. He accepted Christ at age 16. When he was 19 he became a charter member of the Carbon Baptist Church of Carbon, AB. Throughout his life he was engaged in farming. He served as church treasurer for 15 years, trustee for six years and 13 years as church janitor. He also played in the church band. In 1913 he was married to Louise Neher. They had two children, Rose and Esther. He was predeceased by his wife. He was married in 1949 to Ida Buchwitz, who predeceased him in 1974. On Dec. 16, 1979, he went to be with the Lord. He leaves to mourn two daughters, Rose Gieck and Esther Gieck; two stepsons, Alfred and Otto Buchwitz of Calgary; one stepdaughter, Olga Sauer of Germany; 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one brother, Sam of Calgary, three sisters: Mrs. Emelia Neher of Calgary, Mrs. Annie Harsch of Carbon and Mrs. Katherine Schell of Drumheller. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Grabke in the Carbon Baptist Church.

RUBEN WOLFF, 60, was born April 3, 1919, near Gackle, ND, and died Nov. 26, 1979, at Fargo. He married Lorraine Buck on Dec. 10, 1939, at Streeter. They farmed for several years before moving to Jamestown, where they owned and operated Wolff's Grocery and Wolff's Used Car Lot. Ruben was a member of Temple Baptist Church, where he was an usher and trustee. Survivors include his wife, Lorraine; two daughters: Marlene Stivers and Debbie Scherbenske of Minneapolis; his mother, Mrs. Rose Schulz; three grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Viola Kaufman; two half-brothers: Arlo and Norman Schulz; one half-sister, Mrs. Darlene Mehlhoff; two stepbrothers: Fred and Ed-

ward Schulz, and one stepsister, Mrs. Frieda Henne. The Rev. George Robinson and the Rev. N. E. McCoy officiated at the memorial service, assisted by the Rev. John Reimer. Ruben is missed by all who knew him.

preciative of the prayers offered on Art's behalf throughout the Conference.

Rev. Helwig was installed on Sunday night, February 17, with the Rev. Ernie Rogalski, moderator of the Northern California Association, as speaker.

XENIA, OH. On February 6 and 7, Community Baptist Church was privileged to have the New Day group (God's Volunteers). They really sang joyously. Our spirits were strengthened by their ministry. Those of us who had them as guests in our homes were doubly blessed. On Wednesday morning they presented a program at a junior high school, and the students were enthusiastic in their ovation

ward Schulz, and one stepsister, Mrs. Frieda Henne. The Rev. George Robinson and the Rev. N. E. McCoy officiated at the memorial service, assisted by the Rev. John Reimer. Ruben is missed by all who knew him.

BERTHA MARTIN (nee Fauser), 75, was born in Odessa, Russia, on April 16, 1904. At an early age she emigrated with her parents, first to the United States and then to Canada. On Nov. 26, 1923, she was united in marriage with Christian Martin. This marriage was blessed with four sons and one daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Martin farmed at Golden Prairie, SK, until 1952, when they retired to Medicine Hat, AB. She accepted Christ, was baptized in July of 1926, and became a member of Rosenfeld Baptist Church. Upon moving to Medicine Hat she became a member of Grace Baptist Church and was actively serving her Lord until she passed away on July 13, 1979. She is survived by her husband, Chris; four sons: Herbert and Melvin of Medicine Hat, AB, Marvin of Calgary, Benny of Golden Prairie, SK; one daughter, Mrs. Bill (Esther) Muhlbeir of Golden Prairie, SK; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild; two brothers, George and Phillip Fauser of Medicine Hat; three sisters: Mrs. Christina Roth and Sophie Reinheller of Medicine Hat, and Emilie Renz of Golden Prairie, SK. Pastor Art Freitag officiated at the funeral service.

MARIA PASICIEL (nee Sternaste), 73, was born in Germany on Feb. 16, 1906. On Feb. 17, 1925, she was united in marriage with Gustav Pasiciel. Three sons and one daughter were born of this marriage. In 1931, while still in Germany, she accepted Christ and followed him in baptism in 1932. In 1952 the family emigrated to Canada and settled in Medicine Hat, where she became an active member of Grace Baptist Church. She served as church clerk for nine years and was active in the church choir and the Ladies Aid until she passed away on Dec. 26, 1979. She is survived by her husband, Gustav; one daughter, Charlotte Wez of Orion, AB; three sons: Alfred of Germany, Walter of

for the program. On Thursday morning the group presented a well-received program at Cedarville College. This was broadcast over the college radio station WCCR. (Mrs. Esther L. Lucius, reporter.)

BILLINGS, MT. It was a joy to witness the baptism of five of the young people of Calvary Baptist Church. We also received six new members by letter of transfer.

"Cookies for Cops" is a new program adopted by our church. Since Pastor Brian Hayes serves as chaplain to the city police department, the ladies of our church supply cookies. It is our way of showing our appreciation to these people each month. (Gladys Beusch, reporter.)

Medicine Hat, and Ernest of Steinbach, MB; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Pastor Art Freitag officiated at the funeral service.

LYDIA METH (nee Martin), 71, of Lodi, CA, died on Feb. 1, 1980. She was born in Fessenden, ND, on April 21, 1908. On Nov. 21, 1928, she married Albert Meth in Cathay, ND. She was an active member of the Germantown Baptist Church, ND, until moving to California in 1966. Then she was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church, Lodi. Her survivors are her husband, Albert of Lodi; son, Curtis Meth of Carrington, ND; daughter, Betty Seidel of Cathay, ND; eight grandchildren; three brothers: Emil of Lodi, Albert of Las Vegas, NV, Harold of St. Peter, MN. The Reverends James DeBoer and G. G. Rauser officiated at the funeral service.

LYDIA HOFFMAN SORGE (nee Meidinger), 88, of Lodi, CA, went to be with her Lord on Dec. 31, 1979. She was born near Fredonia, ND, on Aug. 16, 1881. She was converted and baptized in 1907. On Dec. 31, 1908, she married Adam Hoffman who preceded her in death in 1941. They moved to Lodi, CA, in 1934. She was a member of First Baptist Church and the Ladies' Missionary Society. In January 1950 she married William Sorge who preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 1979. She is survived by her children: Arthur Hoffman of Acampo, CA, Hulda Roedel and Kathryn Hoff of Lodi; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; three step-daughters: Hazel Helwig of Lodi, Erma Dusdale and Ivy Weiss of Olds, AB; three step-grandchildren and one brother, Emil Meidinger of Lodi.

MONFORD SILVANUS WIGHTMAN was born in Austinville, IA, Nov. 8, 1893. He spent all of his life in the Aplington-Parkersburg community. On May 6, 1920, he was united in marriage to Gertie Abbas, in Iowa Falls, IA. To this union was born a

(Continued on page 31)

News & Views

JOINT RESOLUTION URGES END TO AMERICAN EXPRESS LOANS

MINNEAPOLIS—A resolution directed at American Express urging that its subsidiary decline to "make any new loans or renew any old loans to the government of the Republic of South Africa has been co-sponsored by the American Lutheran Church and the American Baptist Churches, USA.

The action was in keeping with investment policies of both religious bodies aimed at using the opportunities provided by their investments to try to influence action that could change South Africa's segregation policies.

American Express has invited church officials to meet with company representatives in an endeavor to reach an agreement which would lead to withdrawal of the resolution.

ALASKAN OIL RICHES LINKED TO MASS ESKIMO ALCOHOLISM

PHILADELPHIA—The sudden development of oil fields in Alaska's North Slope has resulted in mass alcoholism and violence among the Eskimos there, according to a study released by the University of Pennsylvania.

The researchers said the alcoholism rate is 72 percent among the 2,000 Eskimo men and women in the village of Barrow and violence is becoming the most frequent cause of death resulting from the "explosive and self-destructive abuse of alcohol."

POSTER FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

PEKING, China—A poster urging that more freedom to propagate religion be permitted in China has appeared on Peking's "democracy wall."

Criticizing a recent article in the government press which said only religious workers could spread religion, and then only in places of worship, the wall poster says, "If our country is to fully implement the policy of the freedom of religious belief, then it should not restrict us from basing our behavior on the Bible. The Bible does not specify that only religious workers should propagate religion, nor that propagation should be carried out only in churches."

The poster declares that "we should have faith in the intelligence of the masses . . . if religion really is a swindle, why not let it come out so that the masses can see even more clearly what its basic character is like?" (RNS)

BAPTIST APPEAL REJECTED

MUNICH, West Germany—The West German state of Bavaria has denied a request of the Baptist Church there to be recognized as a legal, incorporated church body, entitled to tax exemption and other privileges accorded legally recognized denominations.

The Bavarian association of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches (Baptist), which was organized as a separate Baptist community in 1977, had applied for state recognition as a necessary first step toward its federal recognition.

Bavarian Baptists number some 3,400, have 18 churches and 31 mission stations in this heavily Roman Catholic state.

Manfred Otto, executive director of the Union of Evangelical Churches, said that Bavarian authorities demand that Bavarian Baptists have a membership quota of "one in a thousand" of the state's population, before they are entitled to formal recognition. (RNS)

PLAN TO CURB POPULATION

NEW YORK—China, the world's most populous country with a current population of 960 million, has introduced a drastic family planning program aimed at reaching "zero population growth" by the year 2000.

The program includes liberal economic

benefits for couples who limit themselves to one child and heavy taxes for couples who have more than two children, according to a report by Chinese Vice Premier Chen Muhua.

Birth control efforts in China since 1971 have already reduced the natural increase rate from about 23 per 1,000 population in 1971 to 12 per 1,000 in 1978. A natural increase of 12 per 1,000, however, results in the addition of 11.6 million Chinese per year—a number larger than the total population of more than half the nations in the world.

The new birth control program was developed after Chinese demographers decided that the country's existing program of advocating later marriage, longer spacing, and no more than two children wasn't enough. They projected that because of the high numbers of reproductive age women, China's population would continue to grow for at least 500 years before reaching zero growth, even if all eligible young couples practiced the recommended norms. (RNS)

GYPSIES ISSUES APPEAL

BONN, West Germany—Two organizations of German gypsies have appealed to West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to acknowledge publicly "the guilt of the German nation" for the slaughter of 500,000 gypsies during the Hitler period.

The organizations—the Association of German Sinti and the World Union of Romany—have also requested a "collective reparation" in the form of a "restitution fund" to be made available to the descendants and survivors of the Nazi's "gypsy holocaust."

According to church sources in West Germany, no post-war government in the country has openly recognized or expressed formal regret over the liquidation of half a million gypsies in the early 1940s.

The sources say that "public opinion" and "local authorities" in West Germany still "criminalize" gypsies. (RNS)

What's Happening

■ *The Rev. Vernon Snyder* resigned as director of Christian education at Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR. He served there as minister of evangelism, 1974-78, and director of Christian education, 1978-80.

■ *Crow Canyon Baptist Church*, San Ramon, CA, was officially accepted into the Northern California Association on Feb. 24, 1980. The Rev. Donald Richter is pastor there since 1978.

■ *The Rev. Robert Walther* resigned as director of *God's Volunteers* and has accepted the pastorate of the Church Extension project in Carrollton, TX, effective Feb. 15, 1980. He served as G.V. director since 1975.

■ *Dr. Howard Andersen* is the new senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC. He began his full-time ministry there Feb. 24, 1980.

■ *The Rev. Lester Hirst* resigned from Holiday Park Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA, where he was pastor since 1973. He became pastor of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO, on March 9, 1980.

■ *The Rev. Alphonz Lamprecht* resigned from Ridgewood Baptist Church, NY, effective February 1980. He plans to be chaplain at the English-speaking church in Moscow upon visa clearance for him and his wife.

■ *Dr. Douglas Gallagher* will begin his ministry as pastor at Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, MI, on Aug. 1, 1980. He is presently professor at Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL.

■ *Mr. Terry E. Stoltenow* has accepted the pastorate of North Sheridan Baptist Church, Peoria, IL, effective in June 1980. He is a 1980 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary.

■ *Mr. Fred Martin*, since 1977 minister of music and youth at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, was ordained on Feb. 24, 1980.

■ Because of ill health, *the Rev. David Unrau* resigned from Bethel Baptist Church, Windsor, ON, effective May 31, 1980. He was pastor there since 1974.

■ *Mr. Klaus Joujan*, a 1980 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, will become the assistant pastor at Ridgewood Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI, on July 1, 1980.

■ *The Rev. G. Wesley Blackburn* began his ministry at Isabel Baptist Church, SD, on May 1. He resigned from Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND, where he was pastor since 1975.

■ *The Rev. Edwin Walter* resigned from Napoleon Baptist Church, ND, where he was pastor since 1973. He will be retiring after 40 years of pastoral ministry, and will reside at Freeman, SD.

■ *The Rev. Kenneth Unruh* resigned as pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church, SD,

and Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD. He has served these churches since 1975. Rev. Unruh will become pastor of Minnetrista Baptist Church, St. Bonifacius, MN, on June 1, 1980.

■ *Dr. John Hisel*, director of church and community relations at N.A.B. Seminary, since 1976, will begin a new N.A.B. church in West Boca Raton, FL, this summer.

■ *The Rev. Richard Mikolon* passed away Feb. 25, 1980. Born in 1899, in Scranton, PA, he began the pastoral ministry at Newark and Plainfield, NJ, where he served from 1925-42. The following

(Continued on page 31)

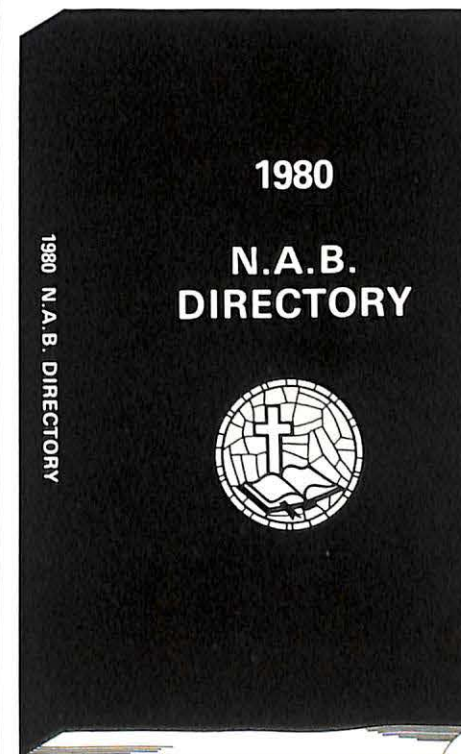
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To be with Christ, which is far better Philippians 1:23

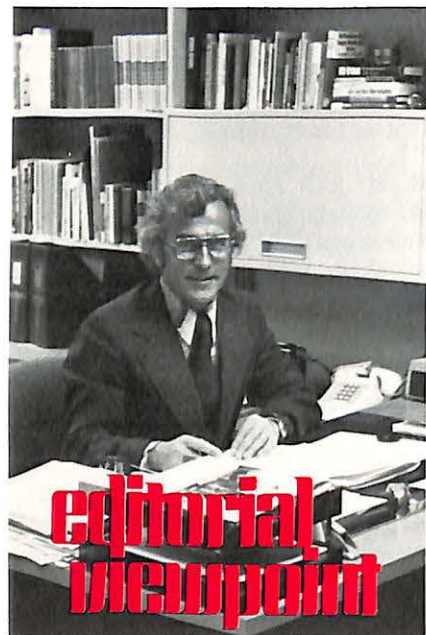
It is not the end
When the weary spirit of a Friend
Wings its flight to realms of light above
When the much loved face—
Seen no more in its familiar place.
Is gone to yonder Heavenly Home of Love

The end? No. Life begun
In celestial bliss with God's dear Son
Who by His Cross has made our loss His gain.
Who, Himself denying

And in His Death Eternal Life supplying,
Is reaping now the fruit of Calvary's pain.

Though we must wait awhile
Some day we'll see again our dear one's smile
Some day we'll meet and greet the one we love.
Together then we'll spend
Eternity with Christ our Heavenly Friend
And rest, forever blest, in Heaven above.

—E. Duncan Hughes



Jesus Lives

Millions of Christians all over the world joyfully celebrated Easter on April 6. At early sunrise services, in churches and cathedrals, or in outdoor worship services, followers of Jesus Christ proclaimed in words and songs: *Christ is risen, halleluja!* The Easter message of the risen Savior is the heart of Christianity. Even honest non-Christians will have to acknowledge that the Christian Faith is in the enviable position of proclaiming a living Savior, whereas all of the other religions have to refer to founders who long since have died and whose remains are kept and venerated in sacred shrines.

I thank the Lord that he has found me at an early age, at which time I gave my life to him. The faith and spiritual care of

my parents had prepared me for this moment of decision, and with the help of the Holy Spirit I turned my life over to Christ, unconditionally, fully trusting and joyfully.

Later years brought me in contact with other religions. I moved about in various Islamic countries. I experienced Hinduism and Buddhism in Asian countries. I also came to know a number of cults and sects—but none of these laid claim on a living founder. They offered souvenirs or various relics to commemorate the lives of their religious leaders, starting with a hair from Mohammed's beard to the buttons of the robe of His Holiness Djaman, one of the more obscure sectarian leaders.

We Christians believe in a risen Savior, very much alive and coming again! At Easter time we proclaimed him victoriously and excitedly. Now that Easter is passed, do we still harbor this beautiful feeling in our hearts? Do we continue to search for visible proofs of Christ's existence? Or are we falling into the trap of other religions, looking for relics of Jesus Christ who was crucified and buried in a tomb?

The other day I came across an article in one of the Christian magazines from England, in which the author proclaims that he is almost convinced of the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin. British television, BBC-I, showed the film, "The Silent Witness." The author knew the filmmaker, David Rolfe, and quoted him saying, "I spent three years of research to make this film, and it led me out of unbelief into a real faith in Jesus Christ."

It is marvelous that God can use the making (or viewing) of a film to convict a person to become a follower of Christ. But for my part, I can do without it. My

faith is not built on a piece of cloth that carries the imprint of a Jewish man's face of the first century, believed to be Jesus. May the visible features, such as a long nose, the parted hair in the middle or a forked beard bear the traditional likeness of Christ. None of the artists throughout the centuries ever could make the claim to know what Jesus really looked like. Jesus never modeled for any painter, and—fortunately—there was no photographer around in his days.

I am not impressed with the fact that every device of science has been used on the Turin Shroud, including the ion probe, and that all tests so far have been positive that the shroud is a piece of linen from the first century. If God would have wanted this shroud as evidence for the earthly existence of his Son, he could have preserved it through the proper care of the disciples or in many other ways. Yet, why would God preserve death relics of his Son, when he was no longer among the dead?

I am truly grateful that contrary to the many affirmations of tour guides in biblical lands, we have absolutely no keepsakes from the times of Jesus. We don't need "genuine" splinters from the cross of Jesus, we don't want pieces from his leather sandals, and we don't need even the Shroud of Turin to believe that he is a historic person. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). I believe God's Word because it will remain when heaven and earth have passed away. Why then should we care for a piece of linen? We have much more—Jesus Christ lives in our hearts, before, during and after every Easter observance. Halleluja! RJK

TODAY" published the results of a poll of Protestant clergymen conducted by sociologist Jeffrey Hadden. He contacted 10,000 clergymen of whom 7,441 replied.

They were asked if they accepted Jesus' physical resurrection as a fact.
 51% of Methodists said "No"
 35% of United Presbyterians said "No"
 30% of Episcopalians said "No"
 33% of American Baptists said "No"
 13% of American Lutherans said "No"
 7% of Mo. Synod Lutherans said "No"

They were asked if they believed in the virgin birth of Jesus.

60% of Methodists said "No"
 44% of Episcopalians said "No"
 49% of Presbyterians said "No"
 34% of Baptists said "No"
 19% of American Lutherans said "No"
 5% of Mo. Synod Lutherans said "No"

They were asked if they believed in evil demon power in the world today.
 62% of Methodists said "No"
 37% of Episcopalians said "No"
 47% of Presbyterians said "No"
 33% of Baptists said "No"
 14% of American Lutherans said "No"
 9% of Mo. Synod Lutherans said "No"

They were asked if they believed that the scriptures are the inspired and inherent Word of God in faith, history, and secular matters.

87% of Methodists said "No"
 95% of Episcopalians said "No"
 82% of Presbyterians said "No"
 67% of American Baptists said "No"
 77% of American Lutherans said "No"
 24% of Mo. Synod Lutherans said "No"

Each of these questions concerns a ba-

sic belief in Christianity. These ministers by their own confession, are denying the faith they proclaim from the pulpit and are using their churches to destroy Christianity; many of them are acting in innocent ignorance because of their denominational teaching, but many are Satan's emissaries being transformed as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14) and are operating in the pulpit.

Dear Editor:

The November BAPTIST HERALD was interesting, and I was pleased to see that you had included that photo of the

CONFERENCE LEADERS . . . (Continued from page 13)

A highlight of the orientation conference occurred when Pastor Robert Cornwell, First Baptist Church, Bison, KS, reported that his several thousand dollar medical bill incurred during his son's terminal illness had been cleared almost miraculously. Prayers mingled with tears as some pastors pledged to remember each other in intercession for spiritual victory in specific family needs. Only a two-day event! But the new pastors, who came as strangers, left as partners in N.A.B. ministry. □

GROWING EDGE (Continued from page 19)

songs—or play games—pop popcorn—build a birdhouse—plan a trip—or leaf through the family scrapbooks. Most importantly, we are together as a family, with no distractions.

—Roger Dean Duncan □

WHAT'S HAPPENING (Continued from page 29)

pastorates were: Buffalo, NY, 1942-51; Erie, PA, 1951-65. After his retirement in 1965, he served as interim pastor, camp chaplain and minister of visitation. □

■ *Mr. Christopher Creech* was ordained on Feb. 24, 1980, at Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK. He has been pastor there since 1979.

■ *The Rev. Arthur Helwig* began his ministry as minister of Christian education at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, on February 4, 1980. The Helwigs were missionaries in Cameroon, 1974-1979.

■ *The Rev. E. James Schubring*, since 1975, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norridge, IL, resigned effective March

young pastor's wife and me with appropriate notes below. I was just starting to write you a letter.

I also want you to know that I support what many wrote, namely, that the theme "Building Relationships Through Christ" was emphasized not only in the messages but was manifest in the warm fellowship which seemed to be evident on all sides, in the walks to and from the Center, in the auditorium, in the halls, in the restaurants and at special meal events, and particularly during those late post-sessions at the Kirkwood Inn, where I not

only met scores of old friends, but could talk with our denominational leaders, missionaries, former pastors and with local people, who seemed so glad to have us there. I did not mind staying until after 11:00 night after night, for the nearest elevator took me up two floors to my room for a good night's rest.

For me the Conference was a fitting conclusion to a marvelous six weeks' tour of heart-warming visits with friends and relatives; and I thank God for health and strength to enjoy it all.

Gratefully, Mrs. Emma B. Schade, Portland, OR.

10, 1980. He is serving as full-time chaplain at Veterans' Administration Hospital, Chicago, IL.

to mention the fact that the van was a really nice one. □

IN MEMORIAM (Continued from page 27)

son, Clarence. Montford came to know the Lord on Sept. 22, 1944. Upon the profession of his faith, he was baptized on Oct. 29, 1944, and became a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Parkersburg. When the Wightmans moved to Ackley, they transferred their membership to Aplington Baptist Church in March of 1967, where they remained faithful and loyal to the Lord, attending church regularly. He passed away Feb. 8, 1980. He will be missed by his wife and son, his relatives, friends and neighbors. He is survived by his wife, Gertie; a son, Clarence; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral service was conducted at Aplington Baptist Church with the Pastor Donald Patet officiating.



John Binder, left, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, joins Judson College President Dr. Harm Weber in some conversation with students after the Executive Secretary spoke at a recent Judson chapel service. A number of North American Baptists serve as trustees of the college, located in Elgin, Illinois.

Open Dialogue

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a tract I had printed to hand out. I'd like to see you print it in your publication.

Most people are startled by the statistics of this tract, and not many know that this condition exists in the church. I believe God will hold us responsible for telling them. Thank you. C. M. Palmer, Wichita, KS.

SAD STATISTICS

A previous issue of "CHRISTIANITY

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