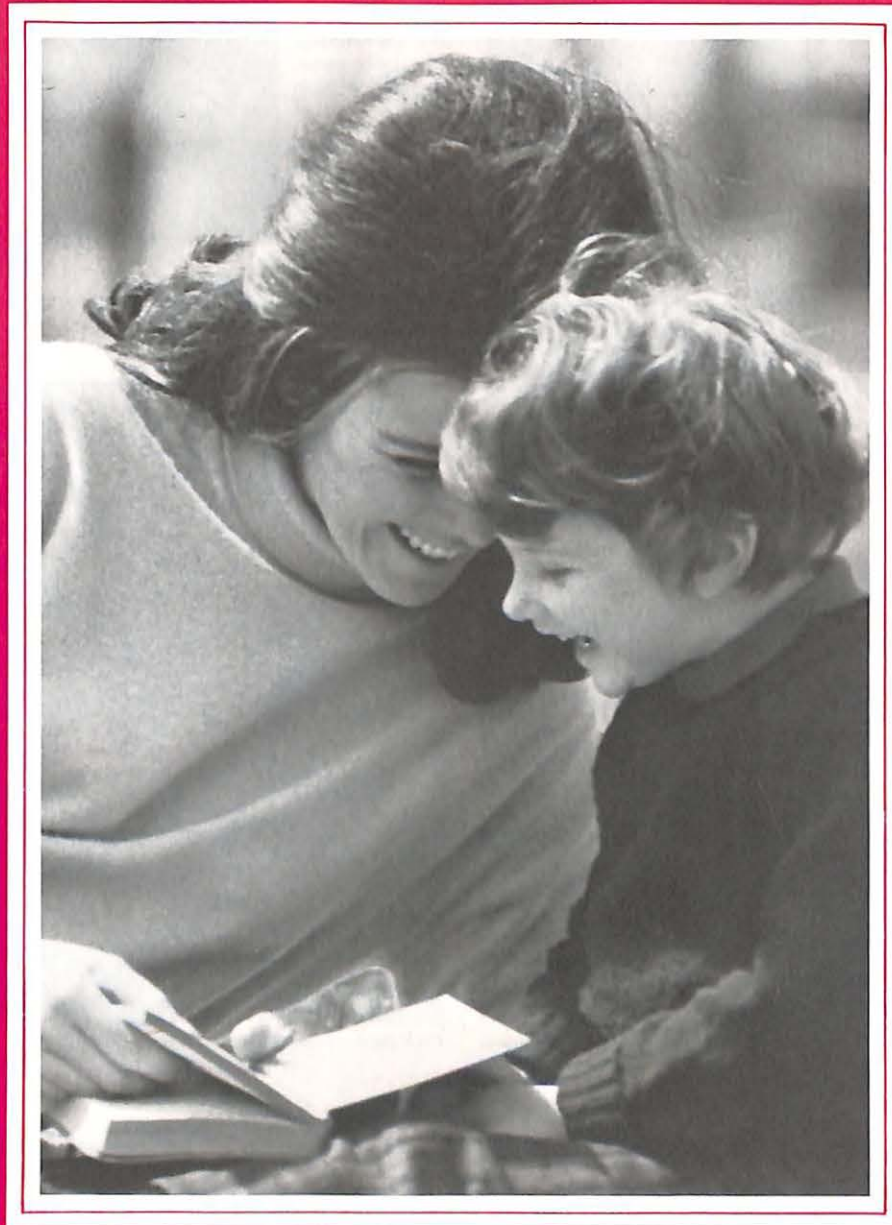


Baptist Herald

May 1981



Children's Day In Brazil

by
Martha Nelson



At this special service, the children learn Bible verses and hear a Bible story.



Martha Nelson teaches the children choruses.



Each child receives a remembrance of this day.



Youth from the Santo Angelo Church use their musical talent at the church extension children's service.

"Chegaram!" (They've arrived!) Eager faces peer from the doorway in excited anticipation. It's *Children's Day* in Brazil, and we're visiting one of our extension

churches in the town of Catuipe to have a special program.

Not only do we feel very welcome but also are given rapt attention, as we direct a few new choruses, teach Bible verses and present a special story. Because it's a very important day, each child receives a little remembrance.

We don't always have a group anticipating our arrival, but with the help of our loudspeakers, we soon have an ample crowd with freedom to give the message in open

air meetings, school buildings, or wherever the opportunity presents itself.

We recently took a busload of members from our Santo Angelo church and held an open air meeting in Sao Liuz Gonzaga, a town where we are doing groundwork for church extension. About 200 people attended, and six people made decisions for Christ.

How thrilled we are to have so many open doors and freedom to share the good news to open hearts!

Mrs. Martha Nelson, her husband Ralph, and children are N.A.B. missionaries serving in Brazil. They recently started a new work in the State of Santa Catarina.

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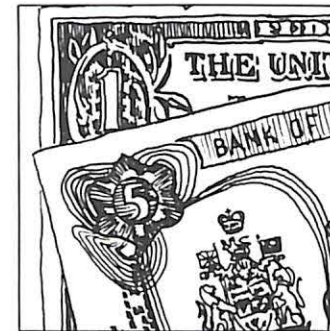
Barbara J. Binder
Dorothy Ganoung
(*The Growing Edge*)
Sara Lou Pasiciel
(*Woman's World*)

COVER: Photo by Luoma



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Authoritative Parenting

by Daniel Leininger

PARENTS WANTED

Immediate job opening! Desire ambitious persons to accept life-time job commitment as parents. No educational requirements, but prefer individuals with profound faith, great patience, and everlasting compassion. Must accept major responsibility for first twenty years with decreasing intensity thereafter. 12 to 14 hours per day, seven days per week, with 24 hours per day on-call. Vacations and personal leave at own expense (if child care can be arranged). No salary, but promises some non-monetary reward. Also requires financial investment of approximately \$254,000 per child over next 20 years. Interested parties contact: Imma Parent, Box H.E.L.P., Anywhere, North America.

You have not seen the above ad in the classified section of your local newspaper, and there is no need to start looking for it now. It is fictitious, yet all the information remains accurate. And, as for the sentiment, well, what parent has not at least at times identified with "Imma Parent, Box H.E.L.P!"

Parents often feel confused, upset, and uncertain about their effectiveness. Indeed, the task of being a responsible parent is not an easy one.

The shifting of authority away from the home in the last twenty-five years has created the illusion

Dr. Daniel Leininger is assistant professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

that the educators, the psychological professionals, and the media are the experts who know what to do; yet even some of the experts have dramatically changed their tunes. For instance, American pediatrician, Dr. Benjamin Spock, is recently quoted as saying:

"Inability to be firm is the commonest problem of parents in America today. The basic problem is the fault of the experts. It is a cruel deprivation that we professionals have imposed on mothers and fathers . . . We didn't realize until it was too late how our know-it-attitude was undermining the self-assurance of parents."

Such comments are indicators that the pendulum of responsibility for child rearing is swinging back toward the side of parents. Let us be thankful for this. We have witnessed the inability of permissiveness and over-indulgence to prepare children for the real world of responsible living. Now parents are being encouraged to reclaim their essential role of authority. Yet, authority carries dangers, too! If we have at last forsaken the destructive extreme of permissiveness, what will keep us from avoiding its equally destructive opposite, namely authoritarianism?

To be authoritarian is to act like a dictator. It means demanding an unquestioning obedience to authority. An authoritarian approach makes little or no room for individual freedom, judgment, or action on the part of others. An authoritarian message usually starts off with "attention all personnel," and ends with "do it because I said so" or some similar equivalent. Clearly, we need to assess the dangers of authoritarianism just as vigorously as those of permissiveness. We fail our children

when we do not teach them to act responsibly and to obey. We also fail them when we foster in them what Bruce Narramore has called "a slavish conformity that is the result of fear and pressure."

The solution to this problem begins as we learn how to be authoritative without being authoritarian. To be authoritative, simply means to be "official" or "qualified" for what one is doing. An authoritative parent does not shirk from the responsibilities of parenting, but is a dependable and reliable authority in the home.

The recipe for authoritative parenting combines equal parts of love and consistency, mixed together and served daily. Such a combination provides the maximum daily requirement of nourishment and stamina essential to growth. The authoritarian alternatives of pushing, nagging, manipulating, and over-powering leave our children hungry and unfilled. The permissive ingredients of neglect, absence, giving up, and abdicating offer no better fill. Both authoritarianism and permissivism are "junk food" approaches to parenting.

What practical things can parents do to become dependable authorities for their children? Three important areas come to mind: *choosing*, *teaching*, and *remembering*.

Good Choices within Limits

First of all, authoritative parents know the importance of *choosing* and help their children to make good choices within realistic limits. Unlike permissive parents who set no limits on unacceptable behavior or authoritarian parents who deliver ultimatums demanding rigid obedience, authoritative parents avoid both extremes. In helping a young child make a decision, the parent may have to set the acceptable options.

For instance, if the sounds from five-year-old Johnny's noisemaker are approaching the threshold of pain for mother, then she can set a

limit and offer a choice. "Johnny, you may play with your noisemaker in the back yard, or you may find a quieter toy to play with here in the house. What do you choose to do?" Mother might also give a reason, "It hurts my ears," or "I can't hear to talk on the phone." She has respected Johnny's right to play with his toy, but has given him a second option of choosing a quieter toy. She has also taught him to respect her right to not live in a painful environment.

Thirteen-year-old Linda asks mom if she can spend Friday night at Jean's house. Jean is a fifteen-year-old with two older sisters. Jean's parents set few limits for their daughters, and a rough group of boys hang around their house. Both Linda's mother and her father are very unwilling to have Linda staying overnight in such a setting. In discussing with Linda, a compromise is reached. Linda chooses to invite Jean to her house overnight. This decision allows the two girls to spend Friday night together. It also allows mom and dad a chance to meet Jean and get to know her. Both the girls enjoyed their time together. Later that week Linda began talking to her mother about Jean. She mentioned what she liked and didn't like about this friend. Linda's parents believe it is important for her to learn to choose

her friends. They also believe that thirteen-year-olds need secure parents to help them avoid situations where there are no appropriate limits. They are giving her decision-making power while still providing necessary limits. Even more importantly, they are helping her become an adult by learning to choose and make responsible decisions.

The Parent as a Teacher

The second important function is *teaching*. An authoritative approach to parenting takes seriously the parent's role as teacher in the home. Growing up is a learning process. Problems inevitably develop when parents do not take time to teach their children.

Four-year-old Rebecca is awkwardly trying to pour milk from a full gallon carton. She almost gets the job done but inadvertently tips over the half-filled plastic cup with the heavy carton. Mother looks up from her magazine in horror as the plastic cup hits the kitchen floor. Mother can be a blamer and say something like, "Rebecca, why are you always making messes for me to clean up?" Mother also has another option. She can be a teacher. The first lesson could be how to clean up a mess. "Here is a sponge and towel to clean up the milk, Rebecca. And if you will rinse off your cup, I'll help you start all over again if you like. Pouring can be a hard job for little hands." Here mother has taught three things: how

to clean up, how to pour, and when to ask for help.

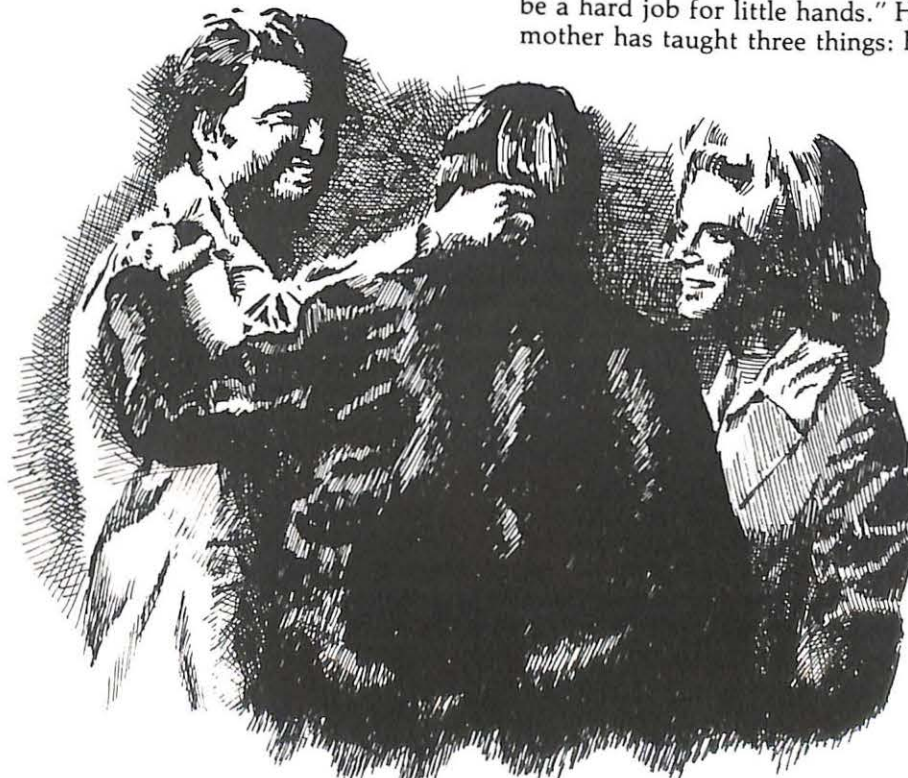
Sixteen-year-old Kevin has bought an old truck with money from his paper route. He tries to do the routine maintenance work on it, but often does not know what to do. Whenever Kevin asks his father for help, they usually get into conflict. Father expects Kevin to do a job exactly right on the first try with little or no instruction. Kevin has started taking his questions to their retired neighbor, Mr. Parker. One day Mr. Parker comes by and talks with Kevin's father. He gives him a maintenance manual for Kevin's truck. He had found it at a yard sale for fifty cents. He also gives him a list of tools, which he knows Kevin needs to work on the truck. The next week when Kevin opens his birthday present, he is very surprised and very pleased with the new wrenches from his dad and the book from Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker is not only a good neighbor, he is also a good teacher for Kevin and his father as well.

Parenthood is a Sacred Trust

Thirdly, an authoritative parent always *remembers* that parenthood is a sacred trust. We can help our children to make good choices within their ability to choose. We can also be teachers to them in the tasks and activities of life. Hopefully, these efforts will prepare them for adult life, but there is more. For the Christian, parenting has a spiritual dimension as well.

Our children do not belong to us. Ultimately, they will become fully their own, and, if they choose, they may become God's children as well. When they are helpless infants, it seems as if they belong to us, but the passing days and years bring them new freedoms, new choices, and new possibilities.

Children who live responsibly are an honor to their parents. Yet no parents can ever take all the credit for the accomplishments of their offspring, any more than they can take all the blame for their children's failures. *Parenthood is essentially a sacred trust.* We will fulfill our part well if we can give them love and consistency, and are not afraid to be their authoritative guide for the first one fourth of their journey of life. □



Where Has All My Money Gone? by Art J. Petrie

"Inflation Erodes Purchasing Power By 12%," the headline glared. Unemployment which threatens many, along with inflation, makes up the current economic phenomenon "stagflation" and raises fear in many hearts, even in the hearts of God's children. Uncertainty in economic matters frightens us, since for the past two decades, we have been self-sufficient, independent, and quite capable of looking after ourselves, thank you very much. We respond to the Lord Jesus who has saved us like the Laodiceans of old did, when they looked up into the face of Almighty God and said with self-confidence, "I need nothing."

Paul said, "God works in everything for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). Current economic problems can work only for our good if they drive us back to simple faith and dependence on God—not only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior but also faith moment by moment that we are under God's provision and care. It's interesting that when the Lord taught the disciples to pray he

Art J. Petrie is director of development and instructor in economics at North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

included instructions that they pray for their *daily bread*. As God replenished the jar and the bowl for the widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17), he will supply our daily needs as we depend on him.

Your Objectives As God's Child

Your economic future is controlled by three vital elements. The first involves *your objectives as God's child*. What are your objectives? Have you taken the time with your spouse and family to articulate and formulate personal and family objectives.

Consider these questions. What do you hope to achieve with your life? Why did God create you? Why did God intervene in your life in sovereign grace and save you? The Apostle Paul outlines his objectives in Philippians 3:10. Look up that verse and identify Paul's objectives for his life, and then compare them with your own.

Here are a few suggested objectives for life listed in the order of their priority:

To worship God and live a life honouring to Him (Ephesians 1:2, I Corinthians 6:20).

To honour the Lord with all He has given me (Proverbs 3:9).

To be a witness to the saving grace of my risen Savior to those around me (Acts 1:8).

To demonstrate a simple lifestyle (Luke 12:15, Hebrews 13:5).

Unless objectives are consciously thought through and written down, our lives drift into selfishness and a "me first" orientation where the

unstated but obvious objective is self-gratification. Oh, for objectives which include knowing God in all his fullness and then in that knowledge setting our vision beyond ourselves. Set your objectives in the context of a broad Christian world view.

Within our families, objectives require individual ownership by each family member. That requires input from everyone in the family. Then as you work as a family unit, objectives will be achieved. In contrast, disaster is the result if husband and wife do not share similar objectives. Jesus said, "If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand" (Mark 3:25).

Various facets of our daily lives require objectives, thus financial objectives must be set in accordance with God's Word. Some legitimate financial objectives might be:

- To avoid consumer debt,
- To budget for all expenditures,
- To institute a graduated tithe, and
- To provide for retirement.

What are your objectives? They need to reflect your relationship as God's child.

Your Life as His Disciple

Your life as his disciple constitutes the second vital element in the areas of your personal finances. What is your standard of living? What is your lifestyle? Daily we are conditioned and programmed to demand more as our consumer society is oriented toward consumption and self-gratification. Labour-saving devices in the home—the dishwasher, microwave oven, garborator, dryer, food processor—all promise to allow more time. More time for what? To sit in front of the new color TV and be told you need more and newer

things? Discontent is the temper of our times and has spread into all areas of life, including the spiritual. No longer are we able to "be still and know that I am God."

The insatiable desire for more is diametrically opposed to what ought to characterize us as Christians. "Let your character be free from the love of money, *being content with what you have*; for he himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). *Be content with what you have*, and with God's instruction, comes God's promise, "I'll never leave you." Jesus said, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed for not even when one has abundance does life consist of his possessions" (Luke 12:15).

The apostle Paul demonstrated a lifestyle not unlike the Lord Jesus Christ. "But Paul was a bit fanatic," I hear someone say. I thought that, too, until I learned God required that of me. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he writes, "Copy me, my brothers" (I Corinthians 4:6). Paul says to you and me, "Live as I lived."

This age of conspicuous consumption and blatant materialism requires of us an examination of our living standard, our lifestyle as Christ's disciples. Remember the Lord's test of discipleship in Luke 14:33? "So therefore, no one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

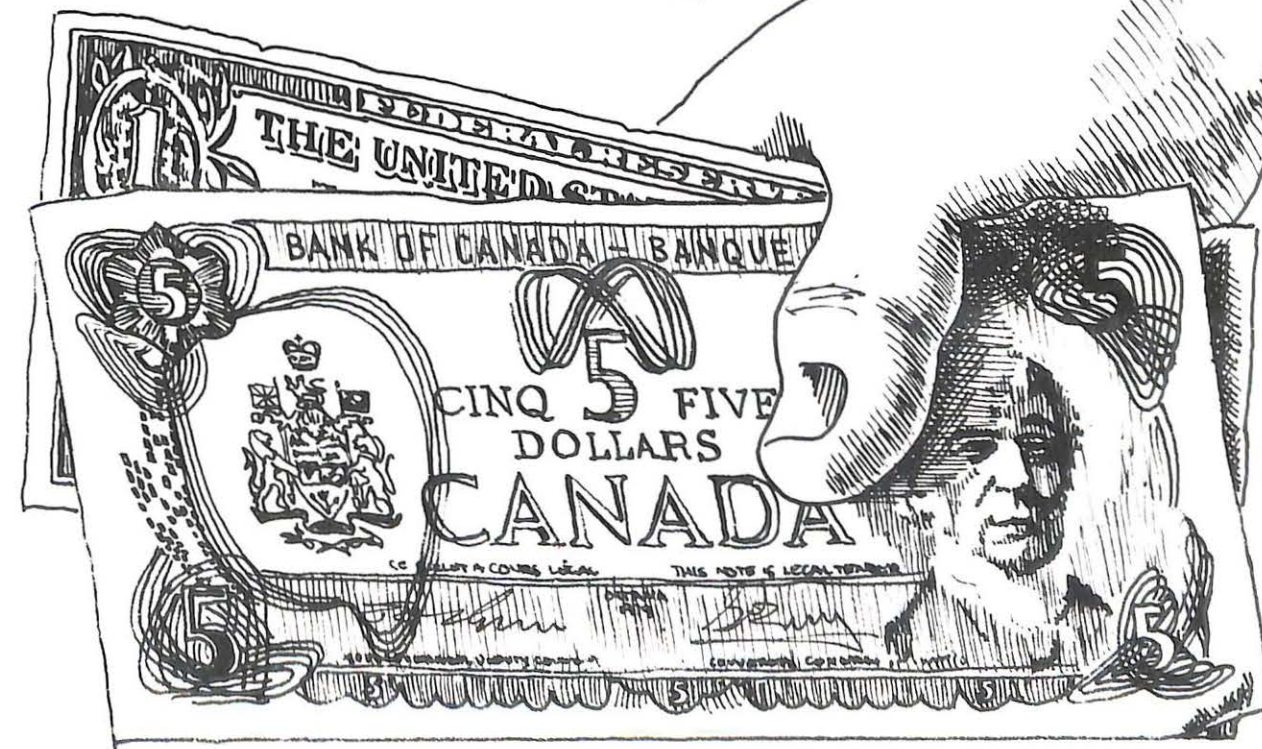
Your Plans as His Steward

Finally, the matter of your personal finances involves *your plans as his steward*. The best objectives will never be met without a workable plan. Those financial objectives you have require planning and tools.

Your plan requires a budget. Budgeting is the opposite to impulse buying. Budgeting is planned purchasing. It is not some esoteric concept that works only for corporations and governments. Your personal finances require a yearly budget, which should be reviewed every three months. At the beginning of the year, plan all your major purchases. You know now if you need a new suit, a new summer outfit, a new winter coat, a major home appliance. Those so-called unexpected major expenditures occur with amazing regularity. You can budget for them.

Your financial plan should include adequate insurance, a pension or retirement plan, and a will. Assistance and information as to the mechanics of these tools is available from libraries, individuals, and from both the Conference and the College. A proliferation of "how-to" manuals on every subject, including financial planning, is available. The difficulty is not the "how-to" but the "want-to." Let's get past the superficial "how-to" in our lives to

the place where we honestly say with the apostle, in every area of my life, "For me to live is Christ." Success, particularly in the area of finances, is a major objective for many people, but success is not what God requires. "Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). What a blessing that verse doesn't say, "It is required in stewards that a man be found successful." Take a look at your life. Have you been faithful in the setting of your objectives as God's child, faithful in your life as his disciple, faithful in your plans as his steward? If these three elements in your life are ordered by the Lord, the matter of your economic future, yes, your entire future, is secure.



Bearing the Pain of the Aging

by Orville H. Meth

"Why? Why? Why, when we are old, do we have to go through so much pain and suffering?" asked the lady whom I was visiting in the hospital.

I answered, "I don't know, but I am sure that the Lord knows."

She then went on to say, "Yes, what would I do if I did not have faith in the Lord and know the promises of his Word. What do those people do who have no faith?" For that I had no answer.

He who experienced the bitter pain of Calvary is not willing that any should go without help or hope. To those who would seek help and comfort, Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest into your souls" (Matt. 11:28, 29).

Pain

Physical—The Pain of the Process of Aging

According to the 1970 Census, 10% of our national population is 65 years or older. I am sure that this 1980 Census will show a much greater percentage. Of these, about 5% find themselves in institutional living situations, such as homes for

the aged and nursing homes.

I would like to quote from an article of the January 1980 issue of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* by Margaret McMahon and Sister Patricia Miller. "Death is primarily experienced at the end of a long lifetime as evidenced by 70% of the deaths registered in the United States affecting persons 65 or more years of age. The process of dying is often a prolonged experience for the patient and his survivors. The isolation of the dying person from his familiar home surroundings is common in our society, with the place of death frequently being hospitals and nursing homes."

So you can see why one of our residents would say when you meet her in the hallway, "It is no fun to get old." Another of her sayings that expresses a real philosophy of the process of aging, comes from what her mother said to her many years ago, "Child, child, you don't understand it now. It doesn't come before the years—it comes with the years—and then you think about it." This is what it takes to really understand the physical process of aging.

Emotional—The Painful Experience of Aging

First there is the crumbling of the pride of self-sufficiency—such as no longer being able to drive a car—having all the hard-earned money from investments and savings eaten up by inflation, medical and care costs—and then one has to apply for assistance.

Then there is the grief struggle

when those younger than you die—relatives, children and grandchildren—and here you linger confined to a bed or a wheelchair.

Spiritual—The Painful Hope

"Why doesn't the good Lord take me to that heavenly home? I am ready to go any time. My hearing is bad. I can't see to read my Bible anymore. I have no appetite. I am just waiting for my earthly release."

And to that I have to say, "The time is not yet." But you see, the pain is still there.

The Prescription

Physical—Something that will help dull the pain is a positive attitude toward the process.

When visiting with one of our residents on her 84th birthday, she expressed this philosophy on the aging process, "I would rather get old—if I didn't get old, I would be dead, and I would rather be living."

A poet has expressed the right attitude:
"You say I'm growing old? Not me!

This frame, in which I live, may be;

Though hair grows thin and eyes grow dim,

That's not the me that lives within."

—Watson

We need to put forth more effort to inform ourselves of the process of aging and what is involved in it. There are more opportunities now than ever before to learn about aging. Not only so that we can better help the aging, but so that we can better understand and cope with the aging process when it reaches us. By the way, we are all aging.

We all need to build positive attitudes toward and also help the

aging in whatever creative processes we can bring about. As we develop unique situations of visiting, helping, and learning about aging, we are not only benefitting ourselves, but being obedient to the Lord. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Emotional—Helps to Soothe the Pain

The emotional experiences of the process and pain of aging can best be bridged and soothed if there has been a close family relationship of love along the way. It is not like taking a pill.

There comes a time when the children of a family will have to assume the parental role, and the parents have to submit, as it were, to the children's role. It is a fine, delicate line that has to be crossed, but it has to be done.

When it is done in the right spirit of love by both parties, I have seen beautiful relationships develop, in spite of the pain. When the shift in roles doesn't occur, I have seen miserable situations develop in adjustments to living in a nursing home or some other handicapped situation.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, he became the parent decision-maker for his widowed mother. "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother, he saith unto his mother, 'Woman, behold thy son!' Then saith he to the disciple, 'Behold thy mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:25-27).

Spiritual—The greatest medicine of all is Hope, Faith, and Love

Hope: Psalm 71 has been called the Psalm of the Aged. David would not cling to the past nor settle for the idea that his work for God was done. He expressed the desire to use all his time to praise and honor God. He said he would hope continually, and the desire of his

heart was to show the strength of the Lord to his generation. "For thou art my hope, O Lord God; thou art my trust from my youth. O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not, until I have shown thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come" (Psalm 71:5, 17, 18).

Faith: the kind of faith David had comes by knowing God and His Word. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). The Bible and its message becomes very important to the aging believer. To the non-believer it brings no comfort. I have witnessed both. Therefore, it is important to discipline ourselves now to the knowledge of God's Word. Add to that the affirmation of faith by the Holy Spirit, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God; if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together," (Romans 8:16, 17). What a comfort to know that the Good Shepherd is with us in all of life's situations until we dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Love: the greatest of all is love. God's love is shown to us in His only begotten Son as is expressed in the familiar John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus instructed us in how we are to respond to the warmth of God's love and then to reflect that love toward the needs of our fellow man. He said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And you shall love your neighbor as

yourself" (Mark 12:30, 31).

Who of you does not have some aged person with whom you can share that love? If you cannot find that someone, ask your pastor, or call a nursing home.

The pains and frustrations of old age should be treated realistically. They are not going to evaporate just because a person stays active and optimistic. But God has given us



good reason to believe that he is not done with us even when we have passed our prime.

Let's allow God to determine just when we are no longer needed. In the meantime, let us, "Bear (ye) one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

The Rev. Orville Meth is chaplain at the Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND.

Mother Power

by Dave Glader

As a pastor, I support and advocate "mother power," because there cannot be a strong and healthy church without good and godly mothers. There is a saying, "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy."

The Apostle Paul encourages young Timothy to continue in the faith. He also reminds Timothy that "when you were a small child, you were taught the holy Scriptures; and it is these that make you wise to accept God's salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15 LB).

Now Timothy had come from a godly home, and Paul starts his letter to him saying, "I know how much you trust the Lord, just as your mother Eunice and your grandmother do, and I feel sure you

are still trusting him as much as ever" (II Timothy 1:5 LB).

Here is a good example of "mother power." A godly grandmother communicated her faith to her daughter who, in turn, communicated her faith to her son Timothy. Eunice had lit a spiritual fire in Timothy in his early impressionable years. Later the Holy Spirit ignited that fire as Timothy came into a saving relationship with Christ, and then an associate missionary with Paul.

John Calvin commented on these verses saying, "Timothy was reared in his infancy in such a way that he could suck in godliness along with his mother's milk."

Many of us can say with Abraham Lincoln, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother." G. Campbell Morgan, the great British preacher, once said, "My dedication to preaching the Word came from my mother. When I was a boy, my sister and I would play church. She would set up her dolls before me, and I would preach to them. My sermons were the Bible

stories I heard from my mother." G. C. Morgan had a great wife and four sons who were all preachers. At a family reunion, a friend asked them, "Which Morgan is the greatest preacher?" One of the sons, Howard, answered, "The greatest preacher of the Morgans is mother." The rest of the family agreed.

Another example is Susannah Wesley, a great Christian mother in the 18th century. With 19 children, she was like the old woman in the shoe, but she knew what to do. This godly mother gave each child one hour for a quiet heart-to-heart talk. During the hour, she led her children to faith in Christ and tried to help them overcome their weaknesses. Two of her children, John and Charles, became outstanding Christian leaders whom God used in a powerful way in England and America. The one hour with his mother meant so much to young John Wesley that when he left home and was being tempted by all kinds of things of the world, he wrote home to ask his mother to continue praying one hour a week for him, because he desperately needed the strength that came from her earnest prayers.

What the world needs is godly mothers; women who love Jesus Christ and communicate that love to their children; mothers who discipline their children; mothers who discipline their children for Jesus Christ—that's "mother power."

□



The Rev. David Glader is pastor of First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON.

Letters to Mom

Letters of Grade 3 Students to their mothers on Mother's Day

I am happy that you are alive and very well. I love you very much. Could you and I go for a swim and bike ride sometime? Mom, may I take you and dad out for dinner? I am sorry for playing on that swingset in the store. I hope you will forgive me. Thank you for washing clothes for me and take me out.

Love,
M.F.

I thank you for getting our shelf finished and giving me a treat once in awhile, and for vacuuming my bedroom. I thank you for the Easter present. I really want to thank you for feeding me everyday. I wish you and I could go riding bicycles together. My birthday is coming soon and I am expecting something nice from you. I hope when your birthday comes up it will be happy. I really do love you!

Love,
N.C.

It is soon my birthday and I am expecting something nice from you, but if you don't "want to," you really don't have to because I have something already. I am sorry for talking back to you. I love you! Thanks a lot for caring for me!

Love,
N.R.

Please try not to vacuum when I am asleep. Will you please help me do my homework and when you are baking, may I help you? I know you have a lot of work to do and you don't get to play, but please play with me some day. I will help you do your things this time.

Love,
S.S.

Thank you for asking dad to let me go for a bike ride yesterday. So I want to pay you back by doing my room for a week. I thank you for the money you give me Friday's and the times you took me to the store and bought me some-

These letters were written by children to their respective mothers in Miss Helga Kahler's classroom, where she is a third grade teacher in Winnipeg, MB.

thing to eat. I like it when you mend my clothes and wash them, too. I am sorry for fighting with R. and A. I love you very, very much for buying me toys.

Love,
N.B.

Do you think you could take me roller skating one time every year? I love you more than anybody in the world.

Thank you very much for all the things that you have done for me like taking me to movies, taking me shopping, taking me out for dinner and taking me to the circus just about every year.

I am sorry for fighting with my brother. I am sorry for talking back. I am sorry for bugging you when you are trying to go to sleep.

Love,
S.F.

It is your day once again!

I am sorry that M. and I fight so much. It is nice of you to spoil me. Hope you enjoy your day.

For my advice, it doesn't matter what you buy me for my birthday.

Love,
K.P.

I love you all the time. You are the dearest mom. I don't need candy or money. A spanking is not that bad once in a while. I am sorry that I took your cake. I'm sorry that I start to fight with K. and L. so many times. I like it when you play with me.

Love,
A.D.

Thank you for letting me ride my bike with my other friends. When are you going to come for a long bike ride with me? Thank you very much for the brown hamster. He is so cute. I am sorry for doing all the bad things for you, Mother. Thank you, mom, for helping me when I get hurt. Thank you for the nice toy truck you gave me for my birthday.

Love,
K.D.

I love you very much and I want to know if you could come home from work earlier? That much is all I wish from you. Have a very happy life! Oh, I also love you because you bought me food and care for me.

Love,
L.B.

I love you very much. I wish once a year we could go on a picnic all by ourselves. I also wish that you wouldn't give me spankings. I'm sorry I always yell at you.

Love,
M.K.

I would like it very much if we could do something together that would make us happy. I would like it if you didn't yell. I'm sorry for talking back and not listening to you. It would be good if I did the dishes after supper all the time. Thank you for taking me swimming and buying me candy. Thank you for taking care of me when I was sick and thank you for everything you have done to make me happy.

Love,
A.P.

I am happy that God gave me a mother. I am happy when you help me with my schoolwork and with other things. I am sorry when I do not listen to you. Mom, you are the best mother in the world. I am happy you are my mother. The best of all I love, mom. Thank you, for helping me.

Love,
S.P.

My dearest dad who acts also as my mom,

I love you very much for helping me with my physical problems as long as you did. I also love you for getting J. for me as a brother so I could play with him when I grew up. I thank you for giving me a spanking when I crossed the railroad track because I know that I would have done it again without a spanking.

I thank you for all the things you did for me.

Love,
A.H.

Music and Its Effects on the Elderly

by Joyce A. Klaassen

Since the dawn of time, music has frequently been used as a therapeutic device. One of the earliest and most well-known case of music being used as therapy is recorded in I Samuel 16:14-23. In this passage, David is called upon to play his harp for King Saul in order to calm his evil spirit. Music is used as a form of worship through praise and also in lamenting, as can be seen by the variety of the song expressions recorded in Psalms. Although music has only recently become an accepted form of therapy, a study of music history discloses that its use in many different cultures has produced a wide variety of effects on subconscious minds through the years.

Music in the most simple form can be used as a means of therapy, even at the geriatric level. One might have a tendency to discredit music therapy with the terminally ill or stroke victims, but once results have been seen, there can be no doubt that music is capable of touching the most inward senses in the human mind.

At the Bismarck Baptist Home, the Activities Department staff currently offers the residents a number of opportunities to participate in musically oriented activities. One day each week, two volunteers come in and sing songs that are familiar to the residents, as well as share current events, short stories, and "Remember when . . ." experiences. The residents enjoy this a great deal, because it gives them an opportunity to remember the "good old days" without being put down. On another day during the week, a rhythm band is offered. This is also led by a volunteer who plays songs that the residents know by memory. During this time, an extra effort is made by the Activity Aides to involve everyone as the

rhythm instruments allow even those residents that cannot sing to participate by maintaining a beat with the music.

Another type of music that is offered occurs in the rooms on a one-to-one basis with the residents. This gives the resident a chance to choose the songs he or she prefers, as well as making the resident feel special because of the extra amount of attention he or she is receiving. As this is the area in which I have seen the most dramatic results, I wish to share some of my experiences that have occurred at the Baptist Home.

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

One of our residents, a victim of terminal cancer, is unable to respond or communicate in any form except eye contact. One day I went into her room and asked if I could sing her a song. She smiled! This was the first time she had done so in quite a while. During the song she closed her eyes, re-opening them only when I had finished. The music appeared to have a calming effect on her. On another occasion, a new resident was very depressed about his situation and had spent the day in bed crying. I proceeded to sing him some songs, and during "Home on the Range," he rolled over in bed and joined in, considerably cheered up. Another resident, who is totally disoriented, used to sing in a number of choirs

when he was younger. When asked if he can sing, he denies it. Yet, when he hears "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder," he will sing it at the top of his lungs and will continue to sing any song that is started, from hymns to "old-time" songs. The examples go on and on, from a lady that seldom speaks but will sing familiar songs to an almost totally deaf man that taught me "O Du liebst mir im Herten." It is exciting to see the changes that occur in people's attitudes when they can share, on a personal level, the music that was, and still is, such an important part of their lives.

The question is often asked as to what types of music appeal to the elderly. This question is answered in their own words: "Our kind, the old type, not this modern stuff." When working with music, it is interesting to note specific songs that the residents choose to express their emotions. On an average day, songs such as "How Great Thou Art," "Showers of Blessing," and "My Jesus, I Love Thee," are chosen by the residents. On a very lighthearted day, "Home on the Range," "My Bonnie," "Jesus Loves Me," and "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain," will be chosen. Recently, after the death of a resident, songs like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "In the Sweet By and By," "Whispering Hope," and "In the Garden" were the selections. These songs helped the residents express their grief in a prayerful way.

In working with music, one must be sensitive to the emotions and upbringing of the residents. Some enjoy listening to a lively polka while they are working, while others are offended by dance music. One must try to achieve an equal balance of classical, sacred, and secular music, not only to please everyone, but to expand their knowledge of musical styles.

In conclusion, I believe music is very therapeutic at the geriatric level as it allows these people to express their emotions and aids in changing their moods.

Christian Social Security

by Jim Frey

Social Security has assorted meanings to many different people. To some, it represents the only source of retirement income, meager as it may be. To others, it is a source of discontent and grumbling. While to a young widow, it may provide the means for her to maintain her status as a full-time mother instead of being forced to go out and work full-time. Most would agree, however, Social Security usually conjures up thoughts of security in living during one's retirement years.

Due to economic pressures and conditions, that ten years ago would be unthought of by most, the system of Government Social Security is failing. It does not provide that for which it is named . . . social security.

Albeit, a well-intentioned program, it has, over the years, been a thorn in the side of many Washington, DC, administrations. It is not a fault of either political party, but rather an innate characteristic of man himself. Man cannot provide true security outside of the body of Christ. In my 95¢ dictionary, security is defined as: "1) Safety 2) Confidence 3) Anything that gives or assures safety." I contrast this temporal form of assurance with the total peace that comes from having Jesus Christ alive within the depth of your innermost being. I call it . . . Christian Social Security, or should I say eternal security. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: *not as the world giveth*, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

The world may have its "Social Security" by whatever name the ruling Government cares to give it, but we, the Body of Christ, have eternal security through the inexhaustible love of God. A peculiar aspect of God-made security is that our Father sometimes works through sinful man to establish this security. Please allow me the freedom to

run three verses together without a pause, I Cor. 10:17, Eph. 4:16 and Col. 1:18, all from the King James Version: "For we being *many* are one bread *and one body*: for we are all partakers of that one bread. From whom (speaking here of Christ) the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the *edifying* of *itself* in love. And he is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

I trust that there would be nary an argument if I were to say from reading these verses that Jesus is the Head of the Christian fellowship. We, the many, are one in Christ. Every part of the body *should* work together for the good of the Body. In so doing, we glorify the Head, Jesus Christ, so that he may have preeminence.

I would imagine this oneness was very evident in the lives of first-century Christians. In the 5th Chapter of I Timothy, this is illustrated as Timothy outlines the Christian's responsibilities toward other believers. We are to treat others as our brothers and sisters (verse 1 and 2). Widows who are alone are to be shown respect (verse 3). A widow who is truly all alone with no one (this meaning family, children, or grandchildren) to take care of her has placed her hope in God and continues to pray and ask him for his help night and day (verse 5). *This is where God works through man!* The answer to the prayers of the widow is found in the help that is provided by the other parts of the Body of Christ, that is you and I and *all believers*.

It is indeed a ministry to help elderly people who are in a situation where they

need security. It is the responsibility of all Christians to pray for those in need of security, be it a widow, a widower, or perhaps a retired couple. It is a *specific responsibility* of those chosen by God to help those in need. A part of the Estate Planning Ministry is to be able to sometimes aid those who are in need of financial security. This can be accomplished through life income agreements. Oftentimes retired folks have securities or investments that are not providing a high income yield, or they have property or real estate that is giving little or no income. There are various plans available through the Conference, which can help provide greater income. If you or perhaps a member of your family fall into the situation mentioned above, then perhaps a life income agreement is the answer to prayer. Send in the coupon below for additional confidential information.

Life Income Agreement

I would be interested in knowing more about life income agreements for: ☐ myself ☐ someone else

Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Mr. James D. Frey, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181 (312) 495-2000.

Mr. James D. Frey is associate secretary for Estate Planning.

Joyce Klaassen received her B.A. from Tabor College and is activity aid at the Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND.

Understanding Your Minister's Wife

by Gladys Peterson

What is it like to be a minister's wife? You may have wondered how your minister's wife feels about her position in the church. Have you thought about the frustrations unique to the minister's family and wondered how you could help?

At the Triennial Conference in Bismarck, ND, Ardice Powell and I administered a survey to all the N.A.B. ministers' wives in attendance with an astonishing 80% return. I thought you might like to know some of the things we learned about our own pastors' wives and to read some of the comments they made.

At the outset, let me reassure you that the questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive! At the end of the survey, many wrote such comments as these: "This is of tremendous help—even before you get to tabulating results, in that it has made us do some self-evaluation and introspection." Another said, "It's great to be able to express myself on this subject."

About two-thirds of the women indicated a high level of personal satisfaction or fulfillment in their role as a minister's wife. In spite of frustrations, and there are some, many wrote such comments as these: "I think being a pastor's wife is a wonderful privilege. The joy and blessing I find in being a part of

such an exciting work is unspeakable." Another wrote, "I would not change places with anyone."

Role Expectations

A number of writers in recent years have discussed the feeling that ministers' wives have been placed on a pedestal by the congregation, resulting in an uncomfortable double standard. Many of our ministers' wives indicated that if they were on a pedestal, the situation was at least in part, their own creation. In answer to the question, "Do you feel the church puts you on a 'pedestal'?" one respondent answered laconically, "Some folks do, some don't—it depends on our own attitudes." One said, "I don't think the term pedestal is good. Perhaps they look to the pastor's wife as an example."

As we looked at the comments volunteered by the respondents, we sensed a certain confusion about how they wanted to be viewed by the church. They say, "I just want to be like the other women of the church," but some of them seemed to be ambivalent about what they mean by that. On the one hand, they enjoy the status, honor, being in the know, being loved, and prayed for by the church more than other women are. On the other hand, a few expressed some resentment about having to do things just because they are married to the minister.

One annoyance expressed by some concerned being always introduced as "our minister's wife." It is not that they resent being the minister's wife, but they want to feel that you know that is not the only thing that can be said about them.

You would probably not say, for example, "This is Jane, our plumber's wife," or "This is Sally, the wife of our electrician." Yet

many times a minister's wife is introduced as "Sue, our minister's wife."

One person explained that this kind of introduction sometimes makes the other person ill at ease, not knowing what to say next to such an important person. After the relationship has had a chance to begin, the minister's wife will most likely let the person know what her husband does. Many of them say they need to feel that you accept them simply as your friend. Not all ministers' wives mind this; in fact, they like to be introduced this way. If you are not sure how yours feels, ask her!

Expectations of the Church

We asked several questions on the survey concerning their perception of the church's expectations of them. We found that two areas caused them concern. They seem to feel some pressure from the church concerning the way they discipline their children and the way they spend their time. Many times minister's wives may imagine the congregation is more critical of them than they really are because of high self-expectations.

Their answers indicate that ministers and their wives who instill in their children the importance of pleasing the Lord rather than behaving in a certain way because

they are "PK's" have stronger families. They worry less about what you think of the way they raise them. Perhaps they need assurance from time to time that you recognize their children are human, too.

Concerning the way the ministers' wives use their time, clear communication works wonders. About half the respondents indicated they are sometimes concerned about whether they are doing *too much* in the church, and almost that number are concerned about doing *enough*. Many of them feel the need of outside interests, freedom to explore their own spiritual gifts, time to enjoy hobbies, and to make new friends. Yet they worry about what you would think about using their time in this way.

Maybe you had no idea that they worry about such things, because you have never felt judgmental toward them concerning the way they spend their time. Tell them! Find out what they want to do in the church and how much time they wish to give.

Some ministers' wives like to be very involved in the church and feel that this is a part of their ministry to God. Perhaps their children are older, or they have seminary education themselves and a special call beyond the call to be a minister's wife. Others, however, for reasons unique to themselves,

feel their ministry is through their husbands, just being a good wife and mother and providing a tranquil home. Perhaps they don't have the skills, the confidence, and the education to exercise leadership in the church; their children are small and require a lot of time; perhaps they work outside the home. The important thing to remember is that ministers' wives are individuals with different personalities, interests and abilities. Allow them to communicate what they feel is their

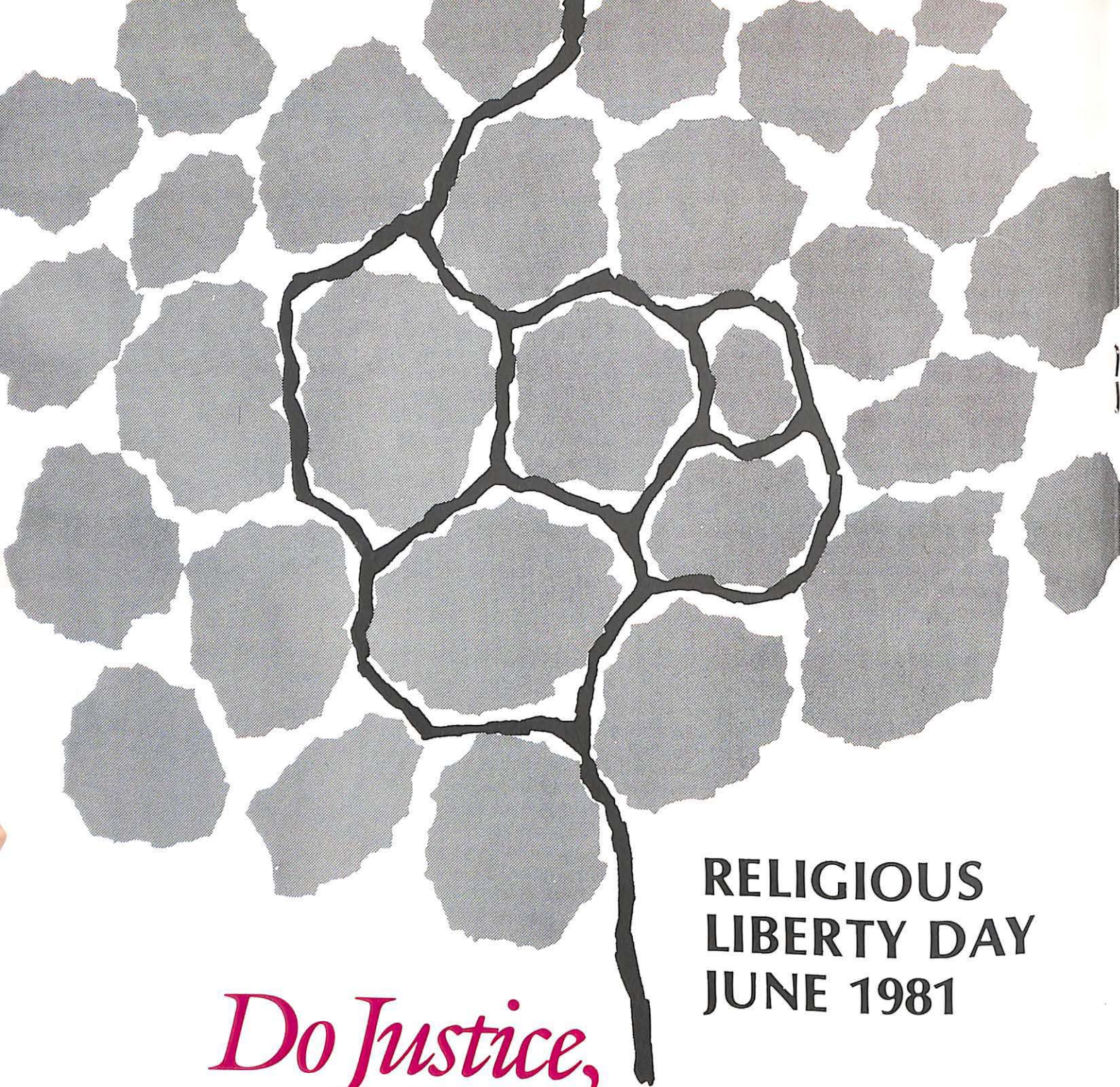
ministry as you would other women in the church. If in doubt, ask them: Be open and honest. Allow them to be the same.

As we have looked at the subject thus far, two important things emerge: 1) your minister's wife is unique, unlike all others, and 2) clear, open, direct communication is necessary to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

I am writing a book about and for ministers' wives and would be happy for any illustrations you would care to contribute whether you are a minister's wife or a member of the congregation. These might include successes or failures in dealing with problems faced between ministers' wives and the congregation. Tell me how you dealt with them and what happened. I will be happy to keep any contributions confidential and will disguise the details so that they are not recognizable if you like. Please write to me, Mrs. Gladys Peterson, at 4508 South Lewis Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57103.



Mrs. Gladys Peterson, Sioux Falls, SD, is a member of Trinity Baptist Church and is the wife of Dr. Wayne Peterson, academic dean, North American Baptist Seminary.



**RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY DAY
JUNE 1981**

*Do Justice,
Love Kindness,
Walk Humbly with your
God.*

Baptists and Religious Liberty by John Wobig

By this principle of religious liberty, Baptists mean the ability of the individual soul to go directly to God and to deal with God by himself, and for himself, without the help of any priest, church, or human mediator. It is the inherent right of every person with regard to his religious convictions to believe and to act as he will, so long as he does not rob another of the same right. This freedom grants the individual soul the right to appeal directly to God and the right to read and to interpret the Scriptures for himself.

Champions of Liberty

All human freedom is founded upon this principle. In an address delivered from the steps of the National Capitol in Washington, DC, in May 1920, Dr. George W. Truett expressed this principle in the following words:

"Baptists have one consistent record concerning liberty throughout all their long and eventful history. They have never been a party to oppression of conscience. They have forever been the unwavering champions of liberty, both religious and civil. Their contention now is, and has been, and, please God, must ever be, that it is the natural and fundamental and indefensible right of every human being to worship God or not, according to the dictates of his conscience, and, as long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others, he is to be held accountable alone to God for all religious beliefs and practices. Our contention is not for mere toleration, but for absolute liberty. There is a wide

difference between toleration and liberty. Toleration implies that somebody falsely claims the right to tolerate. Toleration is a concession, while liberty is a right. Toleration is a matter of expediency, while liberty is a matter of principle. Toleration is a gift from man, while liberty is a free gift from God. It is the consistent and insistent contention of our Baptist people, always and everywhere, that religion must be forever voluntary and uncoerced, and that it is not the prerogative of any power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, to compel men to conform to any religious creed or form of worship, or to pay taxes for the support of a religious organization to which they do not belong and in whose creed they do not believe. God wants free worshippers and no other kind."

This doctrine of individuality then segregates the individual from his family, from society, and from every other external influence or control, and brings him face to face with God alone. And if every individual is responsible for himself, it naturally follows that no restraint can be laid on his conscience. No person, nor church, nor government can coerce the will of an individual. Many a government has denied the full liberty of conscience to all men and, as a result, has persecuted some of its greatest citizens because they sought this freedom of conscience for themselves.

Scriptural Confirmation

The biblical confirmation of this principle is found in various Scriptures. It quite naturally stands subordinate to the first principle, namely, that the Bible is our only

guide in faith and conduct. Personal freedom cannot stand above or equal to the authority of God or his Word. Freedom of conscience does not excuse our accountability to God. While God demands of us all to repent and believe, yet he grants to all the right of personal self-determination. He does not force us to do his will, but appeals to us.

In Romans 14:12 we read, "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." We are not to give an account for others, nor they for us, but everyone for himself. In the same chapter, verse 5, it states, "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Every person has the liberty to think for himself. In John 7:17, where Jesus speaks of his willingness to have his doctrine enquired into, he says that they are such who are not biased by any other interest to find out what the will of God is. They are competent and have the freedom for themselves to discover what the will of God is.

Other biblical illustrations to prove this are the words of Mark 9:38-39. There we find John wanting to forbid a man from casting out devils in Jesus' Name although he was not a follower of Jesus. In reply Jesus forbade John and granted the man the liberty to do so. In Luke 9:52-56 we have the account of the disciples wanting to call down fire from heaven upon the Samaritans because they would not receive Jesus. Here, too, Jesus rebuked his disciples, and granted the

(Continued on next page)

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Samaritans the right to reject him. The incident recorded in Matthew 26:52 is another example of individual freedom. Peter, in defence of Jesus, had lifted up his sword and had cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. There, Jesus also rebuked Peter, and then refused to call legions of angels to his assistance, because he recognized the rights of men to act according to the dictates of their conscience.

Another example comes from the teaching of the Apostle Paul concerning his own personal choice (Galatians 1:13-14). Paul in exercising his own personal freedom states that he first had exercised that right by using force and persecution, but after his conversion voluntarily he had used love. The forcing of one's will arouses hatred, strife and antagonism, and is therefore unscriptural and robs the individual of the right of private judgment. No human being or institution should put the human mind in bondage. Nor should the conscience of man be forced by any form of penalty or persecution. Each soul must be allowed to make its direct response to God.

Soul Liberty in Its Practical Application

This principle of soul liberty or individuality is imperatively seen in its practical application. With regard to the reception of members into the church, the New Testament clearly teaches that only such who, out of a free will and personal convictions, have submitted to the Lord are to be

received (2 Corinthians 8:5). In the matter of worshipping God, it is to be the result of the individual's faith and desire of his heart. We do not dictate to our members what they should believe, or how they should worship, but we expect them to search the Scriptures for themselves to determine the rule of their faith and conduct (Acts 17:11).

Even in the case of discipline in the church, it is never to be the means of coercion but an admonition in love (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15). This then denounces all coercion on the part of a church to make people its members. If God had wanted to use force to convert the world, it would have happened long ago. This inevitably makes infant baptism unthinkable and unreasonable. No sponsor can do for a helpless child what he cannot do for his own children. No babe can of its own volition make a rational profession of Christ through baptism.

Conversion must be the act of a free choice, as well as the decision to accept all the duties and privileges of church membership. This no helpless infant can do, nor can any sponsor do it for him. Infant baptism attempts to perform a religious act by proxy, robs the infant of individual decision, and leads to the secularizing of the church. Every act of obedience to God must be one of private judgment. If not, it has no moral or spiritual value.

The Supreme Will of God

In its practical value, this principle demands the same privileges in civil and business matters as well. It is to be remembered that wherever we claim

the right to think for ourselves and make our own decisions, we must also grant that same privilege to our fellowmen and to those of other faiths. However, God's will must always be supreme, even as it concerns our liberty, for Peter says: "As free, and not using your freedom for a cloak of wickedness but as bond-servants of God" (1 Peter 2:16).

Why then do Baptist people insist on freedom of conscience in the realm of religious liberty? It is not because they are inherently better than others, but because they believe, first, in the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ, and second, that the Word of God is the standard for all of life, rather than traditions, customs, councils or religious formularies. Whatever is not found in the Word cannot be bound on the conscience of men. Then, in the third place, Baptists believe that every individual is first and last responsible to God, to whom alone he must give a final reckoning. To be able to do this calls for soul liberty. Fourth, Baptists have held to this conviction because this attitude toward liberty is consistent, constructive and worthy.

Wherever this principle of religious liberty has been disregarded, the history of the church has been written in blood and made crimson with the stories of persecution and the inquisition. Baptists have never resorted to the sword but have always advocated religious liberty. We are indeed grateful to Baptist people, and all others who have come to their aid, in the struggle of this liberty, both religious and civil.

'Thankful'

"I learned how valuable our Constitution is and how valuable the separation of church and state is."
Cynthia Dwyer, the 53rd hostage, on her release from Iran in February.

Church Extension Project

South Sioux City Church Plans to Build

By Fred M. Penner

Tucked up in the northeast corner of Nebraska is South Sioux City. Its companion, Sioux City, Iowa, is just across the Missouri River. In September 1979, the Rev. and Mrs. Fred Penner and family came to pastor a very young church, just adopted into our N.A.B. Conference. After meeting for a year in a mobile home court just outside of our city of 10,000, we changed our location and name to better minister to our area.

Our new name, Anchor Baptist Church, chosen from Hebrews 6:19, speaks directly to needs we find in our community. Our hope in Christ is an anchor for our souls both sure and steadfast. Many drift through life without this sure and steadfast anchor. Many also need a message of hope for their marriage, family, or job situation. Jesus Christ offers this hope.

Last May we had 20 folks meeting regularly in the restaurant/theater type building which we rent in the center of our city. Our membership totals 25 now; however, in January 1981 we averaged 39 (double our May average). We had record attendances at two recent specials: 62 at our Christmas program and 64 at our Valentine's dinner. We are working toward a goal of 60 at a worship service in April or May. We have a fine Sunday school, worship service and evening inspirational hour on Sundays. A midweek service, home Bible study and Good News Club grace our weekdays. Through these various programs, our church ministers to 108 persons. Pray for six families/couples whom we are visiting and for

The Rev. Fred Penner is pastor of Anchor Baptist Church, South Sioux City, NE.

whom we are praying. We look for them to begin attending soon.

Our goal of 60 in April/May was set in conjunction with our plans to build, hopefully, this summer. We have a fine three-acre site, two blocks from the junior high-senior high school complex at the growing south side of South Sioux City. In comparison with other church extension projects, we got a bargain at \$8,500 per acre. An acreage one-half block away was priced at \$35,000 per acre. We are now meeting with Zion Church Designers and Builders to develop a floor plan and a design for our building. We have a building fund goal of \$40,000 to reach these next eight months and are in process of applying for C.E.I.F. Funds to finance the rest of the cost, which is estimated to be near \$160,000.

Two songs, which our folks like, tell of the spirit within our church. They are "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place" and "I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God."

Our Church has a challenging budget of over \$20,000 for 1981, with ten percent of that for missions. This is in addition to financial aid we receive from the N.A.B. Conference and our Iowa Association. We are very grateful for your support. We pray for God's great Grace to continue with you and with us as together we labor in his vineyard, planting, watering and harvesting.

Please share your special "Builders" gift with us sending it to our N.A.B. Conference Office, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for Anchor Baptist Church.



The junior girls Sunday school class led by Mrs. Cox represent part of the 108 persons to whom this church ministers.



Pastor and Mrs. Fred Penner minister to persons at Anchor Baptist Church.



Anchor Baptist is working toward a goal of 60 in April/May. Half of the congregation is pictured above.

Thoughts of a New Pastor's Wife

by Sharon Stoltenow,
Peoria, IL

Dear Father,

I come to you tonight with so many things on my heart. I am trying to trust you and believe that you are in control of all things. But, yet, Father, sometimes I doubt and question you. You have called me to be a pastor's wife. Are you certain that you haven't made a mistake . . . or maybe you have me confused with someone else? Yes, Father, it's true that I'm married to Terry, and you most certainly called him to be a pastor. But all of those wonderful qualities that a pastor's wife should have—what have I got? Let me see now . . . there must be something.



Terry and Sharon Stoltenow and children (Susan 7, Caren, 4).

Yes, Father, that's right. I have everything I need because I have you! Oh, thank you for reminding me through your loving, comforting Spirit. The anxieties I felt last year about what I would have to know or be able to do are slowly melting away as I put myself completely into your hands.

Father, I cannot comprehend how you can love me when I let you down so many times. I am so grateful that you do. It makes me love you even more.

Please, Father, may I always seek to do your will—not just because I'm a pastor's wife, and those around me

expect me to always do the right thing. But more importantly, may I seek to do your will so that you may be glorified. As it says in your Word, "Haven't you

learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. For God has

Up The Stairway

by Donna McFall,
Stockton, CA

"We do not cease to pray for you . . ." (Colossians 1:9).

It would seem that one of the reasons we are so nostalgic about the "good ole days" is that those times were filled with personal contacts with people. Today we have wallets full of little cards, offices walled with machines, and markets "manned" by people with whom we never get beyond "It's a nice day." Because it is made so easy for us, we too can fall into the same plastic, impersonal mold.

Some of us lived in the days of the "routes" . . . vegetable men . . . ice cream men . . . milkmen . . . and in grandmother's day even the hardware store men came to her front door and many times spent the night because the farms were so far apart. Everyone called each other by name. Friendships were established between people, and it was good.

I would like to recommend a "route" that is not outdated. We can carry it on today, and it is a delight. It is a ministry which was started in my life from a sickbed. For several years, I was called to a fulltime ministry of prayer. What a high calling, although I did not realize it in full at that time. There were many times when my eyes could not focus on prayer lists; yet God gave me creative ways of calling people to my remembrance so that I could pray for them.

I imagined the church choir standing at the foot of my bed: here and there faces stood out. I prayed for them and their families—and could almost hear

their music. Other times, I imagined our Sunday school in session. In my mind I tiptoed through the halls, peeked into the different doors and prayed for the children, one by one. Or my heart would sit down at a table where my beloved friends met to study the Word. Those friends who had shown Jesus to me over the years had needs, also. Each time I journeyed into this land of prayer, I always included the leaders of my little church, because they needed "extra" attention.

Today I am back on my feet; yet these different ways of calling people to mind are firmly implanted in my prayer life. God has also added another avenue to my route, and it is a joy. This is the way I drive to work . . . three special neighbors . . . a great Christian family with three teenagers . . . a family where dad is not a Christian . . . a couple I've been witnessing to . . . a checker in a market . . . four families to the right . . . one to the left . . . a high school with four of our youth in it . . . and always my pastors.

These are people . . . needing God . . . facing a day that could bring heartaches, pressures, pain, or temptation. What a privilege!

One of the by-products of this kind of prayer life is that God establishes real relationships with those for whom you pray in a way that is unique and warm. I learned that it is never correct to say, "All I can do is pray," as if it were the least important thing a Christian can do. No, we need to see that it is the most important and should always be the first thing we do.

As a matter of fact, I hope that I am on someone's prayer route!

(Ed. Note: Our guest columnist is editor of the English Program Packet and member of the national W.M.F. executive committee.)

bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because he owns it" (Romans 6:19 LB).

I need that reminder so often. So much of the time I think of this body as mine. When I am in good health and things are sailing along smoothly, I think of this body as the very temple of God. But that night several weeks ago when I was crazy with pain from a severely abscessed tooth, it was my body, and I was angry because you allowed my body to suffer such agonizing pain. You very lovingly reminded

me that when I asked you to be my Savior and Lord, all the rights to my body were completely signed over to you. And very deep down within my heart I said, "Yes, Father. This body belongs to you. Please use this body to glorify you."

When I came to you this evening, I was sure you had gotten the wrong woman to walk alongside this wonderful husband-pastor of mine. But you have said, "Cease striving and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). I must forever cast away the doubts when they come flooding over me and know that

you are the Almighty God—perfect from beginning to end. What confidence I can possess as a child of God as I commit each day of our ministry to you!

Thank you, Father, for the people of our church who have been patient with me, because they know you are not finished with me yet. Please bless them. May we give you all the praise and glory as you continue to mold us into your image.

Love,
Sharon

A Tribute to Pastors' Wives

by Cathy Tull,
Sacramento, CA

Pastors are wonderful people,

They help and influence our lives.
But it seems that far too little
Is said of our pastors' wives.

For their lives, too, are special.

They are called by our Lord above.
They are cheerful and hospitable
And they minister in love.

Mother's Day Offering Project

by LaVerna
Mehlhoff,
women's work
director



During the month of May, we often honor mothers with special programs, teas, banquets, suppers, or other types of festivities. At these functions, women desire to share in a financial way to show gratitude to God for his many blessings. The Mother's Day offerings which you designate toward our W.M.F. goal will be used to assist in payment of salaries of our national pastors in Cameroon, Japan, and Brazil.

They're available as helpers
To almost everyone;
It seems they store up energy
Till everything is done.

They deserve appreciation,
As much as we can give,
To let them know we're truly blessed
By the exceptional lives they live.

They listen to problems of others
And sympathize with devotion,
At times offer spiritual wisdom
With understanding emotion.

If they're told that their husband's
sermon
Was special, or bad, or good;
It matters not how it's criticized,
They seem to react as they should.

They seem to attend all the functions
Where their talents they frequently
share.
They often must hide just how they feel
So we will be sure that they care.

A church service seldom ever goes by
When you'll miss her on your way
out;
No matter what happens or how she
might feel
She'll be there without any doubt.

Though her obligations seem endless
And her service much in demand,
She'll manage somehow to remain in
control

Then smile and extend you her hand.

We're assured that her life is rewarding
When observing that special look
Of the glow on her face and the shine in
her eyes

For the mission that she undertook.

Though their limitations are human
It scarcely seems to show;
We proudly acknowledge all that they
do

And certainly want them to know.

Did you know . . .

. . . that the Hebron, ND, W.M.F. multiplies the blessings of their White Cross work? Using the pieces of flannel left over from shirts, diapers, and blankets, they cut, stitch, and tie to make quilts, which they then sell—and that money pays for the postage for their White Cross quota.

the GROWING edge

Features from your Church Ministries Department to expand the growing edge of the mind and soul—to suggest, perhaps, new avenues of thought and action.

Denny's Column

by Denny Miller, short-term missionary in Cameroon



I have to admit that one of Satan's most successful points of entry into my life is through pride.

For the longest time, I've thought that I was a humble person. I really thought that I gave all the glory to God. In fact, I was quite proud of my humble nature. It was quite a shock when a friend said to me, "The minute a person thinks of himself as humble, he no longer is."

Sometimes the problem begins with answered prayer. Instead of giving credit to God, I just know it was my

prayer which brought about the result. Or, since I believe "I can do all things . . .," I become proud of the things I can do and neglect to remember it is ". . . through Christ who strengtheneth me."

Then I thought boasting meant walking up to someone with your nose in the air and loudly saying, "Look what I've done! I'm pretty good."

Well! I'd never do that! Therefore, I'm humble. I don't think the things I do are all that spectacular.

Yet I must think that. Otherwise, why do I make such subtle ploys for attention? Why do I casually work into a conversation something I've done? Why do I need a pat on the back—perpetually? Why do I tell myself I'm pretty great?

Second Corinthians 10:17 and 18 says, "He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord. For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends."

The book goes on to say that God's

power is perfected in our weakness. So what is so horrible about weakness?

I know we are to have a good self-image and also that we should not be content with weakness but work to emulate Christ. Yet we can't be over-inflated with ourselves, and realistically, we must admit weakness.

I must learn to say in my heart, "Praise the Lord," when I see results in some area of my life. I must always remind myself that I am nothing without Christ — that he not only blesses my efforts but also is the guiding force behind my efforts.

It is important to come before the Lord on our knees. To humble ourselves. Then God will exalt us. How can he use me when I am full of myself?

I pray that God will retain control of my life, that I never think I can do just as good a job.

I want to be able to answer the question, "What is this confidence you have?" as Isaiah 36:7 does: "We trust in the Lord our God."

Give Your Child a Heart for God

What will it take, dad, to give your child a mature and passionate love for God? After all, it's God's design that parents are responsible to communicate true spiritual values to their children.

Three States

As with most crucial issues in fathering, the answer starts with you. What are you modeling on the stage of family life? Timothy's sincere faith first dwelt in his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, (2 Timothy 1:5). Your children won't catch a disease you haven't got. In

fact, a weak spiritual life and practice on your part will only immunize them from catching the real thing.

Second Timothy 3:14 and 15 indicates that our real goal is the third of three stages. The first is "knowledge" (reliable facts and information about God and faith). The second is "learning" (a personal application of those truths). And the ultimate goal is "wisdom" (a pattern of looking at love from God's point of view).

Fathers who are successful at helping their children arrive at stage three are generally active in several key areas and activities. Let's take a personal inventory and then look at some practical suggestions. Put a (+) next to those you're successful at and a (-) next to ones where you need improvement.

☐ Is my own spiritual life worth modeling? Do I pray privately for the specific needs of my wife and children?

☐ Do I have a natural enthusiasm for spiritual things, or are prayer, Bible reading, and church activities rote or optional habits.

☐ Is my discipline of the children creating in them a balanced respect for authority which will help them willingly respond to God?

☐ Do I take my children to the Scriptures to discuss problems they are having or positive character qualities they are acquiring?

Psychological studies indicate that about 85 percent of your child's adult personality has been formed by his sixth birthday. Hence, your best chance for success is to love and discipline your

child effectively during those first crucial years. As you work on the remaining 15 percent, here are some suggestions.

Create an Ideal Climate

- Build a balanced climate in your home of laughter, adventure, surprises, care for one another, good music, good books, and good friends. Make it fun to live there. One test is where do the neighborhood kids like to play most?

- Have regular family devotions tailored to the interests and attention span of your children. Get them involved in contributing. Frequently change the pace. Reward them for memorizing scripture.

- Involve your kids in an effective Christian summer camping program and any good Scouting or Christian club program your church sponsors.

- Expose your child to biographies of great Christian men and women and

to contemporary Christian music with a message.

Study the world together

- Hang a world map on your wall and study regularly the areas of hunger, repression and spiritual need. Write missions groups for materials or audio-visual media which tells what God is doing in various countries.

- Invite missionaries and spiritually committed people into your home. Help your children ask questions and learn how God called these people.

- On a family bulletin board post pictures of missionaries you have met. Correspond with them. Pray and, as a family, give to help with their needs.

- On your family vacation visit a missions outreach location in the area where you are going.

Reach Out Together

- Identify friends of your child or

The Parent's Prayer

O Master, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them, and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I want them to be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and to ask their forgiveness when I know that I have wronged them.

What Teens Want From Adults

Be a part of our lives, but don't compromise in order to "buddy up." For example, don't chaperone a party where beer is served. We need to see someone "draw the line" in today's permissive

May I not hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or ridicule them as punishment. Let me not tempt them to lie and steal. Guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do what honestly produces happiness.

Blind me to the little errors of my children, and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise when they do right.

Help me to grow up with my children, to treat them as children and not as adults when they are young. Let me not judge them according to the standards of adult behavior. Do not allow

society. If you stand for what's right and don't compromise, we'll respect your advice.

Be interested in us. Ask us about our schoolwork, our dates, our plans for the weekend. We need to know you care. Take time to talk with us, or just call us on the phone and chat for awhile.

Be real. We can usually spot a phony. We notice instinctively how you feel toward us by the look in your eyes, your facial expression, your tone of voice.

family who do not know Christ. Pray and plan ways to spend time with them, which might become an opportunity for the gospel. Make sure you and your child know what to say when the opportunity comes.

During your child's teen-age years, his faith must become separate from yours. He or she will likely begin questioning much of what he has previously accepted. Don't panic. Pray, provide exposure to materials which give solid answers, and to speakers on cassette tape who communicate well with your people. More than ever, live what you preach.

In Proverbs 22:6, God promises you can give your child a heart for God. It's an on-going process of mutual growth each day. And one thing is certain. If you neglect it, you'll live to regret it. (From *Dads Only*, April 1980, Paul Lewis, editor, Julian, CA)

me to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make decisions.

Forbid that I should ever punish them for my own selfish satisfaction. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable, and have the courage always to withhold a privilege which I know will harm them.

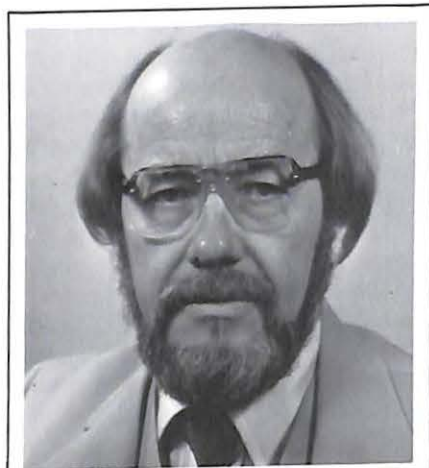
May you make me so fair and just, so considerate and compassionate to my children that they will have a genuine esteem for me. Make me worthy of being loved and imitated by my children. (From Grace Baptist Church Newsletter, Grand Forks, ND)

Guide us with biblical truth, not traditions. Lots of times we don't read our Bible because it's presented as always telling us not to do this or that.

Help us to make decisions in our everyday life. We don't want you to make our decisions for us, just give us something to think about while we make our own decisions.

Be there when we need you; correct us gently but firmly; live by the standards you proclaim.

—Keith Hardy in *Ministry*



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Recently I read an article about the *Pulls and Pushes* of marriage and family life. I related to this concept, because this is the kind of feeling I have felt. Often the needs of others are pulling us in a certain direction. We want to be helpful, but we also have our needs. We want them to be considered. Often we do not agree with a certain decision or a certain trend; yet we feel quite helpless to stop it or change it. This is the feeling of being pushed.

The areas or situations in which we may feel *pulled or pushed* may vary from marriage to marriage. They may also vary during different stages of our life.

During the early years of marriage, the *pushing and pulling* can be related to

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situations involving the handling of money, the way food is prepared or not prepared, role clarification, and whose relatives to visit during vacation time.

A specific example of role clarification *pulls and pushes* can be where the newly married husband has very distinct ideas about whose responsibility the housework is. They both have jobs and get home around the same time. He puts on his warm-up suit and plans to go for a leisurely run through the park to relax from the tensions of his hard day at the office. He makes the assumption that his wife will go ahead and cheerfully prepare the evening meal. That's the way it has been during the first six weeks of their marriage. Why should it not continue?

The young bride of six weeks is beginning to have some negative feelings about this daily routine. She is glad that he is interested in keeping physically fit, but she has about had it with the evening cooking routine.

So on this particular occasion, as he goes out to run saying: "I'll be back in about 40 minutes," she responds by saying: "Oh, fine, I'm running next door for a little while." (What she's really saying is that I have no intention of keeping this routine that you have established.)

The *pushing and pulling* is beginning in all seriousness when he returns from his exercise time, showers and hears his wife return just as he finishes getting dressed. I will leave it to your imagination to guess what kind of conversation follows and how it gets resolved.

As we move into the middle years of marriage, the *pulls and pushes* continue, and in fact may become much more serious. In the middle stages, money may still be a problem, but frequently it involves children. Choice bits of conversation that give us a hint of the tension between a husband and wife are the following: "Henry, John's room still looks like a pig pen."

"I tried to call this house today for one hour straight and got only busy signals." "Henry, I heard John come in at 12:15 last night. How long are you going to let this go on?"

"I absolutely refuse to pick up one more toy or one more dirty sock, or put away another wet towel!"

I could continue with many other bits of conversation that indicate there is somewhat less than a harmonious situation present.

It is inevitable that in a home where there are ordinary people living, *pull and push* situations are going to develop. What is the answer to this problem? Trying to have a home in which there are no problems is unrealistic. Therefore, we must develop skills to cope with *push and pull* situations. We usually refer to these skills as *conflict resolution skills*.

The first skill, in this regard, that I will mention is to have the ability to *trust*. Once trust has gone out of a relationship, then the problems need to be considered as fairly deep. Trust can have a simple definition such as, "I think you're alright, and I hope you see me as alright, but we have a disagreement." Not to be trusted or seen as *alright* seriously disrupts a relationship.

A second skill that is helpful in taking the *push and pull* out of a situation is the ability to ask for forgiveness, and also having the grace to forgive. In many ways, forgiveness seems so simple; yet there are many people who somehow have never learned how to do it.

Another skill that helps a great deal in a *push and pull* situation is the ability to negotiate. Many people are miserable, because they are rigid. There is only one way to look at a situation and that is through their eyes. People who know how to give and take usually can work themselves out of *pull and push* situations. People who do not know how to negotiate feel that the only way to resolve a *pull and push* situation is to *push and pull* harder.

I like the way Isaiah has the Lord addressing his people: "Come now, let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). The implication is that literally no matter how bad it is, it can be worked out. Paul also has some sound advice about *pull and push* situations: "Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

For further reading and study on the same subject, read the book by David Augsburg, *Caring Enough to Confront*, Regal Books. □

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Haas of Sioux Falls, SD, were honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house at Trinity Baptist Church on the afternoon of Aug. 17, 1980. During the Sunday morning service, a Bible was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Haas in tribute



of the love and training received by their children: Priscilla, (Mrs. David Keiry); the Rev. Curtis Haas; Donna (Mrs. Allan Kranz); Gloria (Mrs. Tim Hammelman), and Larry. The couple's children and grandchildren were present at the occasion along with friends, other relatives and some of the foster children to whom the Haas' were parents.

The 50th wedding anniversary celebration in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Ed (Clara) Kroeker was held Jan. 31, 1981, in the afternoon at the Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK. Over 100 family and friends



gathered, as a program organized by the proud couple's son, ElRoy, his wife, Coraina, and their three sons: Tiry, Roy and Eddie, was presented. Coraina presented the family history. ElRoy and Rev. Albert Epp read several poems. Pastor Tom Klose renewed the honored couple's wedding vows. (Phyllis Meyer, reporter.)

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schroder of Emery, SD, were honored at an open house at the First Baptist Church on Dec. 21, 1980, in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. The occasion was hosted by their sons: Lowell, Allen, Melvern, and Lloyd, and daughter,



Dolores Buller. Their pastor, the Rev. David Korb, gave a devotional message. More than 200 relatives and friends greeted the honored couple including Mr. Ed Schroder who was an attendant at their wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schroder are active members of the First Baptist Church, Emery.

RIDGEWOOD, NY. In 1855 our church, like many others, started as a Sunday school for neighborhood children. The Rev. J. C. Grimm, one of the outstanding N.A.B. leaders in the early years of this century, continued that pioneer work of his father, Jeremiah, during two separate terms as our pastor. In the succeeding years, the Lord provided the necessary leaders and members to witness to his salvation. With thankful hearts both for past guidance and the Lord's present help in sending us our dear pastor, the Rev. Edward Bacon, and wife Bonnie, Ridgewood Baptist Church celebrated its 126th anniversary on January 25.

Dr. Grant Anderson, former executive director, Queens Federation of Churches, spoke on "Discovering the Mission of the Church." The choir and a girls' trio provided special music.

Following a dinner, prepared and served by the Willing Workers, annual reports from each church group were presented. The theme of the day was "Renewal." With the Lord's help, it will continue to be our goal. (Marion von Ahnen, reporter.)

MINOT, ND. The Rev. Ralph E. Cooke and his wife, Celesta, were honored at a surprise reception at First Baptist Church. The occasion marked the

30th anniversary of Pastor Cooke's serving in the ministry.

Church moderator, Wade Iverson, served as master of ceremonies of the program. A poem written in the Cooke's honor by Inez Rhone portrayed events of their past years.

Comments and tributes were given by Mrs. Cooke and by their daughter, Lois (Mrs. Dale Fuchs) of Burlington, ON.

A handsome plaque was presented to Pastor Cooke from the church. (Inez Rhone, reporter.)

VERNON, BC. Dr. Norman Archer, Calgary, AB, was guest speaker during a week of special meetings on spiritual growth. These meetings were a great blessing to all who attended.

Six youth (pictured) were baptized by Pastor H. Schumacher and received into the membership of the church following the watchnight service.



The youth group presented a play, "To All People," to a full church on Christmas Eve. They later presented the play to another church in the city during the holiday season. (M. A. Bomford, reporter.)

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD. Members and friends of the Immanuel Baptist Church honored their pastor, the Rev. Darwin Stahl, and family on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as a minister of the Gospel at a special program. Five of the years have been in the ministry at Immanuel Church. Pastor Stahl was presented a love offering. (Bernece Rasmussen, reporter.)

CORONA, SD. A farewell program was held for the Rev. Harry Johnson and family on Dec. 14, 1980. Leaders of the various church organizations expressed appreciation for their ministry and wished them God's blessing in their future service.

A warm welcome was given to our new pastor, the Rev. Anthony Guenther, and his wife on Jan. 18, 1981. The church pre-

our conference in action

sented a program with special music by the junior young people. The Rev. Joel Hermon, Wilmet, gave an inspiring message.

The James C. Dobson "Focus on the Family" film series were presented on Sunday evenings during February and March, and were well received by the community. (Shelia Dailie and Sylvia Binde, reporters.)

ROCK RAPIDS, IA. Members of First Baptist Church held their first baptismal service in their new sanctuary at which time six people (pictured) followed the Lord in this act of obedience. These six,



along with five others, were then united into the local body of Christ. The Rev. Reuben Grueneich is the pastor of the Faith Baptist, which is an N.A. B. church extension project. (Eleanor Stump, church clerk.)

EDMONTON, AB. An ordination council met at Central Baptist Church on Feb. 7, 1981. The Council consisted of 37 delegates from 14 churches in the northern area of the Alberta Baptist Association. The purpose was to examine Mr. Steven Berg as a candidate for ordination.

The Rev. Harvey Wilkie was elected moderator, and the Rev. Bruno Voss as clerk. Following a presentation by Mr. Berg, and questioning by the Council, a recommendation was made to the Westland Baptist Church to proceed with the ordination of the candidate.

On Feb. 15, 1981, Mr. Steven Berg was ordained into the Christian ministry by the Westland Baptist Church, of which he is the pastor. (Bruno Voss, clerk.)

ELLINWOOD, KS. The Rev. Manuel Wolff baptized three men recently at First Baptist Church. Following the morning service, they and their spouses were extended the hand of fellowship and joined the Church in observing the Lord's Supper. We are thankful for these three young couples that God sent to the church. (Mildred Burroughs, reporter.)

CORN, OK. The months of December and January were a fantastic time of seeing God at work at Calvary Baptist Church. Eight persons were baptized in two baptismal services by the Rev. Tom



Klose, pastor (pictured, back row, left). Along with those baptized, two families joined the church. Praise God for his blessings and for our fine pastor and his wife. (Rita Williams, reporter.)

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD. Immanuel Baptist Church had the joy of witnessing a baptismal service at which time four adults and six young people made a public profession of their faith in Christ through baptism. The Rev. Darwin Stahl, pastor, extended the hand of fellowship to these and also to one who joined the church by transfer of letter.

The Cornerstone Quartet from the Calvary Baptist Church of Aberdeen, SD, presented a concert February 1. (Bernece Rasmussen, church clerk.)

BISMARCK, ND. Bismarck Baptist Church bade farewell to Deanne Barker on February 15. Miss Barker was employed as a youth worker from November to February while she was awaiting clearance to begin her position at Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB. Her enthusiasm and concern for the young people will have a lasting impact on their lives. In a very beautiful manner, she was also able to share with the entire church of her experience in Japan as a short-term missionary. (Mrs. Violet Grenz, church clerk.)

MC CLUSKY, ND. Rev. and Mrs. Ron Delzell, accomplished musicians, held evangelistic meetings, which were well attended.



Mercer Baptist Church held a joint baptismal service with McClusky Baptist

Church in the McClusky Church. Five young people were received into the McClusky Church fellowship.

Following a program, refreshments and fellowship, at the watchnight service, McClusky Baptist Church had a mortgage burning service. The Church rejoices at being able to pay off the mortgage on the parsonage in five short years. The Rev. Vernon Schneider is interim pastor. (M. S. Kirschman, reporter.)

CAMROSE, AB. The Women's Mission Circle presented their 66th anniversary program to a large audience at Century Meadows Baptist Church recently. After welcoming those present, Ruby Lamprecht, outlined the group's goals, including the white cross work. An orchestra and a soloist furnished music. Dr. and Mrs. Ed Kern, former missionaries to Japan and presently serving at the N.A.B. College, showed slides on "Reaching the Unreached." Pastor Larry Froese spoke briefly.

A missionary birthday lunch followed with people sitting at the table of their birthdays. Birthday cards were signed and sent to our missionaries. (Ann Soderstrom, reporter.)

LEDUC, AB. More than 500 people attended the dedication of the new building of the Temple Baptist Church on January 18. The new church is located a mile south of Leduc. The Rev. John Martens, pastor, led the service. The Rev. Sig Schuster, Manitoba/Saskatchewan Area secretary, and the Rev. Harvey Wilkie, chairman of the ministerial fellowship, read Scripture and led in prayer, respectively.

Greetings were given by Mayor Oscar Klak, the Rev. Isador Faszer, Alberta Area secretary, the Rev. Irwin Kujat, vice moderator, Alberta Association, the Rev. Ken Rodeman, Leduc Ministerial Association, and representatives from neighboring churches.

The highlight of the afternoon was the inspiring message brought by Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg, president, North American Baptist College and Divinity School.

The young people, the ladies' ensemble, and Professor John Taylor, N.A.B. College, presented special music. Mr. Garth Ford, contractor, handed the keys of the church to Edward Ohlmann, chairman of the building committee. The dedication prayer was given by Dr. E. P. Wahl.

We are proud and happy for what was accomplished in our building project. In the near future, it is planned to add a gym and educational unit. The Lord has been good. By faith we are going forth to reach many for his Kingdom. (Vi Fleck, reporter.)

ABILENE, KS. The Rev. W. D. Dachtler, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist



Church, baptized seven persons: five adults and two children, recently during a Sunday morning service. Later that morning the hand of fellowship was extended to these seven, plus five others who came by letter or testimony. The church rejoices in this growth. (Mrs. Carl Pschigoda, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. A number of the young people of Trinity Baptist Church took part in the Christmas "Operation Mobilization" program in Mexico. Upon their return, they reported enthusiastically to the church of how God led them in marvelous ways to witness and win Mexicans for the Lord. The youth of our church are growing spiritually and in number under the leadership of Dixie Potratz, Christian Education director. The Rev. R. Neuman recently developed a new senior citizens group, and our senior pastor, the Rev. R. Hohensee, continues to give vital leadership to the growing church. In order to more fully achieve the concept of every woman of the church playing a vital part in the church ministry, the Ladies' Missionary Guild reorganized under the name, Women's Ministries Fellowship. Thus, every woman whether teaching Sunday school, singing

in the choir, or leading a Bible study, can feel as much a part of the women's work as can the White Cross Worker or those serving in the church kitchen.

The purpose of the fellowship is to help women grow in Christ and cultivate a missionary spirit at Trinity Baptist Church. (Magdalena Spletzer, reporter.)

JAMESTOWN, ND. The Temple Baptist Choir, under the direction of Sheryl Grenz, presented the Christmas cantata, "Love Transcending," by John W. Peterson.

On January 18, the congregation had a carry-in dinner, after which Mrs. Judy White presented a mini-concert, followed by the Church's annual business meeting.

The Church has received new hymnals, *Hymns for the Family of God*, which were presented in memory of Mr. Christ Eslinger, Mrs. Bertha Lehr, and Mr. Ruben Wolff, by their respective families.

The Rev. Jim Dick is pastor of Temple Baptist Church. (Mrs. Ted Meisch, reporter.)

HERREID, SD. The Men's Brotherhood of Herreid Baptist Church sponsored a Sweetheart Banquet at the Country Cafe in Herreid. Edwin Schweigert acted as toastmaster. Scripture was read by Howard Conway who also led the group singing. Pastor Edward Kopf led in prayer. The program feature was the Cornerstone Quartet of the Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD. Their program was both entertaining and inspirational and was immensely enjoyed by all. There were 150 persons in attendance. (Pearl Huber, reporter.)

our conference in action

BILLINGS, MT. Nine persons (pictured) gave moving testimonies recently at a morning worship service of Calvary Baptist Church. Six were baptismal candidates, and three joined the membership of our church by letter of transfer. Pastor



Brian Hayes challenged each with a personal Bible verse. It was the first baptismal service in the new church. (Gladys Beusch, reporter.)

TURTLE LAKE, SD. Seven adults and two teenagers made a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ through testimonies and in baptism at Turtle Lake Baptist Church recently. A time of fellowship followed the service. Several weeks of orientation classes were held before the baptismal service was held.

The nine who were baptized and two other adults were later welcomed into the church fellowship.

We praise the Lord and rejoice as we see God working in the lives of people. Dennis Goodin is pastor of the church. (Doris Lindteigen, reporter.)

until her death. In 1919 she married Albert Bertsch, who predeceased her in 1975. Survivors include two daughters: Lillie (Mrs. Albert Weigum) of Three Hills and Reada (Mrs. Adam Buyer) of Carbon; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters: Lydia Bertsch and Freda Dickau, and one brother, Emil Ohlhauser. The Rev. Richard Grake officiated at the funeral service.

KATHLEEN WOLFER, 47, was born at Mobridge, SD, Oct. 29, 1933, and died Dec. 30, 1980, at Custer, SD. Kathleen grew up at McLaughlin, SD, and was a past member of First Baptist Church, McLaughlin. At the age of three and a half years, she was afflicted with a serious illness from which she never recovered. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Pauline Wolfer, McLaughlin; a brother, Carlos of McLaughlin, one nephew and two nieces. She was preceded in death by her father in 1966. The Rev. Reuben Stading officiated at the funeral service.

Donald Patet officiated at the funeral service.

BERTHA BERRETH, 73, was born Aug. 24, 1907, at Mayton, AB, and died Oct. 11, 1980. Her husband, Michael Berreth, predeceased her. She is survived by two sons: Roland of Beisker, AB, and Harvey of Blackie, AB; one daughter, Mrs. Reta Shaw of Calgary, AB, and six grandchildren; four sisters: Tillie Thomas, Molly Davidson, Selma Schimke, and Anna Schimke; two brothers: William Oelke and Albert Oelke. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Grabke of the Carbon Baptist Church.

PAULINA BERTSCH nee Ohlhauser was born in 1898 in Long Lake, SD, and died Feb. 3, 1981. She moved to Carbon, AB, in 1910. She accepted Christ as her Savior and was baptized. She was a faithful member of Carbon Baptist Church

In Memoriam

MRS. KATIE HAAN, 91, of Aplington, IA, was born to John and Carrie Appledorn Alberts, March 10, 1889, in Aplington, IA, and died Jan. 14, 1981. She married Cornelius J. Haan on Oct. 6, 1909. To this union nine children were born, three sons and six daughters. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior, was baptized on April 21, 1957, and became a member of Aplington Baptist Church. Survivors include her sons: Alvin of Cedar Falls, and Harlan of Aplington; six daughters: Mrs. Rosa Kusian, Iowa Falls, Mrs. Carrie May Reindels, Shell Rock, Mrs. Lorraine Fletcher, Loveland, CO, Mrs. Ruth Kinkelie, Anaheim, CA, Mrs. Muriel Card, Fountain Valley, CA, and Mrs. Inez Ayers of Aplington, IA; 16 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Andy Knock. The Rev.

What does the word family mean to "New Day"? It has a variety of meanings, each special in its own way.

When you mention family, most of us think of our families back home. We appreciate our families and the love they show to us through faithful letter writing, their prayers, and their telephone calls. We tell our families about the churches we have been to and the exciting things that have happened. We tell them about visiting Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah, on our way through and how they let us sing in the Mormon Tabernacle. We tell them about going skiing at Lake Tahoe and spending our day off at Knotts Berry Farm in California. We tell them about the experiences we had in our door-to-door visitation and in singing in a prison, where one man gave his heart to the Lord. We also share with them the struggles we are having and look to them for guidance. Sometimes we hint that a cheque in the mail would make a letter all the more special! We share happy moments and not so happy. These are all received

with genuine interest and love. We love our families and wouldn't trade our relationship with them. Yes, we do miss them, but that brings us to another meaning of family.

"New Day" in itself is a family. We see each other all day every day. We certainly get to know one another! Not much can happen in our lives without it being noticed by someone. We share a lot of things, even toothpaste, clothes, books, letters from home, disagreements, reconciliations, happy and sad moments. We are definitely a family. It has been exciting to watch the Lord work in each of us individually and also to see spiritual growth as a team. The thought of saying good-bye at the end of May is not always a happy thought.

What other family do we have? All the people with whom we stay on tour become just like family. We feel like we can call them mom, dad, sister, or brother (and we do!). Everyone has been so nice. It is hard to leave after you have spent a few days with an "adopted family" who makes us feel at home and

really treats us like son or daughter. A big thank you to all of our "short-term families" for all that you have done for us.

Another family whom we have enjoyed getting to know a bit better is the North American Baptist family. It has been just great visiting the different churches in our Conference and getting to know the pastors and people in these churches. One always seems to meet someone one knows or someone who knows someone you know.

There is one more family whom we are a part of. It is the most important family. It is the family of God. It says in John 1:12, "But to all who received him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God." We are his children. It is exciting to find other members of God's family wherever we go. It is great for us to see this family growing not only spiritually as God works in people's lives but also physically as it grows larger when we have opportunity to share God's love and salvation with others. □

Hohn Appointed to British Columbia Position



The Rev. Edmond Hohn received appointment to the newly created position of area secretary for British Columbia for the North American Baptist Conference, effective July 1, 1981. Hohn, who has been pastor of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church,

Kelowna, BC, since its founding in 1974, was elected to the position by the N.A.B. General Council upon recommendation of the British Columbia Area Secretary Search Committee.

In accepting the position, Hohn states, "I am excited about the challenge of this position." This includes planting new churches and ministering to the needs of established churches. "There's a positive attitude and excitement about growth and outreach in British Columbia."

The British Columbia Association had made a request to the 1980 General Council that the Western Area of the North American Baptist Conference be divided and another area secretary be added. The Western Area has extended from Southern California to northern British Columbia. The Rev. Hans Wilcke remains area secretary of the Western Area which,

as of July 1, will include California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and western Montana.

Hohn is a 1959 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and a 1956 graduate of Sioux Falls College. He also attended North American Baptist College. In addition to pastoring the Lakeview Heights Church in Kelowna, Hohn's pastorates have included Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, BC (1968-1974); Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church, Saskatoon, SK, (1964-1968), and Nokomis Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, (1959-1964), where he was ordained in 1959.

Hohn is married to the former Manetta Frohlich. They have three daughters: Glenda, Sharlene, and Rhonda, and one son, Calvin. Hohn's office will be in his residence at 860 McCartney Rd., Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1R8

What's Happening

The Rev. Oscar Fritzke becomes the pastor of McClusky Baptist Church, North Dakota, effective June 21, 1981. He served Oakridge Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, since 1974.

The Rev. Stephen Scott Davis was ordained by First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, on March 18, 1981. Mr. Davis is a member of the staff at First Baptist.

The Rev. Wes Andrei resigned as pastor of Canora Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, in July 1980. He had served as pastor there since 1975.

Corona Heights Baptist Church, Corona, CA, was officially accepted into the Southern California Association at the annual meeting, March 6-8, 1981. The Rev. Ron Hartman is pastor.

Mr. Humbertos V. Fernandez recently became the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Newark, NJ. He is from the Brazilian Baptist Mission in Brazil.

The Rev. Werner Lemke becomes the pastor of the new church extension project in Kamloops, BC, in June. He has been the pastor of First Baptist Church, Colfax, WA, since 1976.

Dr. Heinz Rossol, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Woodside, NY, received the doctor of ministry degree from the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in May 1980.

Mr. Richard H. Mulder of Parkersburg, IA, died March 15, 1981, at the age of 88. He was prominent as a layman on various N.A.B. Conference committees.

I would like to invite you to join Dr. Roy Gustafson and I for a delightful holiday to Rome and Israel September 12-24, 1981. Dr. Gustafson is an associate evangelist with Billy Graham and has toured Israel over 90 times. Join us for this great time together. Contact me:
Pastor Bill Cummins
Ebenezer Baptist Church
21001 Moross Road
Detroit, Michigan 48236
313-882-2728

J. Gordon Harris, Ph.D., was promoted to the rank of captain on Dec. 12, 1980. He is chaplain, 1st Battalion, 147th F.A. South Dakota National Guard, Sioux Falls. He is professor of Old Testament at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Robert McBroom became the pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, on May 1, 1981. He previously served a Baptist General Conference church in Michigan.

The Rev. G. Wesley Blackburn, pastor of Isabel Baptist Church, South Dakota, died March 7, 1981, at the age of 64. He served the following N.A.B. churches: First, Dickinson County, KS; Immanuel, Loyal, OK; Pioneer, Pound, WI; Jeffers, MN; First, Buffalo Center, IA; Washburn, ND; Hillside, Dickinson, ND and Isabel, SD.

The Rev. Wilfred Unruh, pastor of Neustadt Baptist Church, Ontario, since 1976, resigned effective May 30. He now resides in Manitoba.

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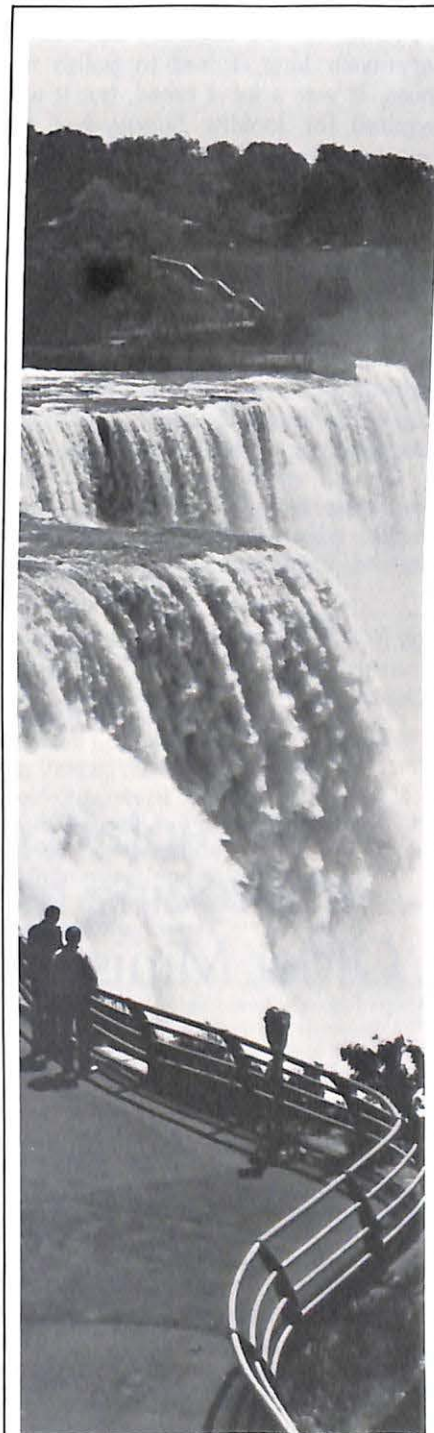
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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 1982 N.A.B. TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Niagara Falls, New York
August 10-15, 1982

The Rev. Warren Wiersbe,
Bible study speaker

Viewpoint

I remember the Saturday night ritual very well. First, I had to polish my shoes. It was a job I hated, but it was required for looking Sunday-best the next morning at church. Second, a bath and hair wash—endeavors that ranked equal in pain with shoe polishing. The longest job of the evening was studying the weekly Sunday school lesson. This required writing answers in the appropriate places for questions on the Bible text. I think that this was where I first learned to use abbreviations. Being ready for church the next morning was important to me and to our family.

Church attendance was woven into the fabric of my family's life. My grandfather, whom I never met, was a pillar in the Immanuel Baptist Church, a

By Ron Salzman, associate secretary for business services, N.A.B. Missions Department.

Acceptance Improving for Older Ministers

by Jim Lowry

Prejudices affecting the mobility and effectiveness of ministers over 50 may not be as prevalent as feared, according to ministers attending a seminar at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, TN.

James Cooper, coordinator of counseling services for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, believes ministers over 50 are reaching a new level of acceptance today, partly because of the larger number of older persons in society.

Often pastor search committees fear an older pastor will move to a church just to retire, or he will "coast" when he arrives, preaching from his reservoir of sermons. They also fear potential health problems and an inability of the pastor to understand needs of church members.

"In most cases, these are likely false assumptions," Cooper said. "Older ministers understand more of what the min-

istry is about because of the depth of experience gained over the years. "The minister over 50 has experienced hurts and trauma personally and in the lives of church members, giving him a greater empathy and making him less judgmental and more objective."

"He also is a better counselor by virtue of his insights and life experiences," Cooper said. "The minister over 50 understands what the ministry is about and is able to establish priorities which eliminate the busy-ness that can occupy so much time. He knows he can't be all things to all people."

Cooper recently conducted a survey among several ministers over 50 in Texas. He found the pastors felt the thing they do best after age 50 is preach, which is usually the first requirement from pastor search committees.

"I think the trend in churches is toward more openness, in terms of age restriction," Cooper said. "However, it is a gradual movement, not a wholesale change."

Adults are much more actively involved today in continuing education than several years ago, he said. More ministers participate in continuing education to sharpen their skills, which keeps them from "dying on the vine."

North American Baptist Church, in Kankakee, IL. He made sure that his family, which included my father, attended regularly. At the same church, my parents were married and later channeled my brother's and my active interest and involvement. Our local church was the center of worship, activity, relationship formation and fun. Our lives, as a family, were molded around the church.

More important, the local church molded our lives. Many say that the American family is an endangered institution today. Drugs, divorce, inflation, self-actualization and many other ills are forcing new definitions of the family. President Carter's recent study group, dubbed The White House Conference on the Family, met its first major obstacle with its very name. It changed its name to The White House Conference on the Families to acknowledge the wide range of "family types" in existence. Yes, the family is going through troubled times — but I suggest it always has and always will.

Unworthy models of family life are certainly not difficult to find in the Bible. After one looks at Adam and Eve's family with one son killing another son, at Jacob's family with Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers, or at the rivalry between Jacob and Esau, one feels the tenuous position the family has always had. Yet, the Bible offers guidelines for family health and preservation as unavailable in any other place in our society. Christ came to give us life abundantly. I believe he intends that abundant life for our families, also.

I am grateful that my wife and I are part of a local church around which to build our family. We depend on the support, the wisdom and the care of our church to help us raise our three little ones. I know that my family is always on the endangered list. So on Saturday night, we are and will train our children to polish their shoes, wash their hair, and study their lessons. We are weaving the importance of worshiping in God's house on Sunday into the fabric of their lives.

Improved health care and the knowledge that people can be active and vital past age 50 should lessen the health concern.

"Ministry is an attitude as well as a role," Cooper said. "If pastors keep their attitude, a loving God will use them and bless them."

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Cordially invites all former members and friends to rejoice and praise God with us at our

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Sunday, June 14, 1981

Our theme:
10 YEARS BY
FAITH

N.A.B. Divinity School Graduates First Class

The North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB, graduated its first Master of Divinity students at the commencement exercises on May 3, 1981.

by Joseph Sonnenberg

It is with considerable pleasure that I introduce to you the graduates from the pastoral program of study at the N.A.B. College and Divinity School. All four of them are conscientious, serious, and good students. All four of them have had fairly extensive, practical experience in some church-related capacity and ministry. All four of them are committed to Christ and to serve Christ as pastor, staff member, or missionary.

Two of them, T. Schroeder and V. Lehman, are making history. They are the first graduates of the Divinity School M.Div. program. Tim Schroeder is

pastor of Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton, where the response to his ministry has been unusually positive. Vic Lehman has a broad educational background and is open for placement. If I were in a position to select a staff member, he would be my choice, for he gets things done. Lawrence Stark, a Bachelor of Theology graduate, is hopeful of continuing his education in preparation for a missionary role, perhaps in South America. Brad Westover, a Bachelor of Theology graduate, is open for a pastorate. His stress on excellence as a student and on ministry suggests that he has read correctly the needs of our times.

With confidence and no reservations, I commend each of these young men to our churches and to the ministry, knowing that each one is able to give a good account of himself before God and men. □

Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg is president of North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.



At age six, I responded with a child's faith to Jesus as Savior. My commitment to Christ's Lordship began nine years later and was expressed in baptism the following year.

Through a variety of stretching church ministry experiences, as well as secular college, Bible college, and seminary, God has revealed and confirmed my call to full-time Christian service. The teaching ministry specifically has brought me greatest joy, and my training somewhat reflects a specialization in Christian Education. My philosophy for ministry centers around three passages of Scripture: The church's purpose and goal is to present "every man complete in Christ" (Col. 1:28-29). The working basis for operating is each Christian exercising his giftedness, out of love, in body ministry (1 Cor. 12 and 13). The strategy for ministry consists of both "equipping the saints for the work of service" and modeling growing toward Christlikeness (Eph. 4:11-16). By God's strength, I seek to serve him.—Vic Lehman

Raised on a farm near Valleyview, AB, for fifteen years, Vic Lehman's latter 12 years introduced him to city life, largely that of Kelowna, BC, and Edmonton, AB. Vic is single and completed his Master of Divinity degree in May 1981.



"This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only True God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." This is my ministry.—P. Tim Schroeder

Tim was born in Edmonton, AB, and is the son of Missionaries Pete and May Schroeder. He and his wife Arlene live in Edmonton, AB, where he is the pastor of Greenfield Baptist Church. Tim received the Master of Divinity degree on May 3.



I was raised in a Christian home and received Christ early because of that influence. During my early years commitments were made to the Lord that were very serious at that time

but which somehow were forgotten or laid by the wayside. Over the past few years, some of these have been returned to me with even greater conviction, and with that I can now see more clearly what has been the leading and directing of the Lord in my life, my call, if you wish.

My education at N.A.B.C., both in the areas of Christian Education and Theology, was prompted by a deep desire to help within the church. As I complete the first phase, and prepare for further studies in Vancouver, that desire

has only been strengthened. Although we have not been called by a church in the Vancouver area, my wife and I are looking forward to using our talents in ways that will not only benefit those of our new congregation but also will help us in preparation for future work as well as challenge us to grow in exciting ways.—Loren Stark

Loren Stark was born in Edmonton, AB, and is married to Sigrid. Loren has been the youth pastor at Greenfield Baptist Church. Loren is preparing for missionary service and plans to attend Regents College, Vancouver, BC. Loren received the Bachelor of Theology degree on May 3.



Jesus has brought me a new life in him, providing joy, peace, strength and an assurance of his grace and mercy. Mankind has a desperate need for this love, grace and mercy which only he can offer. I believe that Jesus Christ has called me to reach out to others with his message and to work in the nurture and equipping of those who accept him. For this I praise him and look to him for the strength and perseverance to carry out his commission.—Brad Westover

Brad Westover was born in Alberta and is single. He is a member of McKernan Baptist Church. Brad is seeking the Lord's direction as to where the Lord would have him serve. He received the Bachelor of Theology degree on May 3. □

Baptist Herald

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