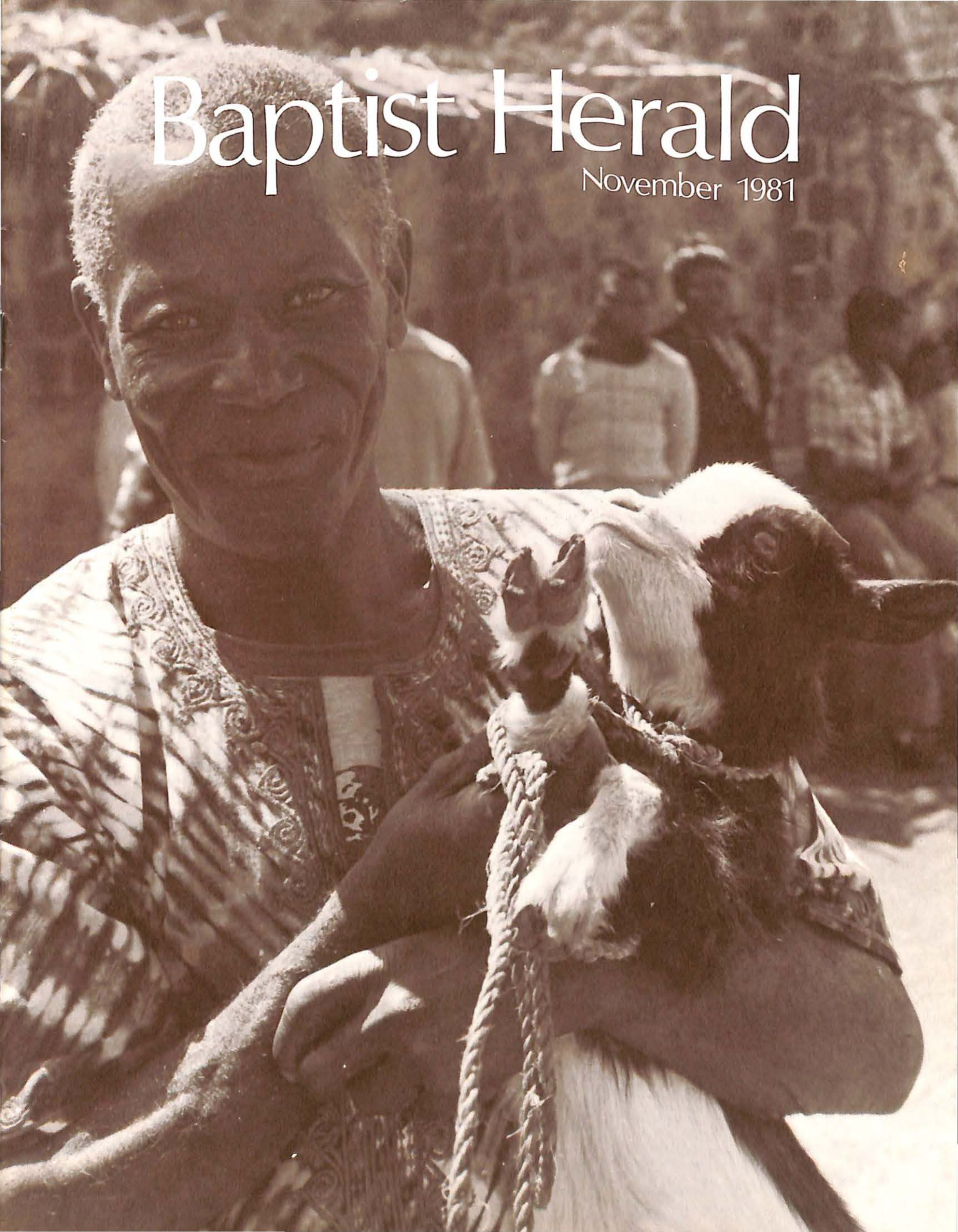


# Baptist Herald

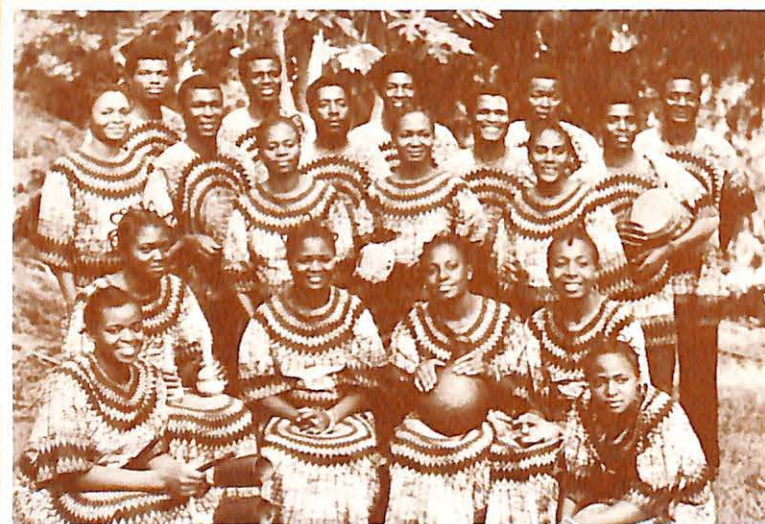
November 1981





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#### RESOLUTIONS FOR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Resolutions for consideration at the 1981 N.A.B. Triennial Conference are to be submitted to the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, the Rev. M. D. Wolff, 1505 Ave. E. East, Bismarck, ND 58501, not later than January 31, 1982.

#### NEW FILMSTRIP

### KEYS TO LASTING HAPPINESS

Esther Hoffman, in *Keys to Lasting Happiness*, reluctantly gives up her house keys to leave for mission service in Cameroon. Soon realizing these keys represented earthly possessions, she finds true happiness through sharing the gospel with the children and adults of Cameroon.

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# Baptist Herald

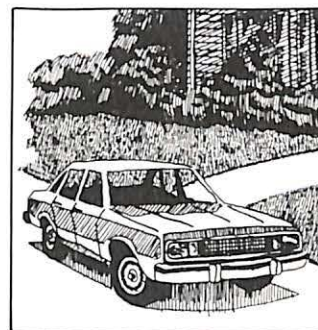
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# The Perils of Prosperity

How we view our wealth cannot be divorced from how we use it. by Sydney H. T. Page

**W**e are rich! We may not think of ourselves as wealthy, but we are, nonetheless. Certainly, compared with the one billion people on this planet who are undernourished, we enjoy an extremely high standard of living. Who of us regularly goes to bed hungry?

Though we do not always appreciate how fortunate we are, we enjoy a good measure of prosperity. Behind these material blessings, we rightly recognize the gracious hand of God. He is the Giver of all good gifts and, not least, our physical possessions. It would be folly to suppose, however, that giving thanks exhausts our Christian responsibility with respect to our affluence. On the contrary, the Scriptures abound with instructions concerning a proper view of wealth. One strand of Biblical teaching that is readily apparent is the emphasis on the dangers of riches. Sadly, our affluence can only too easily become the arena in which we face the attacks of the Tempter.

## Our Acquisition of Our Wealth

The familiar words of the eighth commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," remind us that God is concerned about how we become prosperous. Scrupulous honesty is to characterize the Christian in all of his commercial dealings. No matter

how widespread questionable practices may be, they can have no place in the life of the believer. Dishonesty must be avoided, whether it takes the form of embezzling thousands of dollars from a corporation or defrauding the government of a few tax dollars. Outright fraud is not the only illegitimate means of acquiring wealth. A more subtle kind of "stealing" is to profit at someone else's expense. Scripture repeatedly cautions God's people not to take advantage of those under their con-

**It would be folly to suppose, however, that giving thanks exhausts our Christian responsibility with respect to our affluence**

trol or influence. In Leviticus 19:13, for instance, we find the following instructions: "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning." To exploit the poor and powerless is no less serious than breaking into a person's home to rob him. We must constantly be on our guard, both individually and collectively, against abusing positions of privilege and responsibility, and mistreating those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Sydney H. T. Page is associate professor of New Testament at the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

## Our Attitude Towards Our Wealth

The Living God of the Bible does not lack rivals for the affection and devotion of mankind, and among them is mammon. All too many flock to the shrine of materialism where the Almighty Dollar is eagerly worshipped. Happiness, peace, and abundant life are offered to us, if only we will buy, buy, buy. Through the unending stream of advertisements that bombard us daily, Satan is urging us to look to things as the source of satisfaction and fulfillment, and as the ultimate good to strive after.

The temptation to regard possessions as of supreme importance may be more skillfully packaged today than in ancient times, but it is hardly new. Our Lord addressed this problem when he advised against laying up treasures on earth. "You cannot serve God and mammon," he said. God shares his throne with no one. To give what is rightfully his, to another, is to court spiritual disaster. Loyalty to the Sovereign of the universe demands that we sit loose to the world with all of its attractions.

## Our Accountability for Our Wealth

It is often said that possessing riches is not itself sinful; it is the attitude we have towards them which is all-important. While having the right attitude is indispensable, we ought not to allow that to obscure the importance of right actions. How we view our wealth cannot be divorced from how we use it. As Christians, we are stewards who have a God-given duty to use his gifts responsibly. We must consciously resist the temptation to live a life of selfish indulgence, spending lavishly upon ourselves, but neglecting the needs crying out around us.

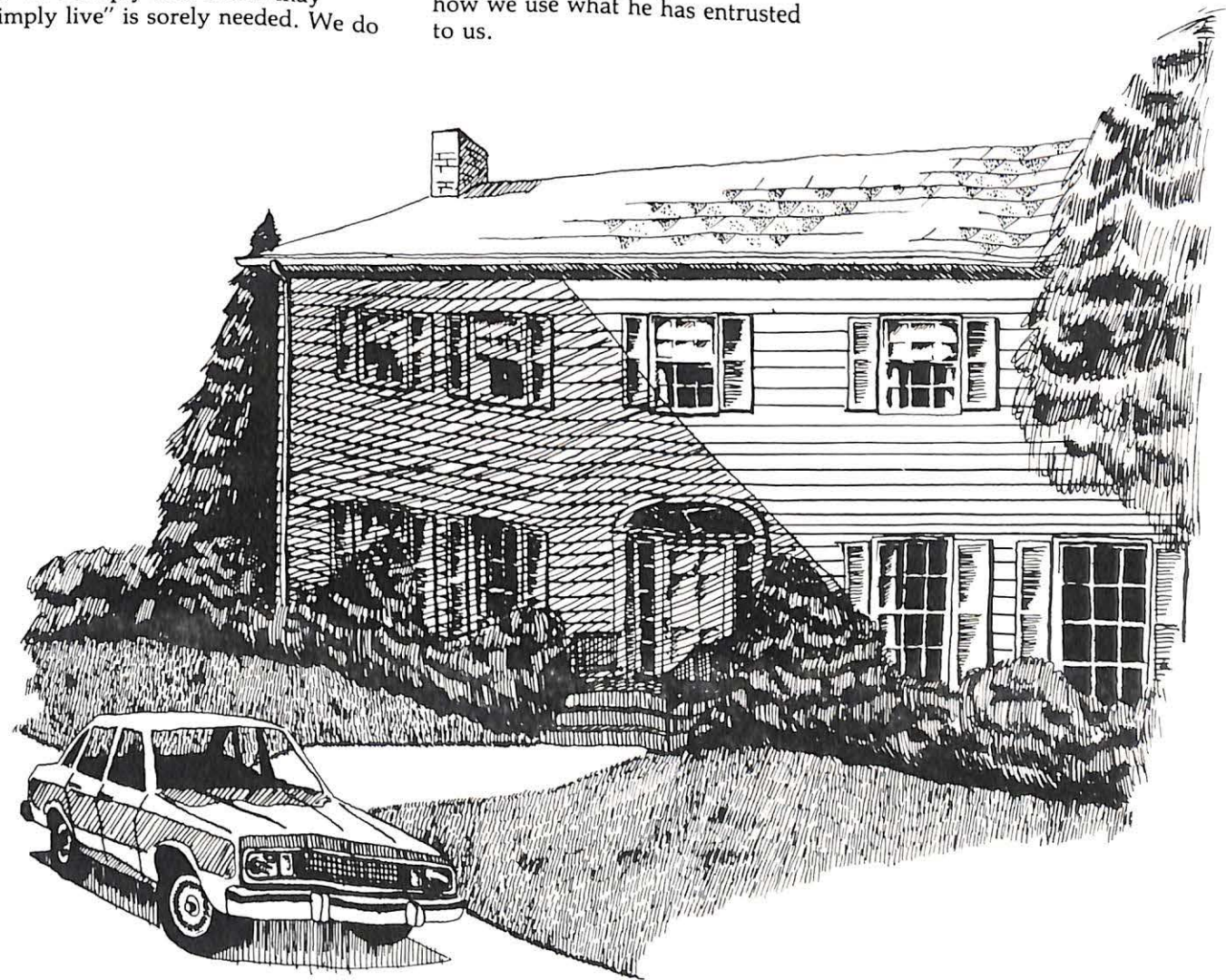
We may thank God for modern day prophets such as Ron Sider, whose book, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, has heightened our sensitivity to these issues. The call to "live simply that others may simply live" is sorely needed. We do

need to look at our life-style, and at the inequities in our world, to see whether we are true disciples of him who for our sakes became poor, so that by his poverty we might become rich (II Corinthians 8:9). No one can do this for another, and legalism and judgmentalism must be avoided at all costs. Each of us must

**As we in North America near the end of the twentieth century, perhaps the greatest threat we face spiritually is our affluence**

come to grips with these matters personally. It is, after all, to God that we are finally responsible for how we use what he has entrusted to us.

The Christian Church has survived many an onslaught. In times past, believers have gone through all sorts of deprivation and persecution, and emerged from them purer and stronger. As we in North America near the end of the twentieth century, perhaps the greatest threat we face spiritually is our affluence. It remains to be seen how we will cope with the perils it presents. □





# What Has Been The Most Significant Event In Your Ministry During the Past Nine Months?

This question was asked, at random by the editor, of several pastors at the N.A.B. Ministers' Conference in Edmonton in August.



Arthur Brust

We are re-evaluating our ministry at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, where we have four different cultural groups: Asian, the black, the Spanish, and the Caucasian, plus a few Laotians who came over as boat people. A study committee has been appointed to look at Willow Rancho in comparison to the New Testament as well as to look at the kind of strategy needed to work with the cultural groups in our area during the next 10 years. That's probably the most significant and the most rewarding aspect of being involved in the church at the present time. The study committee consists of a black, the chairman; a Spanish man, who is a fairly new convert; an Asian, who is a schoolteacher, and three Caucasians. The relationship and the growth interpersonally between these men is phenomenal—it's great to see.—*The Rev. Arthur Brust, pastor, Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA.*



David Lake

Leading a Chinese man to the Lord, and then, together with my wife Dorothy, discipling him and his wife; seeing their vibrant faith and seeing their desire to reach out to touch the lives of other Chinese people in our community in south Winnipeg—this is a most meaningful involvement in ministry.

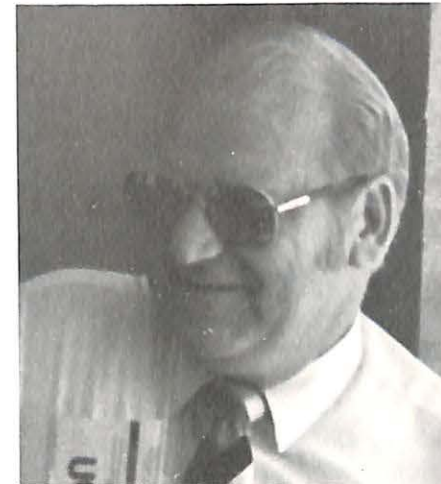
The simple questions in the discipling material that we use with them lead to discussions of a rather deep nature. We have a personal friendship with this couple now. The Lord has used the discipling materials and our friendship to bring about this kind of communication.

This has happened in a small setting and gives us enormous possibilities for duplicating these experiences. You don't need to be a pastor to do these kinds of things.—*Dr. David Lake, pastor of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.*



Wesley Gerber

When a five-year old house directly across from the church became available, our people purchased it as a parsonage for us. This showed the willingness of the people to meet a vision as well as their desire for the pastor to have something significant. The people had talked about building a new parsonage for the last five to eight years. When this house became available, there was no question. The doors of the house were widened, so that my wife Doris, who has multiple sclerosis, could mobilize her wheelchair. The house has one floor with a utility room and an all-purpose room on it, so Doris is able to do most of her own work as a result of it. The house has so many features that are an answer to a real need. We are grateful to the Lord and the church for making this house available.—*The Rev. Wesley Gerber, First Baptist Church, Underwood, ND.*



John Wollenberg

Getting back into the pastorate again after having been a way from it for four years is most significant to me. During this time, I had been chaplain at Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC, but I always felt my first calling was the pastorate. The Lord graciously opened the door for me to return to the ministry through regained health due to a kidney transplant. I didn't realize how much I missed the pastorate until I wasn't able to serve in that capacity. Returning to the pastorate has been really a highlight for both my wife and me. We have given ourselves to the pastoral ministry for almost 25 years. We are so grateful to God for that privilege.

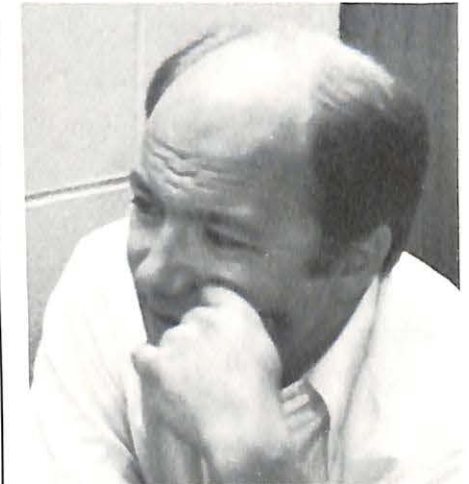
Being away from the pastorate, out in the working world, you realize so much. You are more in touch with the things people experience there. We realize, "Hey, that's what our people are being confronted with." It's a real eye-opener. We feel that we are better able to minister to our people now.—*John Wollenberg, pastor.*

It has been good to stand back for awhile. I have learned so much by being away from the pastorate. I've come back with a totally different attitude towards the ministry—more tolerant of things that happen. We've come back with new, fresh ideas.—*Irene Wollenberg, pastor's wife, Osoyoos Baptist Church, British Columbia.*



Ervin Strauss

I've started a Christian orientation class that has become very meaningful to me. During this class, I clearly teach God's salvation, what the Bible really is, what the church is, and also what it means to be a Christian. Through these orientation classes, people come to know the Lord Jesus as their Savior and commit themselves to the Lord in baptism. One couple—he comes from a Greek Orthodox background and she from an Anglican background—said, "We've always believed on the Lord, but this class has made it so clear to us. They have a delightful commitment to the Lord. It is exciting to see. We invite anyone who comes to the church—even members who have not attended this class at any time—to join the class. It has been a delight to see how people have become grounded and more clear in their whole relationship to the Lord.—*The Rev. Ervin Strauss, pastor, Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Richmond, BC.*



Ron Berg

One of the things that has been meaningful for me has occurred through the church's entry into a building program. We are adding 17,000 square feet to the church as a Christian education unit. This is the second time since we started the church in 1972 that we are building. Last time we had a building program, I had to be very much involved. This time, in our building program, I barely make an appearance in any kind of building committee and decision-making meetings. On these committees are men whom the Lord has given ability, plus a real heart for the work. They are carrying the ball and doing a terrific job. This has been one of the real inspirations for me in these past nine months, to see this kind of involvement, support, and leadership by the men of the church compared to what was happening last time.—*The Rev. Ron Berg, pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.*





Klaus Hildebrandt

The most meaningful involvement for me has been in counseling. People come in from the neighborhood and ask questions. I listen to their problems. Sometimes this involves long counseling sessions. It is most satisfying to be able to help people in the neighborhood, though we have not been able to win them to the church yet as members. They may feel they do not fit in because ours is a bilingual church. But, somehow, there seems to be a reputation that the pastor of German Zion Baptist Church is able to help in some way.

The people in the neighborhood are seeking help. They come to my wife; they come to me, and I feel we have a really good ministry here. Even on vacation, I became involved in counseling quite a bit as I traveled around. Some were long discussions—late into the night. It was very satisfying.—*The Rev. Klaus Hildebrandt, pastor, German Zion Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.*



Ed Hohn

I am now area minister for British Columbia. This has really been exciting: traveling around to the churches, meeting with the people, being involved in the work. I am looking forward to exciting days ahead. There's real life in some of our churches. We have been concerned about some of our smaller churches that weren't going anywhere. But they've found a new potential, a new zeal.

One of our northern churches wants to reach out to a lumber camp, north of Terrace, BC, and establish a mission there. To get there, you must travel over 70 miles of logging road. There I met with a group of 25 to 30 people, half of them new Christians. Recently, I spent almost a week with them sharing what the Christian life is all about. This is certainly a valid area of ministry and outreach.—*The Rev. Edmond Hohn, British Columbia Area minister, Kelowna, BC.*



Sandy Wilkie

I've helped our women to realize that getting together is an exciting time. Christianity is exciting. When you laugh together, you begin to express your emotions, and then you are freer to share when you hurt. You build relationships. This has been a key. We had individuals involved in our group who weren't close nor personally interested in each others' lives.

Breaking the inhibitions seems to be the key, and we have done this with some interesting events. Even our men become involved. We had a fashion show for our mother-daughter event. The men dressed up and presented a mock fashion show. The wives couldn't believe that their husbands would do this, but they did.

We gathered stories about everyone, unbeknown to them. Each person told an anecdote on the other. Then Ron Mayforth, dressed as a granny sitting in a rocking chair, reminisced, telling all these stories about these ladies. They laughed a lot. We had a good time remembering funny and embarrassing stories, then we remembered what the Lord has done in the past. That opened up sharing by ladies who never shared.

Our younger women are starting to come, because they realize that we have a good time and not just a serious, dull meeting. Our business is cut to a minimum. Things are kept moving. We have small group Bible studies with visual aids. We're basically livening up the troops!—*Sandy Wilkie, pastor's wife, McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.*

## He Led Me All The Way by Beth Rabenhorst

It was March 5, and it had been a normal summer day in Brazil. Dick and I had just returned two days earlier from our youth camp. Our three children had spent the week in different homes, and we were glad to be together as a family. Murrey and Marcus were enjoying the last days of summer vacation—school would start the following week. Melody was excited because she was going to begin kindergarten, and in just two weeks, she would be four years old.

What could go wrong? Then came the phone call from my family in the United States saying that my dad was in the hospital in Bismarck, ND, and was scheduled for surgery the following day. The doctors' reports were not good.

As Dick and I had our devotions that night, I prayed, "Lord, show me something in your Word that will help me know what is going to happen." The Scripture reading in *Moments with God* was based on Phil. 1:21: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." I looked at the word live and said, "Great, the Lord is going to heal my dad," but early Sunday morning another phone call told us that dad had just gone to be with the Lord. The news brought sorrow but also joy. If dad couldn't be preaching in his church on Sunday morning, there's no place that he would rather be than listening in heaven at the feet of Jesus whom he loved and served.

As I left the airport the following afternoon after saying goodbye to Dick and the children, I was scared! I had never flown by myself before, and Bismarck, North Dakota, was so far away. I asked the Lord for a promise from his Word. He reminded me of the verse that I had claimed almost 15 years before when

*Beth Rabenhorst returned to Brazil in time to celebrate with her husband Dick their 16th wedding anniversary on June 4. The Rabenhorsts, N.A.B. missionaries to Brazil, returned for furlough in October, at which time Beth underwent further medical treatment.*

Dick and I had first gone to Brazil. It was Psalm 32:8: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

The experiences of the next 24 hours assured me that God knew where I was and that he was taking care of me. My flight from Rio de Janeiro to New York was delayed for two hours, then finally canceled and rerouted to Miami.

I arrived in Miami on a loaded 747—now what! My ticket said New York, but I needed to make connections in Chicago . . . I have to go through customs . . . so many people. Because of the delay, many of the people had missed their flight. Everyone was rushing around. My baggage arrived, and I unlocked my suitcases preparing to go through customs.

The customs official asked me where I was going and why. Then he said so kindly, "Ma'am, you go upstairs, get your ticket rewritten, and get on the next plane for Chicago."

"Thank you, sir," I said, and ran to the ticket agent.

"Sorry," he said, "the plane to Chicago is full. You'll have to go to New York."

Through tears, I tried to explain that I needed to get to Bismarck for my dad's funeral. He checked my luggage and rewrote my ticket. Ten minutes before boarding time, I was at the gate ready to get onto the plane for Chicago, then Minneapolis and Bismarck. I arrived in Bismarck on schedule. One suitcase was lost, but it arrived the following day. Later that evening, I joined my family in Isabel, SD, where the funeral service was held two days later.

Following my dad's funeral, I spent three weeks with my mom. We sorted, packed, and got everything ready to be moved. Mom was moving to Springfield, IL, to live with one of my brothers.

On April 6, I said goodbye to mom in Bismarck, then flew to Minneapolis. There I planned to spend a few days with Dick's sister, Ruth,

before returning to Brazil. I also had an appointment with an oral surgeon at the University of Minnesota hospital because of a jaw problem which had been bothering



Beth (r) and her mother

me for several months. I was excited, because in just one week, I would be reunited with my family in Brazil.

Two days later, "Lord, what are you trying to show me?" The doctors reports were not good. X-rays revealed that I would need immediate surgery on my jaw. It was scheduled for the following week. The report: Surgery, then physical therapy, and one to two months, before I could return to Dick and the children in Brazil. My heart was heavy, but once again the Lord reminded me of his promise, "Lo, I am with you always."

The surgery was successful; although there is a slight paralysis over the left eye. I still need to wear a plastic splint in my mouth which makes speaking and eating a bit difficult. The weeks of physical therapy were long and tiring, but through it all, I sensed God's presence and the prayer concern of family members and Christian friends.

My heart is lifted in praise and gratitude to my Lord and Savior for he led me all the way! □



# Come to Niagara Falls, 1982

The Local Arrangements Committee has been planning for two years the Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls. They invite you to come By Bernard Thole

Thoughts of an upcoming N.A.B. Triennial Conference always bring a sense of anticipation and expectation. So many of our memories as North American Baptists date to one of the Conferences and to the decisions reached, friendships begun or renewed, and the spiritual blessings received there. These Conferences have a certain kind of appeal that cannot be explained; it must be experienced first-hand to be understood. The Local Arrangements Committee invites you to be a part of this blessed event next summer in Niagara Falls.

## Convention Center Conveniently Located

The 1982 Triennial Conference of North American Baptists will be held August 10-15 at the International Convention Center in Niagara Falls, New York. We will have exclusive use of the entire Convention Center facility. Nursery care and the children's program (grades 1-6) will be housed in the Convention Center. Some of the junior high activities will also take place at this location.

You will really enjoy the convenience of this meeting place. The Hilton, our headquarters hotel, is just across the plaza from the Convention Center, and three other hotels are two to four blocks away. Even the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, is only a mile away from the Convention Center. The American Falls is about a ten-minute walk from the Center, and the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, a few more minutes. For those who will be driving in from other areas, there will be plenty of room for parking nearby.

*The Rev. Bernard Thole is chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Conference and is pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, NY.*

Our Local Arrangements Committee, composed of individuals from the Eastern Association churches in New York and Ontario, has been meeting and working for two years

the meal events, so you may make reservations for meals on the registration form as well. All meal events will be within easy walking distance of the Convention Center.



Local Arrangements Committee: (seated, left to right) Ray Krehl, registration and lodging; Eleanor Quiring, W.M.F. activities; Rev. Wil Quiring, area minister; Giesela Mischke, decorations; (Standing, left to right) Rev. Bernie Thole, general chairman; Diane Quiring, young teens program; Joyce Kells, registration; Judith Thole, secretary; Bob Coe, transportation; Lavina Schuessler, nursery; Hilda Hartman, meal events; Al Hartman, first aid; Karen Grenz, music; Ken Marek, single adults program; Dr. Lyle Grenz, general vice-chairman; Morley McGarth, finance and ticket sales; Rev. Jake Leverette, communion service; Peggy Leverette, children's program; Allan Scheel, ushers; (Not pictured) Rev. Sam Berg, youth program; Bill Kauffeldt, property and equipment; Bill Kresal, N.A.B. Office arrangements manager.

to make preparations for the Conference. We have sensed the Lord's leading and provision in our planning and feel confident that, with his help, all will be ready when you arrive. We will continue working during these final months to that end.

Many details of arrangements are already behind us. We have firm rates at the hotels which are listed on the registration form. These range from \$48 to \$56.50 for a double room. Campsites are also listed. We also have firm prices for all of

**Special Programming for All Ages**  
Nursery care for infants six months of age through five-year-olds will be available during all meetings. There will also be a cry room for small infants to be cared for by a family member.

The children will have a busy schedule during the mornings and afternoons with several field trips included. The junior high youth will have a full program with activities and special sessions designed specifically for them.

Youth of high school age and up will have their own program at Niagara University, about four miles

away. They will join all other Conference participants at the Convention Center for the evening activities.

A program of activities is being planned for single adults that will supplement the regular Conference sessions. The chairmen of each of these programs will be supplying information for you in the weeks ahead through articles in the *Baptist Herald*.

A registration brochure is available for you from your pastor or the N.A.B. International Office. This gives you details on cost, program, and other general information.

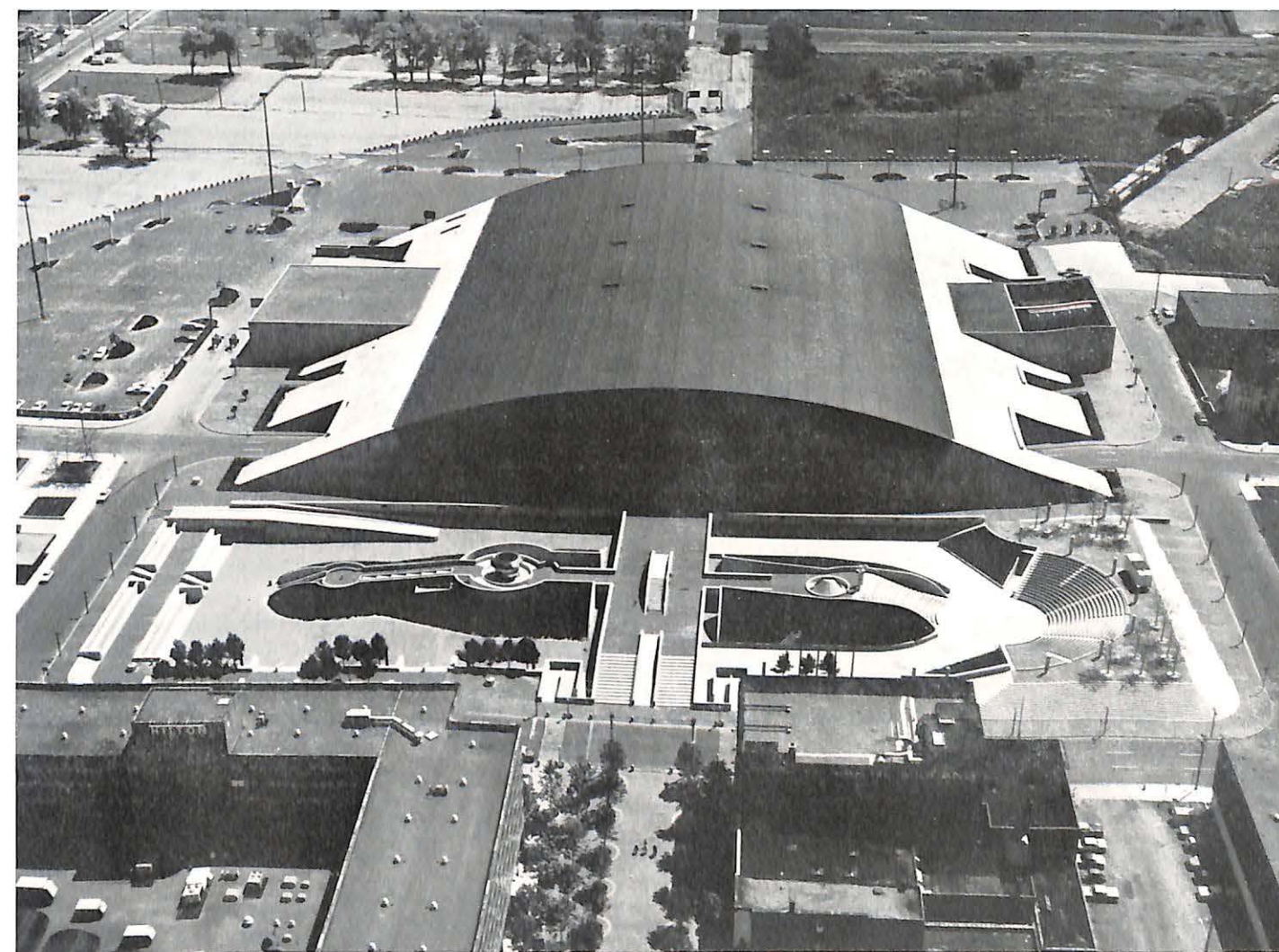
## The Experience of a Lifetime

At first thought, your reaction may be that you cannot afford to attend the Conference. However, we suggest to you that this will be the experience of a lifetime that you cannot afford to miss. The opportunity to worship God and fellowship with your fellow Christians in the beauty of his natural creation is an experience you won't want to miss.

Plan some time before or after the Conference to see some of the sights in the area. Plan your vacation around the trip and see some of the historic and scenic areas of the Eastern part of the United States

and Canada. Some North American Baptist groups are already making plans for chartered transportation. You may want to work on this in your area, too.

We ask that you give serious consideration to attending the 1982 N.A.B. Triennial Conference. We will keep working to see that this is another experience that you will remember for a lifetime and that it will be a positive experience for you and your family. □



Niagara Falls International Convention Center



# Lightning Strikes! Money Lost! No Pastorate!

Three "Cameroon Choristers" relate incidents showing the power of God in their lives.

by Denny Miller

"One day when I was going for choir rehearsal, it was raining seriously, and I went under a big tree. A few seconds later, the lightning struck the tree and uprooted everything," shared Edward Ngebi, member of the "Cameroon



Edward

Choristers" who are visiting United States and Canadian churches

*Miss Denny Miller is a short-term missionary teaching at Saker Baptist College, Victoria, Cameroon.*

September to November 1981.

"I found myself lying across the road," continued Edward, "and was unable to stand or walk. I was carried from the side of the tree to our house where I started telling everyone what had happened."

Edward had earlier been discouraged by friends and relatives to continue his involvement with the church choir. "This proved to me that God had something for me to do there . . . What I said (in response to these relatives and friends) was only that I cannot fail God who took care of my life," Edward said.

Edward, originally from the grasslands village of Taku, went on to Cameroon Baptist Theological School (CBTC) in Ndu to train to be a minister. After graduating, he began to pray that God would choose for him a life partner. God directed him to Sarah. Together, they have a family of three sons.

"It is my aim to do God's will and not to leave him behind me," concluded Edward. "His dwelling place is at the center of my heart."

"An incident happened to me which I term as one of the milestones in my Christian life. It has really drawn me closer to the Lord and has made him real to me," said Hannah Haddison, an English Literature and French teacher at

Baptist Boys Secondary School in Buea.

While attending school in Yaounde, Hannah's sisters were sending her money for food and clothing. At one point, when she was down to less than a dollar, her sister sent her a check roughly equivalent to \$600. Hannah went immediately to the bank.



Hannah

"When I got out of the taxi and was in the bank, I realized that my purse was not with me. It had dropped in the taxi; I rushed out into the street . . . the taxi had gone. I looked up and down the street and saw a fleet of taxis. Which one was the one? Fright gripped me. I stood there desperate without even fare to go home."

An idea came to Hannah, and she went to a Christian she knew down the street. After hearing her story, he put down the curtains and closed the door to his office, and they prayed together.

"My friend asked the Lord to speak to the driver and make him bring the purse with everything in it to my school and drop it off. I thought this was impossible. Surely the man would drop the purse in a pit after having taken the documents. However, after the prayer, I felt a burden had been lifted."

Hannah made an announcement over the radio and reported her purse missing to the police.

"The next day, I went to school. My friends kept asking me if I got my purse. I said no. Someone said that it was in the office. I praised God with all my heart, knowing that nothing is impossible with Him."

At the time of Elias Bongmba's baptism, he was not a Christian. "My parents said it would be a shame to them and to me not to be baptized. Yet, it was not until a number of years later that I became a Christian," said Elias.

"I had gone to church since I was young. I was helping to teach Sunday school. I began to realize I wasn't a Christian, just a member of a church. I was putting something forth to my students that I didn't have myself."

"It wasn't easy at the beginning. There were hard things to give up. That is, the company of friends who led into riot. I really liked feeling part of the crowd. I didn't really escape the influence of 'the group' until a short time into Bible school when I met people who were com-

mitted. If people in the same school as I, doing the same things, could be used, then God could use me. The influence and encouragement of my new friends helped. As I took courses, they also spoke to me."



Elias

"It took a long time to straighten out. The Burgesses (a missionary couple at the Bible school) accepted me as a person. They pointed out things I needed to straighten out. They took time to counsel and pray with me. They were encouraging in my ministry. They shared ideas from their own experience."

Following graduation from Cameroon Baptist Theological College, Elias was not called to a church as he had expected. He began to doubt that God had called him to preach.

"I prayed as I had never before done. My parents stood with me and encouraged me. During this time, I studied theology on my own and came to the decision to quit drinking all alcoholic beverages. I went to Nigeria to teach school."

In September, a year following his graduation, Elias married Mary who also graduated from C.B.T.C. Six months later, they were called to Berean Baptist in Kumba where they are now serving.

Summarized Elias of his Christian life, "I have more peace living the Christian life. Not just with God but also with other people. The Bible teaches us how to respond and react. Each time you respond to people with love, it makes a difference."

"Even when a Christian doesn't feel like reacting as the Scriptures say he should, God helps him; he lives within him. When I think of my past life, I had the Bible down, but I went my own way. When I live following Christ, I can expect him to lead in some direction."



# Being Sensitive to God's Leading

Dr. Rodney Zimmerman returns to Cameroon as a full-time missionary. He tells us why.

*In July 1978, Dr. Rodney Zimmerman arrived at Mbingo Hospital in Cameroon to serve as a medical doctor for a year during the furlough of Dr. Jerry Fluth. This was not the first time that Rod had been overseas. In the summer of 1972, he had lived and worked in Israel for seven weeks. Seeing the land of the Bible and working with the Israeli people, Rod was profoundly touched by this experience.*

*In the years that followed, Rod entered and graduated from the University of North Dakota Medical School. In July 1977, he began a residency at North Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis. While there, he learned through Dr. Peter Fehr of the need for someone to serve in Cameroon for a year beginning in the summer of 1978.*

*Returning to his residency in Family Practice, following his year of service in Cameroon, Rod continued to seek the Lord's will for his future. And in seeking, he sensed God's leading to apply for full-term appointment to Cameroon as a missionary doctor. In September Rod returned to Cameroon to once again be a part of the vital healing ministry there, the healing of bodies and souls.*

Dear Friends:

Since I've returned home to the United States, my thoughts have been to probably return to missionary service in Cameroon. Yet the decision hasn't come automatically. It's been difficult to really depend upon God's leading in faith.

I had a tremendously rewarding and fulfilling experience during my one year in Cameroon. But I need to be cautious about that being my motivation for returning. True, I remember also some frustrations there—limitation of the latest medical supplies and equipment, the time-consuming activities of red tape

and administration (and I was not even very much involved in this), the problems of communication, and dealing with disciplinary problems.

Yet these are far overshadowed by the wholesome and stimulating Christian fellowship with the Cameroonians as well as with other missionaries. The challenge of trekking to a remote village to encourage the youth groups and the opportunities to bring not only medical care but also especially, the good news of Christ's love to various villages—these were times of joy for me.

Re-adapting to life in North America was much more difficult than was my initial adjustment to life in Cameroon. I pray this adjustment will be smooth.

These past couple of years, finishing residency has entailed those activities that would best prepare me to provide medical care in a rural area. My desire to serve in a rural area has been constant and sure—at least at this time. Throughout, I've been particularly aware of skills I'd need in Cameroon.

It is no less than a miracle when I consider how God has led these past few months. How precious has been the encouragement of God's people—my close friends and, especially, my family. Surely, without their support, understanding, and faithfulness to stand with me, the task of leaving them here behind would be so difficult.

I look forward in excited anticipation to returning to Cameroon. What I see before me is certainly the challenge of supplying good and proper medical care. But immensely important is being sensitive to God's leading in areas of spiritual sickness and poverty.

I truly need and covet your prayers in this area of Gospel outreach. Pray that we might be good stewards of God's opportunities to us—truly these people are

open to hearing the gospel—if only we are able to teach and explain to them through words and deeds of kindness God's love for them.

The responsibility is great—and



Rod Zimmerman

the time is short. I am reminded of a verse in Isaiah 55:6: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

And then a real challenge—how can these people call upon him unless they've heard the good news: Romans 10:8-17—especially 14-15. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, 'how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring Glad Tidings of good things!'"

I look forward to this opportunity to serve—to be a part in preparing others to reach out to their own people with the good news. I truly need your help in prayerful support. Thank you for your faithfulness.

*In His LOVE,  
Rod Zimmerman*

# Ma Lizzie's Love by Denny Miller

I had to stoop to go through the doorway of the small wooden house. The door didn't shut well, and there were gaps between the planks of the walls. We were in the front room, and there were one chair with cushions, two straight wooden chairs, and a table with a Nido powdered milk tin on it as well as one or two other cans. The windows had no glass, only curtains. I don't remember a door to the back—only the open frame.

"Ma Lizzie? Ma Lizzie? Good-afternoon!" called out Wilma Binder, full-time missionary in Victoria, Cameroon. Ma Lizzie was not in the front room, so Wilma led me into the only other room.

I had been in Africa only three weeks, and this was my first visit to the old woman. I didn't know what to expect. "She's 65 to 75," Wilma had told me. "When she was young, she was stolen from her tribe."

Ma Lizzie's faint voice queried, "Who's there?" I looked around in the dark room, unable to locate the origin of the response. All I saw was a nightie hung on a nail on the wall, and a big bed piled high with blankets.

Wilma moved closer to that pile of blankets and began to ask questions. "How are you today? Do you want to sit up? How are you feeling? Do you want to go into the other room . . . ?"

Yes, she felt fine and wanted to get up. Wilma helped her into a sitting position and then swung her legs over the bed.

Ma Lizzie took hold of both of us, and we slowly walked with the featherlight, wizened, white-haired black woman to the other room.

"Who is this?" she asked, squinting at me.

Wilma explained carefully in Pidgin who I was. I sat and nodded and smiled. Ma Lizzie tried to talk to me; although I couldn't answer her in Pidgin.

*Miss Denny Miller is a short-term missionary teaching at Saker Baptist College, Victoria, Cameroon.*

But when she held both her hands out to me and said, "Now—my pikin (child)," I squeezed her hands and replied, "Now—your pikin."

She smiled and nodded, pleased, "My pikin."

For an hour or so, the three of us talked. Ma Lizzie was careful always to include me with a phrase or a smile or to reach out for my hand.

She was intrigued by my shoulder-length hair and jested that I should give it to her for a wig.



Ma Lizzie

She showed us the pictures of some of the other missionaries who had visited her.

She talked of dying and how she wanted to go.

She wove God in and out of our conversation. She asked for "Words." Miss Binder shared the theme of the morning service and read Ma Lizzie the Bible passage in Pidgin. The three of us prayed together, and then Wilma and I left the house with the hard dirt floors and old Ma Lizzie.

I heard, after that, she'd get better and then worse. She'd complain when babies would die.

"It's not fair," she'd imply. "They are so young; yet I am old and must live. I just want to go home."

Some said she was losing her senses.

I had a warm spot for Ma Lizzie. I was her pikin. Her toothy smile and warm clasp spoke love to me.

The next time I saw her was at the funeral. Her funeral. I sat outside of her house with the other women quietly, as they prepared to take her body to the church. We prayed and sang, and Ma Lizzie was taken in her casket to the church. Before we left her house, there was a little crying. The neighbors (not Christians) wailed loudly. The rest of us walked singing to the church.

After a eulogy and meditation, we walked in a procession with the casket to the city graveyard. We sang on the way.

Prayers were said; remarks made, and the hand-hewn casket was handed down to a man in the grave. Each person threw just a handful of dirt in, and then we sang chorus after chorus about Jesus and how he never fails us as they filled in the grave.

We waited until the hole was filled. They made a mound of dirt and put large rocks around it. Three people put leaves and flowers on the top of the grave. We all left as a group. No one had cried at the graveside.

Back at my house, I thought of Ma Lizzie and her spirit of love, her love for God, and her eagerness to go home. I wondered why I never made the time to go see her again. I didn't think she'd die so soon.

Gladys, the secondary school student next door, came over that afternoon to see me. She asked if I'd gone to a Christian funeral. I asked what the difference was.

Gladys answered, "A Christian funeral is a time of celebration and of joy. If there are any tears, it is because we miss that person. Then, at the grave, we focus on victory and on Christ."

"At a non-Christian funeral," continued Gladys, "the people wail and moan and cry for literally days. They have no peace—only fear. Not just for the person who died but for themselves. They are empty. Their death is empty. It is an end not a beginning. They wail for their own souls."

"When people come to our funerals, they'll be glad, won't they?" she said. "We've got God." □



# Thanksgiving in Cameroon

Each church in the Cameroon Baptist Convention chooses a Sunday in November or December for its Thanksgiving Offering. by Nancy Palmer



A young mother brings her offering of oranges, decorated with flowers.

One-fifth of this offering goes to the Cameroon Baptist Convention, and four-fifth remains in the field to pay the field pastor's salary, association's chairman's salary, and to subsidize the salaries of some pastors of very small churches.

*Nancy Palmer is an N.A.B. missionary in Bansa Cameroon*

"I want to give to God, because he has given so much to me," says a nursing student at Bansa Baptist Hospital. These students' monetary offering is brought to church in a basket beautifully decorated with flowers.



Produce from the farms—oranges, bananas, sugar cane, corn, chickens, and goats are typical Thanksgiving Offerings. School children wait in line to present their offerings at Kumbo Baptist Church.



Handmade items, such as furniture made by the men and needlework by the women, are also offerings.







Singing and dancing with joy as an act of worship, the people bring their offerings to the front of the church



After the Thanksgiving service, the articles are auctioned off, and the money received is added to the monetary offering. Rev. Charles Tangwa, Bansa Field pastor, "auctioning a goat."



## Missionaries in Our Own Area by Lori DeWerff

Helping the College Boulevard Baptist Church, a church extension church in Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, by holding Backyard Bible Clubs, provided the ingredients for an exciting week for nine youth and their two sponsors from the First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS, in June.

Earlier this year, the youth had been planning on a canoe float trip in Oklahoma as a summer trip. Later, Carol Potratz, youth director, received a letter from Pastor Rubin Herrmann requesting some help during the summer. Carol and the youth sponsors left the decision to the youth. After considering the request, the youth voted to go to Overland Park mission project. After a lot of preparation and practice, the youth left for Lenexa-Overland Park, where they were housed in homes of the church extension church members.

The Ellinwood youth began each day with prayer, share time, and a devotional led by one of the youth. Following this, the youth divided into two teams and headed for the first Backyard Bible Club, starting at 9 a.m. Each team led four clubs a day, usually in backyards, but sometimes indoors. The clubs consisted of a registering time, getting acquainted, singing, puppets, mission stories, memory verses, a Bible story and a contest.

Both of the teams went door-to-door inviting kids to the Bible clubs as well as talking to parents. The clubs grew in number each day. One team also canvassed several neighborhoods for the church.

In the later afternoon, the youth

met for a work and prayer time, evaluating each other in specific jobs. They also prepared materials for the next day and spent time in prayer for team members and for

Park youth were invited. On Saturday, the team ended the week with a trip to Worlds of Fun and then headed for home, exhausted. The youth gained much from this



Singing at a Backyard Bible Club.

the kids that were attending the clubs.

One of the team members planned social type activities, with the Overland Park Church youth, for the evenings. One evening they toured the Hallmark factory, guided by one of the host fathers who works at Hallmark. Another evening, featured guest night. Youth from the Whispering Oaks Baptist Church as well as the Overland

mission project. It was very rewarding to see hard work really pay off. The youth could see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of the boys and girls who came to the Backyard Bible Clubs. Two young girls accepted Christ, and the spiritual growth of many others was evident. A lot of seed has been planted that left the youth with a really good feeling.

The youth of First Baptist Church in Ellinwood challenge you to look for ways in which you can be a "missionary" in your own area. The Lord will bless you greatly for working for him, and more, you will be able to witness to others about Jesus. □

*Lorri DeWerff is presently a senior at Ellinwood High School. She is involved in FCA, 4-H, athletics, and works on her family's dairy farm south of Ellinwood.*



# WOMAN'S WORLD

## Becoming Whole

by Linda Ebel,  
dean of women,  
North American  
Baptist College,  
Edmonton, AB



As young people contemplate going off to college, a great deal of time is spent choosing the college that will best enable them to meet the goals which they have set for themselves. A lot of thought is given to majors, courses of study, and career planning. Most students who apply to the North American Baptist College express the need to grow spiritually and to become more familiar with God's Word. These goals are great! In fact, as a Christian college, we must have the goal of equipping students to live the Christian life!

In working with the students as closely as I do, I see the need to broaden my own perspective somewhat and the need to equip the students for life itself. Through my contact as well as my example, I am part of the process of building whole persons—equipping them for life. What a huge task! What responsibility!

The book of James has given me resources for the task of building whole persons. Let me share with you what God is teaching me. In order to begin this process, I must know God, himself. James 1:17-18 portrays God as the giver of life. I must acknowledge God as the source of all life, both through the creation process as well as through the redemptive process—to know God personally through his Son.

Secondly, I must become familiar with God's Word. I must recognize

the power Scripture has in transforming my life. James admonishes me in James 1:22 that I must be busy putting the Word of God into practice in every area of my life.

Thirdly, James tells me that trials in life are necessary for us to develop into whole persons. James 1:2-5 asks us to consider ourselves fortunate when trials come our way. It is only as we learn to survive and handle the crises and problems that come our way that we gather the skills and faith to face what lies ahead for us.

As students pass through my office from day to day, they tell of facing the pressure of some new trial—adjusting to sharing a room with another person, surviving the dorm experience, the entanglement of interpersonal relationships, the pressure of studies, homesickness, illness, family problems, financial needs. . . . What may seem like a small trial to one student may seem like a major catastrophe to another. Yet, as we begin to dissect each trial, trace the cause, and put it into proper

perspective, the pressure of the situation diminishes.

The process of becoming a whole person can be painful at times. But what a joy to see students begin to see and understand for themselves the resources for living at their disposal. At the base of facing each trial, stands the very foundation of our faith—our personal knowledge of God and the power of his Word to speak to us and to work through us.

James also encourages us to ask God for wisdom in dealing with the trials that come our way. In fact, God provides the resources for this wisdom, the wisdom that will enable us to function as whole persons in a world that he has provided for us.

Each of us—parents, teachers, church leaders, whatever our role—needs to be a part of the team working together to equip young people for life. We need to internalize the Biblical principles found in James. I need your support and involvement in this process of building whole persons. □

## INFORMATION NEEDED!

Information is being sought concerning the following women who served as presidents of the N.A.B. Conference Women's Missionary Fellowship (Union):

Mrs. L. Maeder, 1907-10, New York City area  
Mrs. J. Merkel, 1910-13, Cleveland, OH  
Mrs. G. H. Schneck, 1928-37, New Jersey area  
Miss Anna Brinkman, 1937-40, Chicago, IL

This information is needed for historical purposes in preparation for the 75th anniversary of the W.M.F. at the 1982 N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls in August.

Send information to LaVerna Mehlhaff, associate director of women's work, N.A.B. Conference International Office, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

## WHERE Will YOU Be Vacationing NEXT Year?

by Jeanne Quiring

Niagara Falls will be a great place, especially in August! Plans are well underway for North American Baptist women to celebrate the 75th Diamond Jubilee of the Women's Missionary Fellowship at the Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls, NY,

## Up The Stairway

by Maria Rogalski,  
Winnipeg, MB,  
W.M.F. German program  
packet editor



*"Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits" (Psalm 68:19).*

It's exciting to life on the growing edge of life, discovering the benefits of God's presence, power, and strength and experiencing his intervention and involvement in the ups and downs of everyday life. This has been my experience ever since I began a daily personal time with the Lord and his Word. The climb up the stairway of faith has been rewarding and beneficial, making me want to go yet one rung higher all the time.

Keeping paper and pencil handy during my quiet time has been a real help to me not only in recalling and recording some of his special words of energy and strength to me but also in following through on the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Recently, I was under extreme pressure. As the deadline for completing the Program Packet approached, my stairway became so overloaded that I feared it would collapse. The monsters of discouragement and despair at the enormity of the task versus the time available loomed menacingly.

August 10-15, 1982. Now it is time for you to make your plans to attend this anniversary celebration.

## The Conference is for Children, Too

by Peggy Leverette,  
Burlington, ON

The Committee for Children's Activities at the Triennial Conference encourages parents to bring their

children to the Conference. There will be a variety of activities for this age group (grades one to six) including films, song time, missionary speakers, Bible stories, Bible memory, and physical activities in the mornings. In the afternoons, the children will be taken on tours that will be interesting and fun. Some of these tours will be bus tours, and one will be a walking tour. At all times, the youngsters will be well supervised, so the parents will not have to worry about their care. We feel there will be a good ministry to the children during these days. Let's consider the Conference a "Family Affair."

tions," I learned.

The prayer, "Lord, keep me from self-centeredness or even work-centeredness (which was my problem) that would keep me from acts of kindness and goodness and generosity" became my motto, enabling me to go that "second mile."

Pencil and paper not only helped me to record his benefits to me but also to jot down opportunities to channel those benefits to others as the Lord brought people and situations to my attention: the young mother whom I was prompted to call that day—"I was praying that the Lord would send someone that I could talk to today," she said after sharing her burden; the friend making a gallant recovery from depression (I'd been praying for her daily, but had not given feet to my prayer) who just that day *happened* to be having her neighbors in for coffee after church. She welcomed our support in joining them and helping a bit with the dainties. Another friend was going through deep waters and had been on my mind often. The day I called was during a most crucial time, and, through this initial and continued contact and care, she has given new control of her life to the Lord, joined a Bible study that has proved to be a real blessing to her, and is riding out the storm with Christ.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2) . . . "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:3). □

"On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady" (Psalm 18:18). Day after day, I claimed promises from his Word, and he cut the monsters down to size, so that, with Christ beside me, they didn't look quite as gigantic as the devil wanted them to appear. In his strength, I caught up with each one of them and did not turn back until they were conquered. He lovingly provided a little oasis of refreshment here and there, and I was quick to recognize them and thank him: a day when everyone was out of the house, and I could work undisturbed (an extreme rarity for me!); a late program that arrived "Special Delivery" and already typed on one of the days when I thought I was "going under." It's just like him to provide bits of encouragement when we want to despair.

But there was wise admonition, also. At the most crucial times, interruptions came: company from Germany; the unexpected need to billet three German soldiers for a weekend (they train near our city and our church ministers to them); a request from a new couple to babysit their nine-month-old while they attended the husband's graduation from nurses' training; my offer to make supper for the family of a neighbor home from an operation, and others. Just when I was in danger of beginning to resent interruptions, my notes record a beautiful lesson the Lord taught me on how to view them.

"Interruptions are divine instruc-



# Church Extension Project

## Something New Under the Sun

by Dennis Leisch

There is something new under the sunny southern Alberta sky. The Taber area, which has long been noted for growing the vast quantities of vegetables needed by the huge Safeway Corporation, is now the fertile soil for the growing of Community Baptist Church of Taber.

Community Baptist is the result of the initiative of local believers who saw the real need for a strong evangelical witness in this town of 5,800. Community Baptist Church began its growth when one couple, Cornie and Anne Pauls, began attending Park Meadows Baptist in Lethbridge. The Lord impressed upon Cornie and Anne that here was a couple who would accept the challenge of starting a church in Taber.

The people of Park Meadows did catch the vision of what God was doing in Taber, and in January 1981 Bruce Merrifield, pastor of Park Meadows, and Mick McLeod began a home Bible study in Taber.

The nucleus, which consisted of two extremely

*Dennis Leisch is pastor of Community Baptist Church, Taber, AB.*

committed and capable couples, the Pauls and Fergusons, recognized the need for someone to work full time in the Taber community. At Easter time, Dennis and Eunice Leisch were invited to meet the people and look over the community. After much prayer and counsel they came, arriving June 1, shortly after graduation from North American Baptist Seminary.

Over the summer, the Lord has added three more couples to our core group. This brings the number to twelve adults.

Over the summer, in prayer, they planned for the first service. The use of St. Patrick's Elementary School was granted rent free. So, on August 30, 1981, at the first Sunday morning service, 42 people gathered for praise and worship at 9:45 a.m. At 10:50, we shared coffee and cookies together before going to one of the six Christian Growth classes ranging from kindergarten through adult.

The gracious support of Park Meadows Baptist has been significant in launching this new work. Community Baptist Church anticipates the prayer and financial support of other members of the family as the Lord leads into new and greater areas of his ministry.



Christian Growth classes are important for all ages. Ron Ferguson teaches grades one through three.



Dennis Leisch, pastor of Community Baptist Church



Some of the 42 persons who attended the first praise and worship service in August 1980

# A Summer Contract With The Lord by Cheryl Janke

It all began in March when our church held a week-long missionary conference. There were missionaries from all over the world and lots of opportunities to meet them. After talking and listening to them, I realized that the Lord wanted me to be his missionary, too. Though I was still in high school, I had heard of summer mission programs where high school students spent their summers serving the Lord. On March 8, the Lord and I made a "contract" that if it was his will, I would serve him the summer of 1981.

The next few weeks I became rather lenient in my prayer life and did not think too much about the promise that I had made. The Lord kept reminding me. First, there came some literature in the mail from Teen Missions. Then the director from a local Christian camp visited our church looking for campers and

*Cheryl Janke is a member of the Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, and a senior in high school.*

counselors. After that, I heard of a mission in Colorado that needed teen workers to hike up in the mountains and talk to people up there during the summer.

With all these options, you would think that one seemed to be the Lord's will, but I still was not sure, so I kept praying. In Mark 11:24, we read, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." With this promise, I kept praying, believing that the Lord would send the right opportunity to me.

As the end of school neared, I wondered what the Lord would have me do. Then the answer came! I had been to Florida several times and had visited a church extension project in Boca Raton. The thought had never occurred to me to work there until the Lord told me! The Church was new and needed to be known throughout the community. I felt that I could help. After much prayer and consideration, I went to Community Baptist Church of West Boca Raton to work for five weeks.

Each week I went to different neighborhoods and held a type of

vacation Bible school called "Discovery Groups" for children four years to twelve-years-old. The children learned about Jesus. In turn, their parents learned about



Community Baptist. It was a great way of reaching the community and that, along with visitation, calling, and meeting the church families, kept me busy.

It was a great summer. I encourage other students to check with North American Baptist church extension projects about working one summer for them. Remember, Jesus gave his life for us, can we not give at least one summer for him? □

## Florence Miller Recognized at Thirtieth Anniversary of N.A.B. Mission Work in Japan

Each year during Golden week, which has three holidays, the Japan Baptist Conference holds its Deeper Life Conference. This year it was held May 3-4 at Suzuka Sports Center, Suzuka City, in Mie Prefecture. About 150 people from all of the nine churches and extension works met together for Bible study and fellowship.

The guest speaker was the Rev. Reiji Oyama, a well-known pastor and Bible teacher from Tokyo.

During the conference, one hour was given to a celebration of the 30th

anniversary of our North American Baptist-Japan Baptist Conference work in Japan. A historical slide presentation of our 30 years in Japan was given by Florence Miller.

Following the presentation, all career missionaries and their families were presented gifts in appreciation of their years of service in Japan. Each missionary unit received a clock. A special clock with a mother of pearl picture and pearls replacing numerals as well as a monetary gift was given to Miss Florence Miller, as well as a monetary gift in recognition



Florence Miller

of her 30th anniversary in Japan. Sincere words of appreciation were expressed by Pastor Akasaka as he presented the gifts. □



## Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Lange of the Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house given by their family



on June 7: Mrs. James (Mary Ann) Chollar, Mrs. Harold (Doris) Hulsebus, Mrs. Joe (Shirley) Rayman, Mrs. Harold (Betty) Marlow, Mrs. Richard (Ruth) Brunken, and Joyce Lange.

Mrs. and Mrs. Albert Edel marked their golden wedding anniversary on April 18, 1981, with 140 guests to dinner at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB, and a program consisting of musical numbers, poems, readings and a devotional by their pastor, the Rev. M. Schulz.



Mr. and Mrs. Edel have been members of the Morris Emmanuel Baptist Church for more than 50 years. The Edels have five children who have families.

Dr. and Mrs. John Wobig of Portland, OR, were honored at an open house in



celebration of their 50th anniversary at the Bethany Baptist Church, Portland. Many relatives and friends were at the program which was presented by their children: Doug and Bernietta Graf, Bob and Sylvia Wolfer and Jack and Connie Wobig, and their children. Dr. Donald N. Miller, their pastor, gave a brief devotional and renewed their marriage vows. Dr. Wobig pastored three N.A.B. churches and was moderator of the N.A.B. Conference. He is presently serving as visitation pastor at Bethany Baptist.

Mr. and Mrs. David Domries of Buena Park, CA, were honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at a buffet dinner and program hosted by their two children and families, Carol (Mrs.



Leonard Justus) and Bob Domries, plus 160 friends and relatives. They are members of Sunkist Baptist Church in Anaheim. A message was given by Dr. Adolf Braun, pastor of Sunkist Baptist.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grothe of Milwaukee, WI, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, June 20, 1981, with a dinner attended by family and friends.



John (Hans) and Marie have been active members of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Brookfield, formerly of Milwaukee. Their service to the Lord these 50 years is greatly appreciated by Immanuel Church in giving of themselves to the ongoing work of the church and the denomination. The Grothes have one son Egon and his family of Green Bay, WI.

**GLADWIN, MI.** The summer youth worker at the Round Lake Baptist Church, Tom Mason, worked, taught, and planned many activities and outings with our young people. Tom is a student at Moody Bible Institute. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, church clerk.)

**DALLAS, OR.** Delegates from eight of the churches of the Oregon-Idaho Association met together on June 5 to consider Mr. Dan Berger as a candidate for ordination. Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dan's home church, hosted the council. The Rev. George Breitreuz, host pastor, was elected moderator for the council.

A motion carried unanimously to recommend to the Salt Creek Baptist Church to proceed with the ordination service.

The ordination service was held on June 14, 1981, at Salt Creek Baptist Church. Dan is now pastor of First Baptist Church, Fessenden, ND.

Twenty-nine delegates, representing eight churches from the Oregon-Idaho Association, formed an ordination council on June 5 to examine Mr. Steven May for fitness to be ordained into the Christian ministry. Rev. George Breitreuz, pastor of Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas, OR, was elected moderator of the council.

These delegates recommended to Salt Creek Baptist Church to proceed with the ordination service for Steve May on June 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Steve began as minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, CA, June 14. (Rev. Jim Green, clerk.)

**EDMONTON, AB.** After nine years of ministry with Northgate Baptist Church, the Rev. S. H. Schuster became area minister for Saskatchewan and Manitoba on Feb. 1, 1981.

Through the Lord's leading, we secured the help of North American Baptist College student, Marvin Rust, as interim pastor. The congregation was thankful for this sincere and dedicated man. So Pastor Rust and his family began their full-time ministry with the church on May 1, 1981.

On June 21, 1981, Pastor Rust baptized six new believers and welcomed ten into our church membership. Also on June 21, we bade farewell to the Schuster family, grateful for their ministry with us. (Mrs. H. G. Eggert, reporter.)

**APLINGTON, IA.** The Rev. and Mrs. Donald Patet and the Aplington Baptist Church celebrated their twenty-five years together on June 7. Churches of the community and of the Iowa Association joined in a surprise fellowship for this occasion.

Following the communion service at the beginning of the morning service, the Rev.

Milton Zeeb, area minister surprised Rev. Patet and conducted the rest of the service. Many tributes for the years of faithful service were given during the open house in the afternoon.



Through the years, Rev. Patet has contributed to the many activities of the community, the Association, and the N.A.B. Conference. A monetary love gift was presented to the Patets at the close of the service.

**VALLEY CITY, ND.** The members of the First Baptist Church hosted the Spring Youth Retreat for the Central Dakota-Montana Association on March 27-29. Allen and Denise Kjesbo, students at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, enriched the lives of more than 70 youth spiritually, as they served as resource people for the retreat.

A communion service on Saturday evening brought the hearts of the youth together around our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The retreat concluded with the morning service on Sunday with Rev. Mel Johnson of Tips for Teens speaking. (Becky Boettcher, reporter.)

**GREELEY, CO.** Mr. Mike Hodgin (pictured) accepted the pastorate of Sherwood Park Baptist Church, Greeley, CO,



effective July 15, 1981. He and his wife Renee are from Plateville, CO, and have a year old son Ryan.

**CHANCELLOR, SD.** Members and friends of the First Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of 15 young people at a recent service. The hand of fellowship was extended to them on July 5 by the Rev. Dick Person, pastor. We thank God for the many blessings we experience. (Ray DeNeui, reporter.)

**MERCER, ND.** People from California, Minnesota, Iowa, Canada, Montana and Illinois were present as First Baptist Church celebrated its 75th anniversary July 11 and 12, 1981.

More than 160 people attended a banquet held Saturday night with the Rev. Art Freitag, former pastor, of Medicine Hat, AB, as special speaker. The Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, was the master of ceremonies.

Sunday morning services were held with the Rev. Dale Axt, former member, as the guest speaker. The Rev. Otto Fiesel, Fessenden, was in charge of the adult Sunday school hour, and the Rev. Perry Makeeff had the children's hour.



More than 200 people attended the afternoon service. Dennis Fiedler, church moderator, led the service. Three couples (pictured) were recognized at this time, also. Emil Russ, church treasurer for 21 years, and Jake Rust were recognized as being church members since 1922, and Elmer Peterson was recognized as being the oldest member. The Rev. Perry Schnabel is pastor.

**FESSENDEN, ND.** The Esther Circle of First Baptist Church hosted a missionary tea, at which Sylvia Auch and Debbie Auch, Bismarck, ND, spoke. An offering for the women's project for the triennium was recieved. Each woman gave 10 cents for each pound she weighs.

A fellowship farewell dinner was held for Pastor Fred Fuchs and family.

The film, "The Image of the Beast," was shown.

On July 12 the church welcomed the new pastor, Dan Berger, and his family. Neighboring churches and pastors were invited to share this time with us. A pantry shower was given for the Bergers.

The Chuck Kleins shared their work in Campus Crusade with the church. (Regina Pepple, reporter.)

**PRINCE RUPERT, BC.** Twelve persons, (pictured) were baptized on June 28, by the Rev. Terrence K. Jarosch and accepted into the membership of Bethel First Baptist Church.



Our church has experienced physical and spiritual growth in recent months. We felt the reality of peace and victory through the death of our pastor's four-year-old son Matthew in April. Praise the Lord, it is great to be a part of the family of God!

**GLADWIN, MI.** On July 5, 1981, the Round Lake Baptist Church celebrated their Sixth Annual Homecoming Day. The all-day affair, beginning with the ringing of the church bell calling everyone to worship, included special patriotic songs sung by Mrs. Gail Brown and a message by the Rev. Robert Brown, pastor.

A family potluck picnic dinner for all included an old-fashioned pie judging contest. The afternoon was spent playing games, reminiscing, and viewing old picture albums.

In the evening, the Joni film, "Reflections of His Love," was shown. (Mrs. Jean Kleiss, church clerk.)

**MERCER, ND.** On June 28, 1981, First Baptist Church held a baptismal service outdoors at Postel Lake with the Rev.



Perry Schnabel leading the service. Two girls (pictured) received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and were baptized. (Joyce Fiedler, reporter.)



## our conference in action

### KELOWNA, BC.

The Trinity Baptist Church celebrated its 20th anniversary on June 14. A spirit of joy and thankfulness for God's blessings in the past two decades was evident throughout the day, as the regular congregation as well as many visitors gathered for the occasion.



The Rev. Ed Hohn, British Columbia Area minister, spoke at the early morning service. The Rev. E. H. Nikkel (pictured), first pastor of Trinity, was guest speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service. Although 87 and blind, he thrilled the audience with a powerful message of encouragement for the future. Rev. J. Wollenberg, second pastor of the church, spoke at the evening service. The 45-voice mass choir and the male choir sang, directed by Mr. Walter Hait, the director of music since the church's inception.

The church has grown from a charter membership of 68 to more than 400, with many adherents and visitors joining in the worship services as well as Sunday school and other ministries. Senior pastor is the Rev. Richard Hohensee with the Rev. R. Neuman, assistant pastor, and Miss Dixie Potratz, director of Christian education. (Magdalena Spletzer, reporter.)

**WATERTOWN, WI.** It was with great joy that the First Baptist Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Thorwald W. Bender's ordination into the Christian ministry. Members from sister churches in the Association also attended the service.

Guest speakers for the special service were the Rev. Dr. Wm. Wells, executive minister, Wisconsin Baptist State Convention, A.B.C., U.S.A., and the Rev. Willis Potratz, Great Lakes Area minister, N.A.B.C.

Tributes to Dr. Bender, special music, provided by the male chorus from the Ridgewood Baptist Church, and Mrs. Allan Krause, First Baptist Church, were included in the program.

The service was planned and coordinated by the Rev. Allan Kranz, pastor of First Baptist Church.

**LEHR, ND.** The Women's Fellowship of the Lehr Ebenezer Baptist Church meets every first Friday of the month for a time of Bible study, prayer, business and an occasional special program. Though few in number, the group is long on enthusiasm!

During a five-month period, these women made 181 sick calls on those who needed such a visit. A flannelgraph painting and scenery, done by Ellen Lautt, was used at a special Easter program. Some of the women who assisted in the program are pictured. The women provide special



music one or two Sundays a month.

The church hosts a music night on the fifth Sunday of a month, after which the women serve a delicious luncheon. The interest created by such programs is heartwarming as well as good for the church. (Ellen Lautt, reporter.)

**ASHLEY, ND.** An ordination service was held July 19, 1981, at the Ashley Baptist Church for the Rev. Steven Opp. The service, conducted by the Rev. Allan Gerber, included scripture reading by Emmanuel Fischer and Edward Schauer. The Rev. Byron Brodehl, pastor of the Anamoose Baptist Church and a close personal friend of Steve and Linda Opp, gave the ordination sermon. Special music was provided by Paul, John, Dan and Andy Stober, father and brothers of Mrs. Opp. The Rev. Ted Keck, pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, offered the ordination prayer. The Charge to the Candidate, the Charge to the Candidate's Wife and the Welcome to the Ministry were given by the area minister, the Rev. Charles Littman.

Rev. Opp was recommended for ordination by an Ordination Council composed of delegates from seven North American Baptist Churches, which met July 13, 1981. Rev. Opp is minister of children's activities at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, as of Sept. 1, 1981. (Rev. Randall C. Tschetter, clerk of ordination council.)

**HUNTER, KS.** The Bethany Baptist Church had a reception for their new pastor, the Rev. and Mrs. Dennis Sigle (pictured) and Christy, on July 31, 1981.



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

gave the welcome from the N.A.B. churches of Kansas as well as the evening message. (Mrs. Robert Wirth, reporter.)

**ABERDEEN, SD.** The Central Dakota-Montana Association sessions were held at the Sheraton Inn, ably hosted by Calvary Baptist Church, June 26-28. Speakers developing the theme, "The Church Alive in the 80s" based on 1 Peter 2:5, were Dr. Laura Reddig, missions promoter; the Rev. Charles Littman, area minister; the Rev. Charles Hiatt, N.A.B. Seminary; Mrs. Janell Hiatt, the Rev. James DeBoer, the Rev. Monte Michaelson, and the Rev. Bill Van Gerpen.

Moderator Art Bender capably chaired the business sessions.

The two extension projects praise God for his rich blessings. Century Baptist, Bismarck, ND, membership 110, dedicated their new sanctuary in September 1980 and experiences steady growth under the ministry of the Rev. David Ewing. The Rev. Ted Keck and his congregation at Metropolitan Baptist, Fargo, ND, dedicated their new sanctuary in September 1981.

The budget for the coming year is \$24,200 with \$16,600 designated for the church extension projects. The next Association will meet at Dickinson, ND, hosted by Hillside Baptist Church, June 25-27, 1982. (Mrs. Mary Lou Brenner, reporter.)

**ELLINWOOD, KS.** The picture depicts some of the family and friends of the Rev. and Mrs. M. D. Wolff who came to a farewell supper and program given for them prior to their departure to pastor Bismarck Baptist Church, ND. A "Celebrity Roast" presented by various members of the congregation was enjoyed by all.



A welcome supper and program was given for the Rev. and Mrs. Randy Kinnison the first Sunday in their new pastorate. Various members representing the different age groups and organizations of the church participated in skits, singing and words of welcome. (Mildred Burroughs, reporter.)

**ABERDEEN, SD.** The Central Dakota-Montana Association Women's Missionary Fellowship met for a luncheon and annual business meeting during the Association meetings at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Aberdeen with Calvary Baptist Church as host. 180 ladies, representing 30 of the 33 societies, attended. Janelle Hiatt, Sioux Falls, SD, was guest speaker. Several women's societies provided special music.

Following the offering challenge by Laura Reddig, an offering of \$668.28 was received.

A project goal of \$2,300 for 1981-82 was accepted. Officers serving the coming year are president: Mrs. Shirley Roehl, New Leipzig, ND; vice president: Mrs. Marilyn Dick, Jamestown, ND; secretary: Mrs. Leona Gerber, Ashley, ND; treasurer: Mrs. Lorraine Bertsch, Aberdeen, SD; White Cross chairman: Mrs. Gail Breckel, Bismarck, ND. (Leona Gerber, secretary.)

**TACOMA, WA.** "Christmas in July" was a project of the Men's Brotherhood of the Pacific Northwest Association. The men gathered toys on wheels to be shipped to Dr. Helen Marie Schmidt for children in Cameroon, Africa.



Hearing of this, the Women's Missionary Fellowship of Calvary Baptist Church made and cleverly dressed fifty rag dolls (pictured) with yarn hair. This was fun and a delightful change for the women who otherwise are busy with White Cross work. (Florence Ramthun, W.M.F. secretary.)

**VANCOUVER, BC.** Recently Bethany Baptist Church had the pleasure of a three-way musical bonanza.

The young people presented a musical package, "The Truth Shall Make You Free." The 30-voice choir was directed by Ralf Zimmermann, who composed two of the most inspiring pieces. Six instrumentalists accompanied the musical.

The fellowship and friends of the church had a unique opportunity to hear

two superb opera singers, Dean Wilder (tenor), professor of music at Payne University, and Robert Hale (bass), singer at the New York Opera and San Diego Opera, in July.

Allen and Denise Kjesbo of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, ministered to us through a stimulating testimony in word and song. The Rev. Ulrich Laser is pastor. (Trudy Zindler, reporter.)

**ONOWAY, AB.** Recently the Onoway Baptist Church held a Sunday school picnic at Ross Haven Bible Camp, with lots of food, fun and fellowship.



Following the Sunday morning service at the camp, the congregation went to the lakeside where two young people (pictured) were baptized.

In the afternoon, a communion service was held at which time the two young people baptized were accepted into the church membership.

The Rev. Wenzel Hanik is pastor of our church. (Sonia Turner, reporter.)

**ST. PAUL, MN.** Recently a graceful stairway to a previously inaccessible loft behind the sanctuary of Redeemer Baptist Church was added. Many came to the supper and dedication ceremony to give their thanks to God and the many who took part in the work. Chief among these were the outstanding set of detailed plans by a gifted member. This was made possible by a gift from our oldest member, Emil Jahn, 90, as a memorial to his wife Augusta. The Rev. Leo Reck is pastor of the church. (Margaret Stahnke, reporter.)

**NEW LEIPZIG, ND.** Superintendent Don Okken presented Rose Iblings with a special pin for outstanding service rendered during 40 years serving as Sunday school treasurer at New Leipzig Baptist Church.

Special guest speakers recently at the church have been Dan Grueneich, soloist; Jim Arends presenting Crystal Springs Camp; Ben Strohschein, missionary to Chad, and Clinton Grenz, speaker for pulpit exchange Sunday.

## our conference in action



During youth week, our youth group participated with area churches and heard Trish Lenahan speak.

The young people of our church served at a banquet and presented a special program for parents and other members. The Rev. Charles Littman was guest speaker.

Several young couples and singles who serve away in Christian work told of their experiences and future plans.

The Rev. Roger J. Freeland is pastor. (Katherine Kallis and Rose Iblings, reporters.)

**SPRINGSIDE, SK.** Springside Baptist Church witnessed a baptismal service at which time ten young people were baptized. Twenty-two members were also added to the church either by testimony or letter, thus making it one of the most impressive communion services held.

All departments of the church report growth. We have had several guest speakers: Henry Loewen, Ralf Sutera, the Rev. Sig Schuster, our new area minister, and Betty Mantay, our missionary to Africa.

The church called Pastor Neil Effa as associate pastor. The Rev. William Keith is senior pastor. (Julia Yanke, reporter.)

**BISMARCK, ND.** It was a joyous occasion for Bismarck Baptist Church on June 14 to welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Manuel Wolff (pictured) and their daughter Kristy into our fellowship.



A potluck salad supper preceded the evening service, at which the Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, presented the installation message. Century Baptist, daughter church, was invited for that ser-



## our conference in action

vice as well as the coffee fellowship following. The Wolffs were showered with tangible gifts of cards and money. (Violet Grenz, church clerk.)

**EBENEZER, SK.** Corrine Machnee, a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, is working in Nigeria, Africa, under the Sudan Interior Mission as a short-term missionary as a dental nurse.

After four years of ministry with us, our pastor, the Rev. Ed Schellenberg, and family presented their resignation to the church. The church had a farewell service followed by a potluck dinner. At the afternoon service, the leaders of the various departments of the church spoke

words of appreciation to the family.

Interim ministries by Rev. G. Stainger, the Reflection Group from Yorkton, and Rev. Reigal have been appreciated.

On Father's Day, our services convened at the Baptist Association Camp at Good Spirit Lake. At the worship service, under the direction of Chesley Patzer, Rev. Stainger brought the message. In the afternoon a musical service with a devotional concluded the day. (Martha Dreger, reporter.)

**WINNIPEG, MB.** Three persons (pictured) professed in public their personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Based on the testimonies of these young Christians,

the Rev. Walter Schroedter carried out the baptismal command of our Lord on June 7. Each candidate was then welcomed into the fellowship of the German Baptist Mission Church. (Horst Rath, church clerk.)



## In Memoriam

JACOB RAISER was born in Neselrot, Russia, on March 22, 1906, and died May 25, 1981. He married Maria Dobler in 1923, and they immigrated to Canada in September 1926. He accepted Christ as Savior, was baptized and joined the Carbon Baptist Church in 1937. God blessed their marriage with two children, Oskar (deceased) and Irma Biebrick. Survivors include his wife Maria of Carbon; his daughter Irma (Mrs. Leo Biebrick); two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Emma Weiss; three brothers: John, Gottlieb and Waldemar; one half sister, two stepsisters, and one stepbrother. The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Richard Grabke.

MISS ELSENA POPKES, 96, was born to L. B. and Anna Snittjer Popkes on Nov. 21, 1884, in Germany, and died June 6, 1981. She came to the United States with her parents and family in 1899; they lived in Aplington for about a year. They then moved to Hancock County near Britt, IA. Elsenia accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior, was baptized, and became a member of the Buffalo Center Baptist Church, later moving back to Aplington and transferring her membership to the Aplington Baptist Church. Elsenia remained a faithful member of the Aplington Baptist Church and the Benevolent Society. She was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers. Survivors include her sister, Mrs. Lena Roos of Aplington, and several nieces and nephews. The Rev. Donald Patet officiated at the funeral services.

EMIL SCHMELTEKOPF, 80 was born on Feb. 19, 1901, and died July 18, 1981. He was a leading Christian witness in Kyle, Texas. He was an active member of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Kyle, TX. He is survived by his sons: James, Edward, Robert, and Donnie, and a daughter, Mary Pryal. He has three surviving brothers, 17 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Pastor Keith Eitel officiated at the funeral service along with two guest clergymen, Rev. Bill Arnold and Dr. Glen Norris.

HERBERT HELWIG, 79, born in Ashley, ND, April 28, 1902, died at Lodi, CA, on June

17, 1981. He married Olga Meidinger in Alberta, Canada, in 1924. In 1935 he received Christ as Savior and became a member of the church at Olds, AB. The family moved to Lodi, CA, in 1947, where he affiliated with the First Baptist Church and worshipped there faithfully with his family. Survivors include his wife, Olga; four sons: Melvin, Calvin, and Lloyd of Lodi, CA, and Bill of Sparks, NV; two daughters: Phyllis Lehr and Alice Jolly, Lodi, CA; four sisters: Lena Norquay, Ruth Zimmerman, Kay Wall, and Vi Turnbull; five brothers: Sam, Art, Hugo, Ben, and Louie; fifteen grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Walter Dingfield, Rev. Aaron Buhler, and Elder Lee Meidinger.

THEODORE WOLF, 72, was born March 13, 1909, in McIntosh County, ND, and died in Ashley, ND, Aug. 10, 1981. He married Hertha Blumhardt in 1938. He farmed near Fredonia, ND, until retirement and was a member of the Berlin Baptist Church where he served as clerk, deacon, S.S. teacher, and superintendent. At the time of his death, he was a member of Ashley Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Hertha, Ashley; one daughter, Eileen (Mrs. Floyd Goehring), Milpitas, CA; one son, Don, Williston, ND; six grandchildren, and two sisters, Mrs. John Jerke and Mrs. Gideon Frey. Pastors John Reimer and Allan Gerber conducted the funeral service.

JOHN LUBBERS was born at Tyndall, SD, on Sept. 11, 1907, and died July 28, 1981. He was baptized on confession of his faith Aug. 1, 1920, and joined the Tyndall Baptist Church in which he was a faithful member, serving as deacon, teacher, and superintendent for many years. Surviving are his wife, Goldie; two children: Bonnie Hoerth, Tyndall, and Arnie, Galva, IA; four grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; a stepmother, stepbrother and step-sister. One sister and his parents preceded him in death. Pastor Alvin Auch officiated at the memorial service.

LOUIS PETER MULLER, 86, of Victor, IA, born to Henry and Adelaide Blanken Muller on June 14, 1895, died July 14, 1981. Louis accepted Christ as his personal Savior, was baptized, and joined Victor Baptist Church. Louis married Elizabeth Folkerts of Steamboat Rock, IA, on Aug. 23, 1932, in Lincoln, NE. They

made their home in Victor. The Louis Muller home has been an example of true Christian hospitality. Many overnight guests have been welcomed, including visiting N.A.B. pastors and church folk. Survivors include his wife; two sisters: Mattie Muller, Marengo, and Adelaide Folkerts, Victor. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sons: Keith and Louis George; two sisters: Nellie Zirbes and Anna Bohstedt, and four brothers: John, Harry, Herman and Walter. The Rev. Terry N. Tareila and the Rev. Kirk Muller officiated at the funeral service.

REV. PETER WIENS, 67, Bismarck, ND, died July 29, 1981, at the Bismarck Baptist Home for the Aged. Rev. Wiens was born March 30, 1914, in Saskatchewan, Canada, to Jacob and Sarah Froese Wiens. He received his education at Northwestern Bible School and Northwestern Seminary, Minneapolis, MN. During his ministry, Rev. Wiens served churches in Webb, IA; Chancellor, SD; Sibley, IA; Avon, SD; Hebron, ND; Carrington, ND, and Lehr, ND. Survivors include his wife, Marie; one daughter, Marilyn Sween, Lynchburg, VA; four sons: Chaplain Curtis, U.S. Army, Germany; Robert, Sioux Falls, SD; Eugene, Minneapolis, MN, and James, Fairview Heights, IL; six grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. Officiating at the funeral service were the Rev. Orville Meth, the Rev. Manuel Wolff and the Rev. George Neubert.

ADAM MORRIS POTRATZ, son of William F. and Matilda Gersonde Potratz, was born Oct. 24, 1893, near Sumner, IA, and died Aug. 4, 1981. On June 9, 1936, he married Nellie Haag. In early manhood, Adam personally received Christ, was baptized, and became a member of First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA. The Elgin Baptist Church began to conduct monthly services in the Potratz' home. This led to the formation of the First Baptist Church of Sumner, in which Adam was deeply involved. Survivors include five daughters: Mrs. Herman (Ruth) Haskenhoff of Sumner, Mrs. Kenneth (Mary) Schaible of Anaheim, CA, Mrs. Terry (April) Adler of Aurora, CO, Carol of Bismarck, ND, and Dixie of Kelowna, BC; five grandchildren, and sister-in-law, Mrs. M. B. Potratz. The Rev. Willis Potratz, nephew, conducted the funeral service.

## What's Happening

Mr. Tim Dekker became assistant pastor at Zion Baptist Church, Terrace, BC, in October 1981.

Mr. David Wood was ordained Sept. 13, 1981, at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI. He is assistant pastor of the church.

Mr. Fred Lacuesta accepted the position of director of Christian education at First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS, effective Oct. 25, 1981. He is a 1981 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

On Aug. 30, 1981, Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, and Center Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI, merged. The church is now Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, with the Rev. Erwin Babbel as senior pastor, and the Rev. Dan Edzards and the Rev. Klaus Joujan as assistant pastors.

Mr. Douglas Timm became assistant pastor of Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI, effective Nov. 1, 1981.

The Rev. Harold Weiss accepted the pastorate of a new church extension work in Airdrie, AB, effective Oct. 12, 1981. He served as pastor of Parkland Baptist Church, Spruce Grove, AB, since 1973.

The Rev. Richard Mayforth accepted the pastorate of Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD, effective Oct. 1, 1981. He formerly was an N.A.B. missionary in Japan.

The Rev. Bill Loge resigned as pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Sheffield, IA, effective Oct. 15, 1981. He will be going into a full-time music ministry.

The Rev. Kenneth Schmuland accepted the pastorate of Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB. He was pastor of Cypress Baptist Church, Lynnwood, WA, since 1973.

The Rev. John Wahl, retired pastor, of Kelowna, BC, died Aug. 24, 1981.

The Rev. Larry Friesen resigned as pastor of Randolph Baptist Church, Minnesota, and accepted the pastorate of Whispering Oaks Baptist Church, Parkville, MO, effective November 1981. He has been pastor at Randolph since 1975.

The Rev. Peter Wiens of Bismarck, ND, died July 29, 1981, after a lengthy illness.

The Rev. Robert Cornwell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bison, KS, since 1979, resigned effective Sept. 27, 1981, and became pastor of Isabel Baptist Church, South Dakota.

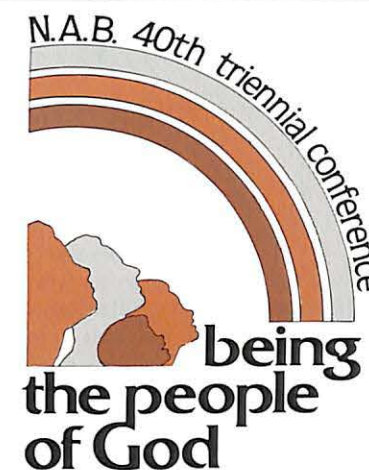
The Rev. Harry Johnson accepted the pastorate of Herreid Baptist Church, South Dakota, effective Oct. 10, 1981. He previously served First Baptist Church in Corona, SD, before taking additional studies at N.A.B. Seminary.

The Rev. Lester Buenning resigned from Grace Baptist Church, West Fargo, ND, effective Sept. 27, 1981. He was pastor there since 1978.

The Rev. Paul Blanchard, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, TX, since 1980, resigned in June 1981. He is serving a non-N.A.B. work in Granada, MS.

Mr. Robert Barlow resigned from Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, SK, effective Oct. 1, 1981. He was pastor there since 1980.

"The North American Baptist Seminary Archives completed a successful year of reorganization and management," reports Dr. George Dunger, archivist. "The Annual Report reveals a three-dimensional perspective of our history, that of the past, by necessity; that of the present, by advantage for God's people; that of the future, by hope and trust in God for all eternity. Among the more recent highlights was the research work into Rauschenbuschiana by Dr. Paul Minus of the Methodist School of Theology, Delaware, OH, and the visit of the Archivist of the State of South



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

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
AUGUST 10-15, 1982

Dr. Howard G. Andersen, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, will be the Wednesday evening speaker at the Triennial Conference when it meets in Niagara Falls, NY, August 10-15, 1982.

Dr. Andersen has served as president of Northwest Baptist Theological College in Vancouver and, prior to that, as dean and instructor at the same institution. He has also served as a special educational consultant and Conference speaker and has contributed to numerous publications. He is married and has three children.

Plan now to join the family of God at Niagara.

Donald N. Miller

Dr. Donald N. Miller  
Vice Moderator  
North American Baptist Conference

Dakota, Dr. L. Hibpshman, whose evaluating remark shall continue to be a constant challenge. It was 'the best I have seen'."

The Rev. Myrl Thiesies resigned as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church, Renton, WA.

Mr. Heinz Schoenhoff accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, effective Sept. 6, 1981.



# Viewpoint

## Tuition Tax Credits

Legislation granting tuition tax credits to parents of children in non-public schools would be unconstitutional if enacted, according to Dr. James Wood Jr., editor of the *Journal of Church and State*.

His editorial in the recently issued winter 1981 edition of the journal, published at Baylor University, described the "grave consequences" which would affect traditional American relationships between church and state and the "fundamental guarantees of the First Amendment."

Dr. Wood warned that the impact of the more than 20 bills proposing tax credits which are pending in the Congress would be "financially inequitable and regressive." Among those bills is the Packwood-Moynihan plan, authorizing "tax credits up to \$500 for one-half of the tuition charged for any one year." Such tuition tax credits "would inevitably mean the subsidization of private education at the expense of public education," he said.

Tuition tax credits would give private elementary and secondary schools a "substantial advantage" over public schools and thereby "threaten existing educational pro-

grams," he added. In fact, the measure will mean that "those who most need education to escape poverty will receive the least help," he said.

Not only is the tuition tax credit idea "bad public policy for public education," but it is also bad public policy for private education, according to Dr. Wood, who is professor of church-state studies at Baylor.

In effect, tuition tax credits will increase federal control over private education at a time when many persons are struggling to maintain or restore local control over their public schools, he noted.

Since many private schools are church-related, tax credits "would lead to excessive administrative entanglement of government and religion," he said. Of those nonpublic schools which stand to benefit from the credits, almost 90 percent at the elementary level are parochial, and 80 percent of that number are Roman Catholic, he observed.

An added danger, Dr. Wood noted, is that legislation which in effect aided church-related schools would tend to "encourage political lobbying by partisans of those schools to promote political action to achieve their goals."

Private schools would be more harmed than helped by tuition tax credits, Dr. Wood advised in his editorial, because with those credits would come some form of public accountability which would weaken the separation between church and state, so prized by church-related schools.

Dr. Wood emphasized the "glaring inconsistency" between an expressed

desire to reduce government involvement in private institutions and a tax measure that would "shift billions in tuition from private sources to the U.S. treasury."

Such an idea violates the time-honored church-state separation as outlined in the First Amendment, and is "incompatible with the guarantees of a free and democratic society," he concluded. □

## Prayer Concerns

### Harsch Has Heart Bypass Surgery

The Rev. Ray Harsch, director of evangelism for North American Baptist Conference, underwent open heart surgery with a triple bypass on October 13. He was released from the hospital on October 21, and is recovering at home.

"Thank you for your prayers on my behalf . . . before, during and following surgery. This gave me peace and confidence through it all. I appreciate the cards and encouragement expressed."

### Johns Succumbs

Harold Johns of Oak Park, IL, chairman of the Constitutional Change Committee and chairman of the N.A.B. Pension Committee died following a short illness from cancer October 23, 1981. He leaves his wife Marion.

## Ben H. Engbrecht Joins Administrative Team At North American Baptist Seminary

Mr. Ben H. Engbrecht began his duties as associate director of development at North American Baptist Seminary August 1981. He is working with the Reverend Charles Hiatt, vice president for development, in the various development activities of the Seminary, traveling to churches in



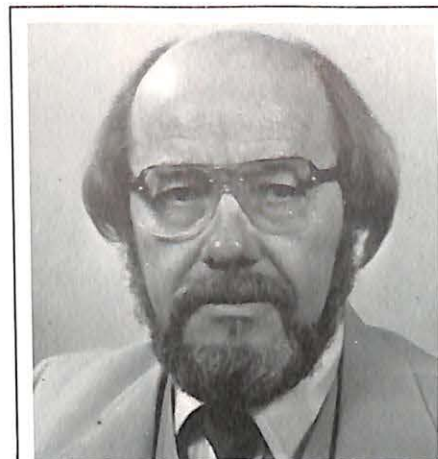
the United States and Canada as well as participating in the 1982 Capital Funds Campaign in the business community of Sioux Falls to provide necessary funds for library expansion.

"We continue to praise God for his call to qualified lay persons for key positions in the ministry of our Conference and Seminary," states Rev. Hiatt.

Mr. Engbrecht comes to the Seminary with a wide range of ex-

perience in business administration, volunteer fund raising, and management. Mr. Engbrecht has lived in the Sioux Falls area for six years. He attended Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD, and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Ben and his wife, Vi, have been active in Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD, and Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. They have two children who are married. □



## putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

How does a Christian minister to persons who appear to be living out situations that are less than, or contrary to, the ideal teachings of the Word of God? The issues that I am referring to are divorce and remarriage, premarital sex, homosexuality, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse, and pornography. How is it possible to uphold high standards of morality and at the same time minister in a compassionate way to persons who are involved in situations that one may judge as immoral? How does one bring these two conditions together?

There are basically two models of Christian ministry for dealing with morality. I shall call them the prescriptive model and the redemptive model.

The prescriptive model was the predominant model in the Old Testament period. This model deals with general morality for the group. The subsequent Judeo-Christian culture has continued to be heavily influenced by it. The Ten Commandments and all the Levitical laws, plus Deuteronomy and the preaching of the prophets, were given as a "prescription" for moral, godly behavior. Anyone who followed these prescriptions in "law and spirit" would be considered a moral and godly person. Failure in keeping the prescribed behavior could be compensated for through the Old Testament plan of redemption which related to the sacrificial acts and procedures for atonement.

During the New Testament period, greater attention was called to the redemptive model as a means of morality or godliness. The redemptive model deals with the needs of the individual. This is very much in keeping with the emphasis evangelicals put on personal faith as a means of salvation. In Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the ultimate atonement was made, and the redemptive model has become predominant. This does not mean that the prescriptive model is done away with or is of no importance. The Christian is still a proclaimer of ideal, godly living, but at

the same time no longer is a bucket of stones handy for dealing with those who fail. It is a foregone conclusion that there is going to be failure, and sin must then be dealt with redemptively. The redemptive model means that sin and failure are approached, not with hostility and anger, but with compassion, love, and understanding. The opportunity of newness and growth in Christ is held out to the immoral with compassion.

To one degree or another, we are all immoral; therefore, the way in which we judge those who are involved in the behaviors that relate to the major moral issues of our day is also the judgment we will receive (Matthew 7:1-2).

How do you deal redemptively with a mother of three children whose husband has divorced her and abandoned her? How do you deal with a single young woman who is pregnant and has no man willing to share her responsibility? How do you deal with a person who is homosexual; yet feels personally despicable in that condition? How do you deal with the burned out drug abuser? How do you deal with the explicit sex of the newsstand and the movie/TV screen?

Do we, as Christians, have redemptive plans that will work in these and thousands of other "less than ideal situations?" There were no stones in Jesus' hands as he redemptively hung on the cross. "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it" (John 3:17).

## Veninga Named Interim President of N.A.B. Seminary

Dr. Frank Veninga, former president of North American Baptist Seminary, has been named by the Board of Trustees to begin a one-year term as interim president on Sept. 1, 1981.



Dr. Veninga served North American Baptist Seminary as president 1959-1970. He continued his involvement in theological education as executive vice president at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary 1970-78, and director of personnel,

1978-79. Eastern granted him executive vice president emeritus status in 1978.

Veninga is a 1941 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary and earned a doctor of divinity degree from the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1966. He served as pastor at several North American Baptist churches including Bethany Baptist, Milwaukee, WI; State Park Baptist, Peoria, IL; Aplington Baptist, IA; Temple Baptist, Pittsburgh, PA. From 1956-59 he served as the Eastern District secretary for the North American Baptist Conference.

In Dr. Veninga's letter to Mr.

Douglas Bleeker, chairman of the Board of Trustees, accepting the challenge of interim presidency, he made the following remarks:

"I know it will be a satisfying experience to work with you and the Board of Trustees. Of course I have always enjoyed my working relationship with students, faculty and staff. It is my prayer that God will give us a good year and that we will continue to build upon the excellent work of the past years. May God direct the Board in the important selection of a new president to lead the Seminary to greater heights of achievement and a continued fruitful ministry." □



# Baptist Herald

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## The Cameroon Choristers are Coming!

Sharing the love and warmth of the Lord, 19 Choisters and a Cameroonian pastor are traveling throughout the United States and Canada, presenting a program of music, drama, and testimony under the direction of Miss Cleo Enockson.

Choir members come from a variety of backgrounds, geographical areas and vocations. All are members of Cameroon Baptist Convention churches.

We invite you and your friends to attend a concert in your area.

### Attend a Concert in Your Area

Date Time	Place	Contact Person	Date Time	Place	Contact Person
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			13	7:30 p.m. Jamestown Civic Center, Jamestown, ND	Rev. Jim Dick
1	TBA p.m. Jubilee Auditorium, 114 St. & 87th Ave., Edmonton, AB	Mr. Gordon Kirsch	15	11:00 a.m. Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	Rev. Manuel Wolff
3	7:30 p.m. Medicine Hat College Theatre, Medicine Hat, AB	Rev. Arthur Freitag		6:00 p.m. Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	Rev. David Ewing
4	7:30 p.m. Faith Baptist Church, Regina, SK	Rev. Richard Quiring	17	7:30 p.m. Ashley High School, Ashley, ND	Rev. Allan Gerber
5	7:30 p.m. Dr. Brass Auditorium, Yorkton, SK	Rev. Delvin Bertsch	18	7:30 p.m. Aberdeen Civic Theatre, Aberdeen, SD	Rev. Monte Michaelson
6	TBA First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB	Rev. Ronald Kelway	19	7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church, Emery, SD	Rev. David Korb
8	11:00 a.m. Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB		20	7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. Leon Bill
	3:30 p.m. McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB	Rev. Richard Goetze	22	TBA a.m. Henry High School, Minneapolis, MN	Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff
9	7:30 p.m. Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND	Rev. Ralph Cooke		7:00 p.m. Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN	Rev. Douglas Radke
11	7:00 p.m. First Baptist Church, Minot, ND	Rev. Keith Heyn	23	7:30 p.m. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI	Rev. Erwin Babbel
12	7:30 p.m. Washburn Public School Gym, Washburn, ND	Rev. James Porterfield	24	Departure for Cameroon from Chicago, IL	

For further information contact the Rev. Harold Lang, associate secretary for promotion and personnel, Missions Department, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181; (312) 495-2000.