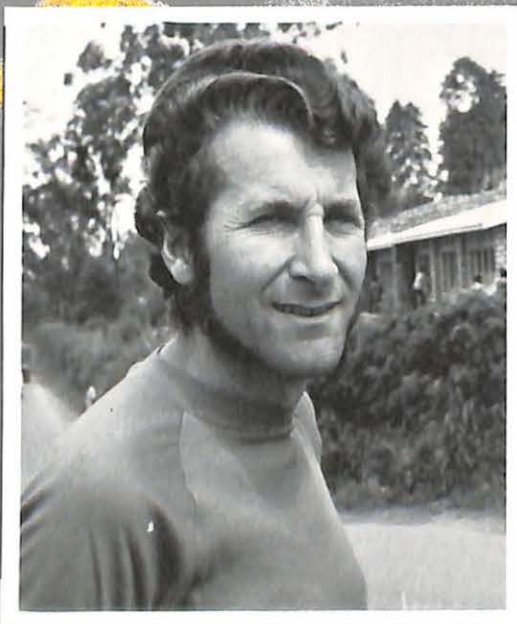


Baptist Herald

April 1982



I am the resurrection
and the life;
He that believeth
in me; though he were
dead, yet shall he live.
John 11:25

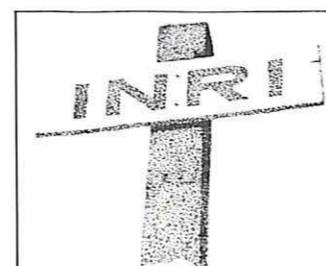
Baptist Herald

Volume 60 April 1982 Number 4

Monthly Publication
of the
North American Baptist
Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,
Box 159, Oakbrook Terrace,
IL. 60181

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(*Woman's World*)



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Adolph Braun reminds us of
the

WITNESSES OF
JESUS' RESURREC-
TION 4



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our African mission fields.
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made her first trip to
Cameroon with her husband
who had been a doctor there.
The love of the people over-
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BAPTIST HERALD: Send editorial and business correspondence to Barbara J. Binder, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Advertising rate: \$8.00 per inch single column (2 1/4 inches wide) black and white. Send address changes to Baptist Herald Subscriptions Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Six weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Published monthly (except July/August and January/February bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Box 159, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rates in the United States and Canada: \$7.00 one year; \$13.00 two years. Church Family Plan: \$5.00. Single copy: 70 cents. Member of Evangelical Press Association. News reported and views expressed are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference. (Printed in the U.S.A.) USPS 042560

Witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection

An Easter meditation based on John 20:1-31 by Adolph Braun

There are more references to the resurrection of Jesus Christ than there are to his birth. In the four gospels, there are 131 verses, and in the books of Acts and New Testament Letters, there are 16 references that refer to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul refers to Christ's birth only twice but mentions his resurrection 22 times. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then our gospel is a lie, our preaching is vain, and our faith is faulty. Then we are yet in our sin and we are, of all men, most miserable (1 Cor. 15:12-19).

The first Christians referred to the celebration of the resurrection as "The Festival of Festivals," "The Day Alone Great," and "The Most Royal Day of Days." What is the resurrection to you?

It was the most joyous season of the year for the early Christians. All laborers ceased their work; people dressed up in their finest clothes; roads were empty of travelers, and all Christians went to church to

Dr. Adolph Braun is senior pastor of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

worship the Lord. It was one time of the year when the poor dressed as if they were rich. This spirit of celebration was revived by the Puritans who celebrated each Sunday as a commemoration of the resurrection of Christ as his victory over sin and the grave. The special joy for us is that because he lives, we, too, shall live. All that he promised will come true.

Jesus had prophesied early in his ministry that he would rise from the dead on the third day, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). After he took James, John, and Peter up on the mount and was transfigured there before them, he said, "Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead" (Matt. 17:9). He told his disciples again just before he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matt. 20:17-19). The night in which he was betrayed he told his disciples that they would all be offended because of him that night and that they all would be scattered as sheep because the shepherd would be killed. "But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee" (Matt. 26:31-32).

There are ten appearances of Jesus after his resurrection recorded in the New Testament. There are two in Matthew, three in Mark, three in Luke, four in John, and five in

Paul's letters. Until this time, all resurrections were but resuscitations. The dead raised were brought back to this life where they had to die again. Not so with Jesus' resurrection. His resurrection promises a new spiritual body.

Let's consider three appearances of Jesus: To Mary, to the ten disciples with Thomas missing, and to Thomas with the other ten disciples.

Mary's Fears Turned to Faith

It seems that none loved Jesus more than Mary Magdalene did. He did something for her that no one else could do. She could never forget it nor repay the debt. Mark (16:9) and Luke (8:2) both reveal that Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdala. If seven is symbolic of completeness, then Mary was completely possessed by demons, but Jesus delivered her from them all. She was forgiven much, and she then loved much.

Her love motivated her to work. She was probably carrying some spices which would be used to anoint the body of Jesus. It was the custom in Palestine to visit the body for three days after burial. The fourth day the body began to decay. They believed that the spirit hovered over the body for those three days.

They were not allowed by law to travel on the Sabbath, but as early as the law allowed before daybreak of Sunday, the first of a new week, they went to the tomb. They were shocked as they saw the huge stone

rolled away from the door of the tomb. Mary ran to tell Peter and John (closest to the Lord) that someone had stolen the body of Jesus. John and Peter ran to the tomb, and John arrived first. They went into the tomb and found only his grave clothes, but no body.

After Peter and John had returned to their homes, Mary looked into the tomb and, while she was weeping, saw two angels, one at the foot and another at the head of where the body of Jesus had lain. They asked her why she was weeping. She said, "They have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him" (20:13). She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. (How true it is that the answer to our weeping is often just behind us—if we only understood.) She thought he was the gardener.

Even after Jesus asked her whom she was seeking, she did not know it was Jesus. When Jesus said, "Mary," she recognized him and answered, "Master." No one can call our name like Jesus can. He knows all his own by name.

As soon as Mary recognized Jesus, she must have embraced him and held on to him. He said, "Don't be afraid, I haven't gone to my Father yet, I am still here."

Jesus told her to tell his brethren. She told them that she had seen the Lord and that he had spoken to her.

The Sadness of the Disciples Turned to Gladness

The appearance to the ten disciples is recorded in all four gospels. The disciples were afraid of

the Jews so they were in hiding. Can you imagine the shock they must have experienced when Jesus stood in their midst without walking through the door? He showed them his hands and side as proof that he was Jesus, crucified; "Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (v. 20). He has brought gladness to millions who believe in him; his presence still changes sadness to gladness.

Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared to the ten, so he refused to believe their testimony when they told him that they had seen the Lord. He wanted the personal proof of putting his finger into the side of Jesus.

Where will you be when Jesus comes again? Do you meet with God's people on the Lord's Day? A preacher once said, "Some people are where they ought not to be. Some are not where they would like to be. If people continue going where they ought not to be, when Jesus comes, they may find themselves in a place where they don't want to be."

Thomas' Doubts Were Turned to Divine Worship

Doubting Thomas was present the next time Jesus appeared which was eight days later. He again appeared without walking through the door—"the doors being shut." Jesus challenged Thomas, "Reach out your hand (not only your finger)

and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (v. 27).

Thomas confessed, "My Lord and my God!" Is he your Lord and your God? Do you worship and serve him? How much proof do you need? Jesus spoke words which ought to encourage every believer. "Thomas, you believe because you have seen; blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed." John concluded this passage by telling us that he could not include all the miracles that Jesus had performed in the presence of his disciples. But he then added his purpose in selecting the ones that he did include: "These are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). His promise of resurrection to life eternal is for all who believe.

"Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). □

A recent visit to Mambilla Baptist Mission in Nigeria reveals

New Roads and Roadblocks by Fred Folkerts

Missionary Pete Schroeder and I were sailing along on a wide new stretch of road high on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria late last year. Enjoying the change from the rough road we had earlier crossed, I settled into my seat for a comfortable ride. The wide road didn't last. A wooden barrier in the middle of the road pointed to a detour. Soon we were back on a bumpy, narrow road again.

That experience illustrated for me the setbacks and difficulties which go along with the change and progress for the Baptist churches and conventions in Nigeria and Cameroon. While visiting missionaries and national leaders of the Mambilla Baptist Convention and the Cameroon Baptist Convention during November and December last year, I saw tremendous change and progress. I also saw roadblocks, new hurdles to cross and a variety of setbacks in the work.

The Mambilla Baptist Convention is growing rapidly and steadily. In 1975, there were approximately 5,000 believers in 102 churches. By 1980, there were nearly 10,000 in 130 churches. In 1965, our Mission questioned if there were enough people on the Mambilla Plateau to warrant establishment of a hospital. No census had been taken, and the population seemed small. But, the Mission went ahead, opened a hospital, and sent missionaries to assist the few Baptist Christians in developing their work.

Fifteen years later in 1980, a census showed there were 150,000 people on the Plateau, and the number is steadily growing. The good progress and growth in the church seems dwarfed by the enormous population expansion. Though the Convention has grown

The Rev. Fred Folkerts is missions director for the North American Baptist Conference.

by leaps and bounds, its task in reaching the unreached for Christ on the Mambilla Plateau is even greater now than it was in 1965.

The Convention and Mission in



A Nigerian road travelled by Fred Folkerts.

Nigeria no longer minister to the people through the hospital at Warwar, which was established in 1965. That hospital was turned over to the government in 1976. There is now a second government hospital in the area at Gembu, seven miles from Warwar. Three government doctors are at work in those hospitals. Our inclination would be to sit back and say that the people now have all the necessary medical facilities to meet their needs.

But that conclusion soon faded from my mind when I spent a day with Miss Barbara Kieper, missionary nurse, at a mobile health clinic in a remote village at the end of a three-hour drive by Land Rover. That day she treated 381 patients. These growing villages, filled with people, dot the countryside as a result of the rapid population growth. These people find it impossible to travel to the larger centers for medical care.

Barb Kieper has responded to their need by bringing a medicine box and a Bible to minister to their

ills. I watched as she coaxed shy mothers with their babies through the door of the thatch-roofed church, where the clinic was held, and touched her stethoscope to a



Fred Folkerts greets Nigerian

crying baby's back. She counted out pills to give relief for malaria, pneumonia, or any number of other complaints. Soon the mother holding her baby walked out the side door while the next person came in for his turn. In the meantime, Barb's co-worker, a Nigerian pastor or evangelist, spoke quietly to the departing mother about Christ.



Patients wait outside church where medical clinic is held in Londonia, Nigeria, to see Barbara Kieper.



Barb Kieper treats patient at a mobile health clinic.

Looking through the second grade classroom door at Hillcrest School, Jos, I was not surprised to see more black faces than white.

Ten years ago, it would have been unusual to see more than a few black faces. The school was established for missionary children,

and our mission became one of twelve missions to cooperate in the operation of the school. But in recent years, many Nigerian and other



Trudy Spletzer teaches the second grade class at Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria.



Patients waiting for clinic.



Peter Schroeder and Kurt Radke discuss 1982 goals for the Mambilla Field.



Dale and Sharon Wilcke serve Thanksgiving Day dinner to Woyke House residents.

international students have been admitted to the school to provide a quality education for them, also.

Our N.A.B. hostel, Woyke House, is a sample of this change. Stepping into the hostel, I was met by a variety of bold and timid greetings from two German girls, a child from India, three youngsters from other missions, four Nigerian children, and four of our missionary children. Dale and Sharon Wilcke, our missionary houseparents, served all of us a Thanksgiving Day dinner. "Uncle Dale" very naturally made thanksgiving to God for Jesus Christ our Savior as part of the thanksgiving feast. It was a new and fascinating story for some of those N.A.B. hostel residents who come from non-Christian homes. But, that is the changed hostel and school setting. The missionary children now have a work area in which to share their Christian faith and heritage.

Missionary replacements are a major concern for the national Christian leaders and our remaining missionaries in Nigeria. Two years ago, when the Mambilla Baptist

School at Mbu was becoming well established and in need of seminary-trained teachers, our missionary numbers dwindled. While sitting with members of the General Coun-



cil of the Mambilla Baptist Convention at Gembu in December 1981, they repeatedly urged me to send missionary replacements in 1982. The executive secretary of the Convention, the Rev. Philip Sol, has seen his need for more training and will leave for further theological studies this year.

But the picture is not all dark. A young man, Peter Jumyu, completed three years of higher theological studies in Igbadja, Nigeria, and returned to teach at the pastors' training school at Mbu.

North American Baptists, I am convinced, will not let the shortage in missionary staff be a continual roadblock to growth in the training of pastors for work on the Mambilla Plateau. There are now 130 churches in Mambilla; only 34 of them have trained pastors. An average of five new churches open each year, so the present average of 10 graduates per year needs to be increased to ensure a trained pastor for all of the churches.

Roadblocks are not too hard nor high for God. He is in the process of making rough places plain and highways in the desert. Let's join in prayer and in giving to make new roads of ministry for Christ and his kingdom in Nigeria and Cameroon.

The welcomes were warm and genuine, because to the hearts of hundreds of Cameroonians he had served . . .

The Doctor Is In

by Mary Jo Stockdale

Before we were married in January, Dr. Gene Stockdale told me of his plans to make a trip to Africa in the summer. I little dreamed what the trip would mean to him. Was it to be a "sentimental journey?" Or was he going only because he knew he could help out in Bango and Mbingo Baptist Hospitals where there is a shortage of doctors? Was it just an adventurous vacation trip?

One of the first people we met at Bango was Enoch Jingwi, who at one time had worked with Gene at Mbingo and now is chief lab technician at Bango. He gave me the first clue as to why we had come. "Welcome! You are welcome!" He repeated over and over, his eyes beaming love, and his smile adding emphasis to his words.

He gripped my hand in both of his and told how he had prayed the woman Dr. Stockdale would marry would be willing to come to Africa.

Willing to come to Africa? I could sense that Enoch meant more than this short visit. Would I be willing to start missionary work over again, just after celebrating my 59th birthday?

"After I heard doctor was married, I prayed for your health and here you are—happy and feeling well. God truly answers our prayers."

My health! Besides turista (anyone who has visited Latin America knows what that means), I started having trouble with asthma soon after we arrived. Surely God wouldn't expect. . . .

Mary Jo Stockdale, Costa Mesa, CA, is a freelance writer and a former editor with Wycliffe. She is married to Dr. Gene Stockdale who served in Cameroon as a medical doctor from 1956-67.

Later when Gene was busy seeing patients, Enoch told me what the Doctor's ministry had meant to the people.

"Dr. Stockdale was the second

Joseph Merrick Baptist College are located.

Upon arrival at Ndu, the first thing Gene wanted to do was go to market. "I want to see my friend,



Little did Dr. Stockdale's bride realize what a trip to Africa would mean to her.

doctor at Mbingo Hospital. He suffered much here in the Cameroon as he made difficult trips on foot, horseback and in Land Rover into the bush country to establish leprosy clinics. He is responsible for much of the early expansion of the work, having started at least 14 of the 22 clinics.

"Wherever these clinics were established, people accepted Christ and soon a church came into being. Thousands of people came to know Christ as a result of his work among the leprosy patients."

As I walked back to our quarters, I marvelled. Not once had my husband boasted of the extent of his ministry in Africa. And now I saw the radiant smile of contentment, as he was once more doing the work he loves among people he loves.

About three weeks later, we climbed into a Land Rover to go first to Ndu, where the Cameroon Baptist Theological College and

Philip Ngwayi."

Just beyond the market, we found Philip's small pharmacy, and when an attendant called the owner from a back room, we were greeted with the same love we experienced from Enoch.

"You are welcome!" the former leprosy inspector exclaimed. "I knew you would come see me!"

He, too, told what Doctor had meant to the leprosy work.

"He was willing to touch them," he said tenderly. "Today some who serve the patients are not willing to dress the ulcers or take care of them properly. But when Dr. Stockdale and I went from place to place, he gave them tender loving care." (Where had Philip introduced this peculiarly American idiom into his pidgin vocabulary?)

"I am where I am today, able to support eight children and send them to school, because of all I

(Continued on next page)

PEOPLE NEEDED TO SERVE IN OVERSEAS MISSIONS

The Missions Department is seeking the Lord's persons to fill the following needs for 1982:

COUNTRY	PERSONS NEEDED	POSITION/TYPE OF WORK	TOUR LENGTH	WHEN NEEDED
JAPAN	4	Teaching Conversational English	Two years	August 1982
NIGERIA	1	Field secretary/theological school teaching	Full	Immediate
	1	Church planting/theological education by extension	Full	Immediate
	1	Qualified high school guidance counselor (Hillcrest School, Jos)	Full or two years	Immediate
	1	Elementary school teacher (Hillcrest School, Jos)	Full or two years	August 1982
CAMEROON	1	Medical doctor	Full	Immediate
	1	Medical doctor	Up to one year	Summer 1982
	1	Accountant/field treasurer	Full	October 1982
	2	Hospital administrators	Two years	Immediate
	2	Theological school teaching/church planting	Full	August 1982
	1	Nursing/nursing school teaching	Full or two years	Summer 1982
	1	Bookkeeper/field treasury work	Full or two years	Immediate
	6	Secondary school teaching (science qualifications preferred)	Two years	August 1982
		Laymen-in-Action - Various Areas	Three Months	

If you are interested in one of these positions, or know of someone who is qualified and may be interested, please contact the Rev. Harold Lang, associate missions director for personnel and promotion, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. (These are the needs as of January 1, 1982. Some applications for various positions are in process at this time.)

learned from him."

After Philip treated us with sodas, and before we said good-by, he said, "You must return to Africa!"

I recalled a sleepless night I had experienced during our second week at Banzo. Disturbing thoughts pushed at me relentlessly. Through our visit one thing was becoming insistently obvious. Gene's total happiness painted a continual happy smile on his face. Here in Africa, he was in his own "operating room."

I thought of our comfortable house in California—newly carpeted, taking on the touches which make it our house. The missionaries don't live in luxury, but they've made comfortable homes in Africa. . .

The teasing thought persisted. I hardly wanted to admit its presence. But it was there, and finally a flat-out question: "Would you be willing to come to Africa—to live among and serve these people?"

I prayed excuse after excuse, but knew that's all they were.

In the morning I whispered to Gene, "If you feel God wants you to serve here, I want you to know I'm willing to come." Gene didn't seem too surprised but very pleased.

From Ndu we climbed into another Land Rover and, in flooding rain, started up the impossible track to Mbem, about 15 miles from the Nigerian border. I had heard of the precarious trip. Although we had the "first-class" seat in the front, I didn't relish the three hours of squirming up, watching the capable little car and more capable driver maneuver over rocks or slither through mud, sometime axle-deep.

Mbem was Enoch's home—the place he dreamed and prayed about returning to. Of this place he had said, "When the Gospel is given to the people of Mbem, it will surely have gone to the uttermost part of the earth!"

After those three tension-filled and back-bruising hours, I was inclined to agree with him.

At Mbem we met the Stockdales' former cook Andreas and his wife Hannah. When we visited Hannah at their home, she beamed her pleasure and soon became the third witness to say the Doctor is needed in Cameroon. "I'm going to pray 'trong, trong you come back," she exclaimed after her effusive welcome.

"But you have a nurse here," Gene reminded her.

"One sista?" She needs a Dokta. I pray 'trong, 'trong."

Lord, Gene's been working toward a well-earned retirement.



On rounds at Banzo Baptist Hospital, Dr. Stockdale examines this patient.

Where are the young men and women who could fill this need? Why can't you tap the shoulder of some younger doctor—more nurses who would be willing to come to this "uttermost part?" Why doesn't Hannah pray 'trong that God will bring some other doctor or nurses to Mbem? My

own heart answered the questions. She knows this Dokta and loves him.

Enoch, Philip, and now Hannah were praying strong, strong that



Two young leprosy patients at Mbem Baptist Hospital are delighted with a polaroid picture of themselves.

Dokta would return. Much of the answer to their prayers would depend on my response to what might possibly be a new call of God.

Later I teased Gene. "My dear, did you have any ideas about returning to Africa when you brought your new wife here?"

A mischievous smile played at the corners of his eyes. "Well . . ." That was all, but it spoke his own private hope and longings.

Later we talked it over again, and with deep feeling he said to me, "Well, we'll see how God leads, but I wonder if I'll really be content to stay at home again."

"And in the long run," I added, "the decision of whether we stay or return will be yours."

Yet in my heart, I know we must be united in purpose and dedication, and I surrender our future to God to serve him wherever he leads. □

Brazilian Finds God, A God of Miracles

by Ardath Effa

It has been six years since our family travelled with the Brazil Praise Singers visiting many of our North American Baptist churches in Canada and the U.S.A.

I'm sure many of you remember Florinda Serafim, the tall, dark-haired girl in our group, who was a former nun and who shared her testimony in each of our concerts.

She was sent to the convent at an early age to receive her primary education and to eventually become a nun. As time went on, she became a nun but did not find the peace of God she had hoped she would in this profession. She became very dissatisfied and disillusioned as she was assigned to work in the orange groves from morning to night with little time for meditation and prayer.

One day, she sneaked a letter out to her parents telling them of her declining physical state and also her desire to escape the drudgery in which she found herself. At night, while others slept, she would slowly pack her few things into a suitcase hidden in a storage closet. When her dad arrived and demanded he be allowed to "visit" with her, she was ready. She managed to leave with him without being noticed.

After some time of recuperation at her home, she went to Caxias do Sul to look for work. But, she was still unhappy. In fact, she contemplated ending her life by jumping out of the window of a tall apartment building where she worked. As she was about to do so, she instinctively heard a voice telling her, "Don't do that." That restrained her.

Then and there she determined to have one goal in life, that of searching for and finding the answer to that longing in her soul. One day, while walking by our Baptist

church, she was attracted by the music being played over the outdoor loudspeaker and decided to attend the service. When my husband, Herman, gave the invitation, Florinda went forward. I had the joy of leading her to salvation in Christ. At last she found the answer to her longing heart!

Florinda lived with us for three years, because, as a result of her conversion, she was completely disowned by family and friends. Her life was also endangered. Family ties are strong in Brazil, and this hurt Florinda very much. In spite of this, she refused to trade her peace of heart for the desires of her family to return to their religion.

Persecution followed her in many ways: Threats, pleas, isolation. Even during our Brazil Praise Singers' tour, she received a letter from her sister telling her that her dad was dying of a heart condition, and it was all her fault. She was to blame and only by giving up her "new religion" would he recover. This disturbed her greatly, but through the prayers and encouragement of our group, she was able to continue the tour unshaken in her faith.

Since returning to Brazil, through the experience gained on our tour, she received the challenge to travel extensively in that country to share her testimony with countless churches, endearing herself to many people. This proved to be very much used of the Lord, for in her darkest hour, she was remembered in prayer "from the north to the south of Brazil" and received many, many cards and letters of en-

couragement from all over.

That darkest hour came just two years ago. Florinda had been taking care of Missionary Beth Rabenhorst while she recovered from major



Florinda

surgery. Following this, Florinda became very ill and began losing weight rapidly.

"I will never forget that day," says Florinda. "It was a Sunday morning, and I was at church in Caxias do Sul. The pastor began the service by reading Matthew 18:19-20. Then the congregation met in small prayer groups while the pastor asked me to meet him in the church study. I thought this was strange, and I was completely unprepared for what took place in the moments to follow. My pastor handed me a letter that he had received from my doctor with the

(Continued on next page)

Mrs. Ardath Effa is a former missionary to Brazil. She and her husband Herman are ministering at Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

The Phone Rings—Dread— and Finally A Friend!

by Karin Klettke

“Moshi-moshi” (*Hello*).
“Hi, this is Kyoko. How are you, Miss Karin!”

“Fine, thank you, and you, Kyoko-san?”

“Fine, thanks! Sorry, but I couldn’t come to your house with my sister during the New Year’s holidays. We were very busy, but I will come again soon!”

“I understand; thanks for calling, bye-bye!” (*This was a January 1982 telephone conversation.*)

It’s a year ago since Kyoko-san

**san - to express affection or friendliness*

Miss Karin Klettke is a short-term missionary teaching conversational English in Matsusaka, Japan.

BRAZILIAN . . .

reports from my recent medical examination—I had cancer! I was shocked, but I knew that God was in control, and I was trusting him. I asked the congregation to sing the song, ‘Trusting Jesus’ (Trusting Jesus that is all).”

Doctors diagnosed her case as “throat cancer” and declared her incurable. Florinda’s financial resources were very limited, so she couldn’t pursue proper treatment until she remembered a distant relative who was a doctor in Sao Paulo. She contacted him, and he not only paid her fare but also gave her all of his medical services free of charge.

As she boarded the bus for Sao Paulo, the whole church was there, crying and praying, “Not expecting to see me alive again.” She wrote, “I felt not only my pain but the pain of the entire church, but I tried to encourage them and to remain always happy in spite of my condition.”

called me for the first time. How well I remember it. It was the start of a growing friendship.

One day in early February 1981, I received a phone call from Kyoko Sakaguchi. I had been in Japan for only five months. The only people who knew my telephone number were fellow missionaries and my students. I was surprised, to say the least, when I heard an unfamiliar voice. I felt shocked and nervous everytime the phone rang, because I couldn’t speak nor understand Japanese.

“Moshi-moshi. My name is Kyoko Sakaguchi. I am 17 years old. I go to Oka Senior High School. Do you know? Do you speak Japanese? I can’t speak English very well. Bye-bye,” said a

“In all of this,” she wrote, “God had a purpose for me, and I wasn’t afraid because I always sought to listen to God. And I said that even if I have only one drop of blood left, I would trust my Lord.”

“During the following months, I had treatment,” Florinda goes on, “but I was unable to complete it, because of the extensiveness of the cancer and my weakened physical condition. I thought that the Lord was going to take me home, and I was ready, *but* he had other plans for my life. He chose to perform a miracle, and he healed me.”

One year later, we received a letter from her which began, “I am cured! I can’t keep from crying when I remember what God has done for me during the eight months I had cancer.” She went on to say that she was again feeling strong, almost back to her normal weight, and was back to her favorite sports—ping pong and volley ball. She was also traveling again and sharing her testimony in many churches besides being very busy in the Caxias do Sul church. There she

voice in halting English.

Before I could say anything, the person on the other end had hung up. I thought someone wanted to practice her English (a very common occurrence when students see foreigners). I received calls like the above, and similar ones, every day at about the same time for two months.

When I tried to answer her questions or ask some, I always received the same answer: “I am sorry, but I can’t speak English very well.” I had never heard nor known anyone by the name of Sakaguchi; I did not know where Oka High School was, so I called her my “mystery” person.

Slowly, I was running out of patience. The calls came at an

teaches junior highs, is president of the youth group and treasurer of the church, directs a choir, is director of evangelism for the church and holds a state office in the women’s organization, besides holding down her secular job once more.

Oh yes, as an afterthought, she added, “I forgot to tell you that through my illness, two doctors, one doctor’s wife and his son, and five members of my own family were saved, including my mom and dad! The thing I wanted most in the world was to see my parents converted, and this blessing God gave me!” In March 1981, her parents were baptized.

“I am grateful for my church and the ladies in our W.M.F. who have supported me with their love and prayers.” As Florinda put it, “We have a marvelous and miracle-working God! Praise His name!” Romans 8:28 has been proven true again.

Now Florinda is making plans to marry a Christian—a man in her church. □

inconvenient time; namely when I was ready to leave the house for my classes.

I had not heard from her in several days (*I thought the Lord had answered my prayers*) when the now familiar voice (Kyoko-san) called again. She apologized for not having called; she had been busy. Then she added to her usual questions a statement which took me by surprise: “I believe in Jesus Christ; do you believe?”

“Yes, I do,” I answered.

“Oh, oh, I am so happy,” I heard on the other end.

My curiosity grew. The next time she called, I invited her to my apartment. The day came, when I went to the bus station to meet her. I had prayed that the Lord would help me to remember some Japanese that I had studied in the meantime. She recognized me right away, since I was the only foreigner at the station. I didn’t know who nor what to expect, but I was prepared for the customary Japanese greeting (bowing). Instead, she took hold of my hand, squeezed and shook it hard.

“My name is Kyoko Sakaguchi. I am so happy to meet you. How do you do?”

I had to hide my surprise, and I could only smile and introduce myself. (*My first impression: She’s a strong girl and sooo un-Japanese.*)

After a short walk, we arrived at my apartment. It was a “quiet” walk. Everytime I asked a question, instead of answering it, she repeated it, so I gave up. (*Lord, this is going to be an interesting afternoon. I am so glad you are with me.*)

As I was serving some refreshments, I noticed that she studied a notebook. I found out that she kept all her questions that she

had asked me over the phone in it. Now I understood, she could read and write, but she was not accustomed to speak, especially with foreigners.

In spite of our communication problems, we had a pleasant visit. I learned many things about her family and herself. I learned how she got my phone number. (*It never occurred to me that my name was in the local directory.*) She had looked for a foreigner’s name and found mine.

I learned how she had heard about Jesus Christ, and this is what she shared with me: “Two years or so ago, I was watching a music show on TV. The popular ‘Godiego’ performed as well, and a member of this group, Steve Fox who had become a Christian, gave his testimony. At the end, he invited the audience and the viewers to give their lives to Jesus Christ. He explained step by step what to do. I did exactly what Steve Fox said. (*Lord, it’s a miracle. Other people have been prayed for many years and witnessed to by their families and loved ones and haven’t come closer to you yet. Here is a young girl who hears your Word for the first time . . . and accepts it.*) I read my Bible every day, and I pray. When my sister who studies in Kyoto is home, she listens to me as I read from the Bible. I pray for my family that they, too, will believe in Jesus Christ.”

(*I told her about Lucy Wipf, and when she returned from furlough,*

she had a chance to meet Kyoko-san at her senior high school.)

That was in March 1981. We have met since, and her English has greatly improved. Both of us are



Karin Klettke (center) and her friend, Kyoko Sakaguchi (right) and her friend (at left) in front of Oka-Senior High School.

very busy, so we keep in touch by phone and mail. Her favorite line, whether it’s on the phone or in a letter, is “We believe in Jesus Christ.”

I had to ask the Lord to forgive my lack of patience and change my attitude toward those who want to practice their English with a foreigner. He showed me again that he is sovereign, that he alone can and will change people’s lives. His Word is powerful.

I praise God for what he is doing in Japan among his people. I am thankful that he has called me here as a short-term missionary and for the many wonderful experiences I have had. I continue to pray for Kyoko-san, that she will grow into a godly woman, that her life will be an example to many of her peers as she starts university this month, April 1982, and that our friendship will continue even after I have returned home. □

"I Am Come That Tiburcio May Have Life . . ."

by Martha A. Nelson

We left our car on the dirt road where we had turned off from the main highway (also dirt) and proceeded on foot through a swampy, unevenly plowed field. Before we reached our destination, a tall, stockily built figure appeared from behind the horizon of eucalyptus trees and came in our direction. Even at a distance, one could see that he was a typical "Gaucho" of Rio Grande do Sul. He wore a long sleeve shirt, baggy trousers, high, crinkled leather boots, leather engraved belt, and a scarf at the neck.

"Pastor Rafael," he shouted to Ralph, "You've come again to visit my home!"

Tiburcio Garcia, at age 70, was another jewel polished by God in his gracious love for mankind. Only shortly before, Ralph had baptized him, together with several other believers, in the Uruguay River.

Before he gave his heart to Christ, Tiburcio had a notorious reputation because of the company he kept and his manner of living. His life had been miserable, and it was even more so for his wife who shared the humble wood shack there in the interior.

Senhor Tiburcio beamed a radiant smile. He was thrilled to have us in

Mrs. Martha Nelson is an N.A.B. missionary serving with her husband Ralph in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

his home and share what God was doing in his life. He was also happy we could witness once again to his wife who was now very amiable. On previous visits, she had been very hostile, but she was seeing a real change in her husband. The whole town was witnessing a transformation in this man.

Senhor Tiburcio brought a few chairs and made a circle in the front yard where we could sit and chat. He spoke softly to his "Guaiepeca" (Gaucho dog) and hastened to prepare Chimarrao (a strong herb tea) which is drunk from a gourd. A long, hollow metal spoon served as a strainer and a straw.

As we sipped the hot, refreshing tea, Tiburcio related how he was serving Christ by witnessing to friends and relatives. He never missed a church service; although he had to travel about 16 kilometers each way by bicycle and return

cheese, which she had prepared. The kitchen and front room were one and consisted of a small wood stove used for cooking and heating, a small table with a few chairs, a



Typical gauchos in Rio Grande do Sul



Tiburcio is a member of this Baptist congregation in Sao Boria, Rio Grande do Sul

home after dark to attend church. Often the rain made the dirt highway treacherous, but he would slowly zigzag his way home, rejoicing that he could attend church.

Tiburcio's wife insisted that we enter the tiny shack to have coffee and some homemade bread and

rickety sideboard, and several faded pictures on the bare walls. There were open shutters for windows.

After refreshments, we again went on our way with thankful hearts to see God's working in a life that could never change by human efforts. Here was a life in Christ, overflowing with a newfound joy. □

Technical Needs, Missionary Shortage, Skilled Laymen: Do They Fit Together?

by Patricia Meinerts with photos by Patricia Meinerts and Darrell Schuh

"Who is going to go with me to Africa to help build a dispensary?" A few years ago, Darrell Schuh asked his family this question.

"Not I!" from Deanna.

"Not I!" from Doug.

"No need for me to worry," thought Dave, "Mom won't go anyway."

And what did Mom say? "No way! I am *not* going to Africa!"

But the Lord had other plans. Darrell prayed, and the stage was set for a true life drama.

Impetus for this drama began about 23 years ago when Darrell rededicated his life to Christ at Hume Lake Camp in California.

"Anywhere, anytime, Lord, I'm ready," he promised.

Mission interest followed, plus youth work. He and his family led youth groups on mission projects to the Spanish-American Mission at Monte Vista, CO, and to local California areas.

But Africa kept coming to his mind. In 1978, he decided to take action. . . .

Meanwhile, the North American Baptist Mission Board of Trustees was working on a brain teaser: Increasing technical needs on the mission fields, shortage of missionaries and a body of skilled lay people in supporting home churches seemed to be pieces of one puzzle. Did they fit together? If so, how?

There was, for example, the problem of the Nkwen Baptist Dispensary building in Bamenda, Cameroon. The Cameroon Baptist Convention opened this dispensary in 1978 in a rented house. Prior to this, the only health facility this town of 67,000 people had was the government general hospital.

More space was desperately

needed. Across the road at the Baptist Centre, Nkwen, land was available for building a new dispensary. Detailed plans had been drawn by architect Berndt Lemke: Money for materials and labor was in hand. But who would supervise construction?

Then came a letter from Darrell Schuh, a building contractor and member of First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, California.

"I'm available for a building project in Africa at my own expense, if you need me."

"Praise God! A layman-in-action!" was the N.A.B. response.

"Not I," said the family.

It's February 6, 1979, Darrell's birthday.

While Darlene listens to a Christian radio program at home, she suddenly, lovingly, feels the Lord's presence around her in an indescribably beautiful way. Peace! Comfort! Kneeling, she responds, "Lord, I'll go tomorrow if you wish."

The children reconsider. Six months in Africa means no school, and they can see how others live.

Excitement grows! Each one saves and prepares to help serve God in Africa. They plan to donate their

time and all of their expenses to this project.

School teachers are delighted with the cross-cultural experiences the children can have. They give seventh grade Deanna a few assignments to complete. Ninth grade Doug will be graded on his journal. Dave, a senior, takes night courses, so he can graduate in January, two days before leaving.

Oldest son, Dan, committed to work, decides to stay home, but close friend Doug Davis, 19 years old, has always wanted to visit Africa. The Schuhs and Davises trade sons for a few months.

A new educational experience begins: Getting shots, packing barrels, loving sendoffs, stuffing suitcases, flying for hours and hours.

On February 10, 1981, the Berndt Lemkes welcome the Schuhs and Doug Davis at the steamy Douala airport. That day, they drive to beautiful Bamenda, and the Schuhs see the rented American-style house, which they will call home. Although it is in the city, one mile away from the missionaries at Baptist Centre, Nkwen, Darlene says bravely, "We know this is where God wants us."

Johnson Kaninjing, nurse in charge of Nkwen Dispensary, welcomes the Schuh family. Up to 210 patients a day line up at 5 a.m. to receive medical treatment. He says, "We need more room, and there is land across the road at the Baptist Centre on which to build."





They settle in quickly, scrubbing floors, unpacking, putting together curtains and table covers from odds and ends provided. They discover that water seldom climbs the pipes to houses on their hill, so they haul it in from the Baptist Centre. The boys accept the chore of filling the kitchen storage drum—and other necessary places—with filtered water daily.

Everyone gets involved with early American-style house work and cooking, shopping by barter, building by hand, living! New foods, new smells, new sights and sounds assail them. Little neighbors visit and feel their white skin.



And so they got to work. Everyone in the family took part. The boys worked on the construction site as well as in the house. Here, it is a temporary carpenter's shed.



Darrell (right) learned the ins and outs of available materials, supply lines, labor laws and quality expectation. He studied the lay of the land with advice from Berndt Lemke (left) and quickly got the dispensary building underway.



Osterfreude [Lies: Matth. 28, 1-10]

Das Trauerspiel auf Golgatha kam zum Abschluss, aber die Traurigkeit der Juenger Jesu sah kein Ende. Doch mit dem Anbruch einer neuen Woche eilten die Frauen frueh zum Grabe und erfuhren, dass Jesus nicht mehr im Grabe lag. Der Tod konnte ihn nicht halten. Er war siegreich und triumphierend auferstanden. Das erkannten sie nicht sogleich, aber sie erfuhren diese Tatsache schnell, und ihre Traurigkeit verwandelte sich in grosse Osterfreude.

Die Auferstehung Jesu aber war und blieb das grosse Geheimnis. Kein Menschenauge sah den Augenblick dieser Auferstehung. Wann fand sie statt? beim Erdbeben? nachdem der Engel den Stein wegrollte? War der Engel fuer Jesus oder fuer die Frauen gesandt? Die Hueter erschranken vor Furcht. Vielleicht sahen sie die Erscheinung des Engels, aber sie sahen nicht die wirkliche Auferstehung Jesu. Er mag schon aus dem Grabe gewesen sein, als sie noch wachten, denn er bedurfte nicht der Wegwaelzung des Steines noch der Oeffnung von Tueren. Sein Auferstehungsleib konnte nicht mehr durch Materie gehindert werden. Er erschien und verschwand vor menschlichen Augen je nach seinem Willen. Doch seine Auferstehung war die unleugbare Tatsache, welche spaeter zu einer Freudenbotschaft wurde: "Der Herr ist wahrhaftig auferstanden." Diese Ueberzeugung ueberkam die Juengern indem sie Jesus sahen, ihn betasteten, mit ihm redeten, mit ihm assen. Anfaenglich konnten sie es kaum glauben, aber spaeter konnten sie es nicht mehr leugnen. Seine Auferstehung war eine unbedingte Notwendigkeit, denn was waere die Botschaft der Erloesung ohne diesen seinen Sieg ueber den Tod. Und was waere unser Glaube ohne den Sieg ueber Suende und Tod. Die freudige Botschaft des Engels brachte den Frauen eine grosse Osterfreude. Sie kamen zum Grabe um den Leichnam Jesu zu salben, ihm eine letzte Liebestat zu erweisen. Ihre Sorge, wer den Stein wegwaelzen wird, bekuemmerte sie sehr. Sie erfuhren aber schnell, dass Gott fuer sie sorgte und ihre Bekuemmernis wegnahm. Der Engel hatte den Stein schon weggerollt und sass darauf. Den Waechtern war das ein grosser Schrecken, aber den Frauen wurde dieses ein Freundengruss aus Engelsmund: "Fuerchtet euch nicht. Ich weiss, dass ihr Jesum suchet. Er ist nicht hier; er ist auferstanden, wie er gesagt hat. Kommt her und sehet die Staette, da der Herr gelegen hat." Mit dieser Botschaft bekamen die Frauen den Auftrag, den Juengern Jesu diese Freudenbotschaft zu bringen.

Die Osterfreude kannte keine Grenzen, als der auferstandene Jesus sie selbst begruesste. Ihre Botschaft sollte sich nicht nur auf Engelswort gruenden, sondern auf die wirkliche Begegnung mit Jesus. Sie sahen ihn. Er redete sie an. Er hatte selbst ein Wort der Freude an seine "...Brueder." Mit welcher Freude und Ueberzeugung diese Frauen es den Juengern erzehlten, koennen wir uns kaum vorstellen. Das Wichtige dabei aber ist, dass ihre Ueberzeugung und ihre Osterfreude auch die unsere werde und wir diese Freudenbotschaft seiner Auferstehung weiter verkuendigen.

von Dr. Richard Schilke, langjaehrigen Missionssekretaer, jetzt im Ruhestand.

Der Sendbote Monatsbeilage zum Baptist Herald der Nordamerikanischen Baptisten

1 So. 210 Summit Avenue
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

April 1982 Vol. 130 Nr. 3

UNSER GLAUBE AN DEN AUFERSTANDENEN JESUS

Eine Schriftbetrachtung nach Joh. 20,24-29 von Gerhard P. Gebauer

“Der HERR ist auferstanden, ER ist wahrhaftig auferstanden”, das ist die Freudenbotschaft der Gemeinde Jesu durch die Jahrhunderte. Gottes Heilswirken ist in Jesu Heilswerk und Seiner Auferstehung zum Ziel gekommen. Suende und Tod sind durch Jesu heiliges Opfer und Sein Auferstehen ueberwunden. Eine neue Menschheitsgeschichte beginnt mit dem zweiten Adam (1. Kor. 15,45), der ewiges Leben in diese Welt brachte.

Dieser Botschaft gegenueber ist Zweifel und Unglaube die Haltung des natuerlichen Menschen (1. Kor. 2,14). Dem Einbruch der Welt Gottes in unsere Welt steht er verstaendnislos gegenueber, bis ihm der Glaube an den auferstandenen Jesus geschenkt wird. Aber welche Hindernisse stehen doch diesem Glauben im Wege!

Der “unglaeubig Thomas” — So spricht man von ihm in einer ueblichen Redensart, aber er ist kein Unglaeubiger. Jesu Ausspruch (V. 27) wird auch uebersetzt: “Werde nicht unglaeubig, sondern glaeubig”, er ist noch auf dem Wege. Joh. 11,16 zeigt ihn als entschlossenen Nachfolger Jesu, auch wenn die Wirklichkeit dunkel aussah. Vielleicht koennte man bei ihm eine Wesensanlage zur Schwermut sehen. Sein Grundsatz aber, alles gruendlich zu pruefen und Klarheit zu haben, wird sichtbar. Als Jesus vom Weggehen sprach, fragte er offen nach dem “wohin”, er wollte Gewissheit haben (Joh. 14,5). Thomas ist ein Mensch nuechternen Wirklichkeitsdenkens.

“Da sagten die anderen Juenger zu Thomas: Wir haben den HERRN gesehen”. Thomas aber entgegnete, dass er das gewiss nicht glauben koenne, solange er nicht die Wundenmale Jesu gesehen und betastet habe. (V.25) **Dem natuerlichen menschlichen Sinn bleibt die Welt des Glaubens verschossen.**

Die oben beschriebene Art des Thomas zeigt sich nun in entscheidender Lage. Er ist nicht ein Zweifler aus Grundsatz, sondern sucht fuer den unglaublich scheinenden Bericht der Juenger Sicherheit gegen jede Taauschung, er stellt fuer seinen Glauben Bedingungen. Offensichtlich ist ihm an der Person Jesu alles gelegen. Er erfasste, dass seine innere Existenz an der Wirklichkeit der Auferstehung Jesu hing. Aber er uebersieht, dass auch seine Augen und Haende getauescht werden koennen. Es gehoeren eben mehr als Augen, Haende und Verstand dazu, um zum Glauben an den auferstandenen Jesus zu kommen.

Hier sind wir am Brennpunkt des Denkens vieler Menschen gerade unserer Tage. Um das Wunder der Auferstehung Jesu zu fassen, reichen unsere fuef Sinne und auch unser “gesunder Menschenverstand” nicht aus. Hier geht es um eine Dimension ausserhalb der diesseitigen Wirklichkeit, um den Einbruch der ewigen Welt Gottes. Darum fuehrt auch “wissenschaftliche” Theologie nicht zur Offenbarung des Auferstandenen.

“Und ueber acht Tage waren abermals seine Juenger

drinnen und Thomas mit ihnen; da kommt Jesus” [V. 26]. Nur die persoenele Offenbarung Jesu fuehrt zur Glaubensentscheidung.

Jesu unaufhoerliche Liebe und Fuersorge zeigen sich in dieser Begegnung mit Thomas im Juengerkreis. Jesus hat keine Vorwurfe fuer ihn. ER weiss, dass Thomas nicht ein Zweifler aus Grundsatz ist, sondern im inneren Ringen um absolute Gewissheit steht. Dem kommt Jesus in besonderer Weise entgegen, indem ER Thomas persoenele auffordert, IHN zu beruehren, um ihn zur Glaubensentscheidung zu bringen.

Kein Mensch hat Anspruch auf eine solche persoenele Erscheinung Jesu. Die Heilige Schrift berichtet sie nur noch von dem Verfolger Saulus. Nach Gottes Beschluss erfolgen die Erscheinungen Jesu “nicht allem Volk, sondern den von Gott vorewaehten Zeugen” (Apg. 10,41). Im gegenwaertigen Heilsabschnitt erfolgt die Offenbarung des auferstandenen Jesus nur durch den Stellvertreter Jesu, den Heiligen Geist, in Herz und Gewissen des einzelnen Menschen und zwar mittels der Heiligen Schrift.

“Danach spricht ER zu Thomas: Reiche deinen Finger her und siehe meine Haende und reiche deine Hand her und lege sie in meine Seite. Thomas antwortete und sprach zu IHM: Mein HERR und mein GOTT!” [V. 27] Die Vollmacht Jesu ueberwaeltigt im Innersten und fuehrt zum Glauben!

Die Geschichte geht nicht weiter, wie man erwarten sollte. Thomas wagt ueberhaupt nicht seine Finger oder seine Hand in Jesu Wundenmale zu legen. Er war im Tiefsten erfasst von einer Wirklichkeit, die hoeher war als die, die ihm seine fuef Sinne haetten geben koennen. Jesu Majestaet erschuetterte ihn. Eins aber traf ihn sicher im Zentrum seines Wesens, als Jesus ihm die Malzeichen seiner Kreuzigung vorwies: Der Auferstandene ist der gekreuzigte Jesus! Das schmachvolle Leiden und Sterben Jesu am Kreuz ist unloeslich mit dem auferstandenen Jesus verbunden! Eine voellig neue Schau brach ueber ihn herein! Dann bewegte ihn aber auch eine tiefe Beschaeumung ueber das, was er diesem HERRN gegenueber gewagt hatte zu fordern. Im Bewusstsein seiner ganzen Armut sinkt er ueberwaeltigt innerlich vor Jesus nieder mit dem Ausruf: Mein HERR und mein GOTT! Ein Zeugnis, das weit ueber das der Juenger hinausging: Die Goettlichkeit Jesu!

Dass Jesus auch den Thomas auf die Zeichen des Kreuzestodes hinweist, wie vorher die Juenger, gibt uns den Schluessel zum Geheimnis des Glaubens an den auferstandenen Jesus. Die Beseitigung der Suende des Menschen, die ihn ewig von Gott trennt, durch das Opfer des Blutes und Lebens Jesu auf Golgatha und neues Leben aus Gottes Welt gehoeren unloesbar zusammen. Glaube an “das Lamm Gottes, das der Welt Suende traegt” und Glaube an den auferstandenen Jesus sind untrennbar.

Zu dieser “Erscheinung Jesu” fuehrt der Heilige Geist jeden persoenele “der da will”. Er tut das in innerstem

Fuehrende Baptisten besuchten Gemeinden und Werke des Bundes Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden [Baptisten- und Bruedergemeinden] in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik [Ostdeutschland]. Sie berichteten begeistert von den gemachten Erfahrungen, der ihnen entgegengebrachten Liebe und grosszuegigen Gastfreundschaft, wie auch vom Leben und Dienst unserer Gemeinden in der DDR. Dem Tagebuch des Generalsekretars des Baptisten-Weltbundes, Dr. Gerhard Claas, entnehmen wir die folgenden Auszuege:

Die Geschaeftsstelle des Bundes in der Gubener Stasse in Ost-Berlin erstrahlt in neuem Glanz.

Was aber noch viel wichtiger ist und zu Lob und Dank veranlasst: Im Fruehjahr 1982 soll die Bethelkirche, das neue Gemeindezentrum in Ostberlin, eingeweiht werden. Es wurde in rund 2½ Jahren mit einem Kostenaufwand von 1,7 Millionen Mark (ca. 710.000 Dollar) erstellt, wovon mehr als ½ in Eigenhilfe aufgebracht wurden. Die Hauptsumme aber wurde von Baptisten aus aller Welt zusammengelegt, die ueber den baptistischen Weltbund den Geschwistern in der DDR helfen wollten, die Bethelkirche wieder aufzubauen. Das urspruengliche Gebaeude wurde im zweiten Weltkrieg zerstoeert, und seitdem versammelt sich die Gemeinde in einem Fabrikgebaeude.

Mit seinen rund 700 Sitzplaetzen und den vielen Nebenraeumen wird dieses Gemeindezentrum nicht nur den Beduerfnissen der Bethelgemeinde gerecht, sondern die

BRUEDER HELFEN BRUEDERN



Gemeinde ist auch in die Lage versetzt, Konferenzen und Tagungen aufzunehmen und somit zu einem Gemeindezentrum des ganzen Bundes in der DDR zu werden.

Wir besuchen das Theologische Seminar in Buckow, einem landschaftlich wunderschoen gelegenen Ort in der “Maerkischen Schweiz”. Das Seminar hat keine eigenen Gebaeude. Die 16 Studenten — einschliesslich 3 Studenten aus der USSR — sind notduerftig im Gaestehaus des Diakoniewerkes Bethel untergebracht.

Auch wir werden sehr herzlich aufgenommen. Die Bethelschwester ruecken noch enger zusammen (wohin bloss?) und stellen uns ihre Schlafräume zur Verfuegung...Aber auch hier gibt es einen Lichtblick: der Bund konnte das Nachbargrundstueck samt altem, fast verfallenen Wohnhaus kaeuflich erwerben. Seinem Alter entsprechend hat es sehr starke Aussenmauern, sodass sich ein Umbau lohnt. Dieser aber wird viel — sehr viel — Geld kosten. Alle Arbeiten werden in Eigenhilfe ausgefuehrt, und es ist ermutigend zu sehen, mit welcher Liebe und Begeisterung die jungen Leute an die Arbeit gehen. Sie alle hoffen, im Herbst 1983 die Einweihung des Seminars feiern zu koennen.

Unser Bund unterhaelt eine besondere diakonische Einrichtung, die “Christliche Pflegeanstalt” in Schmalkalden-Aue. Es handelt sich um ein Pflege- und Rehabilitationszentrum fuer 155 Geistig-Behinderte, Epileptiker und Altersschwache. Alle diese Heimbewohner sind wie Kinder: sechzigjaehrige Frauen spielen mit Puppen und siebzigjaehrige Maenner hantieren mit Baukloetzen. Aber es gibt auch Intelligenteres, die sich zum Basteln anleiten lassen, oder auf dem Roethof, einem zum Heim gehoerenden Berg-Bauernhof, arbeiten. Aber es geht in erster Linie auch nicht um Ertraege, sondern eben um eine gute Therapie fuer die Kranken.

Sie haben in ihrem Leben noch nie Schwarze gesehen. Darum sind sie entzueckt und begeistert vom Besuch unserer Freunde aus Nigeria. Um uns ihre Liebe zu zeigen, geben sie sich zunaechst einmal daran, unsere Schuhe zu putzen. Dies ist Ausdruck der Gastfreundschaft — wie die Fusswaschung zur Zeit des Neuen Testaments.

(Fortsetzung auf Seite 6)

[oben] dritter von rechts ist Dr. Gerhard Claas, Praesident des Baptisten-Weltbundes [o.l.] Am Roethof [u.l.] Das zukuenftige Predigerseminar in Buckow



Rev. Gerhard P. Gebauer lebt im Ruhestand in Kelowna, British Columbia.

(Fortsetzung auf Seite 6)

Osterfreude Osterjubiläum, die ganze gläubige Welt freut sich am Tage der Auferstehung. Der Ausruf: "Christus ist auferstanden, Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!" erschallt durch die ganze Christenheit. Auf verschiedene Art und Weise wird dies grosse Geschehen gefeiert: Gottesdienste bei Sonnenaufgang im Freien, Andachten auf Friedhöfen, das "Ostergelächter" der russischen Geschwister, die Frühstuecks-Versammlungen in den hiesigen Gemeinden. Sie alle sind Ausdruck der Freude. Doch nur der Gläubige kennt diese Freude; der Spoetter, der Skeptiker, der Atheist hat keinen Teil daran.

Ostergedanken

von Elisabeth Babbel

Jesus Christus spricht: "Ich bin die Auferstehung und das Leben. Wer an mich glaubt, der wird leben, ob er gleich sterbe; und wer da lebt und glaubt an mich, der wird nimmermehr sterben." (Joh. 11,26)

Wenn wir die Menschen auf den Strassen, in den Häusern und Geschäften fragen wuerden, welcher Feiertag im Kirchenjahr ihnen als der Schoenste und Wichtigste erscheint, so wuerden wohl die meisten antworten: "Weihnachten."

Das Weihnachtsfest hat etwas Wunderschoenes, Bezauberndes an sich, es zieht die Menschen in seinen Bann, macht sie versöhnlich, liebevoll, bereit zu guten Werken. — Wir bringen grosse Opfer an Zeit, Geld und Kraft um das Weihnachtsfest "recht" zu feiern. Wir laufen wochenlang nach passenden Geschenken, backen das leckerste Gebäck, suchen den schoensten Weihnachtsturkey aus, schmuecken den grossten Weihnachtsbaum, kaufen den teuersten Schmuck fuer unsere Häuser....

Aber Ostern? Die meisten Menschen wissen mit Ostern nicht viel anzufangen. Ein paar arbeitsfreie oder schulfreie Tage? Ein neues Kleid? Eine Fahrt ins "Gruene"? Ostereier? Schokoladenhasen?? Ostern aber hat nichts mit Osterhasen und erwachender Natur zu tun, sondern mit Jesus.

Die Geburt Jesu, an die wir uns am Weihnachtsfest erinnern, ist wichtig. Der Karfreitag mit seinem Leid ist erschuetternd. Das Osterfest aber, mit der siegreichen Auferstehung unseres Herrn ist der Mittelpunkt, das Fundament unseres Glaubens.

Vor einigen Jahren wurde im Fern-

sehen ein Film ueber das Leben Jesu gezeigt. Die ganze Darbietung war biblisch und durchaus zu bejahen. Das Leben und Wirken des Herrn zog die Menschen in seinen Bann. Begeistert schauten wir zu. Doch am Ende kam die grosse Enttaeuschung: Jesus blieb am Kreuz. Unter einem schwarz-bewoelkten Himmel standen die drei Kreuze. — Kein Ostermorgen — kein Todesueberwinder. Es lies die Zuschauer leer und enttaeuscht. —

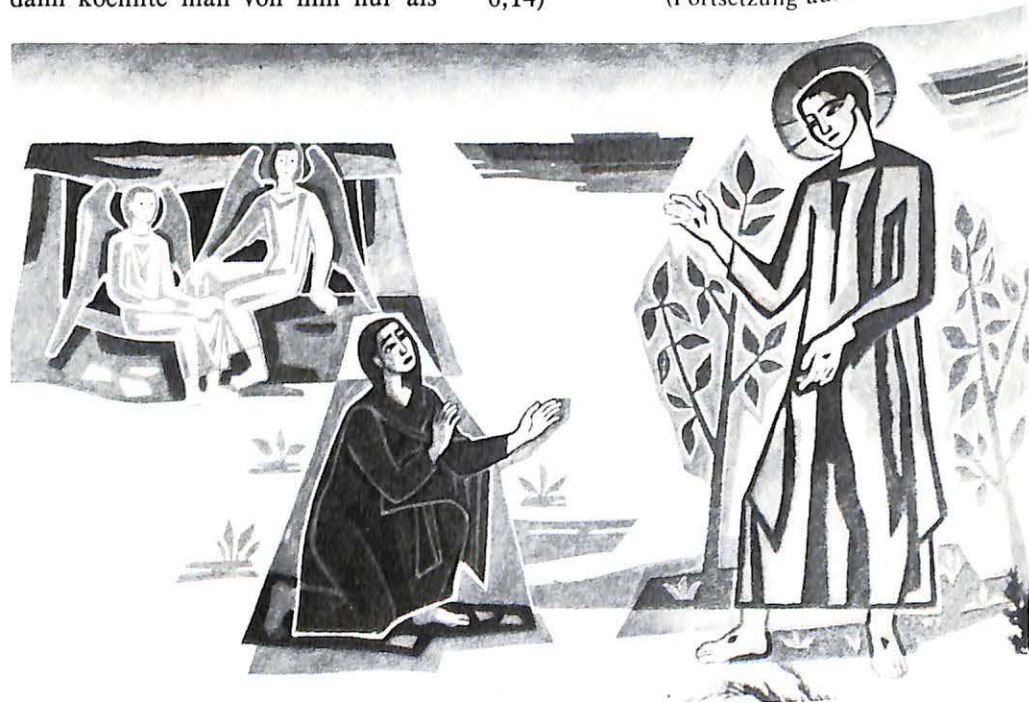
"Ist aber Christus nicht auferstanden", schreibt Paulus an die Korinther, "...so sind wir die elendesten unter allen Menschen...."

Waere Jesus nicht auferstanden, dann koennte man von ihm nur als

einem grossen Propheten sprechen, der sich zu viel herausgenommen und den Israel nach dem Gesetz mit gutem Recht gerichtet hat. Waere Jesus nicht auferstanden, dann koennten wir im besten Fall nur auf seine Lehren achten, aber nicht an ihn glauben als unsern Herrn. Ohne Jesu Auferstehung waere kein Neues Testament entstanden, waeren keine Apostel ausgezogen, keine Gemeinde Jesu gegrundet worden, kein Evangelium verkuendigt worden.

"Nun aber ist Christus auferstanden von den Toten und der Erstling geworden unter denen die da schlafen," schreibt Paulus im Korintherbrief. "Sintemal durch einen Menschen der Tod und durch einen Menschen die Auferstehung der Toten kommt. Denn gleichwie sie in Adam alle sterben, werden sie in Christo alle lebendig gemacht werden." (1. Kor. 15,20-22)

Jesu Auferstehung ist ein maechtiges Geschehen das um sich greift, denn Gott will nicht den Tod des Suenders, sondern dass er sich bekehre und ewig lebe. Die Auferstehung Jesu garantiert auch uns ewiges Leben. "Gott aber hat den Herrn auferweckt und wird auch uns auferwecken durch seine Kraft." (1. Kor. 6,14) (Fortsetzung auf Seite 7)



Der Auferstandene begegnet der Maria von Magdala

Ich glaube Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben

von Eva Helwing

Immer wieder erstaunt, erfreut und erquickt mich das Wort Gottes. Wie wunderbar, dass fuer jede Lage, fuer alles im Leben Verstaendnis und Klarheit darin zu finden ist. Ich bin so froh, dass dieser Ausspruch des Hauptmanns uns in Markus 9,24 wiedergegeben ist. Denn nicht immer und in jeder Lage ist uns ein kindlicher, vertrauensvoller Glaube zu Verfuegung. So sind fuer mich die Worte "Ich glaube, Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben" zur Osterzeit von besonderer Bedeutung.

Die Auferstehung ist nach menschlichem Ermessen, nach logischem Begreifen unmoeglich. Die Wissenschaftler, die Atheisten, die Spoetter, die Realisten, die Besserwisser, sie alle sagen wie Thomas "Wenn ich nicht an seinen Haenden das Mal der Naegel sehe und lege meine Hand in seine Seite, werde ich es nicht glauben." (Johannes 20,25)

Doch das ist ja dann kein Glauben mehr. Das ist ein Wissenwollen, ein

Begreifenwollen. Paulus sagt uns in Hebraer 10,11 eindeutig, dass Glauben ein nicht zweifeln ist an dem, was man nicht sieht. "Es ist aber der Glaube eine gewisse Zuversicht des das man hofft, und ein nicht zweifeln an dem das man nicht sieht." Somit ist der Glaube ein Wagnis, ein Risiko, in das man eingeht.

Wie glorreich doch die Worte unseres Herrn und Heiland zu Thomas: "...und sei nicht ungläubig, sondern gläubig!" (Johannes 20,27)

Doch nicht jeder Tag des Gläubigen ist erfuehlt mit der Gewissheit des Glaubens. Zeiten des Zweifels, der Ungewissheit, der Furcht und Sorge sind Zeiten des Unglaubens. Hier denke ich besonders an meine eigene Zeit auf der Universitaet, wo ich mich mit der modernen Wissenschaft, modernen Philosophie auseinanderzusetzen musste. Die Gruende fuer den Glauben wurden da geprueft. Was mir in solchen Zeiten besonders half, war die Gemeinde und die Gemein-

schaft mit gleichgesinnten Gläubigen, sowie die Worte des Apostels Paulus: "Jetzt ist mein Erkennen Stueckwerk, dann aber werde ich voellig erkennen." (1. Korinther 13,12)

Glauben ist eben ein Wagnis, ein Risiko in das wir als Gläubige eingehen. Gott hilft uns diesen Sprung der inneren Bereitschaft zum Glauben zu machen obwohl wir nicht wissen, ob es eine Auferstehung gibt, ob es ueberhaupt einen Gott gibt. Der Hauptmann in seinem Ausspruch "Ich glaube, Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben!" hat dieses erkannt.

Und es ist diese Bereitschaft zum Glauben, auf die es ankommt. Wenn wir sie haben, dann verhilft uns der Herr mit Paulus zu bekennen: "Wir wandeln im Glauben und nicht im Schauen" (2. Korinther 5,7).

Haben wir das erlebt, so haben wir die Auferstehung im Herzen und haben Teil an der grossen Freude der Osterbotschaft. □

GLAUBEN — HEUTE

Wir moechten glauben, lieber Herr, wir Jungen und wir Alten, auch heute noch: Aber du weisst, Glauben in unserm Jahrhundert ist schwer. — Wir sind so zerspalten: Fernsehen, Reklame, Zeitung und Film! Da ist vieles, was wir nicht fassen.

Aber wir moechten gerne glauben, lieber Herr; hilf unserem Unglauben!

Wir moechten glauben, wie unsere Vaeter, wir haben doch diesselbe Seele wie sie, die hungert nach Brot, nach wirklichem Brot, nach Dir!

Wir moechten gerne — so gerne — glauben, lieber Herr. Hilf unserem Unglauben.

Hilda Wohlgethan

Was mir unser Frauenverein bedeutet

von E. Klingenberg

Es war im Februar 1958, als wir die deutsche Baptisten-Missions-Gemeinde gruenden durften. Etwa 6 Monate danach gruendeten wir einen Frauendienst. Wir stellten uns die Aufgabe, in der Gemeinde zu dienen, wo immer wir helfen koennten. Besonders lagen uns die Kranken und Alten in unserer Gemeinde und darueber hinaus am Herzen. In all den Jahren durften wir so manchem helfend zur Seite stehen.

Spaeter beteiligten wir uns auch an dem Frauen- und Baptisten Weltgebetstag. Es waren segensreiche Stunden, wenn wir mit anderen Gruppen zusammen beten durften. Auch in unserer kleinen Gruppe von etwa 15 Frauen betrachteten wir das Wort Gottes und schlossen uns nach jeder Stunde zur Gebetsgemeinschaft zusammen.

Unsere erste Leiterin, Schwester Gertrud Gardziella verstand es, die

Schwestern zur Mitarbeit anzu-spornen. Sie selbst konnte auch die Gitarre spielen und erfreute uns oft mit Liedern. Wir wurden auch mit der Arbeit im Altenheim bekannt, waren bei dem jaehrlichen Basar dabei und beteiligten uns an den jaehrlichen Sammlungen fuer das Altenheim. An der Weiss-Kreuz Arbeit beteiligten wir uns etwas spaeter. Aber schon von allem Anfang war die Adventfeier ein besonderer Hoehepunkt. Wir bereiteten Geschenke fuer unsere aelteren Gescheister vor und hatten jaehrlich unsere Adventsfeier mit einem weihnachtlichen Programm.

An schoen gedeckten Tischen versammelten wir uns und sangen die schoenen alten deutschen Weihnachtslieder und erfreuten unsere Geschwister mit Gedichten und musikalischen Darbietungen. Die ganze Gemeinde und Freunde sind

(Fortsetzung auf Seite 7)

Frage & Antwort

Frage: Was schulden wir unseren Eltern, bzw., was koennen wir von unseren erwachsenen Kindern erwarten?

Antwort: Offensichtlich handelt es sich hier nicht um eine sonderum zwei Fragen — und zwar um bedeutende Fragen. Umfassende Buecher sind betreffs dieser Anliegen geschrieben worden. Es kann sich bei der Eroerterung dieser Problematik nur um eine begrenzte Antwort handeln. Vielleicht befremdet was Wort 'Problematik', mancherorts herrschen Familienverhaeltnisse derartigen Ausmasses, dass man nur von einer Problematik sprechen kann — um nicht Chaos zu sagen.

Aber nun zur Frage selbst. R. J. fragt, 'was schulden wir unseren Eltern?' Nun, ganz allgemein, wir schulden ihnen Liebe, Achtung und Verstaendnis, et cetera. Liebe, Achtung und Verstaendnis koennen vom theoretischen Standpunkt gesehen werden, etwa so, dass Kinder sagen, 'ja, wir achten und lieben unsere Eltern', in praktischer Hinsicht aber zeigen sie dieses kaum. Einige sind schnell bei der Hand und beteuern ihre Liebe den Eltern gegenueber, tun aber nichts -oder nur sehr wenig und das missmutig, um diese Beteuerungen glaubhaft zu machen. Was ich mit all' diesem sagen will ist, dass Liebe usw. in Taten uebersetzt werden muss. Zugegeben, Ausdruecke wie Liebe, Achtung und Verstaendnis hoeren sich ruehrend an, sagen aber 'an sich' nichts, es sei denn, sie finden praktischen Ausdruck. 'Was schulden wir unseren Eltern?' Hier sind einige konkrete Anhaltspunkte: (a) Geistliche, soziale, emotionelle und, eventuell, finanzielle Unterstuetzung. (b) Betreuung waehrend eines Krankheitszustandes. (c) Vergeben der manchmal offensichtlichen Alterserscheinungen; und, wie Luther schreibt, 'alles zum Besten

wenden'.

Dass dieses leichter gesagt (geschrieben) als getan ist, ist mir voellig klar. Bevor ich zum naechsten Punkt uebergehe, moechte ich folgende Beobachtung machen: in der Tat besteht kein Zweifel darueber, dass das Verhaeltnis Eltern/Kinder zuweilen einer Zerreissprobe gleicht.

Nun zu Ihrer zweiten Frage, 'was koennen wir von unseren erwachsenen Kindern erwarten?' Was man erwartet und was man bekommt, ist manchmal zweierlei; mit anderen Worten, man kann grandiose Erwartungen seitens seiner Kinder hegen und schliesslich bitter enttaeuscht werden. Es ist vielleicht gut, seine Erwartungen nicht zu hoch zu stecken — dieses gilt uebrigens auch fuer alle anderen Lebensgebiete. Unsere erwachsenen Soehne und Toechter gehen ihre eigenen Wege. Man darf aber doch vorlaeufig annehmen, dass das, was wir unsere Kinder gelehrt haben, spaeter positiv auf uns zurueckkommt. Leider gibt es in dieser Hinsicht keinerlei Garantie. Der Fragenkomplex kann beantwortet werden, wenn wir uns an dem Begriff 'Verhaeltnis' orientieren. Wenn das Verhaeltnis zwischen Eltern und Kindern ungestoert war, dann darf man annehmen, dass Soehne und Toechter spaeter ein liebes und vertrauliches Verhaeltnis zu den Eltern pflegen; war das Verhaeltnis aber verzerrt, religioesgesetzlich und auf die deutsche Tradition pochend, dann duerfen Eltern im Alter sich nicht wundern, wenn sie allein dastehen.

Das Wirklichkeitsverhaeltnis meiner Kindheit ist heute weithin ueberholt und nicht zutreffend; es geht darum, dass wir vernuenftige und geistliche Verhaeltnisse pflegen, dann haben wir spaeter weder zu fuerchten noch zu bereuen. —Rev. Peter Duncan

sekretaer dieses Bundes, unser Freund und Bruder Rolf Dammann, zum Vizepraesidenten des Weltbundes berufen wurde. □

(Fortsetzung von Seite 2)

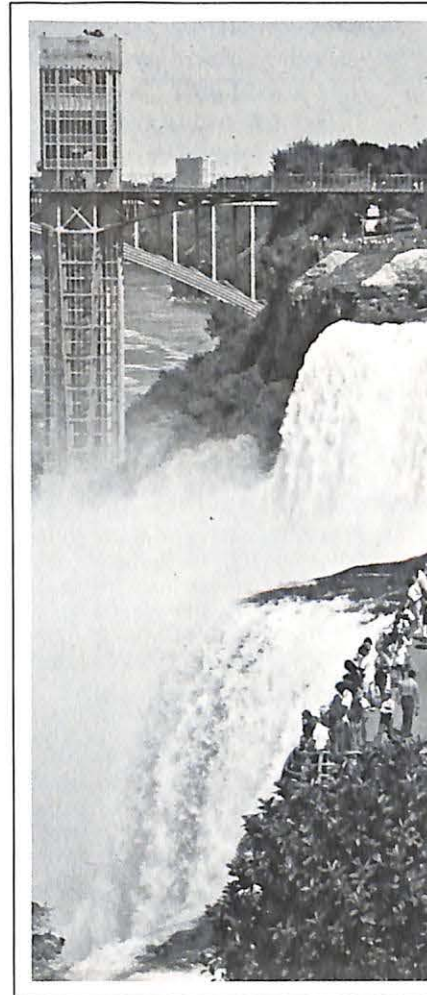
"ueberfuehren", "Augen auftun", "zurechtweisen" (Joh. 16,8-11) ueber Suende, Gerechtigkeit und Gericht in Herz und Gewissen. Da geht es um Erkenntnis der Suende und ihr Bekenntnis, um Vergebung und Geschenk des neuen Lebens im Glauben an Jesus. Da ueberwaeltigt uns Jesus zu dem Bekenntnis: Mein HERR und mein Gott! Paulus sagt das so: "Es gefiel Gott wohl, Seinen Sohn in mir zu offenbaren" (Gal. 1,16). Es geht bei Ostern nicht um den trostvollen "Beweis einer anderen, besseren Welt", oder Wissen ueber "Fortleben nach dem Tode", oder gar okkulte Phaenomene, sondern Geschenk des Auferstehungslebens Jesu nach echter Hinwendung zu IHM.

"Spricht Jesus zu ihm: Weil du mich gesehen hast, Thomas, so glaubst du. Selig sind, die nicht sehen und doch glauben!" (V. 29).

Thomas muss sich diese Zurechtweisung Jesu gefallen lassen. Dies Wort ist Leitwort der Glaubenden aller Zeiten. Es ist auch eine Warnung vor "Geistesbewegungen" deren Traeger stets nach Wundern, Visionen, Erlebnissen auf der Jagd sind; da wirkt falscher Geist. Jesus ruft zum Glauben ohne Schauen und offenbart Sein Geheimnis dem, der IHN selbst sucht durch Sein heiliges Wort und den darin und dadurch wirkenden Heiligen Geist. So gruessen wir uns in neuer Osterfreude als die, denen das Geheimnis des Glaubens (1. Tim. 3,9) an den auferstandenen Jesus offenbart wurde. □

Aus Gemeinde und Gemeinschaft

Kommt zur Bundeskonferenz in Niagara Falls, New York vom 10.-15. August 1982



In der Januar/Februar — Ausgabe haben wir einige — Hoehepunkte des Konferenzprogramms hervorgehoben. Zu den Hauptrednern werden ebenfalls Dr. Howard G. Andersen, Pastor unserer Ebenezer Gemeinde in Vancouver, BC, und Rev. Ralph Cooke, Pastor unserer Grace Gemeinde in Grand Forks, ND, gehoeren.

Dr. Anderson lehrte am Northwestern Baptist Theological College in Vancouver, dem er von 1971 bis 1979 als Dekan und dann als Praesident vorstand. Danach uebte er eine beratende Funktion am Trinity Western College in Langley, BC, aus, bevor er den Dienst in der Ebenezer-gemeinde antrat. Er wird uns Freitag Abend mit dem Wort dienen.

Rev. Cooke ist Vorsitzender unseres Missionskomitees. Am Donnerstag ist anlaesslich der Hundertjahrfeier unserer Missionsgesellschaft ein besonderer Missionsabend geplant. Neben der Botschaft von Rev. Cooke steht ein dramatischer Vortrag auf dem Programm.

Wir laden alle unsere Geschwister mit ihren Familien herzlich ein an diesen sicherlich anregenden und segensreichen Tagen im schoenen Niagara Falls ein.

EUNICE, LA. Am Sonntag, dem 17. Januar kamen wir als Mowata Baptisten-gemeinde in eine festlich geschmueckte Kirche. Es was der letzte Sonntag an dem Pred. Harold Drenth und seine liebe

Gattin in unserer Mitte weilten. Bruder Drenth with nach fast 9-jaehriger Taetigkeit bei uns der Gemeinde Bison, Kansas, als Hirte dienen.

Der Sonntag begann wie gewoehlich mit Sonntagschule und Gottesdienst. Nach dem Gottesdienst waren alle Anwesenden zu einem gemeinsamen Mittagessen im Speisesaal eingeladen.

Am Nachmittag wurde dann den verschiedenen Zweigen der Gemeinde Gelegenheit gegeben, unserem lieben Prediger Dank zu sagen fuer alle Segnungen die wir durch seinen Dienst genossen haben.

Wir werden Bruder Drenth und seine liebe Frau in Gottesdienst, Sonntagschule, CBYF, Pioneer Girls, Boys Brigade und Schwesternverein sehr vermissen.

Wir als Gemeinde wuenschen den Drenths Gottes Geleit und viel Segen im neuen Dienst. —Emilie Loewer, Berichterstatlerin

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Mitglieder und Freunde
herzlichst ein.

(Fortsetzung von Seite 4)

Im Blick auf diese herrliche Osterhoffnung rufen wir mit dem Dichter aus:

"Jesus lebt! Mit Ihm auch ich!
Tod, wo sind nun deine Schrecken?
Er, Er lebt und wird auch mich
von den Toten auferwecken.
Er verklaert mich in Sein Licht:
Dies ist meine Zuversicht."

Jesus lebt! Ihm ist das Reich
ueber alle Welt gegeben.
Mit Ihm werd auch ich zugleich
ewig herrschen, ewig leben.
Gott erfuellt, was Er verspricht;
dies ist meine Zuversicht.

Jesus lebt! Ich bin gewiss,
nichts soll mich von Jesus scheiden;
keine Macht der Finsternis,
keine Herrlichkeit, kein Leiden.
Er gibt Kraft zu jeder Pflicht;
dies ist meine Zuversicht.

Jesus lebt! Nun ist der Tod
mir der Eingang in das Leben.
Welchen Trost in Todesnot
wird Er meiner Seele geben,
wenn sie glaeubig zu Ihm spricht:
Herr, Herr, meine Zuversicht." □

(Fortsetzung von Seite 5)

dazu immer eingeladen. Zuletzt werden auch Erfrischungen und gutes

Weihnachtsgebaeck gereicht.

In den letzten Jahren halfen auch unsere Kinder mit, dieses Adventsprogramm zu verschoenern durch Wort und Lied. Unser Opfer fuer diesen Abend wird immer zugunsten der Weisskreuz Arbeit gesammelt. So duerfen wir freudig weitergeben, was der Herr uns schenkt.

Ich selbst wurde zum erstenmal mit der Frauenarbeit in der Foster Avenue Baptist Church bekannt. In 1954 gehoerten wir dieser Gemeinde an. Nachdem unser Sohn in demselben Jahre geboren wurde, holte mich die damaligen Leiterin, Schwester Hildegard Schieber, zur Frauenstunde ab. Durch die Liebe und Freund-

(Fortsetzung auf Seite 8)

(Fortsetzung von Seite 7)

lichkeit unter den Schwestern fühlte ich mich nach kurzer Zeit zu Hause und half auch mit, indem ich das Amt der Schreiberin uebernahm. Seitdem gehe ich gerne zur Frauenstunde; diese Stunden sind mir zum Segen geworden und ich durfte dem Herrn naeher kommen. Ein Bibelwort aus 1. Petrus 10 wurde mir immer wieder Richtschnur: "Und dienet einander, ein jeglicher mit der Gabe, die er empfangen hat, als die guten Haushalter der mancherlei Gnade Gottes!" So habe ich bis jetzt dem Herrn in der Frauenarbeit gedient, wo immer er mich brauchen wollte, sei es als Schreiberin, White Cross Chairman oder Leiterin. Der Herr schenkt mir Freude, Liebe und Kraft zum Dienen. Ich moechte uns noch einige Verse aus einem Gedicht zurufen:

Schon wieder hat der treue Herr ein Jahr lang uns geleitet und fuer sein Walten immer mehr die Blicke uns geweitet. Er gab alltaeglich uns sein Brot und stand uns bei in jeder Not, so wie er es verheissen.

Und wer es kann, der fleh mit mir—
So ihn der Geist wird treiben.
Lass uns noch lange weiter hier,
Im trauten Schwesternkreis beisammen bleiben.
Gib uns noch manches Gnadenjahr und hilf uns
gnaedig immerdar,
wie du bisher geholfen.

Elizabeth Kingenber ist Leiterin des Frauenvereins der Baptisten-Missions-gemeinde in Chicago.



ERNEST REIMANN wurde am 8. April 1906 in Memel, Ostpreussen, als viertes und jungstes Kind von Johannes und Martha Reimann geboren. Am 13. Januar 1982 setzte ein Herzinfarkt seinem Leben ein ploetzliches Ende. Dazwischen liegen 75 Lebensjahre, von denen Anregungen und Impulse ausgingen, die viele Menschen bereichert haben. Im Zentrum seines Lebens stand ein kindlich einfacher, doch tiefer Glaube, geformt im Sturm der Kriegsjahre, in der Not der Nachkriegszeit, und im Neuanfang einer Einwandererexistenz. Ein freundliches Wort, eine helfende Hand, und ein offenes Haus, das gab es bei "Papa Reimann", wie er in den letzten Jahren in seiner neuen Heimat in Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada von alt und jung genannt wurde, zu jeder Zeit. In einer von den Predigern Ernest Stevenson und Klaus Hildebrandt geleiteten Trauerfeier nahm die "First Baptist Church" Abschied von ihrem Ehren-diakon und dankte Gott fuer ein erfuelltes Leben und Segensspuren, die nicht vergehen. Um sein Abscheiden trauern getroestet durch Gottes Wort, seine Ehe-

frau Elena, vier Toechter mit ihren Gatten: Norika und Waldemar Peppel, Heidi und Wilf Oeste, Britta und Klaus Hildebrandt, Angela und Russell Walsh, und fuenfzehn Enkelkinder, nebst zwei Schwestern und einem Bruder mit ihren Familien in der alten Heimat, zwei "Adoptiv-Soehnen", und vielen Verwandten und Freunden. Sein Andenken wird in diesem Kreis lebendig bleiben.

HANS VON HUBER wurde am 7. Sept. 1921 in Misca, Ungarn geobren. Am 23. Januar 1982 ist er nach einer langen und schweren Krankheit heimgegangen.

In seiner Jugend uebergab er sein Leben dem Herrn Jesus Christus und wurde von seinem Vater, Prediger der Heimatgemeinde in Ungarn, 1937 in Christi Tod getauft.

Sein Erdenleben war bewegt. Der Ausbruch des 2. Weltkrieges bedeutete fuer ihn Wehrdienst. 1944 wurde er von Ungarn nach Deutschland verlegt. Hier erlebte er 1945 den Zusammenbruch Deutschlands und die Kriegsgefangenschaft. Nach der Entlassung aus der Gefangenschaft besuchte er das Gymnasium und legte sein Abitur ab. Amerika hatte auch fuer ihn etwas verlockendes und 1949 wanderte er nach Prince Albert, Kanada aus. 1951 siedelte er nach Toronto um und fand seine Lebensaufgabe in der Verwaltung der Canadian National Railway.

Nach gewisser ehelicher Enttaeuschung trat er am 15. Maerz 1966 mit Anneliese Strassner in den Ehestand.

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

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- 8 Todesanzeigen

Der Sendbote

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Alle editorielle und geschaeftliche
Korrespondenz ist zu adressieren an
Mrs. Ilse Mollenhauer
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Seinen Heimgang betrauern: Seine Ehegattin Anneliese; seine Toechter Karen, Birgit und Margitta; seine Enkeltochter Melanie; sein Vater, Stiefmutter, zwei Schwestern, drei Brueder und deren Angehoerige in Ungarn; seine Schwiegermutter, Schwaegerin, Schwager und deren Angehoerige in Deutschland. Die Trauerfeier fand am 27. Januar 1982 statt. Pred. Fred Merke diente mit Worten des Trostes aus Offenbarung 14,12-13.

—Humbervale Park Baptist Church
Toronto, ON



Deanna and Darlene have a Good News Bible Class on Wednesday afternoons at their home. Singing, playing Cameroonian instruments, telling Bible stories, praying, and making crafts — "This was a real highlight for me," says Darlene. "The children eagerly came to learn."



Important is the cement block maker, as each block is made by hand. Notice the unique design of the cement block form and how the blocks made from these add beauty and strength to the building.



In seven months' time, starting from the beginning, in a new country and culture, he, the boys, and the nationals built a dispensary, the beautiful fulfillment of a desire once thought beyond reach.



Jerry Fluth Photo

Darrell got a crew together and set out to build the best dispensary he could. He helped his workers develop both professionally and spiritually, building lives while building buildings.

Soon Darrell was also supervising construction of the Mbingo Baptist Hospital outpatient building and drawing plans for houses and churches. "There's nothing the same in construction here as in North America," says Darrell. And the walls began to go up!

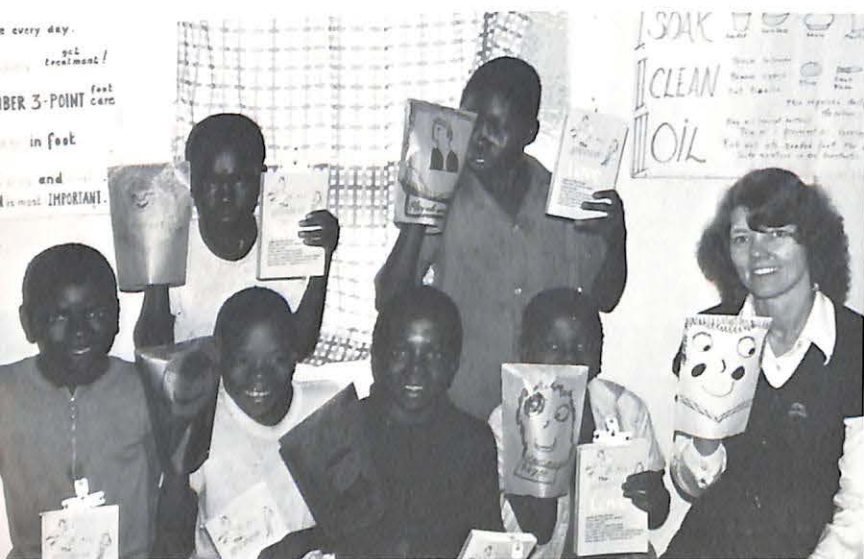




Two buildings, one at Nkwen and one at Mbingo, suddenly rise in former emptiness. Each family member agrees, "It has been good."



"I'm glad I went to Cameroon. It was fun most of the time. It was really different there: No TV, lots of water hauling and housework and none of the usual snack foods. There are great places to see: Crater lakes and the Game Reserve, and neat souvenirs to buy. I think I learned patience," says Doug Schuh, who made his own weights and moved a lot of cement blocks and stumps.



"I also had Bible classes at home and at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital with leprosy children; this class was all boys. They live together in a village near the hospital where they go daily for treatments. Most of the boys attend services on the mission compound," says Darlene.

“It has been a good experience to see how other people live. Time doesn’t mean the same here. People are more friendly. Life is harder in Cameroon,” states Dave Schuh (left). “I’ve learned patience. The family has seemed to grow together. Now, we take time to solve our problems instead of always running off to some activity. I’m thankful for the great variety of food at home, for good living conditions, for the freedom and ease of travel—things I used to take for granted.”



"My eyes have been opened to many things in Cameroon. Each day brought something new and different. I learned a lot about myself and others, and I have grown in many ways I couldn't have at home," reflects Doug Davis (right). "It's also given me the chance through many frustrations and attitudes to re-evaluate the depth of my commitment to Christ. I'll never forget the stories of evil spirits, the leprosy village in Mbingo, and our many new friends."

"I loved spending time at the hospital and was there almost daily after we moved to Mbingo. Many leprosy patients do amazingly beautiful stitchery work on all kinds of linens. Most of them only have stubs for fingers," states Darlene. "My favorite time was spent in the children's ward reading the Bible and literature sent from groups back home. The children and I worked on crafts using items also sent from home. Greeting cards made very colorful books. The children love them and are so grateful." "Happy children playing with so few amenities make me feel guilty about ever complaining," reflects Darlene. "What a privilege to be here! People take time for you. Now I'm making that one of my personal goals. I have learned so much. We are from vastly different cultures, but we are all God's people. We all have needs, and some of these needs are love from others and Christ! Thus, deep down, we are the same."



"I could have chosen to go with another mission group in easy two-month projects, but I felt something needed to be developed in our own N.A.B. Conference in these areas. There are so many types of ministries that this layman-in-action program can accomplish," believes Darrell Schuh. Some of the needs are electricians to rewire buildings; someone to maintain and upgrade the communications equipment; land surveyors for churches and mission stations; builders for a garage addition, houses, duplexes, churches and a water reservoir; an all-around handy man to do maintenance at all stations; theologically trained persons to encourage and guide Cameroonian pastors; clerical workers, and someone to assist in youth and women's work.

“The Christians in Cameroon need so much help and encouragement,” states Darrell with conviction.

"Some of the greatest needs are assistance in reaching out to new areas, more people in the field of evangelism, more guidance for Cameroonian pastors, more staff for the medical work and the Cameroon Baptist Theological College, and **MORE MONEY**, so all this can be accomplished!"

"I am very grateful to God for letting me use the talents he has given me in construction and in working with people to bring glory and honor to him. It really comes down to the bottom line: Giving back to God the abilities and talents he has given to me to glorify his name." That's how Darrell sees the work he did in Cameroon for seven months.

The Truth Has Made Me Free!

A true story by Elias Mbieng as told to Bee Westerman

God started to deal with me when I was eight years old. My friend and I were out in the forest hunting bats. Someone had killed some, but they clung to the trees, so we set about getting them. My friend who was the better climber was up in the tree. I passed a long, sharpened bamboo up to him. He propped it up in the branches, and then he went to a place where he could get the bats better. I stood below to show him where they were. The bamboo dislodged and fell to the ground. The sharpened end grazed my chest and left a long open scar. When my friend came down, both of us tried to get the bamboo out of the ground. We failed. God had spared my life, and I began to think about the purpose of this escape from death.

I was born in a rather poor family. As I grew up and went to school, my parents were the final authority. It was my place to go to get a certain kind of food in the forest. This food would serve as my school lunch. My mother said that I must do this on Sunday morning. If

Miss Bee Westerman is Cameroon Baptist Convention Sunday School advisor and lesson editor as well as Bamenda station treasurer.

I didn't, I would not eat lunch at school for a whole week.

The teacher of the school insisted that we attend Sunday school and church each Sunday. What was I to do? The problem became more severe, as there was to be a special speaker in church the coming Sunday. I told mother about it. She said, "If you go, you will have to go without food at school for a whole week."

I agreed.

"But your brother will still go get his food."

"No, both my brother and I will go to church," I stated more bravely than I felt.

At last she agreed that we could both go to church.

On Sunday morning, I spent extra time and effort to get ready to go to church. My brother and I went up to the front of the church, as close as we could get so that I could see and hear everything.

I looked at the man so carefully that I could describe him completely, from the shine on his shoes to the number of buttons on his coat as well as the way he combed his hair.

I can still remember the Scripture he used: The story of the locusts in Rev. 9:7-11. I heard and remembered most of what was said. By the time we got home, my mother had the meal ready and was waiting for us to join the family to eat.

Before we began to eat, I asked

permission to tell them something. Then something unheard of happened. My parents agreed to wait to eat until I had told them what had been said by Mr. Kwentu,



Elias Mbieng and his wife

the special speaker at the church. I shared the description of him and his entire sermon while my family listened attentively. Then came the statement from my mother that surprised me and made me so happy.

"Next Sunday all of us will go to hear what is being said in the church, and you will collect your food for the next week on Saturday."

Eventually I trained to become a Church Teacher and was posted to a small church that was a great distance from any roads and even farther from a hospital. I became seriously ill. I could not travel by myself and so stayed at home in bed. The village people came and

saw how sick I was. The Christians did nothing about getting me to a place where I could get help.

One day some pagans came to see me and saw my condition. They asked the Christians why they did not carry me to the hospital.

"We can't do that," they said.

"Then we will," the pagans said.

This shamed the Christians so much that they said they would do it, but the pagans would not let them. So I was taken out of the village carried by those who did not know Christ.

Our identity cards in Cameroon are a very important document. Without them you will lose many opportunities and privileges.

Mine got very wet one day. When I saw it, I was concerned that the official numbers would not be read properly. I set about to mend the damage done. My pen could make the numbers and letters readable again.

Sometime later my wife needed to get an identity card, and so we went to the office where they were issued. I took my card along, so I would have evidence to identify her.

"Fill out the forms; then present them to that officer."

"Are they completed correctly? Let me see your identity card. WHO WROTE THOSE NUMBERS ON THIS CARD?" The officer was almost shouting at me.

"Sir, I did. My card got soaked, and I did it so the numbers could be read properly."

"Didn't you know that marking on an identity card is a very serious crime?"

"No sir, I did not."

"Didn't you know that you can get either three years in prison or a fine of one million francs?" (One million francs is \$4,000 at the rate of 250 frs. per dollar.)

"No sir, I did not."

"I cannot handle this serious crime. You must go to my superior officer."

I went to the office that I was told to go to. The people standing nearby expressed their sympathy.

Again I was seriously questioned. Didn't I know that I had committed a serious crime? I could be asked to pay one million francs or spend three years in prison.

Again I said, "I am sorry. I did it, and I did not know it was a crime."

"Are you sure it wasn't some small child who did it?"

"No sir, I did it."

"This problem is too big for me. Take this to the man who has more authority than I have."

By this time I was frightened; yet I knew what I must do. I knew God wanted me to tell the truth.

Again I was questioned more harshly than the other two times.

Again I was given the chance to say that some small child had done the damage. Again I was warned about the cost of such a crime.

Again I told the truth.

"No sir, I did it. I didn't know it was a crime."

"This is too serious a crime for me to deal with. I will send you to the final authority, the Chief of Staff."

I was shown which way to go. Many people had heard and seen my trouble by this time.

The Chief of Staff was busy. I had to wait. There before his door was a stack of timber.

I knelt on that timber and prayed, "God help me to tell the truth at all costs. If they convict me, help me to bear the consequences."

"The Chief of Staff wants to see you." I went in—trembling.

"Let me see your identity card. Who wrote on this card? Are you sure it wasn't some child? Don't you know the seriousness of this crime?"

I answered, "I did it. No child did it; I did. I did not know it was wrong."

"Go over there, sit down and think about the final answer you are going to give me."

I went to sit down. Should I change my story? Should I say a child had done it? As I was thinking, I was called back to see the Chief of Staff.

Again the question came. The same as before.

My answers came too: "I did it. No, no child did it. No, I did not know it was a crime. I did it ignorantly. No, I did not know the penalty was so great. I will have to spend the time in jail, since I did it and have no money to pay one million francs."

"Give this man a new identity card. He has told the truth, and that is the kind of men the Cameroon needs. Furthermore, give one to his wife too without any evidence needed."

"Thank you, sir, Thank you."

My head was no longer bowed, as I left that room.

The people along the way were asking, "What happened? Are you going to prison?"

"No, I am free! The truth has made me free! *The TRUTH has made me FREE!*"

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!" □

WOMAN'S WORLD

I Love Spring!

by Shirley Cook



I love Spring with its fresh newness. Everywhere I look, new life is evident. New spikes of daffodils push up through the moist dark earth still covered with the decaying leaves of autumn. New buds swell on spindly dry branches ready to burst into various shades of green.

Last year's robins are back again to build new nests for the tiny blue eggs growing within their big bodies. They pick through the dry grasses of winter for just the right piece of nest-liner—perhaps a string from a woolen mitten or a brightly colored ribbon, which once decorated a Christmas package.

Even the sky above sports a new rosy tint as the sun travels a new path from sunrise to sunset.

My neighbors have new smiles on their faces, too—neighbors I've only glimpsed from my kitchen window, as they've scurried from porch to car under their umbrellas or behind knitted scarves and hats. Lately, they seem to linger awhile beside the steps and peer into the new foliage for signs of spring flowers. Sometimes, I see them dash through the backyard gate only to reappear with a rake and spade—and rolled-up sleeves.

Yes, spring with its flowers and birds, its kites and new tennis shoes has arrived in all its splendor and newness—and I love it!

God loves new things, too. I not

only find his love for newness in the world of nature but also throughout the Scriptures. I read of the wonderful plan he has in store for a new heaven and a new earth. Can you imagine how glorious it will be? Just think what a great job he did the first time around. I also read about a new name and a new song that he will give to each of those who inhabit that new

Up the Stairway

by Dorene Walth,
WMF president,
Citrus Heights, CA



Oh . . . now I know the feeling! I've wondered, in the past, why new grandparents behave as though they were the first to ever have that experience. I vowed I would never carry on and bore people with talk and pictures. My "stairway" would not become cluttered with such self-indulgence!

As I reached into my purse, again, for the picture of little Charis Ann, our two-week-old granddaughter, it suddenly hit me that I had fallen into the same "trap!"

People were being so polite and tolerant. They actually gushed over the little photo. True, there were lots of genuine congratulations and well wishes, too. The Women's Ministries Committee of my church thoughtfully presented me with a beautiful copy of *The Christian Mother Goose Book*, autographed by each of them, to be read to my granddaughter some day! I praise God for loving friends who truly share the thrill of such a blessing.

I am reminded that just as I was overcome with what I thought was a singular feeling of being a grandparent, a happy event, conversely, I often feel enshrouded with unpleasant, martyr-like feelings which lead

world. I can hardly wait.

But what about now? Today. Must I wait until I reach that heavenly city for a new touch from God? Are my present days to be lived out in the cold and growing colder atmosphere of a "winter-world" that hides the "Sun"?

My health is not what it used to be. My friends don't seem to understand me; my nest is empty—and cold. The easiest way out is for me to rush from one appointment to another hidden behind an umbrella of reserve—never really seeing or touching life around me. But God's mercies are *new* every morning and evening. He is alive and warm. He is my Spring of Living Water.

to a self-pity party.

"Why me, Lord? How come I have to go through this? Others have it so great, and I suffer so much! No one else is persecuted like this." I may even complain to my close friends about how rough I have it. They tolerate my whining voice and some even show sincere compassion and concern. I forget that those who are observing and listening to my griping are probably coping with problems much more severe than mine.

God has created us all so much alike in our emotions and feelings. Another person can easily identify with what I go through, because he or she has probably experienced an identical situation.

Yes, I'm quick to forget and slow to learn that life's experiences are common to all of us. It's a principle that is God's truth. He spells it out in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (LB), "*So be careful. If you are thinking, 'Oh, I would never behave like that' . . . let this be a warning to you. For you too may fall into sin. But remember this . . . the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it.*"

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ this month, we celebrate Life—Spring. New things.

The writer of Ecclesiastes is like many people of our day. He had tried everything, done everything, tasted everything. To him there was nothing new under the sun. As I look into the faces of those I pass on the street, I see the same emptiness, the same question, "Is there anything new?"

We who know the living Savior, shout joyously, "Yes! Each breath of life is new. Each heartbeat, each step. We are being renewed day by day by the Spirit of God."

God speaks in his Word of many new things: a new spirit, a new heart. In Jesus, he gave us a new covenant; we have a new commandment—to love one another. We are new creatures in Christ; we put on the new

man. We come to God through a new and living way by the death and resurrection of our great High Priest.

We have new friends, new goals, a whole new purpose for living. Old things are passed away; behold all things have become new!

Though we, as Christians, must pass through the same life cycles as the rest of nature—summer heat, autumn chill, and winter frost—we continue to live and grow because of the eternal Spring within—the glorious always new life of the resurrected Christ.

I love Spring!

I love Jesus!

(Shirley Cook, from the Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, is author of the book, *Around the House in 80 Days*.)

Celebrate Seventy-Five

by Jeanne Quiring,
Rochester, NY

Anniversaries, remembering an important beginning, are fun to celebrate. We look forward to reaching a 25th anniversary; we hope to be able to celebrate 50 golden years, but to celebrate 75 years is precious and dear, like the gem we associate with this attainment.

When you arrive at the Triennial Conference at Niagara Falls in August, you will become a part of the 75th anniversary celebration of North American Baptist Women. Sheila Adams, Rochester, NY, is working on a display comparing the appearance of women who began the

Women's Missionary Fellowship back in 1907 with 1982. You will be able to see an example of a typically dressed woman of the early 1900s next to a typically dressed woman of the 1980s.

A Hall of Presidents is being designed and prepared by Achim Brauch, also of Rochester. You will be able to "meet" the presidents of the W.M.F. who served over the past 75 years. Pictures of these women are being collected, enlarged, and framed to form a striking three-panel display; many of these women you already know—come and meet the others also, for they have all helped to lead our Fellowship in a purposeful direction.

Take part in this Diamond Jubilee. Make reservations now for you and your family to attend. It will be a celebration you won't want to miss!

Come, Help Celebrate

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work
director



I hope you are planning to attend the Triennial Conference this year. The women of our Conference are, as you know, celebrating the 75th anniversary of our W.M.F. Besides the special display of our historical background, we are planning to produce a booklet which will be your own memento of this special occasion. Our W.M.F. luncheon is always a treat for the ladies, and this year it will be even more special as our historical drama shares with us the inspirations and determination of our "foremothers" of so long ago.

It is interesting to note that 75 years ago, during the Triennial Conference that was held in Buffalo, NY, 70 women's societies united to form the Women's Missionary Union. Now, 75 years later, we return to the same area to observe our diamond anniversary.

Our organization, over the years, has been known for the willingness of the women to serve, aid in the program of the local church, and support our missionaries on the various mission fields. Pray with us; serve with us to help those who minister far away, and join us for our anniversary celebration in August. You'll be glad you did!

MOTHERS' DAY OFFERING

Begin plans for your Mothers' Day celebrations. The May offerings are designated for the education of missionary children in Cameroon and Nigeria. (Please indicate "Mother's Day Offering" on your check. Thank you.)

Church Extension Project

Plow Breaks Ground For Illinois Church

by Frederick Sweet

At the heart of three expanding communities and minutes from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, the pulsebeat of a young, growing North American Baptist Church is felt. Tri-Community Baptist Church, serving the needs of Elk Grove Village, Schaumburg, and Roselle, Illinois, and their 100,000 residents, has significantly increased its impact over the last year of its five-year history.

With 70 people in attendance on an average Sunday (January 1982), we are finding our little school meeting room more and more inadequate. We praise the Lord that new members (16 added this past year) come from diverse backgrounds, very few of whom have had contact with our N.A.B. Conference previously. They are excited to grow in their new-found faith and appreciative for the financial support and prayer backing of our Conference and Illinois Association.

One of the most exciting days in the past year was the enthusiastic response from area churches who helped us break ground for our new building. An old-fashioned (1850s) horse-drawn plow was pulled by church members and friends helping us celebrate and consecrate the start of construction. Our modest 6,000 square foot building is scheduled for completion in June. It will provide seven classrooms, offices, kitchen and a multi-purpose room for worship and fellowship activities. The cost of building in Cook County would be prohibitive for a small church like

The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor of Tri-Community Baptist Church, Elk Grove Village, IL.

ours if it weren't for our Association pulling together for us enabling us to reach our \$200,000 investment goal in "Church Extension Investors Fund." Besides the \$200,000 mortgage, we are endeavoring to raise the remaining \$100,000 through cash gifts, local offerings and designated gifts through our Association. This immense step has spurred us on to new steps of faith and commitment. Our goal is to reach the 90 mark in attendance by the time construction is complete. We continue to grow, but expansion is so limited by our present meeting place.

"Evangelism and Discipleship" remain as the driving thrust of the Tri-Community Church. An Outreach Committee plans the strategy for personal "friendship evangelism," while a Nurture Committee directs the "Home Fellowship Groups," neighborhood Bible studies geared to incorporating old and new members and newer Christians into the life of our church. The "small group philosophy" is at the heart of Tri-Community's ministry, with the aim to develop strong, supportive ties between members while, at the same time, providing natural opportunities to involve unsaved neighbors and friends in Bible study.

When you pray for us, pray for the effectiveness of these groups; pray for the visibility of our building project to attract new people, hungry for the Gospel, and pray about how *you* might help us reach this challenging goal of \$100,000 to complete our building. Contributions designated for Tri-Community Baptist Church should be sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. □



Representatives from Illinois Association churches helped pull the plow at the ground-breaking ceremony for Tri-Community Baptist Church with Pastor Sweet at right guiding the plow (Photo courtesy Daily & Sunday Herald, Arlington Heights, IL.)



Small groups in discussion at Tri-Community Baptist Church



Photos by Gwen Dickau

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Follmer of Plevna, MT., were honored at a 50th wedding anniversary celebration given by their



children and grandchildren on Oct. 17, 1981. They are members of First Baptist Church of Plevna.

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Jeschke of Goletz, CA, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20, 1981, at a dinner



and program hosted by their children at Goletz Baptist Church. They were members of Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI, until two years ago.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. John Schmierer of Three Hills, AB: Mrs. Milton Falkenberg, Mrs. B. Stickelmier, Mrs. Herman Effa, and LeRoy, hosted a



60th wedding anniversary celebration in honor of their parents at the Trochu Com-

munity Centre on Oct. 31, 1981. They worship at the Trochu Baptist Church. (Mrs. Richard Snook, reporter.)

Mr. and Mrs. William Pritzkau of Napoleon, ND, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house



hosted by their daughters: Mrs. Janice Beaver, Mrs. Shirley Cook and Mrs. Dorothy Ganoung. Mr. and Mrs. Pritzkau are members of the Napoleon Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Devries were honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 1, 1981, as family and friends gathered at Grace Bap-



tist Church, Ochre River, MB. They have been active church members, with Mr. Devries having served as deacon and Sunday school superintendent. (Dorothy Devries, reporter.)

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Haller of Trochu, AB, were honored Nov. 29, 1981, by their three children: Mrs. Jean Strauss, Elvin



our conference in action

Haller, and Mrs. Mildruth Yost, at a program on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

HUTCHINSON, MN. The Bethany Baptist Church ordained its pastor, Robert L. Lounsbury, on Nov. 21, 1981.

Delegates and pastors from the Minnesota-LaCrosse Association churches joined in the ordination. Mr. Milton Hildebrandt gave the ordination address; the Rev. Robert Coombe gave the charge to the candidate, and the Rev. Kenneth Unruh gave the charge to the church.

The Rev. Robert Lounsbury was in business for several years before his conversion and call to the ministry. He received his theological education at the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB. The Bethany Baptist Church is his third North American Baptist pastorate. (Jack R. Kruegel, clerk.)

KELOWNA, BC. Lakeview Heights Baptist Church is alive, well and making progress. Sunday attendance ranges between 200 and 300 with baptisms on three occasions this year.

Our pastor, since the church's beginning seven years ago, the Rev. Ed Hohn, resigned the end of June to become British Columbia Area minister.

The Rev. Gerald Scheel became pastor on August 1.

Approximately 200 attended a recent thanksgiving-anniversary celebration.

An evening with the Cameroon Choristers at Trinity Baptist Church was enjoyed. It was good to see the results of many years of evangelizing in Cameroon.

The Rev. David Berg, who with his wife retired to the sunny Okanagan, is assistant pastor of this church. (O. Zimmerman, reporter.)

XENIA, OH. Special meetings were conducted Nov. 8-12, 1981, at Community Baptist Church with the Rev. John Reisinger of Sounds of Grace Ministries, Boiling Springs, PA.

The Stillwaters, a local singing group, were with us on Sunday. We also had a potluck dinner and fellowship time, followed by our Sunday evening service.

On November 25, a Community Thanksgiving service, with Beaver Creek Churches participating, (ours included) was held at the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren. (Esther Lucius, reporter.)

BISMARCK, ND. The Bismarck Baptist Church observed their Praise and Thanksgiving Day on Oct. 4, 1981. The Rev. Art Helwig, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, was the speaker for the morning service. In the evening, the Rev. Wilfred Weick, missionary to Japan, gave an interesting report. It was exciting to note

our conference in action

that offerings in excess of \$10,000 were received.

To top off this stimulating day, a reception was held following the evening service for Miss Carol Potratz who was installed as Christian education director. Miss Potratz held a similar position in Ellinwood, Kansas, and will be working with Pastor Manuel Wolff. (Mrs. Violet Grenz, reporter.)

VALLEY STREAM, NY. A doubly joyous occasion occurred on Oct. 25, 1981, when Valley Stream Baptist Church ordained and installed its new pastor, Paul Stanley. The guest speaker was the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Eastern Area minister (pictured at left with Pastor Stanley).



The afternoon service included words of welcome from various boards and committees as well as from several local priests and ministers.

The Rev. Herman Pohl, Pastor Stanley's father-in-law, gave the ordaining prayer. It was an emotional moment for him, the family, and the church.

Rev. Eldon Janzen, moderator of the Atlantic Association, and former pastor of Valley Stream Baptist, gave the installation charge to the minister and the congregation, as well as the prayer of dedication. (Lorraine G. Wright, clerk.)

LEDUC, AB. The Lord's presence was greatly felt at the communion service of Temple Baptist Church on Dec. 5, 1981. At this time, the hand of fellowship was extended to our pastor and his family: the Rev. Franz Schmidt, his wife Dorthea and sons, Manfred and Manuel, and also to the Rev. Lou Sawchenko and his wife Marilyn. The pastor and his family are busy in every phase of the church program; the Lord is blessing them. The Sawchenkos of N.A.B. College/Divinity School have taken charge of the children's church presenting a very interesting program. (Vi Fleck, reporter.)

CARRINGTON, ND. The W.M.F. of Calgary Baptist Church presented a Diamond Jubilee program emphasizing the history and mission outreach of women's

work. White Cross work was displayed.

The James C. Dobson "Focus on Family Living" series sponsored by the Ministerial Association was well attended by all faiths. During the film showing, the children of the parents attending prepared the children's musical, "Down by the Creek Bank," which was later presented to a large crowd.

Missionaries Pat Lenz, Cameroon, and Dr. Earl Ahrens, Colorado, were the Harvest mission guest speakers. The Rev. Connie Salios gave an inspiring message for the Thanksgiving season.

The "New Day" singers were well received as they presented two evenings of ministering in testimony and song. The Rev. Robert Lang is pastor. (Vi Pepple, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. In November Redeemer Baptist Church had special meetings with Lee and Peg Rankin who are from the Detroit area. They offered a Marriage and Family Life Seminar with five sessions over a weekend. Mrs. Rankin has been our Penn-Ohio Women's Retreat speaker on two occasions and is dearly loved by the women who profit from her clear teaching. The Rev. Elmer Strauss is pastor. (Ruth Strauss, reporter.)

PRINCE RUPERT, BC. A beautiful candlelight service was the setting for the evening of Nov. 1, 1981, when these seven candidates (pictured) were baptized by the



Rev. Terry Jarosch and desired membership in Bethel First Baptist Church. The Lord's Supper was then served, followed by a fellowship lunch. Praise the Lord! He is so good!

ST. JOSEPH, MI. On Dec. 6, 1981, the Oakridge Baptist Church welcomed its new pastor and wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Jack Whitehead and their two daughters, Delane (8) and Betsy (6). The young people began the service by singing "God's Wonderful People" and then the choir sang "Joy in the Morning."

Area N.A.B. pastors took part in the service, and the Rev. Willis Potratz gave a message, "Serving Together." He then gave the charge to the pastor and the church.

Pastor Whitehead served formerly at Napier Parkview Baptist Church as youth pastor. (Ingrid Hartwig, reporter.)

BISMARCK, ND. Ten persons were baptized at the Bismarck Baptist Church by Pastor Manuel Wolff during the morning service, on Nov. 8, 1981. Along with these, nine others joined the church either by transfer or testimony.

On November 15 the Cameroon Choristers presented a program in song and drama which was followed by a potluck dinner for the guests and the congregation. (Violet Grenz, reporter.)

WATERTOWN, WI. Members and friends of First Baptist Church gathered Nov. 8, 1981, to honor the Rev. Allan Kranz, his wife, Donna, and their two children, Nancy and Paul, for their ten years of ministry to our church at a dinner.



Gag gifts, prepared by the Deacon Board, were presented, and humorous incidents involving the Kranzes were shared at an informal program led by the Church moderator.

At the closing, a love offering was given, and words of appreciation were expressed to Pastor Kranz and his family for their faithfulness, their example, and their friendship. (Karen Timm, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MB. The annual Thanksgiving Day at Rowandale Baptist Church proved to be another reminder of God's grace and blessings to individuals and the church. "We have been blessed with much more than we need." During the various Celebrations of Gratitude, the people responded by exceeding any previous offering. The products of the beautifully decorated display table were donated to the Union Gospel Mission.

Pastor Kenneth Schmuland became the new pastor in November 1981. Two men of the church board assisted in the loading of the furniture of the previous residence and in the driving of the rented truck to reduce the moving costs.

The contacts and reports from our short-term missionaries, John and Karen Macloskie, stationed at Joseph Merrick Baptist College, Ndu, continue to be an inspiration. We are also thankful for the

students who attend the N.A.B. College/Divinity School. (H. Kahler, reporter.)

RIDGEWOOD, NY. Ridgewood Baptist Church took a vicarious tour of Cameroon through slides shown by Dr. Laura Reddig on Nov. 5, 1981. Her slides gave a very comprehensive view of the many activities on our N.A.B. mission field. Various reports we have read became more real to us through her presentation.

Dr. Reddig also shared slides of the 1979 N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Bismarck, ND, as well as the 1980 Baptist World Congress in Toronto.

Those attending the Atlantic Association's Women's Retreat at Keswick, NJ, November 6-7, also heard Dr. Reddig's presentation. Many of us enjoyed the Cameroon Choristers recently in our area. Sometimes missions seem distant and unreal. Then a person like Laura Reddig becomes the catalyst who brings together many different threads to form a living tapestry. (Marion von Ahnen, reporter.)

KYLE, TX. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Immanuel Baptist Church observed the 75th anniversary of the women's work of the North American Baptist Conference with a Diamond Jubilee tea on September 19, 1981, at the home of Mrs. Adolph Hill.

Preceding the arrival of the guests, the local group conducted a short program, dedicating their offerings toward the national W.M.F. goal. Through a dialogue, Ruby Wiegand and Glenda Eitel summarized activities of the work for the past 75 years.

A large number of guests attended during the afternoon. Members of the W.M.F. presided at the beautifully appointed tea table. Mrs. Wm. Barsh provided violin music.

Out of town guests attending were from Austin, Brenham, San Marcos, Houston, Seguin, Ingleside and Baytown.

HEBRON, ND. First Baptist Church has been buzzing with activity. Recently, Pastor James DeBoer, Dickinson, ND, was guest speaker for revival meetings. His messages on Second Peter were inspirational.

220 people attended the all musical interdenominational, semi-annual request night. The music, presented by the various churches in the community, was very much enjoyed by all.

On another Sunday evening, the Omega and Alpha youth groups spon-

sored the film "Heavenly Deception," revealing how cults affect lives.

Pastor Herb Schauer started a pastor's class during the Sunday school hour for several desiring to be baptized.

Our church also participates in an effective youth ministries school program. All the churches in the community share the expense to bring in a Christian guest speaker once a month to our schools. (Mrs. Walter Kitzen, reporter.)

MOOSEHORN, MB. Moosehorn Baptist Church rejoiced as one man was baptized in the nearby lake, upon his confession of Christ as his Savior.

Thanksgiving was celebrated on October 18, with the Rev. S. Schuster, area minister, as guest speaker for the morning and afternoon services. Rev. Schuster's family and his brother's family beautified the services to the glory of God with musical selections.

The ladies of the church decorated the sanctuary with garden produce and grain sheaves, and served a thanksgiving dinner in the church to which our senior citizens from Moosehorn Senior Home were also invited. The Rev. S. Zukowski is pastor. (Margaret Grauman, reporter.)

HILDA, AB. Hilda Baptist Church held a service of celebration and thanksgiving to dedicate new facilities to the glory of God on June 14, 1981. The festivities began with a banquet on Saturday, June 13. Approximately 220 friends, former members and members attended, heard musical selections as well as a skit extolling the virtues of the town of Hilda during the program. The Rev. E. P. Wahl, the first pastor of the church in 1916, was the speaker.



On Sunday at 2 p.m., more than 150 people gathered for the service of dedication. A men's quartet provided the music. A special highlight was an impromptu selection by all the former choir members who were present. The Rev. Isador Faszer, Alberta Area minister, delivered the dedication sermon, and Rev. Wahl, the prayer of dedication. An offering of more than \$13,000 was taken, retiring our debt to less than \$40,000.

We praise God for strength and safety, for the long hours of volunteer labor spent in construction, for the prayers and

our conference in action

generous gifts of friends and former members, but most of all, for God's faithfulness and great grace through this undertaking.

Our pastor, David Stockdale, his wife Kathy, and son Zachary, were honored at a farewell service at which they were presented with a plaque. David is pursuing his studies. We pray for God's best for them and thank them for the time they spent serving us.

Three babies were dedicated to the Lord.

Though our numbers are few, we can testify strongly to the grace and blessing of our Lord and Savior. We thank God for his work here in Hilda, and trust him to complete the work which he has begun. (Mrs. Linda Anderst, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. Thanksgiving Day, Oct. 11, 1981, was truly a day when Bethany Baptist Church could join in with Paul and say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord



Jesus Christ." Two young women who had committed their lives to Christ were baptized on this day by Pastor Rick Laser and received into our fellowship. (Trudy Zindler, reporter.)

KESWICK, NJ. The Atlantic Association Women's Missionary Fellowship met on Nov. 6 and 7, 1981, for its annual retreat at America's Keswick, Whiting, NJ, with 106 women attending. The theme was "On the Growing Edge" from Col. 2:6-7.

Dr. Laura Reddig, Bismarck, ND, was the Friday evening guest speaker. She challenged the group with many experiences which she had while a missionary nurse in Cameroon, Africa.

On Saturday, Mrs. Joy Hubbard, Calvary Baptist Church, Manhattan, NY spoke emphasizing a portion in John 15.

The beauty of the Keswick grounds, the fellowship, the music, good meals, and thought-provoking messages all made the retreat a time of special blessing. The missionary offering amounted to \$305. (Mrs. Lynda Kosik, secretary.)

BOCA RATON, FL. Members and friends of Evangel Baptist Church met together for a fellowship dinner on Nov.

our conference in action

18, 1981. The occasion marked the end of a week of fellowship with the Rev. and Mrs. W. Stanley Sommerschild who have been called as interim pastor. The church has been without a pastor since the end of September when the Rev. Norman Vernon, who started the church, resigned.

The Sommerschilds began their ministry at the church on December 6. He has served several of our N.A.B. churches as interim pastor. We thank God for sending him to us. The Church appreciates the prayers of N.A.B. churches as a permanent pastor is sought. (Joyce Batek, reporter.)

APLINGTON, IA. Ron Stoller, missionary to Japan, and Missionary Wilma Binder, Cameroon, shared their films and



work experiences with the Aplington Baptist Church at a recent Missionary Conference. Dr. and Mrs. Gene Stockdale expressed gratitude for the privilege of serving in Cameroon for eight weeks thus see-

ing the progress made since his full-time service ten years ago.

Following the close of the Conference, the Ed Hoepner family, who served in Nigeria and now live in Ames, IA, during Ed's medical leave, was presented with a food shower (pictured) as an expression of love and gratitude from the entire congregation.

The Aplington Baptist Church witnessed the wedding of Janice Patet, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Patet to James Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Miller of Aplington, on Dec. 12, 1981.

Other Christmas festivities included a noon luncheon for ladies over 70, a benevolent salad luncheon, and caroling and fellowship for young couples. (Kay Ostercamp, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. More than \$1,900 was raised by the young people of Bethany Baptist Church at a "Novemberfest" prepared for the members of our fellowship. Hosts welcomed people at the door and led them into a Bavarian restaurant setting, where a delicious meal was served complete with sauerkraut and sausages.

Once coffee was served, the entertainment began and "ein Gemuetlicher Abend" was had by everyone. The purpose was to raise money—half the amount was sent to our Baptist Camp in Brazil, and the other half will be used to help send our young people to Summit

Assault 1982 in Niagara Falls. (Trudy Zindler, reporter.)

APPLETON, MN. Appleton Baptist Church joyously welcomed the Rev. and Mrs. Doug Sathren and their son Justin into our fellowship. Later an open house was held for them.

The church hosted an Ordination Council and Ordination Service on Nov. 14, 1981, for John Hoffman, who served the Church faithfully as interim pastor for seven months.



The Mission Circle celebrated the 75th Diamond Jubilee with an all-church birthday party. Pictured are the officers of the Mission Circle.

Miss Wilma Binder was speaker for the Harvest Mission Festival.

Eleven members were also added to the church by baptism, letter or testimony in 1981. (Gloria Giese, reporter.)

Aplington; two daughters: Mrs. Loretta Heikens of Wellsburg and Mrs. Lillian Haan of Parkersburg; 19 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren, and one brother, Eilerd of Aplington. He was preceded in death by a son, Edwin, in 1968. The Rev. Donald Patet, officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. OTTO (MARTHA) BERTSCH (69) was born March 22, 1912, in McPherson County, SD, to Jacob and Katherine Ladner Bertsch and died Dec. 15, 1981. She married Otto Bertsch Oct. 20, 1938. They lived in Venturia, ND, before moving to Bismarck in 1968. At an early age, she accepted the Lord Jesus as Savior. Her faith in the Lord helped and sustained her in the 40-year battle with arthritis. Survivors include her husband; three sisters: Mrs. Asoph (Ernestine) Haas, Venturia, ND, Mrs. Edwin (Theresa) Heupel, Eureka, SD, and Mrs. Adolph (Adeline) Heupel, Bismarck, ND; three brothers, Rev. August Bertsch, Milbank, SD, Albert Bertsch, Aberdeen, SD, and Berthold Bertsch, Bismarck, ND.

MINNIE BRANDT (92) was born south of Parkersburg, IA, Oct. 8, 1899, to Meene and Jenna Vust Pruisner and died Oct. 26, 1981. In 1907 she moved to Parkersburg. She married John Brandt in 1910. Minnie was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church for many years. She remained active in her prayer life and as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ until

her death. Survivors include one son, John, and two daughters: Mildred and Viola. The Rev. Lanny Johnson officiated at the funeral service. (Bonnie Buss, reporter.)

SARA OSTERMAN, nee Kohler (88) was born April 25, 1893, in Horstschik, Russia, and died Dec. 21, 1981. On July 31, 1916, she married Reinhold Osterman who preceded her in death in 1979. In 1928 the family immigrated to Canada and settled in Regina. She was baptized upon her confession of faith in Christ in 1944. In 1980 she moved to Winnipeg where she became a member of German Baptist Mission Church. Survivors include her children: Sinaida Fritz of Sault Ste. Marie, Pauline Hammersley of Winnipeg, Robert Osterman of Edmonton, and Tania Osterman of Edmonton; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Pastor Siegfried Hoppe officiated at the funeral.

ETHEL DOREY WEISERT (89) was born in Jamesburg, NJ, Aug. 18, 1892, and died Dec. 7, 1981. Ethel was married to Jacob F. Weisert who died in 1965. To this union two sons were born: James F., who died Nov. 7, 1980, and Kenneth D. of Shady Side, MD, who survives her, as do four grandchildren. Earlier in her life Ethel had been a member of the local Methodist Church and later became a member of First

(Continued on next page)

What's Happening

The Rev. Norman Vernon became interim pastor of Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Michigan, January 15, 1982.

Faith Baptist Church is the name of the church extension work in Mississauga, ON, where the Rev. Christopher Creech is pastor.

Dr. Ray Seutter, formerly of North Carolina, began his teaching duties at North American Baptist Divinity School the fall of 1981. He is employed jointly by N.A.B.D.S. and the Cornerstone Counseling Centre in Edmonton, AB. Mr. Seutter was pastoral counselor/chaplain of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Pastoral Counseling Centre, Winston-Salem, NC.

The Rev. Paul Gibson is the new assistant to the pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, MT.

The Rev. Norris Helms is serving as pastor of Mountain Baptist Church, a new church extension project in Ontario, CA, effective Jan. 1, 1982. He continues to serve as minister of Christian education and visitation at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

The Rev. Larry Neufeld resigned as pastor of Hollyview Baptist Church, Boring, OR, effective June 30, 1982. He served there since 1974. He will

become pastor of Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, WA.

The Rev. Gerhard Kalmbach received the Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral care from Fuller Theological Seminary, December 1981. Dr. Kalmbach previously pastored Thornhill Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, until the summer of 1981.

In the Jan./Feb. 1982 issue of the *Baptist Herald*, p. 13, col. 3, David Vetter was erroneously listed as a senior in the Master of Counseling program. It should have read a senior in the Master of Divinity program graduating in May 1982.

Mr. Stan Lubeck joined the staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church of Stockton, CA, on Feb. 1, 1982. Stan previously served with First Baptist Church of Modesto, where he received his internship.

Stan joins Pastors Fred E. Jantz, J. Wayne Bibelheimer, Douglas Peebles, Larson, and Children's Coordinator Pat Guntert as a ministry team at Quail Lakes Baptist.

Miss Jewel Oltmann of George, IA, is celebrating her 100th birthday on April 14, 1982, at George Community Good Samaritan Center. She is a founding member of Central Baptist Church, George.

her husband, Albert; her children: Otto and his wife of Edmonton, Erna Orlovsky of Edmonton; five grandchildren, and a sister, Natalie Gruenke. One son, Alfred, died in infancy. Pastor K. Hildebrandt officiated at the funeral.

OTTO SEIBOLD (86) of Cathay, ND, was born May 19, 1895, in Germantown Township, Wells County, ND, and died Dec. 1, 1981. He married Martha Helm Nov. 22, 1917, at Cathay. She preceded him in death Dec. 13, 1975. He was a farmer until his retirement in 1965. Survivors include a son, Melvin, Cathay; two daughters: Mrs. John (Eleanor) Seibold, Cathay, and Bernice Seibold, New Rockford; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers: Herbert and Edward, and five sisters: Mrs. Lydia Buechler, Mrs. Gust Meth, Mrs. Adena Leitner, Hilda Seibold, and Mrs. Fred Reddig.



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

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
AUGUST 10-15, 1982

Vins to Speak
Thursday
Afternoon

The Rev. Georgi Vins, exiled Russian Baptist pastor, will be one of the afternoon speakers at our N.A.B. Triennial Conference.

Rev. Vins spent a total of 13 years in various prisons, concentration camps, and in exile for preaching the Gospel. In 1979, he was deprived of his Russian citizenship and expelled to America. Born in Siberia of Baptist parentage, his father suffered similarly and died of starvation while imprisoned. I know the stalwart faith and courageous witness of Rev. Vins will encourage and inspire you to greater commitment.

Plan now to join the family of God at Niagara Falls.

Donald N. Miller

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

In Memoriam

MARTHA ZIMMERMAN was born to Adam and Eva Elizabeth Zimmerman Nov. 30, 1897, in Argentina, South America, and died April 30, 1981. Martha acknowledged Jesus Christ as her Savior in 1914, was baptized, and joined First Baptist Church of Durham. She had faithfully served in the church since that time. Although from age 16 until she retired, Martha worked as telephone operator in the Durham Community, the ministry of the church was the focal point of her life. She served as secretary for the Baptist Youth Fellowship, treasurer of the King's Daughters, and primary Sunday school teacher. Martha is most remembered for her faithful attendance and love for God's Word. Survivors include two brothers: Adam and David Zimmerman, and one sister, Mrs. Julia Geissler.

FRED A. SENTS was born to Aelt and Tillie Abben Sents June 25, 1888, in Grundy County and died December 1981. On Feb. 9, 1916, he married Reka Junker. To this union were born six children. Upon confession of his faith in Jesus Christ, he was baptized and received into the membership of Aplington Baptist Church Aug. 1, 1920. Survivors include his wife, Reka; three sons: Aelt, Rudolph, and Lester, all of

Viewpoint

"I Am The Resurrection and The Life"

Almost two thousand years ago—

A cross—and then—an empty tomb.

And today, scores of centuries later

That event continues to transform

Night into Day

Despair into Hope

Fear into Faith

Death into Life

Rejoice as you read of His transforming power

In Brazil

In Cameroon

In Japan

In Nigeria

And ponder:

What difference does His transforming power

make in

MY LIFE?

Harold Lang, associate missions director of promotion and personnel

Risking Everything That the Gospel Be Preached—

The Challenge of the 1982 Triennial Conference

by J. Gordon Harris

The Triennial Conference of 1979 in Bismarck, North Dakota, marked an important turning point for the Conference. Inflation had eroded our missions program and budget deficits had taken our reserve funds. A generation of Conference leaders was retiring. The 1979 N.A.B. Triennial Conference raised many questions

J. Gordon Harris is professor of Old Testament, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Conference Debt Reduced to \$250,000

At the 1979 N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Bismarck, ND, it was reported that the N.A.B. Conference had incurred a debt of \$1,000,000 over a period of years. The newly elected leadership committed themselves to the mandate of the people (General Council): no more deficit spending and liquidate the debt. Privately, the leaders hoped to wipe out the debt by the 1982 Triennial Conference. The "no more deficit spending" principle has been successfully followed for the 1979, 1980 and 1981 years. The management of the department directors combined with the good giving of North American Baptists in times of poor economy are to be commended. It is also to be noted that cutbacks have had to occur on the mission fields, in church planting, and in other areas.

As of December 1981, the debt has been reduced from one million dollars to \$250,000. In light of this and the fact that North American Baptists missed the budget goal of \$3,750,000 by \$62,575, the executive committee of the General Council recently reviewed and revised the goal for 1982 of \$4,000,000 as such: \$3,750,000 for the basic budget and \$250,000 for debt liquidation. "This is the fourth and hopefully the last year we need to deal with the operating debt," states Dr. John Binder, executive director.

about the future. What would happen because of the short fall of giving? How could the Conference continue its missionary outreach and educational efforts? Who would lead our efforts in the future?

At the outset, the mood should have been pessimistic. Nevertheless, in the midst of great need, the Conference again came in touch with its destiny. Marvelous preaching elevated the vision of the assembly. Instead of being blinded by red ink, it saw the fields white unto harvest!

Through the moving of the Holy Spirit, God's people began to recognize with Queen Esther that perhaps they "had come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Therefore the N.A.B. Conference began to plan for the future. Participants elected new officers and rallied around them with resolve. Likewise, they followed their missions board and voted to open a new work when feasible. They began to give the money that would make the future possible.

Now the 1982 Triennial Conference offers a similar opportunity. Again

the people of God must be willing to risk for the sake of the kingdom. The resolve of 1979 must be translated into challenging and creative programs. Theological differences need to be set aside with the adopting of a new statement of faith. Members of the Conference should be marshaled in new ways to harvest a lost world.

The Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls may become such an event. Come in a prayerful mood that God's will becomes our program. With Esther, Conference members need to be willing to risk everything that the gospel be preached.

Each individual prior to the Triennial Conference needs to pray for wisdom; then resolve like Esther: "I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I will perish!"

The world awaits a N.A.B. Conference which will commit itself to the salvation of the doomed with the passion of Esther. Taking up the cross of Christ may become our theme. That is the challenge of the Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls, August 10-15, 1982. □

A Ministry to Those Who Minister

by Sydney H. T. Page

How does a pastor or lay leader in the church keep fresh personally, so that his ministry to others does not become stale? To what does he turn to keep abreast of recent developments in pastoral studies? Where can he find the intellectual stimulation and practical help that will make him a more effective Christian worker? Many resources are available, but there is one that has the needs of North American Baptists specifically in mind—the periodical *Focus on Ministry*.

The first issue of *Focus on Ministry* appeared one year ago and provided input from the faculty and students of North American Baptist College and Divinity School on the topic of worship. Feature articles dealt with

Dr. Sydney H. T. Page is general editor of *Focus on Ministry* and professor at North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

Gebauer's Cameroon Art Book Published

Paul Gebauer, N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon for 30 years, beginning in 1931, wrote a fascinating book, *The Art of Cameroon*, about the land and people of Cameroon before his death in 1977. The book discusses the patterns of culture, ethnic backgrounds, the variety of tongues as well as the art, architecture, sculpture, painting, music, and royal art. It includes the minor arts such as basketry, pottery, body decoration and textiles. Gebauer says, "We share with others the pleasure of Cameroon's past." Some of this has now been lost due to the effects of the tropical climate or neglect. Included also in the book is a catalog of photos and descriptive statements of the art objects in the Gebauer Collection in possession of the Portland Art Museum, OR, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. When in the area, one should be sure to visit the Museum. The book is available from the Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205 at \$27.50/cloth or \$14.95/paper.

various aspects of worship, analyzing both the Biblical directives in this area and our contemporary practices. Several books on the subject were reviewed, and an annotated bibliography to guide the reader to further reading was included.

Unlike many publications of theological schools *Focus on Ministry* is not intended to be a forum in which scholars can convey the results of their research to their academic colleagues. On the contrary, it is designed to be directly relevant to the working pastor or active layperson who is eager to improve his ability to serve the Lord and his people. As the

title so clearly indicates, the focus is on ministry.

The second issue, soon to appear, will zero in on a highly controversial issue with many implications for our churches—the Christian perspective on women. In it members and friends of the NABC/DS community will share their insights and suggestions on how we ought to respond to the dual challenge of the teaching of Scripture and the current interest in the roles of women and the unique problems facing them. It is our hope that Christian leaders will find this to be thought-provoking, informative and, most of all, beneficial. □

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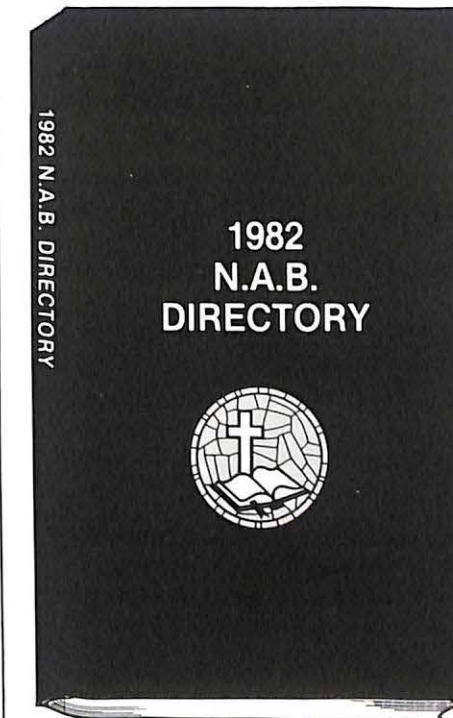
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