

Baptist Herald

May 1982

A photograph of a man with a mustache, wearing a plaid shirt and a dark jacket, opening a white door. A woman in a fur coat is standing behind him, looking out. The scene is set in a doorway with a window above the door.

People
Reaching
People

Editorial Viewpoint

People Reaching People

I have never been a member of a church extension church. But I've always been grateful to those who started the seven different established churches of which I've been a part. All but two of the churches were started in the 1800s as a result of German immigrants who met around kerosene lamps in farmhouses studying the Bible together. Out of their studying, sharing and praying, they realized their need for salvation through Jesus Christ and to make a public declaration of their faith through baptism by immersion.

As a result, various groups of people started churches in Canada and the United States. This was not unlike what is happening in church extension work today. It is thrilling to see this is still happening throughout our Conference. People are reaching people because they have a concern that others have an evangelical, Baptist witness.

I have been a church extension builder, and I am a Church Extension Investors Fund investor. The real significance of investing in C.E.I.F. was brought into focus for me as members of Tri-Community Baptist Church in Elk Grove Village, IL, with Fred Sweet as pastor, visited our church seeking investors. I felt their burden as they sought to raise funds from people in the Association. For months, seemingly, there did not seem to be a response. Then a crisis letter came appealing to us. The deadline for raising funds was near. I felt their joy when, within a month or so, their goal was reached—people helping people! And then I felt their despair when they found costs had risen, and they needed more!

I felt excitement as I heard of laymen and pastors who rallied to raise C.E.I.F. funds for Eagle Rock Baptist Church in Idaho Falls, ID, so that the burden was not carried alone by the church and its pastor. The Association raised the funds.

In contrast, I felt the hurt of a pastor who shared his feelings of despair and loneliness as he and his small congregation tried to raise C.E.I.F. funds in another Association. He despaired that so many months were spent trying to raise these funds at the cost of neglecting the spiritual needs of his congregation.

From our N.A.B. church extension churches across Canada and U.S.A., statements, such as the following, come repeatedly to our Conference Office.

"There is an unbelievable fellowship growing in our little church—a closeness I've never experienced in any ministry before."

"People are developing helpful relationships with one another."

"Good progress on building . . . enthusiasm contagious . . . some of our best offerings received . . . steady growth in attendance."

"Our biggest problem throughout all this year has been the inadequacy of our facilities."

"I am celebrating God's miracle . . . the congregation was behind in giving . . . the deficit was getting larger . . . As leaders, we got on our knees . . . I continued to challenge the people . . . by year's end the budget was met in excess . . . this—an event of faith exercised."

"There is a willingness to risk sharing our faith. This is the work of God."

"The excitement and thrill of being in our own building is still being experienced. New families have started to come consistently."

"Ten new members—eight by baptism and two by transfer . . ."

Once in a while we also hear . . . "Due to lack of people, lack of local church giving and families being transferred out of town, we were forced to the conclusion that prospects for survival are slim . . . Unemployment is at a record high . . ."

Can you feel with these churches—their joys and their sorrows? Can we shake ourselves from the confines of our established churches to reach out? Are you willing to take risks to exercise your faith that others might know Jesus Christ?

Have a chat with a church extension pastor in your area. Or write him a letter. Decide specifically what you can do for a church extension church in your Association this year. Write it down, pray about it, and then do it!—Barbara J. Binder

Church Extension Sunday June 6, 1982

People Reaching People
What will you do for a church extension project in your Association?

Four New Church Extension Projects approved for 1982

The Church Extension Board approved the following projects at its March meeting:

Ontario, CA, Norris Helms, pastor
(Mother church—Sunkist Baptist Anaheim)

Biseker, AB, Alan Johnson, pastor
(Mother church—Carbon Baptist)

West Lethbridge, AB, Jim Erb, pastor
(Mother church—Park Meadows Baptist)
Edmond, OK
(Southwestern Association—parent)

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Cover: Visitation team at Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB



In an interview, Interim Church Extension Director **Don Ganstrom** talks about his commitment to church extension and what he feels should be that of the local churches in

PLANTING
CHURCHES 4



Bruce Merrifield shares his excitement about Park Meadows Baptist Church's parenting two new churches in one year in

PLANTING NEW
CHURCHES—A
MASTER PLAN 8



Robert G. Lennick reveals some of the process in providing a building for Eagle Rock Baptist Church, Idaho Falls, ID, in

TO A COMMITTED
PEOPLE—GOD'S
ANSWER COMES 14



Four persons tell about the changes that occurred in their lives as the result of God working through church extension 16-18

FEATURES

- 16 A VACUUM CLEANER SALESMAN'S COMMITMENT
By Elaine Strobel
- 17 A NEW CHAUFFEUR AND A NEW ROAD MAP
By Margaret Herasemluk
- 18 A PLACE TO DUMP GUILT
By Elaine Strobel
- 18 WE FOUND SOMETHING DIFFERENT
By Carl Humphrey
- 19 COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN WHITECOURT, ALBERTA
By Ed Broadway
- 20 ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP EMPHASIZES 1981 RESULTS AND 1982 MINISTRY GOALS
By James D. Frey
- 31 SUPER MOM
By J. Gordon Harris

COLUMNS

- 22 WOMAN'S WORLD
- 24 WHAT'S PERK'N WITH "NEW DAY"?
By Connie Kaiser and John Kiemele

29 TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE NEWS
By Donald N. Miller

NEWS

- 25 OUR CONFERENCE IN ACTION
- 28 IN MEMORIAM
- 29 WHAT'S HAPPENING
- 30 THE CALL TO THE MINISTRY—AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY
By J. Walter Goltz

OPINION

2 EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT PEOPLE REACHING PEOPLE
By Barbara J. Binder

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Interim Church Extension Director Discusses Planting Churches

An Interview with Don Ganstrom

Dr. Donald Ganstrom exudes excitement and enthusiasm; his eyes light up; his face breaks into a smile when he talks about planting new churches. It takes hard work but he "feels committed to the call of the Lord to the ministry and that call involves spreading the Gospel and winning people to Christ." About church extension he says, "My deep desire to see churches planted arose from my experience as a missionary in Cameroon, West Africa." Don and his wife Verna served there from 1945 to 1955.

"My first four years of service in Cameroon included the supervision of church planting," Don continues, "It was through this experience of seeing the need to train people to be church planters as well as seeing new areas taken for the Lord, that I caught the vision for church planting." Don states excitedly, "We found enthusiasm; people looked for new areas to start churches."

Following the Ganstroms' return to the United States in 1955, he pastored four established churches: Riverview Baptist, West St. Paul, MN; Calvary Baptist, Tacoma, WA; Bethel Baptist, Anaheim, CA, and Rivera Baptist, in Salem, OR. As a pastor he was involved in Associations that planted churches.

"Through the experience of serving as chairman of the church extension committee of the Pacific Northwest Association, the seed for starting new churches in North America was planted in my heart," says Don.

So in 1977 Don accepted the challenge of establishing a new church in Bismarck, ND, Century Baptist Church. From there he went to Vancouver, WA, to begin Cascade Park Baptist. He came to the N.A.B. International Office in December 1981 as interim church extension director.

Dr. Donald Ganstrom is the interim church extension director for the N.A.B. Conference.

Baptist Herald editor Barbara Binder met with Dr. Ganstrom and asked him to comment on what he feels is important in church extension and his philosophy of church extension.

As a pastor, was it difficult to change from pastoring an established church to planting a new church?

Well, I'm a different breed. I like challenges that are new and different. I found that the established church was quite tradition bound. So to start a



Church planting is a practical, challenging, Biblical plan for North American Baptists to act today on their profound beliefs that people need salvation in Christ. We are ambassadors for him. The mission of our churches is in and to the world rather than to ourselves. Planting churches in needy areas where there is an insufficient evangelical voice is indeed our commitment to the Lord and to the N.A.B. Conference. This involves a very heavy commitment. I cannot see either church planting or overseas missions grow until we really lift our sights as established churches to see the needy areas.

church that would be without tradition from scratch became something new and fresh. To see people come together as the Body of

Christ was the biggest challenge of all.

Tell us, what are ways a church extension project comes into existence?

There are several ways. A church may desire to see church growth by extending itself into a new area. Four or five families from that church may live in that new area. An example of this occurred in California from the Sunrise Baptist Church in Fair Oaks to the Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church in Rocklin, to the Gold Country Baptist Church in Shingle Springs, and now to a new area in Antelope.

The Sunkist Church in Anaheim is doing the same thing: Opening the Chino-Ontario area project this year. They have members who live in this area and who drive miles and miles to Sunkist Baptist. That's the mother church concept. We, as North American Baptist churches, have a different flavor than other churches. People love to keep that same experience.

Another way a new church is started is through churches in an Association seeing a growing population area. As an example, the Oregon-Idaho Association noted that four new factories were being built in Vancouver, WA. People were moving into this area. That spelled growth. The Association also saw six elementary schools, a high school, and three junior high schools being built there. That indicated population growth.

So the Association located property in Vancouver and started a Bible study group. Other new churches were coming into the area. The Association, needing to move quickly, sought advice from the Conference Church Extension Department. Together, they decided to begin the church planting in 1981.

Another way a new church is started is through couples moving to a completely new area where there is North American Baptist church.

They get a vision for a church, and they say, "We've three couples here; we'll give of ourselves to this. Could the Association help us get started?" Or they will make their appeal to the N.A.B. International Office, if there is no Association.

Sometimes a Bible study group starts on its own. Within this group, the desire grows to plant a church. The group then approaches the area minister and the Association church extension committee to assist in deciding whether or not it is feasible to start a new church there.

Then what does the committee do?

The committee members pray about it. Prayer is the most important part. But secondly, the Conference Office provides forms and materials to guide the committee in the spade work in the area. We may advise the Association or the mother church to hire a summer worker to canvass and survey the area for prospects for the new church. This is done prior to making an official request for approval to the Church Extension Department.

When the local church extension committee is ready to proceed in planting a church, they bring the recommendation to the Association. Upon approval of the Association, a recommendation is presented to the Church Extension Department for approval by the Church Extension Board.

How are church extension projects funded?

Conference Church Extension Department financial support is provided to those new projects in the form of pastoral aid.

Do you mean the Conference pays the whole salary?

Through contributions to the Conference's unified budget, the Conference pays most of the pastor's salary for the first six months. There is an automatic reduction every six months of support from the Conference, as the church is expected to become self-supporting in seven years or less. The Association provides financing for housing and help toward land purchase. When needed, the Association may cover the medical

insurance for the pastor and his family. As soon as possible, the new church pays the pastor's medical insurance and automobile expenses and then begins to assume housing costs.

For instance, the new church in Vancouver, WA, started in January 1981 through a Bible study group. The first Sunday of April they began public services and started taking offerings. They began to organize. On July first, they assumed the responsibility for \$100 per month toward the pastor's salary; that reduced the Conference's support by \$100. At the time the pastor was called, the Association agreed to pay up to \$500 a month in rent or housing allowance and the medical insurance premium. In this year's budget, the church assumes \$150 toward



I have a motto that I use in church planting: A caring, sharing, growing body. When that is shown forth, it will become a growing church.

automobile expenses, \$200 a month toward housing, and another \$120 a month for the first six months toward the pastor's salary. As of July the church will assume responsibility for another \$120, which means \$340 a month for the last six months.

Who pays for the rent of the meeting place?

In most cases the new church does. The first Sunday's offering of each month goes for rent, Sunday school materials, and other things which they need to purchase.

In starting a church, what are some of the things that you think are really important?

Right from the beginning, I feel, the pastor needs a vision. That vision is God doing a work in and through himself as well as through the people who gather together as the nucleus. My expectations are of the Lord completely, not of people, not of Associations, but of what God will do through the person.

Secondly, the pastor must emphasize going door-to-door, not just canvassing, but actually contacting people through visitation. When I find unchurched people, my first concern is to see these people come to Christ, then to be "churched." I will do everything I can to disciple them. If they do not feel that they want to change their religious affiliation, I work with them to get them rehabilitated spiritually. I may even call a fellow pastor of their denomination to tell him of the spiritual step these people have taken.

When I use the approach that I am not trying to make Baptists out of them but to help build them spiritually, I find great reception. People say, "You're not really anxious to get us as members, are you?"

I reply, "No, my whole desire is to help you grow spiritually."

These people later say to me, "Because you didn't push us, we liked that." Then they want to become part of the new church extension work.

As they attend Bible studies or services with our people, the love of the Body of Christ and the fellowship draws them in. They become inquirers. This word inquirer took on new meaning for me in Africa. An inquirers' class is a place for persons to grow spiritually before they become church members.

Are there some things that make a church extension project a success, while others aren't? What's the difference?

This is not to be critical of those who have not succeeded. In general, much depends upon how the church planter views the situation. If he has

(Continued on next page)

a strong vision and desires by every sacrifice to see it go, it means a lot.

There are some areas where no matter how much vision or how strong the pastor's desire is to do God's will in that place, that a church just doesn't seem to go. This may be due to competition from other churches that "got on fire" because this church extension pastor came in.

Or it may be because of economic decline and people moving away. In contrast to this is our church extension church in Gillette, WY. This project is going great. However, five years down the road if the coal and energy developments level out, they might hit a plateau. These are conditions that we cannot foresee or determine.

The church extension pastor can feel very alone. What can the Association churches and pastors do to help the pastor and the new church?

It's a two-way street. If the pastor has come into the community where there are other North American Baptist pastors, whether they be 40 to 50 miles away or in the same city, that pastor must recognize that he is not there to take members away from their churches. He needs to get this across to the other pastors.

Anyone coming in new to start a church, I don't care if it is from our own N.A.B. group or from some other group, automatically becomes a threat to a congregation and pastor who are already established. If the church extension pastor comes with the attitude that they have a comity when it comes to areas of visitation for new prospects, he and the other pastors will cooperate.

Another step, I believe, is for that pastor to show that he needs fellowship and help. Churches in the area coming to the project with special music on Sundays or loaning Sunday school teachers until the nucleus is started help greatly and are appreciated. We've seen this work throughout the Conference. This helps the nucleus as well as the mother church or other churches in the Association to feel part of the project. They are giving.

I also believe that the pastor and his wife must cooperate with everything there is in the Associa-

tion. Whether it is ministers' fellowships, Association meetings or church extension committee meetings, they need to attend and cooperate. These are areas which I term a body function within the Association among the pastors. They have to give of themselves and show appreciation one to another for the work that is being done.

Now that you have been at the International Office for five months, what do you think the philosophy of church planting should be?

Church planting is a practical, challenging, Biblical plan for North American Baptists to act today on their profound beliefs that people need salvation in Christ. We are



Church growth will come through the established churches catching the vision of doing the work of God beyond themselves. By reaching out to others, they will grow numerically as well as spiritually. They will be planting churches in other areas that will become an extended part of them in God's kingdom.

ambassadors for him. The mission of our churches is in and to the world rather than to ourselves. Planting churches in needy areas where there is an insufficient evangelical voice is indeed our commitment to the Lord and to the N.A.B. Conference. This involves a very heavy commitment. I cannot see either church planting nor overseas missions grow until we really lift our sights as established churches to see the needy areas.

In other words, a church, in order for it to grow, has to have a strong commitment to reach out to people overseas as well as to the people in Canada and the United States?

You are so right. The established church must have a vision of extending God's kingdom beyond themselves. One of the two opportunities that we have, as a Conference, is our very, very strong overseas missions commitment. Our second opportunity is church planting.

As a Conference, we have been very committed to these two opportunities. But the local church must keep this vision for it to grow. I personally feel that the established church will grow in almost the mathematical paradox of saying there is growth in God's Body by division. We multiply by division. We are like cells. And that is what the body is. That's been my concept all along.

How can an established church catch that vision?

First, through its leadership. Excitement comes a lot through the pastoral leadership. When a pastor is really on fire for the Lord and winning souls in an evangelistic commitment, he inspires his people. If the people of that church do not catch the vision, it kills the inspiration of the pastor, or he moves on to a greener field.

What do you mean?

Church growth will come through the established churches catching the vision of doing the work of God beyond themselves. By reaching out to others, they will grow numerically as well as spiritually. They will be planting churches in other areas that will become an extended part of them in God's kingdom.

So they will really catch a vision of the Great Commission rather than concentrating on building bigger buildings and programs. They will set aside some of that money to establish a whole new witness in an area that doesn't have one?

Exactly. In our own recommendation to all newly planted churches, 10 percent of all offerings that come in, other than building fund offerings, should go toward missions.

We are trying to instill the idea in them that they must reach out beyond themselves right from the beginning. My philosophy has been that the percentage for missions should be increased to 12 percent, then to 13½ percent, then 15 percent, and then even more. So when the group becomes a strong, established church by, let's say, the end of five years, they will have designated a large percentage of their giving for missions. The people will feel blessed by the Lord as an individual family is blessed as they tithe and give offerings.

What will be viable options for church planting in the future?

Well, in my opinion, a viable option is planting a church in an area that shows economic and population growth, and where we will not be in competition with some other church or churches just for the sake of planting a church. We are there to reach a needy area with an evangelical witness.

So those will be the viable options for church planting?

Yes, some will be planted in population growth areas. They will also be in condominium and apartment high rise areas, where there might be what we call a house church.

Going back to the inner-city has potential. There, again, it might not be a church building as such but acquiring some other kind of building.

There is the viable option of ministering to minority settlements, very strong in certain areas of both the United States and Canada, such as the Vietnamese, the Cambodians, the Asians, the Indo-Canadians, the Haitians and Puerto Ricans.

Many of the people come from backgrounds that may not have been Protestant and that may not have been Baptist in a church extension church. What can a pastor and people do, first of all, to help them understand what it means to be a Baptist, and secondly, to help them feel a part of the North American Baptist family?

The Association and nearby churches have a great responsibility in accepting new people and making them feel wanted and loved by giv-

ing attention to the newly planted church. They must go out of their way to make them feel that they are very happy to have them; even though the new people never have had any experience with our mission programs or the Association meetings.

Then the pastor has the responsibility of "indoctrination" through his pastoral classes and discipling. He needs, from the very outset, to begin teaching. When a husband and wife come to the knowledge of Christ as Savior, the pastor disciples them so they are able to see that the body of Christ has in it a love and fellowship that they have never experienced before. They will be drawn to the new church through that love and fellowship.

I have a motto that I use in church planting: A caring, sharing, growing body. When that is shown forth, it will become a growing church.

And actually it is the same principle in an established church as new members join. They need to feel a part of the body.

Right. But there is an indoctrination from the point of who we are as different "flavored" Baptists . . . different from other Baptist denominations.

Now you have used different "flavored" several times, what do you mean by that?

The flavor is the fellowship that they feel. Other Baptist groups may have an entirely different approach to the preaching of the Word, to the singing of the songs, or to their leadership in worship. They may have an entirely different approach to some of the social events that we carry on such as potluck dinners once a month in a church planting situation. Our people like the taste of the fellowship. And to me, it's a different flavor than a lot of other groups have.

What then, do you feel, is the role of the Conference International Office in relation to church planting?

To assist in continual training for church planters and to encourage new congregations through better methods of church growth. An example of this would be outreach

training, surveys, and selection of meeting places. Also, to provide building and site development assistance through the area ministers, Associations, and volunteer leaders in these areas. We need to assist our Seminary and Divinity School in offering electives especially for training church planting ministers.

Is there help offered to pastors now, who have become or are becoming church planting pastors?

Through the years, there have been church extension workshops and seminars. In March, I participated in one sponsored by N.A.B. College and Divinity School in Edmonton, AB. The schools invited church extension pastors and pastors of churches involved in parenting church extension projects as well as other interested N.A.B. pastors. Together, we discussed ways and methods to do a better job in church planting.

What changes do you feel are necessary to meet the ministry needs of church planting?

This has been discussed in the long-range planning committee.

I think it would be from centralization to the grass roots in planting. This means emphasizing more and more the involvement of the Association church extension committees and local church mission committees. The local mission committee's emphasis should change from only being centered on overseas missions to also involving church planting and home missions.

There is a need for the grass roots to become inspired to reach out, instead of the Conference saying, "Let's go there and start a church or out there or over there." More funds will have to come from the Association to the projects. I also see more direction given through area ministers and Association church extension committees to the projects. This will help the grass roots to become more involved in a project.

What do you see is the role of the proposed Church Extension/Church Growth Department?

I envision the Conference Church Extension/Church Growth Department becoming more involved in

(Continued on page 31)

Planting New Churches—A Master Plan

An Interview with Bruce Merrifield

Park Meadows Baptist Church is six years old and bursting at the seams. In October 1981, the church went to two Sunday morning worship services. Immediately the average weekly attendance increased by 50 people. In March a record high of 202 attendees was reached in the Sunday School. "We are discussing multiple use of our present church Christian education facilities this fall, since already we are using other nearby facilities in addition to our present church unit," states Merrifield.

The church uses the shopping center next door for four of its Sunday school classes, and two more classes are held in nearby private homes. "In order to expand, we will have to use more of the shopping center facilities."

Baptist Herald editor Barbara Binder talks with Bruce Merrifield, senior pastor of Park Meadows Baptist, about his concepts of reaching people, church growth, and his church's master plan conceived when the Park Meadows Baptist Church was four years old. This plan, designed for the next five years, is developing sooner than expected for the 164-member church with an average Sunday morning attendance of 350.

Park Meadows Baptist Church is located in the third largest city in Alberta. With a population of 55,000, "Lethbridge is really a hub for southern Alberta," says Merrifield. "Its base is agricultural, but it's getting much more into the processing and production end with the establishment of large food

Bruce Merrifield is pastor of Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB. He is a graduate of North American Baptist College and the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

plants using produce from the surrounding farms." Recently it was announced that an 18 million dollar plant will be constructed in Lethbridge where windows and frames for steel buildings and high rises will be built.



Yes, I think that if there has been one characteristic of our congregation and its personality that has been unique in our community, it has been the willingness to do the impossible, risk the impossible, and watch God perform a miracle before our eyes and have it come to pass.



People brought their friends to the home Bible studies. Contact with one person gave us more contacts. It was through these webs of relationships that we reached out into the community.

Bruce, how did Park Meadows Baptist Church get started? How did you become involved?

From the beginning, it was the vision of the Southern Alberta Church Extension Council and Isador Faszer, Alberta Area minister, in particular. The Council recognized an area of need in Lethbridge; even though there was already an N.A.B. church there, Bethany Baptist. I was a member of the Council as well as pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Drumheller. The Council decided to start a church in Lethbridge. I didn't realize I would be called as the project's first pastor.

Was there a nucleus of people in Lethbridge to start a church?

There were five people interested: Otto Fritz and his wife, his widowed sister, Olga Ruff, and her two daughters, Annette and Monica. (Since the fall of 1981, Monica has been a N.A.B. short-term missionary teacher at Saker Baptist College, Victoria, Cameroon.) The two girls had been meeting with a group of about seven youth for Bible study for about a year and a

half before the church extension project began. They were praying for a new church to start.

I arrived on Monday, March 1, 1976, as the new pastor, and on Wednesday night, I was at their Bible study. We had our first service the following Sunday. From that beginning, the church grew from five to 500 people being ministered to in various ways in five years.

What was a key factor in reaching the community?

This was very exciting. These seven young people became very aggressive in evangelism. They knocked on doors, door-to-door; they brought their friends to the youth home Bible study. That first year the group grew from seven to 40. This created a real dynamic in the group as well as in the whole church. Through these young people, many parents came to church. I baptized whole families as a result of the testimony of the young people to their family members. I call this the *web concept of evangelism*. We had contact with one person who gave us more contacts. It was through these webs of relationships that we reached out to the community. The aggressive evangelistic approach combined with the dynamic of the young people plus the commitment of the original three adults, and more who came when we started, produced a very attractive climate. People who came were impressed; consequently, they kept coming. At the beginning every new attendee was visited within the week.

What was another factor in the growth of your church?

Secondly, one of our men said it best as the board met to review why things took off with such a bang. He said, "We were God's people in God's place in God's time." That really sums it up.

So through the web evangelism concept, through a counseling ministry that I have as a pastor, through strong preaching, and through a very aggressive evangelism and visitation program, the church has grown. We have a group of eight to ten people who are trained in evangelism. They go out every week. That's been part of our

group right from the very beginning.

What was another element in the growth of your church?

Third, very early we started Bible studies. They have mushroomed,



Out of those four weekly variety-type meetings of the sharing groups, it became very obvious that the Bible study was the most meaningful and enjoyable.

too. Although I was a member of a Bible study group, I didn't necessarily lead them all. We took turns: People very quickly developed into leaders in home Bible studies. One of our Bible study groups operates on the principle that the second time you come to the Bible study you lead it.

Even if you are a new Christian?

Even if you're a new Christian. Some of the best Bible study leaders are those new Christians who really get in and dig. It scares some of them half to death. But we have found more success with that kind of aggressiveness than the idea that you sit there for 20 years until you become mature, and then you can lead something.

What materials do you use?

We go through books of the Bible systematically. For instance, after we found that a lot of people had

the same problems that the Corinthian people had, we studied 1 Corinthians. We study verse by verse, chapter by chapter. We walk through a book. We read the Bible and share, and share and pray.

What other kinds of groups draw people to your church?

We realized after we had about six to eight Bible studies going that there were husbands or wives who would have nothing to do with this kind of thing. It was scary; it was just too threatening for them.

On the other hand, we had people who would really like to get into a real close, powerful, sharing kind of experience, but the Bible study situation would become exclusive to new people coming in. So we were torn. The Bible study was sort of a midpoint. But how do you include both ends of the scale, the deeper sharing and the guy who is not comfortable with Bible study at all?

One of the key things that developed over the last three years of the five is strong lay leadership that God has been able to work through in terms of developing the course and direction of our church.

One of our laymen attended an International Center for Learning seminar, where he heard a man tell about a care group ministry in his church. This layman came to me with the idea, and we batted it around a bit. We decided to try it with some modifications; it became very successful.

The idea was a care group ministry that incorporated the whole family, not just the husband and wife, but the whole family into the group.

What is the format of the care group ministry?

The first week there is a potluck supper with the families in the group. The second week is a social night involving families or couples, but preferably the families. The third week is a Bible study with the

(Continued on next page)

couples. The fourth week is one-to-one: Couple-to-couple or family-to-family, whichever is preferred. They alternate until everyone has a chance to be one-to-one, so they get to know the individuals within the group. In this way, the non-Christian partner and the new Christians don't feel so threatened. They are going into a group that cares.

Out of those four weekly meetings, it became very obvious, after three months, that the Bible study was the most meaningful and the most enjoyable. In time the groups have said, "Let's cut out one of these other activities and have two Bible studies and two activities, then three Bible studies and one activity, and then four Bible studies if that's the way they wanted to go. So that level one is the care group ministry, moving toward a Bible study program.

If they want to remain just a social group after six months, they are disbanded. They either have to be reaching out, or they have to be developing as a group. The reason for this is that they have either got to grow to divide, or they have to develop into a higher level of maturity in terms of their meetings. If they want to stay a fun social group, we are not interested in that.

The caring groups have been very, very successful in incorporating new Christians or their partial families as whole families into the church program. It's the stepping stone from the community into the church with a non-threatening way of doing it. Last year, we had four care groups.

The care groups, how long do they meet? Every week once a week for how many months?

They make a commitment to the group for a minimum of three months and a maximum of six, unless the group has developed into a Bible study group, or it has grown to the place where it divides. The original group attends the first social night, after that they bring others to the second one. You don't have to

say, "Come to a Bible study," but "We're going to have a picnic in the park," or "We're going to play volleyball," or "We're going to go someplace for games night," or "We're going out to a lake boating and water skiing; do you want to come along?" That kind of thing.

If I were a visitor to your church, and I would come for several Sundays, how would your church respond?

During a pastoral visit or a visit from a visitation team member, you would be asked if you were a Christian. If you are a new



I still think that it is being God's people in God's place in God's time. That's what is causing Park Meadows Baptist Church to grow.

Christian, you would be invited to join a care group or a Bible study group. We've had some who were involved in a Bible study group become involved in a care group ministry instead because they were interested in outreach, but they were not going to bang on somebody's door. They said, "I'll become involved in a care group so I can be a Christian friend to add support to the care group ministry." So their ministry of evangelism is through the care group ministry.

So the first group level is the care group?

Yes, and the second level is the Bible study group. We have ten home Bible studies going, led by lay people. This includes two youth Bible studies. The third level is the share group.

How are the share groups different from the care and home Bible study groups?

In the share groups, you make a commitment, a heavy commitment, to each other. That's the idea.

We use Dave Rushton's "My Walk with Christ Manual." Dave is a fellow N.A.B. pastor in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. He developed this as a devotional tool for the people in his church. It has a heavy emphasis on Scripture.

The share group chooses a book of the Bible to study. They have their devotional Bible study every day on a prescribed portion of the Scripture. They commit themselves to study the Bible and have personal devotions each day of the week. Then one night each week, they come together to go over that portion of Scripture. All of them share what God has taught them through the week.

We found people who wanted to be involved in the sharing but weren't prepared to be disciplined enough to do the study in advance. That led to problems. They didn't stay in the group because commitment to each other is important: To pray for one another, to pray for the group, and to study the Word. This gives them something to share with each other when they come together once a week. That has become a very powerful, maturing process for those who are willing to make the commitment.

Their ministry of prayer and concern for each other is very, very strong. They also have a very powerful ministry of prayer and support for things outside of their group. They pray for the prayer concerns of the church as well as their group during their daily devotions. They pray and care for each other.

If there is someone else in the congregation outside of their group who has a need, they may, as a group, go and help. They become

spiritually able to discern the needs of each other and the needs of the congregation. They have a ministry amongst themselves, but also outwardly, so it's not just an ingrown kind of thing. They also meet other nights if they want to do something else together.

In the care groups, members are encouraged to invite others to the group. Is it so with the share groups?

The share groups are exclusive in the sense that it is not open to just anybody who wants to come. The reason for this is that they have to protect the privacy of the individuals within the group, because there is very deep, close sharing taking place. If the group wants to expand, it must be a unanimous decision.

Sometimes after a couple is in this group for one year, the couple leaves to start another share group. As soon as that group gets going, it may be a month or six months, the couple goes back to the original group. We spur new groups by taking a couple out of their group, not permanently, but just to get a new group started. Sometimes they take another couple into their original group when others move away.

How long do these groups continue?

There is no end to them. The share groups go on and on with the same people.

Unless they move or drop out?

Right. Or if the group feels that there is need for more people, that they are becoming too close and there's nothing really that much new to share, they will expand by starting a new group. Last year there were two groups. This year they expanded to five. If a group is too large, they may take a couple out to start a new group. It's up to the group. As they spiritually mature, they are able to sense God's leading.

So you feel that these three levels of groups are the uniqueness of the ministry or program of your church?

I would say that it has developed to be so now. It wasn't in the

beginning, and it wasn't my design. Again, it was the leadership of the lay people who developed this. I didn't come along and say, "Now listen, let me tell you how I perceive it to be." They developed it.

One of the things that has been so valuable to me, and I think to the church, is that in the five years that we've worked together, we have had excellent lay leadership. The church board is probably one of the finest boards of leadership that you could find in any church. Supportive,



And so what I feel strongly about, and am excited about, is that it is possible for church extension works to reproduce ourselves just as fast and much more easily than established churches can.

young, aggressive men in the 20-to 50-year range. They are men who are coming up by their own bootstraps in their own businesses and professions. They are willing to take risks and exercise their faith.

People are supportive because they have confidence in the board, the lay leadership. They sense God's direction. There has been no contention.

We went through a building program smoothly. I said to them, "If you want to build a building, you build a building. I was hired to build a congregation." And they said, "Fine."

I probably attended three building committee meetings during all the building program. The lay people did a fantastic job. They organized it, and did \$100,000 of a \$500,000 project with volunteer labor. We've gone through some deep waters together in terms of the financial crunch with high financing hitting

us when we built our building. But the people in the church came through the building program beautifully. That's why we sat down and developed the five-year plan.

Tell us about the five-year plan.

We said, "Now that we're through the building program, are we going to sit around, relax, and say, 'This is very heavenly, very wonderful; we've arrived.'" The board said, "No, we don't want to do that; we want at all costs to avoid that."

So we spent a weekend in planning. The board, plus myself as pastor, worked out a five-year plan.

One man said, "Let's work out the budgets for the next five years." And he said, "We're not only going to do it for our church, but for the churches we plan to start." So that's exactly what we did.

How old was Park Meadows Baptist when the five-year plan was developed?

That's the exciting thing; we were only four years old. Even more exciting is that the board said, "Let's plan to start two new church extension projects in the next five years." Some of us thought that maybe we had been way off in left field in our dreaming.

What was the plan?

Our plan was that in 1982 we would hire another staff person. In 1983 we would start our first church, with that staff person as its pastor and replace him as associate pastor in the mother church. In 1984 we would build a Christian education wing for Park Meadows. In 1985 we would start our second daughter church. And that's our plan. We worked out the budget for both congregations.

How did the church react to this plan?

They ratified it. The only criticism that we got from anybody in the church was that we were too conservative. That excited us, and the congregation became excited as well.

(Continued on next page)

What has happened, subsequently, is that now we are exactly three years ahead of schedule.

What do you mean?

The last Sunday of August 1981 we started our first church extension project as a mother church. It wasn't supposed to be until 1983. At the same time, our first man came on staff in 1981 instead of 1982.

Instead of hiring one man at a time to start the churches in succession, we hired both men, Dennis Liesch and Jim Erb because we couldn't wait.

It's like the church extension projects have come full-term; now they are ready. I think some people wonder if we are having a premature baby, but we really feel that the baby is now come full-term. It has really been the impetus of our church that this has taken off.

How did the first church extension project begin? What is its name?

In January 1981, the chairman of the Southern Alberta Church Extension Council at the time, Mick McLeod, and I began leading a Bible study every Thursday night in the Taber area. There were all ranges of people in the Bible study group from established Christians to brand new Christians to the non-Christian. We were super excited about what God was doing in their lives and the potential.

So Dennis Liesch was hired beginning June 1, 1981. He canvassed the area and got commitments from people there. Three families from Park Meadows Baptist Church plus Dennis as pastor started the project. The families had been commuting 40 miles in and 40 miles out every Sunday to Park Meadows Baptist.

Services were started in Taber the last Sunday in August 1981. In December they opened charter membership. It's exciting to see what God is doing at Community Baptist Church in Taber. That's our first daughter church.

You said that you hired two men at the same time, Dennis Liesch and Jim Erb?

Yes. Jim arrived in July 1981 as my associate in evangelism. Now Jim and a group of people from our

congregation are starting the second daughter church in West Lethbridge.

How do the people decide if they stay at Park Meadows or become the nucleus of a new church?

All three of us, as pastors, have a strong preaching ministry and are very aggressive in outreach and evangelism so people don't choose between pastors. Basically, it is a choice as to the people's vision.

Some think the church is getting too big and would like something smaller. We don't want to lose that momentum. These people are very anxious to start the new church.

Twenty-two families are interested. Sixteen of the families live in West Lethbridge and six in Coalhurst, next to West Lethbridge. A number of these families have indicated interest in joining this new work. It's not a matter of having to convince them as to which church they will belong. As the Lord directs, they will follow his leading.

Is this an extension of your church, or are you planting a new church on the west side of Lethbridge?

We're going to plant a new church on the west side by taking families from our church to start it.

How is this being done?

In April an organizational meeting was held with the people from Park Meadows who will be leaving to go to start the new work with Jim Erb as pastor. Jim will be contacting and

visiting our people. Beginning July 1, he will survey and canvass the area.

How is the second project being funded?

As we start the second congregation, the N.A.B. Conference will pay most of Jim's salary, so that rather than feeling that the only connection the members have is with the mother church, they will feel part of a larger family. This ties them in with both the mother church and the North American Baptist Conference.

I understand you are hiring another person to take Jim's place at Park Meadows?

Yes, Barry Siefert, a 1982 N.A.B. Seminary graduate. He comes July 1 to work with me as associate pastor of evangelism and youth.

There are a lot of possibilities. If we are willing to be creative and let the Spirit of God lead, we will have the best that we can have. But if we let the momentum slow down, and the feeling of comfort and tradition begin to settle in, then we're sunk. We're stifled; we will not be able to move on.

So that's your challenge to other pastors and congregations?

I think so. I understand that there are a number of pastors who are fighting that because it has already set in. We are trying to pioneer a new concept to show that it's possi-



James Erb (l) and Dennis Liesch (r) discuss the two new church extension churches they are pastoring: Erb in West Lethbridge, AB, and Liesch of Community Baptist, Taber, AB. Park Meadows Baptist is the parent church of both projects.

ble for church extension churches like Park Meadows to reproduce themselves just about as fast, and maybe even more easily, than an established congregation can because the church extension churches are more flexible. It is exciting to me. I think that vision has to be caught by church extension churches.

What do you mean?

In the past, we've gone into church extension work feeling that if we get the one congregation established, we will be happy. That's what I said to Otto, the only man I had at the beginning.

I said, "Otto, if we have a congregation of 100-150 in five years, I will be excited."

He said, "You're thinking way too small."

And I said, "I hope so, but we'll wait and see."

And now he rubs it in! At the same time we are starting two church extension projects, the mother church is growing.

If we don't start new churches, we, as a mother church, won't grow. We are sitting in a very strategic area with two sections of residential land just beginning to develop, and Park Meadows Baptist is full. We've got to do something, or else we will miss the opportunity. We'll sit here full and watch the people go by in droves, wondering why we aren't reaching them.

We have realized that there are people out there who need Christ. If we promote Christ in the community, people will respond, and their needs will be met. And that's what has been happening!

So you challenge other churches to take risks, as you say?

Yes, I think that if there has been one characteristic of our congregation and its personality that has been unique in our community, it has been the willingness to do the impossible, risk the impossible, and watch God perform a miracle before our eyes and have it come to pass.

Many people, when we were building our building, stopped in and talked to our lay people who were involved and said, "How can you people build a building of this size with divorcees and widows?",

which is what we were known to have. We have a ministry which is very inclusive of all kinds of people. Not just certain social classes. We have included them all; many of them had been rejected by other churches.

We said, "Come and experience Christ and let these other issues fall by the wayside." And so we started a half million dollar building campaign with 45 members. Others thought we were crazy. Now we look like the wise man from the East. The only thing we didn't have was the gold! But the Lord did, and we didn't have to worry about that. We've been concerned about it, but God has provided, just fantastically.

The people are giving and sharing; they are excited. There is a sense of warmth, enthusiasm and

seriousness as well as a tremendous number of younger people. Out of 350 people, there are probably 20 to 25 people over 55. We have young and middle-aged families, young people and children. That's made it exciting. That is part of the dynamics of church extension.

It would be nice if I could sit down and say, "Barbara, this is what has made our church grow and put my finger on it." But it has been a number of factors together. *I still think that it is being God's people in God's place in God's time.* And that together has been the one thing that would sum it all up.

I think that we have to be sensitive to recognizing God's willing to be in a lot more places, and his timing is now if we are willing to be his people. Many times we are not.

Taber Church Opens Charter Membership: Six Are Baptized

Eleven people became the first members of the Community Baptist Church of Taber on Dec. 6, 1981. Christ's body is to be noted for its variety, and his power is visible to all as the Spirit knits it together to bring glory to himself. Our group consists of one dynamic couple who have been Christians longer than most of the rest have been alive. Their zeal for the Lord has contributed to one of the other couples finding faith in Christ a little over a year ago and also joining in membership. Two weeks before this picture was taken, one man



renewed his commitment to Christ.

Bruce Merrifield, pastor of the mother church, Park Meadows Baptist in Lethbridge, gave a challenge to be pure in life and serve the Lord. He was accompanied by Mick and Jackie McLeod who contributed greatly to the starting of Community Baptist, whose pastor is Dennis Liesch.

On Easter Sunday six persons were baptized. All of a sudden, average attendance jumped from 22 to 40 on a Sunday morning in the last month and a half. It is exciting to see a number of new families from the community coming to the services. The project is looking for land to buy for a church building. □

To a Committed People— God's Answer Comes

Some of the process and joy experienced by Eagle Rock Baptist Church, Idaho Falls, ID, in the building of a facility for God's use and glory through Church Extension Investors Fund is told here.

by Robert G. Lennick

The Church Extension Investors Fund was God's answer for us. The usual doors into banks were closed. But, God has infinite resources. He laid it on the hearts of generous and faithful people within the Oregon-Idaho Association to invest with the C.E.I.F. for a double dividend.

The Church Extension Investors Fund is an investment plan, which uses investment money from individuals, North American Baptist churches, and organizations as a pool for low-interest loans for churches in the United States and Canada.

... It was a somewhat personal communication between an infant and its parents. . . .

Today Eagle Rock Baptist Church has an attractive functional facility in which to worship and pray. It

The Rev. Robert G. Lennick is pastor of Eagle Rock Baptist Church, Idaho Falls, ID.

gives us a base from which to reach out to our community. It shows that we are committed to this community and to a ministry here.

Some of the progress, as it happened, is shared here to show how God answered our prayers and built this house. It was a somewhat personal communication between an infant and her parents. In January 1981, we communicated for the first time.

Eagle Rock Baptist Church—a building? No! A people committed to bringing the light of the gospel into hearts and homes.—Lennick

Eagle Rock Baptist was born a little more than three years ago in Idaho Falls, Idaho. A building? No! A people committed to bringing the light of the gospel into hearts and homes.

Lynda is an example. She was unchurched but aware that she had spiritual needs. When a visit was made to her home, she was hungry for the things of God. She has since received Christ and become active in the church.

The ultimate objective is to have a body of ministering believers. For that to happen, we need property and a building. (We have the caring people.)

Through your generous giving, we have paid for 4.6 acres of prime real estate. PAID FOR!

The next step is the first unit of our building program. You can

help us reach that milestone. Really more than a milestone; the Lord willing, it will be the stabilization of the work in Idaho Falls. You can help us put up that first unit by saving through the Church Extension Investors Fund.

The people of God immediately responded to our need. In March we were able to write this excerpt from "Reasons for Bragging."

... We have been given good reason to brag on you. . . .

The Psalmist says, "I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips," (34:1). We have every reason to "brag" on God. He is always blessing us more than we expected, blessing with a richness beyond that which we had the faith to ask or to think. We have every reason to brag on God.

And the response of you good people in our sister churches: First, you amazed us by helping far more than we expected in the purchase of the land. Now again, when we have appealed to you to invest savings in the Church Extension Investors Fund, the response has been fantastic. \$119,000 of the needed \$160,000 has been deposited. Only \$41,000 to go. We have full confidence that you will continue to pray and to invest as you can. I am sincerely amazed at the way that you all are responding. We have been given good reason to "brag on you," too!

To our utter amazement, things did not even pause. In May we

shared the following with our fathers, our mothers, our brothers, and our sisters.

Good news! This morning Karen Dickau, the administrator of the Church Extension Investors Fund, called to say that we have now a bit more than \$160,000 on deposit for Eagle Rock Baptist. She also said that our loan had

Last Sunday, May 3, four persons were baptized in testimony to their faith. Bill, Diana, Melanie, and Lynda. Three of these came to trust Christ as a result of the calling program.

And then in November of 1981,

The building project here in Idaho Falls is coming to a close. The building is now about 80%



been approved and that we can go ahead with the building of our first unit.

We are very excited and pleased.

You are largely responsible for making these things happen; persons like Anthony Salazar, Bernie Fritzke, the members of the Extension Commission, our mother church, those who invested, those who've prayed and given words of encouragement—many anonymous but known of the Lord.

"The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more . . . 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

And on the reverse side of the report, we wrote under "News and Information,"

complete. We've started painting and staining the walls, doors, and trim. After that it's just waiting for the rug to be laid, fixtures placed, and pews installed. We should be done by Christmas.

Praise the Lord!

When the Israelites had finished rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, "the Levites (the spiritual leaders) were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of symbols, harps, and lyres," (Neh. 12:27).

With this message of gratitude and joy also comes an invitation for you, our spiritual leaders, to come to Idaho Falls on January 3, 1982, to help us dedicate this building to the glory of God. We would very much like you to be with us during this time.

What more needs to be said? God is good and faithful, and his people reflect him in their faces, their actions, and their commitments. Several new families have started to come to church consistently now. The excitement and thrill of being in our own building is still being experienced. We are grateful and blessed. We used the means available, the Church Extension Investors Fund, to build a house to the glory of God. □

A COMMENDATION

The Oregon-Idaho Association is to be commended for the way in which many persons pitched in to tell the story of Eagle Rock Baptist Church and to help raise Church Extension Investors Funds for this church. The pastor and congregation of Eagle Rock Baptist were not solely responsible for raising these funds, but had the real support of the Association.

FOR INFORMATION ON INVESTING IN CHURCH EXTENSION INVESTORS FUND, WRITE:

Church Extension Investors Fund
Att: Mr. Alvin Haas
North American Baptist
Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

A Vacuum Cleaner Salesman's Commitment

by Elaine Strobel

When the salesman left their house, Dorothy Herrmann excitedly ran to the backyard where her husband was working. "There was a vacuum cleaner salesman here just a few minutes ago, and he's coming back in an hour. You've got to hear this guy! He's something else!"

"But honey, we don't need a vacuum cleaner," Pastor Rubin Herrmann remarked.

The salesman, Jeff DiGangi, returned promptly, but the conversation centered around Jesus Christ, not vacuum cleaners. He promised to be at the service on Sunday and to share his testimony with the others.

Sunday came, Jeff came . . . but no one else came! Pastor Herrmann conducted the service; they drank coffee after the service and shared in the things of the Lord. Upon leaving, Jeff said, "You're a little discouraged this morning, aren't you, pastor?"

"Yes," Pastor Herrmann admitted, "but I didn't think I let it show that much!"

"I want to assure you I'm with you and your church," Jeff said. This is a commitment he has taken seriously; he has not been absent more than twice in two years.

Jeff DiGangi grew up with a great deal of religious training. He attended a parochial school and claims, "I learned to read from the King James Bible—two chapters of the Old Testament and two chapters of the New Testament each day. I attended my mother's weekly Good News Club and received Christ as Savior at the age of seven."

At the age of 13, although grounded in the Word, Jeff failed to grasp the fact of God's unlimited

Mrs. Elaine Strobel is a member of College Boulevard Baptist Church, Overland Park, KS, and a freelance writer. The Rev. Rubin Herrmann is her pastor.

forgiveness. He felt being a Christian was more "don'ts" than "dos," and so he chose to forget God. During his teen-age years, he began to be a grief to his parents. "In a good Italian family," he says, "You do it my way, or take the highway!" At the age of 17, I took the highway and joined the Merchant Marines. I proceeded to be worldly. I didn't deny God; I just didn't want to deal with him."

After traveling around the world several times, Jeff ended up in Oregon. He landed a job working for the Mayor of Portland. At the age of 23, he had everything the world could offer, and "some things the world couldn't offer—legally, that is!"

During those years, his parents didn't know, and didn't care to know, what was going on. They knew he was away from the Lord and continually prayed for him. The reports they did receive—car wrecks, drunkenness, his best friend dying of an overdose of heroine—were not very encouraging.

Jeff's mother continued praying, "Father, I know you're working in Jeff's life; even though there are no signs." Her prayer of faith was rewarded, and at the age of 29, finding life empty and meaningless, Jeff sat in his apartment looking down the barrel of a nine mm automatic weapon, "ready to blow my brains out!"

"I had not talked to my parents in a long while," Jeff relates. "I decided to call my dad and talk to him one last time. I told him, 'Dad, I'm not going to make it.'" He replied, "You just come right home, Jeff."

That was the turning point in Jeff's life. He returned to Kansas City to the loving and open arms of his parents. "They didn't preach to me, just loved me. But what I didn't know was that my mom had a force of 40 Christian women praying for me! The devil didn't have a chance anymore!"

"When Sunday came, I went to church with my parents. As I watched them take communion, I wished I could take communion with them. But I was racked with



Jeff DiGangi

guilt, and the devil was right there, too: 'No way, boy, you blew it!'

"I had a hunger for Jesus and started reading my Bible. When I came to John 6:37, 'All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out,' my life turned around. I could see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Jeff shares that, after returning to the Lord and experiencing God's unending forgiveness, he felt unshackled. "And," he states, "the Lord proceeded to work with me."

That God is working in Jeff's life is indeed evident. He is now working for a national business machine manufacturing company, and the Lord is blessing him there. He is an encouragement to others at College Boulevard Baptist Church. As Sunday School superintendent, Jeff tells those who lack experience and confidence, "We'll work with you!"

"Now I know where Jeff gets that phrase," Pastor Herrmann says. "Realizing that God worked with him, he is willing to work with others." □

A New Chauffeur and a New Road Map

by Margaret Herasemluk

My life didn't begin until I met Jesus Christ, but I didn't find him right away. I had to do it my way first. *And I did!* I was always looking for someone to love me. I had a family who cared for me very much, but it didn't fill the vacant spot inside me. So I went out looking for love. It's a big world out there, so I needed a car. I'm fussy, so I didn't choose any car. I chose a semi-truck, the biggest, meanest, thing on the road. I found out you had to have a special license to drive one. I didn't know how to obtain this license, so I hired a chauffeur and his name was—Satan.

Well, we started out on our journey going down every bumpy road there was. There wasn't one pothole nor loose gravel we missed; we hit it all. The speed of this truck was fantastic; we passed everything on the highway with ease. We even squished a few Volkswagons on the way. That was a lot of fun. One day Satan took me up a mountain and across the ocean. Wow, was I happy! I was really going places, doing it my way, but I started to realize that my semi was falling apart—the stacks were half off, no lights, two flat tires, and no brakes. We just couldn't stop! And we even lost our road map.

That's how my life was: Constantly yelling at my children, frantically complaining to my dad and mom, and forever fighting with

Margaret Herasemluk was one of five baptized at Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, Nov. 22, 1981.

my husband. I even went as far as filing for divorce papers. I came out of my lawyer's office and got back in my semi. Only this time I had a new chauffeur—*Jesus Christ*. His truck is the most **POWERFUL** thing on the road, and it's all smooth highway, no stop signs nor red lights. He has only taken me a little ways down the road so far, at a nice even speed, but I have seen such great things, such as two of the most beautiful children I have ever seen, a wonderful husband I never knew I had, and a very loving and caring dad and mom. I am truly blessed by this, by the way the divorce papers went back, and Jesus handed me his road map . . . *the Bible!* I am now driving his way, not my way, and I have my very own special license. He's called *The Holy Spirit*.

At times I look back to see where I came from, and see the cold nights I slept in the sleeper of Satan's truck, with my sins as my pillow, and my problems and worries as my blanket. In Jesus' truck I sleep in peaceful surroundings! My pillow is not of sin, but of faith; my blanket not of problems and worries, but a warm *Comforter*.

Sometimes my truck needs some overhauling done, so I pull into

Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB. I get the best service in town, with Bruce Merrifield as service manager, and Jim Erb as foreman and mechanic.



Margaret Herasemluk

They both help in repairing any damage that has been done.

I have finally found someone to love me, and I have never been so loved in all of my life. God's love never stops. So I decided to be baptized to show my love to Jesus. He promises me *Eternal Life*.

Do keep on trucking with the right chauffeur, and you will be on the *Highway of Love to Heaven!*

A Place to Dump Guilt

by Elaine Strobel

After living in Kansas City only a few months, Ruth Anne Hendricks found herself with a "Corporate Wife Syndrome." The insecurity of moving twice in less than two years took its toll and resulted in physical aches and pains. She sought the advice of a doctor, who said she was depressed and gave her a prescription for tranquilizers.

Ruth Anne states, "I told the doctor I wouldn't live my life on pills. My father was a doctor, and I knew to what that could lead." He then recommended she seek the help of a psychologist.

His diagnosis was much the same: "No stable base, future shock, burdened with guilt." His advice: "You need to find some place to dump your guilt!"

"Great!" she thought, "Sounds like a good idea. But where? Trash

can . . . garbage disposal . . . ? What do you do with guilt you've carried around for 34 years?"

Ruth Anne grew up in a church she describes as a cathedral with massive, dark, stained-glass windows, where you didn't know the people in the pew ahead of you nor the pew behind you. She explains, "It was a religion of the past, and of what will be, but no application to present life." And it had given her no solution to the problem of where to dump her guilt.

Two days after her appointment with the psychologist, Pastor Rubin Herrmann and his wife came to her home. Sitting in the living room, she was astonished to hear him ask, "Would you like to find a place to dump your guilt?"

"I don't believe it," she thought, "he's got an answer!"

After hearing the gospel explained, Ruth Anne prayed asking Christ into her heart. She declares, "God took my burden from me, and it was such a release! Since then, I've had this great feeling of joy! It's been a revelation to me that you can live with Jesus!"

Soon afterward, Ruth Anne's 15-year-old son, Bruce, also received Christ as Savior. They were both baptized last summer and became members of College Boulevard



Ruth Ann Hendricks

Baptist Church, Overland Park, KS.

At this writing, Ruth Anne's husband, Bill, has been transferred, and the Hendricks family has moved again! But Ruth Anne assuredly states, "It doesn't matter any more, because I now have a stable base in the Lord Jesus Christ!" □

Mrs. Elaine Strobel is a member of College Boulevard Baptist Church, Overland Park, KS, and a freelance writer. The Rev. Rubin Herrmann is her pastor.

We Found Something Different

We don't feel like we are meeting only with a group of people in a school room out in Elk Grove Village, IL, somewhere. We feel that we are meeting with a whole group, the North American Baptist Conference. We have that feeling because we have been welcomed in a lot of different churches. We have seen the people of the North American Baptist Conference pull together and do something for Tri-Community Baptist Church in Elk Grove Village. We really appreciate that.

There may be another couple, just

like my wife and I, walking into your church at any time. What are you giving to them? You are not just there on Sunday. You are not just preaching or listening or whatever you might be doing. Something is actually happening in the lives of people coming into your church. And it is because of the North American Baptist Conference, the people of the North American Baptist church.

There is something that is offered that is different. We have Bible study and Christian education that we have never had before. We are really appreciative. Because of this, we feel ourselves growing in our relationship with the Lord, and we appreciate that.



Carl Humphrey

Mr. Carl Humphrey is a member of Tri-Community Baptist Church, a church extension church in Elk Grove Village, IL.

Church Extension Project

Communicating the Gospel in Whitecourt, Alberta

by Edwin Broadway

What do you do when you move to a town not knowing anyone, and your purpose is to start a church? There is not a group anxiously awaiting the arrival of the pastor. No one has promised to attend. Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18) and "I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:10); though they have not yet committed their lives to him.

Our first contact was with a lady who knew something of our North American Baptist ministry. She and her husband willingly opened their home and invited friends and neighbors. This was a beginning—our first Bible study.

Our next vital contact was most interesting. Erica was a girl in one of our previous pastorates. She was now married and working in a local bank.

As I approached the teller wicket, I said, "Erica, how nice to see you again." Her response, "What are you doing in Whitecourt?" I informed her of our intent to start a Baptist church here.

She said, "Wayne and I have been wanting to get involved in church." This resulted in our second week-night Bible study.

We then resorted to the local paper to make known the

beginning of a Baptist church. We invited response. A couple who had recently moved here from Ontario called stating they had wondered why God had provided such a large house for them and suggested that it may be for a place to study the Scriptures. I assured them this was definitely the purpose. Our third week-night study was in progress.

Our next concern was for a place to gather for Sunday services. All we could find, at the time, was rental of the United Church for evening services. Now our supporting churches could send teams to help us, which they did.

To give credence to the permanency of a Baptist church, our leaders were seeking to acquire property. We were busy seeking others whom God has chosen. There were new people attending the studies from time to time.

Some were allowing the Holy Spirit to minister in their lives. The Sword of the Spirit began to pierce strategic points. Faith comes by hearing the Word, and two young ladies received Christ as Savior. Seed for a local Baptist church had sprung up. A number of others are near the kingdom.

No soldier goes to war at his own expense. In Rom. 10:15 the question comes forcefully: How shall they preach except they be sent? God's ordained way is to have the church send the workers. Will you as a local church not be the sending unit through the vehicle of Church Extension which is one of the vital lines of communicating the Gospel through our N.A.B. Conference?

The Rev. Edwin Broadway is pastor of the church extension work in Whitecourt, AB.

Estate Planning Workshop Emphasizes 1981 Results and 1982 Ministry Goals

by James D. Frey

The Past

In 1981 the Estate Planning Department was encouraged by the number of people who were substantially helped through this ministry. It is not uncommon for one of our Estate Planning Counselors to experience a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment by knowing that he has, in a large

Mr. James D. Frey is associate director of estate planning, North American Baptist Conference.

way, been of invaluable assistance to someone.

Perhaps it was the mature couple who, through a trust agreement, were able to set up their estate in a way that would greatly reduce estate taxes and probate expenses. Or maybe it was the young family who, at first, thought they were too young to have a will, but after learning from one of our counselors about how the courts could appoint a total stranger to act as a guardian of their children, promptly made a will to care for the matter.

In a number of cases, it was the farmer or businessman who, being

busy with the concerns of his business, did not fully realize the actual value of his farm or business nor how much of it might be consumed to satisfy state and federal estate and inheritance taxes. Through proper planning this farmer or businessman could determine the distribution of his assets and assure the continuity of his business in a way that would be beneficial to him and his entire family.

The list of situations where our counselors have helped meet a need is endless. Each one is unique in its own special way, because no two are truly alike. People's hopes, dreams and expectations vary, not to mention the size differential of estates, likewise estate planning varies from person to person.

The Present

In January, we conducted our annual Estate Planning Workshop to review our 1981 results and to plan our 1982 activity. Mr. Stanley Bjornson, director of stewardship, Christian and Missionary Alliance, was workshop speaker, sharing his experience and insights in the area of Christian estate planning.

A portion of the workshop was spent reviewing the new tax laws (Economic Recovery Tax Act in the U.S.A.; the November 12 Budget in Canada) and how they may affect the members of our Conference. This is an important aspect of our ministry.

In the Bible, we are instructed by Jesus to "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's" (Matt. 22:17), and Paul, in his letter to the Romans, writes, "For this cause (meaning the support of government) pay ye tribute also" (13:6). Still, in another verse, our Lord warns us, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

So you can see, it's not an easy task to do all of these things in light of the many complicated laws concerning income, gift and estate taxes. If one were to summarize these three verses it would be safe to say, "Yes, pay your just taxes and tribute, BUT do not pay any more than what is required by the law."

Unfortunately, there are many (between 60 and 75%) of our North American Baptist brothers and sisters who, due to an absence of planning, continue to pay more than what is necessary. When one considers the tremendous amount of tax monies that are unnecessarily paid by people in our fellowship, and think of how the Lord could use that to increase our mission program or double the number of new churches built in a year, it must certainly urge one to say, "Where do I begin, I need help." That is just a part of the estate planning ministry.



Larry Bienert

As a result of our workshop, it was agreed to make some changes in the current deployment of our field personnel. Larry Bienert, who has been the Estate Planning Counselor for Oregon-Idaho, the Pacific Northwest, and British Columbia, will expand his ministry into Alberta. Since Larry has extensive training through the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, he is well equipped to be of great assistance to our Canadian brethren.



Deforest Bullock

In that Larry will be spending considerable time in Alberta and British Columbia, Deforest Bullock of Tacoma, WA, has volunteered to assist Rev. Bienert in the Pacific Northwest. "Forry" is a certified public accountant with a national accounting firm. He feels led by the Lord to help in this ministry by sharing his 31 years of financial and estate planning experience. Our ministry is quite fortunate to have a man of his background, commitment, and Christian testimony.



Wil Dachtler

Another new development in our ministry concerns Wil Dachtler, formerly of Abilene, KS. For the past four and one half years, Wil has served as a part-time Estate Planning Counselor and as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene. As of May 1, he is serving as a full-time counselor and is residing in Hope, KS. Wil's ministry is in North and South Dakota, Iowa, and the Southwestern Association.

The Future

With each passing day, we see increasing evidence of biblical prophecy coming true. For a person not grounded in the truth (the Bible), living in days to come will be a frightening experience. However, for those knowing and following God's Word, there can be only joy in the expectation of the inevitable return of Christ. The impact of the financial and economical policies of the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world will exert, perhaps, the greatest pressure on our Christian values.

Too many Christians are not in complete harmony concerning God's direction on financial and estate planning matters. This statement is supported by these facts: Well over 50% of Christians do not have a will; an alarming number of Christian marriages are eroding because of ruptured finances, excessive debt, and a "keep up with the Jones" mentality, and untold amounts of money earned by hard-working Christians are being used to pay unnecessary taxes when they could be used to further the truth of the Gospel.

The estate planning ministry will not change the course of human events nor will this ministry have a meaningful impact on the economics of our societies. However, we do hope to be used by God in sharing biblical truths about financial and estate planning coupled with an understanding of the various laws of the country, state or province in which you live.

We hope to enlighten, help and encourage North American Baptists to better understand the economic implications of God's plan. We will be totally accountable to God and to the members of our Conference as to the allocation of our time and talents.

Our ministry stands ready to help you. If the Holy Spirit is moving you to do something regarding a financial or estate planning matter, then perhaps we can assist you in this need. □

ESTATE PLANNING COUNSELORS AVAILABLE TO SERVE YOU

- Frey, Mr. James D., 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181—(312) 495-2000
- Bienert, Rev. Lawrence, 2360 NW 154th Pl., Beaverton, OR 97006—(503) 645-5316
- Bullock, Mr. DeForest, 7615-50th Ave. E., Tacoma, WA 98443—(206) 537-4734
- Dachtler, Rev. Wil, Rt. 2, Box 57, Hope, KS 67451
- *Gunst, Dr. J. C., Capital Manor, P.O. Box 5000, Salem, OR 97304
- Lattin, Mr. Herb, 1432 W. Tokay, Lodi, CA 95240—(209) 368-5017
- *Stabbert, Mr. Herbert, 518 Pine Way, Anaheim, CA 92805—(714) 535-5055
- *Weisser, Rev. Alfred, 4517 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106—(605) 334-9895
- Zimmerman, Dr. G. K., 40 S. Main 5-F, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137—(312) 469-4711
- *(Retired, but available for limited special service.)



Estate Planning Workshop Jan 20-22, 1982 International office (l-r) Rev. Wil Dachtler, Dr. Gideon Zimmerman, Rev. Alfred Weisser, Jim Frey, Deforest Bullock, Rev. Laurence Bienert, and Herbert Lattin.

WOMAN'S WORLD

Step by Step

by Marie Hoepner,
Ames, IA

God has put me in many places over the years, and each place has contributed to the growth necessary for me to bloom and bear fruit in the next place. My nurturing years provided the personal characteristics necessary for our years of missionary service first in Cameroon and then in Nigeria.

We were committed to our ministry in Mambilla when on Aug. 26, 1980, my husband, Ed, had a motorcycle accident that altered the course of our lives abruptly and completely. The question of why God allowed this to happen never loomed too big for us, because God had led us along our spiritual walk through the years, teaching us of his sovereignty. God provided very definitely for our needs beginning on that isolated Nigerian road through the next 14 months until we heard the words, "You are healed and doing fine."



Pierre and Joann Sakwe with their children Chantel and Nobel

My questioning began when I started to realize God was showing me that some of the reasons I saw for him bringing us home at that time would also prevent us from going back to our work in Nigeria . . . going back to the place in which I felt he had prepared me to work . . . going back to a people and land I had learned to love and call home . . . going back to that place where part of my identity remains.

Gradually, God began to show me that things he had taught me in Africa could be of value in our own North American society. It started with the

Up The Stairway

by Lois Conrad,
Glen Ellyn, IL,
Conference White Cross
chairman

It was an honor to be asked to be the White Cross chairman for the Women's Missionary Fellowship. I did not fully realize all that the job entailed when I said yes, but now I do, and I know it is something I will always be glad I did.

First of all, there was the pleasure of the first executive board meetings. There were nine people at that meeting, and I only knew one of them, so I was a little nervous. The meeting was beautiful. Each lady attending was special, and I thought to myself, "Where else could you meet such wonderful women?"

The first White Cross quota that I prepared and sent out was scary! My husband and son helped me divide everything up equally, I hope, and it was finally turned in to the office to be distributed. I was really worried. I was so sure I would get calls from people saying, "We can't do all this work," or "Our

discovery of a mission right here in Ames, Iowa, to international students at the University. Next, we became acquainted with several Cameroonian students. Joann came from Cameroon last summer to be here with her husband. What fun it was to introduce her to the modern conveniences of America and watch her quick adaptation, much quicker than my own was in her country. My heart ached when a mutual Nigerian friend told me that the Mormons were regularly calling on Joann, and she was listening to their teaching. The spiritual battle that ensued involved my

quota is too large." Imagine my pleasure to receive one letter saying, "I truly love to work with White Cross projects, and I could sew up our quota all by myself if I dared." And in another letter, "As you can see, we completed our quota and even exceeded it! Something for which to praise the Lord!"

In Romans 12:4 and 5 (LB), we read, "Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes everyone of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others."

I guess this is what White Cross is all about. When we each do our own little thing, something big and wonderful happens for the Lord. And there is such joy! One little unexpected joy I received was getting to know the people at the Conference office. I often drop my envelopes in the mailroom before I go to work, and I found it's fun to chat for a minute or two with others who have arrived to work a little early. Sometimes LaVerna Mehlhaff and I even manage a quick cup of coffee in the lunchroom.

I hope each one of you will be able to have such a nice experience when you are asked to do "just a little job" for the Lord.

willingness to get involved in Bible study with Joann, then watching God's Spirit work through his Word to reaffirm the truth to Joann.

Ebun arrived in Ames the day before Christmas. She came from Nigeria with her two children to begin studies on her Ph.D. at the University. She found all the University offices closed for the holidays and only temporary rooms made available to her. We were able to help her shop for warm clothes for the months ahead and find her a room with a Christian Nigerian family until she could be assigned permanent housing. A positive relationship for Christ had been established a few days after her arrival here.



Ebun Adegbuyi and her children Shade and Mayokun

Knowing the country and culture from which these Africans have come allows us a close friendship that would not develop so quickly otherwise. On reflection, we see the Master's plan for our lives. As it unfolds, the value of the hard bumps is revealed to be the variety that adds beauty for each of us.

Missionary Children

by LaVerna
Mehlhaff,
Women's work
director



In your Dates and Projects Calendar, you will note that the offering received during the month of May will go toward the education of the missionary children in Cameroon and Nigeria. Jos, Nigeria, seems like a faraway place for most of us, but it is home for these missionary children during the school year. Hillcrest School, a school especially for missionary children, is located in Jos. We own a hostel on the campus, and we supply houseparents for the hostel. They are Dale and Sharon Wilcke. They write: "This year our mission family is very unusual, because we have so few missionary children in Cameroon and Nigeria. The oldest, Ted Palmer, is only ten years old. We have three children of our own here at Woyke House.

The change from former years does give us a unique opportunity for ministry. We have non-mission children this year from eight different parts of the world including the Philippines, India, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, England, Nigeria, and the United States. We have an unusual ministry in that we can live out our testimony of God's love for them in a family atmosphere 24 hours a day. We feel that God has placed us in a situation for which he has also given us the gifts and abilities to do the work. In January, Dale led a week-long Spiritual Emphasis at Hillcrest School for the 160 high school students. The kids were enthusiastic in their response to challenges presented to be joy-filled Christians, to be of service to God, and to know that God made them just like *he* wanted."

Do remember the houseparents and children in prayer. We also need to remember the children's parents in prayer as they are separated from their children during this time.

As women, we are grateful to God for the privilege of having a vital part in the educational program of our missionary children.

A Great Year for Women

by Virginia Phelps,
Rochester, NY

This is the Diamond Jubilee year for our Women's Missionary Fellowship and what better place to celebrate than at our North American Baptist Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls, NY, August 10-15. It was 75 years ago, in this same area—Buffalo, NY—during a Triennial Conference, that 70 women's societies united to form the first Women's Missionary Union. This year 386 women's groups throughout the United States and Canada will celebrate together the anniversary of

that beginning.

A special Diamond Jubilee luncheon is being planned for Friday, August 13, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. In keeping with the anniversary theme, an original drama depicting the W.M.F.'s 75 years of service will be presented.

In addition, there will be an anniversary booklet available in which will be told the story of those early beginnings, stories of God's women in service today, and a look ahead to a bright future.

Plan now to enjoy the fellowship of other North American Baptist women, to meet your W.M.F. national executive committee, and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our W.M.F. It promises to be a special time for all women—a time of joy and thanksgiving.

What's Perk'n with New Day? by Connie Kaiser and John Kiemele

It's time to lift the lid and see what is brewing at a women's Bible coffee. We gather with a spoonful of women at a home. A lady from the church opens her home and pours out her hospitality. Through this, a bubbling action occurs, as different personalities from the community and church are blended together for a time of sharing.

"New Day" shares two types of Bible studies, complemented with interesting features.

One of the Bible studies focuses on Christian growth and is directed toward the Christian woman. The other is an outreach Bible study geared to present Christ to non-Christian women from the community.

One fellowship begins by asking the ladies to reflect upon the most special gift they have ever received. The ladies have shared precious things, such as receiving a chocolate bar from a soldier during the depression, the special feeling of receiving a miniature hope chest for Christmas, and even the prolonged life of a spouse.

The Christian growth study examines our purpose for life, combined with knowing God's will. The special features for this study are the floral decorative refrigerator magnet or the three dimensional paper tole picture.

The outreach Bible study teaches ladies that Jesus Christ is our greatest gift and about our need to accept him as personal Savior. The special features for this study are creative gift wrapping or crocheted wall hanging.

These are a few insights into what happens at a ladies' Bible coffee. It's time to put the lid back on the

Connie Kaiser and John Kiemele are members of and reporters for the 1981-82 "New Day" team.

coffee pot and come to a close after a great time of fellowship at a women's Bible coffee. □

Eager eyes await as Heidi, Washington, LeRoy, and Tracey get ready to pop up from behind the black curtain. Looks of anticipation quickly change to beaming grins and glowing faces as the children become involved in the experiences, stories, and personalities of this puppet foursome.

The puppets are but one method which "New Day" uses to involve children in their ministry. The Children's Rally is placed at the top of the list.

Saturday mornings are usually the times when church children, along with their friends, leave their warm beds or television cartoons and step



The discipling girls on the steps to maturity . . . Linda Bahr (left to right clockwise), Connie Kaiser, Becky Goltz, and Glenda Hohn

out to join "New Day" in an hour of fun-filled activities. For part of the hour, "New Day" performs a few tunes especially appealing to children. The puppets also talk with the children, telling them stories and singing for them. They help the rest of the team and the children with some group singing, accompanied by actions that really help the blood start pumping. (Team members feel an obvious age difference here when it comes to a series of deep-knee bends!) □

Memories are put to the test when "New Day" helps the children learn a Bible verse. The verse's words and reference are written on colored cards which team members hold up



Pouring out the hospitality . . . in Winnipeg . . . Glenda Hohn at right.

for the participants to see. After reading through the verse a few times, volunteers are called to take away parts of the sentence until the verse is recited from complete memory.

And what would a gathering of children be without someone telling them a Bible story? One of the team members pulls up a chair, "throws out a fishing line," and takes the children back in time to Jesus' day, telling them of feeding the 5,000.

The morning bears no main theme, as such; but everything involved directs the children's attention to how important it is to trust God, how much he cares for us, and the simplicity of understanding who he is and what his qualities are.

"New Day" also uses the avenues of public schools (mainly elementary schools), youth retreats and youth nights to meet children. It's through all these activities that the children are motivated to be drawn into a closer relationship with Christ.

Christ often used children and their qualities (trusting, openness, eagerness to learn) in reference to how Christians should act and react. "New Day" senses the potential in the children they meet along the way and sees what important part children can and do have in God's kingdom. □

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Urbigkeit (Erna) have been very active and faithful members of Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, during their 60 years of marriage. Their life has been centered on the Lord's work and in the Bethel church where they are much loved and admired. The Urbigeits were honored in the service on the Sunday preceding their anniversary, February 18. (Ann Niederer, reporter.)

Mr. and Mrs. David Walters were honored by McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, at a program on



the occasion of the Walters' 60th wedding anniversary, Feb. 17, 1982. Mrs. Walters also celebrates 30 years as a member of the Ladies' Aid. (Alice Parr, reporter.)

KELOWNA, BC. Trinity Baptist Church celebrated the last night of 1981 with a three-hour watchnight service. The first hour was led by the college and career group who sang and spoke of what the Lord meant to them in the past year. After a time of fellowship and the partaking of the Lord's Supper, four testimonies were heard from people who had extraordinary experiences in 1981: the Rev. Ed Thiessen who had a near fatal accident and has recovered, Cheryl Job who visited various churches on a trip to Australia, Twyla Loepky who was a princess to the "Lady of the Lake," and Reay Zoellner, a member of "New Day." As a church, we look forward to an exciting year with the Lord in 1982. (Magdalena Spletzer, reporter.)

RIDGEWOOD, NY. The annual candlelight service was presented by the Ridgewood Baptist Church choir on the evening of December 20.

In the sanctuary were the lovely gifts of nature: poinsettias, wreaths, pine boughs, all in the glow of our lighted fir tree and the soft radiance of candles.

This year the cantata: "A Celebration of Joy—Sing Christmas," was presented under the direction of Mrs. Edward

Bacon, pastor's wife. The pastor, the Rev. Edward Bacon, was narrator. He also spoke on "The True Light." The congregation sang carols. At the conclusion, refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by members and friends. (Marion von Ahnen, reporter.)

MEDICINE HAT, AB. Six persons were baptized at Temple Baptist Church on Dec. 31, 1981. These, along with ten more people, were received into the church membership by the Rev. P. Hunsicker, interim pastor at the time.

A reception was held to welcome the Rev. and Mrs. Loren Weber as our new pastor and wife on Jan. 10, 1982. The Grace Baptist Church shared in this joyous occasion.

Loren W. Kopf is serving as associate minister of Christian education. (G. Grose, reporter.)

DERBY, NY. This Church Extension project, Highland Baptist Church, of the Eastern Association saw construction begin on the new building. Good progress is being made, and the building is to be completed by mid April 1982.



"Special meetings led by the Rev. James Shriver of Folsomdale Baptist Church stirred up a spirit of revival and prepared our hearts as we launched into this project," states Rev. George Brite, pastor.

MINITONAS, MB. First Baptist Church rejoices that 11 people committed their lives to Christ and were baptized.

Recently the Discovery Club, an outreach to boys and girls, was organized, with more than 40 enrolled. Our prayer is that they may learn more of God's love and accept Christ into their lives in their youth.

It was a privilege and a blessed time of fellowship to have the Cameroon Choristers present a concert here. God's love is overwhelming! Regardless of race or great distances, we can all be brothers and sisters in Christ and united into the Family of God! (Elsie Fichtner, church clerk.)

LANSING, IA.

The Central Baptist Camp welcomes Arthur Pearce as its new director.



Rev. Pearce recently moved to the Lansing area from Chicago, IL, where he was minister of youth at Moody Memorial Church and director of Camp Moyoca, Moody Church's youth camp. Prior to that he was youth pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL.

Rev. Pearce and Curt Junker, assistant director, are excited about future developments at the camp. Central Baptist Camp is owned by the Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois Associations of North American Baptist churches. In addition to a full summer of youth and family camps, the camp is available for retreat groups during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

"We developed cross country skiing trails for this winter, as well as horse trails throughout the heavily wooded area of the 215 acre camp for the summer. We also hope to have a lake developed in the valley across from Erickson Creek by August 1982," says Pearce.

To obtain brochures on the camp ministry, write Central Baptist Camp, R.R. 1, Box A191A, Lansing, IA 52151, or call (319) 535-7320.

WINNIPEG, MB. The "New Day" team ministering at McDermot Ave. Baptist Church for two weeks was a great inspiration to the Church as well as the course of evangelism taught by Pastor Willi Kurtz to the adult Sunday school class. These helped the members to understand better their responsibilities in carrying out the Lord's command.

The King's Daughters Society started the advent season with their annual program under the leadership of President Sina Fiks.

The following Sunday, two young people testified to their faith by being baptized and joining the church.

The tiny Sunday school scholars presented a musicale, "Strangers in the Straw," with Miss Jan Streuber as director, Miss Doris Mueller at the piano, and three little people with their flutes. It was a joyous occasion.

The church bade farewell to the year with a service led by the young people, followed by a communion service. (Alice Parr, reporter.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Beginning the year together in prayer has been the custom for the three N.A.B. churches in the Philadelphia, PA, area. This year

our conference in action

again the Fleischmann Memorial, Pilgrim, and Neshaminy Valley Baptist Churches joined together on the first Wednesday evening of 1982 for prayer and fellowship. Pictured are the Rev. Paul Meister, pastor



at Pilgrim, (at left) and the Rev. Dennis Kee, pastor at Neshaminy Valley, as a check for \$2,000 was given from Pilgrim to the new church extension work in Neshaminy. The Rev. Jim Correnti is pastor at Fleischmann. God's work continues to grow in Philadelphia, as we are faithful to his Word. (Paul Meister, pastor, Pilgrim.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. On Christmas Eve 1981, a special service was held at the First Baptist Church. A program was presented by the pre-school through eighth grade at 7:00 p.m., followed by the 30-voice choir presenting the musical, "Home for Christmas." Seven soloists were featured. The entire choir, cast, and lighting and work crews involved 77 people of the church.

An offering was taken for the Iowa Association for Central Baptist Camp. A love gift was presented to the pastor, the Rev. Dennis Dewey. (Verdelle Gast, choir director.)

HEBRON, ND. First Baptist Church was a beautiful and inspiring scene recently when six persons followed the Lord into the baptismal waters. Later, another person came by testimony. It's great for them to start the new year by putting the Lord first in their lives. At the communion service on Dec. 31, 1981, the Rev. Herb Schauer, pastor, extended the hand of fellowship to the new members (pictured).



A new church building is being planned, and a committee is seeking a new church site. The Sunday school has grown so much that the young married class is meeting in the parsonage. (Mrs. Walter Kitzan, reporter.)

GRAND FORKS, ND. December was a month of blessings for Grace Baptist Church. It included a Sunday morning baptismal service and reception of 10 new members. On another Sunday, a Christmas program, written by two of the church ladies, beautifully depicted Christ's life from birth through the Resurrection. At the close of the program, a commissioning service led by the Mission Committee was held for Pastor and Mrs. Ralph Cooke in preparation for their visit to Africa.

In Cameroon and Nigeria, the Cookes toured N.A.B. mission stations, and he was guest speaker for the annual missionary fellowship meeting. (Mrs. Fred Kranzler, reporter.)

NAPOLEON, ND. The Sunday School of Napoleon Baptist Church sponsored a concert of sacred music on Dec. 30, 1981. Guest soloist was Stan Angle, an elementary music teacher in the Deadwood, SD, school system. (Claudia Schulz, reporter.)

BUFFALO GROVE, IL. Twin Grove Baptist Church returned to tradition Jan. 10, 1982, when it went back to a more conventional Sunday worship schedule.

After about 10 years of worship service first, followed by Sunday school, the church reversed the sequence. The new schedule calls for a 9:45 a.m. Sunday school and 10:45 a.m. worship service.

The new schedule will be tried out through April, when church leaders will decide if it will become permanent.

"Shortly after our church building was opened in 1970, we went to a worship-first format to relate an adult Sunday school class discussion of the sermon immediately preceding it," said Pastor Dan Kiblin. "Now we want to do some different things with our Sunday school, at all levels, and we also want to see if the more traditional schedule will benefit our members and visitors."

Dr. Grayson Paschke, a professor of New Testament, is teaching a class for adults on biblical ethics. Dr. Paschke is on a one-year sabbatical, studying New Testament at Trinity Divinity School, Deerfield, IL.

On eight successive Sunday evenings from January 31 through March 21, the Brecheen/Faulkner "Marriage Enrichment Film Series" was shown. The community surrounding the church was invited. (Pastor Dan Kiblin, reporter.)

ASHLEY, ND. The Cameroon Choristers presented a concert to a large audience in the high school auditorium on Nov. 17, 1981.



Pastor Allan Gerber baptized three young people and one adult (pictured) on November 22. The hand of fellowship was extended to them at the communion service on Jan. 3, 1982. (Mrs. Henry Kranzler, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MB. We praise the Lord for the experiences of joy and sorrow as well as the Grace of God in all events.

The well-known Dobson Family Films were shown with the purpose of introducing a new phase of development for the benefit of our English Prayer and Fellowship Meetings.

The sharing of spiritual and material gifts increased as a result of the experienced blessings within the many church activities.



On December 31 five persons were accepted into the fellowship of Jesus Christ, through the act of baptism and personal testimony of their faith in their new Lord.

The membership accepted for the year 1982 the following motto: "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal" (Isaiah 26:3).

Our pastor and wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Siegfried Hoppe, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

The Rev. Siegfried Hoppe and the Rev. Walter Schroedter (pictured with baptismal candidates) are the pastors of church. (Horst Rath, church clerk.)

PLEVNA, MT. Pastor Greg Odell and his family completed their first year of ministry at First Baptist Church in December with a potluck dinner.

The 30-voice choir performed the cantata, "King of Love," twice under the direction of Bob Bunkle, once at First Baptist and once at Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND.

The junior Sunday school department, grades one through seven, presented the musical, "Happy Birthday, Merry Christmas."

The Christmas Eve service featured the junior Sunday school department in songs and skits. The Senior B.Y.F. and a ladies' trio participated, also.

The Church held a watchnight service from 7 p.m. to midnight on Dec. 31, 1981. Included in the first service were singing by the junior Sunday school department and a skit, "Crown of Life." Lunch and fellowship preceded the second service at which time, Pastor Greg Odell spoke on cooperation. By candlelight testimonies were shared and the Lord's Supper observed. Prayer and singing closed the service. (Mrs. Alberta Couch, reporter.)

WISHEK, ND. The Dorcas Society sponsored the 18th Annual Christmas Candlelight Caroling to which neighboring churches were invited on Dec. 13, 1981. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated with 20 poinsettia plants and candlelight.

"The Savior's Wondrous Birth" was shown through a slide projection. Special numbers were sung by the Church members as well as carols by the audience. Following the service, guests fellowshiped together in the dining room. (Marvis Schnabel, reporter.)

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA. On Dec. 19, 1981, Dale Lint was ordained into the gospel ministry at his home church, Twin Pines Baptist Church. Dale was the first candidate since the beginning of the church in 1968. The ordination council met in the afternoon before the evening service and concluded heartily recommending that the church proceed with ordination.

The guest speaker for the Saturday evening ordination service was Dr. Gordon Harris, professor of Old Testament, North American Baptist Seminary. For the past two and one-half years, Dale and his family have lived in Ashton, IA, where Dale served as pastor and commuted to attend the Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. (Rev. Dan R. Payne, clerk.)

VANCOUVER, BC. The mixed choir, assisted by 15 instrumentalists, under the direction of Wilf Hass, presented the musical, "Night of Miracles," to a full house on two consecutive nights at

our conference in action

Bethany Baptist Church. Persons from the neighborhood and friends were invited. Refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone.



On New Year's Eve about 60 youth presented a musical interpretation of Matt. 5:1-17—Lightshine, under the leadership of Reid Galbraith, youth pastor. At this service, Rick Laser, pastor (pictured at right), baptized three young people and welcomed them into the church.

This baptismal service was shared with the Indo Canadians who have been meeting Sunday afternoons in our sanctuary with 24 members. Pastor Mitra (pictured at left) baptized his son and entreated us to pray for their small group.

All were blessed as we celebrated the Lord's Supper together. (Trudy Zindler, reporter.)

MISSOULA, MT. Congratulations are in order for Herb and Erma Schmautz, as they have been chosen to be the ministers of visitation at Bethel Baptist Church. They are a blessing to everyone they meet.

Paul Gibson has been called to serve as the assistant to the pastor. He is very capable and has proven that in the past as he has ministered in a number of ways. The Rev. Hero Ulrichs is pastor. (Ann Marie Carter, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. The Rev. James S. Leverette, minister of Christian education and outreach of the Brentview Baptist Church, was ordained as a N.A.B. pastor on Jan. 23, 1982. Twenty-eight delegates formed an ordination council and listened to Pastor Leverette's statement of faith.



Upon a successful presentation, the executive council, the ordination council and the congregation met at 7:00 p.m. for the ordination service. The Rev. Jake Leverette, father of James and pastor of Pineland Baptist Church in Burlington, ON, gave the ordination address.

It was an exciting and fulfilling day for all; to God be the glory. (G. A. Nemez, church clerk.)

ANAHEIM, CA. A new program was initiated at the Sunkist Baptist Church when the membership divided into flocks. Each flock will be guided by a deacon. The purpose of the program is to give closer fellowship and more personal contact among the membership.

Following the evening service on January 31, a surprise reception was given honoring Pastor and Mrs. Adolph Braun and family for their fifth year of faithful service as our senior pastor.

The ladies at Sunkist are enjoying a special weekly Bible study class led by Mrs. Muryel Braun. *Gracious Women* is the text. (Carol Justus, reporter.)

CHEKTOWAGA, NY. Sub-zero temperatures couldn't decrease the warmth at Temple Baptist Church when Pastor Bernard Thole baptized three persons and dedicated a baby girl. On February 7 these persons and two men received the hand of fellowship. What a blessed way to start the new year. (Mrs. G. Hartman, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CA. An inspirational week of meetings was held at the Sunkist Baptist Church by the Rev. Ron Susek, York, PA. With him was baritone singer Steve Musto of Chicago, IL. There was also a children's crusade with a nightly puppet show, films, and Bible stories. Rev. Susek and Mr. Musto also spoke and sang at the W.M.F. luncheon, our retirees' potluck and men's breakfast. A number of decisions and re-dedications were made. Rev. Susek challenged the congregation to serve the Lord and to follow his direction. The Rev. Adolph Braun is pastor of the church. (Carol Justus, reporter.)

EUNICE, LA. The Rev. Harold Drenth became pastor of First Baptist Church, Bison, KS, effective Jan. 21, 1982. Previously, he served Mowata Baptist Church, Eunice, LA, for eight and a half years. On his last Sunday with the church, the members gave a farewell luncheon for the pastor and his wife. Gifts of appreciation were given.

BALGONIE, SK. Former members, adherents, and friends crowded both services of Balgonie Baptist Church on a recent Sunday for the farewell services in the old Balgonie Baptist Church building during the morning and the dedication service of the first unit of the new Balgonie Baptist Church complex during the afternoon. It was a day of blessing.

The old buildings were comprised of the Balgonie Baptist Church dedicated in 1965 and the Grace Baptist Church building, dedicated in Davin, SK, in 1947 and rededicated as an addition to the Balgonie Church in 1969.

Darold Sauer, pastor of both congrega-

our conference in action

tions since 1962, brought the farewell message, "Despise not Small Beginnings" (Zech. 4:6). Special music was rendered by choirs and a mixed quartet of former Davin members. A noon luncheon was served by ladies of the church.

The afternoon dedication service began with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Rev. S. Schuster, Manitoba/Saskatchewan Area minister, ably delivered the dedication message, "Building the Church." The dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. F. Ohlman of Medicine Hat, AB, under whose ministry the present congregation was planted.

Greetings were brought from N.A.B. Conference pastors of sister churches and by other denominations of the community as well as the Mayor of Balgonie.

Mr. Ed. Rumpel, church moderator, gave a church history. A building progress report was given by Mr. Gary Dohms, the contract supervisor. Pastor Sauer led the service, and Mr. Randy Rohrick, assistant to the pastor, led the responsive Scripture lesson. All guests enjoyed a supper following the service.

We praise the Lord for his guidance since the work began with a "Happy Hour Club" and a Sunday school 25 years ago. Balgonie Baptist Church was organized

under the ministry of the Rev. A. Kliever in December 1964, with nine charter members. Today the membership is 111, and we are looking to the Lord to use us to add many more.

The present building houses 14 classrooms on the second floor, offices, kitchen, conference room, nursery, church hall, washrooms and a large foyer covering more than 9,600 sq. feet.

A new sanctuary is to be added after the old property is sold, and a senior citizens complex is planned as soon as feasible. (Ruth Rosom, reporter.)

ALPENA, MI. The Rev. Jacob Ehman pastor of Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church underwent surgery at Mayo Clinic on Feb. 18, 1982. A malignant tumor was removed from the colon, and doctors report the prognosis is good. Pastor Ehman had undergone similar surgery more than a year ago.

At the same time, a former pastor's wife, Mrs. Walter Hoffman of Rapid City, SD, underwent hip surgery at Mayo Clinic and is recovering. (Mary Coy, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. Bethany Baptist Church joyfully witnessed the presenta-

tion of a certificate of honor to its beloved former pastor, Dr. H. J. Waltereit, during the morning worship service on Jan. 17, 1982. Dr. Waltereit had served Bethany for more than nine years. In 1980 he entered retirement. At that time, he passed on the torch to our present pastor, the Rev. Ulrich Laser, who now asked Dr. Waltereit to come forward, with his wife Marie, and receive the title of Pastor Emeritus, which Bethany members wished to bestow. It was presented to Dr. Waltereit by church moderator, Art Pudlas. (Elsie Baum, reporter.)

HEBRON, ND. First Baptist Church enjoyed a concert of singing and testimony by the Cornerstone Quartet on Jan. 31, 1982.

The Women's Missionary Guild had a Sweetheart (Valentine) Banquet in February. This year families were included enjoying food, fun and fellowship. Mrs. Herbert Schauer, pastor's wife, was in charge of the program, which was enjoyed by all. With the temperature 30° below zero on the outside, we had warm fellowship inside. (Mrs. Walter Kitzan, reporter.)

William, Rueben, Arthur, and Mrs. Esther Kirvida. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Frieda. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. N. E. McCoy and the Rev. Jim Dick.

LEONARD MOHRMAN (68) of Columbus, NE, was born in Columbus March 6, 1913, to Gustav and Lydia Behlen Mohrman and died suddenly Jan. 7, 1982. On Oct. 8, 1940, he married LaVerne Adamy. He farmed in the Shell Creek Baptist Church Community until six years ago when he retired to Columbus. He became a Christian, was baptized Dec. 6, 1925, and joined Shell Creek Baptist Church, where he remained a faithful member until his death. Survivors include his wife LaVerne; two children: Mrs. Aurilie Kay (Ron) Brown, Fremont, NE, and James C. Mohrman, Racine, WI; one sister, Mrs. Lois (Fritz) Menke; two brothers: Arville and Gus, and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Allen. The Rev. William Effa officiated at the funeral service.

RUDOLPH MARCHAND (80) of rural Ellinwood, KS, was born to Gustav and Mary Marchand on Sept. 11, 1901, and died Dec. 15, 1981. As a young man, Rudolph accepted Christ as his personal Savior, was baptized, and joined First Baptist Church, Ellinwood. Rudolph married Oretta Fischer on Jan. 27, 1925. Rudolph farmed on the original Marchand farm near Ellinwood all his life. As a member of First Baptist Church, Rudolph served as a trustee, church treasurer, and Sunday school superintendent. Survivors include his wife, Oretta; two brothers: Edward and Herbert; and two sisters: Lena Brewer and Esther Mabry. Officiating at the funeral were

the Rev. Randall Kinnison and the Rev. Elton Kirstein.

EDITH ANGELINE GEARY (83) of Oakland, NE, was born Sept. 20, 1898, to Ernest and Angeline (Patrick) Geary, near Herman, NE, and died Jan. 1, 1982. She taught school several years in Nebraska. Later she made her home in St. Paul, MN, where she was employed many years by West Publishing Company. She joined Redeemer (Dayton's Bluff) Baptist Church and was a member until her death. For many years, she taught Bible classes and served as church librarian. Following a stroke in 1972, she moved to a nursing home in Nebraska. Survivors include one brother, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews, one niece being Mrs. William (Ruth) Effa of Columbus, NE. The Rev. William Effa conducted her memorial service.

MRS. ANNA BELTER, nee Marchinkowski, (94) was born in Russia April 5, 1887, and died Dec. 28, 1981, in Edmonton, AB. She came to Edmonton, AB, Canada in 1905, where she lived the remainder of her life. In 1909 she married Fred Belter. After nine years of marriage, her husband died, leaving her with the responsibility of raising their children. Anna was a faithful member of Central Baptist Church. Her love for the Lord was constantly demonstrated in faithful service and kind acts of love. Survivors include two sons: Jonathan, Vancouver and Bill, Edmonton; two daughters: Esther Warner and Della Cochrane, both of Edmonton; five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. Two children preceded her in death: Fred, Jr. and Elsie. The Rev. Herman Effa officiated at the funeral service.

What's Happening

The Rev. Herbert Bachler resigned as pastor of Southey Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, effective March 1981. He was pastor there since 1977. He has accepted the pastorate of Hilda Baptist Church, Alberta.

The Rev. Kenneth Stoller resigned as youth pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Racine, WI, effective January 1982. He is awaiting the Lord's guidance for future service.

The Rev. Oliver Bender accepted the pastorate of West Center Street Baptist Church, Madison, SD, effective March 1982. He was chaplain of the North American Baptist Home, Madison, SD, since 1978.

Mr. Gavin Huffmaster became the administrator/principal at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, in August 1981.

Mr. Bill Stakee became business administrator of Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, effective June 1, 1981.

Mr. Rainer Kunz became minister of children's work at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, effective Aug. 19, 1981.

Miss Pam Scott is the minister of children at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Ohio.

The Rev. Mike Pennington accepted the pastorate of Baptist Mission Church, Chicago, IL, effective April 1, 1982. He had been pastor of the church extension project in Naperville, IL.

The Rev. Leo Reck resigned as pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN, effective Nov. 29, 1981. He was pastor there since 1975. He is waiting the Lord's guidance for future ministry.

The Rev. Leland Friesen became interim pastor at Mowata Baptist Church, Eunice, LA, effective Feb. 14, 1982.

The Rev. Herman Kesterke resigned as pastor of Crowsnest

Community Baptist Church, Blairmore, AB, effective March 31, 1982. He was pastor there since 1979. He will be on a sabbatical leave from the active ministry to work in construction for about a year.

Mr. Terry Fossen was ordained into the ministry Feb. 7, 1982, at Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. He is the minister of youth and outreach at the church.

The Rev. Wil Dachtler resigned as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS, effective May 1, 1982. He was pastor there since 1976. He will become a full-time estate planning counselor for people in North and South Dakota, Iowa, and the Southwestern Association of the North American Baptist Conference.

Commencement exercises for graduates of the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, are being held May 1 and 2, 1982. Graduates are as follows:

Diploma in Music

Bevan Berg, Calgary, AB; *Robin Delzer*, Bismarck, ND; *Evangeline Janzen*, Valley Stream, NY, and *Susan Zenky*, Vancouver, BC.

Diploma in Biblical Studies

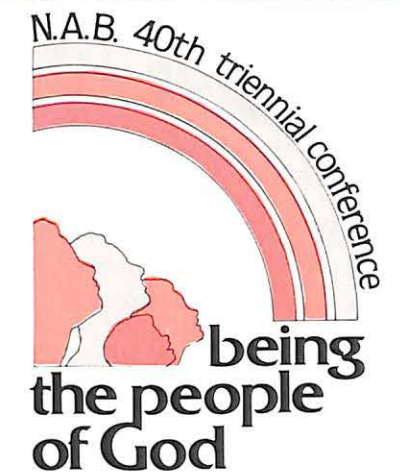
Teresa Anderson, Lethbridge, AB; *Sandra Beech*, Edmonton, AB; *Joan Bertsch*, Carbon, AB; *Bevin Breikreuz*, Edmonton, AB; *Karen Breikreuz*, Dallas, OR; *Jane Fischer*, Fargo, ND; *Melissa Gauthier*, Winnipeg, MB; *Ian Gazard*, Calgary, AB; *Hildegard Gretzinger*, Edmonton, AB; *Sharlene Hohn*, Kelowna, BC; *Wendy Hohn*, Swan River, MB; *Harry Issler*, Kelowna, BC; *Michelle Liebelt*, Harvey, ND; *Fern Lindteigen*, Ruso, ND; *D. Jane Nickel*, Brookfield, WI; *Judi Nickel*, Brookfield, WI; *Dorothea Scholl*, Kelowna, BC; *Gwen Stover*, Mallaig, AB; *Wally Wirzba*, Lethbridge, AB; *Della Yost*, Three Hills, AB; *Roland Zabel*, Kelowna, BC, and *Dolores Zettl*, Prince George, BC.

Bachelor of Religious Education

Cindy Adolf, Acampo, CA; *Perry Friesen*, Medicine Hat, AB; *Debby Krueger*, Edmonton, AB; *Susan Leverette*, Burlington, ON; *Melanie MacDonald*, Calgary, AB; *Elaine Orthner*, Drumheller, AB; *Bernie Pankonin*, Prince George, BC; *Dorothea Schalm*, Winnipeg, MB, and *Elizabeth Schiemann*, Warren, MI.

Bachelor of Arts in Religion

Ron Behnke, Surrey, BC; *Wayne Dickau*, St.



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Cooke to Speak Thursday at Missions Celebration



The Rev. Ralph Cooke, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, will be the speaker at the Missions Service on Thursday evening. Included in this evening's program will be a pageant celebrating the 100th anniversary of the General Missionary Society.

Rev. Cooke is chairman of the Board of Missions and has recently returned from a visit to our mission fields in Cameroon and Nigeria. His presentation promises to give us a fresh look at missions from a pastor's perspective.

Plan now to join the family of God at Niagara.

Donald N. Miller

Dr. Donald N. Miller
Vice Moderator

REGISTRATIONS DUE JUNE 30!

Catharines, ON; *Gordon Freiter*, Calgary, AB; *Bryan Hochhalter*, Bismarck, ND; *Glenn Keeler*, Edmonton, AB; *Ralph Korner*, Calgary, AB; *Elsie Lewandowski*, Edmonton, AB; *Sheila Normberg*, Nokomis, SK; *Ivan Ortlieb*, New Sarepta, AB; *Robert Sandford*, Lodi, CA; *Garry Vander Baaren*, Saskatoon, SK, and *Todd Wittmann*, Stevensville, MI.

In Memoriam

MRS. CHRISTINE BRENNEISE (81), Streeter, ND, died Jan. 31, 1982, at Brookings, SD. She was born Oct. 13, 1900, in Russia to Christian Dewald and Elizabeth (Herman) Dewald. At four she came to Tripp, SD, U.S.A., with her parents and later moved to Streeter, ND. She married Edward Brenneise Jan. 14, 1920. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970. She was a member of the Ladies' Aid and a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, Streeter, until the church closed in 1979. Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Edna Gums, Brookings, SD; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, and three brothers: Adam, Jacob, and Reinhold Dewald. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, six sons and daughters in infancy, and one brother. The Rev. Henry Goldsack, pastor, officiated at the funeral service.

THEODORE "TED" MEISCH (67) was born in Streeter, ND, on June 8, 1914, to Matthew and Louisa (Moos) Meisch, and died Oct. 6, 1981. At 18 he committed his life to Jesus Christ. He was a member of First Baptist Church. On June 15, 1941, Ted married Leona Brenneise. In 1966 they moved to Jamestown, ND, and joined Temple Baptist Church. Ted was an avid student of the Bible serving the Lord and the church well through his insightful teaching. He served as deacon and trustee. Survivors include his wife, Leona; two children: Robert, Minneapolis, MN, and Mrs. Peggy Clewette, Minneapolis, MN; four grandchildren, and four brothers and sisters:

The Call to the Ministry— an Awesome Responsibility

1982 graduates of the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB, are introduced through their personal statements.

The call of God to the ministry places an awesome responsibility upon an individual. Reflecting upon this call near the end of his ministry, the Apostle Paul said, "I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:12). In the Philips translation this reads, "But I keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ Jesus grasped me." Paul knew that God had a purpose for his life that day that he was "laid hold of" on the Damascus road. The rest of his life was committed to living out that purpose.

I am pleased to commit to our churches the 1982 graduates of

North American Baptist Divinity School. Each of them has experienced the call of God to ministry. They are committed to grasping that purpose for which Christ Jesus grasped them. Their training has equipped them for effective service. Their ministry goals are outlined in their individual statements.

We ask you to pray for them as they are being thrust into God's harvest field that they may "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14).—*J. Walter Goltz, president of North American Baptist College and Divinity School.*



"My desire for ministry is to be such a person that will bring honor and glory to God both in word and deed. My prayer is that I might be an instrument of the grace of God to people in need."—*Dave Friesen*

Dave is graduating from the Bachelor of Theology program. He and his wife Ruby have four children.



"Working toward the growth of individual families is vital since the family unit is the basic building block for both the church and society. Also, it is my goal to improve people's basic knowledge of the Bible and to teach them how to apply biblical truths to every day life."—*Paul Hay*

Paul is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He and his wife Linda have two children.



"According to Paul Tournier, every Christian needs two conversions, the first out of the world, the second back into the world. My prayer is that I will always have the desire to see the first conversion take place and the courage to see the second conversion become a reality."—*Dave Henkleman*

Dave is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He is married to Heidi.



"The Apostle Paul wrote some wise words of advice to a young pastor named Timothy. Paul said that the pastor shall be a man of God, one who lives an exemplary life and who preaches the Word. My prayer is

that I might follow Paul's advice in my own ministry."—*Merle Hoots*

Merle is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He and his wife Diane have one child.



"My goal is to further the work of Christ through the local church. I dedicate my life to do all that I can for Christ and his church. I pray that I will not withhold any part of myself which might hinder my effectiveness as his servant."—*Lyle Richards*

Lyle is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He and his wife Joan have three children and two grandchildren.



"Ministry must include two key ingredients. First, one must be willing to walk with and encourage people in the situations they are facing. Secondly, the pastor must help to facilitate the understanding that each congregation is a corporate community which must provide the tools for growth, support and spiritual victory."—*Dave Spate*

Dave is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He is married to Kathy.



"Go therefore and make disciples . . . baptizing . . . teaching them to observe all things . . . I am with you always . . ." (Matt. 28:18-20). Christ's command has spurred me to go to others with his great message of hope

and eternal life. His Word also directs me to disciple his people in order that they would be equipped to tell others. Christ commands us to teach and instruct his people to live according to his principles. God promises to be with me as I go, disciple, baptize, and teach in his power."—*Ken Walker*

Ken is graduating from the Master of Divinity program. He and his wife Faye have two children.

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J. Gordon Harris

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One who does good at all times;
One who is not afraid to get her hands dirty to make a few extra bucks;
One who shops all over town to buy supermarket specials;
One who brings coffee to her husband while he is still in bed
and prepares eggs benedict for the family and
all her husband's employees while it is still dark.
One who plays the stock market and never makes a bad investment;
One who can leap over an ironing board flat-footed,
is faster than an electric dishwasher,
is stronger than an upright vacuum cleaner;
One who is never too tired for her husband or to do the sewing;
One who works gladly in civic fund drives for the poor;
One who makes every rummage sale to buy warm clothes for her family;
One who dresses as Jackie Onassis and never goes to bed with curlers in her hair;
One who is happy that her husband has been elected to the school board
and must attend nightly meetings;
One who sews to make extra money so that she need not fear retirement.
Her children will rise up and call her "Super Mom;"
Her husband will say: "Dynamite."
Many moms have been good dishwashers and housecleaners,
But you, Super Mom, are the greatest.
You are the greatest, for you give God first place in your life;
Tell everyone about Super Mom. □



"The passage was written not as much to make women feel guilty because of what they were not doing but rather to praise those who without immediate rewards perform the many tasks that are necessary for enriching a household. For this, I love mom and praise God for all who feel called to the difficult task of managing a household."—*J. Gordon Harris*

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



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PLANTING CHURCHES (Continued from page 7)

advisory and consultant work. I have had a feeling that the picture of Conference church planting or church extension is that monies are sent to the N.A.B. Conference Office, and the Church Extension Department sends it out again.

An indigenous work is very important. The church must shoulder far more responsibility for church growth than the Conference does.

I am not thinking in terms of interdependency among the churches from the Conference. Together we will keep our unity and Conference relationship as we serve together in ministries overseas and at home.

So there is a necessity for being unified as a body of churches . . . a Conference of churches throughout the United States and Canada?

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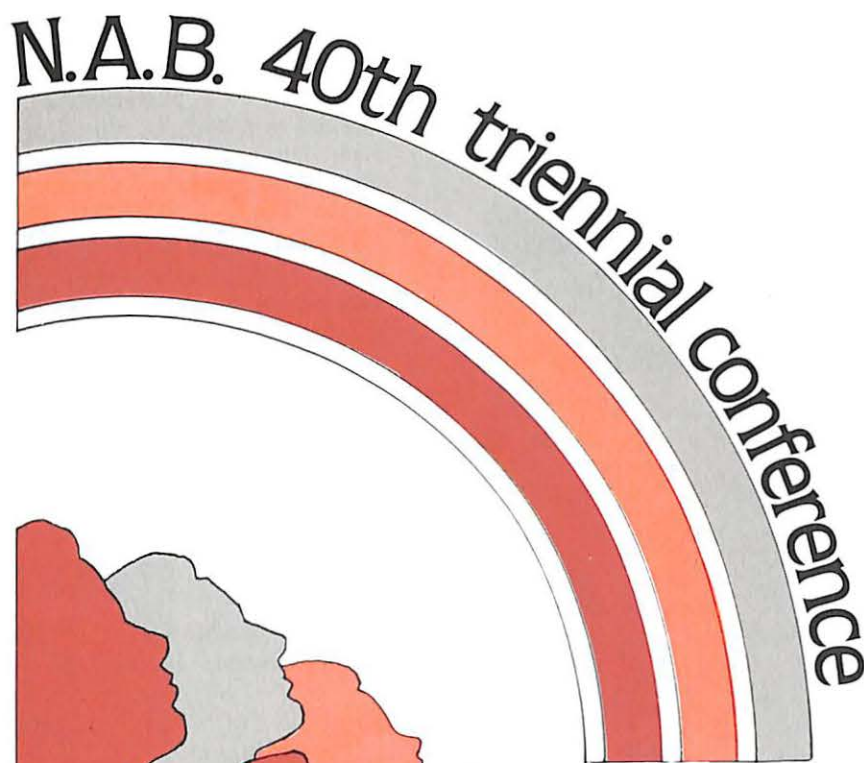
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