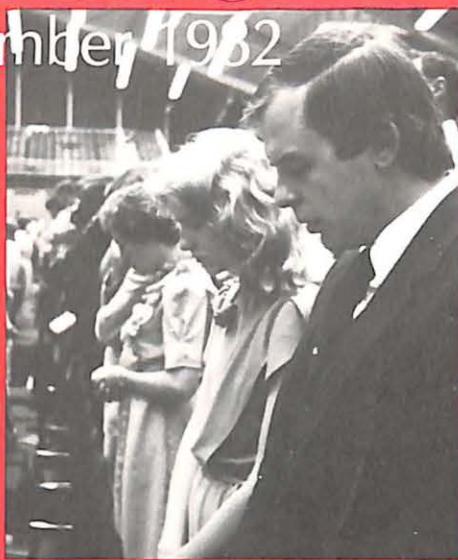
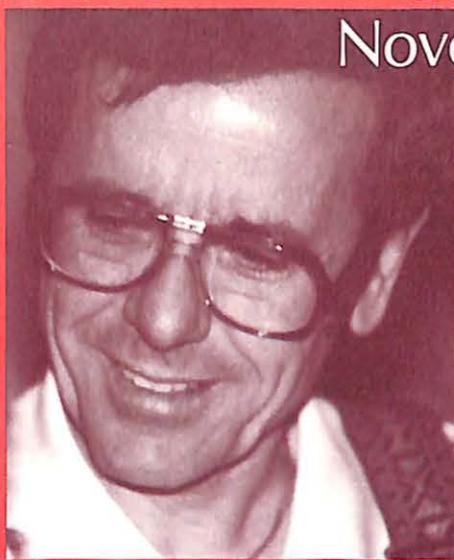


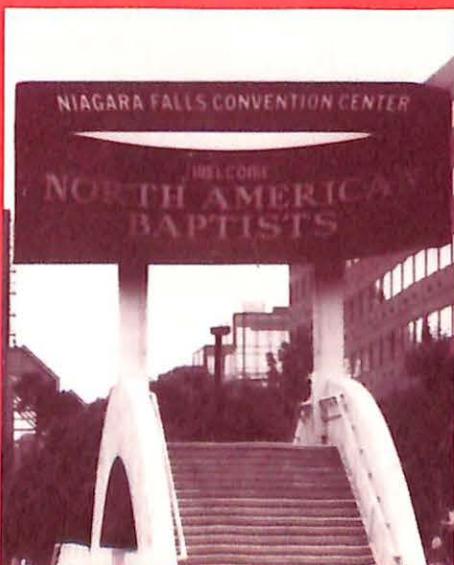
Baptist Herald

November 1982



N.A.B. 40th
triennial
conference

being the
people
of God



Viewpoint

In Viewpoint in this issue, we share three letters received following the North American Baptist Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls, NY, in August. They express the feelings of many who attended the Conference. The letters were addressed to Dr. John Binder, executive director of the Conference.

Please pass our personal thanks on to everyone responsible for the beautiful week at the Triennial Conference. Brother Wiersbe's study on the church is exactly what we needed. Our son, Jeff, attended Summit Assault. He came home very enthused and excited about the spiritual food and fellowship. He is already talking about Anaheim in '85. We have been in the N.A.B.C. for eleven years now, and we were also at Bismarck in '79.

May I congratulate you, while I am thankful to God, for the personal and corporate growth and maturity in you and your staff. In this day of scheming, instead of planning, and the slipshod use of the Lord's money, it is gratifying to witness complete honesty, integrity and candor, while using excellent management techniques in the business and spiritual affairs of our Conference. It is a blessing to belong to a Conference where the local church is central, the lay people have opportunity for input that is genuinely received, and the name of Jesus is lifted over all. May it ever be so!

I believe that we took an important step in the passing of a formal Statement of Beliefs; however, there were two notable highlights for me. One was the "Reaching for Excellence" plan and the other was Brother Eugene Kern's message on worship especially with regard to depth. In this day of mediocrity, incompetence and shallowness in the church, as well as in the world, we need many more people who are sold out to Jesus and his church.

I wish that the lay people in our churches really knew what a beautiful fellowship we have in the N.A.B. Conference, then, perhaps, our Conference missionaries, church extension projects, schools and Conference needs in general would receive priority in the budgetary considerations of our churches. As Brother Wiersbe stated, there are many who want the doctrine without the duty.

Again, it was a precious week. We are looking forward to Anaheim in '85. Meanwhile we will pray that God will enable and bless you as you lead us in "Reaching for Excellence" in being the people of God.

In his service,
Tom and Edith Branch, Warren, MI

Traveling to a Triennial Conference can be like climbing the Mountain of Transfiguration. To this inspiration-point, Jesus brought his world-weary disciples for a time of re-orientation and spiritual refreshing. Here they came from different areas of the United States and Canada by planes, busses, and private cars. Happy upon arrival was the meeting of new and oldtime friends and cordial their greeting in the love of Christ. Precious fellowship! Heavenly atmosphere!

Niagara Falls was an ideal, romantic Conference spot for the kindling and renewal of our "first love" for Christ and his Church. Here one could experience, on the American side, the grandeur and earth-shaking power of the thunderous Falls, as well as the misty beauty and colorful magnificence of the panoramic view from the Canadian perspective. Both are important for a balanced program and wholesome Christian living—the near and the far view of what a thoughtful visitor to the Falls called "a beautiful disaster."

In the programming of the

denominational departments, one could sense the mighty sweep and rushing stream of Conference ministries while "celebrity guests" of Mosaic authority and Elijah passion championed for the preservation of the Church's unity amidst diversity that it may reach the longed-for maturity. There were musical interludes which made truth soar and prayerful pauses when one could hear that haunting voice out of the cloud: "This is my beloved Son; hear Him." Essentially, this is what every heart longs to experience above all—an awesome sense of God's sovereign Presence, a deep revealing of his will at critical junctures, and some glimpse of heavenly glory. I found that blessing at the close of an evening service in the clear accents of a meaningful prayer.

Unfortunately, our stay at the mountaintop of our 17th triennial conference was cut short by a vicious hematoma attack which upon my return home necessitated four blood transfusions. I understand there were others also who did not make it to the top. From my hospital bed, I could hear during night a plaintive voice down the corridor, "Help, help, help now." Such is the need-ridden world about us into which we descend from the mountain.

By now, all Conference guests will have returned into that valley of service. I am happy to join you again there with a vision glorious for a ministry transfiguring and transforming.

Herbert Hiller
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

It was truly a great Conference—never-to-be forgotten. It seems to us that in all the special anniversary celebrations and the debt retirement that the constant emphasis was that we were receiving new marching orders. The great number of missionaries commissioned shows our original emphasis is not slowing down.

How thrilling to have the Baptists from Japan present. The spirit was great, and the youth gave hope for a continuance of our great North American Baptist spirit! The hosting was splendid and so comfortable.

—Delmar and Thelea Wesseler
Lorraine, KS

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The People of God in True Fellowship

Peter Fehr, moderator of the N.A.B. Conference 1979-82, delivered this address at the closing session of the Triennial Conference.

The church, as a corporate body, has been under fire in recent years. Some complain that the church is too interested in its building, its programs, its theology, its image, or even in just saving people from sin and dropping them than it is in people themselves. They say there must be more to the Christian church and more to being a Christian than these things.

For years, I have had concerns about the church, since everyone is always happy, and no one will admit to having a problem. I was sure something was wrong, because I wasn't always happy; I wasn't always blessed; I worried; my kids weren't perfect. What was wrong with me? If everyone else has no problems, what's wrong with me?

Many people, looking at our churches today, feel that way. I have had patients come in to me and say, 'I can't go to my church, because no one else has any problems. Why do I have them?'

The blind song writer, Ken Medema, composed a song that speaks to the problem that I feel is a need of each of us as we come to church. It is entitled: "If This Is Not a Place." It asks if this is not a place where tears are understood, questions can be asked, spirits can take wing, heart cries be heard, *where can we go?* We don't need another place for always pretending we're on top of things. "Where shall I go, where shall I go to cry?"

Peter Fehr, M.D., gave this address at the closing session Sunday morning August 15 at the Triennial Conference. Dr. Fehr was moderator of the N.A.B. Conference from 1979-82, continues as a member of the Executive Committee and is a newly elected member of the North American Baptist Seminary Board of Trustees.

True Fellowship of the People of God

Other than "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," our Christian hymns have not reflected how the relationship in the church should be. Are these criticisms justified? What should true fellowship include? I see true fellowship of the people of God in five facets: love, unity, divergence, maturity, and growth.

Love Is Not Optional for the Christian

Love is a dominant theme in the New Testament. Jesus ordered it for



Love is not optional for the Christian. It's not could you, or would you, or if you have time, or when you can. It is not only an order, but also it's a test of our faith.

photo by Leon Bill

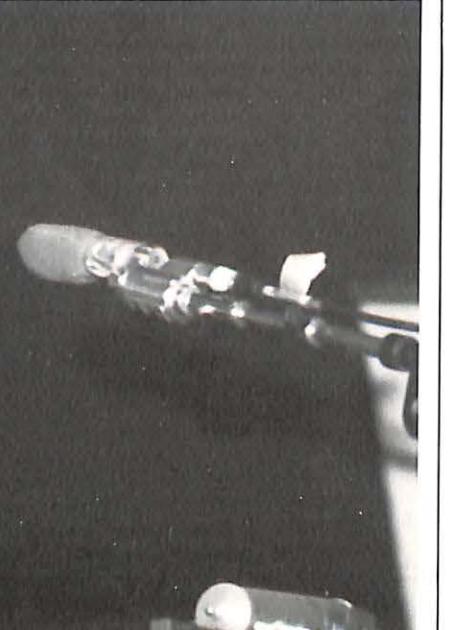
his followers, John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The love he ordered is not as the world loves. The love of the world is selfish, demanding, self-centered,

and self-fulfilling. The love Christ ordered is giving, caring, sharing, sacrificial love. It's new. It's not natural. But it is of God.

Love is not optional for the Christian. It's not could you, or would you, or if you have time, or when you can. It is not only an order, but also it's a test of our faith.

John puts it straight in I John 4:20-21. "If any one says I love God and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this



Love is not optional for the Christian. It's not could you, or would you, or if you have time, or when you can. It is not only an order, but also it's a test of our faith.

photo by Leon Bill

commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also." It's either love, or your faith in Christ is in doubt.

Christ himself demonstrated this love to us in his sacrificial death on the cross for our sins: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this,

that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12-13).

Paul put it clearly in Romans 5:7-8, "For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates his own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And then finally Paul in I Corinthians 13:13 reminds us that of all the spiritual gifts and fruits: "But now abide faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

It is essential that our love be genuine, not pretence, not imitation. The world can see right through a fake interest. If you have a real interest, the world will know it. If you're trying to pretend how concerned you are, you will be known and seen as a phony without any question at all.

Paul puts it this way: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:9-10).

As we must live it, we must demonstrate it. Paul says, "Contribute to the needs of saints, practice hospitality. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:13, 15).

When he says weep, he doesn't mean shed a few tears. He means feel deeply inside when other people have needs. This week I think we have felt deeply inside. We've wept with those who wept.

I remember those who wept with us at the death of our son, my father and father-in-law. I wept with a family at the death of a dear friend of mine. It came on suddenly, without warning.

Let's rejoice with those who rejoice. We've got reason as Christians to be sensitive, to be concerned. But somehow, as Christians, I feel it's easier to weep with those who weep than to rejoice with those that rejoice.

You think, "Well, God, why are you blessing them? Why do they have everything going for them? Why don't you bless me?" I think sometimes it's harder to congratulate the victor and to congratulate those who are successful, than it is to weep with those who weep.

But God says we must be sen-

sitive, and we must practice Christian love.

We Must Work at Unity

Paul states in Ephesians 4:3, "Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

I worry about unity. Paul says we must be diligent to preserve unity. We must work at it. The natural forces of ego and self-centeredness tend to tear us apart. The world now proclaims, "Do your own thing. Look out for number one."



I see true fellowship of the people of God in five facets: love, unity, divergence, maturity and growth.

photo by Leon Bill

shared with all the townspeople, with non-believers, instead of being resolved in the church. The whole town knew about their problems. As one observer put it, "They have no witness in this town anymore." Satan rejoices when he can destroy our witness by conflict among the brethren.

We must have unity. Paul reminds us that we have "one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

The spirit of the Baptist Beliefs Committee during this triennium was remarkable. At the end of the first session, we stood and spontaneously sang a hymn of praise.

The spirit of unity that I felt during this Triennial Conference has been nothing short of a miracle. I praise God for this unity.

Divergence: Our Differing Gifts Used to Function Together

Yet the characteristic of us, as humans, is our divergence. As members of the Body of Christ, we all are different and have different gifts. It is for us to use these gifts.

In I Corinthians 12:28, Paul reminds us of the diversity in the spiritual body. He compares the church to a human body with its many parts all necessary to its function. If one of our members suffers a spiritual problem, we all hurt. If our tonsils are infected, the human body aches from the fever. When the infection is cured, the whole body feels and functions much better.

The same thing is true in the Christian church. If one of our members in our churches or one church in our Association or our Conference has a spiritual problem, we all hurt. If there is a problem, we all suffer. Someone says, "Well, if that's how the Baptists function, I don't want any part of them."

We must remember that we are

all members of one body. We are different; we are divergent; yet God can use the different gifts we have to function together. Thank goodness we are not all alike, what a boring world it would be if we were all cookie cutter Christians.

Helping Each Other to Mature

Our fellowship together should help us as we help each other to grow in our spiritual lives. We must, as students of God's Word, know what we believe.

A few years ago, when our local church prepared to call a pastor, he asked the members what they felt was the greatest need. A large percentage answered, "To grow in our personal spiritual lives."

Maturity is a part of love as Paul writes in I Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag, and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices within truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Love is a sign of maturity. Maturity allows us to admit our feelings and to share our concerns. It takes maturity to love, and love is

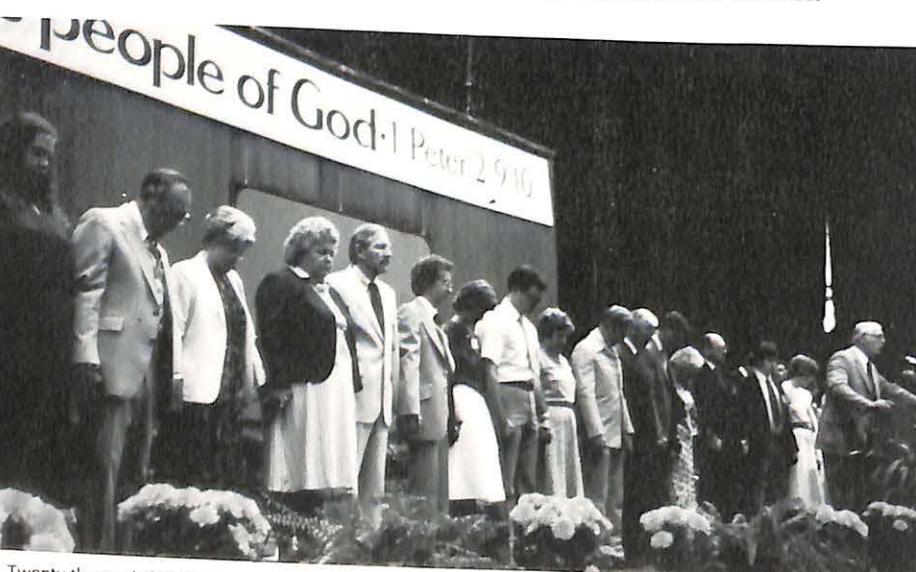
essential for true fellowship. Paul states maturity as a goal, "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

Growth occurs in us personally through true fellowship in love and unity, then the church will grow, also. Personal growth will occur only as we test our wings, as we try our strengths, inside the loving protective environment of the church, the Body of Christ.

A child grows in the home, because there he can learn new skills. He can learn to share, to relate, and to love. He can learn joy and sorrow, as well as success and failure, under the protective eyes of the parent.

In the church, we should help our fellow believers to grow in their personal lives through the activities of the church. If the world sees true fellowship, love and unity, despite our divergencies, with evidence of spiritual maturity and stability, we will see growth in our churches in numbers as well as spiritual growth.

As we grow in personal maturity, we will learn to give, to tithe; we will see growth in our giving. We'll see expansion of our mission



Twenty-three missionaries were commissioned during the Sunday morning service for work in Nigeria, Japan, and Cameroon. An article introducing them appears in the December *Baptist Herald*. photo by Bryan Hochhalter

outreach at home and abroad. As we in Christian maturity learn to yield our lives to the Lordship of Christ, we will have no shortage of pastors, missionaries, and church workers.

Dr. George Dunger said recently: "There is nothing as beautiful as the fellowship with believers."

Some people today think that you can just turn on a television set and watch the service or listen to it on the radio.

Paul reminds us not to stop meeting together, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another," (Hebrews 10:23-25).

We've seen this at work this week during the Conference. We've seen the unity, the spirit and the encouragement of one another. Let us carry it back to our churches. May this spark of fellowship in true love and unity set a fire that will cause us and our entire N.A.B. Conference to burn with desire and help us to reach out to the lost.

I close with the words of Champ Taylor's prayer of unity:

"Our Father, we thank you for the privilege of being together at this time and in this place. As your people, we pray that your love will unite us in a fellowship of discovery.

Cleanse us of everything that would sap our strength for togetherness. Unravel the knots in our spirits. Cleanse the error of our minds. Free us from the bondage of our negative imaginations. Break down the barriers that sometimes keep us apart and cause us to drift along without a dream."

"As we go from here—Explore in us new possibilities for service. Kindle within us the fires of your compassion so that we may not wait too long to learn to love. May we be a people with loving purposes: Reaching out . . . Breaking walls . . . Building bridges . . . Let us be your alleluia in a joyless, fragmented world. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen."

Reaching for Excellence

by John Binder

This message from the Executive Director was given Wednesday morning at the Triennial Conference
Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48 and Philippians 3:12-14

In our world today, there is a lot of emphasis given to the average person. Politicians aim their promises at the average American. Advertising is pitched at the average consumer. Entertainment is aimed at the average citizen. Promises are made but not kept. Very shoddy work is done.

Some labor unions go so far as to tell workers to stop when they have done a certain amount of work: "Lay only 100 bricks a day." Many

Dr. John Binder is executive director of the North American Baptist Conference.

people have developed the attitude, "I will just do enough to get by." Many Christians also fall into this kind of trap.

One pressing need of our world today is for more people to rise above the average in business, in politics, in science, in education, and especially in the Christian church. Mediocrity, or doing what most others are doing as Christians, is not enough.

This is one of Jesus' appeals. He wants his people to rise above the average. He wants us to become uncommon people. Jesus' call to commitment is a call to excellence

(Matthew 5:43-48).

When Jesus asked, "What do you more than others?", he was challenging us to rise above the average. That little word "more" spotlights Christian excellence. We need to lodge that question in our minds and apply it to all areas of our lives.

"What do you do more than others? Are you above average? Do you excel in something? Are you uncommon in any realm of your life? Are you willing to be vulnerable and take risks?

Setting Goals to Measure Performance

"Reaching for Excellence" assumes that there is a standard of set goals against which you can measure performance. When we met in Bismarck, ND, for the Triennial Conference in 1979, there was no clear direction perceived for our North American Baptist Conference. The questions kept coming to the surface, loudly and clearly, "Who are we, and where are we going?"

A few decades ago, it was somewhat easier to answer that question. We were a German-language group. We had a common cultural background, which included sauerkraut and wiener schnitzel. Today, it is much more difficult to define who we are and where we are going. Yet, that was our mandate!

In *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice is perplexed as she comes to a fork in the road. The Cheshire cat, perched on a limb of a tree, observes her dilemma. Seeing the cat, Alice asks, "Which way should I go?" The cat answers, "Where are you going?" Alice returns, "I don't know." "Then either road will get you there," replied the cat.

God has a plan for history, and we need to discover how we fit into it in order to accomplish that plan.

Many in our Conference, through the Long-Range Planning Committee, have worked long and hard to develop a set of values, goals and



"What do you do more than others? Are you above average? Do you excel in something? Are you uncommon in any realm of your life? Are you willing to be vulnerable and take risks?

photo by Leon Bill

objectives for the year ahead. We honestly tried to involve as many people as possible in this process through cluster meetings across the United States and Canada, through special research projects and many meetings of the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Executive Committee and Department Directors. We have tried to be responsive to the various concerns and needs expressed by people in our churches.

Setting Priorities

Reaching for Excellence requires the setting of priorities. There are a multitude of good things that we can be doing, but we have limited resources and abilities. Therefore, we must set priorities.

Missions has been reaffirmed to be priority number one. It is the glue that holds us together. I have been moved again by reading the story of our mission work as described in the July-August issue of our *Baptist Herald*.

However, missions, today, is not the same as it was in the past. Many rather significant changes are being made in order to continue our high performance of reaching people for Christ overseas. Even though we have had to reduce the number of missionaries for a temporary period of time, the Commission to reach others has not changed.

Church growth has been set as priority number two. This includes both planting new churches and assisting established churches that are seeking help to reach people for Christ in their respective communities. It is affirming our historical model for planting churches, which has had an excellent record.

A task force will study some new models and approaches which will need to be seriously considered if we hope to reach more people for Christ. To do this only in our historical way is becoming too costly, and it will limit our possibilities.

During the last 30 years, we established 140 new churches, an average of 5.3 churches a year: one in 70 days.

For the next three years, our goal is to establish 25 new churches, 8.3 churches a year: one in 45 days.

Church growth will need to include ministries among various



We may never fully achieve excellence in this life, but we should give everything that we have to reach as far as we possibly can to the glory of God!

photo by Leon Bill

ethnic groups. These are growing faster today than ever before. Some good things are happening along that line in our churches in the east, and in Wisconsin and in the Chicago area.

Mr. George H. Gallop, who spoke at the recent meeting of the American Bible Society, reported that surveys of religious activity and interest indicate that the last two decades of the twentieth century could be a time of profound religious renewal in American socie-

ty. He revealed that 41 percent of today's teenagers in the United States participate in Bible study. We have something of that evidenced by the 1,000 youth in attendance at this Triennial Conference.

We must continue to reach for excellence in at least these top two mission and church growth priorities. There will always be tensions and debates as to what our priorities should be from year to year. So we will need to continue to evaluate, probe and sort out those priorities for our Conference.

Setting High Expectations

Reaching for Excellence means setting high expectations of ourselves as individuals and others. It includes having a positive attitude about ourselves and a belief in the future.

At our N.A.B. International Office, we are in the process of putting in place a performance evaluation system. All staff will be rated on a scale of one to five in their various areas of primary responsibility, five being excellent. You can imagine that there would be some apprehension among some to enter into this kind of a process.

However, we are urged in Scripture (Eccles. 9). "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." Is that our commitment? We should seek to excel in leadership, in service, in prayer, and in the various other responsibilities that are ours. We must seek to exercise the gifts that are given to us to their fullest capacity. Sometimes it seems as though some are too lazy to even unwrap all the gifts that they have.

It needs to become a way of life with us. It is an attitude. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Your thoughts have an effect on your life. If you are satisfied with mediocrity and just average, that's as far as you will probably reach.

We need to have an inner motivation to set high expectations for ourselves. Our faith needs to be alive and growing and applied to life continually.

This is probably best expressed by Paul when he said, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:12-14).

The famous painter Michelangelo was once asked which of his paintings was the greatest. His answer was, "The next one that I will paint." It is evident that he was one who believed in continually seeking to do better.

Being Innovative

Reaching for excellence requires that we be innovative. We need to realize that in our fast moving world that at the end of each day we are more ignorant of our surroundings because of the new developments. Therefore, we must always be open and ready for what God wants to show us. We need to reach out in our thinking.

Working as a Team

Finally, *reaching for excellence* requires team work. I believe a very significant team spirit is present among our staff at the Conference office. I am personally also very grateful for the high level of team work that has been demonstrated by the Executive Committee and by the

General Council. I believe one of the best things we have done recently is to establish the Executive Committee. When our income does not meet the budget goal, adjustments in the budget can be made by the Executive Committee, which has the authority to act. This gives the executive director authority to do what is expected of him between General Council sessions.

Of course, we are also most grateful for the spirit of cooperation that all of you have demonstrated as pastors, members and friends of our churches. You have reduced the million dollar debt to \$76,000 (as of October 10, 1982).

What could be a better illustration of teamwork than putting this Triennial Conference event together. Bernie Thole, Local Arrangements Committee chairman, and his committee; Bill Kresal, N.A.B. Office; Donald Miller, vice moderator, and Connie Salios, together working with the Program Committee. Youth leaders, pastors, tour sponsors,—I rate it a five or excellent! Could we do the same for evangelism strategy?

We may never fully achieve excellence in this life, but we should give everything that we have to reach as far as we possibly can to the glory of God!

I believe much has been accomplished within the last three years, but like the fire department that has just put out a four alarm

fire, we cannot rest on our past accomplishments. We must prepare for the battles that lie ahead in 1982 and beyond. As sure as the sun rises in the East, we may even have more difficult times and challenges ahead!

When David Livingston was opening up the heart of Africa years ago and was literally shut off from the rest of the world for months at a time, he received a letter one day with this inquiry, "Have you found a good road to where you are? If so, we want to know so we can send other men to join you."

Livingston replied, "If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

What I've been trying to say has been captured in a poetic statement by the Rev. Harold Lang, associate missions director, printed on the back cover of the July/August *Baptist Herald*:

"Reaching downward to those devastated, neglected, rejected by society,

Reaching outward to the millions speaking myriads of languages who still have never heard,

Reaching upward to firmly grasp in faith the outstretched hand of God,

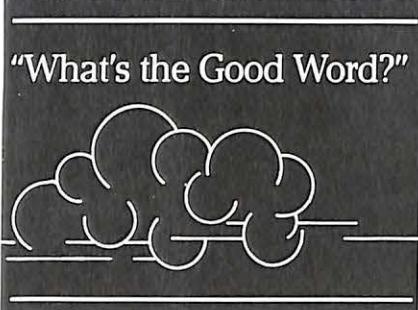
Reaching, ever reaching, stretching every fiber to save, to love, to serve—

We are a people of God with a mission. Amen!

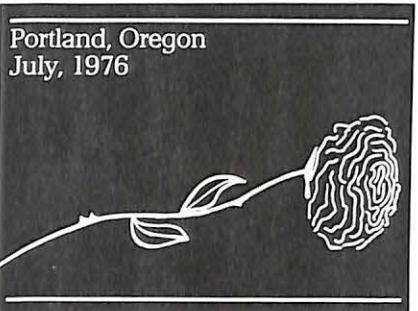


Financial Status of the Conference

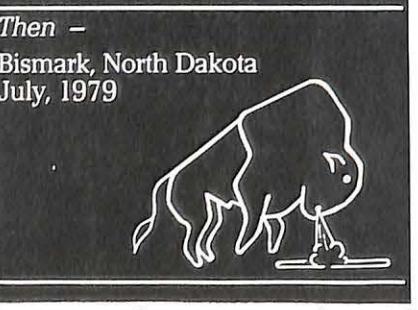
Presented by Milton Hildebrandt, Conference treasurer, August 11, 1982, at the Triennial Conference



A Triennium of Progress
Putting our financial house in order
Let's reflect a bit for a proper perspective



Our budget met in each of the preceding three years
Perhaps unprecedented in the history of our Conference!
Our reserves
Though slowly declining
Still in the black
Still strong
A positive report
We appeared to be in good financial health

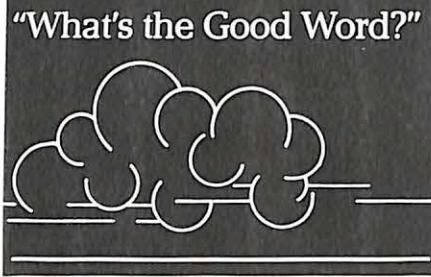


A massive change in our financial condition
We failed to meet our budget in each of the three preceding years
We significantly overspent our budget as well
Our reserves
Totally gone and over a million

dollars in the red
Just about as bleak a picture as one could imagine
We had deep financial problems

Our "Million Dollar Debt"

\$1,075,681
April, 1979



The response of our people during this triennium
Very typical
Outstanding
Heartwarming
Humbling
A great, positive response
Just remarkable!
Let me tell you why

In spite of

Inflation
Recession
Unemployment
Fluctuating currency values
And economic and political uncertainty generally

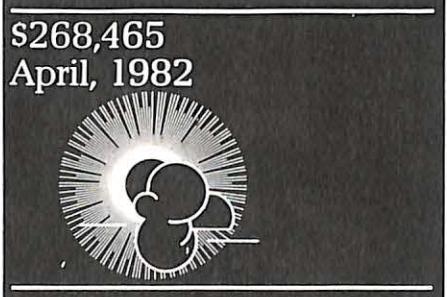
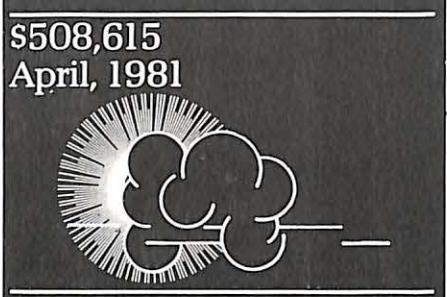
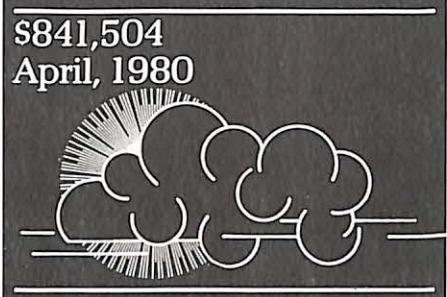
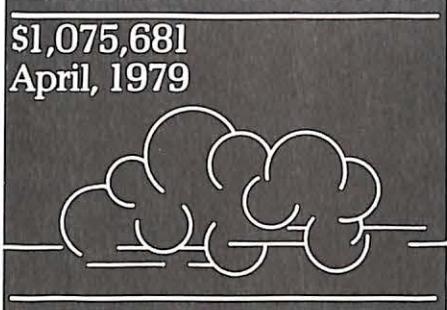
You responded

By meeting our committed budget each year in this triennium
And by going beyond that to reduce our debt

In addition

Excellent expense control exercised by our leaders
Maybe the most impressive factor contributing to our financial progress

The results speak for themselves



Ready to once again move ahead—
And we have already started
One Example:
Missionaries supported
1982—82 Actual
1983—91 Budgeted
The tide has turned!

A quick look at our 1982 mission giving—

How are we doing this year?
January

Our slowest start since 1978
But then we picked up the pace
Based on results through June—
And on our giving pattern for the past decade

We are Right on Target to attain our 1982 Budget of \$4 Million Dollars

That's good news!
But Remember—Our "Past Giving Pattern" does Include:

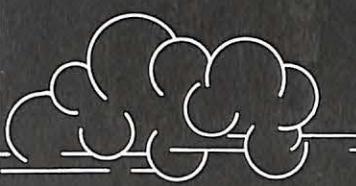
Our usual
Nerve Wracking
Cliff hanging

Booming December



We are not there yet;
It's never easy;
But with continued faithfulness, we can make it!
Things look good;
Things are beginning to happen;
We are again moving on out!

"What's the Good Word?"



"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my temple; If you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in!"

TRY IT!
Let me prove it to you!
(Malachi 3:10, The Living Bible)

Music at the Conference

Dr. Ted Faszer, Sioux Falls, SD—dynamic song leader.



Mrs. Dorothy Cummins, Detroit, MI—keyboard brilliance.



Mrs. Darline Bill, Sioux Falls, SD—majestic chords on the Rodgers organ.



photos by David Beam

Delegates Adopt Statement of Beliefs and Long-Range Plans at Triennial Conference

In a spirit of unity and prayer, the 1,004 delegates representing 366 N.A.B. churches conducted the business of the North American Baptist Conference during its 40th triennial session in Niagara Falls, NY, in August with almost unanimous decisions. In what was considered could be a divisive subject in 1979 at the 39th Triennial Conference, the exactly opposite turned out to be true. The adoption of the "Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference" came to be an extremely unifying force.



There was a real spirit of unity evidenced. Many times the voting was unanimous; at other times four or five voted "no."

Moderator Peter Fehr of Minneapolis, MN, expertly guided the delegates through the business as he pointed out that the Statement of Beliefs was drawn up by the Baptist Beliefs Committee consisting of 21 representatives, one from each association, with the Conference moderator as chairman and the executive director also on the committee. This Committee received input from the 21 associations, after the preliminary statement was drawn up.

The Rev. Peter Unrau, Michigan Association representative, Baptist Beliefs Committee, in presenting the recommendation from the General Council to the delegates, stated that the Committee members had demonstrated a beautiful spirit of harmony and wholeheartedly and unanimously endorsed the statement.

During the discussion, delegates

commended the Committee for the Statement of Beliefs.

A delegate asked if it was not unbaptistic to "foist" a statement of faith on a denomination when each Baptist church is an autonomous body. It was stated that the Committee had wrestled with this problem and stated in the preface of the Statement: "In principle, however, Baptists always have insisted that no statement of faith can be considered creedally binding even upon concurring congregations. The purpose of their doctrinal summaries was to explain to other Christians and to the larger society what Baptists believed and practiced." It also provides a standard for instruction, counsel and fellowship.

One delegate voiced objection to the phrase "without error" in the section on the Bible. He feared it would become a divisive issue as it has in some other denominations. The motion to delete this phrase was defeated.

Adoption of the "Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference" was carried with four dissenting votes. (See *Baptist Herald*, June 1982 for Statement or obtain copies from the Executive Director, N.A.B. Office.)

Long-Range Plans

Another leap forward came with the adoption of Long-Range Plans. The Long-Range Plans and the 1982 Operational Plans developed by the Conference Long-Range Planning Committee and recommended by the General Council were approved in principle. In these plans are values relating to the churches, the constituency/individuals in N.A.B. churches, pastors and church staff, associations/conference, conference staff, finances, and humanity. Objectives to meet the goals in relation to the seven values in the plans all support the purpose of the Conference: "to glorify God and advance his Kingdom through the cooperative ministries and fellowship of Conference churches."

"Many people had been involved in the development of these plans, which will give direction for the next three years," stated the Rev. Donald Miller, Portland, OR, chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee and vice moderator of the Conference. He noted that suggestions from the constituency



Dr. Donald Miller, vice moderator, presented the Conference Long-Range Plans, *Reaching for Excellence*. "Many people have had input" into the formulation of these plans.

are welcomed by Executive Director John Binder at the N.A.B. Conference Office. The plans, emphasizing missions as the first priority with church extension/church growth as a strong second, are available in *Reaching for Excellence* from the N.A.B. Office.

New Organizational Structure

The General Council recommendation concerning a new organizational structure (printed on pp. 16 and 17 in this issue of the *Baptist Herald* without the photos and names of individuals) was approved unanimously. Conference



Delegates considered the new organizational structure and passed it unanimously.

treasurer Milton Hildebrandt pointed out the proposed structure was developed by a number of people who had input from a professional consulting firm. This design is to make the organizational structure more businesslike.

Capital Funds Campaign of \$2,500,000

The General Council recommendation presented by Richard Russell, Finance Committee chairman, regarding a Capital Funds Campaign of \$2,500,000 in 1983-84 was approved after lengthy discussion by the delegates. The campaign is to be launched in September 1983 with the covenants paid over a three-year period. The needs of the Conference and associations are to be reviewed and sharpened so they will be clearly understood and perceived as having a degree of urgency about them.

The total amount for the Conference is to be about \$2,500,000. (The various departments will prioritize their needs.) The amounts for the associations will be negotiated with each association and added to the amount. (Each determines its own needs.) The \$2,500,000 includes costs.

A name such as "Ministry Advance" or "Missions Advance" is to be given to the campaign to show a forward movement both for the Conference and the associations. The firm of Ward, Dreschman and Reinhardt of Columbus, Ohio, is to assist in designing the campaign.

There was considerable discussion regarding the timing of the campaign due to unstable economic times as well as the Conference debt being not completely wiped out. It was pointed out that part of the campaign income is intended to build up the Conference reserve fund.

Extended discussion centered on the hiring of a consulting firm to design the campaign. As a separate motion the hiring of the firm was approved by an overwhelming majority.

N.A.B. Conference Constitution Revised

The proposed revision of the N.A.B. Conference Constitution as recommended by the General Council was presented by Stan Johnson, Tacoma, WA, chairman of the Constitutional Change Committee. He was also parliamentarian for the Conference business sessions. The revisions in the Constitution pertained to the newly adopted organizational structure as well as a drawing together of the Constitution so items could be more easily found and understood.

A motion to strike "ordained" from the line pertaining to "ordained pastors serving N.A.B. churches" have the right to vote at the Triennial Conference was defeated, since pastors of churches, ordained or not, if appointed as a delegate

to the Conference by their churches have the right to vote.

Two amendments carried. The first was presented by the General Council (line 107): "Proposed changes in the constitution of any department or cooperating organization must be approved by the General Council." The second gave the "full-time faculty and executive administrators of North American Baptist Seminary and North American Baptist College/Divinity School" the right to vote. This presupposes that they are members of North American Baptist churches. The revised Constitution was approved.

The Constitutional Change Committee was asked to clarify in the Constitution for the next Triennial Conference the right of church extension pastors and administrators of homes for the aged to be recognized as delegates. Concern was expressed that ordained pastors who are members of N.A.B. churches but serving other organizations or who are retired are receiving the right to vote even though not authorized as a delegate by their local churches. It was pointed out that the person must have been ordained by a N.A.B. church or received ordination recognition by a N.A.B. Association.

Urban Ministry
The following resolution read by the Rev. Manuel Wolff, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was approved unanimously by the delegates: Whereas our Conference considers missions to be our first priority, and whereas many consider the cities of the United States and Canada to be a great mission field, and whereas our Conference already has established churches in cities, including some of our oldest Conference churches, and whereas many of these urban and inner-city churches are experiencing difficulty in ministry and survival, and whereas there has been a growing interest in urban ministries expressed in the Conference; therefore, we propose that our Conference take affirmative action with regard to urban ministries by establishing and appointing a task force with the specific task of 1) studying the situations of our urban churches, 2) consulting with pastors of these churches, 3) reviewing the efforts of various other denominations in urban ministry, and 4) proposing a course of action for our Conference in regard to urban ministries to be presented to the General Council, which will then present its recommendation to the 1985 Triennial Conference in Anaheim, California.

(The full minutes of the 40th Triennial Conference will be printed in the 1982 Conference and Association Reports.

Three Regions for Nomination and Election Purposes

The recommendation from the General Council to divide the N.A.B. Conference into three regions for nomination and election purposes for Conference board members and committees was approved. It was pointed out that the church membership in the three areas: 1) Canadian provinces, 2) Eastern U.S.A., and 3) Western U.S.A., with the dividing line between North Dakota and Minnesota, is almost equal.

N.A.B. Historical Society

The delegates approved the establishment of the North American Baptist Historical Society with the details and the organization of the Society to be worked out by the Conference Archives Committee and submitted to the General Council. Dr. George Dunger, chairman of the N.A.B. Archives Committee presented the General Council recommendation.

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(The full minutes of the 40th Triennial Conference will be printed in the 1982 Conference and Association Reports.

photos by Leon Bill



The 1,004 delegates were screened and approved by the Accreditation Committee: The Rev. Fred Merke, Toronto, ON; the Rev. Richard Schilke, Oak Park, IL, chairman; Mrs. Caroline Dudek, Norridge, IL; the Rev. Bruno Schreiber, Forest Park, IL; not pictured are the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Rochester, NY; the Rev. Fritz Goliath, St. Catherines, ON; and Mr. William Kresal, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



To the Church Extension/Church Growth Board were elected (l to r) the Rev. Ron Norman, director; the Rev. Dennis Dewey, Steamboat Rock, IA; the Rev. Fred Jantz, Stockton, CA; Miss Carol Potratz, Bismarck, ND; Mr. Blaine Fluth, Brooklyn Center, MN; and Mr. Don Roller, Vancouver, BC. Not pictured are the Rev. Bruce Merrifield, Lethbridge, AB; and Mr. Ray Kiemele, Bismarck, ND.



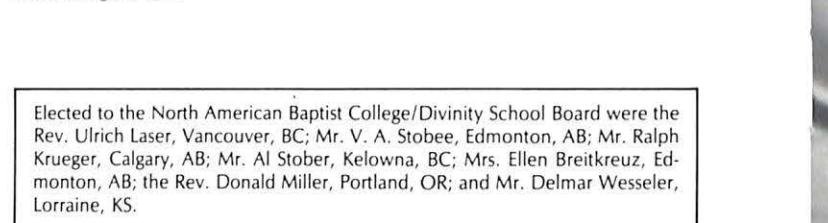
Four Conference officers and two department heads were elected at the Triennial Conference: The Rev. Fred Folkerts, missions director (l to r); the Rev. Gene Kern, Fair Oaks, CA, as moderator; the Rev. Ron Norman, Glen Ellyn, IL, as director of church extension/church growth; the Rev. John Binder, executive director; and Mr. Milton Hildebrandt, treasurer. Not pictured is Mr. Ernie Radke, Calgary, AB, vice moderator.



Elected to the N.A.B. Seminary Board were the Rev. Leon Bill, Sioux Falls, SD, (back row, left to right); the Rev. Jerry Edinger, Winnipeg, MB; Mr. Darrell Heringer, Anamoose, ND; Mr. Douglas Bleeker, Emery, SD, (chairman); (front row) Dr. Lyle Grenz, Burlington, ON; the Rev. Art Brust, Sacramento, CA; and Dr. Peter Fehr, Minneapolis, MN. Not pictured is the Rev. Ronald Susek, Pittsburgh, PA.



Elected to the Board of Missions were the Rev. Herman Effa, Edmonton, AB; the Rev. Ralph Cooke (chairman), Grand Forks, ND; Mr. John Firtko, Minneapolis, MN; and Dr. Eugene Stockdale, Costa Mesa, CA. Not pictured are Mr. Carl Lang, Calgary, AB; the Rev. Bernard Thole, Cheektowaga, NY; and Mrs. Christa Eckert, Parma Heights, OH.



Upper left photo by Schilke, others by David Beam

A Glimpse of the Conference

Bernard Thole, chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee and pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, NY, welcomed the Conference to Niagara Falls. "We are meeting not only on the border of the two countries of Canada and the U.S.A., but also in the area of the 'roots' of our Conference. Many of the pioneers of the N.A.B. Conference came out of the Eastern Association.

"Thirty-two local arrangements chairmen, and more than 90 committee members worked diligently for the past three years to make this Conference a success." And they did! Thanks to all.



photo by Barbara Binder



One third to one half of the 4,000 people attending the Conference were there for the first time.

photo by Harold Lang

The genial Conference announcer—the Rev. Gerald Scheel, Kelowna, BC.



photo by David Beam



photo by Leon Bill

Five hundred fourteen men heard Stan Johnson, Tacoma, WA, State Representative, give his personal testimony and some observations on political life. "Christians have abdicated their rights," he said. The legislature does things that affect our lives and beliefs; we don't do anything about it until it is too late. Johnson has observed three things in political life: 1) People have difficulty handling power; it corrupts. Christians should be involved in the political process because they know how to handle power as children of God. 2) The love of money is evident in political life; people are influenced with gifts and favors. 3) It's easy to become enamored with the attention of press and friends—the love of glory. Johnson said there are many opportunities for personal evangelism and for helping fellow legislators. He challenged the men to put Christ first, to lift him up, and to have an effect on the community for Christ's sake.

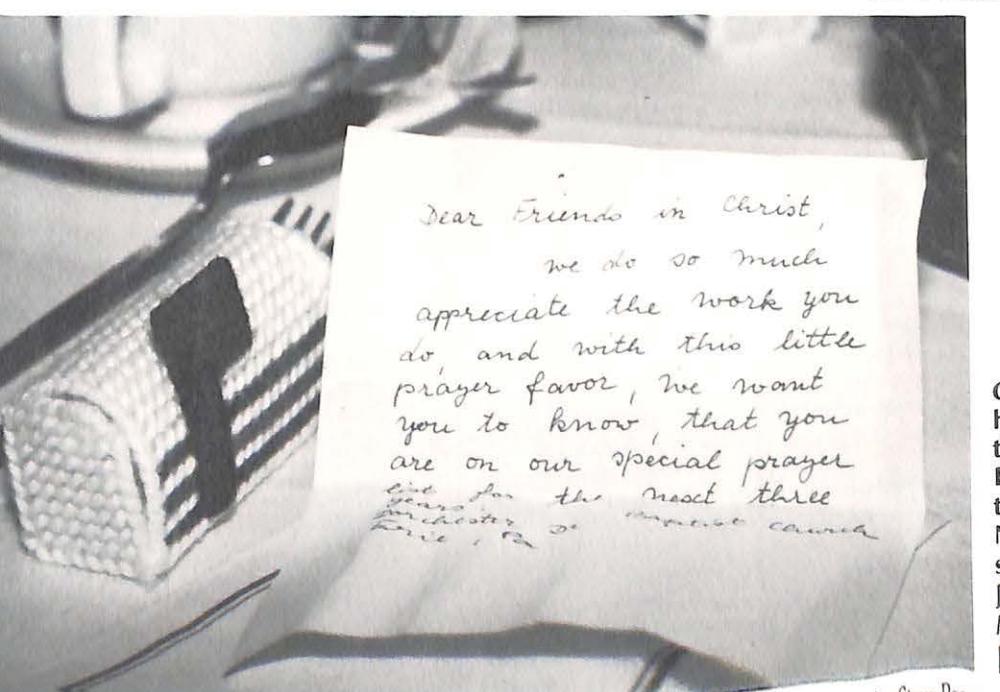


photo by Steve Pace

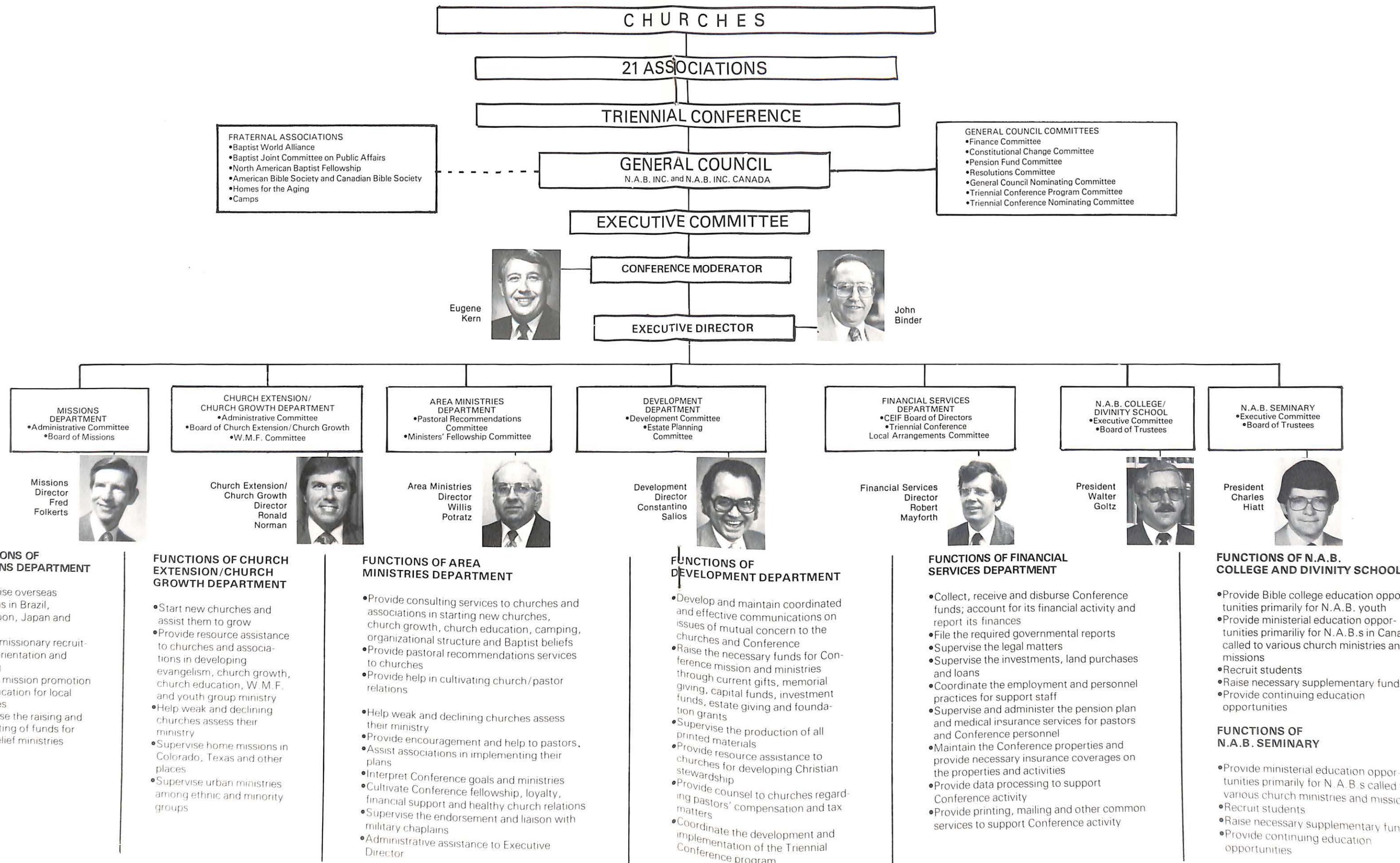
One of the beautiful handmade table decorations at the Missionary Breakfast, which was attended by 374 people. Newly appointed missionaries, Dr. Kenneth Jones, Gregg Evans, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bates gave testimonies.

(Continued on page 18)

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR N.A.B. CONFERENCE

Christ is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18).

AUGUST 1982



Citations of Appreciation were presented by Missions Director Fred Folkerts on behalf of the Missionary Society to Miss Gertrude Schatz, missionary nurse in Cameroon, 1958-82, for 24 years, and to the Rev. and Mrs. David Keiry as home missionaries in San Luis Valley, Colorado, for 25 years.



photo by Leon Bill



photo by Steve Pace

Offerings during the Conference totaled \$110,194 of which \$67,847 was designated for debt reduction and \$4,074 for world relief in the communion offering. \$28,220 was pledged for debt reduction.



photo by Leon Bill

Expressing gratitude for our prayers and for sending missionaries to Japan for 30 years, the Rev. Y. Akasaka, executive secretary, Japan Baptist Conference, reported that the Japan Baptist Conference has set goals to double its membership in the next 10 years; to raise up five young people to become pastors in our churches in the next five years; and to take on more financial responsibility by setting aside five percent of the J.B.C. budget for continued ministry. "This past summer, two young men committed themselves to the ministry," says Akasaka. "Thank you for bringing us this far."



The Saturday evening presentation by the almost 1,000 senior high and college age youth at the Conference was excellent. With Paul Dykstra directing a choir that sounded like they'd been together for a year rather than a few days; Carol Potratz leading the antiphonal chorale speaking choir, and David Moore narrating and praying that God "would help us never to be blind to summits to climb," through music and drama, the challenge came to climb ever higher—from one mountain peak to another—in the Christian life. This culminated a week-long youth conference, "Summit Assault," during which Dawson McAllister walked the youth through the last six days of Christ's life. The Rev. Sam Berg, Ottawa, ON, and Mr. Carlo Walth, Portland, OR, led the youth section of the Triennial Conference.



The Conference closed with the observance of the Lord's Supper and the singing of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love." Truly it was felt.

photo by Gwen Dickau

Thoughts from Conference Speakers



photo by Steve Pace



photo by Barbara Binder

are evangelized.

"True worship changes people," believes Kern. People return to church not because they can remember the pastor's sermon, but because they sense God's eternal Spirit, a warmth and a caring. "I was drawn there." Unless worship is from within, the heart will be tossed to and fro, scrambled with the world.



photo by David Beam



photo by David Beam

"We are the people of God because of the incarnation—God in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, because of what Christ did for us, not because of what we do," said Dr. Harold Carter, opening night speaker. "We are the people of God because our faith rests on the revelation of God—the Bible and because of the work of the Cross and the resurrection." Carter reminded that we should be joyful because of God's goodness and thankful because Jesus was thankful. Going into the average church, one doesn't see much joy. "Pastor acts like he's dead. Choir seems like it has lost its vibrancy." In contrast, everything the devil sells, he sells with joy. This present generation doesn't know how to say thank you. We've lost the gift of thanksgiving.

Christ thanked God all along the way. We can't bless God with money because he owns it or with thoughts because he knows them, but we can respond to God with love. We bless God by our thankfulness, our love, our fellowship, our joy.

Be concerned about the depth of ministry, Kern says; God will take care of the breadth. It is imperative to be people of the Word. Free up the pastor to spend quality time with the Word, so he can lead his people. Where churches allow their pastors time for study of the Word and prayer, the congregation grows.

There is an urgency in worship. God says, "Worship no other." "Worship is not an elective for the believer; it is a must," says Kern. We must worship God in Spirit and in Truth as part of our lifestyles.

Why are so many being eliminated from church membership? Kern believes that either the individual's experience was just an emotional high, or they were never with us, or we never cared for them. Through worship, God is glorified, Christians purified, the Church built up, and the lost

"Being the people of God creates tension between what we were and what we are becoming, between what we are becoming and what we will become," said Dr. Howard Andersen, Vancouver, BC, in his address. "How come we can't do more in evangelism and baptism? Maybe we are like Jonah—reluctant to be out-and-out evangelists." Jonah wasn't enthusiastic about his task—he decided to flee from the presence of the Lord. "Maybe we don't reach out," said Andersen, "because we can afford not to; we can pay our church's bills." Other reasons we may not reach out are because we think God is too soft on the unbelieving world; we think God makes it too easy for them to come to Christ or it may be because we feel new people can never make us quite as happy as the people we already know and have in our church. God used a fish, a worm and wind to get Jonah's attention. They didn't have the brains of Jonah, but these creatures of God obeyed. It seems some say, "I'd rather be dead than use my beautiful sanctuary."

The Rev. Ralph Cooke, Grand Forks, ND, and chairman of the Board of Missions, challenged Conference attendees with "Missions! Why?" Cooke said: The reasons for missions are because of our identity with Christ, our responsibility to Christ, and our authority from Christ.

WOMAN'S WORLD

Celebration at Niagara

by Sara Pasichel
Steinbach, MB,
"Women's World" editor

Seventy-five years! The entire North American Baptist Conference body celebrated and rejoiced with us as women at the Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls in August. Here are a few of the highlights of the women's program.



Dorene Walth presenting check to Fred Folkerts

Mrs. Dorene Walth, retiring president of the national W.M.F. executive, presented the Rev. Fred Folkerts, Missions director, a "large" check for \$50,000. The presentation, made at the evening session which commemorated the 100th year of the Mission Society, represented giving by the women over and above our previous triennial goal of \$600,000.

Women present at the Conference voted on a new goal for the next Triennium of \$700,000 and gave \$7,200 at the luncheon toward this goal.



A dramatic presentation, written and produced by Marti McCartney of the Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, vividly portrayed the past 75 years of our history. "A Prize Recipe of Ps" portrayed the programs, progress, and publications which reflect the development of our women's work.



Several workshops presented by women of our Conference were well attended and provided ideas and helpful suggestions for local women's groups. White Cross chairman Lois Conrad provided each association chairman with a kit which included patterns and samples to guide the work in each church. Other workshops included sessions on using the German program packet, developing women's ministries, women in the church, and an idea exchange.

More than 1,300 women attended the Friday noon luncheon which featured birthday cake and ice cream as well as a dramatic presentation.

Mrs. Barbara Binder, wife of the executive director of our N.A.B. Conference, was the main speaker, and Mrs. Marena Belle Williams, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union, brought greetings from the N.A.B.W.U.



Past presidents Reva Lutz, (l to r), Carolyn Sherman, Thelea Wesseler, and Jeannette Stein were introduced. Froh Hiller returned home with her husband who was ill.

A "Parade of Past Presidents" recognized five women who have served the W.M.F. in past years: Mrs. Reva Lutz, Mrs. Carolyn Sherman, Mrs. Froh Hiller, Mrs. Thelea Wesseler, and Mrs. Jeannette Stein.

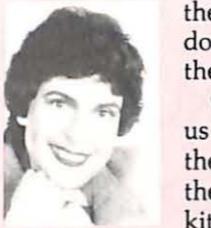


Eleanor Quiring was coordinator of women's activities for the Conference.

The Eastern Association women planned and set up the W.M.F. booth at the Convention Center, featuring pictures and other memories from the past and from W.M.F. groups from every part of the U.S. and Canada.

Up the Stairway

by Dorene Walth,
WMF president,
Citrus Heights, CA



It's good to look at the past for one gains perspective for the future.

Such a pause on my stairway came for me in August at Niagara Falls at the Triennial Conference. What a view! It was a foretaste of heaven . . . renewing acquaintances and reliving experiences from many places along the way.

The biggies for me, of course, were the programming bits and pieces pertinent to the W.M.F. The 75th anniversary of this organization prompted a sacrificial gift of \$50,000 to the Missions Department, participation in an anniversary tea, and an extra special luncheon program complete with a historical drama revealing the progress of our Conference women's work.

I stand taller in wholesome pride and gratefulness to God for all who have given of themselves to bring us to our present status. We have a caring outreach with "missions vision" at home, in our communities, as well as overseas.

We have come a long way . . . but we have not arrived! Where there is humanity, there is service to do. God is glorified by our faithfulness.

We admit that we have done well. We have crossed big bridges. Our ministries have grown. Heaven holds more people because of our witness.

All of us know women who have passed to their eternal rest yet left us convincing examples of what it means to live sacrificially and abundantly at the same time.

We continue to learn from those who have gone before, and we appreciate the heritage they have left us. Now it is our turn. Our children and grandchildren will be proud of

us, too, as we hold Christ before them in our own lifestyles. They don't have many good examples these days.

Christ will be honored as they see us taking food into the home where the mother is ill. Who can measure the eternal value of cleaning her kitchen and temporarily doing her laundry for her? The rewards are there, but they may not be collected in this life.

God is honored when we study his Word and put his principles into practice. This is how we learn that we don't have to be the Holy Spirit for our spouses, children, and friends by trying to run their lives and manipulate them. Letting God be their God is so much easier, and we find we can be menders and nourishers rather than cripplers and instruments of deprivation to Christian growth around us.

North American Baptist women in the 80s will continue in strength as together they care, pray, sing, picnic, travel, exercise, cook, clean, decorate, create, eat, study God's Word, and grow in truth. "Being the Women of God" means we will continue to work together as long as the Lord tarries.

I love N.A.B. women! I pray that God will continue to give us faithful leaders just like we have had through the years and have today in women like LaVerna Mehlhaff, our women's work director, Iona Quiring, our new W.M.F. president, and their many assistants.

Please continue to pray for our women leaders at all levels and encourage their service as God directs. Join forces and do your part by using your spiritual gifts to the fullest advantage in your own church, community, and wider circles.

Yes, we learn by looking at the past (not looking backward). Now, as we look to the years ahead, let's aim to make each new year the best one ever. With God's help, we cannot fail.

" . . . overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us" (Romans 8:37b, TLB).

W.M.F. Executive Committee for 1983-1985

Mrs. Iona Quiring, president
Route 1, Box 133A
Rogers, MN 55374

Mrs. Manetta Hohn, vice president
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Kelowna, BC, V1Z 1R8

Mrs. Ruby Alnow, secretary-treasurer
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Mrs. Sara Pasichel, editor, English ("Women's World")
Box 533
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Mrs. Eva Helwing, editor, German ("Die Seite der Frau")
4980 W. Farwell
Skokie, IL 60076

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Amherst, NY 14226

Mrs. Maria Rogalski, editor, German Program Packet
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Mrs. LaVerne Hampton, White Cross chairman
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DID YOU KNOW . . . that the Anniversary booklet, *WMF—Then and Now*, prepared and published in time for the Triennial Conference is available? We encourage you to send for copies for the women of your church. Cost: \$1.00 plus \$.50 for postage. Contact LaVerna Mehlhaff, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Church Extension Project

"Overwhelmed with Excitement!" in Carrollton, Texas

by Robert Walther

As I listen to Dave, our Evangelism Coordinator, tell us of the opportunities we have as North Carrollton Baptist Church, I was amazed and excited for the ministry we have in Carrollton, Texas. Dave tells us of the 50-70 new families moving to Carrollton weekly.

As these families move to our community, we have tried to anticipate the many needs and meet them through our church services, in small groups, and on a one-to-one basis. However, we have learned that God's timing is always perfect.

Initially, we tried to organize a ladies' Bible study, but it didn't materialize. Not long after that, the ladies *asked* for a Bible study when the need became evident among many of the ladies of the Church and the community.

When the people attending worship services on Sunday realized the need for more insight from the Scriptures and for more fellowship, they *asked* for small study groups to meet during the week. It has been a delight to see the weekly attendance in the study groups grow.

We can be thankful that we are in one of the fastest growing states and, in particular, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Along with this growth, there are many growing pains in the home. We have the great opportunity of ministering to families, since recent statistics tell us that Dallas has the highest divorce rate in the United States. Pray with us as we strive to meet the needs of these families.

Along with the growth of our community, North Carrollton Baptist Church has seen evidence of this growth in

The Rev. Robert Walther is pastor of North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, TX.



The church is rapidly outgrowing its Sunday school facilities in the elementary school, where it meets.



Pastor and Mrs. Robert Walther are excited about the five acres north of the new church site. It is zoned for 6,500 family units to be built in the near future.



Realizing the need for more insight from the Scriptures, the people asked for small study groups to meet during the week.

News & Views

BJCPA REAFFIRMS SUPPORT OF FREE EXERCISE RIGHTS

WASHINGTON (BP)—A reaffirmation of the free exercise of religion rights guaranteed by the First Amendment highlighted a two-day meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs executive committee.

In a unanimously-adopted statement, the Baptist Joint Committee underscored its "determination to safeguard the genuine free exercise rights of every U.S. citizen."

The statement further requested staff of the Washington D.C.-based agency to "seek proper legislative and judicial avenues to protect and enhance the free exercise of religion of all citizens including that of elementary and secondary school children."

The BJCPA agreed to focus on an affirmation of Baptist identity and heritage during its biennial religious liberty conference scheduled Oct. 3-4, 1983.

BJCPA executive director James M. Dunn, in his report, said the agency's 1983-84 priorities will include a "back-to-Baptist-basics" emphasis on such Baptist themes as soul freedom, a reinforcement of the Baptist Press bureau in the nation's capital, an expansion of a Baptist network of citizens concerned with public affairs issues and continued resistance of governmental intrusion into religious affairs.

The committee also approved a working 1982-83 budget of \$431,916 for the agency which represents nine Baptist denominations in the U.S. and Canada, including the North American Baptist Conference.

N.A.B. SEMINARY CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

South Dakota's governor, The Honorable William Janklow, declared October 14, 1982, the North American Baptist Seminary Day in South Dakota. This proclamation was in conjunction and honor of the Seminary's 125th anniversary celebration held at First Baptist Church in

Sioux Falls on October 14, 1982.

Featured speaker at the evening's celebration was Dr. John Binder, North American Baptist Conference's executive director. Special music from the N.A.B. Seminary choir and the 125th anniversary multi-media presentation were also on the program.

CHAPLAIN HARRIS SERVES SERVES ARMY, SDARNG IN EUROPE

Sioux Falls, SD—Problems that only a chaplain can handle occur daily in Army communities in Europe. This was the experience of Chaplain (CPT) J. Gordon Harris of the 1st BN, 147th FA, South Dakota Army National Guard. He trained with the USAREUR Chaplain's Office, 7th Army, at Heidelberg, West Germany from January 19 to July 19.

He was studying at the University of Heidelberg concurrently.

One of the goals of Chaplain Harris was to work in a variety of situations, facing many different types of problems. He wasn't disappointed.

"Soldiers defending Europe live under many stresses," he said. "War is a near possibility and a real concern; there is concern for dependents in case of war, and family problems tend to worsen under these stresses. Child and spouse abuse increase, as does alcohol abuse. Add to this the differences in language and culture, training difficulties and long hours, and many personal problems can result from the tensions."

On the positive side, Chaplain Harris noted that new equipment is replacing the old; drug abuse is lessening because of increasing vigilance of the command; and soldiers who cannot perform essential tasks are being barred from re-enlistment.

Morale is much improved in USAREUR, and the chaplain plays an important role in raising that morale, Chaplain Harris said. "Chaplains in Europe are an important factor now, and will be crucial for holding together a mobilized force in case of war."

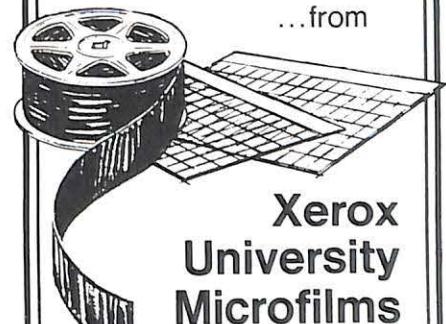
In addition to working as a hospital and community chaplain, Harris talked to members of the 1742nd Transportation Company, SDAR-ING, during their Annual Training in Russelheim, West Germany in April;

and served with the 665th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company during their two-week AT at Sullivan Barracks, Mannheim, West Germany in May.

Chaplain Harris received a scroll of appreciation for his work in Germany from the 21st Support Command, USAREUR and the 7th Army; and letters of appreciation from Staff Chaplain (LTC) Hugh Bickley of the 21st Support Command and from LTC George Loudenslager, commanding officer of the 1st BN, 147th FA, South Dakota Army National Guard.

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Riffel were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at a celebration hosted by their children and grandchildren at the



Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS, on July 25, 1982. The church family presented this faithful couple with a gift. (Reva Lutz, reporter.)

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moser, Sr. were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary at an open house, program, and supper hosted by their children and grand-



children at the First Baptist Church. The family tree cake was decorated by their daughter Irene. They were married Nov. 4, 1931.

EBENEZER, SK. Recently a dedication service, chaired by Moderator Arthur Patzer, was held for the newly erected education wing of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Pastor Steven Patrick gave the prayer of dedication.

After the morning meditation and benediction by the pastor, Mayor Ray Miller spoke and then cut the ribbon. Malcolm Fletcher, Swan River, MB, the contractor, was also present. After the service, a potluck dinner was enjoyed.

The Christian Service Boys' Brigade and their leaders took part in the track meet of Southern Saskatchewan in Regina, SK. They returned with trophies for the best group effort in both divisions. There were two individual winners.

The youth group of the Church presented an Association Exchange program consisting of choir numbers with Gayle Patrick, pastor's wife, as director. A pup-

pet presentation, "The Garden of Theology," was presented. (Mrs. Martha Dreger, reporter.)

XENIA, OH. An interesting and worthwhile teacher training seminar with Dr. Floyd Moore, professor from N.A.B. Seminary, was held at Community Baptist Church.

Eleven persons from the church attended the Penn-Ohio Association at Temple Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA. The Rev. Bernard Thole, Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, NY, was the speaker. Our lives were enriched by attending the Association.

The theme of the Mother-Daughter Banquet was "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Mrs. Phyllis Towner was the speaker.

The youth group had a great fun day on their trip to King's Island under the leadership of Bill and Gail Keller.

On May 30, a farewell dinner was held for Pastor and Mrs. Art Bollaert and family, followed by a sharing time.

Many expressed thanks to the Bollaerts for their devotion to the Lord and their ministry. They are now pastoring the Evangel Baptist Church, Boca Raton, FL. (Esther L. Lucius, reporter.)

HEBRON, ND. "The Joyous Praise," a group of young people from Apple Valley, MN, presented a concert at First Baptist Church recently. Mr. and Mrs. Tim Blackburn are the leaders of the Group.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hochhalter, representing the N.A.B. Seminary, explained the opportunities for youth to go into the Lord's work. Their singing and testimony were an inspiration.

On Father's Day, during the evening service, the Alpha Teen and Omega youth groups of the church presented a program honoring fathers. "It is such an inspiration to see our youth working for the Lord," says Delores Kitzan, reporter. The Rev. Donald Decker is pastor.

GETZVILLE, NY. We praise and thank our Lord for the evidence of spiritual growth in the lives of 12 people (pictured)



who followed him in the waters of baptism. They, along with three others, were extended the right hand of fellowship. The Rev. Larry E. Burd is pastor.

HILDA, AB. Hilda Baptist Church hosted the James Dobson "Focus on the Family" series, which was well attended by church and community.

Five children were dedicated to the Lord. Five adults were baptized and the hand of fellowship was extended to four of those baptized, as well as to three others who were accepted as members on their testimony.

The new pastor, the Rev. Herb Bachler, his wife Myrtle, and children, Janise and Keith, were welcomed at a supper. On the same night farewell was said to the interim pastor, Jeff Carter, his wife Peggy, and their son, Jordan.

"We appreciated Jeff's service and how he prepared us for the ministry of our new pastor," says Linda Anderst, reporter.

Twenty-two junior high youth and four sponsors attended the junior high retreat at Camp Caroline recently. The junior high ministry has been growing and is a real outreach.

Recently, the Children's Hour children and their parents enjoyed a puppet show, "Nathaniel the Grublet," by students from Hillcrest Christian College.

HILLSBORO, OR. More than 55 members and friends of Faith Baptist Church met at the Mountaintop Conference Center for the second annual family retreat in June 4-6, 1982.

On Friday evening, "Prelude," a musical ensemble from N.A.B. College, presented a program. A time of fellowship and sharing followed.

The theme for the retreat dealt with the Christian family. The deacons led in teaching models and in discussion groups. There were also times for family discussion. Pastor Jim Green shared the evening teaching time, "Open and Closed Doors" in Christian marriage.

Almost 100 people crowded the facilities for the Sunday morning worship service, followed by dinner.

HOPE, KS. The members of First Baptist Church of Dickinson County were saddened as Pastor and Mrs. James Zier and son Jared left the church. Pastor Zier is attending N.A.B. Seminary. A farewell dinner was held in their honor. On July 11, following Pastor Jim's last service, the church enjoyed a picnic lunch.

The Ziers were presented with a quilt that had on it a design from each family and the name of each member of the congregation. (Virla Piper, reporter.)

CALGARY, AB. Grace Baptist Church celebrated 70 years of the Lord's blessing June 5-6. On Saturday evening, members

and friends gathered for a barbecue followed by a service of remembrance at which time former pastors (pictured) brought greetings and the "Sounds of Grace" quartet sang.



On Sunday morning, the Rev. Peter Schroeder, former pastor, brought the message to the congregation. The sanctuary choir ministered in the evening service presenting "This Same Jesus."

We reflect with thanksgiving for the past 70 years and look forward with hope for God's future blessing as we remain faithful.

The Rev. Walter Kerber is senior pastor. (Pastor Warren Hoffman, reporter.)

ABILENE, KS. Mr. Dale Lint, a 1982 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, is the new pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The kitchen of the parsonage was remodeled and a pantry shower was given for Mr. and Mrs. Lint.

On June 20 at the evening service, the church held an installation service for Pastor Dale, his wife Roberta, and their two sons. A reception followed the service. (Reva Lutz, reporter.)

MARION, KS. Mr. Barry Seifert was ordained into the gospel ministry at Strassburg Baptist Church during the morning service on June 6, 1982. The Rev. George Lang, professor, N.A.B. Seminary, delivered the ordination message. The charge to the candidate and welcome to the ministry was given by the Rev. Randy Kinnison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS. Pastor James Brygger offered the ordination prayer. The benediction was given by the Rev. Barry Seifert.

This service was held in response to the unanimous affirmative vote given to Barry at the ordination council held at Strassburg Church on June 3. Representatives of N.A.B. churches from Kansas and Oklahoma participated. The Rev. Elton Kirstein, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS, was moderator.

Following the ordination service, a dinner was held in the church in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. Barry Seifert and Ryan. Rev. Seifert is associate pastor, Park

Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB. (Martha Krispense, reporter.)

MEDICINE HAT, AB. The members of the Temple Baptist Church praise God for the 15 people who answered the call of Christ to follow him in the waters of baptism recently. These and seven others were extended the hand of fellowship following the baptismal service. The Rev. Loren Wehr is pastor of the church. (G. Grose, reporter.)

CARRINGTON, ND. Approximately 150 delegates from 16 churches attended the annual session of the Northern Dakota Association, June 19-20, hosted by Calvary Baptist Church. The theme was "New People for a New Day" (pictured).



Professor Walter Goltz, president, N.A.B. College and Divinity School, was guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet for youth, women and men. More than 400 people attended. A "puppeteers" show was presented for the children not involved in the banquets.

Other featured speakers included the Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, Bismarck, ND, and the Rev. Richard Rabenhorst, missionary to Brazil. Bryan and Holly Hochhalter, representing N.A.B. Seminary, brought special music. (Vi People, reporter.)

MEDINA, ND. Four candidates were baptized and accepted into membership of Medina First Baptist Church by the Rev. Pat Colley, pastor. They were Monte Leno, and Becky, Doug and David Colley. (Mrs. June Fischer, reporter.)

FORT RICHMOND, MB. Manitoba's 16 church Association, 1981 top per capita contributor in the N.A.B. Conference, may have consolidated number one status again. At the Association meetings held April 16 and 17, 1982, in Winnipeg's Fort Richmond Baptist Church, offerings of more than \$3,000 were given to further N.A.B. mission work in Brazil. \$1,208.50 came from a banquet offering, during which Missionary Richard Rabenhorst showed slides

and exhorted the audience from God's Word. A whopping \$1,813.50 from the Women's Missionary Fellowship reflected

our conference in action

the Manitoba ladies' deep commitment to missions.

Rabenhorst brought much to the meetings. His vibrant awareness of the need for individual personal evangelism was expressed in a challenge for each Christian to covenant with God to share a testimony of Jesus Christ with at least one person daily. The challenge was well received.

"Business items and budget decisions were expedited in a beautiful spirit of unity and love, making the 1982 Manitoba Association meetings a time to be remembered with gratitude and joy," reports Ed Hughes, recording secretary.

REGINA, SK. On May 15, 1982, approximately 30 of the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church gathered together for a goal-setting seminar under the leadership of Pastor Ed Schellenberg and Area Minister the Rev. Sig Schuster. In the year that Pastor Schellenberg has been pastor, the Church has gained independent status and no longer is on Church Extension support.

It has been a challenging year reaching into the area. God has undertaken so often. Twenty new members have joined our fellowship this year. We look forward to even greater things.

The church programs are alive and active; "we look forward to even greater things," says Mrs. Audrey Johnsrude, church clerk.

GEORGE, IA. On April 14, 1982, Jewel Oltmann (pictured) celebrated her 100th birthday at the George Community Good Samaritan Center.



Center Baptist Church presented a program. Mr. Looie Heeren was master of ceremonies. Pastor Glen Epp read scripture and prayed, and Mr. Gene Mathison, administrator of the Center, also had part in the program.

"She is an inspiration and a living testimony to everyone," says Helen Sudenga, reporter.

SASKATOON, SK. Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church hosted the Saskatchewan Baptist Association sessions, June 18-20.

Dr. Sydney Page, professor, N.A.B. College and Divinity School, was guest speaker on the theme, "Ministry and Ser-

our conference in action

vice." Mrs. Faith Page gave a challenging message at the W.M.F. luncheon.

On June 27, two adults were baptized at Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church. (Kathy Stockdale, reporter.)

PORT COQUITLAM, BC. On June 20, 1982, seven people were welcomed into the fellowship of Mary Hill Baptist Church: four by baptism and three by testimony. The hand of fellowship was extended to them at the communion service that evening. (Pam Kupsch, reporter.)

SWAN RIVER, MB. On June 27, two young people were baptized at Wellman Lake Camp upon their confession of faith by Pastor Leland Bertsch. Following the baptism, they were extended the hand of fellowship, received as members into the Temple Baptist Church, and invited to participate in celebrating the Lord's Supper with the congregation. (Lynn Patzer, reporter.)

LEDUC, AB. On June 27, during the morning service, Pastor Frank Schmidt baptized two young ladies from Temple Baptist Church. The Lord's Supper was



then observed. The hand of fellowship was extended to the newly baptized and another one who joined by letter of transfer (pictured). We praise the Lord for these new members. (Vi Fleck, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. On June 6 Ebenezer Baptist Church witnessed an encouraging event, as 16 new members were added to the fellowship, 13 by baptism and three by transfer.

Following the extension of the right hand of fellowship, the new members were joined by the couples who had volunteered to look after each of them and to make them welcome. The Rev. Howard Andersen was the pastor. (Margaret Gowe, reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CA. A Workers' Appreciation Supper to recognize all Sunkist workers and prepared by the ladies of Sunkist Baptist Church was held with all church families invited.

The program was directed by the Rev. Norris Helms, who at that time was direc-

tor of Christian education. Deacons, deaconesses, Sunday school teachers, children's church, nursery, Wednesday night workers and youth sponsors were all specially recognized.

The children's choir (grades 1-6), under the direction of Mrs. Carole Melvin and Mrs. Adeline Smith, presented the new musical, "Jonah and the Whale," by Mrs. Dorothy Foster, who was present.

A new program, called T.A.G. (Thursday Afternoon Games) has been started by Rainer Kunz, children's worker. The program for boys and girls of the church and neighborhood, grades four through six, is conducted every Thursday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Team games are played. The Word of God is also shared with a Bible Study.

Through this ministry, there have been 15 decisions for Christ and we rejoice. The Rev. Adolph Braun is pastor of the church. (Carol Justus, reporter.)

RED DEER, AB. A farewell service and lunch was held the last Sunday evening of Pastor LeRoy Moser's ministry in June with Community Baptist Church.

The evening was spent reminiscing; special musical numbers were presented. Mrs. Jackie Moser sang, following which Pastor Moser challenged the church to look to God for guidance and to continue to do the Lord's work.

Pastor Moser and his family came to Red Deer a little over four years ago to start this church extension project. A lot of hard work and prayer went into this church. (Irma Edel, reporter.)

BURLINGTON, ON. To "The glory of God" is the inscription on the cornerstone at Pineland Baptist Church. The first two phases of building were erected with that purpose and now the third phase has been completed with the same desire, "To God be the Glory."



A special service was held to dedicate the new addition on May 30. Greetings were brought by the founding pastor, Dr. Walter Kerber; the former interim pastor, the Rev. C. St. Clair Robinson, as well as the former area minister, the Rev. Rubin Kern, and the present area minister, the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, and the Moderator for the Eastern Association, Mr. Bill Kaufeldt.

A particularly encouraging report indicated three young men are candidates for ordination through the Michigan Association in the coming two months.

The dedication address was given by the pastor, the Rev. Jake Leverette, "What Mean These Stones?" Special music was provided by Mr. Melvin Vinter, the sanctuary choir, and ladies' trio.

It was a great day in the life and growth of the Church—God led his servants in the establishment of this congregation and in the building of these facilities.

The building now seats more than 600 people. "We are trusting God to fill his house," says Dinah Herd, reporter. There are 28 classrooms, nursery, three staff offices and church office, education office, gymnasium, fellowship hall, kitchen and storage rooms. In the development of these facilities, the church tried to be faithful stewards of the Lord's money. The structure, though adequate, comfortable and functional, is not elaborate. "The purpose of our Church is to "Win the Lost—Teach the Saved." We are now better equipped for our congregation to do that God-given task," says Miss Herd.

It was in May 1966 that the first service was held in a local school with 15 persons in attendance and now, 16 years later, the attendance is 300 to 350.

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI. Twenty-one churches of the Michigan Association of North American Baptists met April 29-May 1 at Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI, for the 12th annual meeting represented by 87 seated delegates.

Dr. Stuart Briscoe, speaker for the meetings, centered his messages around the conference theme, "Walk in Newness of Life."

The Rev. Wilfred and Jeanine Weick, N.A.B. missionaries to Japan, brought encouraging and enthusiastic reports of how God is at work in Japan. Both Rev. and Mrs. Weick brought the closing challenges at the men's and women's luncheons.

Action was taken to formally admit the Liberty Baptist Church of Howell, MI, Rev. James Wheeler, pastor, to the Michigan Association; to elect the slate of officers which included the Rev. William O. Taft, pastor, Grosse Pointe Baptist, as moderator of the Association for the coming year; to accept the proposal submitted to the General Council to align the Michigan Association with the Penn-OHIO Association to form a new area with a new area minister; and the report of the Resolutions Committee was adopted which included our resolve as local churches to set growth and personal evangelism goals for the coming year. Gratitude was also expressed on the part of those present to the Rev. Willis Potratz for his loving service as area minister for many years.

A particularly encouraging report indicated three young men are candidates for ordination through the Michigan Association in the coming two months.

(Ray Hammill, Michigan Association reporter.)

ANAHEIM, CA. The Sunkist Baptist Church hosted a Round Robin Missionary Conference with eight missionaries speaking the opening night: Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Schuh, Miss Patricia Lenz, Miss Gertrude Schatz, Cameroon; Dr. and Mrs. Earl Ahrens, Colorado; and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Stoller, Japan.

On Sunday the missionaries shared their experiences by speaking and showing slides at the different Southern California Association churches.

The ladies from the Southern California Association churches enjoyed a salad luncheon at the Harbor Trinity Church with Pat Lenz speaking of her work as a physical therapist in Cameroon.

Mrs. Paul Jungkeit (Sunkist Baptist Church) serves as president of the W.M.F. of the Southern California Association. (Carol Justus, reporter.)

ONOWAY, AB. Five people (pictured) followed the Lord in baptism on May 30; the second baptism in a month held at Onoway Baptist Church. The baptism took place in the newly completed baptismal tank of the church. Six people joined the church.



Two students from N.A.B. College worked with the church youth during the 1981-82 school year.

In May, Eric Reist was hired part-time to work with the youth. A good growth has been seen in the group.

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

ANAHEIM, CA. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Sunkist Baptist Church sponsored a mother-daughter dessert for 180 mothers and daughters. The theme, "Fashioned by God," was highlighted with decorations of homemade quilts, pillows, and needlecraft. The tables were decorated displaying all kinds of dolls.

Special musical numbers, testimonies, and a fashion show of clothing made by the mothers and daughters were program features. Devotions were given by Mrs. Ruth Issler.

Recognition of mothers was presented by the W.M.F. president, Mrs. Muryal

Braun. Honored were the mothers with the youngest daughter and the daughter baptized most recently.

On Mother's Day the young people of the church made carnation corsages for the mothers attending the Sunday service. The Rev. Adolph Braun is pastor of the church. (Carol Justus, reporter.)

PRINCE GEORGE, BC. Bethel Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of three young people (pictured).



In his sermon, Pastor Ernest A. Hoffman talked about the ordinance of baptism. In the following communion service, the hand of fellowship was extended to the new members. (Ingrid Pankonin, reporter.)

SPRINGSIDE, SK. During the evening services in January and February, Springside Baptist Church viewed the James Dobson Family Life film series.

In March the church participated in the Bob Larson Crusade which dealt with topics such as drugs, the occult, and rock music.

Two young people from our Association gave a concert to raise money toward bus expenses for the Triennial Conference in August.

The young people of our church presented a play, "A Fortune Lost, A Future Gained," which was written by Mrs. Fred Pahl. (Grace Goltz, reporter.)

ONOWAY, AB. People came from Texas, California, Edmonton and points in between to help Onoway Baptist Church celebrate its 50th anniversary, July 1-4, 1982.

The celebration began with the Sunday school picnic which more than 150 people enjoyed. Pastor Wenzel Hanik spoke on "Being the People of God."

Approximately 40 ladies heard Mrs. Frances Brown of Beeville, TX, speak at the luncheon on July 2. That evening Prof. Ron Mayforth of N.A.B. College, Edmonton, challenged the congregation on being the body of Christ. Mr. Reuben Schatz, a third generation church member and presently the moderator, chaired the meeting. Greetings were received from different dignitaries including the M.L.A.

who presented the church with a flag of Canada.

Although it rained heavily, more than 240 people came to the Saturday evening banquet. Mr. Cliff Breitkreuz, another third generation son of the church, was master of ceremonies. After a delicious meal and an excellent programme, Dr. B. C. Brown from Beeville, TX, challenged those present. Sixty-six persons who had been a part of the Onoway Baptist Church from 1932 to 1945 received pins as a momento.

The fourth day of the celebration saw the church packed with more than 200 people attending the morning and afternoon services. Included were eight persons who were present when the church first began. The Rev. Aaron Buhler of Costa Mesa, CA, a former pastor, brought a stirring message.

Prof. Willy Muller of N.A.B. College spoke at the closing service on Sunday afternoon. The Central Baptist Choir, Edmonton, sang.

In 1931 several families moved from the Hannah, AB, district to the Onoway area. The Rev. Fred Benke befriended these folks and began meetings. For many years the Onoway church was a station of the Glory Hills Baptist Church. In 1945 the church severed the relationship as a station but maintained the contact with the Glory Hills Baptist Church by sharing the pastor.

Although the weekend was a salute to the years gone by, it was also a challenge for the years to come. "We praise God for the renewed interest and growth of our church in the past few years," says Sonia Turner, reporter. The Rev. Wenzel Hanik is the present pastor of the church.

TACOMA, WA. On June 6, the congregation of about 100 members of Portland Avenue Baptist Church dedicated their much needed parking lot. In less than three years, the congregation was able to sacrificially give so that the parking lot, which cost more than \$15,000 was paid for on dedication day.



"In my 37 years in the ministry, I have never been more proud of a congregation than of this fine group of God's people!" says the Rev. Bernard Edinger, pastor.

In Memoriam

MRS DAN (HERTHA) BEHR (75) was born Nov. 13, 1906, to Fritz and Bertha Kaiser, and died June 10, 1982. She accepted the Lord as Savior at an early age and faithfully served him as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha, WI. In her younger years, she held Good News Clubs in her home, served as youth director, church pianist, president of W.M.F., church clerk, Sunday school superintendent and teacher, and deaconess. At the time of her death, she was still serving as treasurer of W.M.F., sunshine secretary for the church where she brought cheer to the sick and shut-ins, and a hostess for Christian Women's Club. Survivors include her husband Dan; one son Melvin; two daughters: Elayne and Janice, all of Kenosha, WI; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Pastor Dave Dryer officiated at the funeral service.

ROSE BERTSCH, nee Schmidt, (68) was born Nov. 16, 1913, and died June 12, 1982. In 1931, at the age of 18, Rose accepted Christ as her personal Savior and was baptized. On Dec. 4, 1934, she married Rudy Bertsch. They attended Zion Baptist Church, Carbon, AB, until they moved into Drumheller in 1966, where they became members of Parkdale Baptist Church. Rose faithfully served in the work of the church. Survivors include two sons: Quinton and wife Valerie, Carbon, AB, and Warren and wife Margaret, Calgary, AB; one daughter, Lavern Buhler and her husband Peter Brooks, AB; five grandchildren; four brothers: Emil, Johnnie, Harry, and Art; and one sister Edith Anderson. Rose was preceded in death by her parents, husband Rudy, and daughter in infancy, and one brother. Pastors Allen Unger and Brad Knapp officiated at the funeral service.

ADABEL G. BROWNING, nee Eubanks, (67) was born Sept. 27, 1914, and died May 13, 1982. On July 11, 1937, she married Orville H. Browning. She was a resident of Lorraine since 1946, and was a member of the First Baptist Church. Survivors include her husband Orville, Lorraine, KS; one son Ray, Lyons, KS; two daughters: Norma Lee Perkins, Scott City, KS, and Patricia Kay Hatfield, Port Orchard, WA; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; three brothers: Bill, Junior, and Howard; and two sisters: Helen Edmonton and Stella Moore. Pastor Herbert Vetter officiated at the funeral service.

FRANCIS GUENTHER, (66), of Sheboygan Falls, WI, was born on May 19, 1915, in Sheboygan, WI, and died Dec. 16, 1981. He is survived by his widow Etta; a son William of Sheboygan Falls, three daughters: Marilyn Kasten of Howard's Grove, WI, Carol of Sacramento, CA, and Joyce Ten Haken of Marysville, CA; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters and a brother. Mr. Guenther was the grandson of one of the founding families of Bethel Baptist Church and had been a member of Bethel from his youth serving as moderator, deacon, and for more than 30 years as Sunday school superintendent. He also had held office in the Wisconsin

Association of N.A.B. Churches. The Rev. Darrell W. McKay officiated at the funeral service.

JULIE HEINLE was born Feb. 4, 1892, in Russia to John and Julian Rieger, and died June 12, 1982. She came to the United States with her parents in 1892 and settled in South Dakota. She accepted Christ as her Savior in her early youth and was baptized in November 1906. On Aug. 24, 1919, she married Christian Heinle in Hebron, ND. In 1924 they moved to Missoula, MT, and Julie became a charter member of Bethel Baptist Church. Survivors include a son Al, Missoula, MT; four daughters: Martha Oelke, Missoula, MT; Olga Allison, Victor, MT; Esther Heath, Alberton, MT, and Mary Schroeder, Lodi, CA; two half-sisters: Martha Rau and Emma Grenz, both of Eureka, SD; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband. The Rev. Hero Ulrichs officiated at the funeral service.

HELENA HORTON (88) was born Nov. 26, 1893 in Romania to Johann and Christian Adam Martin, and died June 1982. As a child she came from Romania to Fessenden, ND, and then moved to Rosenfeld in the Golden Prairie district of Saskatchewan. Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Lillian (Robert) Richards of Assiniboia, BC, and Mrs. Violet (Bailey) Horton, Maple Creek, SK; three stepsons: Bailey, Maple Creek, SK, Leonard, Pierceland, SK, and Alex, Maple Creek, SK; one stepdaughter Myrtle Waterer, Invermere, BC; ten grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one sister Alvina Kutinsky; and one brother William Martin. She was predeceased by her parents, three husbands, four brothers, and four sisters.

JULIA (JEWEL) OLTMANN (100) of George, IA, was born on April 14, 1882, to Harm and Johanna Oltmann in Germany, and died May 2, 1982. She and her mother came to the United States when Julia was in her teens. She accepted Christ as her Savior, was baptized, and became a charter member of Central Baptist Church, George, IA, where she served faithfully as a Sunday school teacher, choir director, and mission treasurer. In 1970, she entered the George Community Good Samaritan Center. Survivors include one niece and one nephew. The Rev. Glen Epp officiated at the funeral service.

PETER L. SCHOPP (86), Lodi, CA, was born in Ellendale, ND, Dec. 6, 1895, and died April 4, 1982. He moved to Lodi in 1920 and joined First Baptist Church. His employment moved him to Madera and Tracy, CA, but in 1940 he returned to Lodi. He rejoined the Church where he was an active member serving as Sunday school teacher, church treasurer and trustee. He enjoyed reading the Word of God. In 1948 he married Bertha Bossert. He is survived by his wife; daughter Verlene Haas; four sons: Walter Schopp, of Livermore, CA, Ray Bossert of Fiddleton, CA, Allen Bossert of Placerville, CA, and Donald Bossert of Forestville, CA; a sister, Christina Schuber; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ed Schopp. The Rev. Walter Dingfield and the Rev. Aaron Buhler officiated at the funeral service.

SOPHIA PEPPLE (86) was born March 8, 1896, to Jacob and Minnie Kandt in Romania, and died June 17, 1982. She came to the Drake, ND, area when she was six years old. In 1915 she married Christ C. Pepple. Sophia accepted Christ as her Savior at age 11, was baptized and became a member of Rosenfeld Baptist Church, Drake, ND. When she and her husband retired in 1949, they moved to Cathay. Survivors include three daughters: Mrs. Lorine Kolshefski, Drake, ND, Mrs. Alice Allred, Sarasota, FL, and Mrs. Mylidia Allmaras, New Rockford, ND; two sons: Adolph, Cathay, ND, and Harold, Phoenix, AZ; 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three sisters: Mrs. Magdaline (Reuben) Kolshefski, Mrs. Annie Ugelstad, and Mrs. Emelia (Jim) Wolford; and two brothers: Jacob and Bennie Kandt. She was predeceased by her husband Christ and son Reuben. The Rev. John Dikkens officiated at the funeral service.

LYDIA C. PRIBNOW (68) was born to Gustave and Martha Friedrich on Mar. 25, 1914, and died June 16, 1982. On Oct. 2, 1935, she married Arthur Pribnow at Holloway, MB. They moved to the Lambert, Montana, area where they made their home. She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church, Sidney, where she was a charter member in 1943. Survivors include her husband, Arthur; her mother, Martha Friedrich, Milan, MN; two sons: Richard, Hampton, GA, and Gustave, Bridgewater, NJ; one daughter, Mrs. Joseph (Bertha) Allick of Oregon; one sister, Martha Pust; and seven grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter in 1976. The funeral service was officiated by the Rev. Dale H. Axt.

JOHANNA SIEWERT, nee Hiller, was born in Poland on Nov. 14, 1910, and died June 8, 1982. She accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and was baptized in 1924. At the age of 19, she came to Canada, settling first in southern Alberta and then in Vancouver, BC. She became a charter member of Bethany Baptist Church in 1937. On Nov. 24, 1938, she married Ernst Siewert. They had four children. One daughter, Hildegard, preceded Johanna in death in 1981. Survivors include her husband Ernst; daughter Irma and son-in-law Harry Gertz; two sons: David and Arthur and his wife, Sheila; two grandchildren; four brothers: Albert, Bruno, Arthur, and Dr. Herbert; and a sister Mildred Peters. The Rev. Ulrich Laser officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. LYDIA WEBER (74) Wessington Springs, SD, was born Feb. 20, 1908, in Emery, SD, to Carl and Pauline Liedtke, and died June 22, 1982. She was baptized and became a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church of Hand County. On Mar. 4, 1926, she married Sam Banko. They farmed in Jerauld County, later moved to Wessington Springs, and then to Huron, SD. Her husband died in 1958. Lydia married Ben Weber on Oct. 12, 1960. She was an active member of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Wessington Springs, SD, and the W.M.F. Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Jane Swota, Rapid City, SD; two stepsons; one sister; five brothers; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband Sam, and her second husband Ben. The Rev. Darwin Stahl officiated at the funeral service.

What's Happening

Mr. Dennis Anderson became minister of Christian education at First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, on July 15, 1982.

The Rev. Waldemar Ertis resigned as associate pastor at Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, in July. He served there since 1978. He is retiring in Kelowna, BC.

The Rev. Paul Gibson resigned as assistant to the pastor at Bethel Baptist, Missoula, MT, where he served since 1981.

Dr. Martin Stuck is the new pastor at Bloomingdale Baptist Church, Illinois, effective the end of August.

The Rev. Dave Collins resigned as pastor of Melville Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, effective Aug. 1, 1982. He served there since 1980.

The Rev. John Knechtel, Glendale, AZ, died June 19, 1982. He was 95 years old.

Mr. Paul Thomas is the new part-time youth pastor at North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren, MI, as of Aug. 16, 1982. The Rev. Gordon Thomas is senior pastor.

The Rev. Willi Kurtz resigned as associate pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, effective Sept. 1, 1982, to accept the pastorate of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB. He served McDermot Avenue Baptist Church since 1978.

Mr. Tim Reick, minister of youth and Christian education at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, since 1980, resigned effective Aug. 29, 1982, to continue his education.

Dr. H. Glenn Discoe began his ministry as pastor at First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO, on May 2, 1982.

Mr. Donald W. Burnett accepted the position of minister of Christian education at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, effective Aug. 1, 1982.

Mrs. Anne Dailey is the new minister of Christian Education at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, effective May 1, 1982.

The Rev. Dennis Hoffman became the associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA, effective Sept. 1, 1982.

The Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh became pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Sheffield, IA, on Aug. 22, 1982.

Mr. David Vetter became pastor of Forest Baptist Church, Winburne, PA, on Aug. 1, 1982. He is a 1982 N.A.B. Seminary graduate.

The Rev. Glen Epp resigned as pastor of Central Baptist Church, George, IA, effective Sept. 5, 1982. He served there since 1981. He is serving a non-N.A.B. church.

Mr. Dan Williams became the youth pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, effective Oct. 1, 1982.

The Rev. James Brygger resigned as pastor of Emmanuel and Strassburg Baptist Churches, Marion, KS, effective Oct. 1, 1982. He served there since 1978. He has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Buffalo Center, IA.

The Rev. Harold Drenth has accepted the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, George, IA, effective October 18. He resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bison, KS.

The Rev. LeRoy Moser became the associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, on October 1. He had been pastor of Community Baptist Church, Red Deer, AB, since its beginning in 1977.

The Rev. Ray Semeniuk has accepted a 10-month position with Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, as director of Christian education and youth.

Mr. Luke Sommer became minister of youth and discipleship at Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC in July.

The Rev. Erwin Kelbert became pastor of the new church extension project in Saskatoon, SK, effective October 1. He served as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, since 1977.

Dr. Gary Kalmbach, former pastor of the Thornhill Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, will join the staff of Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, on Jan. 1, 1983. Dr. Kalmbach, who recently graduated with his doctorate in Counseling, will establish a Christian counseling centre in Lethbridge and will work between his office in a nearby mall and family enrichment programs in Park Meadows Baptist Church, where the Rev. Bruce Merrifield is senior pastor.

The Rev. Werner Dietrich is the new pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective Aug. 1, 1982.

The Rev. Lawrence Parker resigned as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Wetaskiwin, AB, effective Aug. 31, 1982. He served there since 1977. He is now serving a non-N.A.B. church.

Mr. Michael Westcomb is the new pastor at Pioneer Baptist Church, Pound, WI, as of Aug. 1, 1982.

Mr. Mike McNeff resigned as youth pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, effective September 1981 to continue his education. He served there since 1980.

The Rev. Craig Holmes assumed the position of associate pastor at Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN, on June 8, 1982. He is a 1982 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary.

Mr. Lamont Loudenslager, a 1982 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, is the pastor of First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD, as of July 10, 1982.

Mr. Curtis Congo resigned as minister of Christian education of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, effective Aug. 31, 1982. He served there since 1978. He is continuing his education.

The Rev. Chester Strobel accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Dickinson County, Hope, KS, effective Sept. 1, 1982.

Mr. Merle Hoots, a 1982 graduate of N.A.B. Divinity School, became pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, on September 1.

The Rev. Ronald Habermas resigned as associate pastor of Bloomingdale Baptist Church, IL, effective August 1982, to continue his studies. He served there since 1980.

The Rev. Jack Nemeth, pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, since 1978, resigned to pastor a non-N.A.B. church in Ohio.

Mr. Neil Nelson, pastor of Cypress Springs Baptist Church, Lynnwood, WA, since January 1982, was ordained into the ministry March 13, 1982.

The Rev. Arnie Kirschner became pastor of North Freedom Baptist Church, Wisconsin, on Aug. 15, 1982. He is a 1982 N.A.B. Seminary graduate.

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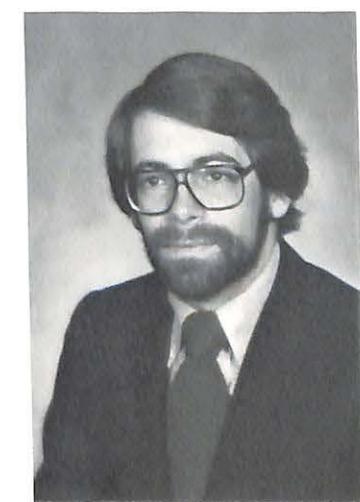
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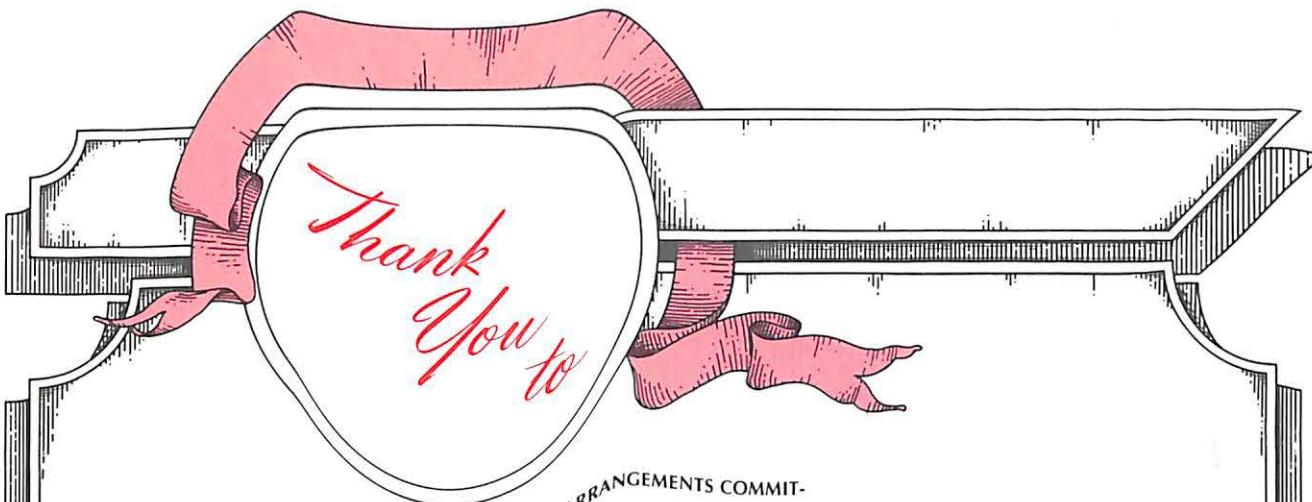


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