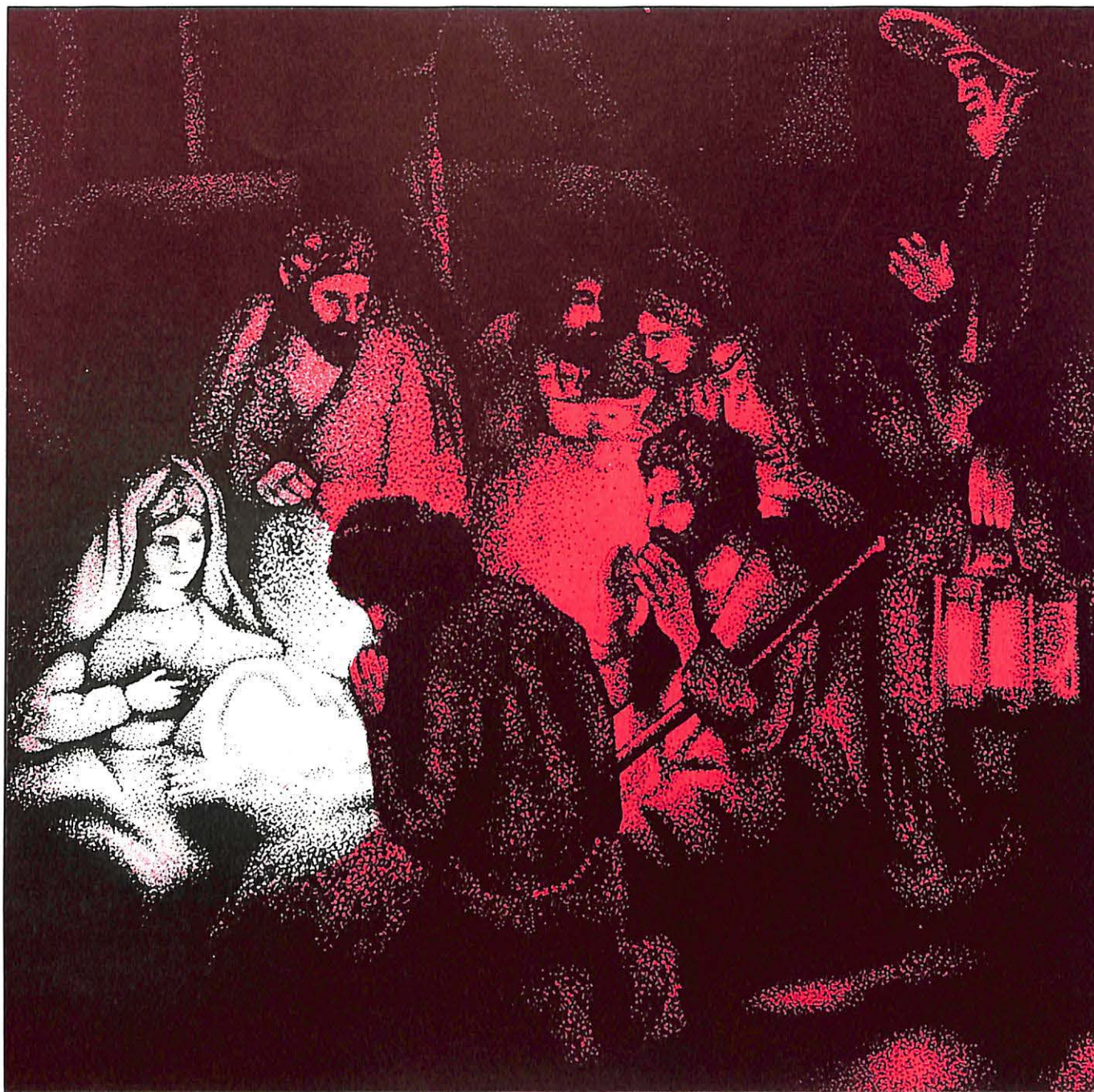
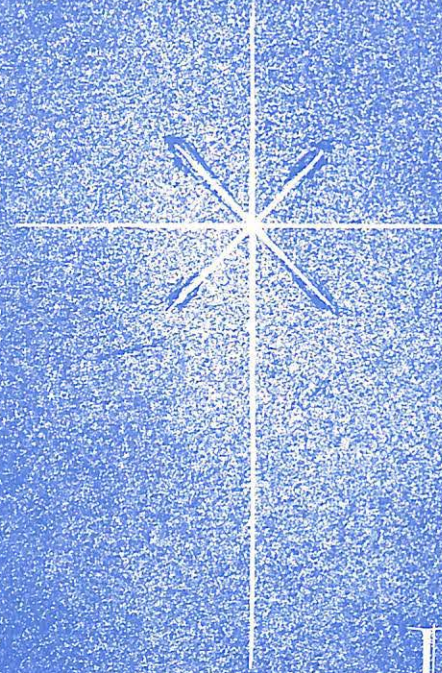


Baptist Herald

December 1983





In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God.... The Word
became flesh and lived for a while
among us. We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of
grace and truth. (John 1:1,14 NIV)

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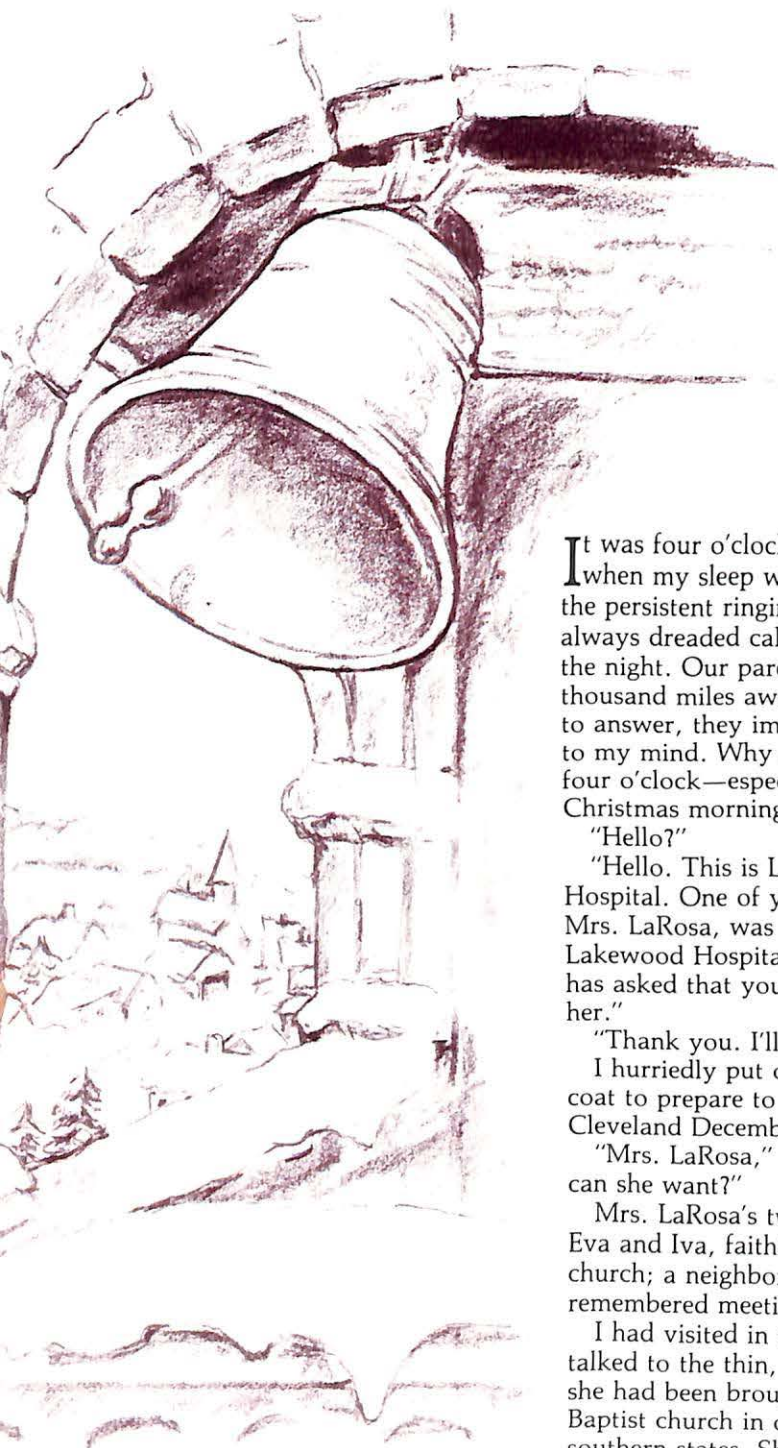
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It was four o'clock in the morning when my sleep was disturbed by the persistent ringing of the phone. I always dreaded calls at this time of the night. Our parents lived a thousand miles away, and as I went to answer, they immediately came to my mind. Why a phone call at four o'clock—especially on this, Christmas morning?

"Hello?"

"Hello. This is Lakewood Hospital. One of your parishioners, Mrs. LaRosa, was admitted to Lakewood Hospital last night. She has asked that you come to see her."

"Thank you. I'll be right there."

I hurriedly put on my clothes and coat to prepare to face the crisp Cleveland December morning.

"Mrs. LaRosa," I thought, "what can she want?"

Mrs. LaRosa's twin daughters, Eva and Iva, faithfully attended our church; a neighbor brought them. I remembered meeting her only twice.

I had visited in the home and talked to the thin, frail mother. Yes, she had been brought up in a Baptist church in one of the southern states. She had committed her life to Christ once; then she

The Rev. Harold Lang is pastor of Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN.

married, moved north, and had borne four children, including the twins.

Mrs. LaRosa had wanted to come to church—sometime, but she was just too busy. Her husband worked two jobs to make ends meet, and she was too busy and too tired to make it on Sunday. Someday. . . .

By now, I was well on my way to Lakewood Hospital. Outside, it was absolutely indescribable. Snow had begun falling—those huge flakes that form when the temperature is hovering around freezing—and the air was absolutely still.

There was enough snow to cover the ground, sidewalks, and roads. Everywhere I drove, I was the first one through, making a firm ziggy tire tread on the dazzling white expanse.

In twenty minutes, I was at the front desk identifying myself.

"Oh, yes," the receptionist said, rather apologetically. "I called you. Thank you for coming. Mrs. LaRosa is in room 212—second floor and down the hall. They brought her in last night. She's in oxygen."

In oxygen . . . her condition must not be good, I thought . . . I prepared for an emergency, not knowing what to expect.

I entered the room and looked at the lady separated from me by the clear plastic of the oxygen tent. She looked even smaller and more frail than I had remembered.

She turned toward me, and I saw tears in her eyes. "Thank you so much for coming. There's something I need to tell you."

As she sat up to speak in the oxygen tent, she said, "Oh, don't worry, I'm better now—the oxygen is just for precaution. I asked for you because of something that happened to me the past few hours. I could not put it off. Thank you so much for coming so early on Christmas Day. Please, I must tell you what happened.

"You know how hard my husband works, trying to support our family. This year, I wanted to have a nice Christmas for my children. I got a job about Thanksgiving time at Uncle Bill's Discount Store to earn money for presents. I am not very strong, and as the days went by, it got harder and harder."

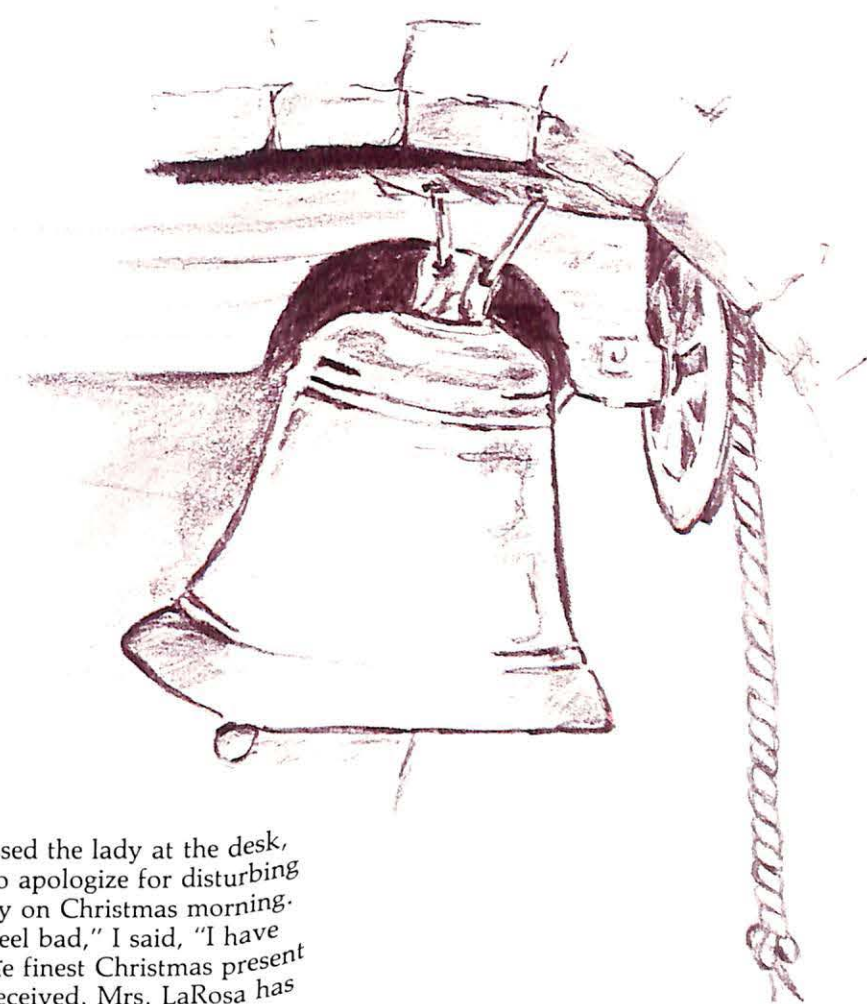
Mrs. LaRosa began to speak slowly, struggling with her emotion. "I hated my work. It even got to the place where I said, 'God, I hate Christmas. I wish there never was such a day.'"

Tears flowed freely now, she continued, "Forgive me, God, but that's what I said, and I really meant it."

"Then last night came along. Uncle Bill's closes on Christmas Eve at about 6 p.m. The store was a raging mess all afternoon. People doing last minute shopping, clerks hollering, everybody getting on each other's nerves. In the middle of it all, I suddenly felt myself get weak and faint. The next thing I knew I was here. They told me I had collapsed in the middle of one of the aisles of the store."

"Pastor, in the few hours I've been here, I've had a lot of time to think of my life, my family, and of things that are important and those that aren't. I want you to know that never again will I go through a Christmas time like this one has been. Pastor, I thank God for letting me collapse and end up in the hospital. I guess that is what it has taken to get my life back in order again."

In that hospital room, at 5 o'clock on Christmas morning, a small frail woman, body broken through stress, recommitted her life to the Lord Jesus Christ. We prayed through tears . . . tears of joy and thankfulness to God for what he had done . . . done so long ago . . . and done a moment ago in the life of one of his children.



As I passed the lady at the desk, she tried to apologize for disturbing me so early on Christmas morning.

"Don't feel bad," I said, "I have just had the finest Christmas present I've ever received. Mrs. LaRosa has really learned in her heart the true meaning of Christmas."

And as I drove home, through that beautiful, pure, white snow, I thanked God anew for teaching me afresh the meaning of the coming of his Son.

(Mrs. LaRosa, when strong enough, was transferred to a psychiatric hospital, having suffered what they called a complete physical and emotional breakdown. For weeks her whole body was trembling from exhaustion and weakness. When she first entered the psychiatric hospital, they refused to let her have a Bible, feeling this was part of her problem. She knew, however, it was the basis of solution. She quickly grew stronger. During each visit we had,

she told how she shared her story with anyone, patient or worker, who would listen, her story of how she learned the true meaning of Christmas.

The following fall I went overseas as a missionary and lost track of Mrs. LaRosa, but until the time I left, there was not a more faithful person attending our church, bringing, not sending, her two daughters and often other members of the family as well.) □

The Christmas Star

by G. Roger Schoenhals

What will you place on the tip top of your Christmas tree this year? An angel? A spire? A star? Our tree will sit under a star. And here's why.

Of all the symbols of the Christmas story, none shines brighter than the star. It was the guiding light for the wise men who declared, "We have seen his star."

Now, of course, all stars are God's stars. He created them and placed them in the heavens. But the Babylonian astronomers in Matthew's narrative meant more than that. By speaking of "his star," they referred to that special star that pointed to the Christ. It was the Christmas star.

Every person to inhabit this world was created by God. We belong to the Father of all mankind. But there are persons who have been redeemed by the Creator and who belong to him in a special way, and because of the unique quality of their lives, they point others to the Christ. They are human Christmas stars. Jesus told them to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

What happens when Christmas stars shine? Matthew gives us at least three results. First, he tells us that the star caused the wise men to seek the Saviour. There was something about the star that aroused their curiosity and drew them to Bethlehem.

The same is true today. When Christians live radiantly, they attract attention. People want to know what makes them shine.

Second, Matthew tells us that the wise men rejoiced when they saw the star, not just a smile but "exceedingly with great joy." The star itself was not the cause of joy, but what it represented. It led them to the King they had been seeking.

I remember my elation when I was pointed to the Christ by a Christmas star. Finding the Saviour does that for a seeker.

A third product of a shining star is found in verse eleven where we see the wise men on their knees before the Christ. Matthew says, "they worshipped him." They didn't worship the star, they bowed before the creator of the star.

When we shine like the star of Bethlehem, we cause people around us to seek God, rejoice in finding God, and bow before him in worship as they offer him the treasures of their lives.

If a Christmas star has such enormous effect, it's important to know when a star can shine best. That is, when are we most likely to point others to the Christ?

One thing about stars—they always shine. Even at mid-day the heavens are filled with radiant stars. But we can't see them in full daylight. It takes a bit of darkness to let the stars appear.

The Dusk of the Evening

Stars appear in the dusk of the evening when trial strains. We all know about trial. There's the trial of

ings. The boring job, the dull class, the noisy neighborhood, the miserable weather—these are but a few of our unfavorable things. We can handle them in one of several ways: endurance, complaining, or we can shine.

Sometimes we face the trial of limited time. We have three days of work and only six hours to get it done. The overcrowded schedule can squeeze the joy out of just about anyone. Think of the harried housewife who got married believing she would have little more to do than make beds and cook. Or the hectic life of the teenager who runs non-stop in five directions at once. Or the ulcer-ridden executive who lays awake all night trying to devise

ways to economize his time.

As people look on, they see the rush, rush of the person under pressure. What else do they see? An irritable, snapping person with no time for people? Or do they see a Christmas star?

One more trial comes to mind—the stress of physical handicap. When a person is sick or otherwise debilitated, we expect them to require comfort and cheer. But have you ever seen a Christmas star in a hospital bed? I have, and I've left a better person because of the encouragement I received.

When do stars shine? They shine in the dusk of the evening when trial strains.

The Dawn of the Morning

But stars also shine at dawn. They can be seen in the dawn of the morning when triumph struts.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Philippian church, said "I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want." A Christian has just as much danger of growing dim in the exhilaration of triumph as in the strains of trial.

Yet, it's during such times—times when the onlooking natural man might expect a self-congratulatory spirit—that the Christian can radiate with humility as he gives glory to God. Even in success we have shine potential.

There is the triumph of personal achievement. We accomplish some outstanding feat that would tend to warrant braggish pride. Things like getting good grades, winning a race, fixing the perfect meal, having success at the office, and giving a great speech are just enough out of the ordinary to cause others to notice the unnatural response of Christian humility.

What about the triumph of polished endowments? Maybe it's physical beauty, or musical talent, or athletic prowess, or intellectual ability, or mechanical skill—it can be anything that not only sets you apart from the masses but also evokes the praise and admiration of others.

Such triumph can cause one to think of himself more highly than he ought to think and to consequently dim the brilliance of his light. On the other hand, such triumph brings special opportunity for pointing others to Christ.

Another success might be called the triumph of private ownership. The person who has amassed material possessions is in a position to either fade or shine. Paul said that the secret of facing plenty is to keep the focus on Christ.

And so we see that stars can shine at dawn as well as at dusk. But there's another time when they shine, and shine with the greatest brilliance of all.

The Dark of the Night

Stars shine in the dark of the night when tragedy strikes. A man lost his wife—suddenly. He was swallowed in the blackness of a midnight tragedy. Onlookers felt sympathy and concern. Many prayed. Some wondered: What will happen now? Will he become bitter? Will his light flicker and disappear?

But the man reached out to the sovereign Lord of the universe and grabbed his hand. And he began to shine. He became one of the brightest Christmas stars I've ever

(continued)

G. Roger Schoenhals is a freelance writer from Seattle, Washington.

seen. During his midnight hour, he pointed many to the Christ.

The blessing of tragedy is in the backdrop of blackness it provides. Paul and Silas understood as they sat in the Philippian prison, for we read in Acts 16 that they prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight. It's no wonder the jailor came to them and asked, "What must I do to be saved?"

Someday some kind of tragedy will come to you. It will sock the wind out of your lungs. It will be severe enough to cause people around you to watch and wonder. What will you do? Will you blend into the blackness? Or by God's grace, will you shine?

You Can Shine!

Are you having difficulty getting along with someone at the office, at school, at home? You can shine!

Are you under heavy financial stress? You can shine!

Are you in a miserable job, a dull class, a lousy neighborhood? You can shine!

Are you pressured with a tight schedule and a heavy workload? You can shine!

Do you have a physical problem, a "thorn in the flesh"? You can shine!

Are people slapping you on the back for some notable personal achievement? You can shine!

Are you surrounded with material possessions? You can shine!

Are you struggling with the news of a tragic event? You can shine!

You can shine because stars shine in the dusk of the evening when trial strains. They shine in the dawn of the morning when triumph struts. And stars shine in the dark of the night when tragedy strikes.

And what happens when stars shine? People seek God. Seekers rejoice in finding God. And those who find him lay their lives before God in adoration and praise.

The true stars of Bethlehem are not the artificial stars that crown our Christmas trees; they are the living followers of Jesus Christ who in the ups and downs of life and with the glow of God's Spirit point others to the Saviour of the world. □

Introducing Our New Missionaries

Part II

by Denise Miller

A group of three or four of you stand on the steps of the church waving good-bye to the newly appointed missionary who is being driven to the airport to embark on service overseas.

You wave good-bye, genuinely saddened by the departure of someone you have supported and encouraged since he or she first announced interest in missions or perhaps even before. As the car drives out of sight, you turn to one another and breathe a sigh of relief. At last, you can relax. All the support has been raised. The commissioning service is over. Barrels have been stocked and shipped. The big farewell send-off was a success. There is a good feeling about having sent another missionary. It is back to the regular program of sewing baby clothes, Women's Missionary Fellowship teas, kilo packages and round robin mission conferences.

You are the friends, the church family, the relatives, the pastors, and the teachers of the missionary you have sent. It is largely through your encouragement, prayers, enthusiasm and counsel that God has worked and spoken to him or her. Your responsibility does not, however, end with the departure of Sabena flight #361 from gate 36. That is where the hard work really begins.

You have to begin by making sure that your missionary is not forgotten. That means enthusiasm,

Denise Miller is a student at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

projects, and frequent news updates in the church bulletin or newsletter. It includes personal and group letters and cards. It means a thoughtfulness in passing along a good magazine article or newspaper clipping and tidbits of what is happening in your own life. It means remembering your missionary in specific prayer mentioning activities, needs and joys.

This year N.A.B.s waved good-bye to six couples and four single missionaries as they left for Cameroon, Brazil, Japan, and Nigeria. They are your missionaries.

On the following pages, nine of the new missionaries are introduced. (The introductions of the others appeared in the November issue of the *Baptist Herald*.) Find out what you have in common or how you are dissimilar. Follow their reports, their progress, and their needs. Bring them to your devotions or your evening meal when you pray.

These people with diverse educational backgrounds, ages and experiences are trying to be faithful and open to God's leading in their lives. Meet your new missionaries.

As short-term missionaries to Japan prior to their marriage, Alan and Judy Steier saw and experienced the need for Christ in Japan. In March 1984, approximately three years later, they plan to return to Japan as missionaries. The Steiers will attend one year of language school in Tsu, Japan, before becoming involved in full-time church-related work.

Alan accepted the Lord during vacation Bible school at age nine in Wisconsin. He later made a deeper decision to follow the Lord and, in



1978, received a degree in biblical studies from Bethel College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Following his short-term experience with North American Baptists 1978-80, Alan returned to attend seminary. He receives his Master of Divinity degree from North American Baptist Seminary this month—December 1983. Alan also has experience in working in the church and as a Sunday school curriculum coordinator for Osterhus Publishing House.

At an early age Judy became a Christian and was later baptized when living in Washington. She graduated from Bethel College in 1978 with majors in church music and anthropology. Judy then taught conversational English and served as a secretary in Japan with the Language Institute for Evangelism. Upon her return and marriage, she worked for two years as executive secretary for Youth for Christ in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then as secretary/receptionist for a hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Alan and Judy are members of Faith Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN.

"I (Alan) strongly believe that throughout my life God has had a hand upon me, guiding me into various experiences of growth and service. As a missionary-pastor, I would be willing to use my skills in preaching, teaching, counseling or administration to further the work of the Lord."



On September 25, the Wilfong family left for Nigeria to replace the Curt Radke family, who had returned to North America. John and Wilma with their children, Joy, age four, and Joshua, age two, are stationed at Mbu where John teaches and is an administrator at Mambilla Baptist Theological School.

After high school, John made a personal commitment to the Lord and to full-time Christian service. With that in mind, John pursued degrees in pastoral theology and Bible followed by his Master of Divinity degree in 1976 and an associate degree in business administration. John was principal of the Evangelical Christian Schools in Stockton, California, 1979-83. John and Wilma are members of the Quail Lakes Baptist Church in Stockton.

When Wilma was 13, she was challenged to find and do God's will. She later confirmed that commitment by personally inviting Jesus Christ into her life. She has attended several Bible Colleges and has worked as an executive secretary.

Wilma supports John in his calling to Bible education:

"I (John) want my life to count for God. When I am 75, I want to look back and see my life as having met the need of young men who desire to learn God's Word but could not due to a lack of teachers. I want them to have the same chance for Bible education as I had in the United States—so that they, too, can be workmen equipped to serve God."

(continued)



Dale and Lois Fuchs with their two sons, Nathan, age 7, and Jesse, age 4, joined Mike and Dawn Kirschman in Kumba in October. Dale is area coordinator for the churches in the Kumba and Nkongsamba areas.

Dale was born and raised in Billings, Montana, and, at the age of eight, accepted the Lord and was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church in Billings. Dale graduated with a degree in education from Eastern Montana College in 1976 and received his Master in Christian Education degree from North American Baptist Seminary in 1978.

Dale served as assistant pastor at Ridgemont Baptist Church in East Detroit, Michigan, following his graduation and most recently as associate pastor with Pineland Baptist Church in Burlington, Ontario. His interest in missions began when he rededicated his life at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, North Dakota, the summer after graduating from high school.

Lois' commitment to missions was kindled by both her husband's enthusiasm and that of her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Cooke of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Lois accepted Christ as a five year old and was later baptized by her father. In addition to her many responsibilities as a pastor's wife and a mother, Lois has worked in the clerical field and as a receptionist.

Lois joins Dale in his excitement over the Great Commission and his privilege of discipling pastors and church leaders.

"My purpose is to be a servant of God by serving my family and those with whom I come in contact. I want to be ready to proclaim the hope that I have in Christ to those that do not know him and to help guide and train new believers."



Cathie McGuire is working as a short-term missionary at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Cameroon since the beginning of November. As a medical technologist, she is working in the laboratory and training Cameroonian nationals in medical technology.

Cathie received her life science degree in 1977 and a year later graduated from the Kenosha Memorial School of Medical Technology in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Since 1978, she had been employed as a medical technologist by the Kenosha Memorial Hospital.

Cathie is a member of Grace Baptist Church in Racine, Wisconsin. While she received Christ as her personal Savior at age nine, it was as a high schooler at summer camp that she realized the impact of her salvation and felt a special calling.

"It was at this camp, sitting alone with the Lord, that I knew he intended to use me in a special way. Since then, he has led me to a career in medical technology and has been preparing my life for missions. He continues to teach me dependence on him. My motivation for missionary service is love—the love that our Lord has poured into me and must overflow. I have a need to share my gifts in any way that he can use them, and I believe that it is his desire for me to serve on the foreign mission field."



Ken and Jerilyn Bayer have begun a one-year language study course in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Upon completion of the course, they will work in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Living and working in Brazil is not a new experience for Jerilyn. She spent a large portion of her growing up years in Brazil as her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Herman Effa of Edmonton, AB, served as missionaries in Brazil in 1966-76. She and her brother Allan, currently a missionary in Nigeria, presented a musical evangelistic program with their parents while in Brazil. Following these programs and while in high school, Jerilyn had many opportunities to share Christ with others. Jerilyn received her degree in religious education from North American Baptist College in Edmonton, in 1981.

At an early age, Ken made a commitment to the Lord at a Billy Graham Crusade and later recommended his life at another crusade. Ken was influenced by the many contacts his family had with missionaries while growing up in the Winnipeg, Manitoba, area. Feeling a call to Christian service, he received his degree in religion from North American Baptist College and then his Master of Divinity degree from the North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1983. While in school, Ken was youth pastor for four years at McKernan Baptist Church in Edmonton where both he and Jerilyn have their membership.

"We both felt the call of God to missions involvement at an early age. The purpose of this call is to be God's ambassadors following the example and instruction of our Lord." □

Reflections on Freedom of Choice by James M. Dunn

"O you dear idiots of Galatia, who saw Jesus Christ the crucified so plainly, who has been casting a spell over you?"

That literal translation of Galatians 3:1 captures some of the Apostle Paul's intense frustration with church members in what is now central Turkey. The spell they were under was a plague that has recurred often in Christian history. Let's look at it.

The Judaizers were putting law above love. The Christian is under grace not under law. *Galatians* leaves no doubt. This book is the Christian Declaration of Freedom. Any genuine Christian will be open to the charge of destroying the law. Jesus faced this charge. Stephen faced it. Paul faced it. If law takes

Unless our "chooser" is allowed to function we are less than the person God made us to be.

the place of love as the basis for Christian ethics, it does so because it is safer; that's the safety of death.

Ever since those misled Galatians, there have been fearful Christians who value security and safety over freedom. Even now some would rather have clear policies, clean answers, plain guidelines than the burden of having to make choices. Whole herds of Christians prefer an inerrant creed, an infallible church, or a cocksure preacher to freedom of choice.

Those of this mindset long for the good old days. They wish the world

Dr. James Dunn is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, DC.

was like it used to be. They remember the religion and morality of their childhood as far better than these modern times. Paul faced that tendency with the Galatians. They wanted to continue their Jewish practices and yet accept the Grace of God through Jesus Christ. Any time, then or now, that we are locked into looking backward, not free to faith our way forward, clinging to the past instead of trusting in his Grace, we are guilty of immoral nostalgia.

The critics of Paul, like some confused believers today, were afraid of pluralism and diversity. They insisted that Gentiles become Jews before being counted Christians, so that spiritual elitism and exclusivity actually became a problem.

Well, you get the point. The careful, cautious element in Galatia put law over love, safety over freedom, authority over liberty, the good old days over the difficult present, the in crowd over reaching out, and ritual over reality. To follow the straight and narrow was okay, but this was ridiculous. To be conservative about change makes sense, but this was extremism.

Paul used his strongest words on these traditionalists. "Stupid Galatians" he called them in Gal. 3:1, and in Galatians 5:12 suggested that since they were so intent upon following the law with circumcision they might as well go ahead with mutilation. What sin could prompt such condemnation? They were trying to escape from freedom.

Religious Freedom Is the Basic Freedom

Freedom is fundamentally religious. Religious freedom is the basic freedom of all. That's because freedom is rooted in the nature and being of God. The person of God is the font of freedom. Theology in its strictest sense, the study of God, argues for freedom.

We do not know all that is meant by the Genesis teaching that we are made in the image of God. We do

know that the classic doctrine of *imago Dei* reveals much about God and about humankind. At the very least, it means that we are able to respond. We are response able, therefore responsible. If we are not free to make choices, this could not be. The Genesis story makes it clear that God gave man and woman the power to choose. Free moral agency is not a philosophical argument but a universal reality. The personhood of God demands human freedom. We relate to God freely or not really at all. We come to God voluntarily, or we stay away.

Force does not mix with freedom. Religious experience must be free to be genuine. Any religious decision that's not free is useless or worse. We come to Jesus Christ freely in love drawn by his grace.

We know more about the doctrine of anthropology than we admit. I'm speaking of the theological "doctrine of man" not the scientific sociological study. The biblical doctrine of humankind makes it plain that we are innately free. We understand that in our innards.

Every year about Christmas the baby dolls of the year appear in the stores everywhere. There must always be some new feature, some gimmick to sell them. A few years back the hot item was a baby that talked. Pull a cord on its back, and it would say, "I love you, I love you." Even before the mechanism broke the children in our extended family got tired of playing with it and threw it aside. Even three- and four-year-olds knew the words were

(continued)

mechanical and, therefore, meaningless. "I love you" coming from a dumb doll sounded like words but was only noise.

But let a little Dennis the Menace, ragged-jeaned, dirty-faced, scuffed-shoed, runny-nosed youngun grab you around the legs and hug your neck, look into your eyes with his eyes of innocence and say, "I love you," and it can melt a heart of stone.

We understand instinctively that unless one has the power to say, "no" then his "yes" is meaningless.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Unless one can refuse then her acceptance is hollow. We know this inwardly because that is the way God made us. We are programmed for freedom. We're wired up as persons with a choice. Unless our "chooser" is allowed to function, we are less than the persons God made us to be.

The Bible teaching about sin takes into account this free moral agency which can be tainted, perverted and used wrongly. We cannot be forced in matters of the will. Being human means being free.

The biblical doctrine of salvation is indissolubly, inextricably tangled with the other great doctrines. That is why we as Baptists want no state-written, government-prescribed prayer in the public schools. We want no tax dollars for our churches or our schools. The best thing government can do for religion is to leave it alone.

Force, even minimal or subtle force, does not mix with freedom. Religious experience must be free to be genuine. Any religious decision that's not free is useless or worse. We come to Jesus Christ freely in love, drawn by his grace. We live the Christian life because we have been saved not in an in-order-to-be-saved morality. It's Grace not Law, Christ not creed, persons not propositions that take precedence in the Christian life. We can't escape from freedom. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. □

Manitoba Youth Produce Musical

by Bonnie Edel



Summer '83 has proved to be an exciting as well as busy time. The North American Baptist Youth from Manitoba have been involved in a musical entitled *Life Unlimited*. The musical challenges Christians and non-Christians alike to take advantage of the gift of abundant life. It was performed in many N.A.B. churches around Winnipeg, as well as a weekend scheduled out to Swan River and Ochre River.

The choir, directed by Ewald Nickel, involved approximately 70 people. There were sound and lighting engineers, along with a super practice pianist, Marilyn Krahn. "Practice was quite time-consuming, but when performances came, it was all worth it," says Bonnie Edel, reporter.

"We thank God for the opportunity of singing and sharing

Bonnie Edel is a member of Fort Richmond Baptist Church in Winnipeg, MB, and was a member of the musical group.

that magnificent message of Christ's abundant life," says Bonnie. "One place that was very unique was worshipping at Rowandale Baptist Church. Unique because it was shared with not only their church family, but with German soldiers from Shilo Camp."

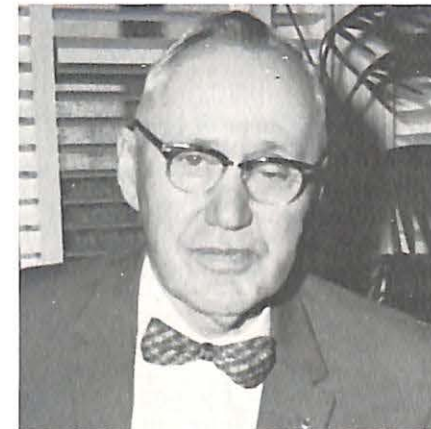
"God provides the opportunities; it's just up to us to recognize and obey his calling," says Bonnie. "Who says God hasn't been using youth effectively these days? If you could see the joy, excitement and love of God pour out of these young people's faces, one would quickly retract that statement."

This is just a beginning of the abundant privilege we, as Christians, can have serving God. This year the Manitoba Association activities are going to be exciting and challenging. "Please pray for our youth and the future of our Association," requests Bonnie. "Our prayer is that we might be effective in ministering to the needs of those youth around us!" □

A Tribute to Dr. E. P. Wahl

June 18, 1892 - August 19, 1983

Dr. E. P. Wahl
June 18, 1892 - August 19, 1983
president of
Christian Training Institute
Edmonton, Alberta
1939 - 1957



A Man of Vision

On August 13, 1983, Dr. E. P. Wahl brought to its conclusion a rich life of faith and vision at the age of 91 years. His ministry as pastor and teacher has touched the lives of thousands of people. It has left an indelible imprint on many churches throughout our N.A.B. Conference through the impact of the young people trained in the institution, which was founded as the result of his vision and commitment.

This vision of a Bible School to train young people to serve as more effective lay leaders in their local churches was experienced as early as 1919 while serving as a student-pastor in southeastern Alberta. This vision did not come to fruition until the Christian Training Institute opened its doors to its first students in January of 1940. Appointed as its first president, he served in this capacity for the first 18 years of the school's existence.

The vision expanded in subsequent years to include high school and commercial training, but the main thrust remained that of lay leadership training. Literally, thousands of young people have returned to their churches to serve as deacons, trustees, Sunday school teachers, choir directors, board members, and other church leaders.

In addition, many young people sensed the special call of God during

these years of study, and those who received some training at CTI/NABC/NABDS include more than 100 pastors presently serving in our N.A.B. Conference, some 40 missionaries past and present, and a good number of pastors' wives. While serving as president of the school, he also carried on other responsibilities such as a weekly radio broadcast and pastoral duties in some of our Edmonton churches.

I am grateful for the impact of Dr. E. P. Wahl on my own personal life. As a young person, I participated in a number of short-term Bible School courses conducted in my home church by Dr. Wahl and other pastors. When I graduated from Seminary, I became the pastor of the Capilano Baptist Church where Dr. Wahl was my immediate predecessor and founding pastor. He was the special speaker at my ordination service several months later, and the challenge of his message was to "preach the Word."

I have devoted the bulk of my life and ministry to the institution which he founded, and I count it a great privilege and responsibility to have assumed his position as president of the school. His life of vision, commitment, and ministry is a source of inspiration and challenge to me.

As I think of the many people whose lives have been enriched by his ministry, I recognize that the Scriptural statement has again been demonstrated: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." His works will continue to follow him through the continued ministry of those who go forth to serve from the institution which he founded. □ (continued)

J. Walter Goltz is the President of The North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

EMIL PETER WAHL (91), born June 18, 1892, in Emery, SD, to Jacob and Caroline Broeckel Wahl, died Aug. 13, 1983. The family moved to Sheridan County, ND, in the early 1900s. He attended Rochester Baptist Seminary, NY, from 1914 to 1917 and from 1920 to 1922, when he graduated. Rev. Wahl married Pauline Schatz of McClusky, ND, on Oct. 30, 1917. In 1917 he served Hilda Baptist Church, Alberta; on May 14, 1918, he was ordained at that church. Rev. Wahl served as pastor of the following churches: First Baptist, Leduc, AB, 1922-27; Trochu, AB, and Carbon, AB, churches, Kneehills Baptist, Torrington, and organized Reed Ranch Baptist, Olds, AB, all during 1928-33; Immanuel Baptist, Portland, OR, 1933-37; Central Baptist, Edmonton, AB, 1940-43; founded McKernan Baptist, Edmonton, AB, 1951; assistant minister, Central Baptist, Edmonton, AB, 1958-60; founded Capilano Baptist, Edmonton, in 1960; and served as interim pastor of Rabbit Hill Baptist, South Edmonton, for several years. Rev. Wahl served as immigration and colonization secretary with the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways in Winnipeg, MB, in 1927. He was Director of the Bible School Work of the Northern Conference from 1937 to 1939. In 1939, the first building of the Christian Training Institute (now North American Baptist College) was begun, and by January 1940, the first term began. Rev. Wahl served as president of the school until the summer of 1957. For several years following his retirement, Rev. Wahl served as chaplain on a passenger boat to various parts of the world. In 1971, Dr. Wahl organized the Salem Manor Society to provide a home on a three-care level for senior citizens: self-contained units, senior citizens lodge, and a nursing home. The apartments were dedicated in 1975 and the nursing home in 1980. Survivors include his wife Pauline, Leduc, AB; daughter, Inez, Leduc; son, Wallace and daughter-in-law, Marilyn, Edmonton; two grandsons, David and Gregory; two sisters: Mrs. Lydia Evenson and Mrs. Melvin (Wilma) Tetz; four brothers: Ted, Dr. Carl, Jake, and Melvin. He was predeceased by twin daughters: Fay and May, and a son, Ivan. Memorial donations may be made to the needy and hungry children of North American Baptist Missions, the Salem Manor Society, or the North American Baptist College.

A Legacy of Faith in Action

My first personal encounter with Dr. E. P. Wahl was as a nineteen-year-old student at the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1949. He asked me to give a public witness to the whole student body about having become a Christian the day after it happened. I was almost petrified and didn't want to do it, but Dr. Wahl wouldn't take no for an answer. I didn't realize it until later, but this was probably my first step toward becoming a preacher.

My last significant conversation with Dr. Wahl was about two years ago when I visited him in the hospital. He sat stooped over in a wheelchair beside his bed. When I greeted him he immediately recognized me. He was very weak and frail physically, but still very alert mentally and interested in what was happening in the Lord's work and the Conference.

He soon started talking about dreams he had about some things he would still like to see accomplished. Here was a man who had given his life founding a Bible school, being its president for 18 years, and helping establish churches, radio ministries, and various mission projects. He started a home for senior citizens and managed it after he was more than 80 years old himself, and now at age 90 he was still dreaming!

As I left the hospital room, I prayed that I may never stop dreaming as long as the Lord gives breath. It was an encouragement to see him again at the 1982 N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls.

Throughout his life, Dr. Wahl has influenced hundreds of youth and adults to come to Christ and to be equipped to be effective witnesses and servants of Christ in our North American Baptist Conference and

around the world. He did it in the face of all kinds of odds, such as very limited resources and sometimes even the opposition of some local and Conference leadership, but also with the enthusiastic support and encouragement of beneficiaries of his ministry.

Dr. E. P. Wahl has left us a legacy of faith in action, sacrificial giving and service that should motivate many for years to come. □

John Binder is the Executive Director of the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

Tribute To Dr. E. P. Wahl

I first met Dr. E. P. Wahl in the summer of 1938 at the Alberta Association in Olds, Alberta. At the time, I was a senior seminary student, serving during the summer months at an N.A.B. church in Forestburg, Alberta. Brother Wahl was in his prime of life, the middle forties, and was director of Bible School work, 1937-39, in the Northern Conference area. In 1939 he founded the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton, Alberta, (now known as the N.A.B. College and Divinity School) and became its first president. Along with that activity, he pastored Central Baptist Church in Edmonton, 1940-43. In addition, he had a weekly, early Sunday morning radio broadcast over Edmonton radio station CFRN. It soon became evident that Brother Wahl was overloaded with activities and responsibilities, so he terminated his services as pastor at Central Baptist Church in order to give all his time and talent to his major responsibility, the Christian Training Institute.

I was privileged to succeed him as pastor at Central Baptist Church

beginning in November 1943. This began my very close associations with this servant of God, both as his pastor during the years that followed until January 1950 and in the work at the Christian Training Institute. For the first one and one-half years, I assisted as part-time teacher at C.T. I. Then I became a member of the Governing board of the Institute and for my last two years in Edmonton, acted as chairman of this Board. We shared many things together concerning the work and growth of the Institute and worked together well in the planning and carrying out of its work. During that time the Institute gained recognition as a cooperating society of the N.A.B. Conference. The school had been a home missions project of the General Missionary Society from 1937-1949. The relationship between Brother Wahl and me and between the Christian Training Institute and Central Baptist Church was always at its best during those years. I could always call on this willing servant of God to supply my pulpit in my absence. He always called on me to take over his radio ministry during the summer months when he was travelling doing promotional work. I was always assured of Brother Wahl's support in my pastoral ministry, and I trust that he shared a like opinion of my support for him. Our relationship continued when I left Edmonton, and we remained united in the cause of Christ to his dying day. The last time I saw him was at the Triennial Conference in 1982 in Niagara Falls. Though Dr. Wahl retired from the presidency of the Institute in 1958, he never really retired from work. It was not his nature to retire. He kept on teaching at the Institute on a part-time basis. He served churches on a supply and interim basis, though at Rabbit Hill Baptist Church near Edmonton it was for more than three years. He travelled extensively, including a trip to Russia. In his last decade of activities he founded the Salem Manor Society in Leduc, Alberta:

the Goldage Apartments and Salem Manor Nursing Home. He felt that full retirement came only when God would call him to another task in heaven. This day came when on August 13th he heard his Master's call: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into thy eternal reward." Rest well from your labors, Dr. Wahl, and now enjoy the eternal presence of your Saviour and Lord whom you served so well. □

Richard Schilke, Oak Park, IL, served as General Secretary of Missions for the North American Baptist Conference from 1951-1979.

A Tribute To My Pastor, President, And Friend

"When he calls upon Me I will answer . . . I will deliver him, and honor him. I will satisfy him with a full life and show him my salvation" (Psalm 91:15,16).

This portion of Psalm 91 is most fitting for Emil Peter Wahl who lived a full life of 91 years, a dreamer and a doer who has left his mark upon many individuals and institutions for the greater glory of God. While others, it seemed, struggled with the demands of day-to-day living, our brother Wahl had visions of new churches, a camping program, a residential Bible School, and a retirement home for senior citizens. Trusting God, he persisted and prevailed, and lived to see them all come to pass.

I was privileged to share in some of the excitement and exhilaration of the fulfillment of his God-given dreams. Having been a young child

in the church at Olds, Alberta, newly organized through the vision and effort of Pastor Wahl, I recall how he would bring his family over thirty miles in the Essex. This occurred over oftentimes impassable roads, through sticky gumbo, or huge snowdrifts in order to nurture the young flock of settlers.

Later, he taught me in the very first summer camp for Alberta churches, a camp he had envisioned and worked toward no less than seventeen years before. When he called me to become part of the faculty of the Christian Training Institute, which was founded some twenty years after he had first shared his dream for it, I began to fully appreciate the tenacity and the depth of dedication of this hard-working man of God.

Many of us will miss our brother in Christ—his personal warmth and quick wit, the fervency of his prayers, the earnestness of his messages, and the demanding lessons he taught us about devotion to duty. Oftentimes, he would say "if it is God's will." As we cherish and honor his memory, we bow to "God's will" to claim his faithful servant and to honor him with the fullness of eternal salvation. □

Edward B. Link, Edmonton, Alberta, is retired professor, Christian Training Institute/North American Baptist College.

A Man of Faith, Vision and Determination

Faith, vision and determination are the ingredients with which Dr. Wahl approached life. His faith was anchored on the Solid Rock Christ Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. Dr. Wahl had the kind of faith which

the Apostle James writes of: faith that acts. An unshakeable trust in the purposes of God permeated his life, he knew that what God had promised and begun God would indeed bring to completion.

To those whom God uses in great ways, God gives broad vision and big dreams. Dr. Wahl was such a person. There were big jobs to be done, plans to be drawn and reviewed. Towards the end of his life, Dr. Wahl's only regret was that his strength was failing. The vision was still there. Here was one who had given himself totally to the Master and who had a grasp of what the saving work of Christ in the life means in our approach to God's people and society. Dr. Wahl's vision involved putting the gospel into action.

Determination. For you who have worked on committees and sat in meetings with Dr. Wahl, you will have your own specific example of his determination to remember. When he heard the Lord say, "This is the day, walk in it," Dr. Wahl would not be turned aside. His determination grew out of his implicit faith in the Almighty God and from his vision of a world in need. Determination was his commitment demonstrated.

It was my privilege to know Dr. Wahl for a short six years, but in that time I came to love him in the Lord and respect him as a man of God. □

Art J. Petrie is the administrator of The Salem Manor Society, Leduc, AB.

"The Salem Manor Society is a group of North American Baptist people, which was organized by Dr. E. P. Wahl in 1971. Its mission is to care for the elderly providing for their physical, spiritual, emotional, and social needs in a loving Christian 'home' environment. Salem Manor Nursing Home, an agency of the Society opened in 1980, provides nursing care for 100 residents. Goldage Apartments, the other agency, provides 40 apartments for senior citizens."

Plan Now to Attend "Significantly Single"

The Speakers



Kurt Redschlag will lead the Bible studies each morning centered on the theme for the Conference found in John 15:1-5, especially verse 4. Kurt is director of alumni and recruitment for North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB, and is single himself. He has pastored two North American Baptist Conference churches in Canada.



Dr. Ernie Zimbelman says, "The Christian community has belatedly awakened to the importance of self-esteem as related to overall, effective functioning joy and peace in the life of the Christian. The very depth of our spirituality is related to our self-esteem." "Self-esteem" is the topic of Dr. Zimbelman's three workshops. In two additional sessions, he will address the subjects, "Being Single and Sexuality" and "Being Single and Being Comfortable in Your

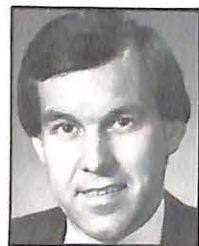
Role." Dr. Zimbelman is professor of Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.



Donna Mitrovich of Hazel Park, Michigan, plans to discuss diet, nutrition and exercise in the three workshops she will be leading.

Planning a diet program and calorie intake and expenditure will be emphasized in "You Are What You Eat" and "Calories Do Count."

In "Body by You," Donna will help you individualize an exercise program with various kinds of exercise. Donna is a math and science teacher in the Hazel Park, MI, school system.



Mr. Kurt Frers will draw from his expertise as a chartered accountant to help you with your "Money Management" and "Investments and Real Estate"—down-to-earth subjects. His third workshop will deal with "How to Manage Your Time."

Mr. Frers is a partner

in Price Waterhouse, chartered accountants, Winnipeg, MB.



Allen Hadidian speaks during the three evening sessions of the Conference on being single. He has authored two books, "A Single Thought" and "Successful Discipling." As a pastoral staff member of Grace Community Church in California, Mr. Hadidian was responsible for the College Department for five years.



"Emotions and the Single Life" will be addressed in workshops led by the Rev. Richard Goetze. In three workshops, specific attention will be given to the areas of loneliness,

grief and relationships. Rev. Goetze has been senior pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, since 1974.



Carol Ann Bender says, "Many times single individuals feel inadequate and hesitate to open their homes to others. Because they feel this way, time is spent alone missing good times and valuable relationships. The workshop is designed for the 'how to's of hospitality.' Hospitality is a way of reaching out to other individuals and follows Christ's command to love one another. Developing the gift of hospitality will fill the life of a single individual with friendship, sharing and fellowship." Several ideas on invitations, planning, serving, decorating, and food will be discussed. Carol Ann Bender is head of the Home Economics Department at Mandan High School, North Dakota.

A brochure with registration details will be mailed to churches in early February 1984.

Singles '84 Planning Committee

The members of the national planning committee are Warren Hoffman, Oakbrook Terrace, IL; Carol Potratz, Bismarck, ND; Walter Schroedter, Winnipeg, MB; Dan Gast, Steamboat Rock, IA; Sig Schuster, Winnipeg, MB; and Donna Mitrovich, Hazel Park, MI.

The local arrangements committee members are Bonnie Edel, Elizabeth Seidel, Norbert Schuster, Viola Ulrich, and Walter Schroedter.

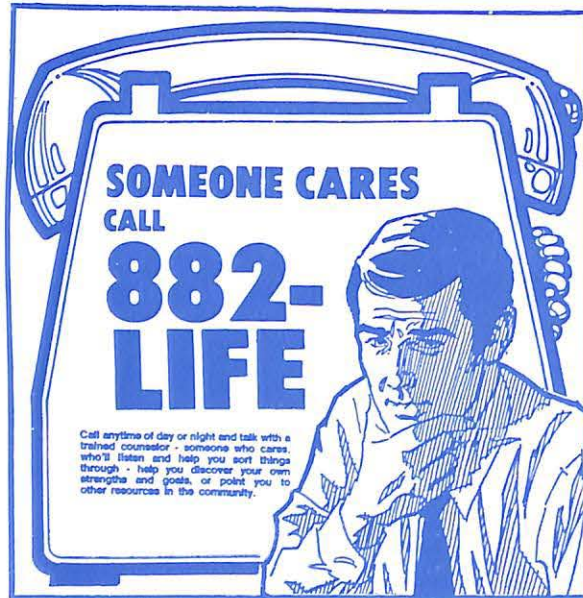
A Conference for Singles
August 1-4, 1984
at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Theme: John 15:1-5

The Program

Time	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 a.m.			BREAKFAST	
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.			GROUP SINGING (Dan Gast) BIBLE STUDY (Kurt Redschlag)	
9:45 - 10:15 a.m.			COFFEE BREAK	10:00 - 10:45 a.m. Workshops:
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.			WORKSHOPS	
			(1) "Open Heart - Open Home" (Carol Ann Bender)	
			(2) "Signature and Stress" (to be announced)	"The Single Minister" (Allen Hadidian)
			(3) "Money Management" (Kurt Frers)	"Investments and Real Estate" (Kurt Frers)
			(4) "Body Building" - Exercise, Diet, Nutrition (Donna Mitrovich)	
			(5) "Self-Esteem" (Ernie Zimbelman)	
			(6) "Emotions" - Loneliness (Richard Goetze)	"Emotions" - Grief (Richard Goetze)
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.			"Dealing with Your Singleness" (Ernie Zimbelman)	
12:30 p.m.			LUNCH	Bar-B-Q, Corn Roast, Fruit (Assiniboine Park)
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Registration	"Do Your Own Thing" Sports Tournaments Sports Lessons Tours: Water Slide, Planetarium, Fort Gary, Zoo, Canadian Mint, Legislative Bldg., Art Museum, St. Boniface Basilica, Grant's Old Mill, Museum of Man & Nature	Water Activities Shopping Canoeing Golf Horseback Riding Tennis Cycling - Assiniboine Park Conservatory	1:45 - N.A.B.C. 2:30 "Prelude" at the Park 2:30 Prayer time in small groups at the Park 3:00 Closing Prayer (End of Conference)
5:00 p.m.	Mingle Time "Progressive Supper": 5:30 - Salad at Fort Richmond Baptist Church 6:30 - Meal and Speaker, Allen Hadidian, at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church 9:30 - Dessert at German Baptist Mission Church 11:00 Leave for campus	SUPPER ON YOUR OWN		
		7:00 - Special Music 8:00 Group Singing Speaker, Allen Hadidian 8:10 Fruit and Skits	7:30 - Special Music 8:45 Group Singing Speaker, Allen Hadidian	
		8:45 - 9:15 Perform Skits	8:45 - Prepare and leave for Paddlewheel Cruise	
		9:30 - "Meeting of Minds" - Panel discussion with feedback; Coordinator: Kurt Redschlag Panel: Ernie Zimbelman, Allen Hadidian, Lucille Green	10:00 - "Boat Ride" Talent Night 1:00 a.m. Transport to Campus	

Help for Hurting People by Jane B. Lodge

Where do you turn when everything goes wrong?
When you are on the brink of ending your life?
When you face a situation that is painful . . . maybe even disastrous?
A situation like
your husband is having an affair
your daughter has run away for the third time
you're afraid your daughter is pregnant
you just discovered your son is a practicing homosexual
your mate is talking about separation and divorce
financially, you are bankrupt
your parent is an alcoholic
you are going to court because you have broken the law.
What do you need when your life is filled with pain and uncertainty?
You need a listener. Someone who understands.



A class of Lifeline counselors was dedicated during a service at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church Lifeline Crisis Center in Detroit, Michigan, provides the trained listeners. It is a telephone ministry where people can call in and say "I've had it!" "I want to die!" "I need help, where can I go?"

Begun in February 1978, as the Christian telephone ministry in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, Lifeline has had 20,000 plus calls from some 157 communities. The geographical boundaries have reached out to include not only Michigan, but also Texas, Iowa, Louisiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida and New York. Lifeline started out as a group of about ten concerned Christians and has grown to 51 Christian lay people who have been trained by psychiatrists, psychologists, and experienced professionals in all phases of helping services.

"Our counselors go through a 16-week course that runs two hours, one night a week," Ted Winters, director, explains. But the training does not end in the classroom. The volunteers also spend 12 hours observing experienced counselors before they're allowed to answer any calls. Full-time counselors upgrade their training through monthly in-service seminars and reading at least four professional books from the Lifeline's growing library.

The phones at Lifeline are manned five days a week from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., plus several hours on Saturday and Sunday. Lifeline also makes "We Care" calls to the lonely and shut-in members of the community.

The wide ranging response rate is attributed to at least in part,

Jane B. Lodge is with the Lifeline Crisis Center, a ministry of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI. Dr. Bill Cummins is pastor of the church.

appearances on local cable TV channels and one and one half hours on a Detroit radio station.

Believing that the basic role of the church is to reach out to people with the Gospel of the Good News of Christ Jesus' love to a hurting world, Lifeline sends out hundreds of packets of literature to individuals requesting information on various problems. The counselors have a resource of referral agencies at hand in case the caller needs additional professional help.

During 1982 Lifeline has had the opportunity of aiding the representatives of churches in Lansing, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; and Windsor and Amherstburg, Ontario. These churches are beginning a similar telephone counseling ministry.

"Realizing our counselors are para-professionals," Winters said, "there still is an enormous need for us; we're a listening ear."

All of the information that is transmitted over the phones at Lifeline is strictly confidential. In fact, only the counselors are allowed into the office located at Ebenezer Church.

Envisioned for the future is a crisis center where people can come and meet with counselors face to face. Meanwhile, the counselors, comprised of men and women ranging in age from 25 to 70, will continue to offer their time to the community in a caring, listening capacity. A need that has been evidenced by the increase in the numbers of callers.

Lifeline does not solve all problems, but it is endeavoring to lead men and women to Jesus Christ and fulfill its verse motto, "The Lord God has given me his words of wisdom so that I may know what I should say to all these weary ones" (Isaiah 50:4a LB). So, if you have problems or know someone who does, call Lifeline at (313) 882-LIFE (5433). □

Mission News

Florianopolis, S.C., Brazil. "People in our state of Santa Catarina are more open to hear the Gospel. We have had many blessings in personal evangelism," say Ralph and Martha Nelson, missionaries in Florianopolis.

A watch technician name Rui, whom Ralph has witnessed to many times, learned that Ralph would be preaching one Sunday night in Bela Vista. Rui came to the meeting with tears in his eyes, he said, "I know I need God in my life, I plan to start attending church regularly."

A woman named Celia, whom Martha has visited many times, asked her to give her a Home Bible Study, which she is now doing.

"We are still conducting meetings in the Southern Association, particularly in the three churches without pastors," report the Nelsons. "We were in Laguna, and the people there seem quite discouraged. Pray that the State Junta might be able to find a pastor soon to send there."

Martha is teaching a personal evangelism course to the Ladies at the Estreito church, and they go out on visitation one afternoon each week.

Pray for the people of the state of Santa Catarina. It will take several years to reestablish the economy and their individual lives. Pray for the six new converts in the Estreito Church and for the many being contacted in personal evangelism in Florianopolis.

Monte Vista, Colorado. The past year monies have been made available through the Colorado State Department of Health to rural areas to help pay expenses for indigent low-risk mothers, specifically through the Monte Vista Community Hospital. "It has been made known to me that the maternity care we give through the Baptist Health Center has been the least expensive in the state. We have been encouraged to continue this service," says Kay Hunt, nurse/ midwife at the Center.

Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. At the time of the visit of Dr. and Mrs. John Binder, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, and Dr. and Mrs. Peter Fehr, Minneapolis, MN, on July 5, the new mission home in Porto Alegre was dedicated. The Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Nelson and the Rev. and Mrs. Richard Kaiser and family were also present, as was the Richard Rabenhorst family who live in the house.

"It was a time of saying 'thank you' to God for providing such a wonderful mis-

sion house," says Richard Rabenhorst, missionary in Porto Alegre. "God provided just the right amount of money at just the right time. The missionaries are grateful for those who made this a special matter of prayer and support." The Rabenhorst family enjoys living in the house, and it also serves well as a mission house with meeting and sleeping space. "Counting our family, there were 16 people sleeping in the house the night of the dedication day," says Richard.

Jos, Nigeria. Don Bates, guidance counselor and N.A.B. short-term missionary at Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria, has developed a Sunday school course called, "Now We See Through a Glass Darkly, A Self-Directed Tour of the Teen-Age." Don has taught this course dealing with teens and their problems this past school year and continues it.

Through help from the Bible, psychology, and life, the students develop a philosophy rooted in God and strong enough to last against peer pressure.

Kyoto, Japan. "I had had it," says Paul Miller, short-term missionary in Japan. "I was faltering, failing to explain Christian concepts to my Japanese students."

At that moment of confession, it was not long after that the Lord directed me to some special people at the Kyoto International Chapel. Not all who come are Christian. Many come to learn about Christianity. It was there that I suddenly saw that my Christian heritage, with its wonderful vocabulary, filled with such a wealth of meaning to me, was like foreign currency, almost play money, to the Japanese.

"As I chatted with other mission workers and nationals, I was led to new resources which constantly underscored that my life and not only my words held the key to open up God's treasure-house to these people, ones so full of contradictions. How exciting, humbling, and terrifying to realize that our lives, my life, is to shine before men so that they will be drawn to God through Jesus Christ."

There is a growing excitement building among Japanese young people who are Christians. Pray that the Holy Spirit will begin to bring these committed and excited youth together to make a significant impact for Christ in Japan. Above all else, pray that for the missionaries as they work with the Christians.

A Vision Becomes Reality

by Terry Stoltenow

Nearly seven years ago (January 1977), a few families began meeting together in Fargo, North Dakota, for Bible Study. Their intent was to start a church extension church in Fargo, the largest city in North Dakota.

The Rev. Ted Keck came to Fargo to be the pastor of the church. The first worship service was held in September 1977 at rented quarters of the Oak Manor Motel.

The name Metropolitan Baptist Church was chosen for the church. The church group remained small during the four years it met at the Motel, but the vision that one day it would be a growing, vibrant church in a developing section of Fargo never died.

Land was purchased in an undeveloped, but promising area of south Fargo. After months of planning, a building was erected. The church dedication in 1981 was held exactly four years after the first worship service.

A slowdown in the development of the area, the transfer of several faithful families, and Rev. Keck's departure, in order to follow God's call to begin another church extension project in Texas, have been trials. But the vision for a growing church in Fargo is finally becoming a reality.

An Exciting Year for Metropolitan

This year has been an exciting year for Metropolitan. The Rev. Terry Stoltenow was called as pastor, and he and his family arrived in January. The area around the church has become the center of growth for the city. This year, more than 200 homes and apartments have been built within a mile of the church building.

Almost every week, new visitors come to the worship service. Because of the growth, three new Sunday school classes have been started. Finding space for the classes has become a real challenge.

The Rev. Terry Stoltenow is pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, North Dakota.

Fourteen people have asked to join the church, and five families are attending the church from the newly developed area around the church.

Prayer and Visitation Foundation for Growth

The church has found that prayer is the foundation for growth. Ten members pray at least five minutes each day for the pastor and the congregation. Many others pray daily for visitors and for the community.

Active participation in the visitation program has also been a strength. As many as 18 people personally canvass the neighborhood, encouraging people to visit the church. The college and career group reaches out to the college campuses. Those in the group provide transportation for students who need a ride to the worship services.

Metropolitan Baptist is looking forward to a challenging future. It is located in the center of a community that will continue to grow. This will provide more opportunities to minister. Currently, future plans include an expanded visitation program that will involve more of the membership, a weekly children's program, and a young couples Sunday school class.

Presently, the attendance is averaging 80, and the church ministers to 140 people. Please pray for Metropolitan Baptist. Pray that it might continue to faithfully reach out to the community and surrounding area. Pray that it will continue to grow. Pray also for the financial needs of the church.

The church people have been very faithful in their giving, but alone they cannot pay for the building and for the expenses of an expanding ministry. Many North American Baptists have helped Metropolitan Baptist in the past. It will be through our efforts together that Metropolitan will continue to be a vision realized. Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). □



Pastor Terry Stoltenow with his wife Sharon and daughters, Susan and Caren (l. to r.) began their ministry at Metropolitan in January 1983.



The adults meet for Bible study in a Sunday school class with Wilbert Fischer, teacher.



These children and teachers participated in vacation Bible school this past summer.

Contributions designated for Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, ND, may be sent to the North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

A Life of Gifts in Action

by Herbert W. Berndt



A year has passed since the unanticipated passing of Mrs. Helen Kannwisher on October 14, 1982. God's various gifts given to her and used by her helped to build the Body of Christ. Even though confined to a wheelchair following surgery in the 1970s, she still encouraged others. Her portrait is that of a life of gifts in action. Through reading this article, it is hoped that you will be encouraged to use the gifts God has given you.

The gift of hospitality is that very special God-given ability to provide an open house and a warm welcome to those in need of food, lodging, and caring. In the early years of her marriage to Dr. Arthur Kannwisher, Helen was a busy, gracious hostess as a minister's wife. In one year alone, 1,748 overnight guests, conference leaders, men's, women's, and youth groups, all encountered that very special quality level of hospitality.

When young men left for the service of their country during

The Rev. Herb Berndt is pastor of Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, New York.

World War II years, it was Helen Kannwisher who gathered their wives and sweethearts into her and Arthur's home to teach them knitting, needlepoint, crocheting, appliqueing, and tatting, all areas of expertise she herself possessed. As her husband taught at the University of Pittsburgh, her home was the environment where international students, among others, gathered together on a regular basis for homemade pies, cakes, ice cream and stimulating conversation.

The need is great for Christians who possess that special ability to make people feel at home and ready to share the goodness of God.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (I Peter 4:10-11 NIV)

The gift of service is that very special ability that God gives to certain members of Christ's Body to be able to identify unmet needs and to meet those needs. For Helen, the exercise of this gift meant using her natural and acquired abilities for her Lord.

Receiving musical training early in her life, she used her musical gifts on many occasions as organist of the First Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York, since the age of fifteen, at events of great meaning to grieving families, and on her own radio program consisting of

classical, semi-classical and religious music. Majoring in organ, piano, and voice at Bucknell University and in voice at the Eastman School of Music and Julliard polished her skills to use for her Lord.

Speaking at women's conferences provided Helen those opportunities to testify of her Lord and his grace.

That same ready spirit to serve with all our natural, acquired and spiritual gifts is needed greatly in our churches.

The gift of giving is that very special ability God gives to certain members of Christ's Body to contribute their own material resources to the Lord's work with great, cheerful liberality. During her life, Helen sought out genuine needs, listened to those who presented them, and then responded out of her own resources. Many of those gifts are known only to her Lord and to those who experienced her generosity so cheerfully given.

Even her unexpected death on October 14, 1982, created a memorial fund in her church, the Latta Road Baptist Church of Rochester, New York. The purpose of the fund is to help provide a way for the youth of her church to participate in the 1985 N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Anaheim, California.

God's love finds many ways to manifest itself in the life of a dedicated disciple. Helen Kannwisher received gifts from God's love, which she used to serve others, to administer God's grace in its various forms. She spoke in the very words of God to encourage. She served with the strength God provided in spite of her handicap of being confined to a wheelchair following surgery. In utilizing her gifts, God has been and is praised through Jesus Christ.

Let this be an example and encouragement to each of us. □

WOMAN'S WORLD

Christmas in Cameroon

by Monie and Karen Fluth,
Crystal, MN

"Happy, happy," or "Happy Christmas" is the greeting everyone uses at Christmas time in Cameroon. As you can imagine, there is no "white Christmas" in Cameroon. In fact, December is one of the dry season months, when the streams dry up and dust covers the ground. This does not take away from the feeling of the Christmas spirit, though. In Cameroon, the churches are very alive during this festive season. There are long services both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Women's groups re-enact the Christmas story through drama; children recite Bible verses; some people give their testimonies; and everyone participates in the exciting celebration of Jesus' birthday. Our family often sang at these services.

To us, Christmas was a special time for many reasons. First of all, it was a time when the children came home to Cameroon from boarding school in Jos, Nigeria. Christmas was celebrated as a family reunion. December 23rd was Mom's birthday and gave us another cause for celebration. At Christmas we tried to preserve some of the American traditions. Each year Ken and Dad made an effort to get us a Christmas tree by cutting off the top seven feet of one of the 30 to 50 foot high cypress trees in back of the house. Having a tree inside the house proved to be a conversation piece to all friends and guests.

Our family came up with many original Christmas gift ideas. A

favorite was for Mom and Dad to cut out pictures from the Sears catalog of things that the kids might like—clothes, toys, furniture, and then they gave the picture either to a tailor or a carpenter or whoever could make a replica of the present they had picked out. The gifts included doll beds, stick horses, stilts, jean jackets and nice dresses.

Once Dad hired a craftsman to build the kids a little grass hut as a "play house." Another time he arranged to get a colt from an African friend who raised horses. Oftentimes gifts were produced from the barrels, and Mom hoped that the clothes she had purchased in the States three years ago would still be in style and, hopefully, fit. The kids gave Mom and Dad art projects from school or other homemade items. Christmas was the time to go into the storeroom and bring out those "exotic American specialties" that had been stashed away—M & M's, black olives, canned ham, and other goodies. Our family had our own Christmas program consisting of singing carols and reciting Luke 2:1-14.

On the Mbingo station, the missionaries got together to have another Christmas program. We also planned a special program each year for the hospital patients and the leprosy camp where we gave out practical gifts such as blankets and cups.

Our family, like all missionaries in Cameroon and Nigeria, looked forward to gathering at Bamenda shortly after Christmas for the annual CMF (Cameroon Missionary Fellowship). There were Bible studies, art projects, skit nights, banquets, communion services, good food, and lots of fun

getting together with other missionaries, some of whom we hadn't seen since the last CMF.

Although we might celebrate Christmas in different ways, both the missionaries and the Cameroonians agreed that Christmas is a special Christmas holiday. Together we went visiting through the hospital and wards and gave cheer to the sick. This visitation didn't end at the hospital, but continued all day, as people passed from one compound to another, greeting and eating everywhere they went. For the Cameroonian children, Christmas might mean a new outfit for church or a pair of shoes. The family would be sure to have some chicken, beef, or goat meat in the soup that day. It can be agreed upon by all that the Christian in Cameroon, whether American or African, enjoys a "Happy, happy Christmas."

December Project

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

It is our privilege, during December, to give toward the support of pastors and their wives who are being trained at the Cameroon Baptist Theological College at Ndu in Cameroon.

We praise God for this school where men and women, called out by God, can be trained to become pastors of the churches in Cameroon. Because there is such a shortage of pastors for the Cameroonian churches, there is a great need for more Christians to go to CBTC to receive the training necessary to be an effective pastor and leader. Many would

like to attend CBTC but do not have the finances to do so.

We praise the Lord that, through our December project, we can give financial assistance to those who are in need. During this Christmas season, we would encourage you to give a special gift to this project.

Tina Schmidt, who headed the Women's Department of the Cameroon Baptist Theological College before her retirement, reported that students scramble to bring their wives to the school. An Accreditation Inspection Team strongly urged that the wife be enrolled the entire time the husband takes to complete his studies. Tina says, "This presents a complex challenge because of the different levels of achievement that each wife is at when she registers. For example, if she had never been to school but had learned the skill of sewing by machine, she would be in the upper level in the Sewing Class, but in the first class in other subjects. Or she may have a Class Seven Certificate in Primary School in which case she would take English with the first class of men students. The juggling of the time table is a real problem."

Remember these students and the teaching staff in prayer. May God bless you as you share as God has prospered you.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son . . ."
(John 3:16).

. . . The Potter's Gift . . .



by Iona Quiring,
WMF president,
Rogers, MN



Writing about Christmas in September (as I am doing here) is hard! I am not one of those super-organized types who has all her gifts made or purchased and wrapped before Thanksgiving. But as I sit and remember Christmases past, I am fast getting into the mood.

Over the years, certain traditions have just sort of evolved in our family. These traditions include going downtown during the day on the 24th, after the shoppers have thinned out, to admire all the beautiful decorations and elaborate animated displays in the streets and in the stores as well as driving up and down the streets after the Sunday school Christmas program to "ooh" and "aah" at all the gorgeous colored lights and nativity scenes in the neighborhood. Family favorite cookies and candies are musts each year, too, as important as the stockings on the mantle.

Alongside the traditions, there are many sweet, and some bittersweet, memories. One year we went up to the northwoods with relatives to cut down our own Christmas tree. We almost froze to death, but it was a wonderful, never-to-be-forgotten day. We spent one Christmas with missionary friends in Ecuador, going caroling on Christmas Eve in our shirt-sleeves. What an experience for Minnesotans!

I remember the first Christmas without Dad Quiring, the last

Christmas with Mother Quiring, and the sudden waves of sadness that wash over me as I realize that my Mom is unaware of our Christmas celebrations. Hanging a stocking for "Baby" when a new grandchild is expected is a thrill. The Christmas I got my big doll from Mom and Dad is still a special memory.

One Christmas morning God gave me an unusual gift. I woke up tired, with a bad headache and a lousy attitude. We were expecting lots of company that day, but I wasn't making very good progress with dinner preparations or attitude adjustment. I told God how I was feeling and asked him to change me. He used my family—Ed and our kids—to encourage me. We all got busy, and by the time we left for church, everything was ready. The work got done, and we had fun doing it. It was a special day.

Another time, we were enjoying a Christmas party at the home of some friends. As the host led us in a devotional time, he said he would be reading the Christmas story from the gospel of John. I was embarrassed for him; everyone knows the Christmas story appears only in Matthew and Luke. How wrong I was. How beautifully John 1 tells of God becoming man. God, in a clay pot. God with us.

Thank you, God, for your unspeakable gift.

Church Growth



BISMARCK, ND. It was a glorious Sunday afternoon on August 21, when 84 members and friends of Century Baptist Church of Bismarck, ND, gathered at Sugarloaf Bottom, a picturesque bend in the Missouri River, to witness three believers following the Lord Jesus Christ through the waters of baptism. The Rev. David Ewing (pictured second from right) is the pastor. (Janet Endersbee, church historian.)

EDMONTON, AB. In June 1983, a combined baptismal service was held with Hillview and Sturgeon Valley Baptist Churches participating. A joyous service took place when seven people followed the Lord into the baptismal waters. "The Lord is continuing to bless as he adds to our congregations," says Harvey E. Wolter, church clerk. "Praise His name."



(Pastor Bruno Voss of Hillview Baptist is pictured at left with those baptized, and Pastor Irwin Kujat of Sturgeon Valley Baptist at right.)

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. Eight people were welcomed into the membership of Fountain Valley Church, four by baptism and four by testimony.

The W.M.F. of Fountain Valley Baptist Church at its June salad luncheon, featured Jennifer Stroh as speaker. Miss Stroh made a presentation regarding counselling the terminally ill and the involved families.

On June 29, the Church enjoyed Jim and Cathy Liske in concert representing the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls.

A special patriotic, multi-media program was presented on July 3 featuring a full evening of musical selections and a slide presentation followed by a fellowship time and homemade ice cream and cake.

The Church family enjoyed a family potluck supper, film, and "Guess Who" photo contest in July and in September an all-church picnic.

The morning service on September 11 was a special blessing. The choir, wearing its new robes, presented beautiful renditions of music with a brass ensemble. The Awana staff was dedicated during the service for the new school term. (Clara Unruh, reporter.)

KILLALOE, ON. Members and friends of Calvary and First Baptist Churches gathered on the shore of Round Lake, site of Bonnechere Baptist Bible Camp, to witness the baptism of six young people upon confession of their faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Prior to the baptism, a service was held in the camp chapel. Each of the baptismal candidates gave their personal testimony. The hand of fellowship was given at a communion service at a later date.

"Our fall activities resumed with the film series, 'Strengthening Your Grip,' by Charles R. Swindoll," says Katie Kuehl, reporter. The Rev. James Zurbriggen is pastor of both churches.

SPRINGSIDE, SK. "We were privileged to welcome 12 members into Springside Baptist Church by transfer of letter and testimonies," reports Grace Goltz. "Four of those included the new pastor and his family, the Richard Grabkes."



The photo includes the deacons in the back row, and the new members, and the pastor and family (right front row).



UNDERWOOD, ND. At the First Baptist Church, the hand of fellowship was extended to six new members during a morning communion service.

One was a transfer member, while the other five were of a group of six individuals who were baptized recently. The Rev. Wesley Gerber is pastor (pictured left). (Mrs. Harold Lutz, church clerk.)

VANCOUVER, BC. September 1983 was a month of happy happenings at Bethany Baptist Church. "Five people were welcomed into our fellowship as members," reports Elsie Baum.

Following the introduction and dedication of the many workers and leaders involved in Bethany's church ministries, the congregation enjoyed a dinner.

On September 23, a turkey dinner was enjoyed at the church family banquet. The banquet offering of approximately \$4,000 will be used to purchase two-way radios for N.A.B. missionaries in Mambilla, Nigeria.

Pastor Mark Wollenberg accepted the full-time call to be the associate pastor, laboring along with the Rev. Ulrich Laser, senior pastor.



WEST FARGO, ND. Three persons (pictured) were baptized recently at Grace Baptist Church by Pastor Jay Holston. They received the hand of fellowship, welcoming them into the Church.

"Prelude," a group on tour from the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, led the Sunday morning worship service on August 14. (Desiree Morton, reporter.)

Church Dedications and Anniversaries

HARVEY, ND. Bethel Baptist Church celebrated 55 years of ministry in the community on September 9. On September 11, the church held a special communion service and renewed commitment as a church body in service to its people and its community.

In 1928 a group of Baptists from the area met for their first official business meeting under the leadership of a student pastor, Eric Gutsche. Various pastors from neighboring churches helped serve the mission church throughout the years. In 1948, the church welcomed its first full-time pastor. This marked the beginning of an upward trend. Six pastors have served since. The Rev. Eric Coulon is the present pastor.

Association Meetings

BUFFALO, NY. The 12th annual Eastern Association of North American Baptists was held September 16-18. The Association was hosted by the Austin St. Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY, but the meetings were held at Bethel Baptist Church, Getzville.

The theme was "Lord, Broaden My Vision," and the key verse, John 4:35.

"The working of the Holy Spirit was felt by all who attended and who heard the theme of the conference expounded in a wonderful way," reports Eva Weisser.

The guest speakers were Dr. J. Gordon Harris, academic vice president, N.A.B. Seminary; the Rev. Fred Folkerts, N.A.B. missions director; the Rev. Ray Harsch, N.A.B. associate director of Evangelism and Church Growth, N.A.B. Office; the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Eastern Area minister, and the Rev. and Mrs. Dale (Bud) Fuchs, newly appointed missionaries to Cameroon.

The following churches from the Pennsylvania-Ohio Association were welcomed into the Eastern Association: Union Baptist, Arnold, PA; Holiday Park Baptist, Pittsburgh, PA; Temple Baptist, Pittsburgh, PA; and Forest Baptist, Winburne, PA.

At the Saturday evening banquet, attended by 350, the "Youth Faith Singers" from the Bethel Church shared in a time of music and testimony.

The new moderator is the Rev. Bernard Thole, pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, NY.

In September, Norton left for Cameroon, where he is teaching science at Joseph Merrick Baptist College, Ndu.



As a short-termer, Norton must raise \$12,000 for the two years he will be on the mission field. Churches of the Okanagan Valley are responding to this financial need, and we trust God for the completion of this project. The Rev. Richard Hohensee is Norton's pastor at Trinity. (Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.)

MCCLUSKY, ND. McClusky Baptist Church held its Harvest and Mission Fest on September 18, with the Rev. George Nuebert of Bismarck, ND, as guest speaker. A pot-luck dinner followed.

That evening the Northern Dakota Association missionary conference began with Miss Eleanor Weisenberger, Cameroon, ministering to this church, which supports her.

The Missionary Conference continued with the Rev. and Mrs. Reimer Clausen, missionaries from Japan, speaking on September 20.

Miss Tina Schmidt of Cameroon shared her ministry of 31 years on the mission field at the closing service on September 23.

"Joyful Praise" a trio from Turtle Lake, ND, gave a morning musical concert on September 4. The Rev. Oscar Fritzke is pastor. (Marion S. Kirschman, reporter.)

Ordinations

STOCKTON, CA. Delegates representing seven Nor-Cal Association churches met at Quail Lakes Baptist Church as an ordination council to examine John Wilfong for ordination into the Christian ministry. Dr. Arthur Brust, Sacramento, and the Rev. Wayne Bibelheimer, Stockton, were elected moderator and clerk of the council.

Following the introduction of John Wilfong, and his wife Wilma, John gave his presentation. In a closed session, the council recommended that Mr. Wilfong be ordained. The Wilfongs shared their

CRESTON, NE. "The Growing Pains of a Small Church" (Acts 2:42) was the focus of the Nebraska Baptist Fellowship meeting at Creston Baptist Church, September 16-18, at its annual meeting.

Prof. Richard Paetzel, academic dean, North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, discussed "The Mission of the Church—Survival in Turbulent Times," "The People of the Church—Dealing with Conflicts," "The Leadership of the Church—Models to Consider," and "The Future of the Church—Establishing Priorities."

Richard Vaters of Beatrice shared his testimony for missionary service. The Rev. Paul Russell of Beatrice, NE, as moderator, led the business sessions. (Henrietta Scheffler, reporter.)

Missions Conferences

CARRINGTON, ND. During the Northern Dakota Association Round Robin Missionary Conference, it was Calvary Baptist Church's pleasure to have Tina Schmidt, missionary to Cameroon, as guest speaker at the Monday evening W.M.F. meeting.

On Tuesday, Nobuko Clausen, missionary to Japan, was the speaker at the afternoon W.M.F. meeting. Midweek service speaker was Ron Salzman, associate missions director. Dennis Palmer, missionary doctor in Cameroon, spoke to the men at their Saturday morning men's breakfast.

Calvary Baptist's annual Harvest-Mission Fest was held September 18. The Rev. Ben Hulsing, N.A.B. Seminary, spoke at the morning and afternoon services. After worshipping together, many gathered around tables for a pot-luck dinner.

"We are being blessed daily by the ministry of our able and beloved pastor, the Rev. Robert Lang, wife Phyllis and children," says Vi Pepple, reporter.

KELOWNA, BC. The Trinity Baptist Church held a commissioning and farewell service for Norton Redlich, appointed as a short-term missionary to Cameroon. The program featured messages of encouragement from the Church moderator, a former Sunday school teacher, Norton's mother, and the pastor. The Rev. Ed Hohn, British Columbia Area minister, led in the commissioning prayer.

A special blessing for Norton was the supportive presence of several family members, including his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Redlich. Fellowship followed the program.

our conference in action

thoughts concerning their appointment as N.A.B. missionaries to Nigeria.

Mr. Wilfong was ordained August 7 at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, at which time also, the Wilfongs were commissioned for missionary service in Nigeria.

Special Events

BURTON, TX. The Rev. Donald G. Mashburn became pastor of Greenvine Baptist Church, September 1. Rev. Mashburn is a recent graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in Christian Education.

A gifted preacher and teacher, he sees the chief function of the local church as that of growing its members to maturity, and states, "If the church members are being taught, they will be prepared to evangelize the lost. The church has a responsibility to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ, and as it does so, it is to go and make disciples of all nations."

His wife Cathy joins him in this ministry. (Mary Ricks Zorn, reporter.)

COLUMBUS, NE. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Redeemer Baptist Church hosted a Salad Luncheon/Baby Shower recently. Invited guests were the ladies of Creston Baptist Church and Shell Creek Baptist Church.

Each lady was asked to bring a baby gift to be sent to the San Luis Valley mission field in Colorado. The gifts are to be distributed by Kay Hunt, a nurse-midwife.

A program describing various aspects involved in growing a child was presented by the ladies of Redeemer. "It was a joy to share in a time of fellowship and giving," says Carol Swanson, W.M.F. secretary.

BEULAH, ND. A special time was taken during the morning service on August 7 to observe the burning of the mortgage of Immanuel Baptist Church. The event was especially memorable in that the mortgage was retired in three years (July 1980-August 1983). "We are thankful for the members and friends of the Immanuel Baptist Church, for their faithful stewardship, and for the support of our Church," says Luella Forthun, reporter.



COLUMBUS, NE. Members and friends of Shell Creek Baptist Church celebrated the arrival of the new pastor, the Rev. Clyde Zimbelman, his wife Barbara and their daughters, Gabriell and Miriam.

A pot-luck dinner followed the morning service, led by Rev. Zimbelman.

A welcome program given by the church for Pastor Zimbelman included speeches by the pastors and friends of the area churches. The congregation enjoyed special music.

Following the program, the congregation participated in a time of fellowship.

A food shower had been given to the Zimbeldans when they arrived.

The Shell Creek Baptist Church held its 110th anniversary October 1 and 2. Guest speaker was Dr. Roy DeBrand, N.A.B. Seminary professor. (Vangie Reich, reporter.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. The ladies Missionary Guild of the First Baptist Church sponsored a salad buffet birthday party-guest night on September 26, which included all ladies of the church and their guests.

Table decorations featured a centerpiece for each month of the year, and the ladies sat at the appropriate table representing their birthday month.

Tidbits of history were presented setting forth importance of birthdates, be it physical, spiritual, or organizational birthdates. The report included the historical dates of the Woman's Missionary Union, the change to Women's Missionary Fellowship, and the birthdates of the three societies of the local church, two of which remain active. Each lady received a White Cross information sheet.

Games were enjoyed, special music was presented, and a devotional challenge was given. The speaker challenged the women to be the special person God wants them to be if we will only let him. (Verdelle Gast, reporter.)

TROCHU, AB. Father's Day was very special for Trochu Baptist Church, when four infants were dedicated to the Lord. This was the first group dedication for more than 10 years in the church.

In the fall, the Church was the scene of a very beautiful and inspirational service when two persons were baptized as a witness of their faith in the Lord Jesus. An appropriate sermon and the observance of the Lord's supper were part of the service.

During the evening service, the film, "A Distant Thunder," was shown. (Mrs. Connie Reichel, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. A sense of impending loss stirred many hearts in the congregation of Bethany Baptist Church on August 21, at the "farewell service" for its youth pastor, Reid Galbraith, and his family (pictured). Thanks were expressed, and token gifts were presented in recognition of their four years of dedicated service at Bethany.

Pastor Ulrich Laser spoke words of challenge for the congregation and for the Galbraiths who have accepted a call to McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg.



Both Reid and his wife Edie responded meaningfully. Reid's final wish for our youth was "that each one would experience the excitement of knowing Christ as Savior and Friend." (Elsie Baum, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. "Stir Thy Church," an anthem sung by the sanctuary choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church appropriately opened the installation service held on Sunday afternoon, September 11, for the Rev. Ron Berg, (pictured center and right), his wife Ruth and their children, Eric, David, Jeneanne, Lauren and Patricia, who began their ministry at Ebenezer on August 7. Norm Poehlke, minister of youth, and Don Roller, moderator, officiated in the service. Greetings were read from various churches.

The Rev. Ed Hohn, B.C. area minister, was the guest speaker.

Following and prayer of dedication, Pastor Berg and his family were given the hand of fellowship. In response, Pastor



WINNIPEG, MB. Sunday, Sept. 11—the highlight of the year! Two new pastors inducted!

"God has been good to McDermot Avenue Baptist Church," says Alice Paar, reporter. "We were privileged to have our N.A.B. executive director, Dr. John Binder, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, in our morning service." Dr. Binder presented a citation to Mr. Edmund Streuber on behalf of the N.A.B. General Council, for his service on the Finance Committee for so many years. Dr. Binder also brought the morning message.

In the afternoon, Dr. John Foerster, moderator of the McDermot Church, introduced and welcomed the Rev. Werner Dietrich, as the new associate pastor, and Reid Galbraith as the new youth pastor, as well as their families. The Rev. S. Schuster, area minister, was the guest speaker. Messages of congratulations were received from N.A.B. Winnipeg and Manitoba churches.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed after the service. "We thank our senior pastor, the Rev. Richard Goetze, for his ministry this past year," says Alice.

Wedding Anniversaries



Emil and Emma Muller celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, with their family and the church family, on Septem-

ber 9 at Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, where they are friendly, helpful members. Through word and song, the program emphasized God's faithfulness in providing physical needs and spiritual blessings through 60 years of marriage. (Elsie Baum, reporter.)



Teofil and Valentina Fandrich, Vernon, BC, were honored by more than 90 relatives from Canada and the U.S.A. on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 3 in Kamloops, BC. On September 18, members and friends of Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, honored the couple in a celebration following the evening service.



Mr. and Mrs. George Nickel were honored on their 60th wedding anniversary at a celebration hosted by their children and grandchildren and attended

our conference in action

by friends and members of Temple Baptist Church. Esther, a member of Temple for 71 years, is one of the oldest active members of the congregation. (Patricia Nickel, reporter.)



Hermann and Helen Schoeler joyously celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with relatives, friends, and church members at Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, on August 19. The Schoelers are very faithful members at Bethany. (Elsie Baum, reporter.)



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weber of Killaloe, ON, were honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, at a buffet supper and program given by their children at Calvary Baptist Church of which they are faithful active members. (Katie Kuehl, reporter.)

(Reports received by October 10 have been included in this issue of the Baptist Herald. Please limit reports to 100 words or less so more reports can be printed. Fiftieth wedding anniversaries or more should be limited to names and church affiliation, plus a photo. Thank you.)



Why Have a Youth Conference in Argentina?

by Tomas Mackey for the Local Arrangements Committee

The purpose of the 10th Baptist Youth World Conference is a valid reason for its promotion among the young people all over the world: "To increase our awareness and appreciation of the cultural and personal differences through inspiration and fellowship thus leading to a spiritual unity and a stronger commitment to Christ." The Conference is scheduled for July 11-15, 1984, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Latin America's Situation

Latin America is the center of political, economic and social attention. Its member countries, among them, Argentina, are facing

Thomas Mackey is a member of the Local Mackey Arrangements Committee, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

decisive hours. It is clear that there will be a need of a prophetic message and a committed attitude on the part of the Christian community. Our conference has become the beginning point that will strengthen reflection upon spiritual matters, if we work firmly and with a deep sense of responsibility. It will also open new perspectives and even promote some concrete activities within the framework of the needs of the area.

Missionary Projection

Missions history shows how God prepared, sent and sustained his children from the moment they saw the missionary fields to the moment they could consolidate strong churches and begin the task of opening new mission fields themselves. We are protagonists of a time in which the mission fields are becoming fervent missionary senders, and the traditional mission fields are becoming missionary receivers. The youth conference will be witness of this fact, and furthermore, will be the seed provider for the creation of new strategies, to open the eyes of many to the missionary work.

The Importance for the Argentine Baptist Work: A Minority

Argentina is a country, like the rest of Latin America, with a Roman Catholic majority. This has given rise to a set type of society where the minority, Protestants and evangelicals, in spite of the so called "freedom of worship," have always been looked down upon and left aside. We believe that with the Conference, a valuable exchange can occur. The presence of so many young persons from all over the world will open doors and will help give a favorable impression for Argentine Baptists.

Tourism

Added to these reasons, Argentina provides many touristic possibilities. These include Bariloche in the south, with lakes, snows and mountains of exceptional beauty; Iguazu and its famous falls in the northeast; the city of Buenos Aires, one of the main capitals of the world; and many other places of interest. A combination of touristic trips with evangelistic programs can be made in such places, something which the churches in these places are waiting for. □

What's Happening

Mr. Marvin Rust was ordained into the ministry by Northgate Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, on Sept. 18, 1983. He has been pastor there since 1981.

The Rev. Norman Dreger became the associate pastor at Parkdale Baptist Church, Spruce Grove, AB, on Nov. 1, 1983.

The Rev. John Terveen accepted the pastorate of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, effective Oct. 16, 1983.

Dr. and Mrs. Gideon Zimmerman moved to Florida in September. Their address is Timber Oaks, 11320 Versailles, Port Richey, FL 33568. He continues as part-time N.A.B. Conference estate planning counselor.

Faith Baptist Church, Mississauga, ON, was accepted into the Eastern Association at its annual meeting, September 16-18, 1983. The Rev. Chris Creech is pastor.

Mr. John Babbel assumed the position of youth pastor at Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB, effective Sept. 1, 1983.

United States Air Force Chaplain, Colonel David Samf was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, (First Oak Leaf Cluster), for outstanding service from July 14, 1978 to July 8, 1983.

The Rev. Daniel O. Heringer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, since 1973, is retiring from the ministry after 38 years of service.

The Rev. Neil Strohschein began his ministry as pastor of Community Baptist Church, Red Deer, AB, on Nov. 1, 1983. He was pastor at Wiesenthal Baptist Church, Millet, AB, since 1977.

The Rev. Ray Cooper is pastor of Central Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB. The Rev. Art Bettig will continue part-time as German pastor.

The Rev. Aaron Buhler will retire Jan. 1, 1984, after serving in the ministry for 36 years. He has been pastor of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA, since 1980. He will reside in Lodi, CA.

50th Anniversary of the Springside Baptist Church Springside, Saskatchewan June 29 - July 1, 1984

All interested persons are cordially invited.

Any inquiries—Please send to:

The Anniversary Committee
c/o Rosalind Arndt
P.O. Box 415
Springside, Sask.
S0A 3V0

Pastor—Rev. Richard Grabke



Mr. Ed Streuber received a citation of appreciation for his service to the North American Baptist Conference on September 11 at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB. Dr. John Binder (left), executive director of the Conference, made the presentation on behalf of the General Council. Mr. Streuber served as a Finance Committee member from 1961-83 and as its chairman from 1977-80, as well as on the General Council and other committees. Serving the Lord on Conference committees has been a source of joy and expression of Christian stewardship for Mr. Streuber. He continues to be concerned for the financial needs of the Conference and prays that the many needs will be met.

In Memoriam

EDA ELIZABETH KOHRS (87) daughter of William C. and Elizabeth Fiezmahn Lohmann, was born Dec. 11, 1895, in Burlington, IA, and died Sept. 12, 1983. She was a member of Oak Street Baptist Church where she served as church organist for more than 50 years and choir director, helped organize the Missionary Service Guild, served as mission coordinator, enjoyed her correspondence and personal acquaintance with the Conference missionaries, and taught Sunday school. She was an example of a true Christian. On Aug. 28, 1917, she married Henry Oetken Kohrs, who preceded her in death Sept. 26, 1970. Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. David (Helen) Griffiths, Koesauqua, IA, and Mrs. Louis (Dorothy) Kuepper, Burlington, and their husbands; three grandsons; two great-granddaughters; and one sister, Mrs. J. Edward (Elizabeth) Johnston.

ORIN W. REISER (58) of Washburn, ND, born Feb. 6, 1925, died July 7, 1983. He married Florence Giedd on June 19, 1954. They lived and farmed 10 miles north of Washburn and moved into Washburn in 1966. His wife died Dec. 29, 1978. He gave faithful service as a deacon, treasurer, teacher, and church moderator. He also served as a N.A.B. General Council representative. Survivors include two

sons: Steven and Douglas of Washburn; three sisters: Susan Koenig, Elsie Melick, and Ruby Enockson; and two brothers: Marvin and Elmer. Pastor James Porterfield officiated at the funeral service.

RUDOLF RODE (90) was born Nov. 5, 1892, in Poland, and died Aug. 13, 1983. At the age of 21, he received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and joined the church. On Sept. 21, 1919, he married Rosalie Newman. In 1948 he immigrated to Wetaskiwin, AB, Canada, later moving to Edmonton. He worked as a farmer and a carpenter. Throughout his life, his faith kept him strong for God. He was a kind and softspoken man who loved his family. In German Zion Baptist Church and later at Bethel Baptist Church in Edmonton, his gifts were used as a leader for choirs and bands. He died a happy Christian, strong in belief in seeing Jesus, his Lord. Survivors include his wife; four children: Mrs. Christel Hansen and husband, Mrs. Erna Penschke and husband, Mr. Alfred Rode and his wife, all of Edmonton, and Mr. Arnold Rode and his wife of Vernon, BC; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Rode was predeceased by three sisters. The Rev. K. Hildebrandt officiated at the funeral service.

ELIZABETH SZABO SCHILLING (100) was born in Austria-Hungary, April 15, 1883, and died in Fredericksburg, PA, on September 17, 1983. She married Peter F. Schilling in 1899. They came to the U.S. in 1906. Peter Schilling later attended the German Baptist Seminary in Rochester, NY. In 1911 he was ordained into the ministry, and they served faithfully until his death in 1946. They served churches in New Castle, PA; Scottsbluff, NE; Gladwin, MI, from 1921-26 and 1930-38; and in Beulah, ND. After Rev. Schilling's death, Mrs. Schilling made her home with a daughter in Lansing, MI, then in Petosky, MI, and lastly in Fredericksburg, PA. Although totally blind and quite deaf, Mrs. Schilling wrote a history of their lives as a legacy for her family, and of great interest to many friends. She continued faithful to her Lord and Master in spite of her infirmities. She often quoted Romans 8:35-39. Mrs. Schilling is survived by one son, Peter, Freeland, MI; three daughters: Katharine Schindler, Crosswell, MI; Elizabeth Allen and Susan Schilling, Fredericksburg, PA; 12 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren. Two sons: the Rev. Fred Schilling and George Schilling preceded her in death. Services were held in Gladwin, MI, with Dr. Arthur W. Boymook, Lansing, MI, officiating.

New Area Formed

Representatives of the Minnesota-LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Iowa Associations met in June at the time of the General Council sessions to discuss the formation of a new area. Increasingly, the need for an additional area had been felt due to the number of churches and the number of square miles to be covered by an area minister. After subsequent meetings, each Association voted affirmatively to form a new area. This area, the Upper Midwest Area, came into being November 1, 1983, with a new area minister. Prior to November, the Minnesota-LaCrosse Association had belonged to the North Central Area, the Iowa Association to the South Central Area, and the Wisconsin to the Illinois/Wisconsin Area.



Upon recommendation of the Association representatives and approval by the executive committee, Dr. Roy Seibel received appointment as the interim area minister. Dr. Seibel retired as professor from the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in 1981 after serving as professor of preaching and evangelism from 1955-76 and professor of evangelism and church development from 1976-81. He has been leading church growth seminars since his retirement from the Seminary and workshops for missionaries and church leaders in Japan. He pastored three churches before becoming professor at the Seminary. □

You Are Invited
to Help

Build on the Foundations of Faith

and to attend one of the 40 dinner rallies being held across the U.S.A. and Canada, in January 1984. Music, an audiovisual presentation, a speaker, and a time for questions and answers are part of the program.

Every N.A.B. family is invited to attend the dinner in your area to see how you can help "build on the foundations of faith."

January 5: Edmonton, AB; Arnproir, ON; and Iowa (East).

January 6: Edmonton, AB; Burlington, ON; and Iowa (West).

January 7: Edmonton, AB; Buffalo, NY.

January 9: Calgary, AB; Kelowna, BC.

January 10: Calgary, AB; Prince George, BC; and Parma Heights, OH.

January 12: Calgary, AB; Vancouver, BC; and Warren, MI.

January 13: Lethbridge, AB; Grand Forks, ND; and Gladwin, MI.

January 14: Medicine Hat, AB; Harvey, ND; and Benton Harbor, MI.

January 16: Carbon, AB; Yorkton, SK; and Chicago, IL.

January 17: Winnipeg, MB, and Kankakee, IL.

January 19: Portland, OR; Minot, ND.

January 20: Tacoma, WA; Apple Valley, MN; and Okeene, OK.

January 21: Milwaukee, WI; and Stafford, KS.

January 23: Bismarck, ND; Valley Stream, NY; and Dallas/Waco, TX.

January 24: Ashley, ND; Bethlehem, PA; and Greenvine, TX.

January 26: Sioux Falls, SD; Pittsburgh, PA; and Marion, KS.

January 27: Denver, CO; Boca Raton, FL; and Rapid City, SD.

See your church bulletin and newsletters and your pastor for specific date and time, or call your area minister or the N.A.B. Development Department at 1-(312)-495-2000. □

News From Around The World

BAPTIST CHURCH HAS NO BAPTISTRY

by John M. Wilkes

MINSK, USSR (EBPS)—Christian believers fill the prayer house of the Minsk Baptist Church at several worship services each week.

They crowd the main floor and the three-sided balcony. At a recent weekday service, one of the several choirs sang a number in English for western visitors present, while worshippers arriving late had to take up places among many already standing.

The interior of this prayer house is one of the most attractively decorated which Baptists have anywhere in the world, but the building, completed last year by enlarging an earlier structure, has no baptismal pool.

Church members, who were willing to form human chains to pass bricks and boards from hand to hand, refused to add a baptistry.

"Our believers preferred to keep on having the baptismal services as before," explains the Rev. Konstantin Lomako, pastor for the past six years.

The way it was before and apparently will remain, is for baptismal candidates and members to travel 14 kilometres to an artificial lake known as the "Sea of Minsk."

"It was really cold out there in 1979 when we had 51 persons to baptize," Pastor Lomako recalls. He also remembers a baptismal service in 1980, the year new construction began. His son, Sergei, was one of the 56 baptized then.

Lomako describes the two-year construction period as "an unforgettable memory of working together." Work began July 1, 1980. The site was closed in to weather by September 1, and the exterior was finished that October. "We held every church service on schedule right through the construction," he adds.

The congregation in Minsk has 20 lay preachers and seven deacons. Records show it existing as early as 1912, but it probably dates from much earlier. Although "services stopped at intervals before and during World War II," by 1946 there were 150 members. Today, there are more than 800.

From that beginning, in the Minsk area there are now 3,500 members in 34 churches affiliated with the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR (AUCECB).

In the Byelorussia republic, Baptist origins date from 1855, when some peasants who had gone away to work for German families and became believers from that influence, returned to form a church in their village of Ut.

The Rev. Ivan Bukati, a former pastor of the Minsk church who has been AUCECB superintendent for Byelorussia since 1976, gives precise current figures for the republic: "At the first of this year there were 15,004 members in 187 churches." Taking in other Baptist and Pentecostal groups "with whom we maintain good fellowship," he says those on church rolls number over 20,000.

Yet he describes Byelorussian "towns where all but a few families are believers," and "village churches with 500, 600, or even 800 Christians."

"We know there are many more," Rev. Bukati admits. "Our statistics are not always in harmony with the statistics of God." □

JUBILEE PLANS FURTHERED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PRAGUE (EBPS)—Selection of a steering committee and definition of plans for a 100th Anniversary Celebration in 1985 were major agenda items for the annual all-Union assembly of the Baptist Union of Czechoslovakia October 13-16.

Delegates approved increasing church support of the Union's work. They also heard a report that the Jubilee Fund, a special offering going for renovation of the building of the Vinohradska (First) Baptist Church in Prague, already has reached 600,000 crowns.

Special recognition was given to three Baptist students from the USSR, studying in Prague and in Bratislava, whose scholarships are funded by Czechoslovak Baptists.

"Jesus Christ for the Healing of the Family," formed the assembly theme. Subjects discussed were the example of biblical families, the place of the local church, and the family's mission service.

An early Lord's Supper service on Sunday and the ordination of the pastor at Brno Baptist Church were highlights of the assembly.

About 1,000 Baptists came from all parts of the CSSR to attend the assembly sessions.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following churches for joining the Church Family Subscription Plan to the *Baptist Herald*:

Brentview Baptist, Calgary, AB; Rev. Ron Kernohan, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lang, agents.

Hillside Baptist, Dickinson, ND; Rev. James Deboer, pastor; Mrs. Walter Klempel, agent.

Westview Baptist, Lethbridge, AB; Rev. James Erb, pastor; Mr. Raymond Mason, agent.

To these churches for renewing through the Church Family Subscription Plan to the *Baptist Herald*:

Baptist Mission, Chicago, IL; Rev. Michael Pennington, pastor; Mr. Edgar Merke, agent.

Bethany Baptist, Vancouver, BC; Rev. Rick Laser, pastor; Mrs. Gloria Schunter, agent.

Calvary Baptist, Parkersburg, IA; Mrs. Diane Campbell, agent.

Calvary Baptist, Stafford KS. Rev. Elton Kirstein, pastor; Mrs. Chester Hildebrand, agent.

Creston Baptist, Creston, NE; Rev. Lee Grace, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Scheffler, agents.

Faith Community Baptist, Airdrie, AB; Rev. Harold Weiss, pastor; Mrs. Clair Ziolkowski, agent.

First Baptist, Medina, ND; Rev. Pat Colley, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Staiger, agents.

Greenvine Baptist, Burton TX; Rev. Donald Mashburn, pastor; Mr. Lesley Kramer, agent.

Hudson Bay Park Baptist, Saskatoon, SK; Rev. Rudy Lemke, pastor; Mr. Ike Klassen, agent.

Isabel Baptist, Isabel, SD; Rev. Robert Cornwell, pastor; Mr. Ruben Brenner, agent.

Pilgrim Baptist, Vancouver, BC; Rev. Walter Schroedter, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Hans Logemann, agents.

Whiteshell Baptist, Seven Sisters Falls, MB; Rev. Hans Serger, pastor; Mrs. Hans Serger, agent.

Zion Baptist, Okeene, OK; Rev. Edward Kopf, pastor.

Baptists Oppose Appointment of Ambassador to Vatican

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a national agency serving nine Baptist denominations in the United States and Canada with over 27,000,000 members in the cooperating churches. At its meeting on October 4, 1983, the executive Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee passed the following resolution:

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has consistently opposed the appointment of a Presidential envoy or ambassador to the Vatican.

Opposition to such an appointment has been based on our country's traditional adherence to the principle of separation of church and state. Any attempt to show preferential treatment to one particular church or religious body is a violation of this principle.

In light of the H.J. Res. 316 introduced by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Clement Zablocki (D-Wis) which would permit the legal establishment of U.S. diplomatic ties to the Vatican, the Executive Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirms its opposition to such an establishment.

The Executive Committee of the Baptist Joint Committee also reaffirms its opposition to the U.S. Government giving preferential treatment to any church body. Such action is a threat to the principle of religious liberty for all persons.

The North American Baptist Conference is one of the cooperating denominations in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

House-Senate Panel Clears Vatican Ambassador Rider

by Robert Dilday

Washington (BP)—Legislation permitting President Reagan to appoint an ambassador to the Vatican gained quick approval from a House-Senate conference committee November 1. Conferees working out House-Senate differences in a State Department authorization bill agreed to keep a Senate amendment overturning an 1867 statute prohibiting funds to maintain a U.S. embassy at the Vatican.

It was pointed out that more than 100 countries recognize the Pope as a head of state. That statement prompted Rep. George W. Crockett Jr., D-Mich., to ask quietly, "Do those countries have the First Amendment restrictions we do?" No response.

If the conference report passes both houses, the President would be authorized to appoint an ambassador to the Holy See at any time.

Only further congressional action forbidding the expenditure of funds for setting up an embassy in Vatican City or federal court action would then stand in the way of the resumption of full diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

BJCPA Executive Director James M. Dunn declared "the hurried, virtually hidden action of the conference committee is unworthy of the U.S. Congress. The Senate, without hearings, debate, discussion of record vote, tacked on to the authorization bill this major reversal of U.S. foreign policy, denying the House of Representatives an opportunity for consideration."

Compounding the frustration felt by opponents of the move, Dunn said, is "the fact that the secular media have ignored this critical issue.

"It's shocking to think the United States would establish diplomatic relations with the Roman Catholic Church," he added. "Surely all those who believe in church-state separation will express their strong disapproval to their Senators and Congressmen immediately."

John W. Baker, BJCPA general counsel and director of research services, stated, "This action violates the establishment of religion clause of the First Amendment and threatens to spawn divisiveness along religious lines," he declared, "It invites a court challenge."

Baptist Herald

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with love and peace
this Christmas and
throughout the New
Year*

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