

Baptist Herald

October 1983



*To Thee
I shall offer
a sacrifice of
Thanksgiving*

psalm 116:17



**1983
Celebration
of Gratitude
Offering**

Goal: \$400,000

Keeping In Touch

Faith Given and Faith Exercised

During the various meetings of Conference committees, boards, and the General Council this spring, it became evident that we were being led to accept a great challenge for the next several months. We had committed ourselves to ministries in 1983 that require \$4,150,000 to achieve. In addition to this, in September we launched a Conference-wide capital funds campaign of \$2,500,000 for various Conference expansion needs plus another million dollars or more for association ministries. It seemed clear that all of this was certainly beyond possibility by our own strength, ingenuity, and strategizing.

This need caused me to reflect on some simple, yet profound, truths about "God's measure of faith" as described in Romans 12:3-8. By faith we become a part of the body of Christ. That faith was given to us by God, but we also had to exercise some faith as we received salvation in Christ.

As members of Christ's body, God has given us gifts and tasks to perform. According to this passage of scripture, we are also given a "measure of faith" for various ministries. This implies that everything we do as Christians for the cause of Christ is to be done by faith given and faith exercised. God has said that he is always giving out faith, but how much are we receiving and exercising that faith?

Do we really acknowledge our dependence on him? Are we willing to take some risks—by faith—and launch out in some new and urgently needed ministries today? The gifts and faith given to the Christian are

not to be used for personal gain or fame. The gifts are given to him that he may serve with them. God bestows gifts and faith to be used in his service and for building up the body of Christ.

We have set some high goals for ourselves as a Conference. We believe that God has led us to set these goals. It will require faith—God's measure of faith—and our willingness to walk with him by faith.

All North American Baptists are invited to participate in achieving these goals to God's honor and glory. As members of the body of Christ, we are all given gifts and faith to help build the body of Christ. Each of us needs to do his part in order that a church or the total N.A.B. Conference will achieve the highest results. What will be your part?

Are you familiar with the goals and needs of your church? Are you involved in helping your church move toward those goals? There are people everywhere who are confused, who are hurting, who are indifferent. They need the message of life and hope in Christ. Maybe some of your church leaders, including your pastor, need encouragement to continue to minister faithfully. Maybe God wants you to provide that word of encouragement.

Some of the goals of your church are achieved through the N.A.B. Conference of which your church is a vital part. Your church is concerned about reaching people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Brazil, and Japan, as well as newly developing communities and urban areas in Canada and the U.S.A. with the same message that you present to your own community. That requires joining together as churches and pooling our resources so that we can better fulfill the commission of Christ to reach the whole world.



How can you help? By exercising your faith in prayer for the host of people who are serving as missionaries and pastors—people whom your church has sent forth. Pray that God will "provide the increase" needed so that their work will be effective. Become acquainted with them through careful reading of literature and hearing them report at your church, association, Triennial Conference or other events. The more you know about what God is doing through your representatives, the more excited you will be about being involved.

You can also help by giving and encouraging your church to give generous financial support according to its ability to the Conference operating needs now. The giving during the summer months was very weak this year, so there is much to be done this fall to catch up if we expect to achieve our ministry goals. There is a great need for us to stretch and exercise our faith by giving out of the abundance that God has given us. □

John Bender

Executive director
North American Baptist Conference

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*"Offering to
God
a Sacrifice of
praise"*

Are we foxhole Christians? Worldly Christians? Complaining, pessimistic Christians? Or asks Stanley J. Grenz

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FROM
REFORMATION TO
TRANSFORMATION 7



"New Day" is a team of youth sponsored by the N.A.B. Conference. The music section and discipling section are committed to evangelism and church growth. Ray Harsch

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Am I Grateful?

by Stanley J. Grenz

Luke 17:11-19

based on a sermon delivered to the Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct. 5, 1980

His final journey to Jerusalem from his Galilean homeland had commenced. Jesus was traveling with the pilgrim throng along the Samaritan border country toward Perea which lay beyond the Jordan. Outside one of the towns along the way, an incident occurred which became an ominous foreshadowing of what Jesus would subsequently experience in Jerusalem, an incident which is instructive because of three factors present in it.

Brought Together by a Common Plight—Leprosy

First, in this account there is a terrible disease—leprosy. Most of us are acquainted with this disorder only through stories which we have heard. But for citizens of first century Palestine, leprosy was a continual threat, which could strike without warning and result in personal, financial, and social ruin. This dreaded disease began small, but slowly progressed until it encompassed the entire body of its victim. Further, it was incurable and brought horrible side effects, including the loss of fingers and the disfigurement of the body.

Because this disorder was highly contagious, necessitating the quarantining of all the infected, the leper was forced to live in isolation from society. He kept a 100 yard distance from any passerby and cried out in warning, "Unclean." Social contact was limited to those who shared this woe, making the disease a great leveler—a tragic fate which drew together victims from all social classes. Physically, socially

psychologically, leprosy was a disease of death.

On that day, Jesus was approached by a small group of miserable lepers. Apparently, nine were Jewish, but one belonged to the despised Samaritan race. Under normal circumstances, these ten would not have had contact with each other. But now, having been brought together by their common plight, they, as a company of the living dead, sought help from the Galilean teacher.

Some approach the Lord in prayer only with petitions, never with thanksgiving—pessimistic people who are quick to see problems but never the provision of God—complaining people—criticizing people . . .

A Command to Act

There is found in this account a second factor, a great healer named Jesus of Nazareth. The lepers had known of this man—about his power and willingness to heal—for he had already touched the lives of many others, and his fame had spread. Thus, when they heard that Jesus was coming near, they called to him from a distance, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

True to character, Jesus responded to their pleas. However, Jesus did not touch them as he had touched so many in the past nor speak the words of healing that he had spoken in so many previous situations. Rather, on this occasion, Jesus responded by issuing to these lepers a command to show themselves to the priests. In the Old Testament, the priests had been given the authority to issue to a cured leper a certificate of health, which in turn, allowed re-entry into normal community life.

In essence, then, Jesus commanded them to act as if they were healed. Their reaction was immediate and unquestioning obedience, born out of a trust and hope in him. As they left, they joyously discovered that they *had* indeed been healed.

"Where Are the Other Nine?"

Thirdly, however, this story has a tragic ending. One of the ten, the despised Samaritan, sensed that he had been healed. He stopped dead in his tracks, interrupted his rush to the priest, turned around, dashed back, fell at Jesus' feet, and poured forth his thanks to the Healer.

The other nine, having received what they so earnestly desired, appeared to have no sense of gratitude to the one who had blessed them with new life. They were obsessed with obtaining that certificate which would allow re-entry into society. The question of Jesus was valid: "Where are they? Where are the other nine?"

Another Dread Disease

The three factors present in this incident, which occurred 1900 years ago, are likewise present today. First, today also there is a disease, not leprosy, of course, but sin. Sin is a more terrible ailment, which because of the similarities between the two, is often represented in the Bible by leprosy. Like leprosy, sin is a dreadful disease, which begins small, but progresses slowly, until it encompasses an entire life, an entire family, an entire society, and all of mankind. Likewise, sin is incurable; no human being can bring about release to himself or another from this awful disease.

Similarly, sin causes the destruction of life, leading to ruined persons, destroyed families, and wrecked societies. This disease is also dreadfully contagious. Knowing no racial, financial, or class distinctions, it is the great leveler, reducing all its victims to the same woeful status. In short, sin is the disease of

death, and all who are infected constitute the living dead.

An Admission of Personal Need

Present today is not just this horrible disease called death, but also a great Savior, Jesus Christ, who is as willing and powerful today to save as he was 1900 years ago. But just as there were prerequisites then for his healing, so also today those who would be cured must come to him with an admission of personal need ("Jesus, I'm diseased by sin"), a cry for help ("Master, have pity on me because of your death on the cross"), and trust in Him which translates into obedience to His word. In other words the self-awareness, pitiful cry, and quick obedience of the ten lepers must be mimicked by sinners today who would be healed.

Foxhole Christians come to the Savior in the crises of life, only to rush away, forgetful of him, once their fortunes have been restored.

The Tragic Response—Ingratitude

Finally, in addition to the first two, that unfortunate third factor is also so prevalent in the church of Jesus Christ today, namely the tragic response of ingratitude on the part of those whom Jesus has helped. How sad that so many Christians forget their debt of thanksgiving in their preoccupation with life in society.

Among the ungrateful are the "foxhole Christians," those who come to the Savior in the crises of life, only to rush away, forgetful of him, once their fortunes have been restored.

Similarly, there are the worldly Christians, those who enjoy the benefits of Jesus—their Christian upbringing, the Church atmosphere, the "eternal security" which they

claim they have—but who spurn true discipleship. This, however, is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called "cheap grace":

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Then there are those who approach the Lord in prayer only with petition, never with thanksgiving—pessimistic people who are quick to see problems but never the provision of God, complaining people who are quick to see life's struggles but never God's blessings, criticizing people who tell God continually what he should do but never thank him for what he has done.

Gratitude Expressed in Worship

Those who would respond properly to the Master, namely with heartfelt gratitude, should look to the simple Samaritan leper for a model. From him, we learn that gratitude is expressed in worship: "The Samaritan came back praising God in a loud voice" (v. 15). In the same way, Christian gratitude quite naturally results in worship in the form of sincere praise to God.

As the author of Hebrews writes, "through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess His name", to which Peter adds "You're a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

In addition, worship takes the form of declaring his deeds to others. The psalmist says, "we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and wonders he has done."

Gratitude Expressed in Self-dedication

The Samaritan teaches us that gratitude is also expressed in self-dedication, for upon his return he threw himself at the feet of Jesus (v. 16). Christian gratitude should likewise be expressed in a personal dedication to the Master which takes the form of discipleship, separation from sin, and obedience to Jesus' commands.

Worldly Christians enjoy the benefits of Jesus—their Christian upbringing, the Church atmosphere, the "eternal security" which they claim they have—but they spurn true discipleship.

Gratitude Expressed through Sharing

Sharing with others is another expression of gratitude. A fitting example in this context is that of another outcast, the hated tax collector, Zacchaeus, who just a few days later met the Savior. His response to the experience of salvation was immediate and radical: "Here now I give half my possessions to the poor."

Sharing is the natural result of experiencing God's forgiving love, for as John writes, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

At the same time sharing is an offering in gratitude for God's goodness. "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for which such sacrifices God is pleased," we read in Hebrews.

Moishe Rosen, the leader of the Jews for Jesus, who grew up in Denver during the depression, relates that the Jewish people, who were deeply affected by that

(Continued on next page)

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business downturn, never saw themselves as poor, but always as the recipients of the blessings of God. They also believed that they were to show God whenever they knew he had specifically blessed them by sharing financially with others.

To this end, Moishe's mother had two little banks, one dedicated to the Jewish Academy of Learning and the other to the Jewish National Fund. Every time that his mother sensed God had blessed her, she would take a penny or a nickel and place it in one of those.

On one occasion she received a letter, which brought tears to her eyes. After reading it, she took two fifty-cent pieces from her purse, a significant sum during the depres-

sion, and put one coin in each bank.

From this, Moishe concluded that God had blessed his mother in an unusual way. His Uncle Milton, the news was, who had been declared missing in action, was alive in Japan. Although Moishe's mother did not know how to pray or praise God verbally, he reports, there was one thing she could do when she was blessed—she could share with others.

Am I Grateful?

Just as the lepers were healed by Jesus of terrible leprosy, so also we who have been born again have been saved by our Lord from sin. These first two factors, sin and the Savior, are already present in each of our personal stories.

Not yet determined, however, is the third, the outcome: Will we respond like the nine, receiving the desired blessing only to hurry away and forget about our debt of gratitude, or will we respond like the one, placing the expression of gratitude to the Giver above the enjoyment of the gift?

The Thanksgiving celebration confronts each of us with this crucial question. Let each believer utilize this occasion for self-reflection: Am I truly grateful—is my personal, heartfelt gratitude to the Savior reflected in worship to God, dedication to the Lord, and sharing with others—or will Jesus be speaking of me when he asks that question, "Where are they? Where are the other nine?" □

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name"
(Hebrews 13:15 NIV).

From Reformation To Transformation

by Herbert Hiller



Protestants are about to celebrate the 500th birthday of Martin Luther (November 11, 1483), widely considered as the father of the Reformation. Someone significantly remarked that if they fail to reclaim Reformation Day, they stand in danger of losing their identity. Therefore, the observance of this festival is a challenge to take a good look at the whole spectrum of the Protestant position to see whether its distinctive claims are still valid enough to justify its continued separate existence. If so, what is its message and mission?

Historically, Protestantism began with Luther's nailing of 95 propositions to the Wittenberg church door in Germany on October 31, 1517, in a public protest against the prevalent indulgence scandal, doctrinal errors and abuses which obscured the simple, saving Gospel. However, the confrontation with the church's traditional intellectualism and its wrong practices also became the occasion for the proclamation of a personal salvation by God's grace on condition of faith in the merits of Christ.

From Experiment to Experience

This experience crystallized in the heart of the reformer, when after long vigils, fastings, and frantic efforts to save himself, Luther turned to the Scriptures and found peace of soul on Biblical grounds. Through an intense study of Paul's epistle to the Romans, he experienced the justification as taught in the recorded affirmations

(Continued on next page)

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of the apostolic faith. What happened is best described in his own words: "It was as though I had found the door of paradise wide open, and I simply entered trustfully. Seeing the outstretched arms of the Almighty Father, I threw myself into the embrace of his forgiving love." That very moment Luther became a child of God—truly converted and wholly committed.

Henceforth, the Word of God meant everything to him—lawbook and songbook, theology and doxology, duty and delight (Psalm 119:54). Upon it, Luther was willing to stand or fall: "The world cannot force my conscience, and should my body be destroyed, my soul is thine and remaineth with Thee forever."

Before the king and hierarchy at the Council of Worms, he affirmed the supremacy of the Scriptures over against the official traditions. He declared: "Popes have erred; councils have erred. My conscience is held captive by the Word of God. . . . Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me! Amen."

The Abiding Values of the Reformation

Emerging from the judgement hall as an outlawed reformer, Luther tirelessly labored to provide for the spiritually hungry people the Bible in their own tongue. Through word and song, Luther preached and taught the people the joys of a great salvation. They chanted it behind the plough or weaver's loom. In this way, they dispelled the weariness of their daily routine.

Faith budded and flourished. The Reformation yielded the ripening fruits of justification (Romans 5): divine forgiveness of human guilt, free access to the throne of mercy for the priesthood of believers, liberty of conscience, discipline by the Word, and the bright hope of glory.

Still Luther's reformation was not a finished product, nor was his character without flaw. "His faith was intense, his humor refreshing, his compassion deep, but his speech could be incredibly blunt and his attitude intolerant." Nevertheless in history's memory, Luther will remain a tower of truth and strength,

and the reformation a necessary catharsis of the church's message and mission.

The Unfinished Reformation

Almost 500 years have passed; yet the hammer blows of protest continue to resound around the world against all sorts of in creeping evils. Hasty reforms are attempted to remedy bad situations. Often it amounts to a mere rearrangement of the same old bricks, scattered on the ground, or a reshuffling of the same card game.

"Popes have erred; councils have erred. My conscience is held captive by the Word of God . . . Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me! Amen."

—Martin Luther

In the religious sphere, Protestants still protest against such traditional Roman Catholic doctrines as baptismal regeneration, the transubstantiation of the communion elements into the very flesh and blood of Christ, salvation by works, the purgatory idea, the immaculate conception and bodily assumption of Mary into the heavenly hierarchy, prayer to the saints, the required celibacy for priests and the infallibility of the pope. To all of these scripturally "unwarranted" doctrines, the official Catholic magisterium is committed, but they are unacceptable to the Protestants' Bible-centered faith.

Those of the biblical persuasion have sometimes wished that they had a pope to settle their disputes and bridge their divisions, but at best, it could only be a constitutional one, for Protestants consider Christ as the supreme authority. There is no other infallible interpreter for the infallible Word. They reverence Mary and honor the saints, but do not pray to them as intermediaries. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not saving

sacraments, but public confessions of a covenant faith and renewal. Good works are not of saving merit, for as Luther said, "Salvation is of all works the most excellent and the most difficult; it is the work of God, not man." But this unmerited gift must be appropriated by faith and its reality demonstrated in a God-honoring life-style of integrity and moral excellence in service through the empowerment of the sanctifying Spirit.

From Reformation to Transformation

In more recent times, Catholics and Protestants have viewed each other across the Divide with the common desire to work toward the unity and holiness of the church for which Christ prayed "that they may be one." Voices are heard in theological communications for a new reformation or continued efforts for the unfinished task of reforming and refining the church's message and method, and equipping born again and spiritually excited believers for a world-saving mission. Where there was misunderstanding and distrust, the gap must be bridged by forgiving, healing love.

Pope John XXIII had already encouraged his flock to read the Bible on their own. However, does this mean a turning to the source of Protestant thought and practice and away from the controversial additives which only minimize the nourishing value of the gospel? Seems unlikely, for all too many are still quite comfortable with the doctrinal framework of the traditional church. Yet others are searching the Scriptures to experience a personal life-transforming faith commitment and becoming inwardly secure, regenerated Christians.

While Protestants have sung for a long time the great Catholic hymns of faith, Catholic singing has now taken on a strong Protestant flavor. Much can also be learned from Catholic reverence in worship, respect for authority, and loyalty to the church where non-attendance constitutes a sin to be confessed (Psalm 96:8).

While Catholics are much involved in social service, education,

and the ministry of mercy, Protestants have been more concerned about putting God's Word into the hearts of the people that "receiving the word with eagerness, they might verify and apply it for a biblical life-style" (Acts 17:11) at home and abroad. For a closer relationship of divided Christendom, various reforms or changes have been proposed; yet God offers and requires a total transformation of character into the likeness of his Son.

Three Conditions Necessary

To move forward towards this seemingly impossible objective, necessitates at least three conditions:

First of all, the experience of a personal regenerative faith-relationship with God through the merits of Christ. It was Luther's chief concern. It must be that of every seeking soul, for salvation is God's gracious bestowal to man in his deepest need of forgiveness and renewal (2 Corinthians 5:17). There is joy in believing and peace in surrender. Far more than a mere mental consent to some traditional beliefs, faith as a commitment to Christ becomes a life-transforming power. With it, we can do amazing things; without it, nothing. Faith is the Christian's lifeline; the first priority, not the last resort.

Secondly, Christians must realize to a greater measure their total dependence on the saving, sustaining, and sanctifying grace of God (Titus 2:12-14). For "like a river glorious," it channels endless supplies and unmerited favors into their lives for survival and wholesome functioning. Spiritually, it gives direct and free access to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:14-16), lends charm and richness to character (2 Peter 3:18), and establishes in usefulness (Hebrews 12:28) in preparation for life above (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17). In regular worship, quality of life, and the use of faith's gifts, they must prove that God's grace was not bestowed in vain.

Thirdly, there is needed for a closer spiritual unity a non-judgmental, understanding love to Christ-centered believers of other

heritage strands. God bears patiently with quite a variety of them and with his Spirit seeks to transform them into his likeness. At the same time, we must admit that of whatsoever persuasion we may be, we are all imperfect, surviving by grace alone, often struggling over petty or trivial matters and always standing in need of correction.

A few years ago, a missionary on furlough said something like this. At the beginning of the Christian era, God established a church upon the confessed faith of Saint Peter, the rock, which became known for its unity and solidarity in a pagan, hostile society. Through faith, it outlived all opposition. Then came a time when the secular interests of the humanistic Renaissance threatened the spiritual body of Christ, so God raised up through the reformers the church of Saint Paul with a strong affirmation of man's justification through faith and his salvation by grace alone. And now with a world in turmoil and on the brink of a nuclear disaster, and churches hopelessly divided, confused and at odds, God is seeking to reunite Christian forces by establishing the church of Saint John. For this apostle distinctly said: "If a man say, I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar" (1 John 4:20). Hence, a true Christian's unmistakable mark is loving God and the brother. As the Second Vatican Council declared, "This is the binding force that pulls the pieces together."

Assuming the credibility of other Christ-and-Bible-centered believers, could it be that God will bring together, by a whole new act in history, slowly and imperceptibly, the rock-like, Peter-oriented Catholic church (with all of its weaknesses and mistakes) and the fragmented Paul-persuaded Protestants (also with their own failures and strife) into a loving John-oriented Church in which brothers and sisters in Christ will live and work harmoniously to fulfill their world-wide mission?

Should the Master's dream of oneness in spirit (John 17:21) seem like "an impossible dream," remember so is Prophet Isaiah's dream of a warless world (2:1-5). Yet both of these dreams may still save us from a global, suicidal



holocaust and endless, unbrotherly divisiveness and strife. While we cannot change the mistakes of the past, we can help shape the future by some crucial changes in attitude, atmosphere and direction of effort."

The 500th Reformation Anniversary calls us to commemorate an historic restoration of New Testament Christianity and challenges us to a more mature faith and a greater measure of devotion to the Lord's mission. And this at a time when multiple problems and dangers threaten to shake again the world's man-made order that "what cannot be shaken may remain" (Hebrews 12:27); namely lives transformed in the love-shine of Christ's glory. □

What's Your Car to You?

by Mary Jo Stockdale



"To tithe is like paying another car payment every month!"

"That's true! And I'm sure I can't afford an extra car payment each month."

Since you brought the subject up, let's see how your car and your church add up in your priorities.

What's your car to you? It's a necessity. You need it to get to your job—to do your shopping—to take the kids to the doctor—to transport them to school. In our culture, you can't get very far without a car.

Oh, you could. You could bum rides. Let someone else make the payments, buy the gas, pay for repairs. You can always hitch a ride and go for free. But you'd feel a little cheap resorting to this form of transportation.

You could try Rapid Transit. "Use the bus and leave the driving to us." Pay a small sum and let someone carry you. This is usually a very inconvenient method of getting

where you want to go, but it's an alternative to owning your own car.

You know your car is a necessity. No one says, "A car? I can either take it or leave it!"

Your car is a pleasure to you. It provides a way for you to "get away from it all" either alone or with the family. "Let's plan a trip" would likely drop from your vocabulary if you didn't have a car.

And, of course, your car is a financial burden! It always needs something—new tires, a grease job, shocks to be replaced, fuel, fuel, fuel. "A car has to eat even if we don't get to." But regardless of the cost since your car is a MUST, you are forced to make a slot for it in your budget.

These are just a few reasons you're willing to pay a car payment every month.

What's Your Church to You?

What's your church to you? What absolutely necessary is it to your life? Can you get "where you're going" without it. You CAN. I read in the paper recently of a man who ran across the U.S.A. on foot. A picture showed him running in the unbelievable heat of Death Valley. But he did it! Without any help!

You can also go it alone in your Christian experience, but you'll develop thick skin, some calloused areas, and an eccentric spirituality. The going will be difficult to the point of impossibility.

If you feel your church isn't very essential to you—you only want the convenience of going along for the ride, you can always "bum a ride." Get where you're going, but not let the ride become any financial responsibility to you.

"Rapid Transit" type of participation is a little less miserly. Put in your "fare" (a dollar or so in the offering plate) and don't let anything become too personal. Don't get well acquainted with the driver, nor involved with fellow-riders. Pay your fare and get on or off whenever you wish.

But if you consider your church indispensable to you and to your family in your Christian pilgrimage, you'll want to give it at least the consideration you give your family car. Your church is necessary to you. Your church is the family of God accomplishing what he wants done. It's a source of joy. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

And your church becomes a financial obligation. Yes, your church, too, has continual needs—supplies, maintenance, personnel, repair, growth!

Perhaps you'll need to juggle your budget to make a place for support of your church. It may be the new carpeting will have to wait. Or you may have to put up with that portable TV and by-pass the color set you've been eyeing. Maybe your food budget could do with less. It was a patriotic sacrifice during World War II to observe meatless Tuesdays. Would you consider this kind of sacrifice for the welfare of your church?

If your church is as necessary to you as your Chevy, you'll give it priority in your budget. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

THE TITHE IS THE LORD'S. □

"Trust Me!"

by Anne Dailey

About one and one half years ago, Anne's husband, Don, went home to be with the Lord after fighting cancer. Don was a loved and respected elder in the church, and a caring, devoted husband and father. In her writing, Anne shares some of the deep emotions she experienced while going through this traumatic time. It is printed here with the thought that it might minister to others.

"Trust in the Lord forever. For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock" (Isaiah 26:4).

I will trust you, Lord! Don has an excellent job, and the children are strong and healthy. Why the other day, someone called us the "All American Family."

I will trust you, but why do circumstances have to change? The doctor told Don he has a rare type of Lymphoma. If Chemotherapy does not arrest the Cancer, he has one year to live.

I will trust, but it seems like you are so far away. Don almost died the other night. What will we do without him? It isn't fair. Why Don? He loves you, and we need him.

I will, but Don said we'll have to manage on what he will receive from his retirement. Lord, it's getting harder and harder.

I, Don is with you now. We hurried to the hospital when they called. He said he wasn't afraid to die, that he loved you. He was only afraid of the transition. A quick smile; I love you; closed eyes, short breaths—complete peacefulness.

Lord, it is hard to trust when your life is falling apart. But, You gave up someone you loved. Loved more deeply than I could ever love. Time is what I need right now—a friend, with whom to listen and cry.

You, Lord, are in the stillness that surrounds me. "Trust me." "It's time." "I will care for you!" This is what I hear.

Lord, I will trust, because under the pain, down in a small corner I seem to be able to feel. But, that can't be!

Lord, I will trust you, because your Word is real. You have kept your promises, and there is no need any longer to know why. I can trust and praise because who could love us more?

"And again, I will put my trust in Him: And again, behold, I and the children whom God has given me" (Hebrews 2:13).

Anne Dailey is the Assistant Director of Children's and Women's Ministries at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA.

Mrs. Mary Jo Stockdale is a free lance writer from Westminster, CA, and a member of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA. She and her husband, Dr. Eugene, have been appointed as N.A.B. missionaries to Cameroon in late 1984.

Introducing "New Day" 1983-84 by Ray Harsch

"New Day," a team of 16 young people sponsored by the North American Baptist Conference, is committed to evangelism and church growth. "New Day" offers a variety of ministries and helps in the church in both of these areas.

Paul Benjamin of the American Festival of Evangelism defined evangelism in this way:

"Evangelism is the process of *leading* the lost to Christ, *helping* them become responsible members of the church, and *equipping* them for ministry to others."

Church growth, as defined by C. Peter Wagner, is "All that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ into fellowship with him and into responsible church membership."

To believe in evangelism is to believe in church growth. The above stated definitions explain the commitment of "New Day."

The stated purpose of "New Day" is 1) To serve as a catalyst to motivate and help the church to reach people with the gospel and to grow; 2) To provide training for the churches in evangelism and discipleship; 3) To minister to

The Rev. Raymond Harsch is Associate Director of Evangelism and Church Growth, N.A.B. Conference.

the church through music, teaching, and modeling of church growth principles; 4) To provide encouragement, inspiration, and motivation in Christian living; and 5) To provide ministry opportunities for North American Baptist young people in the area of evangelism and church growth.

Crusades with "New Day" vary from 5 to 14 days. "New Day" will minister in 55 North American Baptist churches in their 1983-84 tour year. Fifteen churches will have both the discipling and the music sections of the team.

The discipling section of "New Day" has six members who conduct training seminars in personal evangelism, parenting new Christians, life-style evangelism, Sunday shopping malls, schools, churches, and other places to reach people with the good news. Their ministry has a great impact on youth as well as the entire church.

The music section has ten members. The young people in this group hold evangelistic meetings and sing at shopping malls, schools, and other places to reach people with the good news. Their ministry has a great impact on youth as well as the entire church.

Become acquainted with these team members who come from various points of our N.A.B. Conference. Pray for them as they share the Gospel.

Music Section



Leslie Gerber is a member of North Carrollton Baptist Church in Texas. Before joining "New Day," she worked as a legal secretary for patent attorneys. She is a senior business major at Dallas Baptist College. Leslie enjoys playing the piano, reading, cooking, and biking. Leslie has been studying the piano for 13 years, and has been the church pianist for three years.



Julie Klingenberg's life-long dream has been to be a member of "New Day," ever since the team (then called God's Volunteers) was at her church. Julie graduated from Houston Baptist University with majors in Art and Physical Education. She has a secondary education teaching certificate. Julie is a member of Anderson Road Baptist Church, where her father, the Rev. Jakob Klingenberg, is pastor.



Julie Voigt left Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota, to begin her service with "New Day." Her home church is First Baptist of Avon, South Dakota. She has been actively involved in the youth group and in teaching ministries of the church. Julie was a counselor at Central Baptist Camp in 1981. Julie enjoys serving the Lord, especially through vocal music.



Becky Washburn begins her second year on tour with "New Day." She is a member of Quail Lakes Baptist Church in Stockton, California, where her ministry in music and teaching was greatly appreciated. Becky is an accomplished pianist, and an outgoing, caring servant of the Lord.



Lyle Buyer was very active in the youth group, and also served on the Church Board and Board of Christian Education of his home church, Carbon

Baptist, Carbon, Alberta. He has graduated from North American Baptist College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. Lyle is serving his second year with "New Day."



Clayton Heeren has always wanted to use his talents for God's ministry. Traveling with "New Day" for his second year, Clayton will be a personal witness to others. His home church is Trinity Baptist in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he participated in the youth group and worship services. Clayton plays the guitar and the piano.



Terry Patzer is a registered nurse, and has worked two years in the pediatrics ward of a hospital in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer, SK, is Terry's home church. Terry enjoys outside sports such as roller skating, snowmobiling, water skiing, fishing, and biking. He is anxious to tell others about Jesus through his ministry with "New Day."



David Stoutland was a staff apprentice at Central Baptist Camp in Lansing, Iowa, this past summer. Prior to this, he had served two summers as camp counselor. David was director of music for one year at his home church, Brook Park Baptist of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. His interest in "New Day" began when he saw a previous "New Day" team train at Central Baptist Camp.



Bruce Duncan is serving his second year as the sound technician for "New Day." Before his service with the team, Bruce attended Alpena Community College, majoring in electronics. Bruce became interested in "New Day" when the group was at his home church, Ripley Baptist in Alpena, Michigan. He was impressed by the group's potential to reach and touch lives for the Lord. Bruce wanted to be a part of the group.



Kristine Berndt graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, with a degree in Elementary Education. She enjoys sewing, cooking, and traveling. In her testimony, Kris says, "Recently I have become so aware of God's unconditional love for me—how he so faithfully meets my daily needs and gives me so many undeserved blessings in addition." Kris' home church is Latta Road Baptist in Rochester, New York. Her father, Herbert, is pastor there.



Sandra Chatsick is from Killaloe, Ontario, where her home church is Calvary Baptist. She recently graduated from North American Baptist College with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree. "This testimony would not be complete," says Sandy; "if I did not say just how much of an influence my parents have been on my life. Their Christian-like examples have, many times, caused me to choose the 'straight and narrow' as opposed to the way that the majority of my friends have chosen."



Roger Tiede received a diploma in music at North American Baptist College in May 1983. He shares in his testimony, "If you had told me, when I was in grade 12, to go to Bible school, I would have laughed. God used the year I spent in a university to change my way of thinking. I know that God brought me to N.A.B.C. to strengthen me spiritually, so that when I go back to the University, I will not fall to the foolish beliefs of the world. I will stand strong in my faith." Roger's home church is McDermot Avenue Baptist in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Earl Berkan "My motto for life is best expressed in Proverbs 3:5, 6: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.'" Earl's home church is Raymore Baptist in Saskatchewan. He was a student in Biblical studies at North American Baptist College before joining "New Day."



Norman Grube is from Kelowna, British Columbia. His home church is Trinity Baptist. Before his service with "New Day," Norman was a student at North American Baptist College. "I accepted Christ at home in the privacy of my bedroom," says Norman. "Before, I always thought of myself as a 'Christian' because I was raised in a Christian home. But, always during altar calls, there was an uneasy, nervous feeling. After I accepted Christ, that feeling went away. Now I know that I am a Christian."

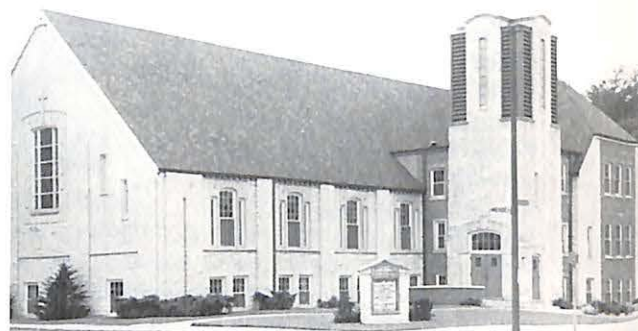


Heidi Gebert comes from German Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Before joining "New Day," she was a travel consultant. Heidi's testimony includes this—"I can see how God has led my life so wonderfully. He gave me valleys so I could be strengthened. He allowed mountain-top experiences, and gave me times of serving. He has brought people and experiences into my life so that I could learn and grow. I really feel God is my best friend; one who is always there and never disappoints me."

Church Celebrates 125

Years of Outreach in Chicago, 1858 to 1983

by Walter C. Pankratz



Foster Avenue Baptist Church built in 1949 at the corner of Meade and Foster.



In 1968 an addition was built to house Sunday school rooms, offices and a gymnasium.

The Foster Avenue Baptist Church of Chicago is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year with activities reaching a climax on November 4, 5 and 6.

Mr. Walter C. Pankratz, Chicago, IL, is a member of the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee for Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL.

Early Years

The church was founded October 31, 1858, when Chicago as a city was only 25 years old, as the First German Baptist Church of Chicago with 16 charter members. They met in homes until 1866, when a frame church was built at Huron and Bickerdike Streets on the near north side of Chicago. The membership grew to 220 by 1878, when the Rev. Jacob Meier assumed his 28-year ministry, ending in 1906.

Mission Churches Started

A period of great home mission activity followed, with construction of a new brick church in 1888 at Paulina and Superior Streets, seating 700, and establishment of ten mission churches between 1882 and 1917. By 1908 the original group of 16 had grown to 2,000, worshipping in eight German and two Bohemian churches, most of which began with transfers from the mother church. In ensuing years, a period of gradual decline set in, due to migration of members to outer fringes of the city or to suburbs, with many transferring their membership to English-speaking churches. The church experienced temporary growth in the 1920s through immigration after World War I, but a decline set in again after several years.

Relocation of the Church

In 1949, under the pastorate of the Rev. Robert Schreiber, the building at Paulina and Superior Streets was sold. Construction of a new building began at the present location, Foster and Meade Avenues. Meanwhile, the congregation met in the building of the Gross Park Immanuel Church, one of our former mission churches, which in 1949 merged its membership with that of the newly organized Foster Avenue Baptist Church. At this midway point between the old and new buildings, the newly merged membership for the next nine months quite filled the smaller but

adequate and inviting Immanuel building. Here the congregation worked and sacrificed in happy anticipation of soon occupying the new building.

Immigration—Language Problems

In July 1950, the first service was held in the new building at Foster and Meade Avenues, led by Pastor Robert Schreiber. Soon after, a period of growth followed, due mainly to post-war immigration, and continued during the pastorate of the Rev. Joseph Sonnenberg (1953-58). This resulted in resumption of German services and Sunday school classes.

Some German brethren felt the need of increased missionary outreach to immigrants who continued to arrive, while older established members saw that our future lay in conducting an all-English ministry at our new location. After a four-year ministry in both languages, a happy solution was reached in 1957, when 42 members desiring more German, were released with the blessing of Foster Avenue Baptist Church to establish the German Baptist Mission Church in the vacated Humboldt Park Baptist Church building.

Thus, a mission begun by the mother church in 1893 again became the site of a German mission work. Later, this mission church erected a new modern building at 4919 W. Lawrence Avenue, and is today a loyal member of the Illinois Association. They also recently introduced English services in addition to those still maintained in German. In the last year of Joseph Sonnenberg's pastorate, Foster Avenue Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary, using the motto: "The Church in the Hands of God."

Expansion of Church Property

The property of Foster Avenue Baptist Church originally included only the corner lot at Foster and

Meade Avenues, west from Meade to the alley on Foster, plus the house south of the proposed church site. During the pastorate of the Rev. Fred Sonnenberg (1959-62), who succeeded his brother, Joe, the property west of the alley to Moody Street, consisting of a brick house with empty lots to the north and south, was purchased. The house was converted to a parsonage. After the resignation of Fred Sonnenberg in 1964, the church was blessed with the interim pastorate of Dr. Charles W. Koller for eight months.

Addition of Church Facilities

Under the pastorate of the Rev. Clarence H. Walth (1965-70), the church observed its 110th anniversary, October 30-November 3, 1968. A very generous legacy from a deceased member, Mrs. Julia Deutschman, was used for expansion of church facilities, including needed office space, Sunday school classrooms, gymnasium for youth activities, church festivities and denominational events, and parking lot, resulting in increased community outreach. The Activities Building was dedicated in October 1971, a month after the Rev. Eldon G. Schroeder began his pastorate (1971-83).

Foster Avenue Baptist Church celebrated its 120th anniversary October 21-22, 1978, and last year started planning the 125th. Rev. Schroeder terminated his ministry June 15, 1983. The church is presently seeking God's direction in calling a new undershepherd.

Official Days of Celebration

On November 4, 5 and 6, the church will have displays of historical events and photographs, films depicting erection of new buildings, details concerning former pastors since the founding of the church, messages, and a musical and dramatic presentation. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. □

Christians in Worship in Japan by Ron Stoller

The Christians in Japan are gems. Each one has his or her own story. When listening to their stories, one could cry with them, and at other times one could rejoice with them at the joys they have experienced in their spiritual growth.

It takes many years for a person to become a Christian in Japan. For many, it is a struggle with family and the problem of ancestor worship. For others, it is related to their relationships at work. When a person is totally committed and willing to give up all to Christ, we find a gem of a person and a gem of a Christian.

Mr. Yuzawa is the head deacon at the Tsu Christian Church. He lives with his wife, his mother, and his grandmother. They moved to the Tsu area from Tokyo about 10 years ago.

Since then, they have been very helpful in starting several Bible studies in their residential area. They are very active in the area Sunday school, which is held on Saturday afternoons.

Mr. Yuzawa is the leader of the men's group at the Tsu church and plans the meetings for the men, who meet the first Thursday night of the month. This is a good time of fellowship for the men in the various homes of church members. Mr. Yuzawa is an engineer at a company where they design and produce cables.

In the spring of 1980, Mr. Yuzawa accompanied seven other men of the Tsu church to Sacramento, CA, to visit the Sunrise Baptist Church of Fair Oaks. This was a tremendous time of fellowship and learning for these men.

During the summer of the same year, Mrs. Yuzawa accompanied Miss Lucille Wipf to Toronto, ON, to attend the Baptist World Congress. They visited some of the same

Mr. Ron Stoller is an N.A.B. missionary serving in student evangelism at the Christian Education Center in Tsu, Japan.



churches that her husband had visited a few months before. This was a unique trip because both gave the other this trip as their 20th wedding anniversary gift to each other. That is the way things are done in Japan.

Mr. Tambo is a Christian who is a Japanese literature professor at Mie University. He has been a Christian for many years and strives to have more and more fellowship with Christians. His wife does not attend church but does read the Bible and has the desire to learn more of Christ.

In Mr. Tambo's college days, he was active in the Christian group on campus and worked with the mis-



sionary in that area of northern Japan. The teachings of the missionary who baptized him before he went to college have been a strong base for his faith.

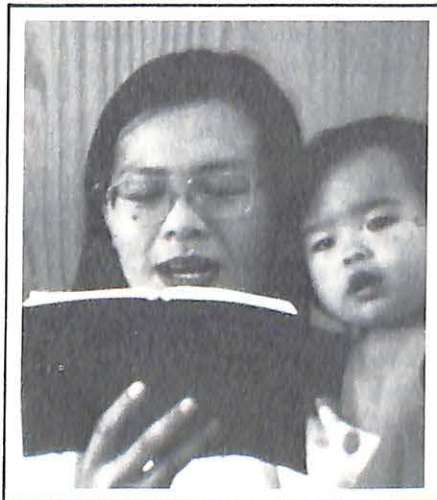
Mr. Tambo is an associate professor at the University where Ron and Joan Stoller have a Bible study group. He is willing to help when and where he can. Currently, he is teaching Ron Stoller Japanese on a part-time basis two hours a week at his home. In the future, he plans to start a professors' Bible study group on the campus.

In 1981, his wife lost a baby after carrying it for the full nine months. This was a hard thing for this young couple to accept, but God blessed this home with a healthy daughter in the fall of 1982.

In the winter of 1983, Mrs. Tambo spent months in the hospital with a liver problem. Continue to pray for this young family and the contacts that Ron has each week in their home. Mr. Tambo is helping Ron Stoller learn more about the University students through their language and everyday experiences.

Mrs. Toyota has been seeking Christ and attending Bible studies for several years. One day when Ron was distributing some tracts at the local train station, she asked for some information, also. The material advertised the Billy Graham Crusades. Ron was hoping to get some University students to go with him to the Crusade that night.

Mrs. Toyota, who had never walked that way to her daughter's school before, came by the train station that morning. She asked the



Stollers if she could go with them that night to the crusade. They said she would be welcome if there was room because that night they were planning to take students. She was the only one who went with the Stollers that night. It was then that she made a commitment to the Lord. Praise the Lord for guiding our footsteps each morning.

Mrs. Ito has been attending the Tsu church for several years and is a strong Christian. Her husband was against her getting in-



involved in the church and in the Christian faith. Many of the ladies from her prayer group continued to pray for her and her testimony in the home.

At the special meetings that the church had last fall, her husband came to the meetings. He said that he always watches a program in the evening hours, but something attracted him to those meetings. By the end of the three-day meetings, he made a decision for the Lord.

He rejoices with Mrs. Ito at her constant and careful testimony in the home. A few weeks ago, her husband gave his testimony before the church and since has been baptized.

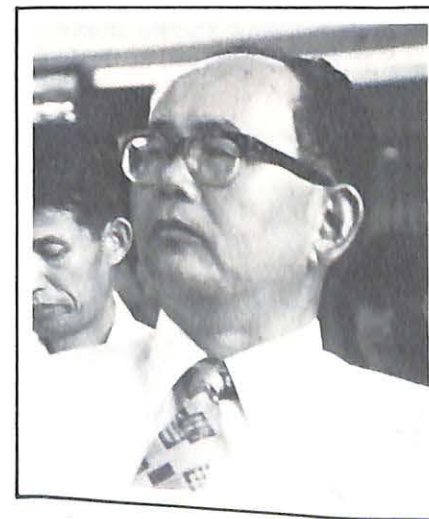
Mr. and Mrs. Higashi were very strong and reliable workers in the Tsu Church. Mr. Higashi was the head deacon for a number of

years. One day in church, we heard that he was being transferred back to his home town in the countryside to be the head of a government office there. This had been his desire



for years since coming to Tsu. They had their home in the country and their families were there, but because of work they were transferred to many different places. The wish for many Japanese workers is to be transferred back to their own home town.

Mr. Higashi and his wife moved back to the small village about two years ago and are now very active in the local church there. They, too,



are short of pastors in that area. Mr. Higashi is seen travelling to different fishing villages from time to time to speak from his experience

and study of God's Word to those people who have no pastor.

Mrs. Matsusaka sings with some Mother ladies on the second Sunday of the month. This Sunday is called the evangelistic outreach Sunday when people are highly encouraged to bring their unsaved friends. Each month, in turn, the youth group, ladies' group and the men's group select a person to give his or her testimony followed by a special song sung by the group in charge that Sunday.



Mrs. Matsusaka has been and currently is the ladies' chairman for this year. She is a very efficient woman who is involved in many church, neighborhood, and Christian Education Center activities. She has two sons in high school.

Recently, the pastor reported that when Mrs. Matsusaka started a Bible study in her neighborhood, no one came for one year. It was just a study between the pastor and Mrs. Matsusaka. Now this Bible study is one of the largest in the church. Many ladies have come to know the Lord through this Bible study group.

Mrs. Matsusaka's husband is a professor at the University near the Christian Education Center and is the advisor of the Bible Club. Her husband is not a Christian yet, but because of her prayers and the prayers of many in North America, this man is attending church more regularly now. □

Jun-i-Lee at Burlington, Iowa's Oak Street Baptist

by B. Lawrence Sweeney

A celebration, "Jun-i-Lee," planned by Oak Street Baptist Church of Burlington, Iowa, turned into a grand occasion on June 15-16. The number of persons attending the six special events of the "Jun-i-Lee" program, marking the 114th anniversary of the Church and the 150th anniversary of the city of Burlington, totaled 1,818.

"What a Blessing!" "Wonderful!" "Finest fellowship and celebration we ever remember!" "Distinguished," "notable," "grand," and even "glorious" were among the appellations for the "Jun-i-Lee" occasion. Many persons had worked at making the celebration a reality. The encouragement, renewal, and joy of the occasion lives on in the hearts and minds of those who attended.

A Service of Praise opened the "Jun-i-Lee" days with the Rev. Emanuel Wolff's message, "The Lord of the Past," and the Rev. Peter Pfeiffer's, "The Lord of the Future." The music of the evening offered an exhilarating spiritual beginning. The Ladies' Triple Trio, the Chancel Choir, and the Clair Bohlen Family brought inspiring music that evening.

A Candlelight Dinner Pageant was the event for Friday evening. Letters and greetings from the Rev. and Mrs. Howard Johnson and other church members and friends were read. Presentations were made to the former pastors and their wives. Doug Sweeney was vocal soloist at the banquet, and Elizabeth Sweeney, at the grand piano, played dinner music.

The forty-minute pageant, following the dinner, was directed by Mr. Don Kohrs and narrated by Tom Bailey with Mandy Weyl responsible for the lighting of the many lamps that illustrated the life of the congregation. The Chancel Choir,

young people, and primary choir were among the participants in the pageant which included musical sections and dramatic inserts that helped history live.

The Morning Worship on Sunday, June 19, was a glorious experience. Dr. Alfred Bernadt brought a touching message, "The Goodness of God." The 30-voice Chancel Choir presented "With the Voice of Singing," and the Men's Chorus sang "Steal Away." The Handbell Choir rang out "Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts." The organ selections by Mrs. B. L. Sweeney, and the organ and piano duet, with Elizabeth Sweeney at the piano, were beautifully done. 480 attended this service.

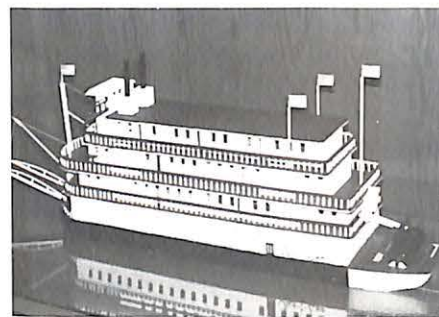
The Rev. John Ziegler effectively challenged the congregation with the message, "Forever June," during the Evening Praise on Sunday, the final worship experience. The handbell choir excelled in the medley it presented. The Young Women's Ensemble and the Praise Singers honored the Lord with their singing.

Just under 200 persons attended the ice cream social served by the youth and their counsellors on Saturday evening. At least 225 of the Sunday evening service attendance of 319 were served at the buffet.

Presented to each of the pastors' wives was a lovely corsage prepared by Mr. Don Lippert and highlighted with a handcrafted pin of brass by Mr. Paul Gerdes. The pin, in the shape of an oak leaf, was engraved "Burlington '83."

Each of the pastors of the church was given a plaque, designed by Cindy Siems and woodcrafted by Wallace Thye, in the form of an oak leaf (14" x 18"). The oak wood was from the former pews of the church.

Even as the church has declared the gospel over the years, so the congregation affirmed again its commitment to making the Saviour known. The Rev. B. Lawrence



The Riverboat replica "Jun-i-Lee" done by Ed Wisener was on display at all occasions during the celebration. The doors of fourteen cabins each bear the name of one of the 14 pastors of the Oak Street Baptist Church.



Former pastors and their wives came from Oregon, Washington, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania to help celebrate Oak Street's 114th Anniversary: The Rev. and Mrs. John Zeigler, (1967-76); the Rev. and Mrs. Dan Payne, (interim minister 1976); the Rev. and Mrs. Clair Westby, (associate in church ministries 1976-78); the Rev. and Mrs. Emanuel Wolff, (1954-59); the Rev. and Mrs. Peter Pfeiffer, (1951-53); the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Ramus, (present associate pastor in church ministries); the Rev. and Mrs. B. Lawrence Sweeney, (present pastor), and the Rev. Alfred Bernadt, (1938-51). The Rev. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, (1960-67), and Mrs. Alfred Bernadt were not able to attend.

Sweeney is the present pastor of the Oak Street Baptist Church; the Rev. Henry Ramus is the Associate in Church Ministries, and Miss Floraine Miller the Administrative Assistant.

Church Extension Project

People Banking on People

by Mervin Kramer

"People Banking on People" is how one major banking firm advertises its business. It could also describe the local church . . . or at least it ought to. The Apostle Paul reminds us again and again that we are "members of one another."

People the Most Important Concern

At Brandon Valley Baptist Church in Brandon, South Dakota, we believe people to be our most important concern. These are people who are seeking to grow in Christ and reach out to others. These are people who are striving to be more than just a group, a part of God's family with a ministry to one another in Christ's name. "To know Jesus Christ . . . to grow in him . . . and to serve him within our families, community and church" is our goal.

Sometimes we minister to each other through music. People of all ages (children, youth and adults) participate. It is not uncommon for us to devote an entire service to music. Sometimes we minister

through the sharing of burdens or expressions of need.

Recently, a family to whom the congregation ministered shared these words in their thank you note: "You people are so special to us, and we appreciate so much all you have done for us."

Weekly we share in praying, worshipping, and learning together. We have Bible studies for children, youth, and adults on Sundays as well as on weekdays. Often our fellowship has a different mix or flavor as we relate to one another through testimonies, getting acquainted times, family activities, or small groups. All of it is intended to insure that our ministry, as a local church, be people-centered and based on biblical principles.

Our present membership is 62; although we minister to well over 130 people in the city of Brandon, which has a population of almost 3,000. We are excited about our ministry in this area and are grateful for those whom God has already brought into our fellowship.

We began with one family in the spring of 1978 and have had a slow but steady increase since. We believe the future holds many blessings for us as we continue our ministry together.

A Church Building in Process

We are looking forward to the beginning of construction of a church building on our six acres of property. This property became debt free as of January 1982. Three-fourths of the payment was raised by the local congregation. A \$20,000 building fund goal was also reached this past July.

While we strive for the goal of erecting this building, we are in the process of evaluation and strengthening our present ministries. We have a vision for increased ministries in the future, so that our total ministry as a Body may be designed as a discipling ministry. We want to demonstrate by word and action the presence of Jesus Christ who lives within us. We believe God will continue to bless this ministry as we continue to walk by faith.

We invite you to join with us in prayer for our "joint ministry together with Christ," and to give financially as the Lord directs.

Your contribution to help this young church in its ministry may be sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for Brandon Valley Baptist Church.



The congregation of Brandon Valley Baptist Church has paid for the land and is now in the process of designing a church and seeking loans for it.



The children also participate in the worship service at the church.



The youth of the church have weekly Bible studies.

The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney is pastor of Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa.

Time Out for Women

by Ellen Breitreuz,
Edmonton, AB

About three years ago, we began a very serious evaluation of the women's work in Meadowlark Baptist Church. An initial survey-questionnaire indicated that our women wanted more interaction and spiritual encouragement and fellowship. We also realized the need to reach out to those in spiritual darkness in our community. After many hours of prayer and planning by a very dedicated core of leaders, our "Ladies' Time Out" program was born.

We ran ads in our local weekly newspaper which read something like this: "Lonely? Need friends? Join the exercises, book study, crafts, and fellowship at Meadowlark Baptist Church. Baby-sitting provided." Phone numbers were given for further information and registration.

It was exciting to get a good response from non-church ladies. Often these were people who were new to our city and who came hoping for better job opportunities. Frequently, we heard such comments as, "I've lived here for three or four months and haven't been able to make any friends as yet." Ladies' Time Out offered them this opportunity.

We became aware of the truth of the opening words of a currently popular song which says, "Lonely voices crying in the city, lonely voices sounding like a child . . ." We were motivated anew to share the abundant life Christ came to give us.

A typical Ladies' Time Out session begins at 9:00 a.m. with the coffee ready as the women arrive. At 9:15, exercises begin for those who are energetic or able-bodied enough to participate. About 20 minutes later, small group studies begin with a choice of two topics. Some books we have covered are *Open Heart, Open Home; Love, Honor and Be Free; Esther; How to Really Love Your Child; Her Name Is Woman; and How to Cope With Life and Its Problems*.

Group leaders encourage discussion, sharing of personal concerns, and praying for one another. Before long, ladies open up and, often in tears, share their fear and guilt. What a joy for us to be able to share the hope, mercy, and forgiveness Christ has to offer!

Coffee break is a time of spontaneous interaction and announcements. A volunteer sign-up sheet ensures that goodies are brought to sample during this time. It is also a fun way of getting new recipes. Birthdays are recognized by having the birthday lady hold a cupcake with a single candle at arm's length and attempt to blow it out while the rest sing, "Happy Birthday!" We aim to finish promptly at 11:30, so that moms can be home in time to meet youngsters coming home from school for lunch, so we move quickly into our craft session. This has taken on as wide a range as there are crafts, always with the option that women are free to bring a project from home to work on if they are not interested in the particular craft being presented that day.

A registration fee plus the suggestion that each lady donate one dollar to the "kitty" each time she comes, helps to cover the cost of hir-

ing baby sitters. We try, in many ways, to be a caring, sharing support group whether it be rejoicing at the birth of a baby or a family wedding, or the sharing of heartaches over wayward children, a broken marriage, or the sorrows of death. Other togetherness activities are arranged from time to time such as a pot-luck luncheon, recreational outings, and a closing picnic in May with husbands and family as special guests.

One of our newcomers was a Japanese lady wanting to meet some "nice" people. She was desperately lonely, living in a foreign country away from the security of family and friends. In spite of her limited English, she freely interacted with many of us and challenged our thinking with her endless questions about the Christian faith. What a blessing her testimony was at the time of her baptism, flavored with the fresh perspective of another culture. She is one of many who have come to know Christ as their personal Savior and Lord because of our Ladies' Time Out program. We realize that the effectiveness of our efforts depends on our faithfulness and obedience in abiding in His Word and bathing these activities with prayer. It is God who gives the increase. To Him be the glory! □

Did You Know . . .

. . . that a Women's Missionary Fellowship group in Minnesota has a "senior citizens night out" periodically! Each member "adopts" an older woman, provides transportation, then treats her to a sit-down meal at the church with plenty of opportunity for visiting and spiritual enrichment. □

. . . on the Potter's Shelf . . .



by Iona Quiring,
WMF president,
Rogers, MN



"Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses . . . He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4, TEV).

Do you ever feel useless—like a leftover? or an irregular? or an extra? or a discard? Do you want to ask God, "Can't you use me? Why did you put me on this shelf?"

Maybe your shelf is *illness*. You are confined to your home because your health is poor or because you care for someone else who needs constant attention. You feel left out of the mainstream of life.

Perhaps you've reached *old age*, and it seems that rather than actively participating in life, you are just passively observing it from your shelf.

Possibly you've lost your job, or you've finally graduated with that coveted degree, and you cannot find work. No place to use your training. No chance to prove your skills. No

income. *Unemployment* is a hard shelf to sit on.

The *waiting shelf* isn't very comfortable either, but most of us find ourselves there from time to time, learning patience, faith, and obedience in one situation or another.

All of this could be depressing, but if we are willing, God will use us even in these shelf experiences. A ninety-year-old saint, who is unable to get out, spends her time praying up and down the pews of our church. She pictures the people as she remembers them sitting in the worship service, and she prays for each one.

Some times of life are active, exciting, and fun. Some times are quiet and slow, even sad. God decides the sequence. We decide the response.

In the proper environment, time cures wood, mellows cheese, and hatches eggs. It also sours pickles and curdles milk. Lord, my times are in thy hands (Psalm 31:15). Help me to become mellow, not sour. □

What Do You Know About Missions?

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

One of the purposes of the Women's Missionary Fellowship is to support mission outreach at home and overseas, as stated in Acts 1:8. How shall we do that?

Let's look first at overseas missions. Knowing *where* our missionaries serve is, of course, important. But knowing *how* they serve and the extent of their individual responsibilities is even more important, if we are to support them effectively with our prayers and financial gifts. As we become aware of the families and the individual members of these families, we will be supporting people instead of names on a list. Finding out about the countries in which our missionaries serve will help us understand the unique trials and joys that come with missionary work. How well do you KNOW your missionaries?

Your WMF program committee can play a vital role in mission education in your church. Include a short time in your meetings for news from the mission fields, and particularly from the families that you support. The N.A.B. Conference office offers various sources of information about our missionaries. A set of new biographies was recently sent to each church. We encourage you to use this material to support those who serve in other lands. □

Church Growth

WISHEK, ND. On June 12, during the morning worship service, Pastor Gordon Huisinga baptized the four young people pictured. Following baptism, the Lord's Supper was observed. The hand of fellowship was extended to the newly baptized, and they were received as members into the First Baptist Church. "We praise the Lord for these new members," says Mavis Schnabel, reporter.



The Men's Brotherhood recently sponsored a Men's Music Night, with all talent from the local church. Following the service, a time of fellowship and refreshments was enjoyed by all.

CALGARY, AB. Thornhill Baptist Church received eight new members (pictured) into its church family. Five were baptized, and three were received into



membership by testimony. "We praise the Lord for his continued blessing upon us," says SandraLee Ruff, secretary. The Rev. Sig Koslowski is pastor.

CHICAGO, IL. June 19 was a very joyous occasion at the Baptist Mission Church. On this Sunday morning, as part of a Father's Day service, six (pictured) followed the Lord in baptism. The whole congregation rejoiced as they gave confession of their faith. Pastor Michael Pennington conducted this beautiful service which will be remembered by all as the best of all Father's Days, but especially by



the four deacons who witnessed their own sons' obedience to the Lord's commandments. (Eva Helwing, reporter.)

BEULAH, ND. On May 8, 1983, Immanuel Baptist Church welcomed 13 new members (pictured) into its fellowship through confession of faith and baptism. The event was extra special in that three generations of a family were baptized, those being: grandparents, daughter and son-in-law, and granddaughter.



Since the first of the year, 23 have joined Immanuel Baptist Church: eight by confession of faith, twelve by baptism, and three by letter. The Rev. Gordon Voegele is pastor. (Luella Forthun, reporter.)

ONOWAY, AB. Four persons were baptized at one baptismal service, and seven at a second baptismal service at Onoway Baptist Church recently.

Since January 1983, there has been a 25 percent increase in attendance as well as a good increase in membership.



Pastor Wenzel Hanik has been writing a column, "The Pastor's Desk," for the weekly local paper for two and one half years, another local paper has requested articles from him, also. (Bonney Guindinger, reporter.)

GACKLE, ND. Grace Baptist Church has been experiencing spiritual and numerical growth. Thirteen persons (pictured) were baptized, and two ladies were received into the church by testimony.

The young couples are actively involved in the Church by carrying much of its responsibilities.



Three vacant lots have been purchased and cleared for extra parking space. The church is growing, and the Lord is working in its midst. The Rev. Milton Falkenberg (pictured second row, right) is the pastor.

PRINCE RUPERT, BC. The hymn writer has said: "Blessed be the name of the Lord!" That is the refrain, which expresses the joy of the body of believers at Bethel First Baptist Church, as they witnessed the baptism of four believers on June 26.



Summer has brought no slump in God's work, only a continual sumptuous outpouring of his love and power.

Pictured are the four candidates along with the Pastor Terry Jarosch. (Dorothy Potter, church clerk.)

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI. During the past year, 52 new members were received into the Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church family, and 18 believers were baptized. The Rev. Norman Vernon is interim pastor of the church.

"We have an active Visitation Program whereby individuals or couples visit for a few minutes in the home of a person who visited the previous Sunday. Through this, we are seeing people return and attend regularly," reports Lois Merseles, church secretary.

CARBON, AB. In the past eight years, more than 110 members, many of these from the community, were given the hand of fellowship at Carbon Baptist Church by Pastor Richard Grabke.



On the day of the farewell for Pastor and Mrs. Grabke, June 19, a great baptismal service was held, and seven (pictured with Pastor Grabke at right) were baptized and/or joined the church. (Adam Buyer, reporter.)

MADISON, SD. Beautiful Lake Herman was the setting on June 26 for the outside baptismal service for the West Center Street Baptist Church when eleven adults and children (pictured) followed the Lord. On July 10, fifteen persons joined the fellowship of the church.



Another event of interest was the 50th anniversary of the Ann of Ava Guild (pictured) celebrated in March. Eight charter members attended the special program of reminiscing and a brief history, followed by anniversary cake and ice cream. The Rev. Oliver Bender is pastor. (Ramona Bender, reporter.)



ABILENE, KS. For Ebenezer Baptist Church, July 10 was a day of joy as Pastor Dale Lint baptized two girls. These girls received Christ as Savior during Vacation Bible School this year. Another couple also joined the church. "We praise God for his blessing. We are planning for the coming of 'New Day' this fall," says Reva Lutz, reporter.

PARKERSBURG, IA. Pastor Lanny Johnson baptized four boys (pictured) recently. They received the hand of



fellowship and were received into the membership of Calvary Baptist Church. (Bonnie Buss, reporter.)

BEISEKER, AB. Nine new members were received into Community Baptist Church by baptism and letter.

More than 20 ladies attended the ladies' meeting with "World Fashions" (hate, gossip, fear) vs. "Christlike Fashions" (love, peace, joy) presented by models.

Many came to the Sunday school picnic, only to be rained out. "However, the rain was much needed by our farming community," says Bev Koelwyn, reporter.

Nine children were dedicated to God by their parents in a very moving service.

Community Baptist Church joined with Carbon Baptist Church (the mother church) in a farewell for Pastor Richard Grabke and his family of Carbon Baptist.

KELOWNA, BC. Forty-two members were added to Lakeview Heights Baptist Church in 1982, twenty-two by baptism. Six persons were baptized by Pastor Gerald Scheel and were received as members, along with four others, in April 1983.

Lakeview Heights Baptist Church participated in the Annual Okanagan Missionary Conference with missionaries to Cameroon, Ken and Eileen Priebe and Annemarie Hattenhauer, as speakers.

Forty were enrolled in the first Boys' and Girls' Clubs this year and were recognized at awards night.

An annual Women's Ministries' program for information and challenge was presented, and a Mother and Daughter Banquet was held. (Dorothy G. Fritzke, reporter.)

Church Dedications and Anniversaries

CORONA, SD. First Baptist Church enjoyed a day of reminiscing on June 19, Corona Centennial Sunday. Visitors, the Rev. Alan DeBoer, the Rev. W. D. Dachtler, the Rev. Ivan Schwenn, Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Dachtler, Frieda Priestly, Ron Lohr, and Merle Klein, shared messages in word or song. Many sent letters of greeting. Former choir members joined a mass choir directed by Rev. Dachtler.

Two floats were entered in the Corona parade. A tent, used as an outreach ministry, was conveniently placed for rest and fellowship with a table of tracts.

Pastor Anthony Guenther has had a daily radio ministry this past year. Home Bible studies have been started. This has been more opportunity for sharing and individual growth. (Mrs. Melvin Binder, reporter.)

EAST DETROIT, MI. The members and former members of the Ridgemont Baptist Church praised God on the 25th anniversary of the church's relocation. A number of former pastors were present.

The evening of May 13 began with an excellent meal served by the youth, followed by a program bringing back many memories.

At the Sunday morning worship service, the Rev. Otto Patzia spoke on the "Christian Environment." Rev. and Mrs. Patzia were guests of honor for the weekend. During his 12-year pastorate, the Church was built and relocated.

All the N.A.B. churches in the area were invited to the closing service Sunday afternoon. Dr. Kenneth Fenner, N.A.B. area minister, spoke on "What a Faithful God!" The Mixed and Men's Choirs sang in English and German.



Instrumental numbers were presented. A Certificate of Commendation was presented to Rev. Patzia (pictured left) by honorary deacon, Leo Milchner (right), on behalf of the church.

(Continued on next page)

our conference in action

The Rev. Al Grams, pastor, spoke on "Looking Forward." The service was closed in prayer by the Rev. Doug Timm, assistant pastor. Following this, the church ladies served refreshments. (Christel Sonnenberg, reporter.)

SEVEN SISTERS FALLS, MB. It was a day filled with joy and gratitude to God as the Whiteshell Baptist Church dedicated the addition to its sanctuary on May 29. The space added provides classrooms, an enlarged entrance, and a cloak area freeing the main basement for large fellowship groups. The work began a year ago.

The building fund treasurer reports, "The Lord was good giving his people a mind to work and give, as only \$3,500 remains to be covered in the total cost of approximately \$19,000. Most of the work was done by members on a volunteer basis. There were donations of work and materials from people of the community as well."

A potluck dinner followed the morning worship service, preceding the afternoon service of dedication. The Rev. Siegfried Schuster, area minister, was guest speaker. As the congregation gathered in the entrance of the new addition, Pastor Hans Serger prayed the dedicatory prayer. (Jule Serger, reporter.)

TACOMA, WA. The celebration of the 25th year of the Portland Avenue Baptist Church organization was held June 5. The anniversary was highlighted in both the morning service and in the afternoon gathering.



Featured speaker in the morning was Dr. Hans Wilcke, former area minister, and Mark Fey, former pastor (1964-66), was the afternoon speaker. Taped greetings from former pastors, the Rev. Henry Smuland (1958-61), the Rev. C. T. Remple (1962-64), and the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff (1967-79), were included in the programs of the day.

The church had its beginnings as the Salishan Baptist Chapel as a ministry of the Calvary Baptist Church. The first buildings were construction workers' shacks in which Sunday school classes

were started in 1944. In 1958, the group decided to organize Portland Avenue Baptist Church. There were 57 charter members, and the first pastor was the Rev. Henry Smuland.

Three persons were baptized June 19. Another person joined the church. The Rev. Bernard Edinger is pastor of the church. (Molly Wheeler, reporter.)

Special Events

CARBON, AB. After eight years of a good ministry, Pastor Richard Grabke resigned to accept the charge at Spring-side, SK. The farewell service on June 19 brought people whose lives were touched by Rev. and Mrs. Grabke's (pictured) ministry.



The Community Baptist Church of Beiseker was well represented, and the Rev. Alan Johnson, pastor, thanked the Grabkes for the vision and leadership shown in starting this new work.

The school principal, Mr. Terry Pearson, publicly thanked the Grabkes for their involvement in the Home and School as President.

A moving moment occurred when Rev. C. T. Temple appeared on the platform. He had led Pastor Grabke to the Lord, baptized him, brought his ordination message, and through the years, was a pastor to him.

After Mr. Dave Gieck, deacon, presented the Grabkes with a gift, both Pastor and Mrs. Grabke responded with words of appreciation. (Adam Buyer, reporter.)

MISSOULA, MT. Bethel Baptist Church announces the addition of Paul Keller to the staff in the position of Minister of Christian Education and Youth.

Paul is working as an administrative officer of the Christian Education Department, organizing and coordinating the Sunday School, Awana program, youth

groups, Vacation Bible School, and fellowship activities.

Graduating from the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, in May, Paul received his Master of Arts in Christian Education degree.

Paul is joined in Missoula by his wife, Lucy, and daughters Corie and Anna. (Frieda M. Teichrow, reporter.)

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. The Fountain Valley Baptist Church was privileged to hear N.A.B. missionaries from Cameroon. Missionary Curtis Radke spoke at a Men's Breakfast; Bert and Eleanor Milner at an adult progressive dinner; and Missionaries Kenneth and Eileen Priebe at a Sunday service.

Three children were dedicated by their parents during the morning worship service on Mothers' Day. A special program for mothers was presented in the evening by the men of the Church.

A W.M.F. Mother-Daughter Banquet was held with the theme of "Precious Memories."

The children's choir, "The Choristers," under the direction of Nancy Kutzle and co-helpers, presented an exciting musical, "What's New, Corky?" on a Sunday evening.

The conclusion of the Awana year was marked with a banquet and program. The Awana group has grown to 124. (Clara Unruh, reporter.)

HEBRON, ND. Six babies of single birth, a set of twin boys, and a set of triplet girls plus three older children were dedicated to the Lord by their parents (pictured) at First Baptist Church.



This adult group meets in individual homes for prayer on Wednesday evenings and meets in the parsonage on Sunday morning for its Sunday school class as there is no room in the church.

Plans have been drawn for a new church building.

Eight children accepted Christ as Savior during Vacation Bible School. The Rev. Herb Schauer is pastor. (Delores Kitzan, reporter.)

SACRAMENTO, CA. Willow Rancho Baptist Church members and friends honored Dr. Arthur P. Brust, pastor, on the occasion of his graduation from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, CA, with the Doctor of Ministry Degree. Dr. Hans J. Wilcke, Portland, OR, brought the graduation message. Special music was sung by Mr. James Gossen, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, and the volunteer choir, Dr. David Yoder, director.

Words of encouragement and congratulation were spoken to Dr. Brust by Dr. Wilcke; the Rev. Eugene Kern; Mrs. Dorene Walth; the Rev. Mike Seto, and the Rev. Floyd Overstreet. Members of Willow Rancho and surrounding churches brought congratulations. Mr. Frank Taggart, Deacon Board chairman, was master of ceremonies.

The members of Willow Rancho presented Dr. Brust and his wife, Sena, with a trip to Hawaii. (Lucy A. Berry, reporter.)

SIoux FALLS, SD. Dr. and Mrs. Hulitt Gloer and sons were honored at a farewell reception on June 12 at the Hillcrest Baptist Church. They have moved to Kansas City, MO, where Dr. Gloer has accepted a teaching position at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had been a professor at the N.A.B. Seminary.

Dr. Gloer served the Hillcrest Church recently while the church has been without a pastor. A banner displayed his favorite verse, Phil. 1:3, on which he spoke as he gave his closing remarks. (Louise Westerman, reporter.)

TABER, AB. The people of Community Baptist Church gathered for worship on the two-acre site of their future church building on May 29.

"You could hardly keep your imagination from wondering what miracle God was going to perform as he builds his church in Taber," says Dennis Liesch, pastor of the one-year-old church.

Pastor Liesch challenged the group to pay off the land debt through his message, "Wet Feet Faith" from Joshua 3. The slogan, "Bury the Debt," and a sign, designed by the junior high young people, graphically portrayed the money already



received.

The congregation fellowshiped at the Brenners' farm after worship which capped a very encouraging Sunday morning.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI. The Women's Missionary Society of Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church shipped 60 Kilo Boxes to N.A.B. missionaries recently. The women also hosted "Deeper Life Day" for 194 women of local N.A.B. churches.

A young woman of Bloomfield Hills Church was awarded the title of "Miss Michigan."

On June 19, Dr. Connie Salios shared the ministries of the N.A.B. Conference with the Church as well as a message from God's Word. (Lois Merseles, church secretary.)

MARION, KS. An appreciation day was held for Rev. and Mrs. Albert Fadenrecht, Hillsboro, KS, at the Strassburg Baptist Church on June 12. Rev. Fadenrecht had been interim pastor and choir director at the Church for six months. Mrs. Fadenrecht had sung in the choir and played the violin on many occasions. The Fadenrechts were honored with a fellowship dinner and a money tree. Rev. Fadenrecht has served in several N.A.B. churches. (Janet Meisinger, reporter.)

MARION, KS. Members of the Strassburg Baptist Church welcomed the Rev. Perry Kallis as its new pastor on June 19. Following the morning worship, Rev. Kallis (pictured), his wife Linda, and children, James (4) and Angela (1), were honored at a fellowship dinner.

Rev. Kallis is a 1983 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and a 1979 graduate of the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB. On Nov. 7, 1982, he was or-

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ained in his home church, First Baptist Church, New Leipzig, ND. Rev. and Mrs. Kallis served in God's Volunteers in 1975-76. Most recently, Rev. Kallis had been youth director at the First Baptist Church, George, IA.



Since coming to Strassburg Church, he has started a college-career Sunday school class and has seen growth in attendance at all worship services. (Janet Meisinger, reporter.)

MORRIS, MB. Four seminars on counselling, held at Emmanuel Baptist Church and led by the Rev. John Peters of the Janz Team, were held at Emmanuel Church prior to the Janz Crusade which was held at the Stampede Grounds in Morris.

The Women's Missionary Society celebrated its 60th anniversary with Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director, as guest speaker. Miss Mehlhaff gave many valuable suggestions and ideas for the women's work to the W.M.S. executive committee and others.

The Church bid farewell to Paul and Marilyn Taylor, youth workers. They are now serving full-time in a church in Vancouver.

Neal and Amy Effa accepted the call as youth workers and began their service at Emmanuel Church in May.

The Pioneer Girls' Club presented the musical, "Kid's Stuff." Hats fashioned by mothers and daughters were modeled at a Mother-Daughter Tea. The Pioneer Girls closed their year by attending camp at Lake Nutimik. (Elma Hoffman, reporter.)

MARION, KS. The Women's Missionary fellowship of the Strassburg Baptist Church held its annual missionary and Father's Day program with Dr. Dave Breese, Christian Destiny, Inc., speaking on "Ye Are the Salt of the Earth."

Marjorie Hett gave the welcome and the tribute to the fathers. Bertha Vogel read scripture and led in prayer. The men's quartet sang. Kathryn Schimpf introduced the speaker. Martha McCloud sang, and Virginia Fadenrecht played a

(Continued on next page)

our conference in action

violin solo. The Rev. Perry Kallis had the closing prayer. The mission offering totalled \$600. (Janet Meisinger, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. Pastor Lanny Akers extended the hand of fellowship to two young men recently baptized at Redeemer Baptist Church.

Other special events included the Penn/Ohio Association meeting and a choir concert in June.

Eighty-two eyeglasses were collected by our youth for third world people.

Vandals did extensive damage to the main entrance of the church.

Mr. Larry Pozza terminated his position as Director of Christian Education the end of July to further his education at a seminary in Dallas, TX. (Gerda Markowski, reporter.)

ROCK RAPIDS, IA. The youth of Faith Baptist Church sponsored Christian films outdoors after the Sunday night service during the summer as an outreach ministry. The project, begun last year, receives good response from the community.

The youth distributed tracts from a booth at the county fair in August.

The women of the church conduct Bible studies at the two local nursing homes for a one-month period, twice a year.

The whole church is involved in the bimonthly Sunday nursing home services. Each family takes a turn providing music, a reading, or assistance to the residents at the services.

The Rev. Reuben Grueneich is pastor of the church. (Eleanor Stump, reporter.)

SWAN RIVER, MB. Some short-term missionaries to the Philippines from Temple Baptist Church are Cheryl Dahl and Pastor Lee and Jennell Bertsch. Cheryl teaches basic health measures, gardening, and crafts, as well as Bible studies and follow-up classes.

Jennell Bertsch organizes a curriculum for children's ministry, involving immunization, health teaching, and Bible lessons.

Pastor Lee Bertsch leads Bible studies and caps springs for fresh water supply.

They are blessed abundantly as people receive Christ.

Phyllis Schroeder and Calvin Dahl are short-term missionaries in Brazil. They visit people in hospitals and in homes and teach Sunday school. (Lynn Patzer, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. The Rev. Robert F. Penner, senior pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, received the Doctor of Ministry degree at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, on May 22.

After the evening service on May 29, Dr. and Mrs. Penner were honored by Im-

manuel Baptist Church. Mrs. Penner was presented with a scroll inscribed with the title of "Dr. of Endurance," since she had been Pastor Penner's chief typist. Dr. Penner was presented with a wooden and bronze plaque and a check from members and friends of the church. A reception followed. (Alice Luhrs, reporter.)

Ordinations

OKEENE, OK. Zion Baptist Church hosted the ordination council and ordination service for Jason Haas, a 1983 graduate of the N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, and a member of the Church, on May 31.

Churches of the Southwestern Association as well as Danzig, SD, Gillette, WY, and Venturia, ND, were represented at the ordination. Jason was introduced to the Council by Elmer Fisher. The Rev. Edward Kopf was elected moderator, and Sheila Fisher, clerk.

Special music was presented by the Rev. Harry Haas, Jason, Jeremy and Joel. The Rev. Harry Haas, father of Jason, delivered the message, "If I Could Do It Over."

The Rev. Wil Dachtler, Abilene, led the Ordination Prayer; the Rev. Clark Mann, Loyal, gave the Charge to the Church; the Rev. Glenn Gerber, Cherokee, gave the Charge to the Candidate; and the Rev. Tom Klose, Corn, presented the Ordination Certificate and extended the hand of fellowship to Jason and Kristine Haas. The Rev. Jason Haas gave the benediction.

The Haases began their pastorate at the Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD, on July 1. (Adeline Kopf, reporter.)

APPLE VALLEY, MN. Timothy P. Blackburn (pictured right) was ordained by Apple Valley Baptist Church on June 4. The ordination service was chaired by the moderator, Joe Brittingham.



The Rev. Charles Littman, (pictured left) area minister, gave the ordaining sermon.

Participants in the ordination service were Norman Ganion, chairman of the Deacon Board, scripture and prayer; the Rev. Dan Van Gerpen, clerk of the council, council report; the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Council chairman, ordaining prayer; the Rev. Donald Decker, pastor, charge to the church; Dr. Edward Buchanan, Bethel Seminary, charge to the candidate; the Rev. Kenneth Unruh, chairman, Credentials Committee, hand of fellowship, and welcome; and the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, presentation of Ordination Certificate. Special music was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Blackburn. The benediction was given by the Rev. Timothy Blackburn.

A love offering for Rev. Blackburn's library was taken. (Sina Brittingham, church clerk.)

STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. An Ordination Council was held to examine Mr. Randy Jaspers for ordination into the Christian ministry in the First Baptist Church on June 25. Delegates from seven other North American Baptist Churches of Iowa along with the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, reviewed Mr. Jaspers' doctrinal statement of faith and call to and principles of ministry.

The Rev. Etan Pelzer, pastor, Twin Pines Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, was elected council moderator. Mr. Dick Butters, member of ordaining church, introduced Mr. Jaspers, who presented his statement. The delegates recommended that First Baptist Church proceed with ordination.

The public ordination service was held June 26 at First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock. (Dan R. Payne, clerk of council.)

DALLAS, OK. The Salt Creek Baptist Church called a council of delegates from the Central Pacific Association Churches to examine a son of the Church, Craig Holmes, to determine his fitness to be publicly ordained. The Council which met on July 8 enthusiastically and unanimously recommended to the church to proceed with public ordination. The Rev. Phil Yntema, Vancouver, WA, was moderator of the council.

The ordination service was held July 10. Dr. H. J. Wilcke, a former pastor at Salt Creek, and recently retired Western Area Minister, brought the ordaining sermon, "Set Apart for the Master's Service." The Rev. George Breitzkreuz, present pastor at Salt Creek Baptist, led in the ordaining prayer, following which the Rev. Ed Janzen gave a charge to the church. Bernard R. Fritzke, pastor, Riviera Baptist, Salem, gave the charge to the candidate with a word of welcome into the ministry.

Rev. Holmes concluded the service with prayer.

Rev. Holmes is a 1982 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary and is presently serving as associate pastor of the Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN. (Bernard R. Fritzke, secretary of the ordaining council.)

APLINGTON, IA. An ordination council, called by the Aplington Baptist Church, was held May 28 for the purpose of examining Jeffrey Patet for ordination into the gospel ministry. The Rev. Lanny Johnson, Parkersburg, was elected moderator, and the Rev. Ben Hulsing, Elgin, secretary.

The Council unanimously recommended that Mr. Patet be ordained.



On Sunday morning, May 29, the Rev. Donald Patet, father of the candidate, led the ordination service. Dr. Hulitt Gloer, assistant professor of New Testament, delivered the sermon. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, South Central Area minister, gave the Charge to the Candidate; Dr. Gloer, the Charge to the Church; and Rev. Johnson welcomed the candidate into the ministry. The Rev. Gary Ostercamp, Toronto, ON, led in Scripture reading and prayer, and also sang. Mrs. Maritza Patet, wife of the candidate, ministered in music as well, as did Mr. Joe Leggett, Sioux Falls, friend of the candidate. A presentation from the Aplington Church was made by Paul Huisinga, vice moderator.

Jeff preached at the evening service, after which a coffee hour was hosted by the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Patet.

The Rev. Jeff Patet began his ministry at Immanuel Baptist Church, Loyal, OK, on Sept. 1, 1983.

GETZVILLE, NY.

Associate Pastor Marc A. Maffucci was ordained into the ministry by Bethel Baptist Church on July 10. It was a beautiful service with many guests participating, including the father of the one ordained.

A challenging message was given by Mr. Joseph Lloyd of Massachusetts who is



a personal friend of Pastor Maffucci. The charge to the candidate and the church was given by the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, Eastern Area minister. The Rev. Larry Burd, senior pastor of the church, gave the ordination prayer with all ordained ministers present invited to participate in the laying on of hands. "We are praising God for his goodness," says William Betz, reporter.

Association Meetings

BISMARCK, ND. Bismarck Baptist hosted the Central Dakota-Montana Association, June 24-26. The challenging theme, "Faith Dares to Risk—Church Extension, Evangelism, Missions and Church Growth," was addressed by Rev. Ralph Cooke.

Simultaneously, the Central Dakota-Montana Youth experienced a Planned Famine, "Let It Growl," programmed by World Vision. Many adults sponsored the program making it possible for the youth to give a monetary gift to N.A.B. missions and hungry children.

The Association concluded with a Missionary Rally with Dr. Edwin Kern, professor, N.A.B. College, as featured speaker.

The Association provided an enriching experience for all in attendance. (Carol Grenz, reporter.)

PARKVILLE, MO. The Southwestern Association met for its annual meeting, July 15-17, at Whispering Oaks Baptist Church. The theme was "Building Relationships Through Christ." The Rev. Ron Carlson, instructor of evangelism at N.A.B. Seminary, spoke on the different aspects of our unified growth as one body in Christ. Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, brought greetings from the N.A.B. International Office and led the women in a challenge. Dr. Earl Ahrens, missionary to Spanish-Americans in Colorado, shared the exciting growth that is taking place there as well as the needs.

The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, introduced the seven new pastors and their families and one church staff member. Zeeb reported on future church growth plans. Also welcomed were Capt. and Mrs. Richard Uhler, N.A.B. chaplain, Fort Carson, CO.

As a body, the Southwestern Association united in its concern for inner support and growth. Major concerns for the upcoming year lie in the growth of the church extension project at Lenexa, KS, and the support of the former church extension church at Parkville, MO. The

our conference in action

association felt a note of sadness as the Baptist Church in Arvada had voted to close.

Emphases for the future include participating in the Conference and Association Capital Funds Drive and continuing to seek God's guidance in spiritual and church growth needs. (Rev. Dale Lint, reporter.)

GLADWIN, MI. The 13th Annual meeting of the Michigan Association of the N.A.B. met April 29 to 30 at Round Lake Baptist Church.

The highlight of the association for the ladies was the annual luncheon on Saturday which was enjoyed by 107 ladies representing 14 churches.

Mrs. Ginny Thomas and Mrs. Beth Thomas, North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren, inspired the group with musical selections. Mrs. Mary June Burgess, missionary speaker, told of the work in Cameroon. She also stressed the importance of White Cross.

Officers were elected for the coming year. (Helen Koppin, reporter.)

Wedding Anniversaries



Albert and Christine Palutke, (pictured) Bible Baptist Church, La Crosse, WI, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 4, 1983.

Joseph and Rosalie Sussbauer, Kelowna, BC, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 23. A ceremony



(Continued on next page)

our conference in action

of thanksgiving and a reception dinner took place at Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, where their family and friends gathered to honor the occasion and where they are charter members.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Handel, Sioux Falls, SD, were honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at the Hillcrest Baptist Church on June 26, where they are charter members. The event was hosted by their children: Mrs. Shirley Olinger, Mrs. Gloria Kammerer, Mary Handel, Harley Handel and their families.



Mr. and Mrs. David Albrecht marked their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2, 1983. They were honored with a dinner and "Open House" attended by many relatives and friends. They are members of the Oakbank Baptist Church.



Roy R. and Ruth M. Tichenor, Bible Baptist Church, LaCrosse, WI, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 18, 1983.



The Rev. and Mrs. Emmanuel Wolff of Dallas, OR, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Salt Creek Baptist Church on June 5, 1983. Their children and grandchildren hosted the occasion. Rev. Wolff pastored the Salt Creek Baptist Church, 1947-54, was Eastern Area Secretary, 1959-62, and Chaplain, Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND, 1967-71.

All reports received by July 26 for Our Conference in Action are printed in this issue which was sent to the printer July 29. Please limit reports to 100 words so that more reports can be printed.

In Memoriam

ELSIE MELLANDA HUBSCHER (78), Swan River, MB, was born in Rosyszcyce Wolyn, Poland, and died in June 1983. On Sept. 7, 1921, she married Adolf Hubscher, who died in 1967. They immigrated to Minitonas, MB, Canada, in 1928. Elsie accepted the Lord as her personal Savior and was baptized in her early years. She was a faithful member of Temple Baptist Church and was always active in the Ladies' Mission Circle. Survivors include two sons and three daughters: Herbert Hubscher and wife Irma, Swan River; Ewalt Hubscher and wife Lena, Swan River; Erna Hoffman and husband Alfred, Portland, OR; Alma Pahl and husband Wally, Kelowna, BC; and Freda Kliever and husband Arthur, Winnipeg; 14 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three sisters. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Arthur Kliever, assisted by Donald Buhler.

MRS. THEODORE (OTILIA) SCHAEFFER (76), Herreid, SD, was born March 3, 1907, to Jacob and Christine (Bollinger) Knoblich near Lehr, ND. She died June 3, 1983. On March 2, 1929, she married Theodore Schaeffer in Mound City, SD, after which they

farmed near or lived in Pollock, SD, until retiring in Herreid in 1972. Her husband preceded her in death on Feb. 20, 1979. Survivors include two sons: Elton D. and Donley D., both of Herreid; two daughters: Mrs. Delbert (Ilene J.) Knoepfle, Zeeland, ND, and Mrs. Norman (Lyla J.) Diede, Fargo, ND; eight grandchildren; five brothers; and six sisters. Pastor Harry W. Johnson of Herreid Baptist Church assisted by Pastor Randy Tschetter of Venturia Baptist Church officiated at the funeral service.

IRIS JOANNE WATSON (39), born Aug. 7, 1943, in Winnipeg, MB, to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Paschke died June 22, 1983, after a two and one half years illness. Growing up in Morris, MB, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at an early age, was baptized and joined Emmanuel Baptist Church in Morris. Iris attended Prairie Bible Institute. She married Dwight Watson on Oct. 2, 1971, in Calgary, AB. Survivors are her husband Dwight and three children: Ryan Neil (9), Chad Noel (7), and Nicole Renee (2½); her parents: Ed and Lena Paschke; two sisters: Doreen (Mrs. Melvin Bergstresser) and Arlene (Mrs. Harry Kuenstler), and their families. Iris was a member of Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB. The Rev. Walter Kerber conducted the funeral service assisted by the Rev. Danny Kroeker.

REV. DAVID S. WIPF (86), born Feb. 23, 1897, near Bridgewater, SD, died June 25, 1983, at his home in Emery, SD. He married Elizabeth Mendel in 1919. She died in 1948. In 1949, he married Elsie Olthoff. He accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized as a young married man. On Oct. 9, 1932, he was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Salem Mennonite Church, Bridgewater, SD. He served as pastor of the Salem MB Church as well as interim pastor in area churches until 1947 when he became pastor of First Baptist Church, Emery, SD. Other N.A.B. churches served were Redeemer Baptist, St. Paul, MN; Bethany Baptist, Hutchinson, MN; and Minnetrista Baptist, St. Bonifacius, MN. Twenty years of his life were spent in the field of education which included teaching at Northwestern College, Minneapolis, MN. From 1948 and until his retirement in 1972, he served as administrator of the North American Baptist Nursing Home, Madison, SD. Survivors include his wife Elsie; two sons, Melvin and wife Janette, Fargo, ND, and Donald and wife Paula, Arlington, VA; one daughter, Lucille, N.A.B. missionary in Japan; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Otto C. Schrag; and one brother, Zack. The Rev. David Korb officiated at the funeral service.

What's Happening

Mr. Larry Pozza terminated his position as director of Christian education at Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, OH, effective the end of July 1983. He served there since 1981. He will continue his education in Dallas, TX.

Mr. Marc Maffucci was ordained into the ministry at Bethel Baptist Church, Getzville, NY, on July 10, 1983. He is the associate pastor of the church.

Mr. Timothy Blackburn was ordained into the ministry at Apple Valley Baptist Church, Minnesota, on June 4, 1983.

The Rev. John Kennedy, pastor of Family Baptist Church, Tigard, OR, since 1981, completed his ministry there the end of June 1983. He will complete graduate studies in Denver, CO.

The Rev. Arthur Brust received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Golden Gate Theological Seminary, California, on May 27, 1983. He is pastor of Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA.

The Rev. Ronald Carlson, instructor of evangelism, discipleship and church growth, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, was selected for inclusion in the 1983 edition of *Outstanding Young Men of America*. Those listed in the book are honored for their outstanding civic and professional contribution to their communities, state and nation.

The Rev. D. S. Wipf of Emery, SD, died June 25, 1983. He had served the following N.A.B. churches as pastor: Redeemer Baptist, St. Paul, MN; Bethany Baptist, Hutchinson, MN; and Minnetrista Baptist, St. Bonifacius, MN. He was a teacher at

Northwestern Bible College, Minneapolis, MN, and administrator of the North American Baptist Home, Madison, SD.

Mr. Randy Jaspers, a 1983 N.A.B. Seminary graduate, was ordained into the ministry at First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA. He has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Linton, ND.

Mr. Ed Vanderbaron is the new pastor at Carbon Baptist Church, Alberta.

Mr. Reid Galbraith accepted the position of minister of youth and Christian education at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB. He had been minister of youth at Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, since 1979.

The Rev. John Heer (79) died June 7, 1983, in Rochester, NY. He had served churches in Vesper, KS; Lyn-dock and Sebastopol, ON; Shattuck and Ingersoll, OK; and Lehr, ND, between 1933-54. His wife Clara and two sons survive.

Dr. E. P. Wahl (91) of Leduc, AB, died Aug. 13, 1983. He had served as pastor of N.A.B. churches in Hilda, Leduc, Trochu, Olds and Edmonton, AB; and Portland, OR. He was the founder of the North American Baptist College (Christian Training Institute) in Edmonton, AB, and served as its president from 1939-57. He served as a professor at the College 1957-61 when he retired. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Salem Manor Goldage Apartments and Nursing Home in Leduc, AB. His wife, Pauline, resides at the Salem Manor Nursing Home, 4419 - 46th St., Leduc, AB, T9E 3x2. A son Wallace and daughter Inez also survive.

Capital Funds Campaign Committee Named; Theme Chosen

The Capital Funds International Campaign Committee has been named with Dr. Peter Fehr, Minneapolis, MN, as General Chairman. Joining Fehr on the Committee are Delmar Wesseler, Lorraine, KS, and Edmond Sardachuk, Calgary, AB, as Advance Gifts Chairman.

The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney, Burlington, IA, is the Spiritual Emphasis Chairman; the Rev. Irwin Kujat, St. Albert, AB, ministerial chairman, Canada; the Rev. Bernard Thole, Amherst, NY, ministerial chairman, Eastern U.S.A.; Dr. Kenneth Fischer, ministerial chairman, Western U.S.A.; (to be announced), lay chairman, Canada; Rolf Grupp, lay chairman, Eastern U.S.A., and Ray DeNeui, Chancellor, SD, lay chairman, Western U.S.A.

Area Ministers, Willis Potratz, Milton Zeeb, Charles Littman, Kenneth Fenner, Wilmer Quiring, Edmond Hohn, Isador Faszler, Siegfried Schuster, and LeRoy Schauer also serve on the Committee.

Dr. Connie Salios is the campaign director, and Dr. John Binder, the honorary chairman.

The theme chosen for the campaign is "Building on the Foundations of Faith."

Regional Capital Funds Committees Met

Dr. Connie Salios, campaign director, and Dr. John Binder, executive director, and other campaign leaders are conducting 35 regional meetings throughout the U.S.A. and Canada August 29 through October 29 sharing information about the Capital Funds Campaign, "Building on the Foundations of Faith," with pastors and lay leaders.

Mission News

Mbu, Nigeria—"Well-trained pastors often struggle with the pull of politics," says the Rev. Elmer Strauss, field secretary and advisor to the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria. "Their training has made them leaders in their communities. They are good speakers."

Since Nigeria received its independence, the role of the tribal chief has been diminishing and that of the politician increasing. People see the route of politics as the route to riches. "When a pastor or tutor struggles with this problem, it is not just a personal decision," says Strauss. "Because of the structure of the society, parents, brothers, uncles, and cousins are all involved and urge these well-trained men to choose the route to riches which will be of benefit to them, also."

Nara, Japan—Miss Florence Miller, Miss Lucille Wipf, and Mrs. Sharon Woyke, N.A.B. missionaries in Japan, attended the sixth Asian Baptist Women's Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Women from 15 different Asian countries met to share what God is doing in their countries. In

many areas, the work is slow and difficult, but the women were challenged to more dedicated service for Christ.

"After the Conference, we traveled by train, bus, and open truck to visit the American Baptist work among the Hill Tribes in the very northern part of Thailand. In one village, over 80 percent of the people smoked opium. The extreme poverty and hopeless attitudes of those people was very depressing. The village where we stayed overnight did not have much wealth by our standards," writes Sharon, "No electricity and most of the homes did not have water. Even so, there were smiles on the women's faces because they had the hope of knowing the Risen Savior. For them, their faith was a way of life—not just a Sunday religion. It was a thrill to worship with them."

Ndu, Cameroon—All students of the Cameroon Baptist Theological College in Ndu, Cameroon, went to remote areas by helicopter during a special evangelism week. "Nearly 700 first-time decisions were made for Christ," says Keith Eitel, tutor and academic dean at C.B.T.C.

Ndu, Cameroon—"On one of the most remarkable days of our lives, 21 young people were baptized in the muddy waters of a pond near our house," write Erma and Ken Gullman. The Gullmans are missionaries serving at Cameroon Baptist Theological College. "Never have we witnessed such a celebration of people taking this step of obedience to Jesus Christ. It literally took all day."

Beginning at 9 a.m., people met at the church for singing, scripture reading, a special choir number, and prayer. From there, the entire congregation went to the pond for the baptisms. One of the C.B.T.C. students preached the sermon. Following the baptisms, everyone returned to the church joyfully, singing and beating drums. There were more special choir numbers, prayer, and the extension of the hand of fellowship by the pastor to the new church members. Communion service followed.

By 1 p.m., that part of the service was concluded. We ate our lunch in a hurry and also shared with a young engaged couple who are seeking our friendship. Afterwards, we joined many people from the church, including the new members, and went to six different homes for celebration. The group was led in singing by different ones playing the drums. Soon everyone was joyfully singing and dancing in a circle.

One home was several kilometers away. The drummers half-ran, half-danced their way there and back, singing most of the way. Such was the open declaration of exuberance over the addition of these new people to the local church! Refreshments were offered at the homes we visited. We reached the last home after dark and stood in the light of quarter moon, singing and rejoicing.

"I was most impressed with the events because of the involvement of so many of the church people in making baptism day a day of significance," says Ken. "It wasn't simply entering the water and being recognized afterward. It was something that called for celebration. Also, the freedom to baptize openly and to celebrate without fear of reprisal struck me with great force! Much of the world does not enjoy that kind of freedom."

Ndu, Cameroon—After arriving on May 21 and a week of orientation, I began to teach my 15 class periods weekly in the Women's Department at Cameroon Baptist Theological College," reports Annemarie Hattenhauer, a new missionary teacher at C.B.T.C. The subjects she teaches are English, Sewing, Arithmetic, and "How to Have a Good News Chil-

dren's Club." "The 11 students' wives seem eager to learn," she states. "The school choir, which Erma Gullman leads and I accompany on my battery-powered organ, sang at the newly organized Cameroon Baptist Convention church at Taku, near Ndu."

Twenty-two students' wives entered the Women's Department this September. Their education ranges from post-primary courses to "my wife has never seen the four walls of a school room." There are about 15 children in the Nursery School, which is part of the Women's Department. A full-time staff member, Mrs. Mary Bumu, wife of a C.B.T.C. teacher, has been hired to work in the Nursery School. Another person cares for the other children while the women attend classes or work on class assignments.

Monte Vista, Colorado—"God has blessed us with many activities this past summer," report Earl and Lois Ahrens, missionaries in Monte Vista. Three students from North American Baptist College in Edmonton, AB, helped with Back Yard Bible Clubs and Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Kroeker, seniors at North American Baptist Seminary, assisted the Missionaries Keirys and Ahrens for the summer. "This allowed both of the missionary couples to take a much-needed vacation, and that tension-free," says Earl.

Fifty youth enrolled for Camp this year. Of these, 11 made first-hand decisions for Christ, and six persons recommitted their lives to Christ.

A special after-camp church service produced something unusual. One of the new converts at camp, addicted to "rock music," was led to destroy his tapes and music publicly. He did this before the Christians in a dedication ceremony. Later one of the girls did the same at home.

"As we all know," says Earl, "the destruction of that which formerly held our emotional and mental support, for the sake of new life in Christ, is often so very difficult. Pray particularly for these two that God's power will surround them and preserve them for great things in his kingdom."

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Baptist Home, Inc. annual meeting will be held on October 11, 1983, 10 a.m., at the Baptist Home, 1100 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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

Evergreen Baptist, Chilliwack, BC; Rev. Leonard Strelau, pastor; Mrs. Borsebach, agent.

Faith Baptist, Rock Rapids, IA; Rev. Reuben Grueneich, pastor; Mrs. Eleanor Stump, agent.

Summit Drive Baptist, Kamloops, BC; Rev. Werner Lemke, pastor; Mr. Wilf Heine, agent.

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

Zion Baptist, Terrace, BC; Rev. Paul Mohninger, pastor.



These are four of the approximately 350 babies, Francisco, Lucrezia, Serena, and Jeremy born through the Baptist Health Center, Monte Vista, CO. The first baby was born in September 1977.

Monte Vista, Colorado—Over the past eight years, Kay Hunt, missionary nurse-midwife at the Baptist Health Center in Monte Vista, has come to know more personally the two mothers of the pictured children.

"I 'caught' all four of them, and each are precious and have their own story to tell," says Kay.

Lucrezia, who is on Kay's lap and who is now two years old, just recently had brain surgery in which the mother was told the baby could become paralyzed, bleed to death, and more than likely become blind at least in one eye.

"Because the mother does not have the

best family support system, she is a sister in Christ, and has financial needs, God gave me the privilege of going through this experience with her. The women's prayer group has been praying that God would bring the mother back into fellowship with God no matter what the circumstances would be, and we were ready for the worst," shares Kay. "However, God chose to answer our prayers with a baby who seems to be bouncing back with God-given determination and with apparently no major physical damage. This has been a very exciting time. Continue to pray for this mother and baby that they might continue to praise God's name."



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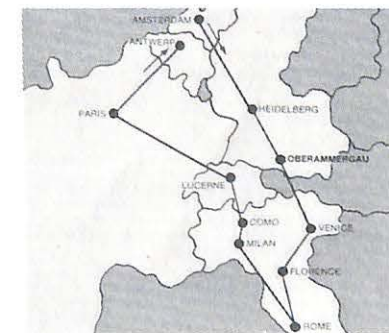


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