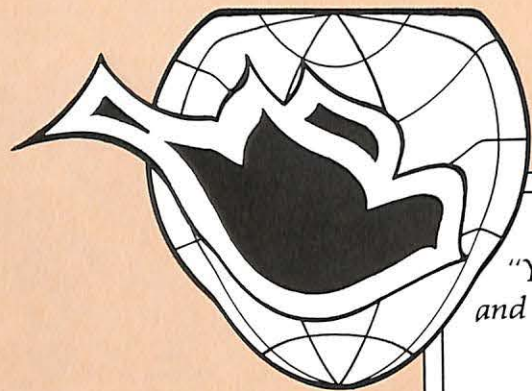


Baptist Herald

September 1983





"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth."

A Dove Encircling The Earth

It speaks of the power of the Holy Spirit, effective in all languages, to every culture, with any people. Apart from the Holy Spirit and his power, the finest program, the most elaborate production, the best-laid plan is futile.

It speaks of peace. Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." In this world of stress, conflict, frustration and confrontation, never was the "good news of peace" more appropriate than it is today.

A Dove Encircling The Earth

To peoples everywhere, the good news of the gospel of peace through the Lord Jesus Christ is going forth in the power and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Reaching a clearing after a four-hour trek through the uninviting swampland of Nigeria to realize that the 200 men and women plus as many children sitting there had never once before heard the name of Christ proclaimed in their village . . .

Seeing a Brazilian pastor in his struggle to plant a new church, beginning with a Bible study for two persons, his wife and himself . . .

Boarding the commuter train with a Japanese business man. Watching him pick up a tract, carelessly tossed aside by an uninterested recipient thus beginning a chain of events that would transform the life of an entire family . . .

Through reading the personal testimonies, interview, living illustrations, plans, and programs on our N.A.B. mission fields, you will see some of the various means that God is using to impact unreached peoples and to train national Christians for evangelism. Dare to be challenged to pray more faithfully, to rejoice more fully, and to be hurt more deeply for God's kingdom work.

More than this, do not stop with your interest in what is happening "out there," but let what you read of the "out there" challenge you in your ministry "right here." For wherever there are persons outside of Christ, whether they be 50 yards from your front door or 5,000 miles, they represent unreached people. □

—Harold Lang

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4 **Confronted by a Personal Struggle**
by Herman Effa

5 **Reaching the Hidden People**
by Allan Effa



7 **A Church Is Born**
by Richard Kaiser
and Cleber Heinz

9 **Why a Seminary in Rio Grande do Sul?**
by Richard Rabenhorst
and Niander Winter



11 **Becoming a Christian in Japan**
by Douglas Woyke



13 **The Way Out!**
by Reimer Clausen

15 **Reaching University Students for Christ**
by Joan Stoller



16 **Evangelism High Priority in Cameroon Hospital**
by Eleanor Weisenburger

20 **Will God Take Care of Us?**
by Pat Meinerts

FEATURES

- 2 **A Dove Encircling the Earth**
by Harold Lang
- 6 **Glimpses at a Missionary's Letters**
by Allan Effa
- 10 **I Always Wanted to Say This**
by Eliezer D'Avila
- 19 **Ministry to Youth Mushrooms in Bamenda**
by Pat Meinerts
- 22 **The Close of a Chapter**
by Cherie Lake
- 24 **Is It Worth It?**
by Harold Lang
- 25 **Works of God's Love Evident at Silverwood in Saskatoon**
by Erwin Kelbert
- 26 **College-Bound**
by Christa Eckert

News

- 27 **Our Conference in Action**
- 29 **In Memoriam**
- 29 **What's Happening**
- 30 **Baptist World Aid**

Viewpoint

- 31 **Letters to the Editor**

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Confronted by a Personal Struggle

by Herman Effa



The Effa family (left to right): Allan, missionary, Nigeria; Ardath and Herman, pastoring Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB; and Jerilyn and Ken Bayer, missionary appointees to Brazil.

Has it ever occurred to you that a missionary could be confronted by tremendous personal struggles?

Such was the experience of Herman and Ardath Effa in 1976 as they neared the end of their tour with the "Brazil Praise Singers." The Effas and their two children, Allan and Jerilyn, had served as N.A.B. missionaries in Brazil for ten years from 1966-76. During their furlough, they accompanied a group of Brazilian youth on their musical concert tour of Canada and the U.S.A. This is the Effas' story.

Our son, Allan, celebrated his 18th birthday on the tour with the Brazil Praise Singers and our daughter, Jerilyn, her 16th. When we left Brazil, we simply locked the door on our house with full intentions of returning as missionaries after the tour. Our son and daughter would return with the Brazilians to continue their education, and Ardath and I would follow after a brief visit with loved ones and friends.

During the tour, however, it became increasingly apparent that both of our children should consider remaining in North America to continue their education. Opportunities for higher education in Brazil are limited. Any position they would take would deprive a Brazilian of an opportunity of

study. For every student vacancy, there can be anywhere from a dozen to 100 applicants turned down. The quality of higher education would also come in question.

On the other side, after living abroad for 10 years, our children would hardly feel at home with relatives in the U.S.A. or Canada. We could not simply drop them off somewhere and say, "See how you get along; we are going back to Brazil."

We prayed without ceasing during those last three weeks of the tour. The struggle of knowing the will of the Lord was so intense that combined with the strain of the tour, I suffered near emotional exhaustion. My vocal cords gave out for about six weeks, and only a year ago did they recover completely.

In the agony of searching for the will of God, I resorted to "Gideon's fleece," something that I have not recommended for others. Should we return to Brazil and let our son and daughter fend for themselves? Do we have an obligation to see them through these difficult years of education?

The "fleece" inquiry brought an unquestionable answer from the Lord. We would remain in the U.S.A. with our family.

Our decision was not always understood by others. It hurt deeply when some well-meaning, concerned people intimated, "He who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Our love for Christ had never come into question. We had never altered our intense desire to love God and serve him.

What came into question was the Lord's will for the place of service. The intimation from these dear people hurt deeply and added to the feeling of guilt that we battled for somehow or other "letting down" our supporting constituency.

It was only as we reaffirmed our love for Christ and our commitment to serving him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, that the peace of God really carried us through and overwhelmed our spirits.

Several years after that difficult decision, we can look back and be more convinced than ever of God's leading at those crossroads. Our son, Allan, is now serving in the Theological Education by Extension program in Nigeria and scheduled to go to Brazil after two years. Our daughter, Jerilyn, and her husband, Ken Bayer, were appointed at the 1983 Board of Mission sessions as career missionaries to Brazil.

Had we neglected our parental responsibility at a crisis time when they needed us, would we have had the joy of these appointments? We see our lives and visions duplicated in the hearts and lives of those God placed in our care and can only say, "Praise the Lord for his faithful leading!"

Won't you pray for missionaries who might be facing this same struggle? □

Even in 1983 there are still people in this world who have never heard of Jesus Christ. An example of this is a tiny village in a remote area on the Mambilla Plateau. Our N.A.B. missionaries and Nigerian pastors recently visited this village.



Reaching the Hidden People

by Allan Effa

"And you shall be my witnesses . . . to the uttermost parts of the world"

As we struggled to reach the small Nigerian settlement of Guinen Dutse, it seemed as though we were actually reaching one of those "uttermost parts of the world." When the bumpy dirt trail we were driving on abruptly ended at a tiny village, we were dismayed to find out that our destination was still four miles ahead in the uninviting swampland.

Our party of five, consisting of two Nigerian pastors, a medical worker, Missionary Minnie Kuhn, and myself, piled out of the dusty car and discussed our next course of action. We decided we must go on. We dug out the jug of drinking water and our camp cots and left the rest of the cargo behind in the car.



The Rev. Allan Effa is an N.A.B. missionary serving on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria especially in Theological

Education by Extension. He will have completed his first year as a missionary in Nigeria this month.

Although our path was shaded by eight-foot tall elephant grass, the heat of the afternoon soon began to sap our energies. We began to wonder about our mission.

A week earlier, we had sent word that we would be coming on this day, but now it was nearing 5 p.m. Would any people still be there? How would they receive us? Would there be a river where we could cool our hot, perspiring bodies? Would someone give us a place to sleep?

When we finally reached the clearing, I was certain that we were intruding on some kind of village council meeting. I could hardly believe my ears when I was told that these 200 men and women plus as many children were sitting there in that big circle waiting for us! Some had walked for hours to get there and had waited since morning!

Our fatigue quickly gave way to excitement as each one of us brought a message which was interpreted into the people's own language. Everyone sat attentively through four messages and Minnie's children's story.

When we finished talking, many had questions. For nearly all of them, *this had been the first time they had heard about Jesus.* Later, we found that not even the zealous Muslim missionaries had reached this place. As darkness began to settle in, we closed the meeting so we would be able to find our way to our places of rest.

Although there was no river to bathe in, we each received a bucket of water. There was no bathhouse, but the moon had not come up yet, so I was able to bathe in the dark, behind the hut I was to "sleep" in.

During the night, I thought the mosquitoes were ganging up on me and trying to carry me off to the swamp. Later, when it got cold, I could only think of my warm sleeping bag four miles away in the car. But even the frustration of a sleepless night could not dull my awareness of the needs of these unreached people.

As we travelled back to our various homes in Mambilla, we kept asking each other, "Where would the Convention get the money to support a missionary to work in this area?" "Who would be willing to go to such an isolated place?" "Whom do we know that is able to speak their language?" To all of us, it seemed impossible.

Only a few months later, the pastor from the Warwar Baptist Church approached us. He said, "Our church has budgeted money to support a full-time missionary in a needy area this year. We have a Bible school trained, Hausa-speaking pastor who is ready to go anywhere we send him. Where should he go?"

With one voice we exclaimed, "Guinen Dutse!"

God had answered our prayers.



Pastor Joel Ngari is a missionary sent by the Mambilla Baptist Convention to minister to people who have never heard of Jesus Christ in Guinen Dutse, Nigeria.

In March of this year, Pastor Joel Ngari and his family moved to Guinen Dutse to begin a Christian work among these people of the Ndoro tribe. Pastor Ngari and his family were welcomed with open arms. They were given a house to live in temporarily as well as land to produce the food they will need.

When Pastor Joel asked if he could be given a plot to build a church, the local chief said, "This

(Continued on page 6)



Glimpses at a Missionary's Letters

(Excerpted from
Allan Effa's Letters)

The Mambilla Baptist Plateau area where Allan Effa is in Nigeria is a rather remote part of the country, 5,000 feet above sea level, near the Cameroonian border. North American Baptists work closely with the Mambilla Baptist Convention, an association of about 10,000 Christians.

"It really is exciting to be a part of this growing, dynamic group of people," says Allan Effa. "New churches are springing up all over the region as mission-minded Christians go from village to village, sharing the good news.

"But there is a tremendous lack of solid Christian teaching. Many of the pastors have very little education, and many Christians have a poor understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The happy thing is that they are eager to learn and to grow. I am so grateful that you and all North American Baptists are making it possible for me to serve these dear people, training pastors and lay people for effective evangelism and church leadership."

Last weekend I visited three of the T.E.E. centres on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria and organized two more groups with 26 new students. I praise God for the interest I find everywhere.

Even today as I was walking down a street someone stopped me to ask a question about something he was studying in his T.E.E. group. As I began to answer his question, a little crowd gathered, and we were able to share Jesus Christ with them.

I drove as far as I could and then walked the last nine miles—up and down the mountains and through several rivers to get to a Boys' Brigade Camp at a place called Kara. I got home last night at 6:15 p.m. By 6:30, I had my weekly T.E.E. group here. It was quite a full day. Today I was at home all day, and was able to get five loads of clothes washed plus work on my car and motorcycle. So, things are ready for me to take off again tomorrow morning.

"A couple of places I visited this quarter were inaccessible to motor vehicles. Walking up and down the hills in the hot sun for two and one half hours gave me an understanding of what it is like for the average person here. Just to go to one village to speak at an ordination service, I had to wade through three rivers!

Church visitation can be both rewarding as well as frustrating. The Field Pastor and I sent word to one church that we would be visiting them on a certain Sunday. When we arrived, only a handful of Christians were there to welcome us. We asked where all the others were, and they told us that they had taken their corn beer into the forest for a party. We became very aware of how much our churches need revival.

"For several weeks, I went around my village inviting school teachers, government workers, and pastors to join a T.E.E. group that would be meeting at my house. A number of them promised to come even

though they themselves admitted that they are backsliders and not active in the church.

"Before our first meeting, I prayed that God's Spirit would really touch each life and that there would be an openness and willingness to discuss spiritual things. Our study was in the Book of Acts and how the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of the disciples and the early church.

"When we came to the question, 'How is the Holy Spirit active in your life today?' one of the pastors told us that he hadn't sensed the Holy Spirit working in his life for over a year. Others confessed that they too had fallen away from the Lord. After a time of prayer in which we prayed for each other, we dismissed until the next week.

"At the door one man said to me, 'Thank God, I believe I am a stronger Christian today!'

"This is just one example of how the ministry of Theological Education by Extension is reaching people and helping them mature in their faith.

"I am happy to report 25 active centres for Theological Education by Extension. Nearly 100 first-time students have enrolled this year pushing our total enrollment above the 200 mark!" □

Reaching Hidden People (Continued from page 5)

land belongs to everybody. Choose as much land as you want, and we will help you with the building!"

While studying at Mambilla Baptist Theological School, Pastor Joel not only received Bible training, but also took classes in Agriculture and Preventive Medicine. All of these skills will help him to develop a well-rounded ministry that seeks to meet both spiritual and physical needs.

We are expecting to hear great things as God's work goes forward in this new territory. Perhaps, as has happened in many other places, the entire community will decide at the same time to embrace Christianity. Yes, God's Good News is reaching even the uttermost parts of Nigeria and of the world. □

"This is God's time for Brazil." Many exciting things are happening as God works through his people. But for many, the work is hard, requiring commitment and sacrifice. Missionary Richard Kaiser interviewed Brazilian Cleber O. Heinz, pastor of the year-old church extension work in Canela, Rio Grande do Sul. This interview helps us understand how through patience, prayer and persistence . . .



. . . A Church Is Born

RICHARD KAISER: Tell us how the work in Canela began and how the city was chosen.

PASTOR CLEBER HEINZ: The city was chosen by the Executive "Junta" of the State Baptist Convention. Certainly it was in the eternal providence of God.

RK: What is the city of Canela like?

PASTOR CLEBER: The city of Canela is situated at an altitude of almost 900 meters (approximately 2,700 feet); the climate is cold and rainy. It is a tourist area, and that accounts for the many shops offering handcrafted items. The city's population is approximately 20,000, but it is visited weekly by thousands of tourists. The majority of the inhabitants is traditionally Roman Catholic, and in second place, come the Lutherans.

RK: How were the first contacts made?



The Rev. Richard Kaiser is an N.A.B. missionary serving in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He arrived home on furlough in July.



The Baptist congregation in Canela meets in a church building acquired from the Lutherans.

In spite of all our hard work, the Lord used most of all the hours we spent in prayer. This is the tool we have found to be of utmost importance in the Lord's work.

PASTOR CLEBER: The first contacts here began with our arrival, along with a group of seven young people, in January of 1982. We worked together for five weeks in the so-called TRANS-Rio Grande do Sul, which involves door-to-door witnessing and canvassing to learn of peoples' religious interests.

After the young people left, my wife and I continued making visits to homes. We held services in some of them.

Services were held in the church building (a stone edifice acquired from the Lutherans when they built a new church). The services were poorly attended for more than six months; many times my wife and I

would be there alone. We invited people we met on the street. We searched out other homes, until we saw the Lord begin to answer our prayers, and attendance began to increase. We know that the ones we have with us today are the result of answered prayer.

In spite of all our hard work, rain or shine, the Lord used most of all the hours we spent in prayer. This is the tool we have found to be of utmost importance in the Lord's work.

Every day that passes, we are more certain of the value of prayer, when done in faith and total dependence on God. And so, after one year of work, we have increased in number from two to seventeen, plus a group awaiting opportunity for baptism.

RK: Is there a great interest in the Gospel among these people? Are the doors open?

(Continued on next page)

... Born

(Continued from page 7)

PASTOR CLEBER: There is very little real interest in the Gospel here in Canela. After a day of seeing such spiritual coldness in door-to-door visitation, it is easy to become discouraged. But we need to react against this enemy. In the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we receive encouragement.

The open doors are few. The fruit that God gives us comes with much insistence. Some have told us that they did not like our first visits, but with persistence they have become friends. As friends, they have come to hear the message, and with hearing comes the conversion of some.

RK: When do you have your programs, and how has the attendance been?

PASTOR CLEBER: We have services at the church Wednesdays, Sunday mornings and evenings, and recently on Saturdays for the young people. The attendance is generally about 20 to 30 people. In the homes, the attendance varies, and sometimes there are more people at these than at the church.



Orlando (right), a recent convert, is excited about the Bible study for youth which he started. Eighteen youth are attending it he tells Pastor Cleber Heinz.

Some have told us that they did not like our first visits, but with persistence, they have become friends. As friends, they have come to hear the message, and with hearing comes the conversion of some.

RK: Does your ministry reach people of all ages? How is the work with the children, youth and the women?

PASTOR CLEBER: Yes, we try to attend to all groups. The work with the children is regular, even though many Catholic parents forbid their children to go to our church. We do have children's programs both in the church and in homes.

The largest group is the youth. We recently started a program concentrating on unbelieving youth.

There are just a few women, but we have a women's group started. Also, we have begun two girls' groups for adolescents and juniors.

RK: Tell us of a youth who accepted Christ recently, and how his

life is changed as a result of being a new creature in Christ.

PASTOR CLEBER: Orlando Xavier Filho is a young adolescent, whom we met late last year. He accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. He had been preparing for his first communion in the Catholic Church.

His Catholic teacher wanted him to return to her classes, because he was her best student. He told her that now he was a believer in Jesus and could no longer continue there. He was baptized in January of this year.

Not being satisfied only with attending the church services, he organized a Bible study for adolescents, setting a goal of five. He now has 18 enrolled, not counting the visitors.

His goal is to be a pastor, but his work has already begun. He has a ministry of Gospel tract distribution. In his first week of school this year, he distributed more than 700 tracts.

RK: What are some of the difficulties of spreading the Good News here? You could mention your prayer requests.

PASTOR CLEBER: One main difficulty is our not having any means of transportation for this work, especially with the cold and rain. We would ask you to pray that the Lord would help us to acquire a car with loud speakers and a film projector to aid in our preaching the Gospel.

Also, please pray that the Holy Spirit would touch the hearts of those who are yet so indifferent to the message of Christ.

RK: What are your plans and dreams for the future here in Canela?

PASTOR CLEBER: I hope to organize a church and expand this work with congregations in the suburbs, and then go on to the nearby cities. □



Presently 18 professors teach in the area of theology and Christian education at the Seminary. Most of these are part-time faculty. There is an urgent need for additional professors as the number of students increases.



The Seminary prepares lay people for effective service in the local church through the course in Christian Education. This year, the first seven students complete their course of study. A new group of students has already matriculated for the next semester. A similar course of study is planned for the people of the churches in another area of the State.



Wolfgang Eugenio Salzer, one of the outstanding Seminary students, found Christ one day when, as a taxi driver, he drove a pastor to the bus depot. Soon after his conversion, he sensed God's call into the Gospel ministry, and enrolled in the Seminary. He is now in his third year.

Eugenio and his wife, Sara, have a two-year-old daughter. He serves as student pastor of a Baptist Church in a nearby city. God will use this Seminary student as a young future pastor in one of the German communities, for since childhood he has known the German language.

For many years, N.A.B. missionaries in Brazil joined the Brazilian Baptists in prayer about starting a Seminary in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Why did they feel the need of a Seminary so strongly? There were two major reasons.

One reason is that Rio Grande do Sul, the size of Wisconsin and Illinois combined, or Ontario, is considered a pioneer State in terms of the Baptist witness. There are still many cities where there are no Brazilian Baptist churches.

More than half of the population of Rio Grande do Sul live in the city of Porto Alegre. This city, where the Seminary is located, has a population of about 1,200,000. There are many people to be reached for Christ. Experience has revealed that when a seminary was begun in other parts of Brazil, new churches were also established.

The second reason is that the young people from Rio Grande do Sul who answered the call into the ministry went to the Brazilian Baptist Seminary in Rio de Janeiro, about 1,000 miles away. They often found places of ministry in that part of Brazil and did not return to their home State.

The shortage of pastors for even the existing churches in our State was very real. The new Seminary provides ministerial training closer to home and geared to church practices and customs familiar to the "Gauchos" or cowboy State.

The Rio Grande do Sul Seminary is supported by the 45 churches in the State as well as through mission contributions from the Southern Baptist Convention and the North American Baptist Conference. The Rev. Richard Rabenhorst, N.A.B. missionary in Brazil, served on the executive planning committee and on the faculty the first year.

"We wish to thank God's people of the North American Baptist Conference, who by way of the Brazil Rio Grande Baptist Mission, have helped to prepare Christian workers," says Rev. Winter, director of the Seminary. "We look to the future with anticipation, and we expect many victories from the Lord of the Harvest."

(Continued on next page)



Why a Seminary in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil?

by Richard Rabenhorst and Niander Winter



In the symbol of the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary, one sees the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, "A - alpha" and "Ω - omega," with the cross in the center. Looking at the symbol on its side, you see the mark of the early Christians—the "fish." Turning the symbol upside down, one notices the gourd, a Gauchos symbol of Rio Grande do Sul, the cowboy State. The gourd holds the cowboy's tea—"mate" with the "silver straw" (part of the cross) in the center.



"We praise God for the growth that the Seminary has experienced during these few short years," says the Rev. Niander Winter, director of Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary.



... Seminary ... (Continued)

There are 29 students enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology program: nine freshmen, (pictured above), eleven sophomores (pictured at right), and nine juniors (pictured below). The Seminary course is four years in length. In 1984 it will have its first graduates. All of the students work during the day and attend classes at night.

"I Always Wanted to Say This"

by Rev. Eliezer D'Avila

The years I spent at the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, were full of blessing and very helpful to me. There I received my Master of Divinity degree in May 1980. As an extension of my Seminary study pro-

gram, I had the opportunity to study Biblical Archaeology and Geography in the Holy Land.

Now I use the tools and knowledge which I received at the North American Baptist Seminary, in my ministry as pastor of the Mont' Serrat Baptist Church and also at the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary, Porto Alegre, where I teach. For example, a course that I taught, "Bible Backgrounds," included the areas of Archaeology, Geography, Biblical Criticism, and Hermeneutics. Some of the practical assignments

in which we participated included the making of Biblical maps, library research, and a variety of class presentations. The students especially enjoyed the slide presentation of a number of areas mentioned in the Bible. I am very excited about this opportunity of training future church leaders of my own country, Brazil.

I thank God and all North American Baptist people who have helped me to obtain my Seminary training by way of your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. □

Missionaries are often privileged to show visitors from overseas many of the beauties and wonders of Japan. As we and the visitor see these places, many Japanese people are attracted to us because our hair and eyes are different color than the standard black and dark brown. Our body structure, in general, is much larger than those who are viewing us.

Some of those Japanese people work up enough courage to test their English ability. They ask us where we come from. A contact is made. A friendship is begun. Names and addresses are often exchanged. The people, much to their surprise, find that the missionary can speak intelligible Japanese. Five minutes may be spent finding out a little bit about each other. Then our ways part.

When the conversation is over, the visitors sometimes ask us, "Why does it take so long for a Japanese person to become a Christian?" We explain that the person has no idea of a living God, much less a personal and loving God. We also explain that part of the reason can be found in how the Japanese live and move, and have their being.

Japan and Japanese people run on relationships, not logic! The first question the Japanese person asks is not, "Is your message true?" He asks, "Who are you? Can I trust you?" That is what makes the Japanese seem so inscrutable.

Your N.A.B. missionaries in Japan are working hard to establish firm relationships with the many people with whom we come in contact. The ultimate purpose is obvious. We want them to come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

Often a Japanese person will be convinced of the truth of the Gospel. He or she may truly want to believe in Christ. But when they consider how that would affect their relationship with their husband or wife, their father or mother, their company, or their friends, they often give up believing and remain in darkness.

(Continued on next page)



Becoming a Christian in Japan

by Douglas Woyke



The Rev. Douglas Woyke, Nara, Japan, is field secretary for the Japan Baptist Mission.



Christ is presented to people in Japan through Bible studies, English conversation classes, concerts, the church, and to groups such as TB patients from a local hospital.

... in Japan
(Continued from page 11)

Our responsibility is to share with them that Christianity can have very positive effects on all those relationships, in addition to bringing them personally into a right relationship with God. *But that takes time!*

How do we go about evangelism in Japan? One obvious attraction is our ability to speak English. Some of us can even handle German. Conversational English classes and English Bible classes still attract people in Japan. Long-term relationships are established through these classes. Several of our pastors first came into contact with Christianity through English classes. The Holy Spirit is continuing to use those relationships to bring people to Christ.

We also cooperate with the churches of the Japan Baptist Conference in their outreach ministries. Sunday school is extremely important as an opportunity to reach young lives for Christ. If a survey were taken among Christians in Japan, a great majority would say that they attended Sunday school as a child. The children are not the only ones affected. Mrs. Kamata and Mrs. Kawano are presently attending the Heijo Christian Church where we serve as a direct result of their children attending Sunday school.

Many people find it very difficult to step into a church building. They tend to be shy and embarrassed in any new situation. For a Japanese that is the worst feeling, besides outright shame, that they can have. As a result, Home Bible Studies are being blessed by the Holy Spirit. Going into a Christian friend's home is a non-threatening situation. The evangelistic ministry of the church is reaching into many homes in Japan. Praise the Lord!

Special evangelistic meetings are times of opportunity to invite our friends to hear a special speaker. Youth camps and music concerts bring many young people into contact



with Jesus Christ. Because Japanese people love to read, tracts are used to bring the Gospel into many homes.

God is working in Japan. People are receiving and trusting Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Lives are being changed. We praise God that you are a part of this work through your prayers and giving! □



The Way Out!

by Reimer Clausen

This is the story of God's grace in the life of Masakiyo Takahashi and his family. He and his wife Keiko, together with his mother Yumiko, were baptized Nov. 28, 1982, at the Higashi Muko Christian Church, Kyoto, Japan. Their oldest son, Masatsugu, was baptized May 1, 1983.

A year had passed since Mr. Masakiyo Takahashi had launched out on his own, starting a small trading company. For many years he had worked for one of the big trading houses of Japan spending most of his life abroad in North Korea, Pakistan, India, and North America pushing Japanese industrial products. Finally, he thought he could do it on his own.

He started out with one employee, selling Japanese textile machinery. He worked hard and travelled much. After one year, the results were great. Business was booming. Orders were coming in from all over the world. He expanded his office and hired more staff.

As Masakiyo reflected on this, he



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Higashi Muko Christian Church in Kyoto.



The Takahashi Family at their baptismal service at the Higashi Muko Christian Church, Kyoto, Japan.

had reason to be satisfied. In spite of the world recession, he was flying high.

It was after work, and he was headed home.

As his thoughts turned toward home, he became frustrated and angry. He thought of his relationship with his wife, Keiko. They were not communicating any more.

"What's happening to her anyway?" he thought.

He remembered how they had been very close. She had always supported him lovingly and had worked hard with him to establish financial security for the family. He had always looked forward to coming home after his frequent trips abroad. Things had changed. Keiko had joined a religion strange to him. She was spending a lot of time in it. Her attitude had changed. She tried to push him into this religion, too.

This evening like many other evenings when Masakiyo arrived home, Keiko was not at home. She was at one of her many Bible studies. Masakiyo ate alone with the children . . . some cold food Keiko had prepared and put in the fridge for them.

"There must be something wrong with this religion," he thought, "If it changes a person in a way like this, than it cannot be good." His wife was a Jehovah Witness.

Later that evening when she came home, he let her know of his discontent. But she came back at him with a sermon about Jehovah. He knew he could not win this one, so like many other evenings, he drowned his sorrow, discontent, and

anger in a bottle of whiskey or Japanese sake.

The days continued. He desperately tried to keep the marriage and the family from breaking apart. Finally, when confronted, his wife said she would rather choose Jehovah than him.

Thinking there must be something in this religion to make a person this determined, he decided to give it a try. He studied the Bible a while with a man, whom his wife had suggested. But he was not impressed. Masakiyo also could not accept the logic of this religion. He gave up.

"There is no way out of this mess," he concluded.

This, too, was not what Keiko, his wife, had envisioned when she became a Jehovah Witness. Things were turning out exactly opposite to her dreams. Several years before, as her children were growing older, she started thinking about the meaning of life.

"Is this all there is to life," she thought, "just raising children, growing old? What then?"

She was dissatisfied with herself. She wanted to be stronger, a better mother, and wife. Keiko wanted to give her children some direction for life. That is when the Jehovah Witnesses came to visit her. They offered her a free Bible study course. They volunteered to teach her at her own convenience. It sounded good.

With this, a new world opened for her. She learned about God's love and about man's love. For everything, there were concrete

(Continued on next page)

Way out

(Continued from page 13)

answers, whether it was life or death. It was all so dynamic. Keiko studied fervently. She went to the meetings.

The Jehovah's Witnesses were kind, intelligent, humble and loving. They sacrificed tremendously to attend the many Bible studies and to do visitation. They worked extremely hard at spreading their religion.

"This must be the *truth*," she thought.

After several years of Bible study and training, she was happy to be baptized, to be accepted by them, and to be called a "sister." It was a great feeling. But strangely, life was turning out differently than what she had wanted. She found herself breaking relationships with family and friends and becoming more and more isolated.

There were so many "don'ts." No birthday celebrations, no Christmas, and no sending of New Year's cards. You weren't supposed to vote. You were not allowed to let your children take part in many school activities. When her son was elected class officer, she could not encourage him. Instead she had to reprimand him and tell him not to take any position of leadership in his class at school.

The time she spent for the Jehovah Witnesses was enormous. There were five obligatory meetings a week to attend and many hours of visitation and literature distribution. All this was done in the hope that, at the end of this world, God would recognize her hard work and sacrifice and let her be part of the thousand year reign. But there was never any assurance that what one had done was enough.

About this time, her husband Masakiyo picked up a tract that lay crumpled and discarded on the luggage rack of a commuter train. Earlier that day, Missionaries Reimer and Nobuko Clausen, along with some church members, had distributed tracts in front of the station.

Two things in the tract caught Masakiyo's attention. One was the verse from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Masakiyo was burdened down. He had unbelievable worries. He could not find rest. Could Jesus give him rest?

Also the tract mentioned that in the end times there would be many false prophets and false teachings. It alluded to the Jehovah Witnesses as one of them.

"So here is somebody who claims that the Jehovah Witnesses are mistaken," he thought. He agreed, but he could not prove it to his wife.

Masakiyo made up his mind to go to church, study the Bible, learn what real Christianity was all about. He would then meet his wife on her own ground and perhaps persuade her of her mistake and draw her out of this mistaken religion.

Right away, Masakiyo contacted the Higashi Muko Christian Church and started attending the services. He asked Pastor Hata to give him private instruction in the Bible.

He says, "At that time, the Word of God was like water to my thirsty soul. Here was life."

Masakiyo told his wife what he had learned at church. They often argued deep into the night about how to interpret the Bible. Sometimes, the dawn would break and bring an end to their debate. Masakiyo would head off to work without having slept.

Always their arguments passed by each other in parallel lines. They never came to any conclusions.

Finally Masakiyo realized that he himself needed to turn over his life to God. He confessed his sins and accepted Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

After this, Masakiyo decided not to try to persuade his wife of her error any more. He left it to the Lord. He realized that God had worked salvation in him and that he had been saved not by his own efforts but by the grace of God. God would work his work of salvation in his wife, too. He claimed the verse in John 16:23: "Truly, truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the father, he will give it to you in my name." That was just before Christmas in 1981.

About that time, Keiko started reexamining her faith. Slowly, she started to realize her own condition.

"I realized how terribly proud I was. I was proud of being a Jehovah Witness, and felt we were the chosen people of God. I was very self-righteous," she says. "I had never repented of my sins. I felt I deserved God's love. I felt God owed me salvation, because of all that I had done and because I had served him so hard as a Jehovah Witness."

Then Keiko started thinking about the doctrines of the Jehovah Witnesses. Maybe the resurrection was real after all, not just a spiritual one. Maybe Jesus actually rose physically. She thought of the return of Christ. "What if we are mistaken?" The thought wouldn't leave her.

Finally, she decided she must go to church with her husband. The first Sunday in August 1982 she came. As she entered the church door, the congregation was singing, "My soul found rest in Jesus . . ." Tears welled up. She realized, at last, that her tormented soul would find rest in Jesus.

Keiko came to church, broke her relations with the Jehovah Witnesses, and studied the Bible anew with Pastor Hata. For her, the greatest truth she discovered was that God himself became man and died on the cross for her so she could have salvation. The God, Jehovah, whom she had tried so hard to please, had died for her, and given his life for her. What a revelation!

Four months later, Keiko was baptized together with her husband and her husband's mother, who had been studying the Jehovah Witness religion along with her. Masakiyo had waited for Keiko in faith so they could be baptized together.

A little over a year later, their oldest son, a high school student, accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized. The two younger children are also attending church and Sunday school with them. Mr. Takahashi is a teacher in the junior high Sunday school class.

Above all, the family that was breaking apart has been reunited through the Love of God in Jesus Christ. Yes, there was a way out of this mess. It was not through a religion; it was through Jesus Christ. □



Reaching University Students for Christ

by Joan Stoller

Work among students of Mie University in Tsu City has been conducted for many years by various N.A.B. missionaries. In fact, it was a group of Christian Mie University students who felt a need for a Baptist Church in Tsu. Our present N.A.B. church in Tsu came into existence as a result. Bible studies for students were held in various places.

Between 1970 and 1980, most of the student activities took place in a small prefab building called the Tsu Christian Student Center. It was a one-room building about 12 by 18 feet provided by the North American Baptist Conference.

In 1978, Ron and Joan Stoller came to Tsu with the assignment of student evangelism. Though they started in the small center in the spring of 1980, they were able to move the student activities to the beautiful Christian Education Center. In looking for a Center, a location near Mie University was sought so that student evangelism could be one of the major activities of the Center.

Presently, Ron and Joan cooperate with and assist the Mie University Bible Club, which is a club instigated by N.A.B. mission work but fully recognized by the university. Bible studies and prayer

Mrs. Joan Stoller and her husband Ron are N.A.B. missionaries working at the Tsu Christian Center, Japan.

meetings are held on the campus as well as here at the Center. There is a student leader and most decisions are made by the students, but the Stollers assist in various ways.

The Stollers attend the Bible studies and prayer time where they can give spiritual guidance and insights. Sometimes the students come asking for help in procuring a gospel film, a board for a sign to advertise a meeting or just a piece of Scotch tape for putting up a poster. Often a piece of cake and a listening ear in the Stollers' living room is an important part of the ministry.

Various Avenues of Contact for Students

In addition to the direct relationship to the Bible Club, the Stollers have chances to contact university students of Mie University and two nearby junior colleges. Here at the Center, there is a Christian film once a month for university students.

As a means of contact, Ron teaches an English conversation class every Saturday free of charge. University students anywhere are poor and are happy for a free class.

For contacting girls, Joan has an American cooking class for university girls. There are opportunities to have contact with other university clubs, too, such as the English-Speaking Society which appreciates the assistance of an American who can speak "real English."

The Stollers add a Bible study or English class whenever students show an interest, trying to be available to meet needs. There is a ping-pong table in the Center and plans for a volley ball court behind the Center, so hopefully more and more students will find this place to be a place where they can find some time for relaxation between classes, too.

At present, there are nine non-Christian university students living in the third floor dormitory of the Center. Eventually the desire of our Mission is to create a Christian dorm on the third floor, but so far we have had no applicants. The Stollers live on the second floor, so have many chances to contact these fellows.

The Stollers have many opportunities to be with students on special



Mie University Bible Club students at a Bible study at the Tsu Christian Center.



Missionary Ron Stoller teaching an English class at the Center.



University student preparing literature to distribute to new students on campus.

occasions such as Christmas, parties, outings, and spiritual Conferences. Each spring there is a great effort to contact new students, and it seems the students need the most assistance at these special times.

Four years in the care of Mie University students and only two years for the junior college students is a short period of time, but God is working in the lives of young people through the student evangelism ministry. □



Evangelism High Priority in Cameroon Hospital

by Eleanor Weisenburger
Photos by Nancy Palmer

As a new missionary nurse, the buildings and equipment I saw looked hopeless. But these very "bush" buildings were to be the beginning of Baptist work in Nso Area and the Bansa Baptist Hospital, Cameroon, West Africa. It was 1948.

The first time I heard Dr. Leslie Chaffee speak, in



One of the most fruitful areas of evangelism is seen in the work of Chaplain Moses Tanni, a Cameroonian national. In 1982, 78 persons made first-time decisions for Christ, and 42 backsliders were revived. Chaplain Tanni not only speaks with the patients about their spiritual condition, but also sends letters to pastors of churches where these people live. He encourages these pastors to maintain contact with them as they return home to help them in their spiritual growth.

Over the years, several Baptist prayer groups were started by Bansa Baptist Hospital patients after they returned home. These prayer groups finally became organized churches.

Chaplain Tanni's daily routine consists of morning and evening devotions in all hospital wards, out-patient

December of 1948, he stated, "I am a missionary *first* and a doctor *second*." He was the first doctor in the area.

Through dedicated Cameroonian workers and missionary doctors and nurses, the Word of God has been preached to many at Bansa Baptist Hospital and in the surrounding area.

"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:2).

For many years, the Hospital doctors have been responsible for conducting Sunday morning services for Protestant students who attend St. Augustine College, a secondary school situated on the hill adjoining the Hospital premises.

So the command to "preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick" is being carried out faithfully at Bansa Baptist Hospital. □



Miss Eleanor Weisenburger is an N.A.B. missionary nurse/midwife serving at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Cameroon. She returned home for furlough this August.



devotions, and personal witnessing in the wards, plus counselling for workers, patients, or patient carers in his office. Patient carers are family members or friends of the patient who *care* for the patients. They bring food to the patient, help bathe the patient, help ambulate the patient, and sleep on the floor on a mat next to the patient.

Chaplain Tanni conducts Sunday evening services at the hospital classroom (chapel) for workers and a few interested people from the town. He also assists the Kumbo Church Pastor in visiting secondary schools in the area.

Chaplain Moses Tanni is a very special person. Using his skill in ventriloquism, he witnesses to hospital patients. His little friend, Charlie, helps him give Bible stories both at the Hospital and with the gospel team.



Another feature of the evangelistic ministry at Bansa Baptist Hospital is Saturday evening vespers. Interested students and hospital workers sing, preach, and pray with and for the patients. I can only gauge the impact of this ministry by the fact that whenever we have failed to go to the wards, someone is sure to ask me later, "How you never come sing for we on Saturday?"

After students complete their training and go elsewhere, they often write to tell me that they really miss the Saturday evening vespers. The patients are most grateful to see that the workers who gave them nursing care in the morning are prepared to take time out to minister to their spiritual needs in "off-duty" time.

(Miss Weisenburger, pictured second from left, gives the lesson. Sam Fai, left, a member of Cameroon Choristers, translates for her.)



Another evangelistic ministry of the Hospital is the Bansa Baptist Hospital Gospel Team. About 26 people are involved in this ministry. The people alternate weekends so that 12 to 14 go out at a time. After work on Saturday afternoon, the Gospel Team travels to an outlying village. They leave their bedbags at the pastors' house and go into the village to witness in groups of three or four. This assures that at least one in the group will be using the language of that village.



Evangelism

(Continued from page 17)

The Gospel Team members use their talents in singing, drama, and preaching to witness. The Team stays overnight and conducts the Sunday worship service and distributes Sunday school papers sent by North American Baptists to the children. The children are happy to receive these papers with Bible and life-related stories in them.

Gospel Team visits to secondary schools have made an impact. At one school, more than 100 students stayed for counseling following the presentation.

The Team also visits pastorless churches to conduct services and encourage the congregation.



The Hospital workers carry out ministries outside the hospital compound, also. A very active and large Good News Club for children meets in Kumbo Baptist Church every Thursday afternoon. This club is directed by hospital workers under the supervision of a missionary.



Other activities that depend largely on our hospital workers are church choirs, Life Liners (a women's group for literate girls and women), 3-H Club for girls, and Boys' Brigade for boys.

One young girl who was active in 3-H Club during grade school went to Saker Baptist College for her high school training and then came to Banso Baptist Hospital for Nursing and Midwifery training. Today she is married, has a family, and is an active member of Kumbo Baptist Church, where she sings in the Chaffee Memorial Choir. She also is an executive officer in Life Liners and is leader in charge of the 3-H Club at the primary school.

As a grade school student, she was taught in 3-H Club by missionaries, as a student in the training school she helped that missionary with the Club; now she is capably in charge of the program. This woman is one of the many who were influenced by missionary nurses, doctors' wives, and others during their early years. She was nurtured by teachers in secondary schools and was taught to love and serve by example as well as through classroom teaching. Today she and many like her are teaching others in the same manner; she is an example of a disciplined woman.



Ministry to Youth Mushrooms in Bamenda

by Pat Meinerts

Have you ever wished you were surrounded by young people eager to hear about Christ? Ever thought the struggle to win youth for Christ may not be worth it personally to you?—Too much work, too discouraging; not enough time, not enough money for the youth program in your church?

Be encouraged by reading about Youth Pastor Eric Menn in Cameroon and see the opportunities and challenges—a field white unto harvest.

In the 1970s pastors and missionaries assumed responsibility to reach out to Baptist students in some of the secondary schools in the Bamenda area in Cameroon. Young people accepted Christ as Savior during quarterly retreats planned for these Baptist students. It was evident that more time and money put into these youth ministries would be well spent.

Ministry to youth has come a



Mrs. Oryn (Pat) Meinerts is an N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon presently on leave of absence and residing in Illinois.

long way since then. A Cameroonian pastor, Eric Menn, spearheads this work. The truth of God's Word, "The fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few," is strikingly evident. One pastor is "too few."

Pastor Eric's congregation includes students in more than 13 government, private and religious institutions: typing institutes, driving schools, high schools, technical schools, junior colleges, and a teacher training college. Each school gives Pastor Eric free time once a week to teach religious classes.

Sometimes two schools assign him the same time, and he has to ask students or another volunteer to take one of the classes. Some schools are five miles and only ten minutes apart, so he rushes with his motorcycle to get from one to the other.

One of his classes in a Catholic school is at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning with four Baptist boys. Another school has well over 100 students jammed into one large classroom.

Besides teaching classes, Eric spends much time counselling students, organizing retreats, and working with leaders from each school. In addition, many of the schools are open for evangelistic programs on Saturday nights.

Eric began his ministry in September 1981. He had had experience in Banso as a pastor and school chaplain.

One of his first aims in Bamenda was to give the students a sense of identity and pride in who they were. Baptist history, followed by Baptist distinctives and doctrine, comprised his first lessons.

An early innovation of Pastor Eric's was to form the Good News Band, a group of singers with shakers, a gong, and a drum to accompany him on his guitar during special programs. He also joined the Bamenda Field Gospel Team and

became a liaison between that team and the schools. Together, they conduct evangelistic services in many schools.

At the end of his first school year as chaplain, Pastor Eric planned the term's retreat around graduation, recognizing the studies that many of the students had completed. Even more important was the day of celebration when 24 of these students were baptized in a special service at Nkwen Baptist Church. The local congregation also rejoiced and prepared food to welcome these new Christians into the family.

In Pastor Eric's second year of ministry, he says, "With regard to the work, I can say that the Lord is blessing. There are 65 students to be baptized this year (1983)."



One laborer, Pastor Eric, has found a harvest larger than he can fully reap. There are many young Christians to nurture, some to discipline and lovingly bring back, and other seekers to win.

There are classes and whole schools which Pastor Eric has no time to attend. There are other whole cities that don't even have one laborer. Will you pray for God's blessing, wisdom, and provisions for the mushrooming youth ministry in Bamenda, and all of Cameroon? □



Will God Take Care of Us?

by Pat Meinerts



Mrs. Pat Meinerts is an N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon. She is in Illinois while her husband Oryn, field secretary in Cameroon, is on leave of absence, working on his doctorate.

“Will God really take care of us if we put his things first?” “Will God answer our prayers if we are faithful?” These are questions Deborah Nwugoh asked early in life.

Deborah says, “I decided to be very faithful and see what would happen. I did my farm work on week days and God’s work on Sundays. I sold my mother’s food at the market and gave her all the money. She was happy and encouraged me in my Christian work and let me go to all the meetings.

Deborah has committed her life to Christ. Through her consistent Christian witness, other lives have changed.

The women’s lives changed after the leaders were taught to read, and the women could then hear and discuss what was printed in the Women’s Manual.

Even children are seen crocheting now as well as learning Bible verses and following Jesus.

“Many times my friends and I went fishing. They always caught fish, but I did not. Finally, one day, I did catch one fish. I took it home and prayed—and then decided to give it to God. I put it in a basket and took it to church as my offering. From that day on, I always caught fish!”

As Deborah took seriously her Christian life and put her beliefs into practice, she found God always faithful. Full trust and obedience to God was blessed by him, and it became her pattern.

As a young mother, Deborah was selected as field chairwoman for her area, Mfumnte Field. She accepted this, feeling that God wanted her to lead her people to a better way of life.

During a Cameroon Baptist Convention Workshop tour of her area, she reported to the Convention leaders that most of the women in her area were illiterate. Thus they could not read nor use the publications sent to them. The leaders challenged her and the other women to take adult literacy classes a few miles away.

For the next two years in addition to farming and family responsibilities, Deborah and some friends took the challenge to study and learn. Then the school closed.



Meanwhile, a bigger challenge came. The Rev. Art Helwig, Mfumnte Area coordinator at the time, made money available for one woman from the Mfumnte Field to attend the Women’s Union three-week Home Economics class. No one wanted to go. It was too far, two and one half days journey, and too foreign to attract people from this remote village.

The money was there, and the field pastor told Deborah, “You will have to go.”

“I am not fit,” she responded. He said, “The women have chosen you as their leader. It is your responsibility.” The field pastors gave her 100 francs (40 cents) for spending money and a bar of soap. Deborah was committed.

After a day of trekking and two days of taxi rides in rainy season, she arrived three days late at the course—the only student who could not read and write, nor had she ever held a needle nor crochet hook.

At first, other young students laughed at her. She talked to the teachers, and they called a general meeting. “This course,” the teachers said, “is for each one to learn to use her own abilities to serve the Lord, not for comparison.”

That problem ended; Deborah began to learn. Whatever was taught, she remembered. Whatever was demonstrated, she did, thinking, “How my women would benefit from this teaching!”

She went home, rejoicing, with her completed handwork articles. The word spread through the 15 Mfumnte Field churches: “Deborah has learned home economics lessons. She is going to teach us!”

Hundreds of women attended these meetings, and teach them, she did. In order to get sewing supplies, she collected money and trekked for two days to buy the wool and thread, carrying it back for two more days. Soon women and even children could be seen all over, walking along crocheting or knitting. Bible lessons, first aid lessons, laundry, cooking and cleaning lessons were also given. Little children were not only taught Good News Club lessons, but also they were given uniforms. They developed interesting programs of songs, verses, and testimonies to give in churches.

For the next two years, Deborah attended summer home economics courses sponsored by the Women’s Union. Her appetite was whetted as she saw how this knowledge was helping her people.

Deborah’s prayer became, “Lord, we need more. What can we do?” She and her two association chairwomen knelt and joined hands in prayer many times praising God for what he had done and asking for future direction.

At the C.B.C. Women’s Union General Council, Deborah always had wonderful reports of how the Lord was working in Mfumnte Field. One year, she came with seed necklaces for all the officers’ efforts in the home economics program.

Another year, she reported that the lesson on drinking in the Women’s Manual had really helped the women. Before the lesson was taught, the women had not known it was wrong to drink. On market day, every eighth day, it was their custom to go to the market in the morning to buy and sell their things. In the afternoon, the women would sit around and drink, and go home late, drunk.

“But now,” Deborah said, “you won’t find any Baptist women in Mfumnte sitting in the market drinking. We have learned that it is wrong, and we are not doing it.”

Then came an awesome dream and challenge. But would not God, who had faithfully provided in the past, also provide for this? Deborah and her Association chairwomen again knelt in prayer.

“Lord, could we build our own Women’s Home Economics Center right here in Mfumnte where we can have all of our things in one place and where women can meet to learn? Lord, we have 10,000 francs (\$40),” they prayed.

The women agreed to undertake the project of building a home economics center. The chief gave them land. They started to carry stone for a foundation to mold bricks.

Then the ridicule started: “What do you women think you are doing?”

Scorn followed, along with jealousy and persecution as their work progressed. Many attempts

were made to block their progress. Time after time, Deborah and the women found comfort from discouragement in prayer. And they answered jeers with love. They continued to work.

The Cameroon Baptist Convention Women’s Union President, Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri, visited and encouraged them. In their response, they dramatized their need: Sick and no hospital, children leaving the area to learn since there were no opportunities at home, and no relief from hard physical work. They presented Beatrice with a local hoe, a farming bucket, and woven umbrella, symbols of the Mfumnte woman’s life.

Christians outside of the area heard of the emerging structure and sent aid. One group living in Nigeria sent a treadle sewing machine. The Rev. Ken Priebe, current area coordinator, transported in many bags of cement and bundles of zinc.

In early 1982, the Mfumnte Field Women’s Home Economic Centre was up with a good roof, a cement floor—and plans for expansion. Hundreds of people crowded in at the dedication ceremony, rejoicing at what God had helped the women to accomplish. Included at the ceremony was a display and sale of hundreds of handwork articles: baskets, foods, children’s clothes and knitted articles.

Perhaps the biggest challenge still lies ahead—to develop a Christ-centered program for all the women of the area. Quality teaching and leadership that will answer the question, “Who do these women think they are?” must be provided.

One answer to their prayers has recently come with the arrival of the Life Abundant Programme. Two villages in Mfumnte were chosen as centers for this village health program. This, plus their own growing knowledge of first aid, will do much to reduce illness.

Deborah and her fellow workers praise God for what he has already done. They know that he will be with them as they face future challenges. Full trust and obedience to God is blessed by him. □

The Close of a Chapter

by Cherie Lake

"Brown paper packages tied up with string . . ."
 Each box sits, awaiting the journey
 More patiently than I.
 They seem so serene, but
 The memories of these days would come bursting forth
 Like Pandora's Box, if opened.
 Bundled inside are a myriad of tokens over a two-year span,
 Much like my mind.

A box for reminiscing.
 Multitudinous English classes,
 Shrines, temples, Sumo wrestling,
 Tea ceremonies, train rides,
 Sights, sounds, smells, that are typically Japanese.
 The extremely bright highlight of Mom and Dad's visit.
 Seeing Japan for the first time again,
 Through their eyes.
 Church services, Bible classes,
 The joy and overwhelming responsibility of telling the Truth,
 And the heartbreaking reality of idol worship.



A formal outdoor tea ceremony. Cherie Lake is third from left.

A box for gratitude.
 Thankful for a phone call from a student expressing her interest in church.
 Thankful for the continuous cultivation of friendships that will last a life time.
 Thankful that cockroach season isn't year round!
 Thankful for the senior missionaries who rarely share the fun times,
 And gently tolerate the complaints of adjusting rookies.

A box for regrets.
 The 199 times I failed in giving the proper response in a tight situation.
 Selfish hours spent in pity parties during bouts of homesickness.
 Letting loneliness get the best of me,
 Instead of drawing me closer to the One who brought me here.
 Not praying when prompted.

Miss Cherie Lake, Stevensville, MI, has just completed a two-year term as a short-term missionary in Japan.

Lastly exists a box of anticipations.
 Waiting for those American longings to be fulfilled . . .
 Peter Pan peanut butter
 A library in *my* language
 Grass
 "The Star Spangled Banner" at a football game.
 Blending in.
 also . . .
 New desires creating new longings for
 Friends left in Japan
 Raw fish, seaweed
 Rice (not Uncle Ben's converted!)
 Crowded trains
 Japanese hymns
 Being different!

Lying on my little mattress strewn on the straw mat floor,
 I hear a baby crying next door
 Breaking the silence of 11:30 p.m.
 The distant train softly clicks off its last runs of the day.
 Japan.
 Much the same as home,
 But, oh, so different.
 Shadows of ancient customs,
 Woven among 20th Century prosperity.

The years fly, but the days often linger.

I pray these boxes depict not
 Great accomplishments and praise-deserving deeds.
 But rather a life yielded to God,
 An open bottle of "Jontue,"
 A fragrance floating up as a sweet savor
 To the God of the Universe.

After all,
 It's just my reasonable service. □



Worshippers at the Buddha in Nara.



Indoor formal tea ceremony.



A typical greeting of humility in a formal fashion.

Cherie accompanying singing at the Christmas service at Ikeda Christian Church.

College-Bound

by Christa Eckert,
Cleveland, OH

"Hi, Mom! So how's teaching going? Things here are fine, and I'm still settling in. My room is real nice, so I don't mind being in the dorm. I was lucky to get in a corner room—BIG! Also, my new roommate, Kim, has everything fixed nicely. I did go shopping the other day to get some new sheets and towels to go with the room. I was running low anyway.

"The weather is really throwing me off. I think it's May or June. So far every day has been sunny (no clouds at all) and either in the 60s or 70s. It's supposed to cool down though.

"As of now, classes aren't too bad, but they will be because I have so many labs. My day ends at four o'clock on Mondays, five o'clock on Tuesdays, three on Wednesday, eight-thirty on Thursday, and ten a.m. on Friday. I love Fridays—no labs!

"I received two bills that need to be paid, but I believe the one is incorrect. I tried to fix it because I know I asked you for a check for around. . . ."

Ah, that first letter from college and the proverbial request for money, but with other vital information as well. If you are sending your youngster off to college this fall, don't expect a letter right away; expect a phone call instead. This letter was actually written the second year our daughter, Lynn, was settling in at college.

If your son is leaving for college, don't expect a letter at all unless he has been writing letters all along. I

resorted to all kinds of devices to make our son write. I enclosed stamped, addressed cards to mail home with a scribble, a note, a signature, anything on it. It was a long wait.

That's the difficult part about youngsters leaving for college—the wait. Unless you have other family members at home to take care of, the wait for a letter or phone call seems endless. You imagine all sorts of things that could have happened to your child, when, in fact, he or she is adjusting quite well to college.

If you have sent your last child off to school, the emptiness can be depressing. All three of our children are in college now. At first, when I had to attend some church function with the children, I felt completely vulnerable because I did not have a couple of kids in tow. I had to see myself not only as a mother and a doctor's wife, but also as me, a person in her own right. Actually, I always had a pretty good self-image; however, letting go of your children is painful. You miss being with them. It hurts, and that is normal, I found out.

The clue to healthy adjustment is given in the first line of Lynn's letter: "So how's teaching going?" Her inquiry was about me. How was I adjusting? How was my teaching position? (Dads seem to adapt readily to kids leaving for college because of the nature of their work.) But how are you doing as a mother? How are you applying all those energies that you previously lavished upon your children? Think of some area that you are really capable of handling. Transfer your skills to other people in the church or your neighborhood. In church, they always need someone who can babysit, who can bake cookies for VBS, who can organize games, who can teach a class, who can sing in the choir, and above all, someone who is dependable and reliable.

Mothers are known for these qualities. Remember those after-school phone calls—"Hey, Mom, pick me up!" or "Where's Mom?" as your children burst in the door, clattering the floor with books, track shoes, and other assorted possessions. You were the one they asked for; you regulated the life of the family, you disciplined, you hugged, you loved, you scolded, you laughed, you cried. These qualities need not be wasted. Other people need you now. (Your husband needs you, too; he didn't go off to college, just off to work.)

Ask the Lord where to serve, where to be involved. Talk to the Lord. Looking through my diary, I found outbursts such as, "Lord, why did you put me on hold?" or "I did not cry today." "So, talk to me." "Can't you give me a clue?" And clues came. The Lord opened doors for me that I never dreamed would be possible. He gave me a verse, too: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). That verse was probably meant for Israel in the Old Testament, but I didn't care; I claimed it as my own. The Lord wanted me to get up, quit feeling sorry for myself, and get to work. And he wants you to do the same thing. □

Did You Know . . .

. . . that this month the school for missionary children opens at Bamenda, West Cameroon? Pray for teachers, children, and parents as this opportunity for schooling "close to home" begins.

Church Extension Project

Works of God's Love Evident at Silverwood in Saskatoon

by Erwin Kelbert

In obedience to the call of the Lord and with a desire to see the mighty works of the Lord's love in the lives of people, the Rev. and Mrs. Erwin Kelbert moved to Silverwood Heights in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in September 1982. "We did not have a single contact, but the Lord had gone before us and provided people of his choice," says Pastor Kelbert.

Soon after we arrived at the scene, Pastor Richard Quiring from Regina recommended a couple, who had moved to Saskatoon, to us. The couple, Ivan and Juanita Coffin, were eager for a new church to begin.

Immediately, we started our first Bible study with the Coffins. There were four of us. Within two months, our Bible study grew to ten people.

Only seven weeks after meeting our first two people, regular Sunday services were started in a nearby Catholic school. Our services grew

The Rev. Erwin Kelbert is pastor of Silverwood Baptist Church, Saskatoon, SK. His wife Lilly and son David (just finished grade ten) serve with him.



The McNab Family share their new found faith in Christ with their neighbors.

from a low of 12 to a high of 52 in attendance. Again, two months after our first worship service, we started our Sunday School with four classes.

One Sunday School teacher was surprised at how much the children remembered at a quarterly review. She said, "It's exciting and sure worth our time and effort!"

Paul Marek, a young father to be, said, "I was raised in church life, but never did I enjoy being involved as much as I do here in Silverwood Baptist Church."

Mr. and Mrs. McNab who made a clear profession of their faith in Jesus Christ enjoy coming to church with their three sons. They shared their new found joy with their neighbors, Doris and Dale, who also have three children. Dale did not want to wait until Sunday; he called and asked to speak to the pastor. After listening to the plan of salvation, he knelt in our living room and received Christ as his personal Savior. He said, "I could no longer stand the emptiness in my life!"

The Rolfe family moved into the community from Montreal. On the first visit to their home, they were cautious saying, "We want to visit other churches as well, before we



Erwin and Lilly Kelbert accepted the challenge to begin a new church in Saskatoon, SK, in September 1982.

make a decision." They never missed a Sunday. "We will join the Silverwood Baptist Church; the Lord is blessing us, and we feel the warm love expressed by the people," they said.

Our neighbor lady accepted the invitation to our service. She responded in rededication to the Lord. Next Sunday, she came with her Catholic husband. The following Sunday, the whole family of four came and continue to come faithfully.

An unemployed father asked for prayer; the wife was short of groceries at the end of the month. Our people responded at once; two days later we delivered over \$250 worth of groceries to them. The children were overjoyed to see all the good food. The father, deeply moved, said, "What am I going to do? How can I say thank you for so much love!"

Lilly, my wife, attends and sometimes leads a neighborhood Bible study with about a dozen Catholic ladies attending. One lady expressed a deep need; her husband was out of work; the last money was gone; she was distressed. Lilly quickly put her last ten dollars in the lady's hand on the way home. A week later, the lady hugged Lilly and with tears in her eyes said, "It was just enough to tie us over to the next unemployment cheque."

These and many more are the works of God's love in the Silverwood Baptist Church. These are possible because you support the Church Extension program of our N.A.B. Conference.

"And let us not be weary in well doing" (Galatians 6:9).



The Rolfe Family joined Silverwood Baptist: "We feel the warm love expressed by the people."



Is It Worth It?

by Harold Lang

"Hello. Rev. Lang?" At first the voice on the other end of the telephone sounded like someone from one of our German churches. It was 2:45 in the afternoon, June 8, 1983, and I had just returned to my office from coffeebreak. The voice on the other end of the phone continued. "This is Sam Ndiwane."

Now I recognized the accent—Cameroonian. "Where are you?" I blurted out in amazement.

"I am calling from Washington. I am here for an international conference. Seven months ago, I was appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Health in the Cameroon. Do you remember me? I was one of your students at Baptist Teacher Training College, Soppo, from 1963-65."

As we talked, my mind raced back. I thought of those first early days on the mission field 20 years ago. Four months after arriving and being posted to Soppo, I became principal of the Baptist Teacher Training College. Sam had been one of 350 students.

Often during those years, I wondered where many of the students would end up. There were good students, bright students, students eager to learn and to put their learning into practice. There



The Rev. Harold Lang has been associate director for missions promotion and personnel, N.A.B. Conference for the past three years.

He and his wife served as N.A.B. missionaries in Cameroon and Nigeria for 17 years prior to this. Beginning September 1, he becomes pastor of Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN.

were dedicated Christian students. Yes, there were many others as well, but what a joy and privilege it was to work with and see potential teachers and leaders for Cameroon begin to develop.

A second memory that popped into my mind as I talked on the phone with Sam concerned a letter that I just received two days before. It came from one of our North American Baptist churches. The writer, chairman of a missions committee, was seeking answers on behalf of his church.

He asked whether we thought it was worthwhile to support short-term missionaries going to teach at the secondary schools in Cameroon. He wrote: "Should we not send people who preach and teach the gospel, that is, 'real missionaries,' rather than teachers of secular subjects?" I wished, with a twinge of regret, that this telephone call had come before replying to the chairman of that missions committee.

Sam, I learned, after graduating from Baptist Teacher Training College, had taught in a Baptist elementary school. Then he studied law in the School of Administration at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon. Subsequently, he served for several years in the Ministry of Labor and had represented the Cameroonian government at the International Labor Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Now he holds the highest position in the Ministry of Health within the Republic of Cameroon.

But more than that, he told me about other things that were happening in Yaounde, the Capital of Cameroon.

June 5, Sam reported, was the ordination day for the pastor of the Cameroon Baptist Convention church there. Pastor Elias Bongba,

who traveled with the Cameroon Choristers in 1981, had gone through the ordination council and now was ordained as pastor. Missionary Ray Hoffman was present and spoke at the occasion. Sam spoke of the pastor's house which was now half-way finished and of the plans the church has had for adding a health center and a school on the church property.

This church of 96 members has a regular attendance of 250 to 300. Within its membership are doctors, journalists, lawyers, members of the national legislature, and individuals in high governmental positions. Almost all of these highly trained, competent, Christians received their start through Baptist schools in Cameroon.

The question keeps coming back. Is it worth it, spending money to send a short-term missionary to a Baptist secondary school in Cameroon teaching secular subjects?

Was it worth it 20 years ago to send a young pastor, his wife, and three small children to teach geography, math and history and be principal of the Baptist Teacher Training College?

I know my answer to that question.

What is yours? □



At the General Council sessions in June, the Rev. Fred Folkerts, missions director, presented the Rev. Harold Lang a gift of a wristwatch in appreciation for his three years of service as associate director for missions promotion and personnel.

Church Growth

DALLAS, OR. Twelve people were welcomed into the membership of Salt Creek Baptist Church, six by baptism and six by transfer of letter. Among these were three families. Three young men, not pictured, were also baptized. The Rev. George W. Breikreuz is senior pastor.

The church held its annual Sunday evening dinner in honor of 31 people who united with the fellowship the previous year.

At the last business meeting, the church decided to refinance its debt. It was decided to ask the membership to lend \$180,000 to the Church at a greatly reduced interest rate. Within two weeks, the entire amount was secured from the members.

We praise God for the encouraging response. (Ruth Saunders, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. Four young people were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church.

The Church was greatly blessed through a week of special meetings with the Rev. Tom Shell. "Many recommitted themselves to live more deliberately and purposefully for the Lord," reports Joerg Wagner, church clerk.

(In the July/August issue, page 26, the baptismal photographs of Lethbridge, AB, and Hebron, ND, were inadvertently exchanged.)

Special Events

ST. PAUL, MN. The Redeemer Baptist Church held an appreciation night honoring Fred L. Paul (pictured) for his many years of faithful service.



He served in the choir all 58 years of his membership, was a deacon and Sunday school teacher for 37 years, and served in about 10 other offices over the years. He continues to be active in many areas.

Representatives of several outside organizations gave testimonials to Fred's faithfulness and Christian witness as he worked with them.

Fred was presented with a book containing tributes by many members and friends.

The Rev. Rubin Herrmann is the pastor of the Church. (Doris L. Patet, reporter.)

KANKAKEE, IL. The Mother-Daughter Banquet of the Women's Missionary Fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church featured Mrs. Barbara Denkla,

"The Hat Lady," of Manhattan, IL, as speaker and singer.

Mrs. Paul Gambrel gave the invocation. Mrs. James Barnett, president of the W.M.F., presided. Mrs. Don Salzman and Miss Susan Salzman gave the Tribute. The benediction was given by Mrs. Robert F. Penner, pastor's wife. (Alice Luhrs, reporter.)

PORTLAND, OR. Mr. Bradley B. Bacon met with an ordination council composed of delegates from Central Pacific Association churches on May 20, 1983. The council met at Immanuel Baptist Church. The Rev. George Breikreuz, pastor of Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas, OR, was moderator.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to recommend to the church to proceed with an ordination service for Mr. Bacon. (Rev. Jim Green, council clerk.)

LODI, CA. The Adult Choir of First Baptist Church presented a beautiful cantata, "Beloved Son."

A week-long evangelistic crusade was held with the Rev. Marvin Effa, Plano, TX, and Jim Bergthold, Westminster, CA, as speaker and singer, respectively.

The Young Musicians (Children's Choir) and Living Praise (Youth Choir) presented the musical, "Be's and Cues."

A musical drama, "Ants' Hillvania," an animation of a village of ants depicting the story of the Prodigal Son, was presented on another Sunday evening.

Following the drama, the congregation attended a reception and pantry shower welcoming the newest member of the Church staff, George Redington and his family. The Rev. Walter Dingfield is senior pastor. (Della Lutz, reporter.)

MC CLUSKY, ND. More than 70 people attended a Valentine Banquet sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of the McClusky Baptist Church. The Rev. Bob Lang of Carrington was guest speaker.

Graduates were honored at a dinner followed by a musical concert by Michelle Mickleson of Martin, a member of the Continental singers.

Holly and Bryan Hochhalter, representing North American Baptist Seminary, gave a concert at the church with a variety of sacred music. The Rev. Oscar Fritzke is pastor. (Marion S. Kirschman, reporter.)

OLDS, AB. The Kids Country Choir of East Olds Baptist Church presented a musical, "Little Big Lunch," based on the feeding of the 5,000.

Many people from the community came to hear an evening of praise to God by various choirs and small instrumental and vocal groups with the East Olds Church. Musical selections were interspersed with readings by the youth

our conference in action

from the Psalms. The Rev. Ritchie White is pastor. (Jeanine White, reporter.)

AVON, SD. Danzig Baptist Church built a new parsonage in Avon for the new pastor, Jason Haas, a 1983 N.A.B. Seminary graduate, and his wife, Kris. They began their ministry at the Church July 1.

The Rev. Henry Lang has served the Church as interim pastor since October 1, 1982.

The W.M.F. sponsored a mother-daughter salad supper recently. The Men's Brotherhood celebrated its 25th anniversary. (Mary Brandt, clerk.)

SPRINGSIDE, SK. Prof. W. Mueller, professor at N.A.B. College, led challenging seminars on Baptist Beliefs, Responsibilities of Deacons and Deaconesses, Setting Goals for a Church, and the work of the Sunday school teachers at Springside Baptist Church.

The Pioneer Girls presented an excellent musical, "Kids Praise," under the direction of Brenda Arndt. The girls also received their badges.

The Boys' Brigade participated in a Sunday evening service. Badges and Boys' Brigade T-shirts were presented to the boys. (Grace Goltz, reporter.)

RAYMORE, SK. Raymore Baptist W.M.F. held its annual program with the theme, "My Heart—the Control Center," featuring readings and special music. Dr. Laura Reddig showed slides of her work as missionary in Cameroon.

"Deeper Life" meetings were held with the Rev. Sig Schuster, area minister, as guest speaker. Members from both the Nokomis and Southey churches attended. The Rev. Donald Harder is pastor. (Elizabeth Orthner, reporter.)

FESSENDEN, ND. First Baptist Church has been blessed the last weeks. A young couple dedicated their baby son to the Lord. The "New Day" singers were at the church for three days.

The Men's Brotherhood featured the "Sons of Liberty" quartet at its family night program. A Mother and Daughter Banquet was held at a local cafe. Ruth Faul was the speaker. The Rev. Daniel Berger is pastor. (Regina Pepple, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. An ordination council comprised of delegates from 12 Alberta Association Churches met to examine Ken Bayer for the Christian ministry on April 28, 1983, at McKernan Baptist Church.

Pastor Hoffman was elected by the Council to serve as chairman. The Council, having heard Mr. Bayer's statement, and having discussed it, approved recommending him for ordination.

our conference in action

The ordination service was held at McKernan Baptist Church the following Sunday evening. (Pastor Brad Westover, clerk.)

VANCOUVER, BC. Bethany Baptist Church was happy to have member, Mark Wollenberg, accept the call to be part of Bethany's pastoral staff for a six-month period beginning June 1. Mark recently received his Bachelor of Arts degree from N.A.B. College and Diploma of Christian Studies and Master of Divinity from Regent College.

Mark was among the 14 college and career graduates and 10 high school graduates honored June 7 at the annual graduation banquet hosted by the Bethany Dorcas Circle ladies. The theme was "New Beginnings." (Elsie Baum, reporter.)

Wedding Anniversaries



Mr. and Mrs. John Asbach were honored on their 60th wedding anniversary at the Austin Street Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY, where they have been faithful members since 1952. The reception and program were given by the children and grandchildren. (Mrs. Kathy Asbach, reporter.)



Alex and Sara Falkowsky celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on March 9. A reception was held for them by Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC. (Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.)

(In the July/August issue of the Baptist Herald, p. 26, the photographs of the Schmidts and the Renkes were inadvertently swapped.)



Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Hoffman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception given by the Ebenezer Baptist Church, SK, and received a plaque from the Church. Their daughter, Grace and husband, Lorne Fandrey, and four granddaughters were present. (Mrs. Martha Dreger, reporter.)



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kruse were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary on May 29 at a reception hosted by their children Patricia Socolofsky and Dwight Kruse at Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS. Throughout the 50 years both have been active in the Church.



Ewald and Mary Eisner of Swan River, MB, were the honored guests on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on April 23. A lovely celebration and program was hosted by their children, Gary and Colleen, and catered by the W.M.F. at Temple Baptist Church. (Lynn Patzer, reporter.)

Church Dedications and Anniversaries

NORTH FREEDOM, WI. The North Freedom Baptist Church celebrated its 125th Anniversary on May 15. Since its beginning in 1858, there have been 26 pastors. The Rev. Arnie Kirschner is the present pastor.

Four members are over 90 years old: Mrs. Mary Templin (100); Mrs. Agnes Gaetzke (91); Mrs. Sara Holtz (91); and Mrs. Lillian Wilzewske (90).

During the 125 years, 740 people have joined the church. Currently the membership is 111.

The anniversary hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," was sung at the morning service of praise and worship. The theme of the day was "Serving the Lord, Yesterday-Today-Forever."

In the afternoon, a service included looking back, remembering, and testimonies. A time of fellowship followed. The closing service centered on looking forward, praise, and rededication.

Pastor Arnie was the leader for the day. The guest speaker was the Rev. Willis Potratz, area ministries director. Former pastor, the Rev. Norman Miller, participated in the services.

Walter Wilzewske read letters from other churches, former pastors and members, and from Governor Anthony Earl.

During the afternoon services, hymn singing was accompanied by eight church members on several different band instruments.

"It was a joyful day as we praised the Lord, reminisced, and fellowshiped together," says Louise Faivre, reporter.

Camps and Retreats

HOPE, KS. The B.Y.F. of First Baptist Church of Dickinson County hosted a youth retreat, June 4 and 5, at Kohman's Lake. "How to Survive in a Pressure-Cooker World," with particular emphasis on how to relate the Bible to daily life was the theme. Six churches were represented by 40 youth and sponsors.

Saturday was a perfect day for swimming, other sports, and a campfire meeting. Speaker was George Fizer, youth evangelist. On Sunday the young people gathered at the church, and the entire congregation had the privilege of hearing a very challenging message by the speaker. (Virila Piper, reporter.)

In Memoriam

JACOB KNOLL (88) of Ashley, ND, born Aug. 31, 1984, to Peter and Christina Knoll, died June 5, 1983. He received Christ as Savior as a young man and was a member of Ventura Baptist Church and later of Ashley Baptist Church. He married Emma Haas on Mar. 23, 1920. Survivors include his wife, Emma; three sons: George of Ashley, ND; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild; two brothers, and two sisters. Pastor Allan Gerber officiated at the funeral service.

RUDOLF G. KITTLITZ (77) born Jan. 6, 1906 in Hamburg, Germany, died May 6, 1983. He came to the United States and settled in Waco, TX. He married Lena Landgraf, June 28, 1934. Rudy was an active member of Central Baptist Church, as deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher. Survivors include his wife Lena; two sons: Rudolf G. Kittlitz, Jr., Seaford, DE, and Thomas G. Kittlitz, San Antonio, TX; two daughters: Mrs. Royce (Nancy) Stone, Waco, TX, and Linda G. Kittlitz, San Francisco, CA; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The Reverends Richard Lord, Jerry Walters, and Leonard Hinz officiated at the funeral service.

ELIZABETH SCHRAMM (88) of Lodi, CA, born in Rumania, Jan. 8, 1894, died Oct. 20, 1982. At the age of five, she immigrated to Kief, ND. She trusted Christ as Savior in her youth. In 1920 she married Adolf Schramm. They lived in Cathay, ND, until 1948 when they moved to Lodi, and joined First Baptist Church. She was a member of the Women's Missionary Fellowship. Survivors include three daughters: Regina Pepple, Cathay, ND, Stella Bennett, Shelton, WA, Vella Burzloff, Lodi, CA; two sons: Rudolph Schramm, Langdon, ND, and Melvin Schramm, Cathay, ND; two sisters: Sophia Adam and Anna Fandrich; 20 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 1960, a daughter, three brothers and five sisters. The Rev. Walter Dingfield officiated at the funeral service.

TABATHA SMULAND (nee Breehn), born Feb. 23, 1909, in Springside, SK, to Fred and Caroline Breehn, died May 6, 1983. As a teenager she accepted the Lord as her personal Savior and was baptized. On Dec. 26, 1933, she married Samuel Smuland. They moved to Flin Flon, MB, in 1942 and joined First Baptist Church, where she was Sunday school teacher and president of the Ladies' Missionary Society. In 1973 they moved to Westbank, BC, and joined Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, where she became actively involved. Survivors include her husband Samuel, Westbank, BC; son Alvin and wife Sylvia, Kenora, ON; daughter Shirley and husband Herb Hemerling of Kelowna, BC; four grandchildren; four sisters: Mrs. Emma Weidman, Mrs. Wanda Winkler, Mrs. Lena Nehring, Mrs. Evelyn Cornish, and two brothers: Willie Breehn and Tony Breehn. A daughter Joan predeceased her mother in infancy in 1938. The Rev. Richard Hohensee officiated at the funeral service.

What's Happening

Rev. Richard Paetzel, academic vice president of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN, during its 1983 commencement exercises.

The Rev. Daniel Heringer became the pastor of Treschwig Baptist Church, Spring, TX, on July 1, 1983. He had been the "New Day" director since 1980.

The Rev. Ben Hulsing has been named Director of Ministry Recruitment and Public Relations at the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, effective July 15, 1983. Hulsing has served as pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Sheboygan, WI, and most recently at First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA.

Mr. Paul Keller, A 1983 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, accepted a staff position at Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, MT, in June.

Rev. Arthur Schlak accepted the pastorate of Bethel Baptist Church, Prince George, BC. He had been serving as the interim pastor.

The Rev. Gary Vossler accepted the pastorate of Crow Canyon Baptist Church, Danville, CA, (formerly San Ramon, CA), effective July 1, 1983. He was associate pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, since 1976.

The Rev. Werner Dietrich became the associate pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, on Aug. 1, 1983.

The Rev. Lanny Johnson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA, since 1979, resigned to assume a position at a counseling center in the St. Paul, MN, area, effective Aug. 1, 1983.

Mr. Joey Link became the youth pastor at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, on June 1, 1983.

Summit Drive Baptist Church, Kamloops, BC, with the Rev. Werner Lemke, pastor, and **Bethel Baptist Mission Church**, Surrey, BC, with the Rev. Traugott Vogel, pastor, were accepted into the British Columbia Association at its annual meeting, May 19-22, 1983.

Mr. Jeff Patet was ordained into the ministry at Aplington Baptist Church, Iowa, on May 29, 1983. He is the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Loyal, OK.

Dr. Norman Haupt, Sioux Falls, SD, has been appointed to the N.A.B. Seminary faculty as Associate Professor of Christian Education effective July 1, 1983. Haupt served as an N.A.B. missionary in teaching and education administration in Cameroon, West Africa. Haupt became an instructor at Kent State University and Michigan State University. In 1974, he was appointed as Vice President for General Administration and Planning, Sioux Falls College, SD.

Mr. Jack Mitchell was ordained into the ministry at Stafford Baptist Church, Wilsonville, OR, on June 17, 1983. He has accepted a call to a Bible church in Schreveport, LA.

Mr. Robert Carroll was ordained into the ministry at Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Richmond, BC, on July 10, 1983. He recently became youth pastor at McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, after having served in that capacity at Rose of Sharon Baptist Church.

Dr. Roy E. De Brand has been appointed Professor of Homiletics at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, effective Aug. 1, 1983. Dr. De Brand received his Doctor of Theology degree with concentration on Preaching, from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has 15 years of preaching experience.

The Rev. Ken Priebe, newly appointed evangelism secretary for the Cameroon Baptist Convention and the **Rev. Samson Khama**, executive secretary for the C.B.C., attended the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists held in Amsterdam, Holland, July 12-21, 1983. Priebe, an N.A.B. missionary was enroute to Cameroon following furlough.

The Rev. Fred Holzimmer, (64) N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon and Nigeria from 1951-82, died of cancer July 18, 1983, in Kalamazoo, MI. He had been on medical leave for over a year. He was area coordinator for many of the fields in the Cameroon Baptist Convention and had served as evangelism secretary and most recently as treasurer for the Convention and Mission. His wife Dorothy and daughters Joy (Mrs. Mike Smith) and Barbara reside in Kalamazoo, MI. Another daughter Miriam (Mrs. Scott Brindley) lives in Lorraine, OH.

Thousands Killed by Floods in Santa Catarina, Brazil

by Ralph Nelson

People in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil, are facing the worst flooding in more than 100 years. Thousands of tons of water have literally covered whole cities in the north, center, and west of our state. Thousands of people are without homes, water, and food. Our Brazilian Baptist Convention through the State Board has had to cancel several programs. All of our churches in the flooded areas have been affected. The Florianopolis area, where we live, is one of the few areas in our State not much affected by the floods due to the fact that the ocean takes off the excess water.

Santa Catarina was the hardest hit by floods in all of Brazil: 700,000 people without water; 200,000 without homes; 135 municipalities flooded; hundreds of babies and children crying looking for their parents. Several of the members of the Estreito church, where we are members, are in the army and were summoned to go to Itaja. There are 35,000 people in Itajai without homes. One of our members, serving as a soldier, said that the prediction is that there are more than 5,000 dead, and many more cannot be found.

We Baptists took mattresses to those who had lost mattresses in the floods. They asked one family if they needed a mattress to replace the one they had lost. The family looked embarrassed, and said, "To tell you the

truth, we have never had a mattress." A sad story in poverty areas.

Many people have been bitten by frightened dogs and snakes, which have come out of the flooded ground and attacked people. In certain areas, the water is becoming polluted, and people cannot drink it, so the planes and helicopters are flying in water and food.

Baptist Participation in Santa Catarina

We praise the Lord for what Baptists have been able to do in this state by providing blankets and used clothing. We have Red Cross emergency centers in all of our churches in Florianopolis. People bring clothes and prepare food for people in need. The Southern Baptists provided 1,000 families with one blanket a piece and food for a couple of weeks. In each blanket, they included a Gospel of John and tracts presenting the Gospel.

Our Estreito church sent clothing with Southern Baptist missionaries to several flooded areas to help Christians and as a witness to the unsaved. God is giving us untold opportunities for witness as many people are now open to hear more about God.

Please pray for the people of Santa Catarina. God is giving our churches many, many opportunities to witness and help in this situation.

(Contributions may be sent to the North American Baptist Conference International Office for flood relief in Brazil.) □

Ralph Nelson is an N.A.B. missionary living in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Reader Survey - September 1983

What would you like to know about our N.A.B. missions?

If you are a layperson, what do you appreciate most about your pastor?

Please send your response to Baptist Herald, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

BAPTIST WORLD AID



Thousands Starving in Ethiopia

Living on the Brink of Starvation. Do I have any idea of what that means? With my menagerie of breakfast cereals in my cupboard? Complaining when dinner comes late to the table, and distraught when for some reason I might have to actually miss a meal? Upset when the butcher does not have the cut of meat I want, or the variety of cheese?

Living on the Brink of Starvation. In Ethiopia, tens of thousands know only too well what it means. For that is where they are at . . . right now.

Hail, high winds, blight, worms, all these compound suffering in this draught-stricken country. The estimated number of people seriously affected is 3-5 million. The mortality rate is increasing, especially among young children and the elderly. There is an urgent need for food, medical supplies, tents, blankets and clothing. Your gifts will enable BWAid to purchase the needed items.

Contributions are being received designated for the hungry in Ethiopia at North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Letters To Editor

Dear Editor:

I really appreciated the article by Dr. Stanley Grenz in the April issue about spiritual awakenings. Many Christians in Japan have covenanted together to pray for a revival. I would really appreciate it if the Christians in our N.A.B. churches would join us in that prayer.

Great revivals have been happening in Asia in the last few years. One of the most sustained revivals and period of fantastic church growth has been in Korea for the last ten years. I, myself, had the opportunity to visit Korea, and what I saw amazed me. People line up at church doors waiting to get in. Churches hold three, four, or five, even seven back-to-back services because they cannot accommodate all the people. There were all-night prayer meetings, and the early morning prayer meetings at 5:30 a.m. One of the church leaders in Korea told me there were three reasons for church growth in Korea: early morning prayer meetings, all-night prayer vigils, and fasting and prayer.

Recently, I heard a lady, Mama Kwang, from Communist China speak. She reported of vast revivals in Southern China during the early 1960s and 70s, even under strong communist persecution. Whole villages were reported to have accepted Christ. When the communists took over in 1949, there were reported to be about one million Christians. Today that figure is estimated to be over five million, with some even saying as high as ten million. Yes, revivals do happen today.

Let us repent and pray for one as Dr. Grenz challenged us to do.
Rev. Reimer Clausen,
N.A.B. missionary to Japan

Dear Editor:

This March issue of the Herald was outstanding! I enjoyed all the pictures of the African work, the interview with the Nelsons, and felt the idea of Celesta Cooke about praying for missionaries was great! God bless her for sharing this.

Keep up the good work!
Ardath Effa
Edmonton, AB

Dear Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the staff for a very effective and challenging publication, the Baptist Herald. I have been a reader of this publication for many years and have appreciated the overall picture one receives of our work under the North American Baptist Conference. I pray the Lord will bless you greatly as you serve in this vital area.

Dorothy G. Fritzsche
Kelowna, BC



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 125th ANNIVERSARY PRAISE CELEBRATION!

on Sunday, October 16, 1983
The Minnetrista Baptist Church
of
St. Bonifacius, Minnesota

Services

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Rev. Delvin Bertsch, former pastor,
will bring the sermon - 10:35 a.m.
125th Anniversary Praise Celebration Rev. Charles Littman, area minister
will bring the Anniversary challenge - 3:00 p.m.
Our Birthday Lunch 4:30 p.m.



Announcing Daniel Grueneich's Musical Ministries

Dan Grueneich, a North American Baptist, is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Reuben Grueneich of Rock Rapids, Iowa. He has traveled extensively; within the last four years, he has been engaged in full-time Gospel singing at home and abroad. He has traveled across Canada, and several years ago, he traveled to Africa. Dan has recorded an album entitled, *Singing the Shepherd's Songs*, and is currently working on a new release for February 1984.

Dan is available for concerts, youth rallies, banquets, and revival crusades.

For added attraction during his concerts, Dan presents a Biblical story with his gospel puppets for the children.

To schedule Dan in your church, call or write his Scheduling Coordinator, the Rev. Greg Odell, Box 68, Plevna, Montana 59344 (406-772-5635).

To receive a copy of Dan's record, also contact Rev. Odell and enclose \$8.00 postage paid.

Yes, I am interested in Dan, please send me more information.

___ Enclosed is \$8.00 for album, *Singing the Shepherd's Song*.

___ Send more information. Please call me soon about scheduling Dan in our church for fall 1983.

Name

Street Address

City State/Province Code

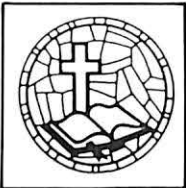
Phone Number

Mail to: Rev. Greg Odell
Box 74, Plevna, Montana 59344

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North American Baptist Missions Overseas

	BRAZIL	CAMEROON	JAPAN	NIGERIA
Population	2,000,000	8,600,000	117,000,000	90,000,000
Convention	Brazilian Baptist	Cameroon Baptist	Japan Baptist	Mambilla Baptist
Churches	81	471	7	129
Church Members	5,700	31,121	276	9,111
Year N.A.B. Work Began	1966	1936	1951	1936
Career Missionaries				
North American Baptist	8	38	10	12
On loan from Baptist General Conference		6		
On loan from Sudan Interior Missions		1		
Short-term Missionaries	0	6	7	0

BRAZIL
Church-Related
Evangelistic Campaigns
Church Extension
Pastoral Support
Youth Camping
Rio Grande do Sul
Seminary

CAMEROON
Church-Related
Area Advisors
Cameroon Baptist
Theological College
Theological Education
by Extension
Youth Ministries Film-
strip/Cassette
Ministries
Radio Broadcast
Gospel Teams

Education
Secondary School

Medical
Hospitals and Health
Centre
Primary Health Care

JAPAN
Church-Related
Evangelism Pastoral
Support
Student Ministries
English Bible Classes
Youth Camping

Education
English
Language
Institute
Conversational English

NIGERIA
Church-Related
Area Advisors
Mambilla Baptist
Theological School
Theological Education
by Extension
Youth Ministries

Education
Hillcrest School Teachers
Houseparents

Medical
Primary Health Care

Your Missionaries
Depend on YOU!

