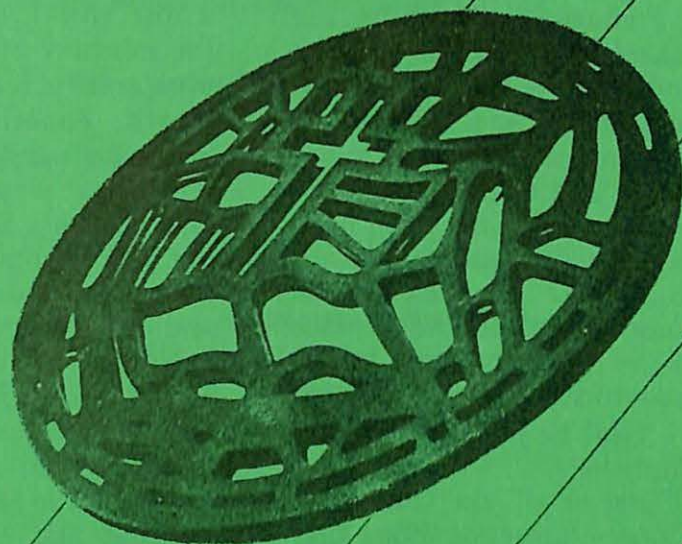


Baptist Herald

June 1984



WAB
CONFERENCE

1983 Annual Report

The Place and Purpose of the General Council

by Gene A. Kern

Frequently questions are raised regarding the validity and Biblical basis of church committees and councils. It certainly is good for us to appraise and evaluate our procedures and methods of ministries. Consequently, I want to discuss the place of the General Council and its place in the total scheme of ministry which has been instructed by God to North American Baptists.

First of all, the Council is representative of our total ministering constituency. Leaders selected by our Associations as well as individuals elected every three years by the North American Baptist Conference to serve in varying capacities function in very significant ways. These individuals first and foremost love the Lord and desire to see his work done in an orderly and God-honoring manner.

Each year the General Council meets to review, evaluate, set goals and policies, and encourage the corporate efforts of our N.A.B. churches to effectively take the message of the Gospel to

The Rev. Gene Kern is senior pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, and moderator of the North American Baptist Conference, 1982-85.

a lost world. This includes the ministry of training our prospective leaders at the North American Baptist Seminary and the North American Baptist College and Divinity School, planting new churches, as well as the total ministry of missions and outreach evangelism.

Now, I'm certain some would ask, "Do we need a conference or even a denomination to do that?" Good question. We need to be honest and ask ourselves this question in all seriousness. In this "do-it-yourself" age, maybe we could function better as churches in a totally independent manner. Many Bible-believing churches are operating this way. I'm not sure they are functioning more effectively. I've honestly wrestled with this question and have come to a personal conclusion based upon that which the Word states.

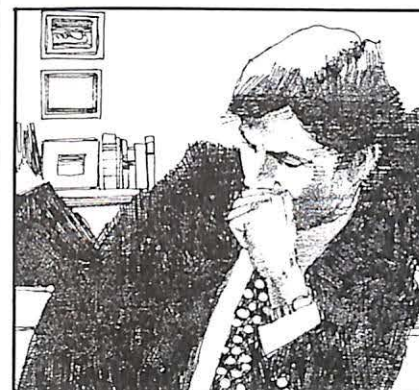
In the book of Acts as the events of the early church are recorded, we find God building his church through the directing power of the Holy Spirit. As people were daily being added to the church, we find the Apostles meeting in committee — council-like fashion — for the purpose of dealing with a concern. The outcome of that joint effort of pooled thinking was the appointment of deacons.

A second example of cooperation is found in Acts 15, the Council at Jerusalem. Read the chapter for yourself and review the matters of concern dealt with by the Council.

As I read my Bible, I find that in the early Christian churches there was an appreciable amount of individuality and uniqueness. There was also a great deal of cooperation, accountability, care, and love extended among the brethren. The Macedonian Christians spoken of by Paul in II Corinthians 9 would be a case in point.

As your General Council meets this month, June 7-8, it is our purpose to give encouraging support and directives to all areas of ministry and, at the same time, seek the mind of God, so that we might understand the challenge and joy of ministry in that he would have us share. There are a lot of things we do better alone, but I hasten to say there are many things that God would have me do together with you.

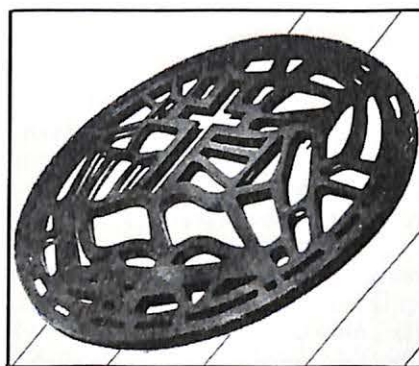
Will you join me in a spirit of loving oneness for the glory of God? Pray for the Council, so that above all else we will keep our eyes at all times on Jesus, our Savior and Lord. □



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A Biblical Case Study on Capital Funds Giving

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

by Roy W. Seibel

The news from Judea was ominous. The latest reports filtering out of the stricken country confirmed the seriousness of the situation. The information we have today is sketchy, but it appears as if the entire region of Judea was suffering from a crippling drought, which threatened the life of man and beast. It was a national disaster of overwhelming magnitude. The Christians were caught up in this tragedy and were unable to escape from its clutches. Fellow believers in distant regions felt a deep concern for their Judean brethren.

However, when confronted with a cataclysmic situation like this, we ask ourselves the question, "What can one person do?" We are so removed from the situation, and we are only one person or one congregation. With our limited resources, what in the world can we do to help the "brethren in Judea"? Oh, we can pray for them, and our hearts go out to them in sympathy, but they are still starving! So the question remains: How do we respond to such overwhelming needs?

There seems to be a parallel between the Judean situation reported in II Corinthians 8 and 9 and that of the mission confronting us in the Capital Funds Campaign. When we consider the mission needs in Nigeria, Cameroon, Brazil, and Japan, the opportunities far exceed our present resources. In addition, when we take into account all of the mission potential in Canada and the United

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States, the situation becomes overwhelming in its scope.

There is no feasible way for us to maintain our present expenditures at home and abroad and expand all of the North American Baptist mission fronts. There is no way to stretch the budget that far.

They Had a Plan



Here is where the first century Christians can provide a model for us. How the early church proceeded in meeting the Judean crisis provides principles and strategies to help us meet our mission challenge. Paul outlines in II Corinthians 8 and 9 a plan of procedure enabling all of the churches to work together in meeting the needs of the Judean Christians.

They Planned Advance Visits. First of all, they scheduled advance visits on the part of representatives who could present the need. Paul personally commissioned Titus and other brethren to visit the churches at Corinth to present the needs of the Judean churches (II Corinthians 9:3, 5.) They were instructed to "finish the arrangements for the generous gift" the church had promised, so that at the appointed time, an appropriate gift would be ready.

They Planned Their Giving. The churches gave some indication of the amount they intended to send which is somewhat similar to what we today call a covenant or pledge. Paul reminds them of this promise in II Corinthians 9:5.

They Planned to Give Over a Period of Time. It is interesting to note that the churches planned to contribute gifts over a period of time. In II Corinthians 8:6, Paul reminds the churches that they had begun the gathering of these gifts at an earlier date, and the time had now come for them to complete the gathering of the offerings. Paul urges the Corinthians, "Now finish the work so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means." (This far

exceeds the method frequently practiced today of passing the offering plate and giving whatever comes in.) They planned to give over a period of time, so they would have enough resources to meet the needs.

Our approach to the Capital Funds Campaign is very similar in that we are extending the Capital Funds challenge over a period of three years, because it is not possible for us to meet all the mission demands in a single year.

Like the early church, we have advanced planning, advance visits, and some type of covenant or pledge indicating the amount we are willing to contribute over a period of time. This strategy enables us to give a more appropriate amount commensurate to the challenge confronting us in the Capital Funds Campaign.

They Knew Why They Gave



Although the strategy for giving was important to the early church, what was of greater importance to them was the reason *why they were giving*. Right from the beginning, Paul and his companions stressed the basis and starting point for their giving. They addressed themselves to the question, "Why should we give so sacrificially to the Christians at Judea? We have needs of our own."

This, too, must be the starting point for us. We must ask ourselves, "Why should we be so burdened about the needs in Cameroon? Why should we feel so concerned over the fact that our missionaries in Brazil could be more effective in outreach if they had more resources? Why should we be concerned that our Japanese brethren do not have the resources to plant more churches?"

The beginning point is not really the need in Judea, Cameroon, or Japan. The beginning point is not even our capacity to give. Rather, it all begins with *God's Love*. God loved this world so much that *he gave his own Son*. In spite of what we have done in our rebellion, sin and indifference, God still loves us in Jesus Christ. God loved us at the cross, and

he still loves us today. God lays the burden of his love on our hearts and gives us the capacity to respond because of this love.

This helps to put the Capital Funds Campaign in perspective. It is not a matter of goals, schedules, publicity, and covenants. It is a matter of carrying out the mission of God on all of the fronts where he has entrusted us with responsibility. All of our programming is merely a tool to be used in carrying out our ministry. The matter of greatest concern is that God loves and has instructed us to take this message to the world, which has never experienced his love.

Because of this love, God gives us extra seed so we can invest it back into God's work. "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. . . . Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness" (II Corinthians 9:8, 10).

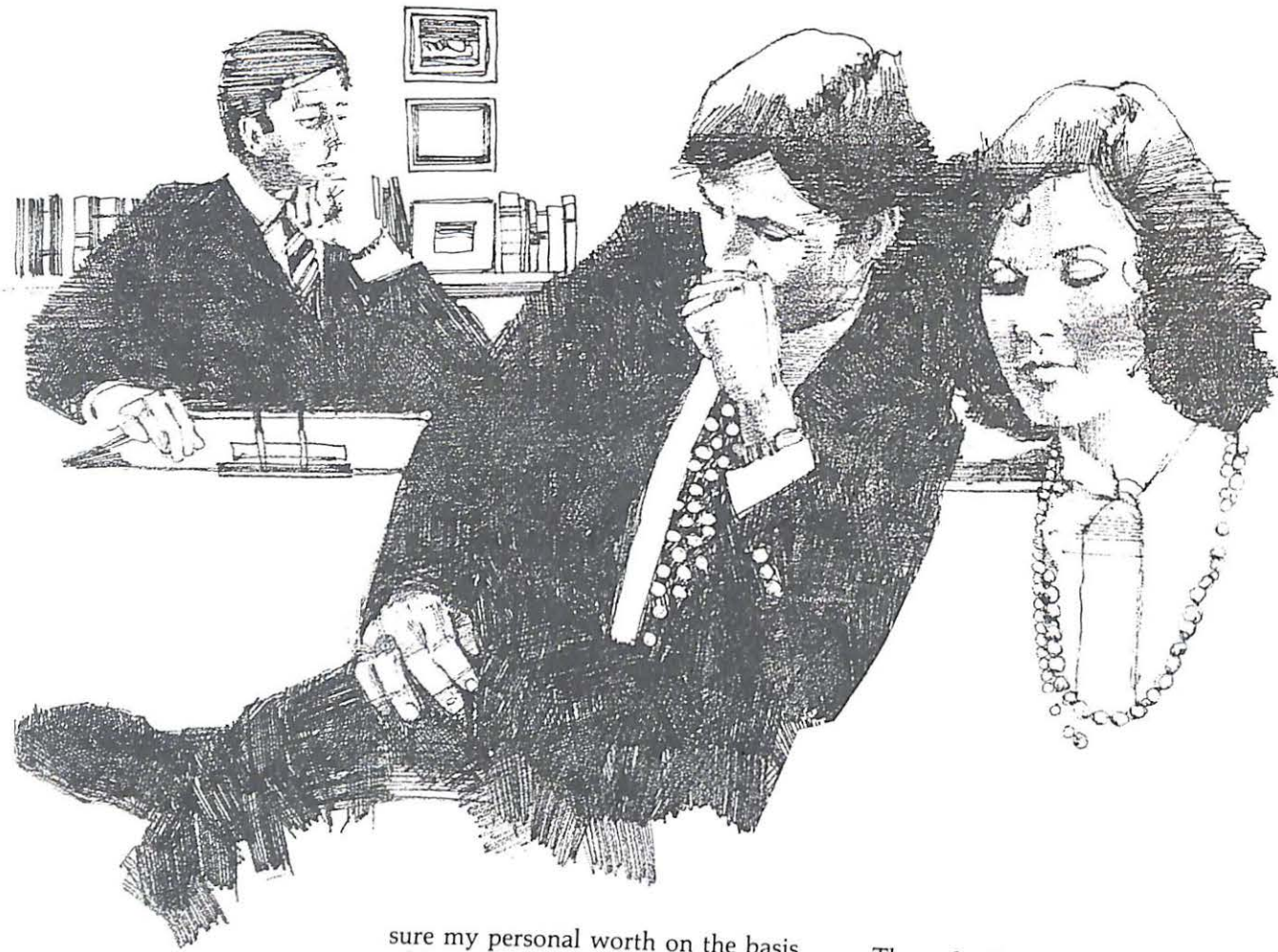
They Expected



It is not important that we merely reach a goal or erect a new church building. God desires that men's and women's lives be influenced in such a way that they will give thanksgiving to him. People will respond to the gospel and understand God for the first time *because we gave*.

Paul sums up the entire matter by sketching a picture of the multitudes of people whose lives have been changed because we shared out of our abundance. He sees them joined in singing the great hallelujah chorus of praise to God. Then he observes the choir grow silent, turn toward the throne of God, and begin to intercede in our behalf. The circle of prayer and concern is now made complete. The impact of a redemptive God reaching out in love through us in enlarging circles of blessings is so overwhelming that Paul exclaims with joy, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (II Corinthians 9:15.) □

A Pastor's Journey from Despair to Effective Service by Oliver Bender



*"Who am I?
... Am I only what I myself
know of myself? Restless and
longing and sick, like a bird in a
cage... weary and empty at
praying, at thinking, at making.
Faint, and ready to say farewell
to it all?"¹*

For reasons both known and unknown to me, I grew through childhood and youth and became an adult with a paralyzing lack of self-esteem. As a result, I began to mea-

sure my personal worth on the basis of "successful performance." In short, "I am worthwhile because of my successes and accomplishments."² This led to despair and chronic depression with which I have been afflicted for several years.

After seminary graduation and upon entering the pastorate, preaching for me was not sharing God's love for mankind. It also was not sharing the whole counsel of God with God's people. It became for me a burdensome "performance" through which I longed to win people's approval of myself! Deep insecurity obviously follows a lack of self-esteem and a poor self-image. My leadership in the congregation was based upon controlling people and making them "fit the mold," which insecurity demands and feeds upon. The need "to control" leads to threatening encounters and further conflict. It breeds frustration, defensiveness and, becomes self-defeating.

Through all this, I began to doubt and seriously question God's call to me for full-time Christian service. The lack of self-esteem and the insecurity became paralyzing, consuming all my strength, creativity, and motivation for service. This, in turn, led to unending self-condemnation and guilt. Was God's call something I imagined to find relief from guilt? Was it a desire to live up to someone's (e.g. my father's) expectation of me thereby gaining approval and self-worth?

During my ministry in three churches, my self-worth, or rather the lack of it, became almost totally dependent upon what "I did" rather than what "I was." The sole criteria for measuring self-worth became others' approval of my performance rather than the inward assurance of "being" what God made me. All this, the struggles and the "wrenching of the soul" took place in spite of personal Bible study, prayer, and attend-

ing leadership and Bible conferences and in spite of the faithful support and encouragement from members and friends of the churches in which I served.

"Who am I? They tell me I bore the days of misfortune... smilingly, proudly like one accustomed to win. Am I then really all that which other men tell of?"

I am and will be eternally grateful to the members and friends of the West Center Street Baptist Church (and also other churches where I served) for their faithful support during my struggles in the valley of defeat and despair. In spite of the conflict raging within myself, these dear people looked beyond my weaknesses and saw in me abilities and divinely given gifts useful in the ministry and in shepherding people. When the need for professional counseling for me became apparent, the congregation not only encouraged me to seek such help but also committed themselves to pay the total cost of that counseling for as long as necessary. What love and commitment.

After two years of good professional help, there still was no sign of any permanent resolution of the problem. I, therefore, resigned from the pastorate at West Center effective March 1978 for the welfare of the church as well as myself and my family. At the same time, the Baptist Nursing Home in Madison, South Dakota, and its Board of Directors were searching for a Chaplain for the Home. The Board gave me the opportunity to serve in that capacity at the Home on a part-time basis, which eventually became a full-time position.

Why be a chaplain in a Nursing Home where, as some think, discouragement, and depression may be even more prevalent? Discouragement, tension, and pressure were present in the work at the Home, but the pace of my work was slower and more deliberate allowing time for me to sort out my own thoughts without a multi-

tude of responsibilities demanding my immediate attention as in the pastorate of a lively and growing church. In those four years (1978-1982) as Chaplain at the Home in Madison, I learned far more from the residents about human nature and Christian living than I taught the staff and residents.

It was during this period of my ministry that I had my initial encounter with Clinical Pastoral Education at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. CPE proved to be an invaluable means for me "to open up" and share with a supportive group the painful inner feelings without being rejected by the group. The group helped me to take a good look at "the negative baggage" and unrealistic expectations I had placed upon myself. Even more important than that, I began "to feel" the needs and hurts of peers and patients and "to accept" their feelings and love toward me. In other words, it enabled me "to get off the shelf" and get involved with people close to and around me.

In the meantime, at West Center Street Baptist Church, Pastor and Mrs. Doug Bittle were in the helm of leadership, and the church was progressing and growing. Then Pastor Doug resigned effective September 30, 1981. The Church leaders and officers came to Ramona, my wife, and me and requested that I serve as interim pastor. Hesitantly, I agreed to serve in that capacity with both appreciation to the church for asking as well as considerable trembling.

For four months, the Pulpit Committee of the Church worked diligently in travelling to observe other pastors as possible candidates, interviewing candidates and having candidates come to the church. Slowly and mutually in both the church and ourselves, God gave guidance and brought an awareness that the Benders and West Center should be reunited as pastor and people. How wonderful it is to know that God guides his children along life's way.

"The LORD says... I am the LORD your God who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way that you should go" (Isaiah 48:17).

What a thrill for my family and the church when it became evident that the Lord was leading us back together again as flock and shepherd! During the past two years, we have been assured repeatedly of God's specific leading in bringing us together again.

"Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine!"

Through a faithful wife and family who patiently stood by me and because of a caring and supportive church, something good has happened to me and is continuing to happen in my life. The chronic depression and the negativism is gradually giving way to an inner confidence "... flowing like an underground stream..."³ affirming God's promise to me, "Yes, I'm with you and for you; you are precious to me—you are beautiful." The Apostle Paul wrote from a prison in Rome,

"I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13).

There is strength for anything through the One who gives us inner power. Through the faithfulness and caring of my family and the local church, I have experienced release from fear and an inner affirming power which assures me "... that I am precious and beloved just as I am..." without proving something to somebody. An experience of amazing grace! □



The Rev. Oliver Bender is pastor of West Center Street Baptist Church, Madison, SD.

¹Bonhoeffer, Dietrich: *Letters and Papers from Prison*, (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1962), pp. 221-222.

²Nouwen, Henry J.: *Out of Solitude*, (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1974), p. 19.

³Raines, Robert A.: *To Kiss the Joy* (Word Inc., Waco, Texas, 1973), p. 63.

Clay Pots for His Glory



by Ruby Forsberg

"Go down to the shop where clay pots and jars are made and I will talk to you there," God said to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 18:2). God had some important lessons to teach Israel, and he would use the potter and his work as a visual teaching aid.

As Jeremiah observed the potter at work, what did he see? What did he learn? And what can we learn?

First, he saw the potter take a lump of clay and add the correct amount of moisture so it would be pliable in his hands. The potter then kneaded and pounded the clay to rid it of all air bubbles. In the next step, he very carefully placed the clay in the center of the revolving wheel. Centrifugal force caused the spinning clay to fly outwardly as the potter constantly controlled, shaped and molded it.

After the vessels were shaped, they were fired in a special oven, which made them strong and durable. Without this process, the vessels would be

fragile, soon break, and be useless.

Jeremiah saw many finished vessels on shelves lining the shop. There were bowls, jars, pots, basins, cups, vases, bottles, dishes, and many more of diverse shapes and sizes.

He knew the potter loved his work and that his greatest desire was to create finished vessels, which would fulfill the purpose for which they were created.

In talking to Jeremiah, we do not know whether the Lord spoke to him about the symbolism of the various aspects of the potter's work, but we can believe that he gave Jeremiah understanding in what he saw.

As Jeremiah watched the potter place the lump of clay carefully in the center of his wheel, perhaps he understood that the wheel could be likened to a person's life.

Before anyone can be molded by the Master Potter, he must first place Jesus Christ at the center of his life. He must be the hub of our lives. He must be Master and Lord, the central point around which our lives revolve.

It is the Holy Spirit's presence within the life that makes the molding process possible. The molding is inward—not outward.

God wants to mold us into vessels which will magnify, exalt and bring glory to him.

It is his purpose to make us like his Son. "For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son (Romans 8:29a L.L.)."

Jesus Christ was the most beautiful person who ever lived here on earth. He was flawless in character. He glorified the Father in his life. He said his will was to do the will of the Father. He spent his life in helping others, bringing new life, comforting, teaching, ministering to the needs of people in all walks of life.

The process of transforming us into the likeness of Jesus Christ takes a lifetime. During this time, we will be ever growing heavenward when we will see him. Then the molding will be over because we will be like him.

The Apostle Paul speaks of Christ within the believer. He writes, "But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shines within us, as it were, is an old crockery bowl, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that this glorious power within must be from God and is not our own" (II Corinthians 4:7 LL).

How appropriate that we should be likened to clay pots! The earth is considered the material from which the human body was originally formed (see Genesis 2:7; Job 33:6).

Paul was well qualified to write about the frailties of the human body since he experienced a frailty in his own body.

He writes of his thorn in his flesh. Whether this thorn was poor eyesight or some other physical handicap, we do not know. We do know he prayed three times for the Lord to remove it, but God refused. Instead God replied, "No, I will not remove your thorn, but I am with you. My grace is sufficient for you. My power shows up best in weak people."

Paul did not question why God did not remove the thorn. He learned the lessons God had for him. He learned that God can and does use weak people. People who are weak within themselves, but depend upon God's enabling power. He knew the thorn

kept him humble and dependent on God. It was a constant reminder of God's presence in his life.

Paul concluded, "I am glad to be a demonstration of God's power instead of showing off my own power and abilities. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about the thorn."

He was totally submissive under the Potter's hands. And what a beautiful and useful vessel he was. He probably influenced more people for God than any other person in history with the exception of Jesus Christ!

Neither is it ours to question what kind of a vessel the Potter is making of us in the molding process.

As the potter is molding a vessel, can you imagine the clay protesting, "Why are you making me like this? I wanted to be something different, something attractive; a special vessel for everyone to admire."

Have you ever heard a Christian complain, "O, if I only had the talent he has?" Or, "If I could only sing like she can." Or, "Why is God allowing this suffering in my life?"

In God's word we read, "No, don't say that, who are you to criticize God? Should the thing made say to the one who made it, 'Why have you made me like this?' When a man makes a jar out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar beautiful, to be used for holding flowers, and another to throw garbage into?" (Romans 9:21 LB).

God is sovereign. He has every

right to determine what kind of vessels we should be. Our desire should be to remain submissive under his hands.

As we have noted, even before the clay is placed on the wheel, the potter wedges it. That is, he pounds and kneads it to rid it of all air bubbles. Then when it is placed on the wheel, the potter's firm hands apply pressure as he molds and forms. The vessels are then placed in a kiln and baked at a high degree of temperature.

If the clay could speak, somewhere along the process, doubtless it would cry out, "Help, stop, you're hurting me!" Our Master Potter sometimes has to use harsh, abrasive tools in his molding process as he forms us into vessels which he can use to bring honor and glory to him.

We are on the wheel of life where the molding is being accomplished. God uses our mates, families, friends, circumstances, problems, his Word, illnesses, successes, failures—everything in our lives to mold our character.

Just as the heat of the oven is needed for the vessels to become strong and enduring so the trials, afflictions and sufferings which God allows are needed to strengthen and mature us into strong vessels for him.

It is in the fires of suffering that God heals, cleanses, restores and perfects his beloved children.

Jeremiah said when he arrived at the potter's shop he found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was forming did not turn out as he

wished so he kneaded it into a lump and started over. Then the Lord questioned, "O Israel, can't I do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so you are in my hand" (Jeremiah 18:6LB).

The Lord was saying, "Don't I have the right to be your Potter? I would in love and grace mold you, but over and over you have forsaken me and gone into idolatry and apostasy." God explained to Jeremiah that sovereign grace was able to take the marred vessel (Israel) and remake her into a vessel of usefulness.

How much wiser Israel would have been had she submitted to the Potter's molding and how much wiser we are when we submit to any suffering or discipline knowing it is part of the molding process.

Judas was filled with guilt after his betrayal of Jesus. He could not keep the thirty pieces of silver, but took them and flung them at the Priests' feet. In guilt and grief, he went out and hanged himself.

The Priests used the money to purchase a potters' field. This was a dumping ground for broken pieces of fractured clay. It was a scrap heap for pottery which was no longer of use to the potter.

The field became a burial ground for castoffs of society. How appropriate that Judas was the first to be buried there. He had become a broken, fractured vessel of no longer use to the Master Potter, the first to be discarded on the scrap heap of humanity!

What kind of a vessel would you like to be?

Timothy has some good advice for us: "In a wealthy home there are dishes made of gold and silver as well as some made from wood and clay. The expensive dishes are used for guests, and the cheap ones are used in the kitchen or to put garbage in. If you stay away from sin, you will be like one of these dishes made of purest gold—the very best in the house—so that Christ Himself can use you for His highest purposes" (II Timothy 2:20,21 LB).

God's highest purpose for us in his molding process is for our highest good—the best possible life we can experience; vessels that he can use in his kingdom work. A life of service to God is a life of satisfaction and fulfillment; a life of purpose and joy. Clay pots for his glory! □



Mrs. Ruby Forsberg, Lodi, California, is a member of Temple Baptist Church there.

1983—A Year of Growth for North American Baptists

by Ray Harsch

A well-noted authority in the field of church growth, Dr. C. Peter Wagner, recently said, "Church growth believes not only in churches but in high quality churches, churches which bring glory to their chief shepherd, Jesus Christ. Growing churches are growing in quality as well as quantity."

Recently as North American Baptist churches reported their ministry statistics to their Association representatives and to the N.A.B. Conference Office, there were many indications of quality. Signs of growth are evident in many churches of our Conference.

One characteristic of healthy churches is that they grow. Of the 120 N.A.B. churches that reported their net growth goals for 1983, 65 percent experienced significant growth in membership. Twenty-two percent of these exceeded their goals. I was greatly encouraged by that response. THAT IS GOOD NEWS.

As we entered 1984, it was obvious that a "Great Commission Consciousness" prevailed throughout our Conference. The response from the churches who are reporting membership growth goals and ministry goals for 1984 is most encouraging, far exceeding the response of 1983.

In a newsletter for the leaders of growing churches, "Growth Report," the editor, Win Arn, answers the question, "What is a Great Commission Conscience?" He said, "It is an attitude which permeates the thinking and the decision-making process of a church. It is an attitude which sees people outside of Christ as lost. It is

an attitude which causes rejoicing when new people join the church; especially if they are new converts. It is an attitude which prioritizes disciple-making. It is an attitude which resonates with the Great Commission found in its various forms throughout Scripture. It is an attitude which sees missions as both 'over there' and 'right here.' It is an attitude which motivates both corporate and personal action in prayer, giving and service for Great Commission results."

The 1983 reports from the churches give evidence of this kind of attitude.

- 1) A net membership gain of two percent brings the total membership of the Conference to 60,501.
- 2) Baptisms were up 6.5 percent over 1982 for a total of 2,085.
- 3) Average attendance at worship services went up four percent over 1982.
- 4) The total number of churches is now 373, up 2.5 percent from 1982. Nine new churches were added in 1983.
- 5) Of the 21 Associations, 18 experienced a net growth in membership.
- 6) The total membership gain was 4,862 with 43 percent through baptism, 28 percent by transfer and 29 percent by testimony. Never before has the total gain been that high for any given year.

Sometime ago, it was predicted by people involved in church growth that the 1980s would be a decade of the church growth movement. There are many who agree with this trend of thought. Healthy churches are growing churches, and there seems to be indication that there are a number of healthy churches among us.

However, not all churches experienced growth, and there are churches in locations and situations where growth will not take place. Some are in need of assistance. All are in need of prayer so that the ministry of the

church will meet the needs of people.

Your church has Good News for the people of your community. You must constantly evaluate your ministries to see that you are using the best methods to communicate that message to the unchurched people around you.

1984 is another great year of opportunities.

- 1) Begin with theological reflection. The church was founded by Jesus Christ to be a faithful witnessing community. The "Body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12-31), "the People of God" (1 Peter 1:1-10), "the Redemptive Fellowship" (Col. 3:12-17), and "the New Creation" (2 Cor. 5:16-21).

Each of these Biblical images of the church must be defined anew in each generation—by each congregation.

This type of theological reflection will help you state clearly the Purpose of the Church.

- 2) Engage in problem sensing. Take a community survey to discover the problems and needs in the community around the church. Seek to discover the values and needs of the members of the church. This type of data will help you to meet needs and get results as you minister to people.
- 3) Envision results. A variety of envisioning processes may be used to help clarify the dreams and hopes the members carry in their hearts for their church. Articulating and blending these visions can result in fruitful ministry.

Take time to clarify the purpose of your church and how your church can meet the needs of the people in your community and church. Through meeting these needs, your congregation will undoubtedly experience individual spiritual growth and your church numerical growth. □

1983 Annual Report



NAB
CONFERENCE



The Rev. Ray Harsch is Associate Director of Evangelism and Church Growth for the N.A.B. Conference.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I stand amazed in gratitude to God for the prayers, giving and ministry achievements of N.A.B. Conference churches in 1983. It is a phenomenal demonstration of God's grace at work among us.

This past year, thousands have heard the Word of God through preaching, witnessing and teaching ministries of dedicated pastors, missionaries and churches. Sixteen new missionaries were sent overseas. Increased enrollment at our Bible college and theological schools indicates that God is calling dedicated people from among us for future leadership. A record \$4,029,000 was given for Conference missions and ministry. These happenings and many others give reasons to rejoice. Thank you for your part.

The following are some primary challenges that need our prayers and participation in 1984:

- ... Sending out fourteen new missionaries;
- ... Starting eight new churches;
- ... Helping churches to develop church growth strategies;
- ... Studying the possibility of opening two new mission fields among unreached peoples in 1985;
- ... Participating in the Capital Funds Drive, "Building on the Foundations of Faith," to raise \$3.7 million dollars to advance various ministries.

"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel . . ." (Philippians 1:5).

John Binder

John Binder,
executive director



Ronald Norman,
church extension/church
growth director

1983 was marked by expanded ministry activity in all areas of our N.A.B. Conference here on the North American continent.

CHURCH EXTENSION: Four new churches planted; Area Supervisor (Bernard Fritzke) was employed for Florida; a "planter profile" was implemented; 14 "quality-time" visits were held with projects and their pastors.



Fred Folkerts,
missions director

Eighty-seven career and short-term missionaries were serving on our mission fields by the end of 1983. Sixteen of these missionaries were newly appointed.

Four missionary couples are involved in church planting in

CHURCH EXTENSION/CHURCH GROWTH DEPARTMENT

CHURCH GROWTH: An increasing number of churches are engaged in planning thereby setting realistic ministry and growth objectives; 17 congregations were involved in a self-study process; many church growth workshops were held in local churches and associations.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Personnel Resource Lists were initiated in each association with periodic updating provided for; a tool for evaluating curriculums was identified; a conference-approved leadership-training program was studied.

EVANGELISM: Thirteen N.A.B. churches were served by recommended Evangelists Ron Susek and Larry Burd; 23 evangelism workshops were conducted.

HOME MISSIONS: Churches in Texas grew substantially (109 percent and 25 percent); plans for a new church building in Edinburg, Texas, are being made; significant ministry through camping and youth work took place in Colorado. Grace Baptist of Monte Vista took steps

in applying for recognition in the Southwestern Association.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP: An exciting and effective executive session took place with special guests from throughout the Conference; their purpose to provide Christian growth, outreach and fellowship were reaffirmed; an effective Conference "Prayer Chain" was implemented; God blessed with a successful financial year and the acceptance of a Capital Funds challenge.

YOUTH AND "NEW DAY": Dynamic and enthusiastic leadership was exhibited by Warren Hoffman; 62 crusades, 4 association rallies and 78 workshops were conducted; a continual effort was made to respond to youth programming needs throughout the Conference.

URBAN/ETHNIC MINISTRY: An Urban/Ethnic Study Group functioned; a survey of six urban areas was conducted by individual task forces in those areas; a review and evaluation of these surveys was submitted.

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

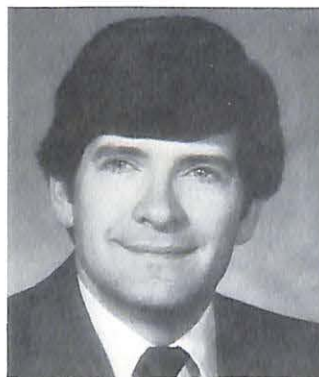
Brazil. Ten career missionaries and six short-term missionaries assist in establishing churches and making contacts through conversational English classes and student ministries in Japan.

In Africa, missionaries work in partnership with Baptist leaders as well as serve in educational and medical ministries. Serving in Cameroon are thirty-eight career missionaries, seven short-term, six on loan from Baptist General Conference, and one on loan from Sudan Interior Mission. Seven career missionaries serve on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria.

In addition, six missionaries provide education for N.A.B. missionaries' children as well as other mission and non-mission children at Hillcrest School, Jos, Nigeria, and the Bamenda School for Missionary Children in Cameroon.

Harold Lang resigned as Associate Director of Personnel and Promotion effective August 31, 1983, to return to the pastorate.





NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY

A total of 291 students were enrolled at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, during school year 1983-1984.

Fifty-one students graduated and began their service in a variety of church-related ministries throughout the world as pastors, missionaries and counselors.

These new faculty members were added to fill vacancies created by retirement or resignation: Dr. Norman Haupt, associate professor of Chris-

tian Education; Dr. Roy DeBrand, associate professor of Homiletics; and Dr. Tom Johnson, associate professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology.

The self-study for reaffirmation of our accreditation with ATS/NCA was held in March.

We praise God as he continues to answer the prayers of his people for raising up more individuals for ministering in the "fields that are ripe to harvest."

Charles M. Hiatt, president,
North American Baptist Seminary



Six-Year Enrollment Statistics

	Full-time	Part-time	Total Enrollees*
1978-79	97	68	204
1979-80	99	61	228
1980-81	104	23	254
1981-82	110	69	252
1982-83	89	82	249
1983-84	99	87	291

*Total enrollees include auditors and enrollees in non-credit classes.



NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE AND DIVINITY SCHOOL

A total of 256 students (204 full-time students) were enrolled in the various programs of study at North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB, during the 1983 fall semester. Eighty-five percent of the student body comes from Canada, fourteen percent from the U.S.A. and one percent from other countries. Seventy percent of students are N.A.B. background, while thirty percent are from non-N.A.B. background.

Fifty students graduated and will assume various places of service as lay leaders, pastors, missionaries, and other ministry positions in churches of our Conference.

A number of faculty members were recognized with promotions at the fall Board sessions.

Miss Linda Abel was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor from that of Instructor, and Professor Peter Ristau was promoted from Associate Professor to the rank of Professor.

The faculty continues to be involved in practical ministry opportunities. Professor Willy Muller is presently serving in Cameroon, West Africa, and Dr. Edwin Kern leaves in August 1984 with his family to minister in Japan.

A stronger corps of Biblical courses have been introduced in the lay leadership training program, with a certificate of Biblical studies being offered upon the successful completion of the first year of the program.

Approval in principle was given to the initiation of the two-year Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree in the fall of 1984.

Six-Year Enrollment Statistics

Year	COLLEGE			DIVINITY SCHOOL			COMBINED TOTAL STUDENTS
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
1978-79	196	20	216				216
1979-80	226	16	242				242
1980-81	244	5	249	23	0	23	272
1981-82	209	32	241	28	0	28	269
1982-83	173	51	224	29	15	44	268
1983-84	172	42	214	32	10	42	256



Connie Salios,
development director



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Conference publications and media productions serve as vehicles of communication and spiritual encouragement to our N.A.B. family. Twenty-one additional churches enrolled in the *Baptist Herald* Church Family Subscription Plan. Of all N.A.B. churches, 80.5 percent subscribe to *Moments With God*. A new publication, "Chaplain's Newsletter" is distributed to military and hospital chaplains and to VA and pastoral counselors endorsed by the Conference.

The Capital Funds Campaign, approved at the 1982 N.A.B. Triennial Conference, was launched and continues progress toward a \$3,700,000 goal.

Arthur Helwig joined the Department as Associate Director of Communications. His major responsibility focuses on the development and production of audiovisual materials to promote all Conference ministries. The Department produced four slide-tape presentations and started a film production featuring mission work in Brazil.

Unprecedented year-end giving is a testimony of God's care and blessing on North American Baptists. A record \$1,094,790 were received in December 1983 with \$4,028,596 as an annual total. Regular contributions by Conference churches totalled over 74 percent of the income. In 1983, a total of \$681,178 were received through promotional offerings and contributions in response to special appeals.

Promotional offerings and responses to direct mail appeals constitute a significant support for the Conference budget. In order to keep pace with increased ministry demands and operational expenses, these areas of income will require our whole-hearted support.

Estate Planning Counselors assisted more than 1,200 people in providing for their families and the Lord's work through careful estate planning.



Karen Dickau,
assistant director of loans

CHURCH EXTENSION INVESTORS FUND

C.E.I.F. investors made a difference for the Conference in 1983.

Your investments helped twelve congregations finance their church buildings or land purchases—nine of these were church extension churches.

Thank you for your part in our DOUBLE DIVIDEND ministry—you earn interest and help build churches.

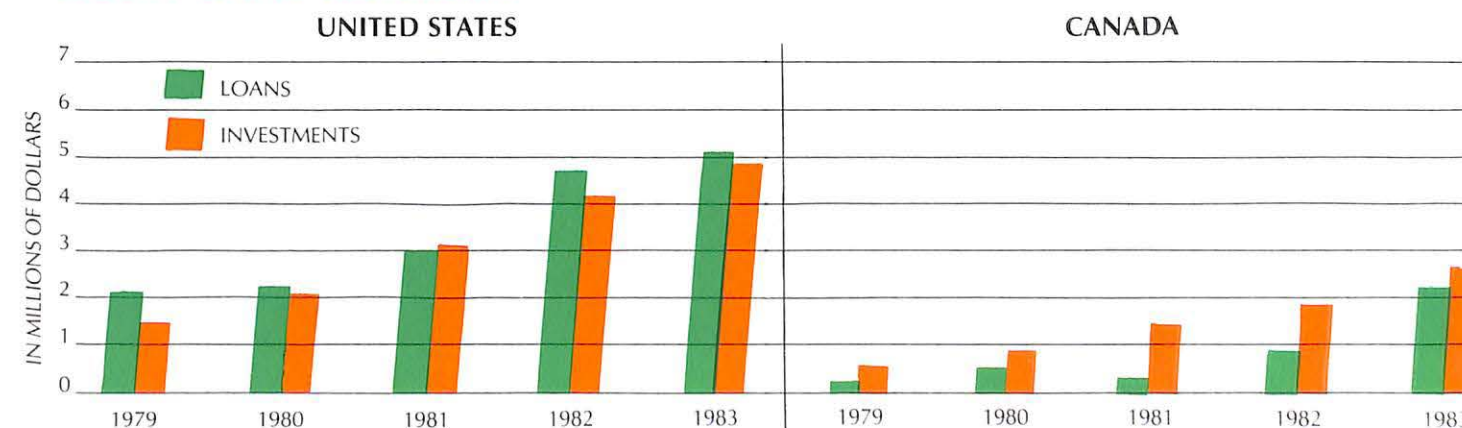
Some of you may not be aware of C.E.I.F.

C.E.I.F. is an investment plan in which your interest-bearing savings become a source of loans to finance church building. Local congregations must have adequate facilities in their outreach to the community. C.E.I.F. serves a key role in making this possible.

New opportunities and challenges face us in 1984.

Your investments in this vital ministry are greatly needed.

C.E.I.F. Loans/Investments





Willis Potratz,
area ministries director/asso-
ciate executive director,
Illinois area minister

Nine area ministers and the Area Ministries Director provide strategic services throughout the Conference. In their particular areas, they provide:

- friendship and support for pastors, church staff personnel and their families
- ideas and resources for church leaders
- continuity in association leadership
- church growth encouragement and direction
- specific information relevant to Conference programs and plans

In 1983 the Upper Midwest Area was created. It is composed of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin churches. Dr. Roy Seibel serves as the interim area minister. This arrangement reduces the geographic parameters of the Southwestern and North Central areas and provides increased availability of area ministers to churches.

Each of our 21 associations contributes to the funding of this Department. These contributions are being increased annually to reach two-thirds of the Department's needs. The Conference budget provides one-third of the funds.

Several important factors contribute to successful Conference ministries. The dynamic, creative, and dedicated efforts of our area ministers contribute significantly to church and Conference development throughout our constituency. We present them in this annual report as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for their important work.

Area Ministers



Isador Faszer
Alberta Area:
Alberta Association



Edmond Hohn
British Columbia Area:
British Columbia Association



Charles Littman
North Central Area: Central
Dakota-Montana, Northern
Dakota, and South Dakota-
Wyoming Associations



Wilmer Quiring
Eastern Area: Atlantic and
Eastern Associations



LeRoy Schauer
Western Area: Central
Pacific, Northern California,
Pacific Northwest, and
Southern California Associa-
tions



Siegfried Schuster
Manitoba/Saskatchewan
Area: Manitoba and Sa-
skatchewan Associations



Roy Seibel
Upper Midwest Area: Iowa,
Minnesota-LaCrosse, and
Wisconsin Associations

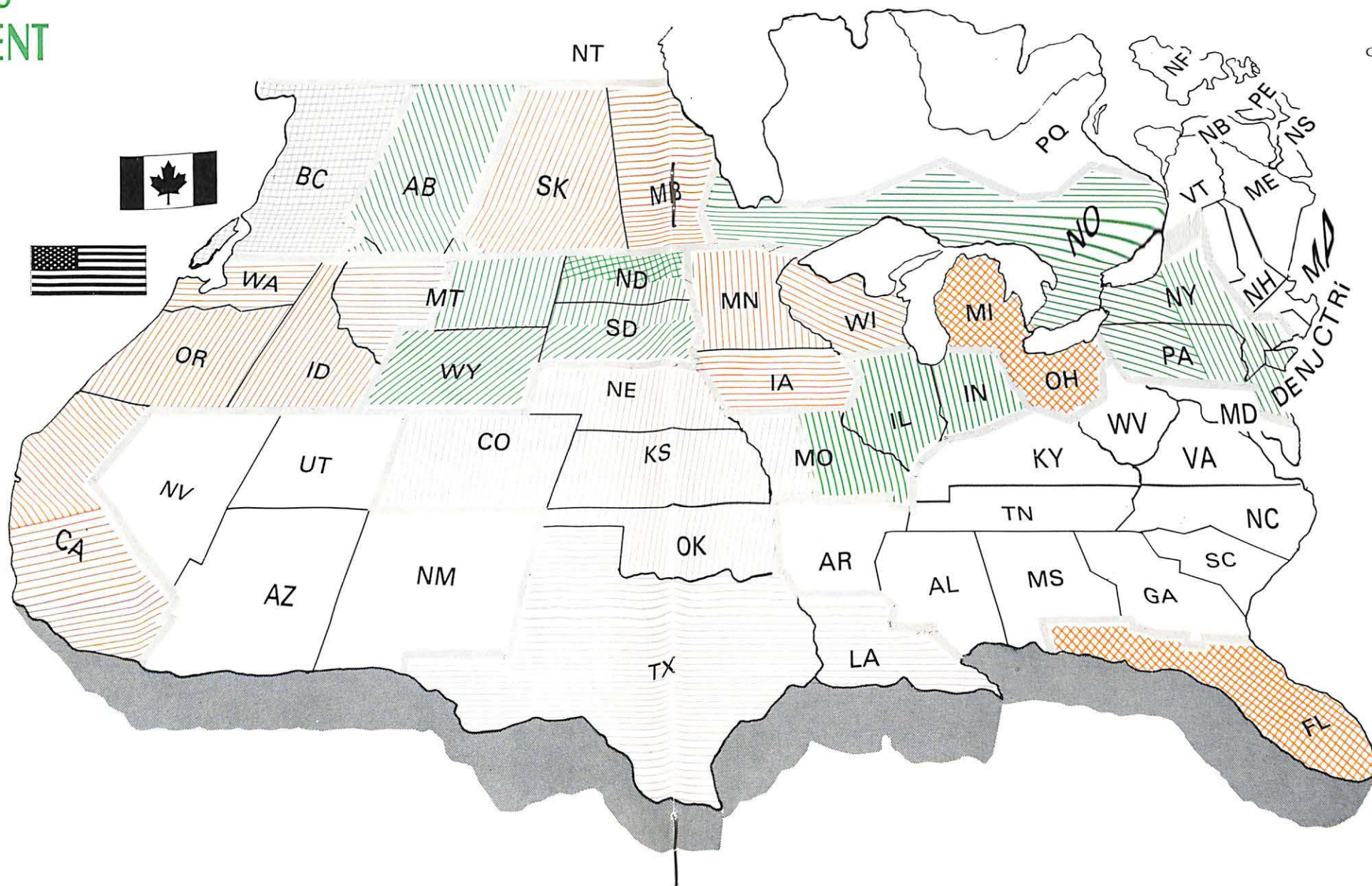


William Taft
Great Lakes Area:
Great Lakes Association



Milton W. Zeeb
South Central Area:
Southern and Southwestern
Associations

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE 21 ASSOCIATIONS 373 CHURCHES



CODE	ASSOCIATION	CHURCHES	EXTENSION PROJECTS	CHURCH PROJECTS
	Alberta	48	8	
	Atlantic	14	3	
	British Columbia	21	2	
	Central Dakota-Montana	29	1	
	Central Pacific	13	2	
	Eastern	21	1	
	Illinois	16	1	
	Iowa	15	1	
	Manitoba	16	1	
	Michigan***	24	3	
	Minnesota/LaCrosse	13	0	
	Northern California	10	3	
	Northern Dakota	16	0	
	Pacific Northwest	14	1	
	Penn-Ohio**	12	0	
	Saskatchewan	14	1	
	South Dakota-Wyoming	16	2	
	Southern	13	2	
	Southern California	7	2	
	Southwestern	28	1	
	Wisconsin	13	1	
	Total	373	36*	

*Thirty of these churches have been received into Associations and are included in the 373 total of churches.

**Churches from this Association, which have been disbanded, have joined either the Great Lakes or the Eastern Associations.

***As of April 1984, the Michigan Association is known as the Great Lakes Association.



Milton Hildebrandt,
general treasurer

"There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God's; there is no portion of money that is our money, and the rest God's money. It is all his; he made it all, gives it all, and he has simply trusted it to us for his service. A servant has two purses, the master's and his own, but we have only one."

—Adolphe Monod

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

North American Baptists are a unique people! They seem to thrive on challenge when "The impossible becomes the necessary." Financial results for 1983 are again proof of that statement.

Although the year started reasonably well, we soon saw that we were falling further behind the pace necessary to attain 1983 budget goals. By the end of November, the logical prospects of anything approaching full attainment of our goals were in a word, *ZERO*. More specifically, a logical projection on December 1, 1983, of results for the full year based on even most optimistic past giving patterns suggested a *shortfall* approaching a quarter million dollars!

Logic, however, has seemingly proven to be of relatively little substance to us when blended with challenge and necessity. And North American Baptists, sensing that challenge, and seeing the need responded in December *as never before!* Oh—we have indeed had "Booming Decembers" in the past—almost every year in fact, but this was something else again. Our December budget receipts were \$1,094,790, fully 27.2 percent of budget receipts for the year, and \$87,467 more than we had ever received in any

previous single month. In 1983 our people contributed over four million dollars (\$4,028,000) toward our many Conference ministries.

When the impossible becomes necessary, the necessary not only becomes possible but has become reality! To each of you—*many thanks!*



Robert Mayforth,
financial services director

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ASSETS:	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES:	
Cash	\$ 195,473	Accounts Payable	\$ 207,066
Accounts Receivable	662,862	Notes Payable	787,634
Inventory	67,501	Deferred Revenue	455,873
Nonexpendable Investments	2,675,074	Annuities Payable	278,928
Expandable Investments	1,233,630	Mortgages on Real Estate	322,500
Due for Affiliates	108,521	Total Liabilities	\$2,052,001
N.A.B. Office Land & Building			987,773
N.A.B. Office Equipment	222,083	Fund Balances:	
Other	15,703	Unrestricted	\$2,814,391
Total Assets	\$6,168,619	Restricted	1,302,227
		Total Fund Balances	\$4,116,617
		Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	\$6,168,619

PENSION FUND REPORT

During the year of 1983, 41 new members were added to the Canadian and U.S. Pension Programs. Crown Life Insurance Company continues to administer the Canadian Pension Program. The U.S. Pension Program is administered by Minnesota Mutual Life. Many good reports have been received in regard to the pension program.

From the Endowment Fund in 1983, \$38,430 were distributed to pensioners and widows.

Nine individuals received financial assistance in the amount of \$13,120 through our Grant-in-Aid Program in 1983.

Again, Pension Fund participants realized a good return on their contributions.



GENERAL COUNCIL

Encouraged by the liquidation of our million dollar operating debt in 1982, we entered 1983 on a positive note. In 1983 we experienced continued progress in several areas of Conference ministries.

Church membership reports indicate an encouraging *two percent growth of 1,131 additional new members*. Plans for an increased growth rate continue through church growth and church extension emphases, plans that will project 75 new churches between 1985 and 1990 are in process. Expansion plans regarding urban ministries and an additional mission field are in progress.

With the addition of the Upper Midwest Area (Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin), there are nine Area Ministers. A tenth area is under consideration for 1985.

Program committees have met to plan for the Triennial Conference scheduled for Anaheim, California, in 1985. A comprehensive plan to accommodate over 5,000 persons is in process. Programs for all age groups are being built around the theme, "A People of Hope for a World in Despair."



"Christian giving is God's divine plan to make us like himself; it reveals our religion and bares our souls; it is prophetic and has to do with the inner sensitiveness and gives a keener vision to his work and plans."

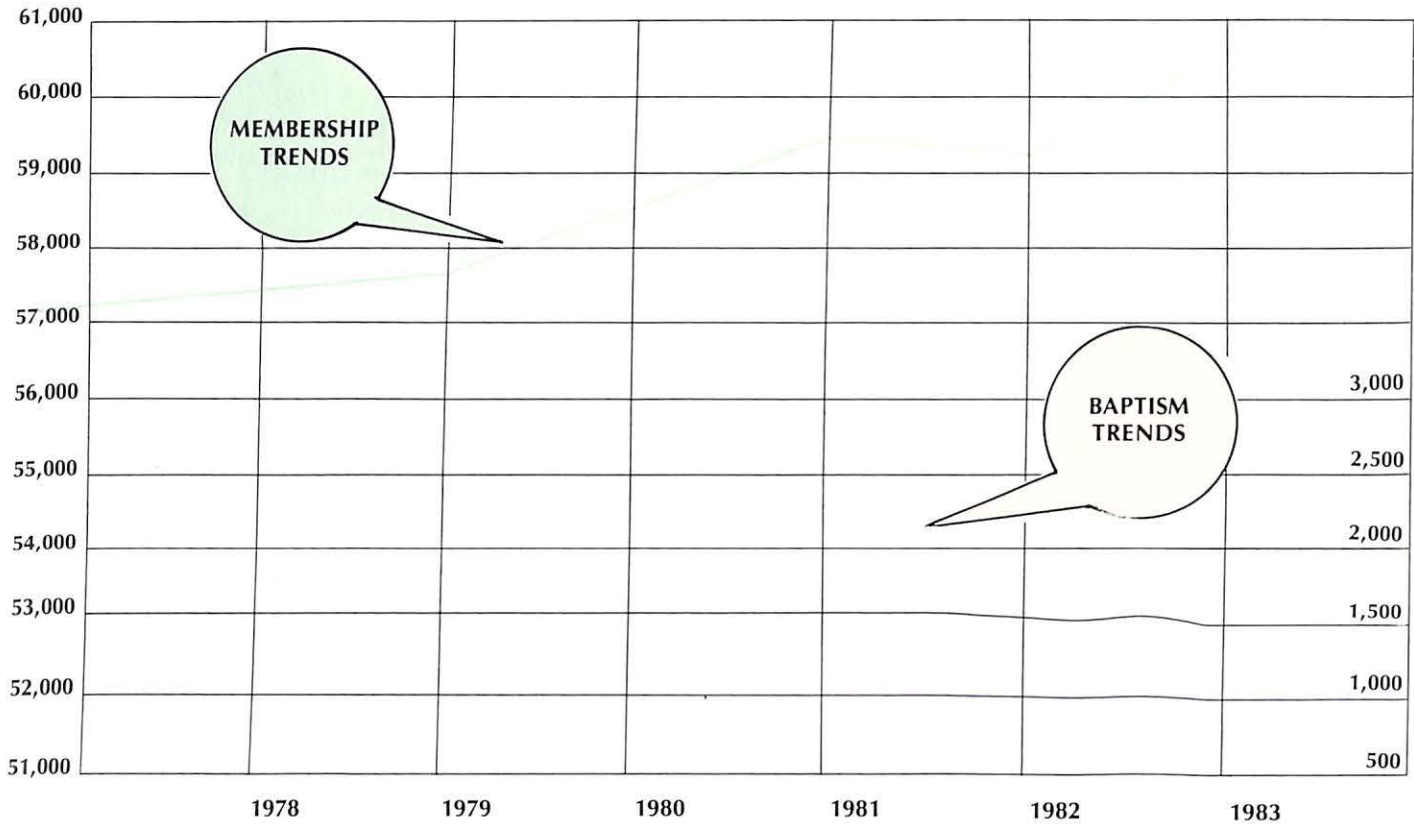
—Warren H. Denison:
"Stewardship
Notebook"

CONFERENCE MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET AND EXPENSE

	1982	1983
APPROVED BUDGET	\$4,000,000	\$4,150,000
EXPENSES:		
Missions Department	1,374,585	1,594,117
Church Extension/Church Growth Department	826,123	845,394
N.A.B. College/Divinity School	279,360	289,000
N.A.B. Seminary	362,780	373,000
Development Department	291,276	344,931
Financial Services Department	38,379	-24,591
General Council	134,193	161,659
Area Ministries	190,020	223,162
Pension and Retirement Assistance	60,488	62,125
Budget Contingencies	105,383	93,957
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,662,587	3,962,754
AMOUNT UNDER BUDGET	\$ 337,413	\$ 187,246

*Reconciling
The World
Through
Christ*

SIX-YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM TRENDS



SIX-YEAR CONFERENCE GIVING TRENDS

	Two Million	Three Million	Four Million	Five Million
1978	Budget Income \$3,018,565	Conference Special Funds \$208,088	Bequest Income \$154,487	TOTAL: \$3,381,140
1979	Budget Income \$3,382,972	Conference Special Funds \$436,766	Bequest Income \$35,650	TOTAL: \$3,855,388
1980	Budget Income \$3,493,931	Conference Special Funds \$390,606	Bequest Income \$281,002	TOTAL: \$4,165,539
1981	Budget Income \$3,687,425	Conference Special Funds \$574,925	Bequest Income \$36,162	TOTAL: \$4,298,512
1982	Budget Income \$3,908,368	Conference Special Funds \$518,541	Bequest Income \$400,238	TOTAL: \$4,827,147
1983	Budget Income \$4,028,596	Conference Special Funds \$654,340*	Bequest Income \$507,721	TOTAL: \$5,190,657

*includes Conference Capital Funds

1983 MEMBERSHIP AND TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Name of City and Church	Member-ship	Local Church Oper.	Local Church Building	Total Local Church	Conf. Mission & Ministry	Conf. Special Funds†	Conf. Capital Funds	Conf. Educ. Instit.	N.A.B. Assoc. Minist.	N.A.B. Related Minist.	Total For N.A.B.	Average Per Member	Other Than N.A.B.	Total All Purposes	Average Per Member
Total Of All Associations															
Alberta	7,030	3,825,889	1,456,813	5,282,702	657,684	117,414	900	140,602	234,392	246,929	1,397,921	199	188,844	6,869,467	977
Atlantic	1430	549,991	110,880	660,871	89,145	22,110	0	3,524	15,294	19,708	149,781	105	149,820	960,472	672
British Columbia	4176	1,728,648	190,021	1,918,669	383,356	68,493	6,500	37,168	107,228	28,074	630,819	151	72,041	2,621,529	628
Central Dakota-Montana	3,436	934,514	319,004	1,253,518	200,400	26,883	1,000	30,561	31,412	26,954	317,210	92	29,925	1,600,653	466
Central Pacific	2,262	814,663	202,741	1,017,404	125,964	18,503	100	23,226	41,362	7,090	216,245	96	47,283	1,280,932	566
Eastern	3,214	1,072,697	275,942	1,348,639	182,022	46,426	0	19,692	50,641	26,894	325,675	101	55,062	1,729,376	538
Illinois	2,509	812,380	113,890	926,270	170,599	24,430	5,690	11,067	24,652	6,631	243,069	97	36,562	1,205,901	481
Iowa	2,681	762,189	165,015	927,204	173,206	11,075	6,500	27,129	43,616	14,918	276,444	103	67,265	1,270,913	474
Manitoba	2,524	912,032	191,123	1,103,155	274,896	40,614	8,500	22,196	98,480	20,969	465,655	184	84,577	1,653,387	655
Michigan	6,025	2,494,577	350,713	2,845,290	354,182	31,167	4,800	34,523	49,965	22,549	497,186	83	403,413	3,745,889	622
Minnesota-LaCrosse	1,589	580,526	71,599	652,125	155,956	8,739	2,600	22,252	40,953	4,287	234,787	148	19,729	906,641	571
Northern California	5,261	2,419,145	654,253	3,073,398	186,198	16,444	0	26,565	96,518	5,624	331,349	63	112,033	3,516,780	668
North Dakota	2,257	641,271	230,271	871,542	161,901	15,411	0	13,199	19,657	22,400	232,568	103	52,378	1,156,488	512
Pacific Northwest	1,968	607,604	121,484	729,088	96,262	17,945	5,000	6,352	31,642	3,790	160,991	82	34,258	924,337	470
Penn-Ohio	2,340	606,746	70,687	677,433	66,642	9,540	0	8,951	3,360	125	88,618	38	33,984	800,035	342
Saskatchewan	1,405	606,241	112,505	718,746	122,756	24,240	822	18,697	43,434	4,067	214,016	152	126,118	1,058,880	754
South Dakota	2,445	676,103	247,389	923,492	155,852	18,120	2,780	66,823	40,809	9,265	293,649	120	31,676	1,248,817	511
Southern	1,002	339,319	53,197	392,516	42,822	5,380	5,200	11,456	28,977	280	94,115	94	6,270	492,901	492
Southern California	1,539	840,179	79,806	919,985	63,609	2,196	6,700	6,417	34,537	18,012	131,471	85	56,890	1,108,346	720
Southwestern	2,887	883,953	113,692	997,645	226,917	21,905	1,623	38,009	35,139	10,317	333,910	116	22,536	1,354,091	469
Wisconsin	2,521	604,187	44,221	648,408	109,371	16,519	4,796	9,455	21,559	3,231	164,931	65	94,748	908,087	360
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	28,853	26,249	1,025	0	0	0	56,127	0	0	56,127	0
TOTALS FOR 1983	60,501	22,712,854	5,175,246	27,888,100	4,028,593	589,803	64,536	577,864	1,093,627	502,114	6,856,537	113	1,725,412	36,470,049	603
Totals for 1982	59,370	21,186,402	5,863,063	27,049,465	3,908,368	518,541	0	516,616	1,100,033	375,400	6,418,958	108	1,456,464	34,924,887	588
Total Increase or (Decrease)	1131	1,526,452	(687,817)	838,635	120,225	71,262	64,536	61,248	(6,406)	126,714	437,579	5	268,948	1,545,162	14
% Increase or (Decrease)	2	7	(12)	3	3	14	0	12	(1)	34	7	5	5	4	2
% of 1983 Total		62	14	76	11	2	0	2	3	1	19	—	5	100	—
% of 1982 Total		61	17	78	11	2	0	1	3	1	18	—	4	100	

†Conference Special Funds include giving to special missions projects, special short-term missionaries and world relief.

1983 RANKING OF MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING OF ASSOCIATIONS TO CONFERENCE BASIC BUDGET

Rank by Membership			Rank by Dollar		Rank per Capita		Rank by Percent Change	
Association	Churches	Membership	Association	Dollar Amount	Association	Per Capita	Association	% Increase or (Decrease)
1. Alberta	48	7,030	1. Alberta	657,684	1. Manitoba	\$109	1. Northern California	39.9
2. Michigan	24	6,025	2. British Columbia	383,356	2. Minnesota/LaCrosse	98	2. Minnesota/LaCrosse	21.8
3. Northern California	10	5,261	3. Michigan	354,182	3. Alberta	96	3. Saskatchewan	14.2
4. British Columbia	21	4,176	4. Manitoba	274,896	4. British Columbia	92	4. Wisconsin	13.6
5. Central Dakota-Montana	29	3,436	5. Southwestern	226,917	5. Saskatchewan	87	5. Central Dakota-Montana	10.6
6. Eastern	21	3,214	6. Central Dakota-Montana	200,400	6. Southwestern	79	6. Northern Dakota	10.3
7. Southwestern	28	2,887	7. Northern California	186,198	7. Northern Dakota	72	7. Central Pacific	9.6
8. Iowa	15	2,681	8. Eastern	182,022	8. Illinois	68	8. Pacific Northwest	9.2
9. Manitoba	16	2,524	9. Iowa	173,206	9. Iowa	65	9. Illinois	8.3
10. Wisconsin	13	2,521	10. Illinois	170,599	10. South Dakota	64	10. Iowa	7.2
11. Illinois	16	2,509	11. Northern Dakota	161,901	11. Atlantic	62	11. Southern	6.8
12. South Dakota	16	2,445	12. Minnesota/LaCrosse	155,956	12. Michigan	59	12. South Dakota	6.5
13. Penn-Ohio	12	2,340	13. South Dakota	155,852	13. Central Dakota-Montana	58	13. Eastern	4.6
14. Central Pacific	13	2,262	14. Central Pacific	125,964	14. Eastern	57	14. Southwestern	2.9
15. Northern Dakota	16	2,257	15. Saskatchewan	122,756	15. Central Pacific	56	15. British Columbia	0.9
16. Pacific Northwest	14	1,968	16. Wisconsin	109,371	16. Pacific Northwest	49	16. Manitoba	(0.4)
17. Minnesota/LaCrosse	13	1,589	17. Pacific Northwest	96,262	17. Southern	43	17. Alberta	(2.4)
18. Southern California	7	1,539	18. Atlantic	89,145	18. Wisconsin	43	18. Atlantic	(4.2)
19. Atlantic	14	1,430	19. Penn-Ohio	66,642	19. Southern California	41	19. Michigan	(5.7)
20. Saskatchewan	14	1,405	20. Southern California	63,609	20. Northern California	35	20. Penn-Ohio	(9.3)
21. Southern	13	1,002	21. Southern	42,822	21. Penn-Ohio	28	21. Southern California	(33.2)

REACHING FOR EXCELLENCE . . .

Christ never intended that one individual, a single church or institution should carry his message of redemption to the whole world. Scripture clearly points out the importance of cooperation and encourages believers to join in united efforts in order to achieve global goals.

The North American Baptist Conference has an important part in reaching the world for Christ. In order to maintain God-ordained ministries, cooperation is needed from every member of an N.A.B. church. We face greater challenges than ever before. As we continue the "Reaching for Excellence" challenge, every N.A.B. member should be encouraged to (1) carefully use material possessions entrusted to him or her; (2) support evangelism outreach efforts through their local church and the Conference; and (3) seek to learn more about corporate ministry opportunities that we can share in at home and overseas.

Each Conference department and school has established clear objectives for 1984. One objective from each department, listed below, gives a general impression of the 1984 "Reaching for Excellence" challenges. (A detailed document for 1984 is available upon request from the Executive Director's Office.)

AREA MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Each area minister will arrange follow-up sessions of the one-day individual ministry reviews he had in 1983 and conduct one-day ministry reviews in 1984 with at least five additional pastors.

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Lay plans for opening a new mission field in 1985.

CHURCH EXTENSION/CHURCH GROWTH DEPARTMENT

Plant eight new churches through initiating twelve new projects.

FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

C.E.I.F. will raise \$1.7 million in investments in 1984.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Develop and implement plans to meet the 1984 Conference Mission and Ministry Budget of \$4,300,000.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Visit at least eight regional pastors' groups and the two educational institutions in order to exchange ideas on church and Conference growth strategies to the year 2000 during their regularly scheduled 1984 meetings.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE AND DIVINITY SCHOOL

Develop a viable and valid market-oriented recruitment program to meet the challenges of the eighties.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY

Complete the accreditation review process and receive reaffirmation of accreditation from ATS and NCA by fall 1984.

Every believer is commanded to share the gospel with everyone in the world. Alone, that is overwhelming and impossible, but in union with other believers, our combined efforts will impact persons in need of the Saviour in many parts of the world.



NORTH
AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CONFERENCE
1 So. 210 Summit Avenue
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

church extension builders

Sparks of New Life in Washington

By Phil Yntema

Urged by a friend, Doris reluctantly began coming to our Sunday School; reluctantly, because she remembered how she had been pressured to attend Sunday School as a child. We asked her if we could visit her in her home. "No," she said, "my husband is totally against anything Christian."

One Sunday we were shocked to see Stan, her husband, in Sunday School; even his wife was surprised. Two months later in their living room, Stan and Doris re-

The Rev. Phil Yntema is pastor of Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA.



ceived Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Now both are living their Christian lives for all to see, and Doris and Stan are active in Cascade Park Baptist Church.

Cascade Park Baptist Church is located in southwest Washington in the city of Vancouver, a city of 150,000 people. Many of the residents work across the Columbia River in Portland. Vancouver is beginning to grow with new industry and building. Cascade Park Baptist Church is located on the

southeastern edge of town where most of the growth is anticipated.

Our ministry is built around sharing the love of Jesus inside and outside of his body. Our people are actively supporting one another and inviting their friends to church services and activities. The focal point of our programming is in a strong Sunday School, an aggressive Awana, and home Bible fellowships.

We meet in Wy East Junior High; the facilities in this school are perfect for our needs. We praise God for this meeting place. The school is available on a year-to-year basis, limited to five years. Since we will be entering our fourth year of ministry, we have to begin now to plan for the future.

God has greatly excited us about the possibilities of ministry. We have seen many come to Christ, marriages restored, emotional needs satisfied, and God's own people strengthened.

We praise God for the Central Pacific Association who has stood firmly with us at every stage of our ministry. We are grateful to all North American Baptists for your support. We know that you share in all the fruit that God is causing in Vancouver. □



EDITOR'S NOTE: The following selections were written by women from Sunrise Baptist Church in Fair Oaks, California, who have used their gift of writing to express their experiences and their gratitude in the Lord. (We'd welcome similar expressions from any of you who would care to submit them to the editor of these pages.)

Familiar Voices

by Sally Adam

I was awakened, last night, from a nice, warm, comfortable sleep by a small, quiet voice calling, "Mommy." I knew that if I didn't get up the voice would get louder and more impatient. After getting my daughter a glass of water and getting back to a warm bed, a thought crossed my tired mind. "Do I hear the voice of Jesus calling me as easily as I hear my children, even when I am asleep?"

I'm sure most mothers can pick out the voice of their child from a crowd and know what level is fright or pain, and how she can best respond. This comes from spending time with them, loving them and caring for them, having them as a part of your life.

If I am unable to hear Jesus calling me in a small voice, I'm not spending enough time with him, getting to know and love him, and making him my life. I need to take this time in order to recognize his voice and respond as quickly as I do with my children.

"Help me, Lord, to recognize when you are calling me. Fill me with a desire to earnestly seek you. I want to recognize your voice and be willing to do what you would have me to do."

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Let Me Be Love

by Sally Meng

Dear Lord, my God,
Please hear my prayer.
Show me how to
Love and care
The way you love
And care for me,
So that other
Folks may see
The way that love
Was meant to be.

The Worth of Pain

by Anne Dailey

One day last week, I lay asleep so snug and warm only to be awakened by a tiny tug, and a voice saying, "Get up, there's work to be done."

"No, Lord, I'm staying here," said I, and just to prove my point, rolled over and turned the blanket to high.

The tug became more persistent, and the voice became very insistent. "All right, Lord, have it your way. What is so important that you have to show me today?"

Looking out the window, I saw that a new day had begun. "Is this what you have to show me, Lord? I've seen this before."

"Look again," he said. "It's time to prune the roses."

"Is it that time already?" I asked. Two years ago at this time it was so cold. The sky was dark, and it looked like rain. Last year it was cold, too, but once in a while the sun peeped through.

While deciding where to start, I saw one little rose that had escaped the cold wind and frost—perfect in form and color. I said, "Lord, that rose reminds me of you—of your steadfast faithfulness to me. All the others are gone, but you are still there. You never leave me or give up on me."

Reaching in, expecting to grab the rose, the Lord put his hand

over mine and gave a little squeeze. I yelled and pulled back in pain, "That hurt!"

"Put your hand in again," he said. I obeyed. This time I held on a little longer while the thorns punctured my skin.

The third time I said, "Lord, I'm not giving up, I'm going to win." I held on with all my might amidst the pain, and the Lord said, "Hold out your hand." He touched the wounds so deep and raw, and the pain was not so intense. He laid the rose gently in my hand.

"Why, God did you not let me have the rose without a struggle?"

He said, "I had to know if it was worth it all."

"It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ. One glimpse of his dear face all sorrow will erase, so bravely run the race 'til we see Christ." (quoted from the song, "It Will Be Worth It All.")

Jeffrey Needs to Cry

by Anne Dailey

Returning home from the hospital, I began to mentally practice what I was going to say to the children. How could I tell them that their dad, who loved them more than life itself, was dead? I prayed, "Dear Lord, give me the right words to make them understand."

Debra, our ten-year-old daughter and daddy's delight, would cry because she was sensitive, and it was easier for "us girls" to cry. My concern was that Jeffrey, our twelve-year-old son, would not be able to cry because "big boys just don't cry."

As we drove up, my mom came outside and gathered me close in her arms. I walked into the family room where the children were sleeping on the hide-a-bed and remembered the Bible verse, "Jesus wept." If Jesus, who is our example, wept when he hurt, why are

boys taught that when they hurt they shouldn't cry?

"Debra," I called quietly. As she woke up, I put my arms around her and said, "Daddy died tonight."

She began crying and asked, "Why did God take my daddy away from me?" I tried to tell her that it wasn't God who had taken her daddy, but that her daddy had died from cancer. Cancer was what killed him.

Walking around to the other side of the bed, I put my arms around Jeff, and he said, "I'm not going to cry." After we had talked, he grabbed his sleeping bag, put it on the floor by the foot of the bed and said goodnight.

When everyone had gone, and the rest of the family was in bed, I got into the bed with Debra and pulled her close. We lay quietly for awhile and then started talking. I so desperately wanted Jeff to be able to release the emotions that were building up inside him. I said, "Sweetie, it's all right to cry. Did you know that some of daddy's friends cried when they came to see him?"

He asked, "Who?"

As I started naming the men, he began to cry. "Jeff, come and get into bed with us," I said.

"No," was his reply.

"Jeff," I pleaded, "we need to be together right now." Finally after a little hesitation, he came, and we all put our arms around each other. Our precious heavenly Father who puts our tears into bottles must have done some serious scrambling for the right bottle because the tears came, bringing a cleansing and an emotional release.

After a little while, the children said they were hungry. We snacked on toast and orange juice, and, for once, having crumbs in bed didn't really matter.

Turning out the light, we huddled together and fell asleep, shutting out the pain that had crashed into our lives with the violence of a tornado.

... In the Potter's Service ...



by Eva Helwing



"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:20, NIV).

As parents, we are concerned about the welfare of our children. We want the best for them. Because we want them to grow and mature physically and spiritually, it is not out of order for us to sometimes ask, "Is the church that we attend the best one for the development of our children?"

I must admit that I have asked myself that question, especially when members have left with the desire to join another congregation that could offer more variety and excitement due, in no small way, to their larger size.

It is significant that just at the time when this question was uppermost in my mind, I came across an article written by my late uncle, the Rev. Johann Kuhn. This article on his life had been published in *Der Sendbote*, the German publication of our Conference. One sentence had special meaning for me. He described the church in Tab, Hungary, where I was born. All my life I had heard about this church. First in Germany and then in the United States, when talking about the old country, my parents and relatives always referred to the church in Tab. They talked about baptisms, the choir, the youth group, the musical ensembles, and the revivals. I grew up with a vision of this tremendously large congregation; especially since I continued to meet people in

Canada and the United States who had some ties to this church.

You can imagine my surprise when I read that when my uncle was called to serve in this famous church, the number of members was 48. Forty-eight members! How could that be? The influence and impact of this church have been felt across countries, across continents. Those who left it started churches in Germany, Canada, and the United States. All this from this little group?

No longer will I wish for something that never was and probably could not be. Of course, we are for growth, are thankful for it, and as a church, rejoice when it happens. But no longer will I be unhappy about our small congregation. By the way, this small congregation that we belong to is more than twice the size of the church in Hungary, which had such an influence on the lives of so many people and had shaped my thinking and feeling of what a church ought to be.

God uses people in small and large congregations. Jesus had twelve disciples when he began his ministry. So if you happen to find your place in a small church body, reflect on the fact that it has been thus since the beginning. Do not be blinded by size, and those who say: "Come hither, it is better and bigger; look how it prospers!"

Realize and take to heart the call to work in God's Kingdom, shining your light, wherever the Lord has deemed right for you.

Church Growth

SIDNEY, MT. Two young boys (pictured) were baptized by the Rev. Paul Brannan, pastor of First Baptist Church, and welcomed into the church. (Gladys Tibbits, reporter.)



ABERDEEN, SD. Pastor Monte Michaelson baptized eight persons at Calvary Baptist Church. The right hand of fellowship was extended to two persons who joined the Church by transfer of letter. The Rev. Monte Michaelson was pastor of the Church at the time. (Diane Hassebrock, church clerk.)

PRINCE GEORGE, BC. Hartland Baptist Church recently witnessed the baptism of eight persons. Since the



congregation did not have its own building at the time, they were guests at College Heights Baptist Church. On this joyous occasion, Pastor Willis Carrico spoke about how John the

Baptist introduced baptism and also, the baptisms of Saul, Lydia, the Ethiopian and the Philippian jailer. Those who followed the Lord in baptism were charged to purpose in their heart to walk in newness of life. The Rev. Willis Carrico is pastor. (Ingrid Pankonin, reporter.)

Special Events

BURLINGTON, ON. "God has blessed the ministry of Pineland Baptist Church in a very significant way in 1983," says the Rev. Jake Leverette, pastor. "We were blessed beyond measure as we commissioned Associate Pastor Bud Fuchs and his wife, Lois, and sons as missionaries to Cameroon."

The most significant blessing has been the call of God upon the lives of the young people of this Church to serve him. In 1983, five young men responded to the Lord for his service.



(Pictured left to right: Pastor Jake Leverette, Dieter Eisbrenner, Bruce Chandler, Roman Gehring, Jack Jackson, Bob Vasily.) Bruce and Bob, second career men, successful in the business world, are preparing to enter the ministry. Dieter and Roman are at North American Baptist College. Bruce is accepted at North American Baptist Seminary. Jack plans to attend university this fall to work toward his BA degree and plans then to attend North American Baptist Seminary. All five of these men will be in some form of training by September 1984 to answer God's call to the ministry.

Besides these five men, two young ladies are at North American Baptist College, and several of the youth in high school plan to enroll at North American Baptist College in the next year or so.

"I do not believe there is greater joy for a pastor or church than seeing the

young people of the church family surrender their lives to the Lord. I will always remember 1983 as a year of significant blessing from the Lord because I was privileged to share as pastor in the response of these young people to the will of God," says the Rev. Jake Leverette, pastor.

ARNPRIOR, ON. "What a joy to have the 'New Day' team with us at First Baptist Church February 23-26," says Rosalie Russett, reporter for the Church. "Music, testimonies, sharing, puppets—there was something for every member of the family."

On Sunday, March 4, Pastor Rubin Kern shared some highlights and delightful experiences of his years as retired pastor. This Sunday brought to a close Pastor and Mrs. Kern's interim ministry (October 1983—March 1984) at First Baptist. "We really appreciated the many contributions made to our family during this time," says Rosalie. A time of fellowship followed the evening service, during which time a farewell gift was presented from the congregation. (Rosalie Russett, reporter.)

BILLINGS, MT. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Calvary Baptist Church met March 19 with Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff as guest speaker. She emphasized ways to help expand the W.M.F. program.

Calvary Baptist has enjoyed the interim ministry of Pastor Henry Lang and wife, Leona, for the past few months. Their ministry with the church will conclude in June. "Both have enriched our lives, and we shall miss them," says E. Rodier, reporter.

Melanie Lang, daughter of Manuel and Jorcelene Lang, was selected as a member of the "New Day" team for 1984-85.

"We hope to be blessed with a new minister very soon. We ask that you pray that our needs will be met," says E. Rodier.

BURLINGTON, IA. The Oak Street Baptist Church held "Inform-A-Fair," its annual business meeting, on Sunday, January 29, with 175 attending the two and one-half hour meeting, program, supper and exhibits.

Various emphases of the evening were 5:30-6:30 p.m.: exhibits, food, fun, fellowship and slides; 6:30-6:50 p.m.: business meeting; 7-8 p.m.: "Visions and Ventures of the 80s." Various commissions and organizations dis-

played the activities of their work and ministries during the year.

The Mission Commission showed slides obtained from the N.A.B. Conference Missions Department. The Deaconesses exhibited a tree displaying scripture verses that related to their various ministries. The Music Commission had a "Name That Tune" contest using anthems which the choir sang during the past year played by two flutists.

Christian Education, using an umbrella covered table, displayed the theme, "Christian Education Covers All," and invited people to "Come Under and Learn." Hanging from the



spokes of the umbrella were word strips announcing Christian Education Ministries. A guessing game of special interest asked, "How many volunteer positions are there in our Christian Education Program?" To the amazement of many, there were 254 positions. The following commissions and groups also had displays: Finance, Deacon, Tape Ministry, Trustees, Outreach, Blood Bank, Awana, W.M.F., Library, Golden Oaks, Audio and Youth.

The room was decorated like a Fair with crepe paper streamers, helium balloons and colorful signs.

In an adjoining room, a slide presentation reviewed activities of the year 1983. Games were a part of the Fair with awards presented to winners.

"Visions and Ventures of the 80s" was the theme of the evening service with nine commission chairpersons presenting their goals for 1984. The congregational response indicates this to be a most interesting program for the Annual Meeting.

In the midst of this setting, a 20-minute business meeting was conducted. Printed annual reports were distributed to each person. (Floraine Miller, reporter.)

OLDS, AB. East Olds Baptist Church was the site of a college-career retreat March 16 and 17. Twenty-nine young adults from the church and from Olds College enjoyed games, making meals, watching Josh McDowell films, and staying overnight in the church building. The event was coordinated by Connie Kaiser, former "New Day" member, and the I.V.C.F. from Olds College. The Rev. Ritchie White is pastor of the Church. (Jeanine White, reporter.)

ROCK RAPIDS, IA. Mr. Barry W. Berger, field evangelist for the American Board of Missions to the Jews, conducted Deeper Life Meetings at the Faith Baptist Church, March 7-11.

Dan Grueneich provided special music. Mr. Berger led the congregation in Jewish Gospel music each evening.

Mr. Berger, a Jewish Christian, stated that the reason he conducts such meetings is that he has a burden to teach his Gentile brothers and sisters the Jewishness of their faith, so that they might have a burden to reach God's Chosen People.

Climaxing the meetings was the Christ in the Passover presentation. Mr. Berger showed the traditional way the Jewish people observe Passover. The Rev. Rueben Grueneich is pastor of the Church. (Eleanor J. Stump, reporter.)

SIDNEY, MT. Pastor Paul Brannan began his ministry at First Baptist Church in December 1983. He previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, McIntosh, SD, for three years.

Pastor Brannan and his wife Sally, have five children, three of whom are in Sidney. The family has a musical talent, which adds to the service.

"We as a congregation are glad to have the Brannans ministering to us as they are a dedicated family of God," says Gladys Tibbits, reporter.

WINNIPEG, MB. The Manitoba Baptist Association senior church choirs presented an Advent Choir Songfest December 11, 1983. Approximately ten church choirs participated, singing to an estimated audience of 1,200. The offering was designated toward the Manitoba Association's Inner-City Ministries in Winnipeg.

On March 18, 1984, the junior choirs of the Association's churches

presented a Children's Praise Festival. Eight junior choirs, solos, and duets thrilled the audience. The festival was hosted by "Corky the Crow" under the capable leadership of the Rev. Hans Serger. Through a modern presentation of "The Prodigal Son" by puppets, the children learned how much God loves and is ready to forgive. The offering was designated toward the camping and outreach program of the home mission churches in Colorado and Texas. Winners of a poster contest to promote next year's Festival were given awards. (Mrs. Anne Pohl, reporter.)

SIDNEY, MT. A group from First Baptist Church had a fun night recently centered about a Progressive Dinner at four different places. It was exciting and fun with plenty to eat.

The last stop was back at the church, where a style show was presented. Several members of the group dressed in unusual costumes. (Gladys Tibbits, reporter.)

Wedding Anniversaries



Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Moser's 65th wedding anniversary was a joyous occasion on March 11. The celebration, hosted by their children and grandchildren, was held at First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD, where the Mosers are members.



Gottfried and Olga Rode, faithful members of Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, celebrated their 60th

o.c.i.a.

wedding anniversary on Feb. 24, 1984. Their daughter, Alwine Straka, hosted a gathering at her home, in their honor. The Rev. and Mrs. Rick Laser presented Gottfried and Olga with a gift from the church. (Elsie Baum, reporter.)



John and Louise Morton, Spokane, WA, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 18. An afternoon reception was hosted by their relatives and friends and was held at Terrace Heights Baptist Church where they are members. (Harvey A. Motis, pastor)

Church Dedications and Anniversaries

ALPENA, MI. The Centennial Committee at Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church seeks addresses of former pastors, members, and friends who might be interested in attending the 100th celebration on Aug. 10, 11, and 12, 1984. Please send this information to the church at 114 Barry St., Alpena, MI 49707. (Mrs. Garry Ostrander, secretary.)

Ordinations

SPRUCE GROVE, AB. On March 3, 1984, an Ordination Council met at Parkland Baptist Church to examine candidate Pastor Lyle Richards. The Council unanimously recommended that Parkland Baptist Church proceed with the Ordination Service for their pastor, Lyle Richards.

The Ordination Service took place March 11, 1984, at 2:30 P.M. in the Parkland Baptist Church. (John E. Lehman, council clerk.)

Please note: All reports received by March 30 appear in this issue of the Baptist Herald. Please limit reports to 100 words or less.

in memoriam

ALBERT BONNET (71), McClusky, ND, was born Sept. 30, 1912, near McClusky to Peter and Christina Bonnet and died March 2, 1984. On Jan. 17, 1935, he married Helen Dockter at McClusky and resided in this area. During the early part of his illness, he accepted Christ and testified often and openly of him. Survivors include his wife Helen; two sons: Alvin, Clearbrook, MN and Harley, Colstrip, MT; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; two brothers: Walter and Theophi; three sisters: Mrs. Philip Goehring, Mrs. Robert Neu-harth, and Mrs. Edward Derheim. The Reverends Perry Schnabel and Oscar Fritzke officiated at the funeral service.

MARY C. LINDAMAN (63), Aplington, IA, was born to R. G. and Florence Morris Ranney, Monmouth, IL, and died Feb. 2, 1984. During most of her childhood, she lived in Shelbina, MO. On March 8, 1941, Mary married Edwin Lindaman in Goodland, KS. They lived in Denver, CO, and Aplington, IA. Mary was an active member of Aplington Baptist Church, teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir. Survivors include her husband, Edwin of Aplington, IA; two daughters: Mary Kay, and her husband, Rev. Philip Gehman, Greensboro, NC, and Leslie and her husband, Norman Allen, of Topeka, KS; one son: Jerry Lindaman and wife, Micky, Glen Ellyn, IL; three grandchildren: Randy and Russ Gehman and Brooke Lindaman; her mother: Mrs. R. G. Ranny, Shelbina, MO; one sister: Jocelyn (Mrs. Ted Hepworth), and one brother: Dr. W. R. Ranney. She was predeceased by her father and one sister, Jean Ranney Colter. The Rev. Donald Patet officiated at the funeral service.

PAULINE WAHL (nee Schatz) was born Oct. 18, 1890, in Menno, SD, to Adam and Margaret Schatz and died Jan. 14, 1984. In 1907, she made her profession of faith and was baptized into the church. Pauline Schatz attended Baptist Missionary Training School and Moody Bible Institute to prepare for Christian service. On Oct. 30, 1917, she married Emil P. Wahl at McClusky, ND. In March 1918, they began ministry at Hilda Baptist Church, where Mr. Wahl was ordained. Pauline was very active in the various churches that she served together with her late husband, the Rev. Dr. E. P. Wahl. Her leadership was displayed in her active involvement in women's work in the Sunday school and vacation church school. During the presidency of her husband at the Christian Training Institute (now N.A.B. College), Mrs. Wahl served for many years as dean of women, matron, and supervised the meals. Many a young person's life was influenced for the good by her example of patience and service. In 1975, she with her husband moved to Leduc, AB. She was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Dr. E. P. Wahl, twin daughters, Fay and May, and son, Ivan. Survivors include a

daughter, Inez, Leduc, AB; a son, Wallace, and daughter-in-law, Marilyn, Edmonton, AB; two grandsons: David and Gregory; five sisters, and two brothers.

MR. EMIL J. OHLHAUSER (83), born Sept. 24, 1900, in Long Lake, SD, died Feb. 21, 1984. In 1909 the Ohlhauser family moved to Carbon, AB. Emil accepted Christ at an early age, was baptized, and joined Freudenthal Baptist Church near Carbon. In 1921 he married Charlotte Schmierer of Lodi, CA. The Ohlhausers lived in the Carbon, AB, area; Calgary, AB; Sacramento, CA; White Rock, BC; and Kelowna, BC. Emil, who faithfully attended Trinity Baptist Church, encouraged and supported a continuous Christian outreach of the local church. Emil was predeceased by his daughter, Marcella Wilson; two brothers, Jacob and John; two sisters, Katherine Biebrick and Pauline Bertsch. Survivors include his wife Charlotte; son Vernon and his wife Mildred; son-in-law Dave Wilson of White Rock; five grandchildren, Geoffrey Wilson, Charlotte Wilson Harder, Harry Wilson, Wanda Ohlhauser Klapstein and Maxwell Ohlhauser; three great grandchildren; and two sisters: Lydia Bertsch and Freda Dickau. The Rev. Richard Hohensee officiated at the funeral service.

IDA FISCHER, Aberdeen, SD, born near Ashley, ND, to Jacob and Katharine (Delzer) Schrenk, died Jan. 18, 1984. In 1908 the family moved to Ashley. Ida accepted Christ at age 11, was baptized in 1916, and became an active member of Ashley Baptist Church. On Oct. 29, 1922, she married Carl Fischer. She was an active member of the Johannestal Baptist Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher and organist and an officer in the Women's Missionary Society. On Dec. 31, 1980, they moved to Aberdeen, SD, and joined Calvary Baptist Church. On Oct. 29, 1983, they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Survivors include her husband, Carl; one son, Wayne and wife Donna; two grandchildren: Brent and Peggy (Mrs. Mark Hildebrandt); and a sister, Mrs. F. E. (Ella) Klein. She was predeceased by her parents, one brother, Emil, and two sisters, Martha and Esther. The Rev. Monte Michaelson officiated at the funeral service.

ALEXANDER O. PRIEBE (88), son of Frederick and Julia Priebe, was born in Quincy, IL, on Feb. 26, 1896, and died March 6, 1984, in Okeene, OK. He grew up in Quincy, then moved to Topeka, KS, and then to Elk City, OK. After serving in World War I, he came to Okeene, OK, and lived on a farm for 65 years. He married Mamie Kramp on May 12, 1920. He was a faithful member of Zion Baptist Church since 1920. He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, seven brothers and sisters, and one son. The Rev. Edward Kopf officiated at the funeral service.

what's happening

The North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, was visited by the ATS and the NCA Accreditation Team, April 8 to 11, 1984. "They reported a very positive impression of the school and are recommending to their respective accrediting commissions that we be given ten years of accreditation without any notations," states Charles M. Hiatt, president of the Seminary. "This represents the best possible report that we could have received and an answer to my specific prayer." The accreditation team especially appreciated the observable trust and confidence among faculty, administrators, and board members.

Mr. Terry Harsch became Minister of Christian Education and Youth on May 1, 1984, at Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. He is a 1984 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX, and is originally from Carbon, AB.

Mr. Allen J. Mertes becomes Associate Pastor of Youth and Christian Education at Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, effective July 1, 1984. He is a 1984 graduate of Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

The Canora Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, requested that they be considered disbanded and that they be removed from the list of churches of the Saskatchewan Association at its annual meeting the end of March 1984.

Mr. Dan Leverette becomes associate pastor at Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, effective June 1984. He is a 1984 graduate of North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

The Rev. Al Grams completed his ministry at Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI, effective March 31, 1984. He has served this church since 1977.

Mr. David H. Bolton is the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA. He had been serving as interim pastor there since July 1983.

Mr. Rick Foster was ordained by Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, on April 8, 1984. He is a graduate of the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

Mr. Phil Zylla has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON, effective June 24, 1984. He is a 1984 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Henry Lang has concluded his interim ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, Billings, MT.

The Rev. John Goetze, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON, concluded his ministry on May 1, 1984, to retire from full-time ministry. He has served this church since 1976.

The Rev. Ron Berg accepted the pastorate of Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective June 3, 1984. He served as pastor of Ebenezzer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, for the past year.

Mr. Paul Robert Wilson is the Minister of Youth and Music at Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB.

Mr. Robert Klein, a 1984 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, becomes pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD, effective July 1, 1984.

Mr. Richard Wold is the minister of Christian Education at Valley View Baptist Church, Everett, WA.

The Rev. Larry Freisen resigned as pastor of Whispering Oaks Baptist Church, Parkville, MO, effective March 31, 1984. He has served this church since 1981.

The Rev. Willi Kurtz resigned as pastor of the Fort Richmond Baptist Church Winnipeg, MB, effective March 31, 1984.

Mr. Allan Finger became the Youth and Christian Education Director at South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD, effective May 1, 1984.

Mr. Dennis Anderson resigned as Minister of Christian Education at First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, effective Nov. 1, 1983.

The Rev. Daniel Edzards completed his ministry as pastor of English language at Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, on March 31, 1984.

The Rev. Kurt Redsclag was appointed Director of Recruitment at the annual Board of Trustees meeting of the North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB. Mr. Redsclag has been serving in this capacity on a part-time basis. Mrs. Estella Reich has assumed the position of Campus Hostess, and Mr. John Lehman the position of Business Administrator at the schools.

baptist world aid

MEDICINAL AND RECONSTRUCTIVE AID NEEDED FOR ECUADOR

During the early part of 1983, Ecuador experienced the most severe rains in this century. It is estimated that one third of the country was flooded at one time. Bridges and roads were swept away; rice crops were destroyed; sugar cane was severely damaged, and banana plantations flooded. It had been reported that 100,000 people were made homeless, but unofficial estimates place the figure nearer 400,000.

The Ecuadorian government appealed to various groups to respond. A group of Protestant churches and relief agencies formed CENAD, which has assumed the responsibility for the oversight and coordination of the program of reconstruction. CENAD approached MAP International for help in giving guidance in community development and in providing medicines. Baptist World Aid has set a goal of \$22,900 to assist MAP International in helping 100,000 people reestablish homes, plant and raise crops, and receive medicines.

Your contribution designated for Flood Relief in Ecuador may be sent to BWAid, North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

50th Anniversary Grace Baptist Church 1150 Glenmore Dr. Kelowna, BC V1Y 4P3 (604) 763-3457

We invite all former members and friends to our 50th anniversary celebration,

August 29 - September 2, 1984.

Guest Speakers: the Rev. E. Babel, former pastor, and Dr. R. Kerstan, Baptist World Alliance

-Write us for a program

-Order our special anniversary directory (\$5.00)

The Rev. Gerhard Poschwatta, pastor

congratulations

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

Temple Baptist, Swan River, MB; Rev. Leland Bertsch, pastor; Mrs. Ray Seib, agent.

First Baptist, Trenton, IL; Rev. Bob Neighbors, pastor; Mrs. Florence Ranz, agent.

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

Ebenezer Baptist, Abilene, KS; Rev. Dale Lint, pastor; Mrs. Reva Lutz, agent.

Cathay Baptist, Cathay, ND; Rev. John Dikkers, pastor; Mrs. Albert Seibold, agent.

Redeemer Baptist, Columbus, NE; Rev. Arlie Rauch, pastor.

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

Hillcrest Baptist, Cleveland, OH; Rev. William McLatchie, pastor; Mrs. Lillian Knowles, agent.

Shell Creek Baptist, Columbus NE; Rev. Clyde Zimbelman, pastor; Mrs. Lydia Gehring, agent.

First Baptist, Corona, SD; Rev. Anthony Guenther, pastor; Mr. Harold Loof, agent.

Rosenfeld Baptist, Drake, ND; Rev. Vernon Schneider, pastor; Mrs. Bennie Martin, agent.

Plum Creek, Emery, SD; Rev. Tim Walker, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jucht, agents.

Mowata Baptist, Eunice, LA; Rev. Anthony Arends, pastor; Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rockett, agent.

First Baptist, Goodrich, ND; Rev. Daniel Heringer, interim pastor; Mrs. Freda Rauser, agent.

First Baptist, Golden Prairie, AB; Rev. Harry Friess, pastor; Mr. Arnold Martin, agent.

Bethel Baptist, Harvey, ND; Rev. Eric Coulon, pastor; Mrs. Helen Otto, agent.

Bethany Baptist, Hunter, KS; Rev. Dennis Sigle, pastor; Mrs. Suzanne Wehrmann, agent.

Temple Baptist, Jamestown, ND; Rev. Jim Dick, pastor; Mrs. Leona Meisch, agent.

Trinity Baptist, Kelowna, BC; Rev. Richard Hohensee, pastor; Mrs. Elsie Hait, agent.

Immanuel Baptist, Kyle, TX; Rev. James Lavender, pastor; Mr. Cecil Q. Manuel, agent.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY

Summer Course Offerings

in Conjunction with N.A.B. Ministers' and Wives' Conference
August 14-17, 1984

W152 THE CHURCH AND COMPUTERS

Coordinator: President Charles Hiatt

Participants will interact with professionals in the computer field to discover possible church applications of the microcomputer and ways to implement their use in the local church.

1 Semester Hour—August 13-14, 1984

M: 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

T: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

W893 DOCTOR OF MINISTRY ORIENTATION

Dr. Daniel Leininger

This course provides an overview of the Seminary's entire Doctor of Ministry process. Three areas are explored: Personal motivations for learning, professional development as a growing minister, and the structure of the degree program itself. The participant is challenged to gain a holistic view of the process and to utilize self-evaluation, feedback, and supervision as tools for becoming a more effective minister of the gospel.

1 Semester Hour—August 13-14, 1984

M: 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

T: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

W743 HUMAN EVALUATION TECHNIQUES

Dr. Ernie Zimbelman

Brief survey of the theoretical fundamentals of testing, examining and using some relevant instruments related to premarital and family counseling situations. Special focus will be on the T-JTA and Prepare/Enrich tests.

1 Semester Hour—August 13-14, 1984

M: 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

T: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

W446 MINISTRY WITH OLDER ADULTS

Dr. Floyd Moore

Workshop focusing on the characteristics and needs of persons 55 years of age and older. Provision for developing a basic understanding of social gerontology and the aging experience.

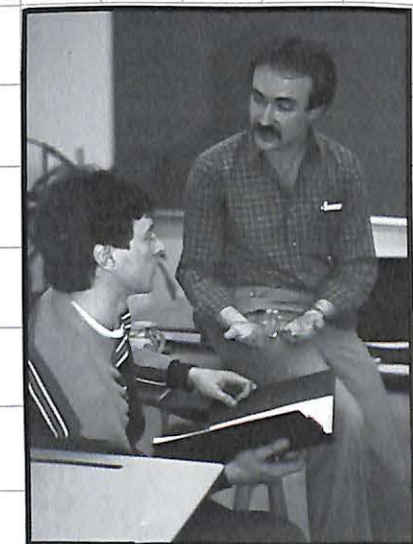
2 Semester Hours—August 20-31, 1984

M-F: 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Note: Pastors, missionaries and church staff persons in full-time positions are eligible for fee adjustments. For further information contact: Registrar, North American Baptist Seminary, 1321 West 22nd, Sioux Falls, SD 57105; Phone (605) 336-6588

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

A Place



To Grow



Programs of Study
Certificate in Biblical Studies
Diploma in Biblical Studies
Diploma in Music
Bachelor of Arts in Religion (BAR)
Bachelor of Religious Education (BRE)

1 yr.
2 yrs.
2 yrs.
4 yrs.

For further information, write or call
Rev. Kurt Redschlag
North American Baptist College
11525 - 23 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3
Phone (403) 437-1960

Baptist Herald

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North American Baptist Conference Mission and Ministry Goal

Ministering Together in 1984

by God's Measure of Faith

Missions \$1,647,650 (41%)

Mission Challenge \$100,000

For the support of 73 career and 13 short-term missionaries in Brazil, Japan, Cameroon and Nigeria. An additional \$100,000 has been budgeted to send five new missionaries to the field for a total of 78 career missionaries.

Church Extension /

Church Growth \$956,350 (22%)

For the support of over 40 ongoing church extension projects plus eight new projects in 1984 along with various church growth ministries such as New Day.

North American

Baptist Seminary \$392,000 (9%)

For the support of our Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. N.A.B.S. has a combined enrollment of full-time and part-time students of over 250.

Development \$371,050 (9%)

For the support of Conference development activities and Conference publications such as the *Baptist Herald*.

North American Baptist College

and Divinity School \$304,500 (7%)

For the support of our College and Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta. N.A.B.C./D.S. has a combined enrollment of over 250 students.

Area Ministries \$242,400 (6%)

For the support of the ministry of our Conference's nine Area Ministers.

General Council \$166,500 (4%)

For the support of the administrative and office functions of the General Council and Executive Director.

Currency Exchange and

Interest \$105,000 (2%)

For expenses incurred due to currency exchange losses and interest expense on borrowed funds during periods of low contribution income.

Contingency \$14,550 (Less than 1%)

For unexpected expenses incurred during the year.

TOTAL 1984 BUDGET \$4,300,000

At its February meeting, the Executive Committee of the Conference reduced the 1984 Conference Budget Goal of \$4,400,000 by \$100,000. The Committee felt that in light of the \$122,000 shortfall in 1983 and the continued slow economic recovery, the reduction was needed.

1984 contributions continue to be slow. Through April 15, 1984, contributions were ten percent under 1983 contributions. Unless, this situation improves, further reductions may be necessary. Please continue to pray that through our North American Baptist churches God would provide the resources to meet our Conference ministry needs.