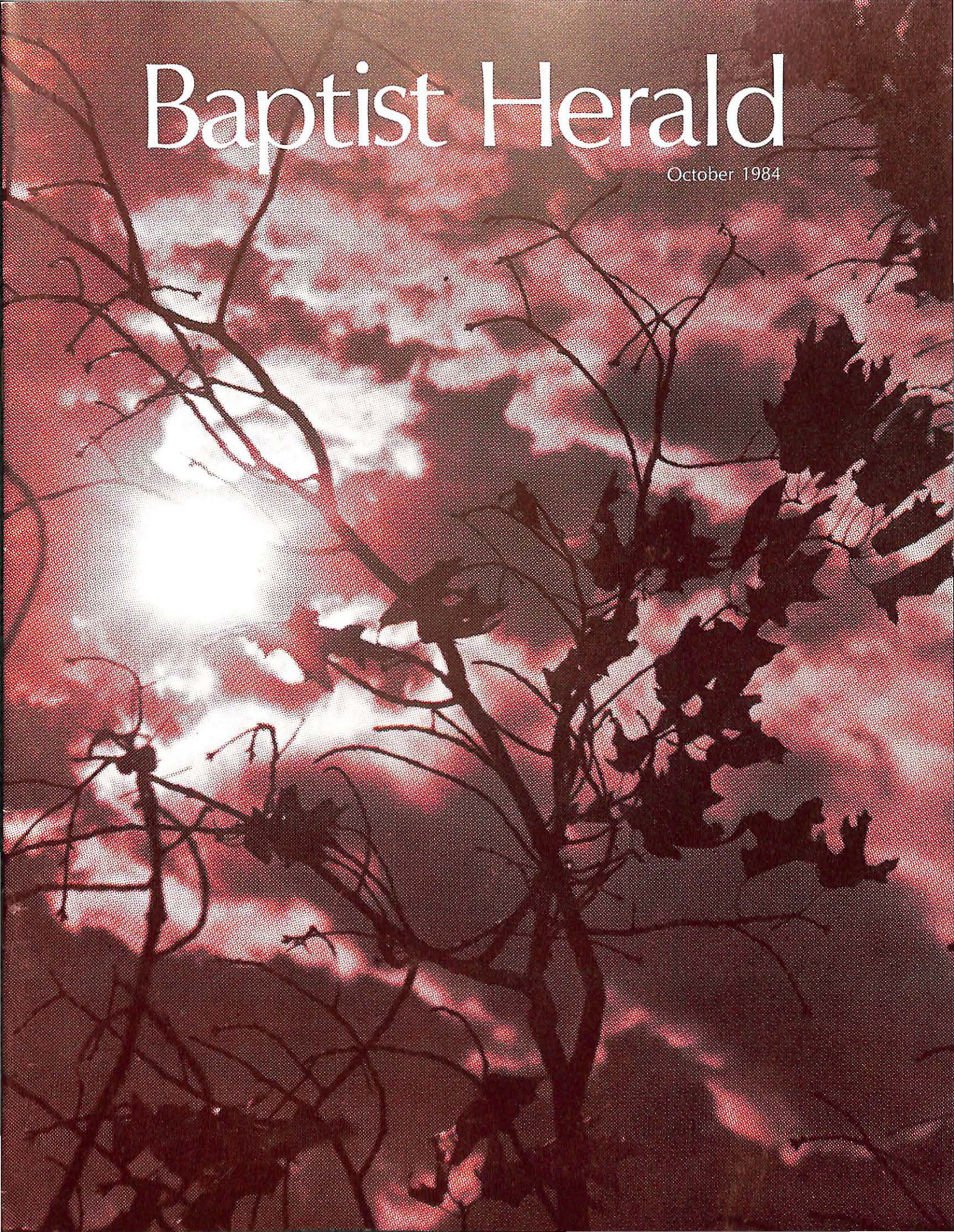


Baptist Herald

October 1984



Content and Thankful

by Gene A. Kern



Contentment is not an easily gained virtue in our modern, affluent, status-seeking society. Pride and prejudice are built-in features in our social structure. Vance Packard, in his highly acclaimed book, *The Status Seekers*, has shown that the cars we drive, the churches we attend, where we go to school, the houses we live in—even our personal choice of words—are marks of our place in society. Virtually everyone, consciously, or in some cases unconsciously, is striving to rise another rung on the social ladder, because he is discontent with his present status.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that our culture is basically materialistic. A man's success is measured by his accumulation of wealth, his possession of luxury items and status symbols, and by his association with others of known status and rank.

But I trust you are among the many who would agree with Jesus' statement that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Things do not satisfy; they do not bring the deep and inner happiness for which we all quest.

Paul reminded Timothy that "godliness with contentment is great gain" (II Timothy 6:6). Such an attitude does not imply laziness, lack of desire for self-improvement, complacency or mere resignation to the status-quo. Throughout the Word of God, we are exhorted to be diligent and industrious, making full use of our divinely bestowed talents and abilities.

However, facing life with contentment does preclude the possibility of lusting after the things of this world and grasping for more than we have. Carnal covetousness is undoubtedly the root cause of many ulcers, heart attacks, and nervous breakdowns.

A covetous person can never be content and, as he sees it, has nothing for which to be thankful. All that he has, he thinks, has been gained through his own greediness.

The writer to the Hebrews reveals the secret of contentment: "Be content with such things as ye have; for He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee'" (Hebrews 13:5). Contentment comes through realizing that God is with us; we need not make our way through life alone. He will never leave us, and God has promised to "supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). If we give priority to spiritual considerations, God will see to it that all of our needs are provided for (Matthew 6:33, Psalms 37:25).

A contented person is a thankful person. He realizes that the blessings he daily enjoys are gifts from the hand of God. He knows that if he continues to trust his loving Heavenly Father he will never lack

the necessities of life. When reverses come, his world does not crumble. He still trusts God, recognizing that he brought nothing into the world and will not be able to carry anything out of it.

Job is a perfect example of this truth. He was enjoying life at the pinnacle of prosperity. He was rich and religious; "the greatest of all the men of the east" (Job 1:3). A series of personal tragedies stripped him of all his earthly blessings. The Sabeans stole his 500 yoke of oxen, his 500 donkeys and murdered some of his servants. Fire from heaven (probably lightening) burned up his 7,000 sheep and their herders. Marauding Chaldeans made off with his 3,000 camels and killed more of his servants. His seven sons and three daughters died when a violent storm caused a house to collapse upon them. Job lost all that he had. The man who had known prosperity was now reduced to poverty.

Listen to the testimony of this broken man: "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Like Paul the Apostle, Job could say, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11). I trust that all of us, as North American Baptists, are learning and discovering the grace of contentment. Whether prosperous or poverty-stricken, excited or distressed, we are determining each day to glorify God with a righteous, contented and thankful life. □

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



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The theme of the 41st Triennial Conference of N.A.B. Churches to be held in July 1985, in Anaheim, CA, will be "A People of Hope for a World in Despair." The Rev. Ken MacDonald, pastor of Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, gave this devotional at the 1984 N.A.B. General Council sessions.

A People of Hope for a World in Despair

by Ken MacDonald

It was a deep thrill to hear the testimony of a young man who spent twelve years on the streets of Edmonton involved in drugs, violence and crime. This young man found Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. He turned himself into the authorities, served some time in the penitentiary and has now been released to begin a new life. His life has been radically changed because of Jesus Christ. For the first time in his life, he has hope!

One of the greatest joys of my ministry was to see this young man declare his faith in Jesus Christ through the waters of baptism. One can sense the hope and excitement in his face as he talks about his desire to share his relationship with Christ with others on the streets of Edmonton.

We are a people of hope if we are related to God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian Church that "You were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the common-wealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12, 13). Jesus Christ has given us hope and purpose.

At the 1984 General Council meeting, the descriptive phrase, "minis-

try containment," was used on various occasions. The words were a referral to holding back or containing our advance in our various Conference ministries because of the shortage of funds. "Ministry containment" is a sobering reality. The words are disturbing indeed! How can we reconcile "ministry containment" with a "world in despair"? Matthew 9:35-38, 10:1-7 is a Biblical prescription for "ministry containment." There are three great words which flow out of these verses: *Compassion, Prayer, and Obedience.*

Compassion

What motivates believers to become involved in the greatest cause in the world? How do we move past these depressing words, "ministry containment"? Compassion is a tremendous motivation for ministry. Matthew points out that "when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

The word "compassion" is a very interesting word. It literally means to have the viscera moved. When the Hebrews wanted to express something they felt very deeply about, they said, "I hurt in my mid-section."

Our mid-section responds to emotion. If we see something rather gruesome, we often feel it in our mid-section. When we are anxious, for example, our mid-section often

responds. We may get indigestion, ulcers, colitis, gall-bladder problems, and numerous other anxiety-linked maladies.

Jesus uses a strong word here to indicate that he was wrenched in pain in the mid-section because of his love and pity for the people: People who were sick, blind, or in the bondage of demonic possession. He was moved to compassion with the world's sorrow, by the world's hunger, and by the world's loneliness.

This is the strongest translation of the word "compassion" in the Scriptures. It indicates not only a pained feeling at the sight of suffering, but in addition a strong desire to relieve and remove the sufferings.

It may seem relatively easy for us to grow accustomed to a world in despair. One of the deep prayers of our hearts would be the earnest plea that we would be sensitive and tender to a world that needs Christ. Jesus wept over Jerusalem! Have we lost the ability to hurt with a suffering world? Do we ever feel pain in our mid-section for people who are needy and without Christ?

The reason Jesus had such compassion was because of the condition of the people who flocked to his side, "They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." The description is that of a sheep "having been flayed" or "having the skin torn." It suggests exhaustion and the sense of helplessness. Jesus looked

deep within the individual lives of that great crowd, and he saw people worn out, exhausted, and desperately in need of help.

And he was moved with compassion. Am I? Are you?

Prayer

The first instruction that Jesus gives after being wrenched with pain in his mid-section is to pray. "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Here you see what Jesus is saying, "I have compassion on all these people, they are eternally lost; I love them with a deep love. We have to do something! More workers are needed."

How are we going to get those workers? Work up a great psychological program? Discover all kinds of gimmicks to get people motivated? Get the publicity out? Run a great promotional campaign? NO.

What did Jesus say? Pray! Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest. Here is what the Biblical commentator Lenski says: "Our prayers unite in God's concern for the harvest, make us of one mind, heart and will with him, partners of Jesus himself. Jesus does not tell the disciple to go out and get workers. This mistake has often been made, and workers are brought in that God has not called. The harvest is God's, and he must provide the workers and send them out, literally throw them out into the harvest. All that we are to do is to ask this of God, and we know that this is his will and that he will hear our request."

As a pastor, I am geared to organize, recruit, and delegate. When I hear of a shortage of workers, this is my first inclination, but the first thing Jesus says is pray.

Obedience

The word obedience is the greatest blockbuster I know to push down the walls of "ministry containment." What an interesting transition from the end of Matthew chapter 9 to the beginning of chapter 10. In the last verse of chapter 9, Jesus asks his disciples to pray, and then in the first verse of chapter 10, he calls the very ones he asks to pray. They are also

the ones he sends in verse 6, and the ones who are to preach in verse 7.

When they had begun to see the world as Christ saw it, when they had looked with the eyes of Christ, when they had felt with the heart of compassion that he had, then they would begin to pray. As they began to pray, they would see also that they needed to go and proclaim the glorious gospel of hope to a world in despair.



Ken MacDonald

A powerful testimony of obedience is recorded in the annals of history:

Emperor Nero wanted around him the finest men of Roman stock. So he selected his own personal wrestlers from the bravest, strongest and most stalwart of all the Roman athletes. They often repeated their familiar motto: "We are the wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Emperor, to win for thee the victory and from thee the victor's crown."

On one occasion, the Roman army, including these famous wrestlers, was sent to put down some skirmish in Gaul.

No soldiers were braver or more capable than the Emperor's. They were led by a centurion named Distachian who was a brilliant man. While they were in Gaul, many of them became converted to Jesus Christ. Word came back to Nero that some of his personal wrestlers had become Christians. He sent a message to Distachian, saying, "If there be any among your soldiers who cling to the faith of the Christian way, they must die."

The decree was received in the

dead of winter in Gaul. The soldiers were encamped on a shore of a frozen inland lake. With a sinking heart Distachian, the centurion, read the message. He called the soldiers together and asked the question, "Are any of you those who have embraced the Christian faith?"

Forty of them stepped forward and saluted him. He said, "I give you until tomorrow to deny that, or you must die."

At sundown the next day, he asked the same question. The same forty men stepped forward.

He said, "I cannot allow you to die at the hands of your fellows; I strip you naked and banish you to the middle of the lake in the dead of night, frozen in the winter."

Not long after the wrestlers had arrived at the middle of the lake, their voices rang out across the ice: "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Christ, to win for thee the victory and from thee the Victor's Crown."

Those on the shore heard it again and again throughout the night. It grew fainter and fainter as the morning came. Finally near morning, one lonely figure who could not stand the coldness with the others approached the fire. He came to warm himself and admit that he had denied Christ.

And then the cry came faintly across the ice; "Thirty-nine wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Christ, to win for thee the victory and from thee the Victor's Crown."

Distachian, by this time, was utterly overwhelmed; God did something in his heart at that moment. He threw off his helmet and all his armor, and took off across the ice shouting: "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for thee, O Christ, to win for thee the victory and from thee the Victor's Crown."

Obedience is the keystone to discipleship. May we be obedient to be sent out as laborers in a world filled with despair and anguish. May we be obedient to give of our financial resources to ensure that "ministry containment" no longer will be descriptive of the ministry that God has given us as North American Baptists.

Compassion, Prayer, and Obedience are three great words of motivation for our ministry of hope. □

Love in the Family of God

by Mary McGraw

"Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, 'Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.'

'Who are my mother and brothers?' he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, 'Here are my mother and brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother' " (Matthew 12:46-50).

God provided two wonderful church families who loved and supported our family during 1983. That summer was a time of decisions and separations. Our youngest son Bradley required surgery on his spine and, because of the risks in his case, our doctors advised us to take him to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where after consultation and tests, two dates were set for Brad's surgery.

Our oldest son, Greg, left for Ontario as a counselor for a leadership training camp. Marc spent the summer with "Grandma and Gramps" in British Columbia, and my husband Randy, Brad, and I traveled to Minneapolis.

We were met by a couple from Faith Baptist Church. They welcomed us with open arms and invited us not only into their home but also into their lives as well. Bradley and I attended the evening worship service at Faith and were introduced to many people who offered their help and prayers. As the days went by, they were true to their word.

The first surgery on July 26 was done by four surgeons who removed one rib and some wedge-shaped vertebrae in preparation for the second surgery. Brad had difficulty breathing and was placed on a respirator

and heart monitor. It was a frightening time; Randy and I stood helplessly by watching others care for him.

Randy returned to Oakbank to work, and I remained, spending my time at Brad's side. There were times when I was sure Heaven was only an instant away, and I drew strength from a verse I had memorized: "This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11,12).

I thought back to the first time I heard the gospel presented on a television program, when I knelt down and prayed, accepting all that Christ had done, inviting him to come into my life to be its very center. And I remembered how each son came to make that same decision individually as God drew each one to himself, and we prayed together. How precious were the memories of our prayers for and with each other, as brand new Christians taking our first steps of faith. And that day, though separated from one another, how wonderful to know we had the assurance of eternal life as promised in 1 John 5:11,12.

Brad came off the respirator with much pain and difficulty. God's radiance shone through him in such a way that it amazed doctors and nurses. This earned him the name, "Trouper." Even though he couldn't talk because of the tubes, he wrote out Scriptures and asked anyone to read the Bible to him.

In Oakbank, offers of help to Randy came in the form of an airplane loaned to us by a Christian couple whose son was on Marc's hockey team. At the Faith Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast, the men not only prayed but also rolled up their sleeves and donated blood to replace what Brad had lost. It was, to me, the most beautiful picture of Christ's sacrificial love carried out through his

chosen people. The love of both church families was genuine and overwhelming. It was hard to remember that we had arrived only one week ago as total strangers to this city.

On August 3, the second operation began with the hope of holding Brad's spine where it was—at 105 degree curvature to prevent further damage to his heart and lungs. God had a miracle waiting. Eight and one-half hours later, he lay in intensive care with a newly constructed body. The curvature was decreased to 34 degrees and his spine held in place with two stainless steel rods and wire. Seven more ribs were removed and used to fuse the spine together. Ninety percent of his back hump was removed, and God's miracle child lay flat on his back for the first time in many years. We were truly in awe of God's answers to prayer above and beyond what we could have asked or hoped for.

God provided a support system from home, a couple from Oakbank who sat with me during the second operation. Randy flew down later

that night in the borrowed plane, and our new church family continued to support us, providing rides to and from the hospital, homes to stay in, meals, visits, and most of all, prayers and encouragement.

The Sunday school class from Faith visited Brad; each one sharing with him a joke and a Scripture. One twelve-year-old boy continued to visit Brad every day, giving up his summer to be a special friend.

In Oakbank, the church community showed God's love by picking our garden and helping my husband freeze and can the vegetables. Others brought produce from their own gardens so that our shelves were full. Letters, cards, gifts, phone calls, and tapes from home helped to strengthen us. Prayers were answered in so many different ways. We praised God for every milestone: Brad's first meal (three cherry popsicles), the fitting of his brace, his first steps, even getting his hair washed and cut.

As the hospital bills mounted, we heard word of the generosity and gifts that not only our church but also Winnipeg churches and others in the community provided. Even though we could not thank everyone individually, I know God credits to your account your gifts, your love, prayers, and sacrifices.

We arrived home at the end of August and were a family again for three days before Greg left to attend North American Baptist College in Edmonton. I thought the difficult days were behind us, but God began to teach me about his refining process. Malachi 3:3 says that he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. In Daniel 3, we read about Daniel's three friends who refused to bow to a false image the king had set up and were thrown into a blazing furnace, but not until it had been heated "seven times hotter than usual."

When Brad and I came home, I struggled with many things. I felt the tremendous responsibility of caring for him without any medical training. Brad weighed only 58 pounds, and any bump or infection could set back the whole healing process. Randy worked late every evening and on the weekends held a second job which often took him out of town. I missed our oldest son, the first one out of the nest.

I was discouraged. I felt isolated and inadequate. I had trouble making decisions. Tears came at any time, day or night, and I would awaken at night thinking I still heard the respirator. I was terribly disappointed that Randy appeared not to have drawn closer to God, nor made a commitment to him through this trial. I was so sure the furnace had been turned up seven times hotter than usual and that was more than I could possibly stand.

God continued to work in my life, keeping me faithful in reading his Word daily. In answer to my prayers, instead of changing my circumstances, God gave me new eyes to see others in their pain and the courage to reach out to them. He provided me with an outreach to

knows when the work is done. Sometimes we might think the fire too long, that instead of purifying, it will destroy. We ask, "How does the refiner know when the fire has done its perfect work?"

An old refiner was asked that question by a visitor. He answered, "See how I sit by the fire?"

The stranger answered, "Yes." Then he said, "See how I bend over the pot?"

Again the answer was, "Yes, but how do you know when there has been just the right amount of heat?"

The old refiner looked up and said, "When I see my own reflection."

I want my life to be free from sin and impurities, wrong motives or attitudes, words spoken in haste, or anything which might mar, spoil, or

Brad and Mary McGraw at the Minneapolis airport.



Brad and his Minneapolis friends.

others who were struggling. Soon I was involved with three one-to-one Bible studies each week.

When we returned to Minneapolis for Brad's checkup, I again experienced the love and comfort of the family God had provided. The X-rays showed tremendous healing. Brad's ribs had grown back, perfectly formed.

I know God gave me this year as a gift to spend with this special son, as we laughed, cried, and prayed together.

"He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. . ." You see, he

cloud the reflection of his image. Regardless of circumstance or trials, I want to look up and say, "How much of your face can you see in me today, Lord? As you bend over my life, how much of your Son's image reflects back at you?"

I want to express my love and appreciation for my wonderful church families, my "brothers, sisters, and mothers" that God especially chose to do his will in our lives. I want to worship him, adore him, and offer him this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. □

Mary McGraw is a member of Oakbank Baptist Church, Manitoba.

Love and Sacrifice

by Joyce Batek

He handed me the small white folded piece of paper and asked me to take it back to the church. This was to be the first of many such deliveries. I marvelled that he was so faithful in his contributions when I knew that he had nothing to call his own. Everytime I accepted the small folded piece of paper, it brought tears to my eyes.

Mitsuru Inoue entered "Seichochoen," a TB sanitarium, in 1949 at the age of eleven. He was a sixth grader whose mother died when he was very young. I'm told he asked his family to admit him to the hospital because he was concerned for the safety of their health.

I first met him in 1964. He had already undergone numerous operations, which would total nine surgeries before his death, for an already incurable disease. He once said he never could have endured them without knowing the Lord.

The voice of Mitsuru was barely audible and exited from under his arm rather than his throat. In order to achieve this remarkable feat, he had to press the open wound in his chest to get any semblance of a whispered conversation. As the wound slowly became smaller with subsequent surgeries, his voice gradually became stronger, but he would never talk normally and would always have to hold his chest with his hand to talk.

Joyce Batek was an N.A.B. missionary to Japan who returned to the U.S.A. 12 years ago after serving in Japan from 1960-72. She returned to Japan for a visit in May, but Mitsuru Inoue had gone home to be with the Lord. Mitsuru was a dear friend who was in Joyce's Bible study group at the TB Sanitarium, as hospital evangelism was part of Joyce's ministry as a missionary in Japan. Joyce is a member of Evangel Baptist Church, Boca Raton, Florida.

Mitsuru tired easily from trying to talk but always wore a radiant smile. He met the Lord as his Savior through another patient in the same hospital. She later died, but her life and death made a profound impression upon him. God used him in subsequent years to lead others in the hospital to a saving knowledge of Christ.



God used Mitsuru Inoue (left) to lead others in the TB Sanitarium to Christ. Kawaga San, a deacon, is at Mitsuru's right.

He attended the Bible class I was teaching when he felt strong enough to leave his bed. When he couldn't attend, I visited him in his room. Always the same smile greeted me, and always the small folded piece of paper was received and delivered to the church as he requested.

The winters were very hard on Mitsuru, and he was forced to stay in bed. The hospital was old and smelled strongly of disinfectant. The halls, as well as many rooms, were unheated. It was a dreary, dismal place which reflected the nature of

the consuming illnesses it sheltered.

I used to wonder if I could stand it were I hospitalized there year after year. The rooms were crowded, cold and drafty with concrete hallways and wooden floors. Three years ago, the old buildings were torn down, and a new hospital now stands in its place.

These patients in this hospital are

often shunned by their families out of fear of the dread disease. When Mitsuru became ill, there was no good medicine to assure that one day 35 of his 46 years in that place.

The one true ray of light in his life was his love for the Lord Jesus. Mitsuru shared his faith with those in the Bible study discussion when he was able to attend. On better days, he even joined several others whom I drove by car to our Sunday service at the Shinmachi Christian Church in Tsu.

Sometimes we would stop in town so the patients could shop for toiletries and other necessities. Many of the patients received a small allowance from their families, but they never had much of what we know as worldly goods.

Out of his meager allowance, Mitsuru was putting aside money for the Lord's work. He loved the Lord and lived an unselfish life as evidenced by the testimony he left behind. Everyone who knew him was captivated by his quiet, smiling manner.

On February 6, 1984, Mitsuru was called home to be with the Lord. He knew his days on earth were coming to an end, and shortly before his death, he gave one of his fellow patients a small booklet which revealed a savings account with the post office. For many years, he had been saving money to be used in the Lord's work. When the booklet was given to the church, the amount totaled \$14,000.

At his funeral, Mitsuru's father thanked the church for the loving care they had given his son for many years. He further stated that having seen that love and concern and the change in Mitsuru's life, he wanted to follow the way his son followed so faithfully and know the God he loved and served.

The church was stunned by the amount this poor man was able to save out of his meager allowance. It was a testimony to his unsaved family and to the church of sacrifice, dedication, and love.



On April 29, 1984, members of Japan Baptist Conference churches met for a spiritual retreat.

A fund has been started with the money in his memory to erect a home for widows and the aged. For many years, the Shinmachi Christian Church in Tsu has taken the responsibility of visiting these patients and ministering to their physical and spiritual needs. Some of these patients are able to leave the hospital but are not able to live a productive life in society. The church is desirous of building a home adjacent to the church building where these released patients can live and attend the church services. They are presently caring for one such patient, an elder-

"Having seen the love and concern (of the church) and the change in Mitsuru's life, his father wanted to follow the way his son followed so faithfully and know the God he loved and served."

ly woman, who is living alone in an apartment.

God has commanded us to bear one another's burdens, and the Tsu church has taken this to heart as evidenced by their loving concern and care for these TB patients who have few friends and few opportunities to enjoy the many blessings we often take for granted. My own life has been enriched for having known this man who loved God as we all should love him. □

Batek's Impressions of The Church in Japan

Joyce Batek, former N.A.B. missionary to Japan, returned for a visit in May. At times, people raise the question, "Should we continue N.A.B. mission work in Japan?" I share excerpts of her letter to the editor—excerpts that tell of how God has worked and is working through Christians in Japan. Joyce spent a lot of time with the Japanese Christians.

"I visited many of the home Bible study groups and meetings that are held in both Tsu and Matsusaka. I felt like Pastor Hisashi Murakami's shadow sometimes. (He is pastor of the Tsu Church.) It was a wonderful experience to meet so many new Christians and to renew friendships with those I know so well.

"I was especially thrilled at the growth in the church at Tsu. When I left 12 years ago, we had 12 or 15 ladies in the women's group. Today there are 55. Since they can't always come to church every week, they are divided into eleven groups, each with a leader. They meet once a month for Bible study, discussion and lunch and invite their unsaved friends to attend. They take turns presenting the Bible study. There are also numerous groups led by the deacons and other lay people in the church.

"I visited with some of the ladies that came to my Bible study in my apartment and found Christ as a result. One lady has had a rough time because her husband has been against her faith and has ripped up several Bibles. She has been baptized and is faithful in attendance, which was thrilling to me.

"Another lady, who moved to Hiroshima, has fallen away in her faith. When she heard I was in Japan, she came to see me and stayed three days so we could have a good visit. I took her to see some of the Christian ladies she knows, and a very positive testimony was given by these ladies who also have problems. I'm praying the Lord will use that visit to help her." □

Getting an Old Fire Truck Back on the Road

by David Korb

There is an old fire truck sitting in the garage belonging to my father-in-law in New Hampshire. It has been there for many, many years. One day last summer, my son asked me if we could take it for a drive. I would have loved to! But we were not able to drive it, for it had been sitting there for far too many years.

The fire truck had not moved from that same spot for about ten years. Where oil once lubricated the cylinder walls and bearings, rust and corrosion now resided. This old fire truck once served as a source of comfort to this New Hampshire community, but now due to disuse, it was in no condition to perform. It had not been given the opportunity to be generous.

What could be done to get this old fire truck back on the road? Well, nothing short of a complete overhaul!

As I think of this old fire truck, a parable comes to mind. I suppose that you could put it this way: there is nothing that corrodes the life of a Christian more than the refusal to be generous.

Malachi speaks to this issue in chapter three of his book. Let me give you some background to this event. Remember Nehemiah? He was the man who set out to rebuild the crumbled city of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed by the Babylonians years before. Nehemiah saw to it that the walls were rebuilt

and that a new temple was constructed.

Everything began to flow once again in the city of Jerusalem. There was a great excitement in that city! Think of it! Jerusalem put back together again. The people sat together and vowed before God that they would no longer intermarry with people of pagan religions; they would keep the Sabbath holy; and they would be faithful in the correct use of their financial resources in giving to the temple. Everything was looking so positive. Nehemiah rejoiced as he left Jerusalem after the completion of the work.

Some years later, though, I am sure that his happiness must have turned to sadness as he returned to discover that all of the covenants had been broken and forgotten. Jerusalem had fallen back into the same spiritual and moral climate that had caused her former destruction. Why? What had happened?

Malachi tells us that at the very root of it all is this old fire truck problem. What was once an environment of productivity and activity was now a corrosive environment. The very root of it all was this problem of generosity. Not having taken the opportunity to respond in generosity, corrosion set in.

Resources — Idled!

Frankly, the people of Jerusalem had ceased from being generous with God and with one another. Their resources had been idled.

Malachi speaks directly to their situation in the third chapter of his book. He does not mince words. He lets the people of Jerusalem know that their own measure of generosi-

ty is not acceptable. Jerusalem is just like that fire truck. It is now useless and stalled in the midst of what could be a condition of purposefulness.

Malachi's words fit this parable completely. There's only one way that the people of Jerusalem will be able to overcome this corrosive environment, and that way is to start asserting the priority of generosity again. Malachi is being very direct. He gives us a blunt bench mark about what generosity is: Where it began and what happens when generosity is once again used.

Changes — People not God!

First of all, Malachi speaks of God's claim. God's claim in v. 6 is that: "I the Lord do not change." God reminds the people of Jerusalem that he has always been the same. This was a reminder to the people that what had changed was not God but the people. God had not changed, but the people of Jerusalem had!

God's laws and commands have always been the same. God has always acted generously towards his people, and they simply have not returned the favor. Think of the provision of manna, quail, and water in the wilderness and add to that the provision for direction and safety in a strange land. Yes, God's generosity to his people can easily be verified.

Malachi exhorts the people that it is about time for them to change. He states that it is time to return to their God. In verse eight, Malachi gives instruction as to how this process of return must happen. They must start by not robbing God. How are they robbing him? They are not giving their tithes and offerings to God. As a result of this, they are facing a terrible curse. The same curse as that unused fire truck faced: a deteriora-

tion, uselessness, and eventually destruction. So that is God's claim. Israel has ceased from being generous to God, thus they are in reality robbing him and will eventually see destruction.

Secondly, in verse ten Malachi speaks forth the command of God. He reminds the people that if they are going to return to God by not robbing him, then they must bring their full tithe into the storehouse. The full tithe is to be brought in. This term not only refers to the completeness in regard to the amount, but also to the quality of the offering. It should be of the best.

The first full fruits, not the lame sheep, but the best of the sheep were to be given. We need to note also that the tithe was to be brought to the storehouse.

In today's terminology, that means the congregation. We are to bring the full tithe to the storehouse. In today's church, we have a financial system at work where many of us not only want to determine how much we're going to give, but also where we'll give it. I hear Malachi saying that this is not right. The place for our tithe is in the storehouse, and I believe that this is the local congregation. We must give it with no strings attached. We must give it and then cover our leaders with intercessory prayer so that they will make wise choices in the dispersal of it.

Thirdly, the Lord gives us a promise in the last part of verse ten. "Test me in this . . ." God says. There is a flowing argument being presented here by Malachi. He points out the fact that many of us are handling money that is not ours. Secondly, he's telling us what we should really be doing. And thirdly, he promises us God's blessing and protection when we become obedient in the use of our money. God is not promising

You don't build great communities of faith on people who are robbing God.

us a guaranteed wealth as some people have tried to claim. God is promising us that he will not let the obedient person down.

I've never met a person who became miserable from tithing. I have noticed just the opposite. I have noted that tithers are inevitably uncritical and always enthusiastic and supportive. These people are always looking forward to what God is going to do next.

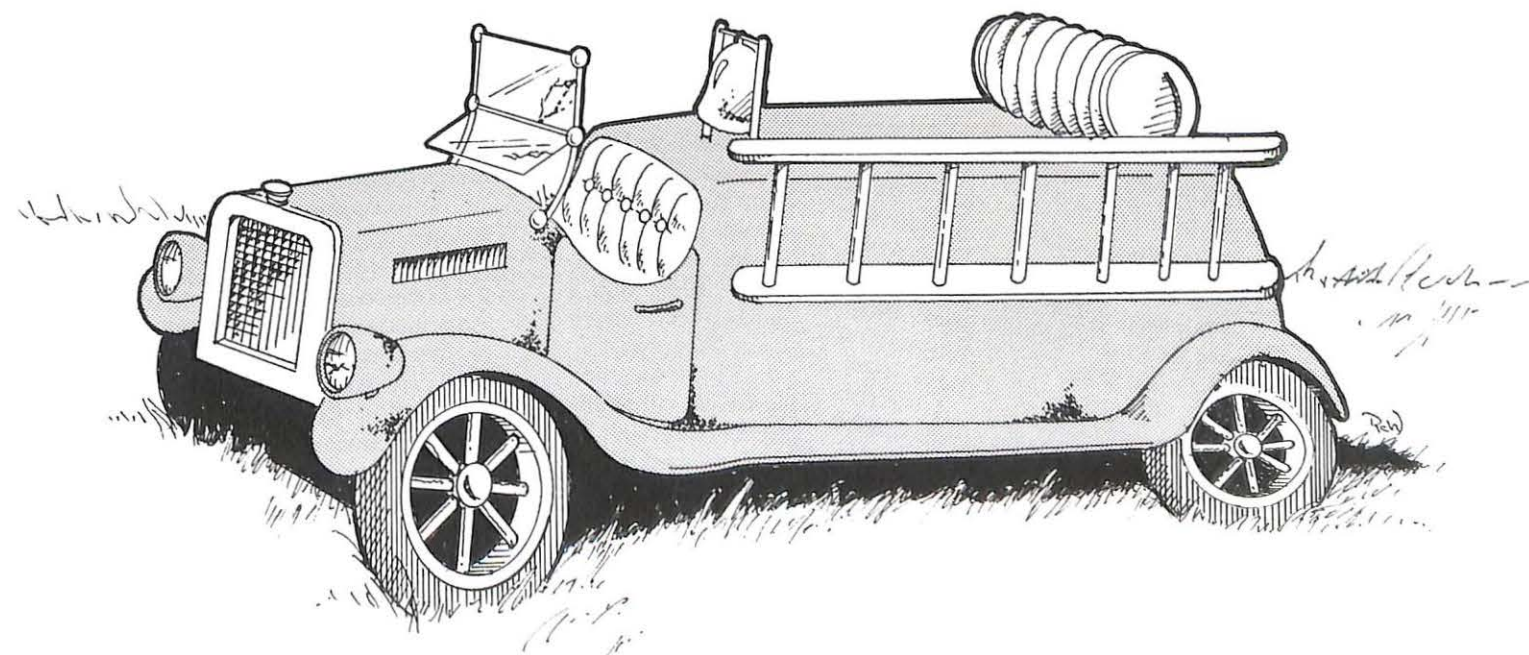
What happened to Jerusalem after Malachi said these things? It is hard to find out. It seems, though, that the people ultimately rejected his words. What followed this time is a period of 400 years of misery and suffering. Jerusalem never attained the spiritual certainty and greatness of its former days. Malachi seems to have the answer. You don't build great communities of faith on people who are robbing God.

Question! Are you robbing God? Are you living on embezzled money? Have you stretched your standard of living so that you are using things that really belong to the Father above? It is an important question. May I remind you that in your answer lies the vitality of your lives and the life of your church.

Well, that fire truck in New Hampshire is useless. It hasn't been given the opportunity to be generous. Now it is corroded, non-productive and useless. It soon will need to be towed away and discarded.

May God find us generous with our tithes so that such words never have to be used to describe us or our congregation.

May God show us that generosity really doesn't begin until after we've given the tithe. At least at that point, we've gotten a start on what it means to be measurably generous. □



Dr. David Korb is senior pastor of Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Youth—Why Attend A Triennial Conference?

by Warren Hoffman

There are many ways for a person to plot out one's life. Some people mark the milestones of their personal history with commencements—from kindergarten through university. Others chart their course by reflecting on geographical moves. Still others title the chapters in their book with significant friendships or achievements. I'm different. My history is united through the common thread of Triennial Conferences.

Being born into a pastor's family, I had the privilege of sharing many of the trips and becoming acquainted with people who came into my parents' lives. So when mom and dad would pack up for the big "general conference" as it was known to me then, my brother and I would tag along and have the time of our lives. I remember Sacramento in '64, Detroit in '67, and Winnipeg in '70. By then I was hooked, and whether my parents went or not, the Triennial Conference was something I did not want to miss.

In 1973, I looked forward to the conference in Wichita, knowing that I'd have finished high school

by then. In Portland in '76, I remembered dreaming about Bismarck and the time when I would be nearing graduation from Seminary.

I've gone through the nursery programs of these meetings, into the youth track, and finally, I attended my last Conference in Niagara Falls as a N.A.B. pastor with nine young people from my own youth group. Now, I look forward to Anaheim in '85.

All of these gatherings were great. Each conference holds its special memories for me. I can recall being deeply challenged by different speakers. In particular, the keynote address in Wichita hit me as I struggled with my decision to enter Christian Service.

I remember being a part of the mass youth choirs, and recall the thrill of joining hundreds of others my own age who loved Christ, and were excited to serve him. I think most of all, I hold dear the tremendous friendships that I was able to form at the Conferences. They were important friendships because they opened my eyes to peer fellowship in Christ that I missed in my home church where there were few my own age.

All of this is why I look forward to Anaheim. Yes, there will be inspirational speakers. There will be great music and exciting special activities, and best of all—hundreds of other young people just like you who are looking to Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.



Inspiration, excitement, friendships . . . all will be waiting for you in Anaheim.

All of the past Triennial Conferences have had their exciting youth tracks, but let me tell you, Anaheim promises an even more outstanding package. Youth entering grade ten through college age will be challenged by the words of David Moore, youth minister at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, California. He will be addressing the theme, "Beyond the Magic Kingdom." Other special guests and events will be singer and guitarist Dennis Agajanian, the Isaac Air Freight comedy team, Paragon Multimedia, a Thursday trip to Disneyland, and a trip on Friday to the beach.

The program looks good and promises activities galore. But I know that the special, lasting impact of Anaheim will be your own spiritual renewal, a scrapbook full of memorable events, and deep friendships with young people from all over the U.S.A. and Canada. Start to make your plans now to attend Anaheim '85, July 16-20. It's a week that will take you "Beyond the Magic Kingdom" and start you thinking about Calgary in '88! □

It is more than six years now since Dr. Iida, a pediatrician, came to study English at my home. In the process of studying the English Bible, he discovered something more needful than English, namely, Christ. Because he and his family were facing some difficult problems, his heart was prepared to accept the Bible, with which he may have argued under more favorable circumstances. Sensing that God answered his prayers, he was quick to believe and give thanks.



Mrs. Tominaga attending a church meeting on Christmas Eve seeks to know more about Christianity through the Bible.

From the very beginning of his church life, Dr. Iida has been very faithful not only in attendance but also in leading the Sunday morning worship service. Even though he is very busy, he has sacrificially given of his time to serve in the capacity of a deacon; although the church is not yet organized. During the troublesome times at church, he has offered good counsel and has had a stabilizing effect on the church, because he is respected by most everyone. He has also treated most of the people of the church and some of their family members at his medical clinic.

Dr. Iida's wife died of cancer about four years ago. Since then, he has been both father and mother to his

Miss Florence Miller is an N.A.B. missionary who serves with the Ikeda Baptist Church in Japan and teaches English Bible classes as a means of witnessing for Christ.

People Crossing My Path

by Florence Miller

two children who are now in college and high school. He has been searching for a suitable mate with whom to share his life, and it seems that God is going to answer that prayer.

One of Dr. Iida's young colleagues at the Osaka University Hospital, also a pediatrician, Dr. Kai, died of lung cancer two years ago. Before he died, he expressed a desire to know more about Christianity. He had been in my English Bible Class for doctors at the University Hospital a few years earlier but had shown little interest then.

I am sure that Dr. Iida's faith and experience of losing his wife contributed to Dr. Kai's interest in Christianity. Dr. Iida and I visited him twice at the hospital. We shared with him briefly the hope of the Christian and left a *Living New Testament* and some tapes regarding the ABCs of the Christian faith. Dr. Kai read much of the New Testament before he died, though he was very weak.

Dr. Kai's family had a Shinto funeral for him, which Dr. Iida and I attended. Later, his wife requested that we introduce her to a good church in her neighborhood. We learned that in her childhood and youth she had attended both Protestant and Catholic churches for a short period of time.

We found an evangelical church near her home and requested the

pastor and laywoman to meet us at Mrs. Kai's home. Recently, I met the pastor, and he said that Mrs. Kai had been attending his church regularly since then and has been baptized.

Mrs. Tominaga was a member of my English Bible Class for several years. When her husband was ill with terminal cancer, she confided in me, though she was afraid to tell anyone else for fear her husband might hear how serious his illness was.



Missionary Florence Miller has touched many lives through her special ministry of teaching English and leading Bible study groups.

During her days of complete despair, God allowed me to bring hope to her through the promises of God's presence and help. Gradually, Mrs. Tominaga accepted the fact of her husband's impending death and prepared herself to be the breadwinner by teaching English in her home. She wanted to meet someone who had gone through the same trial she had.

I introduced Mrs. Tominaga to Dr. Iida. They have sympathized with and comforted one another. Dr. Iida's faith has helped Mrs. Tominaga to think positively about Christianity. Although she has not yet made a public declaration of faith, she seems to be responding favorably to the teaching of the Bible. We pray that we will soon have the joy of seeing her take a stand for Christ. She is still attending my English Bible Class as well as a private Japanese Bible study in my home. □



The Rev. Warren Hoffman, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, is Director of "New Day" and youth for the N.A.B. Conference.

During January term this year, six students and a professor from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, participated in a fourteen-day "Mexican Action Study Tour." They visited mission sites in southern Texas and Mexico. The Rev. George Lang, assistant professor of missions, accompanied students, Dave Ernst, Sue Hakeem, Jamie Maldonado, Robin Stoops, and Jim and Karen Szymanski.

Mexican Action Study Tour

by Robin Stoops

As the van crossed the border from Edinburg, Texas, into Mexico, we became silent, finally realizing the purpose of our mission trip—a trip begun with such excitement only days earlier.

Some of the most meaningful moments of our trip were those spent in fellowship and sharing with God's people along the way. The brothers and sisters of Memory Lane Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas; North Carrollton Baptist Church in Carrollton, Texas; and Iglesia Bautista Central in Edinburg, Texas, shared meals, lodging, fellowship, and encouragement. These gifts meant much to us.

The Iglesia Bautista Central also provided spiritual and geographical guidance from their pastor, Lindbberg Ake, and church member, Franc Ortega. These men gave of their time to show us much of their own ministry for Jesus Christ. This included sharing not only their lives but also the lives of the people in the church. They sang and shared freely and openly with a warmth that melted our hearts. It was inspiring to be among such dedicated people. The work in Edinburg is going well; God is blessing these people as they reach out with the gospel to their community.

Robin Stoops has completed his first year at N.A.B. Seminary.



The Rev. Lindbberg Ake, who served as the group's driver, guide, and translator while in Mexico, visits with some of the youth who met for their weekly meeting at the Clingan home.



The N.A.B. Seminary students and Professor Lang (front row, left) with Robert and Marjorie Clingan, the Rev. Lindbberg Ake, Franc Ortega, and others working with the Clingans in front of the Clingan home in Torreon. The Clingans' home also houses the New Life Bookstore.

Our first stop after crossing the border into Mexico was the city of Torreon. The Rev. and Mrs. Clingan operate a Christian bookstore and help with a local Christian Church. Mr. Clingan also teaches in a public school in Torreon. Mr. Clingan showed us Christian ministry in several different aspects.

We visited a Mexican prison and shared with some Americans who were imprisoned there as well as with the Mexican prisoners. We toured a smelting plant where some Christians worked. We walked the streets meeting the people of Torreon.

The Clingans open their home to

youth Bible studies. We met with 50 to 60 young people and heard them sing and share about what Jesus has done in their lives!

From Torreon we travelled to Arteagua, a small Mexican village. Here the Rev. Jack Frost, his wife and three children minister to people in a small mountain village. Their presence in this town is truly an answer to much prayer.

An elderly gentleman who had come to the U.S.A. became a Christian and with his wife returned to their little village. This couple were the only Christians in the entire village. They prayed for eight years for missionaries to come to help them share about Christ.

The Frosts were the answer to their humble prayers. They now have a small church and make a strong statement for Christ among their neighbors.

This church shared all that they had. Their possessions were meagre by our American standards, but in God's eyes they were rich. Leaving these people was hard, but the love they gave came with us.

Our next stop was back to Edinburg where we said goodbye to the Rev. Lindbberg Ake and Franc Ortega. They had become precious

to us by that time.

Rio Grande City was our next stay-over. By this time, we were getting tired. If anyone could have readied us for more study, it was the Rev. Juan Luna and his family. The Luna family ministers with the Garcias Ranch Baptist Church in Rio Grande City, Texas. Pastor Luna took us across the border to the Mexican city of Camargo, where we visited a school and a Baptist church.

We participated in the services at the Garcias Ranch Baptist Church. These people, too, are excited about what the Lord is doing in their church. The work is exciting to see as it grows and blossoms.

On our way home, we met wonderful Christian people in Waco, Texas, and Ellinwood, Kansas, who encouraged us as well as fed and housed us. Only in the family of God could all this love happen.

The Mexican Action Study Tour taught the group many things. From missions and ministry to fellowship and fun, we saw God's people reaching out in love, living, teaching, and preaching his Word. Pray for these people as they continue his work in many different places and cultures. We can truly attest Jesus is Lord in Mexican and Southern Texas ministries. □



A street in Torreon, Mexico.



This Mexican Family, pictured in front of their home, is one of the key Christian families in their church in a mountain village near Saltillo, Mexico.



Juan Luna is pastor of Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church, Rio Grande City, TX. The chairs and tables in the new church annex were purchased with money donated by the members and friends of the C.C.F. of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

Introducing "New Day" 1984-85

by Ray Harsch

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

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

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

Crusades with "New Day" vary from five to fourteen days. "New Day" will minister in 57 North American Baptist churches in Western Canada and the U.S.A. and in three Associations at their annual meetings during the 1984-85 year.

Recently, it was said that "God's evangelistic strategy is beauty. Evangelism starts with the beauty of God, and it also includes a beautiful bride, the Church. God desires that through our lives the world will see his beauty." (Joseph Aldrich)

"New Day" exemplifies this beauty in their evangelistic ministries throughout the N.A.B. Conference. I invite you to meet them, and encourage you to pray for them.

Directors



Warren Hoffman

This is Warren's second year as Director of "New Day." He moved to Chicago, Illinois, from a youth pastorate in Calgary, Alberta, in July 1983. Warren enjoys drama, swimming, and spending time "in the city." Warren plays piano, trumpet, and toured professionally as Road Director for David T. Clydesdale's "Life Unlimited." Along with working with "New Day," Warren also serves as the N.A.B. Conference Youth Director. He attends Baptist Mission Church in Chicago. "More than anything else, I want to develop a life-style of compassion for people, sensitive to their spiritual and physical needs," says Warren.



John Kiemele

This is John's first year as assistant director of "New Day," but he is no stranger to its ministry. John served on the music section in 1981-82, and on the discipling section in 1982-83. He has been studying Christian education and music at Northwestern College in Roseville, Minnesota. John's hobbies include writing, meeting new friends, reading, and correspondence. Communication is John's specialty. He wrote the dramatic presentation given by the "New Day" discipling section this year. From Ashley, North Dakota, John is a welcome addition to the "New Day" ministry.

Music Section



Nancy Buxa

Nancy is a member of the Anamoose Baptist Church, North Dakota. She received her degree in Medical Technology from the Turtle Mountain Paramedical School in Bottineau, ND. She enjoys playing the piano, singing, and being outdoors. Nancy has received the "highest honors" for three years with her baritone saxophone solos at state competitions. She states, "I've counseled for several years at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp."



Susan Heeren

Susan is from Sioux

Falls, South Dakota, where her home church is Trinity Baptist. She graduated in 1983 from Sioux Falls College with a B.A. in Religious Studies. Her brother, Clayton, toured with "New Day" for two years. Susan's hobbies are aerobics, water-skiing, bicycling, playing the piano and singing. She says, "I enjoy working on committees and/or participating in groups, especially church functions." Susan plays piano, guitar, and percussion. Before joining "New Day," she worked for Citibank, NA, as a customer service telephone representative.



Melanie Lang

"I am striving every day to claim the verse Matthew 6:33, 'But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well' (NIV), in my life," states Melanie. Billings,

Montana, is home for her, and Melanie is a member of the Calvary Baptist Church. Melanie completed her sophomore year in college and plans to finish her degree in Vocal Performance after "New Day." She enjoys bringing God's message to people through her singing. She loves music, camping, hiking, traveling, and reading. She has received various singing awards while attending the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming.



Susan Zenky

Susan's hometown is Vancouver, British Columbia, where she attends the Bethany Baptist Church. She received a Diploma in Music at North American Baptist College in Edmonton, Alberta. "My hobbies are voice lessons, singing, music, poetry, biking, meeting new people and laughing lots," says Susan. She also enjoys writing poetry and short stories. She won first place in the Kiwanis Music Festival of British Columbia in 1984 for a musical comedy piece. Susan states, "I have been singing in various churches, schools, weddings, and parties since age 15. I never tire of the fun and challenge of meeting new friends and sharing the joy of Christian living."



Randy Reese

Randy serves as sound technician for "New Day." He hails from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, has his church membership with Grace Baptist church in Calgary, Alberta, but is presently attending Ebenezer Baptist in Ebenezer, Saskatchewan. He completed his electrical training at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute in Moose Jaw, SK. Randy enjoys downhill skiing, hiking, water skiing, swimming, and going for coffee! "I really enjoy getting to know people," says Randy, "because everyone is very special in his or her own way. I like to spend time with people to see a part of Christ in them. I want God to use me in their lives. Serving God on a team like 'New Day' is something I have wanted to do since the first time I had seen them, and God has graciously granted me that wish."



Mitchell Solarek

Mitch is from Citrus Heights, California. His home church is Sunrise Baptist of Fair Oaks. He attended the American River College in Carmichael, California, and prior to

joining "New Day" was a commercial model. Mitch's hobbies include doing stage musicals, snow skiing, aerobics and lying in the sun. He states, "I am excited about a terrific year of learning and making new friends."



Tim Strauss

First Baptist Church of George, Iowa, is Tim's home church, where his father, the Rev. Helmut Strauss, is the pastor. Tim received a Diploma of Biblical Studies at the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, Alberta. His hobbies include any kind of sports and doing just about anything that has to do with the outdoors. He enjoys working with youth and assisted with the youth group in his church. Demco Manufacturing Co. was his place of employment prior to traveling with "New Day." He states, "The Lord opened the door for me to travel with the 'Reachout Singers' during the summer of 1983. While on this tour, we were able to share the gospel for two and one half weeks in Europe. We were really fortunate to share the gospel behind the 'Iron Curtain' of East Germany."



Fred Sudfeld

Fred is from Edmonton, Alberta, a member of Central Baptist Church. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.A. in Psychology, and a B.Ed. in Elementary Education. Fred is presently working on his M.A. in Counseling at North American Baptist Seminary. His hobbies include flying and racquet sports. Fred plays the piano and has directed several children's musicals.



Julie Klingenberg

Julie begins her second year on tour with "New Day." She graduated from Houston Baptist University and is certified for secondary education (teaching). Julie is a member of Anderson Road Baptist, Houston, Texas, where her father, the Rev. Jakob Klingenberg, is pastor. Julie will be multimedia technician for the music section. She is an artist and enjoys all kinds of sports, especially volleyball.

(Continued on next page)

Discipling Section



Linda Bohn

Linda is from Yorkton, Saskatchewan, and is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer, Saskatchewan. Traveling, cooking, and biking are among her hobbies, and she does play the piano. Linda has been employed as a payroll supervisor at the Morris Rod-Weeder Co., Ltd., (manufacturer of farm machinery) for five years. She says, "I really enjoy meeting people and am looking forward to this coming year on 'New Day.' I know with God's help, he will lead us into a great work, towards the furtherance of his kingdom."



Kathy Decker

"I spent my summer in Austria as a student missionary," says Kathy. "Ob-

viously, I can see how God has worked in my life. One of the best things he has done is given me a strong Christian family that has taught me right from wrong and helped me to learn and grow in my Christian life." Kathy lives in Alexandria, South Dakota, but is a member of the First Baptist Church of Emery. Communications has been her course of study for two years at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and one year at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota. Her hobbies include traveling, reading, and cross stitch. Kathy plays the piano and flute.



Marsha Haas

Marsha is from Missoula, Montana, and is a member of the Bethel Baptist Church. She has studied nursing at Montana State University and worked for a year as a registered nurse on a cardiology floor in a Missoula hospital. Marsha enjoys skiing, softball, reading, and playing guitar.



Doug Frueh

Doug completed his sophomore year at North Dakota State University majoring in Computer Science. His home is Anamoose, North Dakota, and he is a member of the Anamoose Baptist Church. He enjoys playing basketball as well as many other sports. Doug writes, "I enjoy serving the Lord in any way I can. Through 'New Day' I trust that the Lord will touch my heart as well as the hearts of those around me."



Kennan Geis

Kennan comes to "New Day" from Okeene, Oklahoma, where he is a member of Zion Baptist Church. He was an honor student while attending Oklahoma State University School of Technical Training with an emphasis in Diesel Mechanics. He en-

joys golf, motorcross racing, snow skiing, and hunting. Before coming to "New Day," Kennan worked as a repairman for the Amoco Production Company and also farmed. "Seeing the need for discipleship in our society and showing that God loves us no matter who we are or what we have done" has influenced Kennan to minister with "New Day."



Kevin Wright

Kevin has been studying aviation mechanics at the Burgard Vocational School in Buffalo, New York. Sports are Kevin's main hobbies, including baseball, basketball, football, and jogging. Among his special abilities are animation, cartooning, and caring for junior high young people. Kevin, a certified automobile and aircraft mechanic, is a member of the Bethel Baptist Church in Getzville, New York. "When things aren't going as I wish, two verses of scripture come to me, 2 Corinthians 12:10 and Philippians 4:13. The less that I have, the more that I depend upon him," Kevin says.

A Pastor and His Wife Visit the Orient

by William L. Cummins

For three weeks, the Rev. and Mrs. William Cummins visited the Orient. They had accepted an invitation by the Far East Broadcasting Company to go to Seoul, Korea, to speak in numerous universities, churches, rallies, and radio broadcasts. Cummins is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan.

The country of Korea is alive with the Gospel. Twenty percent of this predominately Buddhist country comprises people who are born-again believers. The churches of every major Protestant denomination are exploding with tremendous growth. (There are four spiritual births for every human birth.) It was the thrill of a lifetime to be able to preach to thousands at a time and see several hundred make decisions for Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, March 18, I spoke at the Suwon Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. Billy Kim, who is Dr. Billy Graham's interpreter. Each Sunday, several thousand attend one of the six services held at his church. Many received Christ on the Sunday we had the privilege of serving there.

In talking with numerous Korean Christian leaders, there appear to be three basic reasons for the growth of the Korean Church. First, is the long history of persecution of the church that dates back to the year 1905 when the Japanese invaded Korea and made it their protectorate. From 1905 until the close of World War II, the Japanese leaders violently attacked the church.

This era was followed by the invasion of the communists who also aggressively persecuted and murdered thousands of believers until the armistice signing of 1953. At that time, the country was divided into the north and south, and the Christians who managed to escape to the south enjoyed religious freedom for the first time. Truly, the blood of the martyrs has become the seed of the Korean Church.

A second significant factor contributing to the growth has been the

sincere and practical emphasis on prayer. Thousands of Korean believers arrive at their church by 4:30 a.m. each morning to spend an hour in prayer before the work day begins. This devoted spirit of prayer has become a normal part of the Christian's life in South Korea. The fervent prayers of thousands of Koreans for almost three decades has certainly caused the winds of revival to blow across this small peninsula country of thirty-one million people.

The third significant factor in the growth of the Korean church lies with the office of the pastor. The pastor is held in very high esteem. His counsel and direction is followed without hesitation, dispute, or question. There is a strong feeling within the congregations that the pastor is the shepherd of the flock, and every member of the flock follows the direction of the shepherd.

In our churches in America, we cannot produce the years of persecution, but we can create the atmosphere of prayer and positive, dynamic, pastoral leadership.

My wife, Dotti, and I also visited Japan, where we had the privilege of ministering to the North American Baptist Mission Churches in Tsu and Osaka, as well as the Christian Church in Kobe sponsored by The Evangelical Alliance Mission.

Dotti performed a concert in the Tsu Cultural Center on a beautiful nine-foot Steinway concert grand piano. The hall was very contemporary and almost filled to capacity. It was the largest event in the history of the Baptist Church in Tsu. Three-fourths of the audience had never been inside a church, and many had come long distances to hear the Gospel in music, song and word.

While in Tsu, we enjoyed the warm fellowship of Pastor Hisashi Murakami and N.A.B. missionaries Ron and Joan Stoller. The Stollers work in the Tsu Christian Education Center, and it was a blessed time with them and the Japanese believers.



Pastor Fujie and members of his Church with Bill and Dorothy Cummins.

Dotti experienced a real "first" in her musical career while in Osaka. She performed two mini-concerts at the church in Osaka on a miniature pump organ. Instead of the normal 88 keys of a piano, she was limited to approximately 44 keys on the little organ. Needless to say, she did an excellent job, believers were blessed, and the Lord was honored through it all. The Osaka church is pastored by Rev. Fujie, and Florence Miller, N.A.B. missionary, has been serving there for a number of years. We enjoyed the warm hospitality and the fellowship of the Japanese believers.

Ray and Julie Sears, members of Ebenezer Baptist Church, have been serving the Lord in Kobe, Japan, through The Evangelical Alliance Mission. They teach English to Japanese people using the Bible as the major textbook, as a means to bring people to Christ.

Dotti and I have really been challenged to pray more diligently for the churches outside America and especially the Japanese church. The Japanese believers are wrestling against the forces of evil and the problem of materialism and prosperity. Japan is a very advanced country, and the Gospel seeds that have been sown down through the years need our prayers that God's Holy Spirit might bring forth a revival of new spiritual life. □

Faith to Build a Church

by Dan Heringer

Have you ever been impressed with the faith of others? That is what caught my attention when I met the families of Treschwig Baptist Church.

The first time I visited the Church, it was as director of "New Day" to plan for a forthcoming crusade. As I left the airport and arrived at the Church, which is located in Spring, Texas, a suburb of Houston, I felt this must be a mistake. The church building is nestled among great, beautiful oak and pine trees. My stereotype of Texas did not allow for the beautiful trees of southeastern Texas.

Next, I was amazed to see thousands of homes within 15 minutes of the church. Yet it was puzzling that after five or six years the church had not grown beyond a handful of people, fifteen to twenty.

Over the last couple of years, one of which I have spent as the new pastor of Treschwig Baptist Church, I have been continually impressed with the faith of a couple of families in the Church. They were here in the beginning, believing that God wanted to build this church; seven years later, they are still here, believing the same.

None of us ever completely understands God's timing, but I do know that he does honor faith. Hebrews 11 clearly shows that faith pleases God. I don't know



The Rev. and Mrs. Dan Heringer are pastor and wife at Treschwig Baptist Church, Spring, TX.



Treschwig Baptist Church, Spring, Texas

about you, but faith is easy for me when things are happening. These families had faith when there were few visible displays of growth in response to their hard work.

There have been some great things happening at Treschwig Baptist Church in the past few months. I believe it is the faith of these people that is the key. Here are a few examples from the last few months of how God has honored the faith of his people.

A lady was invited to visit Treschwig Baptist Church by someone who works with her. Several attempts were made to visit her, but she was never home. The prospect card was inadvertently laid aside until four months after her visit to the Church.

As I picked up the phone to call her I thought, "This is silly, she won't even remember she visited." I had my apologies ready for taking so long to call, but before I could relay them, she said that she was sorry for not visiting again. She had been very busy and out of town a lot.

Before we finished talking, an appointment was made to visit her. As we talked, she commented that someone knew she was ready for this visit. God's Spirit prompted her to accept Christ that day. She was baptized the last Sunday in May.

Another family, who had not attended church since moving to Texas more than 10 years ago, made a recommitment and are now serving God in Treschwig Baptist Church. A young man who hadn't gone to church since his mother died many years ago started attending again. He has since reaffirmed his faith and his wife has accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. God is honoring the faith of his people. It is a joyous experience to see the attendance at the church services increasing, and people growing into the image of Christ.

Recently, a man interrupted our Sunday morning worship service. One of our men talked to him and discovered that he was a man with great needs. God was working in his life. He had awakened that morning with a strong feeling that he could no longer live as he was. As he walked by the Church that morning, he wanted to make a statement to the congregation. The statement was "God Is."

That rather sums it up. God Is! Treschwig Baptist Church is a living example that God honors faith. That man represents another opportunity that God has given us to exercise our faith by helping others. I am looking forward to seeing God meet this need and others through you and us as we have faith (Hebrews 11:6). □

woman's world



Exciting Things Are Happening

by Laverna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

"Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing of his glorious name. Tell the world how wonderful he is" (Psalm 66:1).

This past spring and summer were very exciting for me because I had the privilege of visiting many of our women's groups. These were encouraging experiences. My heart is filled with gratitude and praise to God as I reflect on them.

In one of our church extension churches, I met with 28 women for a potluck evening meal. These women came because they were interested in the women's ministries of our Conference. It was a real joy to share with them the purpose of our Fellowship and the opportunities to serve the Lord through the WMF. These women are now in the process of forming their own women's organization.

In another church, where I had the opportunity to share the ministry of the WMF at a dessert meeting, it was almost breathtaking to see the beautifully decorated tables and room. It all seemed to say, "Welcome! We are glad you have come." I sensed the real love and concern the women

had for one another. They responded enthusiastically as our work was shared. I sensed among them a concern and commitment to serve Jesus Christ. The next morning I met with their executive committee for almost two hours, and we discussed ways they could minister to the women in the church and the community more effectively.

This same experience was repeated in each of the other groups I visited. Women are concerned and are praying for the outreach ministry of their organization. In addition, they are concerned about finding a more effective way to be supportive of our overseas mission work. I praise the Lord for each of these groups.

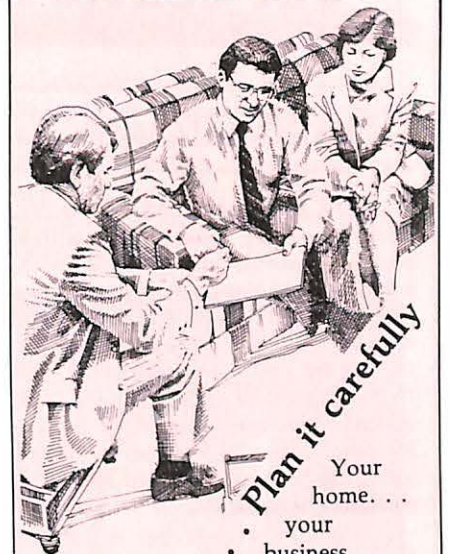
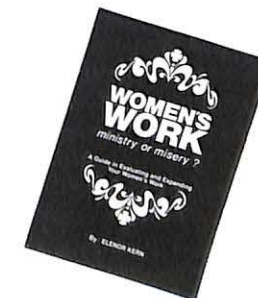
I am grateful to God for the women of our Conference. God bless each of you as you continue to serve him where he has placed you. God has given gifts to each of you. He will bless abundantly as you use these gifts for his honor and glory. □

"The Family of God" prepared to appear in the "Women's World" section is printed on pages 6-7.

Women's Work Book Released

Need ideas and suggestions for women's work in your church? A new book, *Women's Work: Ministry or Misery?*, has recently been released by the W.M.F. In it the author, Mrs. Elenor Kern of Fair Oaks, CA, gives ideas adaptable to any size women's group.

You may order the book from North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. US\$3.50; C\$4.50.



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Church Growth

MEDICINE HAT, AB. A recent Sunday evening service began with a baptismal service and concluded with a communion service at which 13 new members were welcomed—six by baptism and seven by testimony. In 1983 two baptismal services were held, and twenty-four new members were welcomed—fourteen by baptism, seven by testimony, and three by letter bringing the membership to 348 at the close of the year.

The Rev. Loren Weber is pastor. (Madeline Kern, reporter.)

HILDA, AB. Four persons were baptized and joined the Hilda Baptist Church recently. "The service took place at our sister church, Grace Baptist, in Medicine Hat," reports Mrs. Linda Anherst.

About 60 mothers and daughters enjoyed a tea; the theme of which was "Growth - Your Plants and You." Mrs. Shirley Schuler, a horticulturalist, gave a presentation on the care and nurture of houseplants, and Mrs. Jeanine Weick, Medicine Hat, AB, demonstrated Japanese floral arranging and gave an inspirational talk. A salad buffet followed.

The Rev. Herbert Bachler is pastor of the Church.

LEDUC, AB. "We praise the Lord at First Baptist Church for three young people who accepted Christ as their personal Savior and expressed their faith in the Lord through the waters of baptism," says Linda Fillenbert, reporter.



CALGARY, AB. "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" saith the Lord" became real to us at Temple Baptist Church. "We sensed the Holy Spirit moving in our hearts as our Pastor, Heinz Schoenhoff, brought a most challenging message," says Mrs. H. Kleppe, reporter. Following the message, nine persons (pictured) entered the waters of baptism, and through letters of transfer, three others joined the church.

The choir presented the cantata, "Sing Alleluia."

A pot-luck supper was enjoyed in the newly renovated basement of the Church. Dr. Joe Sonnenberg, pastor, commended the laymen for their participation on the project and led in a dedicatory prayer. After supper, the Sunday school honored the mothers with a short program.

SIDNEY, MT. A baptismal service was held at First Baptist Church in which four persons (pictured) were baptized and received into the church by Pastor Paul Brannan.



"We, as a church body, rejoiced in their commitment as they shared their testimonies for the Lord," reports Gladys Tibbits.

DALLAS, OR. Twenty-one members were added to Salt Creek Baptist Church in 1983, and many have come already in 1984. The Rev. George Breikreuz is pastor. (Ruth Saunders, reporter.)

SEVEN SISTERS, MB. An evangelistic crusade was held in the White-shell Baptist Church with Ron and

Marjorie Dalzell, a musical evangelistic team. "It was encouraging to see a number of people from the community attend each evening," says J. Serger, reporter.

"We thank God for his blessing as three young people received Christ as Savior, two people rededicated their life to the Lord, and several new people have attended some of the regular services of the church."

The Rev. Hans Serger is pastor.

BEULAH, ND. In May the Immanuel Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of 11 persons (pictured) and received an additional five new members through letters of transfer.



"The construction of the new Christian education wing is going well, and the congregation is very excited about this new addition," says Luella Forthun. "Completion is slated for Fall." The Rev. Gordon Voegele is pastor.

CALGARY, AB. Five young people (pictured) were baptized by the Rev. Sieg Koslowski and welcomed into the Thornhill Baptist Church family.



An appreciation service was held for the Rev. and Mrs. C.T. Remple on May 6. Mr. Remple concluded 45 years of ministry, the last six of which were at Thornhill. "We are thankful for their ministry among us and wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their retirement. At the same time, we welcomed the Rev. Dieter P. Reda, formerly pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON, May 1."

TERRACE, BC. Pastor Paul Mohninger (pictured, second from right) extended the hand of fellowship to three of the newest members of Zion Baptist Church.



They were baptized April 20. "We praise the Lord for their commitment to follow Jesus," says Roxanne Parker, reporter.

VANCOUVER, BC. On Pentecost Sunday, two people were baptized at Bethany Baptist Church. One of the ladies told how she had also experienced miraculous physical healing.



"With joy, we witnessed the baptism, led by the Rev. Mark Wollenberg, associate pastor (left)," says Elsie Baum, reporter. "These were the first candidates that Wollenberg had the privilege of baptizing."

After presenting a challenging message, the Rev. Rick Laser, senior pastor (right), prayed for each candidate and welcomed them as members. This was followed by a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

WEST BOCA RATON, FL. During the months of May-June 1984, Community Baptist Church welcomed eight new adult members (six pictured) into its fellowship. Pastor John Hisel had the joy of baptizing one of those members and receiving the others. Two of that group are Bernard and Lorraine Fritzke who have recently moved to Florida where he serves

CALGARY, AB. On May 6, 1984, the pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Heinz W. Schoenhoff, (pictured) was ordained. The ordination council had met May 5 and recommended the ordination of Mr. Schoenhoff to the Church.



as Supervisor of Church Extension for the State of Florida.

Ordinations

EDMONTON, AB. An Ordination Council met on April 28, 1984, at the Meadowlark Baptist Church to examine and advise concerning the expediency of publicly setting apart the Gospel ministry Mr. Randy Mitrovich.

The council, satisfied with the presentation, advised the Meadowlark Baptist Church to proceed with the Ordination of Randy Mitrovich.

An Ordination Service was held May 27, 1984, with Dr. Ron Mayforth (Randy's former pastor) as the ordination speaker.

Rev. Randy Mitrovich closed a very meaningful service with prayer. (The Rev. Marvin Rust, clerk of the council.)

WEST FARGO, ND. Twenty-two delegates from eight churches of the Central Dakota-Montana Association met May 12, 1984, at Grace Baptist Church to examine Mr. M. Timothy Walker for ordination to the Gospel Ministry. The Rev. Randall Tschetter, Venturia, ND, served as moderator of the Council, and the Rev. Allan Gerber, Ashley, ND, as clerk. The Council recommended that the Church ordain Mr. Walker.

The Service of Ordination for Mr. Walker was held June 3 at Grace Baptist Church. Participating in the service were the Rev. Gordon Bauslaugh, Glen Ellyn, IL, ordination sermon; the Rev. Terry Stoltenow, Fargo, ND, ordination prayer; the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Hiatt, Sioux Falls, SD, charges to the Candidate and his wife; and Rev. Walker, benediction. (Allan Gerber, clerk of the council.)

Association Meetings

VERNON, BC. The sessions of the British Columbia Association were hosted by Faith Baptist Church under the able leadership of the Rev. Henry Schumacher, pastor, May 17-20.

The Rev. Jake Leverette, Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, spoke on "The Church Reaching Out." Everyone was encouraged to make "reaching out" a personal priority.

Other special guest speakers were Dr. John Binder, N.A.B. executive director, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, and Mrs. Barbara Binder, editor/Baptist Herald, who gave valuable input throughout the sessions. Music was provided by "Covenant," the summer traveling team from North American Baptist College, the Vernon

Baptist Choir, and a mass choir from the Okanagan Churches.

The moderator, Mr. Don Roller, ably handled the business sessions. "We were encouraged by the growth in the Association and the good spirit of co-operation that exists between the churches," reports Gerald Scheel. The Association allotted money in its budget to purchase land for a new church extension project.

During the Association sessions, the Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, was honored for 25 years of pastoral ministry. "We thank God for him and the excellent leadership he provides for the Association," states Scheel.

Special Events

MEDICINE HAT, AB. On "White Cross" day, the lower auditorium at Temple Baptist Church was filled with W.M.F. ladies and some of their husbands (pictured) busy with yards and yards of old sheets and shirts. The



group made 35 quilted pads, 563 bundles, 25 squares, and 1,344 bandages for hospitals on our mission field in Cameroon, Africa. "Everyone enjoyed the day with a delicious lunch served at noon," reports Madeline Kern.

FESSENDEN, ND. A joint Good Friday service was held with churches from the community taking part. People marched through town behind a wooden cross, uniting and pausing at the various stages of Christ's sorrowful journey to Calvary. Reading of scripture, prayer, and a musical selection were given at each stage.

An Awana program was started in First Baptist Church last fall with boys and girls from the community attending, and it closed with an awards night in May.

People bought books from the Good News Bible Store, which was at the Church on a Sunday night. They read the books and then donated them to the Church Library.

The Esther Circle published a cookbook of favorite recipes of Church ladies and friends. (Regina Pepple, reporter.)

GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI. Grosse Pointe Baptist Church celebrated a Golden Jubilee, May 6, in honor of Dr. Herbert H. Hiller's fifty years of gospel ministry. Dr. John Binder, executive director, N.A.B. Conference, brought a message, "The Marks of a Model Minister," and the Rev. William Taft, Great Lakes area minister and former senior pastor of the Grosse Pointe Church, also spoke.

The Rev. Charles Hiatt, president, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, announced the establishment and endowment of the "Herbert Hiller Annual Lectureship in Pastoral Care," initiated through the efforts of Dr. Hiller's children, Dr. Harry Hiller of Canada and Mrs. Ruth Pleines of New York. Dr. Hiller ministered over the past 50 years in North American Baptist Conference churches and schools.

A testimonial dinner followed the morning service, and the evening hour featured personal memories and anecdotes from friends and family.

Dr. Hiller and his wife, Froh, serve as Minister of Membership and direct the senior citizens activities. (Raynor Hammill, reporter.)

YORKTON, SK. Many attended the Annual Discovery Club Closing Program and Awards Night, which was held at Central Baptist Church. This concluding program followed the same format as the weekly meetings with the children singing "Musical Pearls," reciting favorite verses "Pearls of Wisdom," and reading the devotion, "A Pearl, How Provoking." Five children had memorized more than 52 verses, while most of the 21 had learned 39 or more. They received \$10 credit toward attendance at Good Spirit Baptist Camp.

Eleven pilots assisted Chief Pilot Beth Berg in the weekly club activities. The entire program is written by Connie Schroeder, resident writer.

"Not only is God's Word being stored in the Children's hearts, but

Discovery Club is a valuable avenue of outreach," said Beth Berg.

BETHLEHEM, PA. William E. Jackson, vice president and director of marketing, Finance America Corp., Allentown, has been named associate chairman for the 44th annual interfaith National Bible Week scheduled for November 18-25.

This is the fourth consecutive year for Jackson to serve as associate chairman of the campaign, which has been sponsored by the Laymen's National Bible Committee since 1941 to foster interest in Bible reading and study across the United States. President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan will serve as honorary chairpersons for the fourth consecutive year.

Jackson is a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church and has led a men's Bible study in his home for several years. (Elaine Baker, reporter.)

SUMNER, IA. The First Baptist Church celebrated "Homecoming Sunday" on May 13, 1984, to observe the church's 40th anniversary. A former member, Dr. L. Dale Potratz of Shawnee Mission, KS, spoke during the morning worship service.

In the afternoon, the Church observed its 40th anniversary with a "Celebration Praise Service." A former and charter member, Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director, N.A.B. Conference, spoke.



"We were honored to have visitors from Rochester, NY, the Rev. and Mrs. Fred Mashner, former pastor, and many former members and friends of the church," says Retha Menke, reporter.

The Rev. Dan R. Payne is the present pastor.

HOPE, KS. After learning of the hunger and life-style of people of other countries, the youth of the First Baptist Church of Dickinson County

and the community decided to do something about it. They, along with the Rev. and Mrs. Chester Strobel, pastor and wife, spent a weekend fasting with only a glass of orange juice for each meal. "They spent these days at the Church finding out more about the starving people and taking sometime for recreation," reports Virla Piper. "They and other church members also contributed money to buy food."

VALLEY CITY, ND.

"It was a week of growing together in Christ" as the Rev. and Mrs. Ron Dalzell conducted five nights of revival meetings at the First Baptist Church. Many attended all the services as the Dalzells shared through their musical instruments including the Vibraharp, Piano-Harpsichord, Accordion-Organ, electric and steel guitars. The children came especially to hear Mr. Dalzell's attention-getting children's stories.

"Since these meetings, the attendance in the Sunday services has increased wonderfully," says Karen Van Gerpen, reporter.

The Rev. Ron Dalzell is an ordained Baptist minister who has served several churches.

TACOMA, WA. "Jesus Loves the Children" was the theme planned by Kathy Brown, children's ministries director, for the Children's Day program in the Portland Avenue Baptist Church.

In a sanctuary filled with stuffed animals, larger-than-life lollipops and clusters of balloons, that theme was carried out in music and message.



Musical numbers were by six-year old Brandi Brown and the Son Trio: Sandi Davis, Patti McDonough, and Shirley Minaker. Pastor Bernard

Edinger spoke on "The Greatest in the Kingdom."

"Gingerbrook Fare," a film in which clowns teach about obedience, highlighted another service, with ice cream cones served following the service. (Sandi Monnett, reporter.)

DALLAS, OR. "As we attended the retreat for youth of Salt Creek Baptist Church, I felt joy working with the young people. The young men who ministered to them had grown up in Salt Creek Church," reports Ruth Saunders. "They challenged the young people to keep their eyes on God and to stand always for Christ. Their enthusiasm, joy, and love for the Lord was evident in their lives. We are thankful for our youth pastor and his wife who give untiringly of their time to inspire and help these young people."

The Rev. George Breitzkreuz is pastor, and Linus Toland, youth pastor.

HOPE, KS. Seven young people called "Covenant" from North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, presented a musical concert and a cantata about witnessing at First Baptist Church of Dickinson County. The Rev. David Priestley, professor, spoke briefly about the College.

The following Wednesday, "Sounds of Joy," from Cedarville College, Ohio, gave a concert. The group consisted of a girls' trio, an accompanist, and a preministerial student who shared a devotional. "Ruth Wutknow, a member of our church, is a nursing student at Cedarville," reports Virla Piper.

MEDICINE HAT, AB. Fifty-two girls of the Temple Baptist Church and community enjoyed a busy year with their leaders in Pioneer Girls Club. "It concluded in May with a mother-daughter banquet," reports Madeline Kern.

Church Anniversaries

NAPOLEON, ND. "65 Years of God's Love, Grace, and Promises" was the theme for the anniversary celebration of Napoleon Baptist Church, held in conjunction with Napoleon's Centennial, June 14-17. A continental breakfast was served,

followed by an anniversary program.

The Rev. Clinton Grenz, Mrs. Dorothy Ganoung, the Rev. Mervin Kramer, the Rev. Tom Kramer, Alma McCollough, and the Rev. Walter Sukut, all former sons and daughters of the Church, gave words of greeting. Many present and former members presented musical selections.

Special recognition was given to Mrs. Lydia Schuh, only living charter member. The anniversary celebration was hosted by the Sunday School Department under the leadership of Dennis D. Schulz, superintendent. (Claudia Schulz, reporter.)

Wedding Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Friez celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The celebration was held at



the South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD, on June 10 at a program and reception hosted by their three children.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bahr celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 20, 1984, at a program hosted by their children. Mr. and Mrs. Bahr are



charter members of Zion Baptist Church, Terrace, BC, where they still faithfully worship. (Roxanne Parker, reporter.)

REINHOLD W. SCHAUB (72), of Salem, OR, born in Gatesville, TX, died April 26, 1984. He moved to Portland, OR, where he joined Immanuel Baptist Church. In 1973 he moved to Salem and was a painter at Capitol Manor. He was a member of Riviera Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife, Myrtle (Weeldryer); former missionary to Cameroon; his daughter, M. Renee Schaub, all of Salem, and one brother, Herman Schaub, Gatesville, TX.

SAMUEL LUECK, of Milwaukee, WI, born Sept. 1, 1913, in Sorotchin, Kreis Shitomir, Russia, died Feb. 10, 1984. He accepted Christ at a young age and was baptized. He married Meta Zimmermann on July 11, 1938. He and his family arrived in Canada in 1948, and in Milwaukee in 1958, where he joined Zion Baptist Church. Later he became a founding member of Center Baptist Church. Sam joined Temple Baptist Church in 1981. He held various positions in the churches including that of deacon and Sunday school teacher. He sang in church choirs, played in a brass band, and sang with a male quartet. Survivors include his wife, Meta; four daughters: Linda Hunter, Irene Penno, Johanna Koszewa, and Hilda Arndt; two brothers: Gus Lick and Harry Rebigier; one sister, Irene Wasch; and nine grandchildren. The Rev. Elwyn Zimmerman officiated at the funeral service.

AUGUST POEHLKE (90), born Feb. 18, 1894, in Pissarewka, Ukraine, died Feb. 5, 1984. As a young teenager, he received Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized. After World War I began, he moved to Siberia where he married Maria Betinsky; later they returned to Pissarewka. In 1953 the Poehlkes came to Vancouver, BC, with six of their children. They joined Ebenezer Baptist Church. August was faithful in his service to the Lord. They then joined Bethany Baptist Church. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Maria; 3 daughters: Lydia, Olga, Bertha, and their husbands; 6 sons: Robert, Herbert, Leo, Reinhold, Friedrich, Wilhelm, and their wives; 19 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. One son predeceased him. The Rev. Rick Laser officiated at the funeral service.

CAROLINE SAILER (88), nee Stregger, born July 18, 1895, in Grossliebental, South Russia, died March 10, 1984, in Calgary, AB. Caroline married Frederick Sailer, Feb. 14, 1915, in Forress, SK. They moved to Carbon, AB, in 1920. She accepted Christ in 1919, was baptized in 1936, and joined Bethel Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Sailer sacrificed many hours in support of the Baptist Haven of Rest in Medicine Hat during their employment from 1946 until their retirement in 1967. At that time they moved to Calgary. Caroline remained a quiet, faithful member within the N.A.B. churches. She was predeceased by three infant children and by her husband. She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Rudolf

(Clara) Milbrandt and Mrs. Emery (Pauline) Mueller; three sons: Ray, Edwin and Albert; one brother, Wilhelm Stregger; 14 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. The Reverends H. Schoenhoff and R. Kanswicher officiated at the funeral service.

CARL PAUL DREGER (73) born Dec. 12, 1910, in the West Ebenezer District, Saskatchewan, to Christopher and Emma (Kunkel) Dreger, died April 9, 1984. In 1934 he accepted Christ as his Savior, was baptized and joined Ebenezer Baptist Church. On Sept. 25, 1939, he married Martha Peterson from the Springside area. They moved into Ebenezer in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Martha; three sons: Duane and his wife, Darlene, of Balgonie; Glen and his wife, Sharon, of Ebenezer; Darryl and his wife, Beth, of Regina; one daughter, Lois and her husband, Stan Hiller, of Edmonton, AB; three brothers: William, Fred, and Andy; two sisters: Mrs. Olga Yurkschat and Mrs. Falkowsky; and eleven grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents; one daughter, Myra; two brothers, Edward and Benjamin; and two sisters, Lydia and Emily. The Rev. Stephen Patrick officiated at the funeral service.

ADOLPH KIST, Hazelton, ND, born Oct. 11, 1907, to Jacob and Elizabeth (Mauch) Kist, died April 21, 1984. He married Alvena Krieg, Oct. 18, 1931. In 1932, he gave his life to Christ, was baptized, and joined Linton Baptist Church. He served as deacon, trustee, Sunday school superintendent, and treasurer and taught the adult Sunday school class. Survivors include his wife Alvena; three children: Darlene Beastom, Hazelton, ND; Donna Van Sickle, Fargo, ND; and A. Jack Kist, West Fargo, ND; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; one brother, Edward; three sisters: Ruth Pfeifer, Irene Cappollo, and Edna Compaan. Adolph was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Otto and Godfried. The Reverends Randall Jaspers and Arthur J. Fischer officiated at the funeral service.

WILLIAM HENRY BARSH (85) was born near Gonzales, TX, to Gus and Amelia Barsh, Oct. 17, 1898, and died May 17, 1984, in Lockhart, TX. He grew up in Gatesville, TX. He accepted Christ as Savior at an early age and was baptized at Bethel Heights Baptist Church. He responded to God's call to the ministry and studied at the seminary in Rochester, NY, graduating in 1927. He was ordained at Bethel Heights Baptist Church, May 18, 1928. He married Caroline Cirotzki of Rochester, NY, in August 1928. For 53 years, he was an active minister. He served in Connecticut, and in 1935 he became the pastor of First Baptist Church, Lockhart, TX. In World War II, he was a chaplain in the U.S. Army, serving in the European theater. He pastored churches in Houston, TX, for 20 years. In 1964, he and his wife retired to Lockhart, and he became pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX, for 16 years. He also served Elm Creek

Baptist Church, Seguin, TX. He is survived by his wife, Caroline; two sons: Albert Gus, Irving, TX, and William H. II, Waco, TX; two daughters: Caroline M. Moore, Huntsville, TX, and Ruth A. Erwin, Houston, TX; two brothers: Herbert F. and Charles; eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The Rev. James Lavender assisted by Dr. Jimmy Cobb, the Rev. Ronald Miller, the Rev. Marcus Munson, and the Rev. R. M. Wade, officiated at the memorial service.

KARL HAIT (88), Kelowna, BC, born Dec. 4, 1895, to Gustav and Henrietta Hait in Poland, died May 19, 1984. In 1900 he came to Canada with his parents to the Ebenezer, SK, area. At 16 he became a Christian, was baptized, and joined Ebenezer East Baptist Church, SK, in 1914. On Dec. 10, 1918, he married Bertha Fritzsche; they celebrated their 65th anniversary this year. They moved to Kelowna, BC, in 1936, and joined Grace Baptist Church where he remained a faithful member until his death. Survivors include his loving wife, Bertha; his brother, Otto, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; two brothers, Willie and Henry; and three sisters: Annie, Lydia and Eldie Fritzsche. The Reverends Gerhard Poschwatta and LeRoy Moser officiated at the funeral service.

JOHN A. SANDAU (92), of LaCrescent, MN, born April 1, 1892, in Gnadau, Russia, died May 3, 1984. He came to the United States in 1908. He married Lydia Jenner in Wessington Springs, SD. He lived in California, South Dakota, and Minnesota. He served in World War I as an interpreter. He was a life-time deacon of Bible Baptist Church. Survivors are four daughters: Priscilla Sandau, LaCrescent, MN; Mrs. John (Alberta) Siewert, Covina, CA; Mrs. Gerald (Deloris) Goldbeck, La Crosse, WI; Mrs. Leslie (Shirley) Bretsch, Sioux Falls, SD; two sons: Eleon, Baton Rouge, LA; and Ivan, Estes Park, CO; a sister, Mrs. Marie Bentz-Tomkins; and a brother, Benjamin. Pastor William H. Heisler, Jr. officiated at the funeral service.

ELLA KRUEGER SCHMELTEKOPF (87), born Aug. 27, 1896, in Moulton, TX, died May 4, 1984, in Austin, TX. She was reared in the Lutheran Church in Moulton. After she married W.C. Schmeltekopf, they made their home in Kyle, TX. She was baptized in 1924 and joined Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, where she served faithfully until her death. Her husband, W. C. Schmeltekopf, preceded her in death in 1963. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Merle and Col. R. A. Sieberly of Austin, TX; one sister, Mary Ann White of Houston, TX; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The Rev. Edward Schemltekopf, Burleson, TX, and the Rev. James Lavender, Kyle, officiated at the funeral services.

NELSONS HOLD PERSONAL EVANGELISM WORKSHOPS FLORIANOPOLIS, SC, BRAZIL. Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson conduct evangelistic seminars in churches in the Southern Association of the State of Santa Catarina. As executive secretary of the Association, Ralph trains people in personal evangelism through a course which he and Martha wrote.

At one of the churches, almost 50 Christians attended workshops. "Four people trusted Christ as Savior as we went out with the Christians presenting the Gospel in the homes," says Ralph. "We praise God for this."

The course includes material on some of the cults active in Brazil and how to witness to those involved.

When the Nelsons' schedule does not permit them to hold these evangelism workshops in some churches, they give the material to the local pastor, and he leads the course. "In this way, we are multiplying our ministry and hope to train hundreds of Christians in the presentation of the Gospel to others. Pray that his ministry along with our mass evangelism crusades might be blessed of the Lord. Pray also for a tent that can be used in evangelism to begin new works and establish them until a church is built."

JUNE SEMINAR COMES TO JAPAN

TSU, JAPAN. Every June, the Japanese pastors and N.A.B. missionaries met at the Christian Education Center for two four-day sessions of study and discussion lead by a professor from the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls.

This year Dr. and Mrs. Ted Faszer and daughters, Debbie and Cathy, arrived on June 14 to give the seminar on "Christian Nurture and Discipleship." They contributed through music at the seminar and at the Japan Baptist

Conference churches during the weekends and evenings.

The pastors and missionaries stayed at the Center for this



Dr. Ted Faszer (left) of N.A.B. Seminary led a seminar on Christian Nurture and Discipleship for pastors and missionaries in Japan. The Rev. Hisashi Murakami (right) is pastor of a Japan Baptist Conference Church in Tsu.

seminar during the week and enjoyed the fellowship after hours. Together they studied and discussed the books, which they read and the projects which they did.

"It is an encouragement to again hear some of the basic principles on discipleship and Christian nurture," says Ron Stoller, N.A.B. missionary and manager of the Christian Education Center. "As we return from this seminar, we can apply these principles to our churches and to individuals with whom we come in contact. The conversion, baptism, and discipling cycle continues if we are taking our responsibility seriously that Christ gave to us in Matthew 28:19-20. This principle works around the world. Have you seen it on your life recently?"

ILLITERATE WOMEN MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD GEMBU, NIGERIA. About one year ago, Minnie Kuhn received 150 *Good News Bibles* from Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. "Immediately, we designated them for the Scripture Memory Program in the Women's Manual," says Minnie. "We would not know how many women were actually participating in Scripture Memory until the annual women's retreat in

February."

At the first retreat, Minnie forgot to mention the Scripture Memory Program and that she had the Bibles. About noon on the second day of the retreat, some women came to Minnie and said, "Sister, have you forgotten our memory verses?"

"Before we closed that afternoon, we called for anyone who had memorized all 30 verses to come forward," said Minnie.

A hush fell! Everyone looked around! Soon we heard little rustlings and twitterings. Finally, one woman stood and came to the front. Someone took the baby from her arms so she could concentrate. The hush became intense; it seemed everyone was "pulling for her."

The woman began very quietly; gradually her fear left her, and she repeated all 30 verses in "proper English," complete and correct with references. "What a thrill!" recalls Minnie.

The thrill didn't end there; three more women followed. Each one bravely stood before this large group of women and recited these verses.

One of the women, a young woman, has many problems in her home. Her husband has become a Muslim.

Another woman, an older woman whose children are already grown, recited the verses in the Fulani language. Although this language is not as difficult for the women as English is, still it is a second language.

"What an experience! I wondered," reflected Minnie, "could I do the same?"

At the next retreat, five more women successfully repeated the verses, and at the third retreat, one more. Several women came forward and recited about one half of the verses.

"Pray for these women," says Minnie, "as they hide God's Word in their hearts that they may also understand it and be able to use it when they face problems and questions."

Americans to Help In Other Lands

NEW YORK, NY (ABS)— Bible Society workers in northern Peru, battling their way recently over roads made almost impassable by incessant rains, were said to be going on a "journey of hope."

With them they carried much needed family Bibles to the scores of Peruvians anguished over the ones they lost in the deluge along with their homes and other possessions.

When in November American churchgoers celebrate the 70th annual BIBLE SUNDAY, they, too, will go on a "Journey of Hope," a voyage in spirit to fellow Christians in other lands who are yearning for Scriptures in their own language.

BIBLE SUNDAY is the day on which Americans pause not only to give thanks for the great abundance of Scriptures with which they have been blessed, but help, both through prayer and action, those who still wait for copies of the Word.

This year the prayerful hand of loving friendship will extend across borders to the men, women and young people of India, Mexico, Kenya and Zaire.

Today, almost 80 percent of the world's people must still look to the Bible Society as their main or only source of Scriptures. But economic conditions in country after country are making it harder than ever to keep pace with mounting requests.

The American Bible Society introduced BIBLE SUNDAY at the

turn of the century, so that Americans would be aware of the millions of Christians in other places who do not yet have the Scriptures they have asked and are still waiting for.

It has been celebrated every year without a break since 1915. Today the BIBLE SUNDAY celebration is even more significant, for the need has never been greater.

As the oldest annual celebration of the Bible cause on a truly national scale, BIBLE SUNDAY is set by custom for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. That is November 18 this year. However, some churches prefer another Sunday in the year such as in December.

India, Mexico, Kenya and Zaire have been selected out of dozens of countries to be remembered on BIBLE SUNDAY because they have unusually urgent and varied goals for distribution in 1984. Each program is a firm commitment.

The four countries together accounted for almost 15 percent of the nearly half-billion Scriptures which ABS and its partner Bible Societies distributed around the world in 1983.

India, for instance, has promised to supply her own people with over 61 million Scriptures this year, in over 100 different languages. These people range from the thousands of the economically downtrodden known everywhere as "rickshaw pullers," to Bible school students in Nagpur and

non-Christians in Bombay.

Mexico is asking help in supplying refugees from Guatemala and its "Youth in Action" movement, among a host of other needs.

Kenya and Zaire, like the other two countries, have vigorous programs for evangelization through the Scriptures, as well as for the needs of their Christian congregations in their programs of education and worship. Kenya alone will be distributing the Word in 23 languages.

Pastors may obtain an exciting selection of materials that will assist them in making BIBLE SUNDAY a truly memorable celebration.

For 168 years the American Bible Society has been taking God's Word to the world. Now linked closely with other national Bible Societies around the world, it provides Scriptures annually in over 500 languages. Experienced translators are now working with the Bible Society on numerous translations to increase the number.

ABS Scriptures are distributed without profit so that all may know the glorious good news brought by the Savior. Each year, millions of copies are given freely to those who cannot afford them on their own.

Your contributions may be designated for American Bible Society and sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

what's happening

The Rev. Richard Goetze resigned as pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, effective Aug. 26, 1984, to accept the pastorate of a non-N.A.B. church, North Park Community Chapel in London, ON.

Dr. Stephen Brachlow resigned as associate professor of Christian Heritage and Historical Theology at North American Baptist Seminary to accept a similar position at Eastern Baptist Seminary in Pennsylvania effective September 1, 1984.

Mr. Randy Mitrovich was ordained May 27, 1984, by Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. He is Associate Pastor at that Church.

Chaplain (LTC) Clinton E. Grenz, Bismarck, ND, has been appointed as instructor with the North Dakota University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. He began teaching a course in counseling skills in July.

German Baptist Mission Church, Winnipeg, MB, voted to change its name to *Mission Baptist Church*.

Mr. John Hathorn was ordained by Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, in June 1984. He is Associate Pastor for Junior Highs at that Church.

A daughter, Jenise Lorean, was born June 22, 1984, to Ken and Jerilyn Bayer in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, where they are serving as N.A.B. missionaries.

The Rev. Bruno Voss resigned as pastor of Hillview Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective Aug. 31, 1984.

The Rev. Michael Hagan has accepted a call by the Board of Trustees to become instructor of Old Testament Languages and Archaeology beginning Sept. 1, 1984, at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. This position augments the area left vacant when Dr. Gordon Harris became academic vice president.

Hagan received his M. Div. degree in Semitics and Old Testament from Talbot Theological Seminary and his M.A. degree in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from University of California, where he is currently working on his Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

Hagan served as assistant pastor at Harbor Trinity Baptist Church in Costa Mesa, CA, and pastor of

Meadow Hills Baptist Church in Aurora, CO.

Sunrise Baptist Church, Red Deer, AB, was received into full membership of the Alberta Association on March 30, 1984. The Rev. Doug Bittle is pastor.

Mr. Harold E. Kelm was ordained by Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, on June 24, 1984. He has accepted the call to become pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Hutchinson, MN, effective July 1, 1984.

The Rev. Dale Lint resigned as pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS, effective Aug. 12, 1984, to resume studies at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Larry Roberts joined the staff of Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, April 29, 1984, as minister of music. A graduate of John Brown University, Larry has a rich background of performing and ministering in Christian music. He and his wife, Alice, have two children: Brian and Mandy.

The Rev. Henry Goliath, pastor of German Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON, resigned effective July 15, 1984, to accept the pastorate of Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB.

The Rev. W. Wieschollek now resides in Sarasota, Florida, after spending six months in Germany following his retirement. His address is 7528 Biltmore Drive, (33581).

Graham Kern, along with his wife Miriam and daughter Shawna, has accepted the position of associate pastor at Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB, as of June 1, 1984. Graham is a 1984 graduate of the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

Chaplain R. Lee Boleyn has been reassigned to Pease AFB in New Hampshire.

The Rev. Dennis Sigle resigned as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Hunter, KS, effective July 15, 1984. He has served this Church since 1981. He and his family are residing in Wichita, KS.

Judson College, Elgin, Illinois, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Rev. Willis E. Potratz, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, on May 12, 1984. The Rev. Willis Potratz, D.D., is

Associate Executive Director/Area Ministries Director for the North American Baptist Conference as well as Area Minister for the Illinois Association.

The Rev. Paul Meister accepted the call to Community Baptist Church, West Boca Raton, FL, effective August 5, 1984. He has served as pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, since 1977.

The Rev. Rick Foster of Kankakee, IL, accepted the pastorate of North Sheridan Baptist Church, Peoria, IL, effective July 1, 1984.

Congratulations!

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

First Baptist, Appleton, MN; Rev. Doug Sathren, pastor; Mrs. Harold Pust, agent.

Brandon Valley Baptist, Brandon, SD; Rev. Merv Kramer, pastor; Miss Amie Dunger, agent.

First Baptist, Minitonas, MB; Rev. Ronald Kelway, Pastor.

First Baptist, Sidney, MT; Rev. Paul Brannan, pastor; Mrs. Gladys Tibbits, agent.

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

Community Baptist, Beiseker, AB; Rev. Alan Johnson, pastor; Mrs. John Poulson, agent.

Bloomfield Hills Baptist, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Rev. Norman Vernon, pastor; Mrs. Craig Merseles, agent.

Carbon Baptist, Carbon, AB; Rev. Ed Vanderbaaren, pastor; Mr. Leo G. Biebrick, agent.

Redeemer Baptist, Parma, OH; Rev. Darrell McKay, pastor; Miss Gerda Markowski, agent.

Raymore Baptist, Raymore, SK; Rev. Donald Harder, pastor; Mrs. Gail Orthner, agent.

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

readers' response

Letter to Editor:

Thank you for your continued fine work in publishing the Conference magazine. Over the past five years I have observed definite improvement in the magazine's attempts to minister to the total conference membership. The articles are provocative, interesting, and timely.

—Karen Gebert,
Newport Beach, CA

Dear Mrs. Binder:

It was a joyful experience to open up the January/February 1984 issue of the *Baptist Herald* and find that the N. A. B. magazine has made a valiant attempt to address the issue of women in ministry.

As a professional woman involved in a specialized ministry, a doctor of ministry graduate, and an active lay leader in an N. A. B. church, I believe in the equal involvement of both women and men in professional ministry. By the time I finished what I thought would be an exciting article by Dr. S. Page, I was sure that any ideas I had about equal involvement in professional ministry did not have his support. I groaned that his article should be a rather predominate article along with a full page of art work in the denominational magazine and wondered what it said for the denomination. Again, I felt the oppression I often experience within the N. A. B. I felt unaffirmed and discounted as a woman involved in professional ministry.

Then along came "Women in Ministry: A Response" in the April 1984 *Baptist Herald* by Dr. Stanley J. Grenz. It seems to me that Dr. Grenz would welcome persons and not only men to certain positions within professional ministry. For me, this concept is part of what the good news of the Gospel is all about! It was encouraging to read Dr. Grenz' response; for there are many days I wonder if I can ever make it as a Christian of integrity, a woman involved in professional ministry and still be a part of the

N. A. B. I am pleased that seminarians have someone like Dr. Grenz doing theological reflection and Biblical teaching within the seminary. I would like to see him write more articles on the topic of women. For starters, I would like to see more articles on the cultural implications and impact upon/in the written Word. I believe understanding the cultural implications could help us all to better understand the Word. Or how about doing some articles on the use of male language in the Scripture and in the pulpits of today—in the hymns, sermons, and prayer. And likewise what does our language say about how we understand theology and our task as Christians?

In conclusion, I simply do not find the church very concerned about building self-esteem in the people of God. For me, as a pastoral psychotherapist, the Good News of the Gospel, the redemption and restoration brought about by our God in the person of Christ, is a message which can bring about healthy self-esteem in the people of God. However to bring this about, individuals need to be affirmed for who they are and recognized as gifted individuals of equal worth (not pegged to do some things and not others according to gender rather than for their gifts and abilities). Most of the language and behavior I hear and see in the church empowers and enables men but not women as equals. What a tragic LOSS TO THE CHURCH! What a loss to that which we need to be doing—SHARING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY for the sake of the Gospel. HOW SAD! When, oh when, will women be released from the oppression (of which some are aware and of which others remain unconscious) by their own sisters and brothers, by those who fill the pulpit, and lead the church?

Part of my own professional responsibility is to do individual candidate assessments prior to their being ordained by their

denominations. The ministry I am involved in brings deep satisfaction, but over and over as I examine an individual's call to ministry and the pastorate, I am deeply grieved as I see and have experienced that only males are ordained in the N. A. B. Must the voice of God within the soul of women go unaffirmed, unequally recognized and accepted by only a few of our pastors and leaders?

—Bert Katschke-Jennings, D. Min.,
Pastoral Psychotherapist & Adult
Educator, Cottage Grove, MN

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you and your staff for your good work with the *Baptist Herald*. I appreciate the relevance of the articles you publish. Articles dealing with issues such as the role of women in the church are important for pastors and lay people alike to consider.

—Mark Wollenberg, Vancouver, BC

Dear Editor:

I just had to write and tell you how much Ken and I have been enjoying the *Baptist Herald*. For one thing, the articles are so pertinent to what we are experiencing at North Carrollton Baptist, but also, we are getting to know so many people in the Conference via the articles we read which they have written. It's always so much more personal and meaningful when a person reads an article and knows the author. However, when the picture of the author is with the article and it's someone I don't know, it still makes the article more meaningful.

I'm hoping this fall we can get in on the Church Family Plan. Many of our folks take the *Baptist Herald*.

Thanks for producing such an excellent "journal" magazine. Keep up the great work!

—Anita Hale, Carrollton, Texas

Dear Editor:

I like what you are doing with the *Baptist Herald*. Time by time I rip out an article and mark it up with the intention of "borrowing" from it for a lesson—Inspiration!

See you in June.

—Sue Krier, Bamenda, Cameroon

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on being the editor of the *Baptist Herald*. We like to see the churches listed that belong to the Family Plan in the *Herald*.

We have been married 63 years and never have been without the *Baptist Herald*. I was agent for years in our former church and never had trouble signing up people. In fact, some were waiting for me to ask them to order the *Baptist Herald*. I think we all have a responsibility to read our Conference paper so that we can know what is going on in our North American Baptist churches.

We like our church, our pastors, and our church extension program. Our prayer is for our Conference.

—John N. Nies, Bismarck, ND

Dear Editor:

"Why does it take so long for anything to be printed in the *Baptist Herald*?"

—Leona E. Meisch, Jamestown, ND

Dear Editor:

Thank you for all the interesting and newsworthy items in the *Baptist Herald*. I thoroughly enjoy reading it.

—Mrs. Christine Klassen, Winnipeg, MB

Dear Editor:

Thanks for the good job of editor of the *Baptist Herald*. You are prayed for often. It must be frustrating at times, but God has given you the ability to perform this duty, and I hope you continue in His strength.

—Bonnie Edel

Dear Editor:

"I certainly enjoy the *Baptist Herald*. Missionary reports, pictures, as well as church activity reports. God bless you richly in your good work.

—Mrs. Elma Hoffman

Dear Editor:

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

Keep up the good work!

—Arday Effa, Edmonton, AB

On Tipping

by Donald Miller

Several weeks ago, Nancy and I went out for dinner. We enjoyed the meal and had a delightful evening. The cost came to \$13.00. I left a \$2.00 tip. The recipient was a polite, attractive, young lady who came to our table five times, as I recall.

When we were ready to go, I slipped the \$2.00 under my plate,

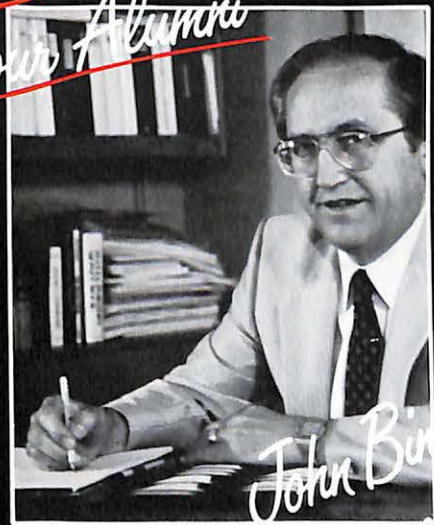
and thought nothing of it. I didn't know the young lady and may never see her again, but I didn't want her think badly of me. After all, it's customary to tip, and she was very friendly and provided good service. So why shouldn't I leave her a tip?

Later, I thought of God who has come to us in Jesus Christ. He has come to us, not five times offering bits of service in exchange for a tip, but he came to live among us, die for us, and indwell us with his Spirit. As a tangible expression of our love for him and a reminder that all of life belongs to him, God asks us to give him a tithe of our income.

How odd that we should sometimes feel obligated to tip the waitress and fail to give him the tithe. □


Dr. Donald Miller, Portland, Oregon, is planting a new church in that area.

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