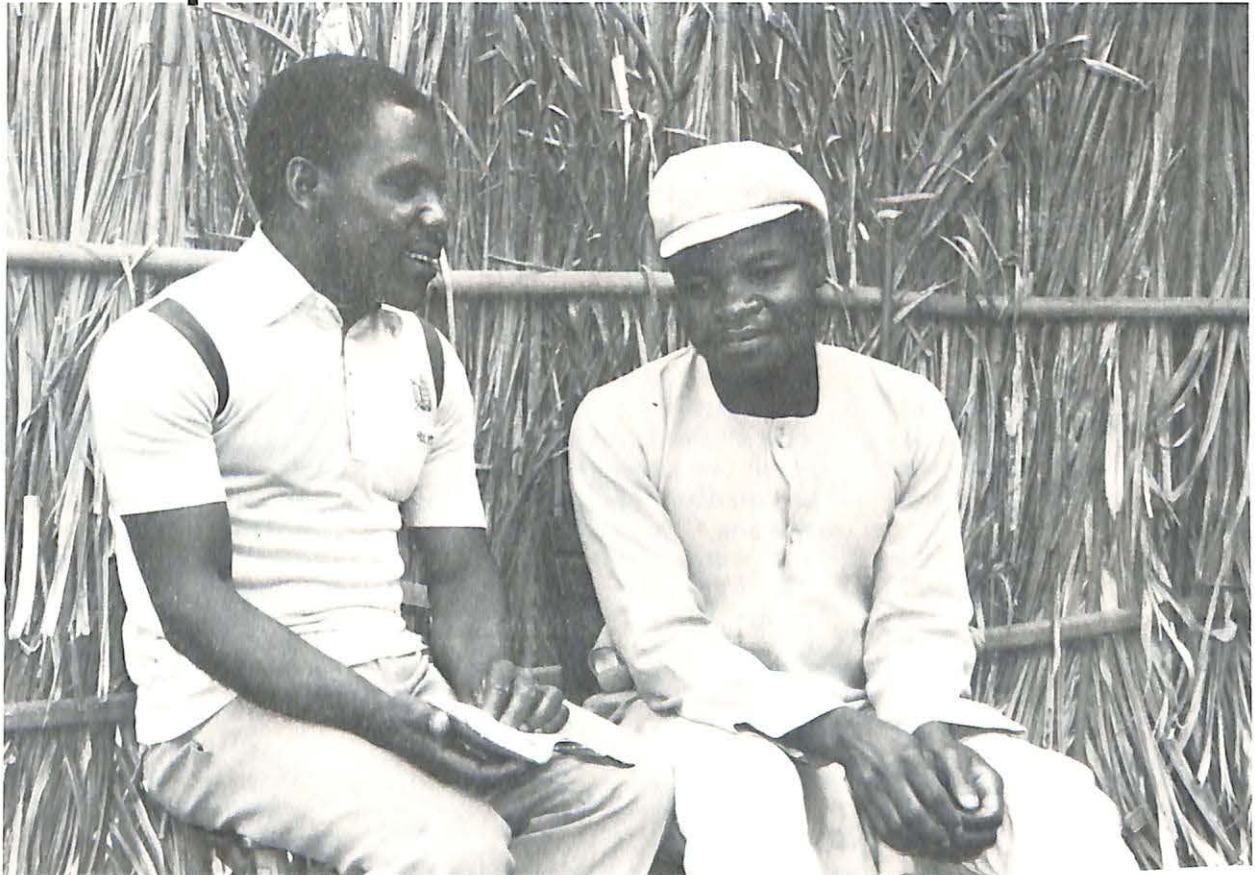


Baptist Herald

September 1984



Nationals Serving Christ





Missions! . . . Do We Understand?

by Gene A. Kern

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). "And you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8b). These two statements made by our Lord, following his resurrection and prior to his ascension, are the two primary mandates that we, as evangelical Christians, look at for our missionary directives.

The question we need to repeatedly raise is, "What did Jesus have in mind, and have we fully understood and comprehended his directive?" We also need to ask, "When and where does missions begin?" Furthermore, does missions involve only the matter of introducing unbelieving people to Christ, or does it also involve the matter of discipleship and leading the person to a place of spiritual maturity? We could go on and raise numerous other questions, and I'd encourage you to do so, but after raising them, endeavor to come up with answers. It may be

agonizing and, at times, frustrating, but most of all, it will be stretching, which can result in healthy growth.

In answering some of the questions I have raised, I firmly believe that missions means action and involvement. Jesus said, "Go!" You can't go and remain passive and indifferent. Now, the matter of going occurs in many ways and wears different faces depending upon the situation and place.

Unfortunately, we have come to think of missions as going to some place of some people on foreign soil. Certainly missions involves the matter of taking the "Good News" to Africa, Japan, and other distant places, for Jesus said, ". . . to the uttermost parts of the earth."

Jesus also said that we are ". . . to be witnesses in Jerusalem," which would be our own backyard. Possibly that would be where we work, study, play, and live.

Then Jesus said, ". . . in all Judea." For North American Baptists, I see that as the work we do in the area of church extension, inner-city and cross-cultural work in our own provinces and states.

Thirdly, Jesus said, "in Samaria." That may be likened to our work among the Spanish-Americans and other minority groups, which are becoming more numerous each year in both the United States and Canada. They,

too, need Christ, and I'm convinced that we are called upon to reach out to them with the message of salvation and hope.

As I listen to people, I get the distinct impression that many individuals appease their minds and feel that they have fulfilled their mission obligation if they have given some money to support a missionary, particularly if that missionary serves overseas. While there is nothing wrong with supporting overseas missions, make sure you know what you are supporting by checking out their view of Scripture and finding out how people's lives are being changed. By changed lives, I do not mean becoming westernized, but rather becoming Christ-like.

Remember, God wants us all to go and be witnesses. If we can't do that where we live on a day-to-day basis, we will not have God's blessing upon some monetary donation or perfunctory prayer to bless the missionaries throughout the world, on some enchanted island.

I see MISSIONS beginning with me—with us, right where we live—"living for Jesus, a life that is true, striving to please him in all that we do." We need to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit with those who do not know him. There will be some who will reject Christ and not believe. But for those who do trust him as Savior and Lord, we need to disciple to maturity in Christ. □

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



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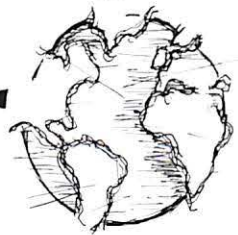
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Baptist Leaders Reflect on Obstacles and Joys

Four executive secretaries of the Baptist Conventions connected with our mission work in Cameroon, Nigeria, Japan, and Brazil were interviewed concerning their views of the work in their respective countries. The executive secretaries are the Rev. Moses D. Ishi, executive secretary of the Mambilla Baptist Convention, Nigeria; the Rev. Samson E. Khama, executive secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention; the Rev. Ralph Nelson, missionary, executive secretary of the Southern Association of the Brazilian Baptists in Santa Catarina; and the Rev. Yoshio Akasaka, executive secretary, Japan Baptist Conference.



"I am challenged with the need for evangelism to be the top priority in the churches." —Khama

What was the most significant or meaningful event or experience in your life personally in the last six to 12 months?

Moses D. Ishi:

In the last 12 months, I have experienced that God answers prayers. Because he answers my prayers, my heart is always filled with joy, and this enables me to serve him joyfully.

Samson E. Khama:

In July 1983, I participated in the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam. This Conference was unique, as each participant sensed the presence of God in all the sessions. Not only did I sense God's presence, but also I was challenged with the need for evangelism to be the top priority in the churches. Also, at this Conference, the participants demonstrated the unity of the Body of Christ in the world.

Ralph Nelson:

For me, it is significant that the Lord has permitted me to train laymen in personal evangelism. Early in the year, Martha, my wife, helped train the women of the Baptist church in Estreito (suburb of Florianopolis) in personal evangelism. I worked with her in preparing the course, which included a section on the cults.

Since then, many have become interested in personal evangelism, and we have many requests for the course from both states, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. It is exciting to train Brazilians to reach their own people with the Gospel.

In one city called Porto Uniao, a huge tent was used on the border between the States of Santa Catarina and Parana. Gospel films were shown in the tent, and food was given out by our Baptist people and by the Government officials. Helicopters were flown in to help the needy families. In one trip, 2,500 people heard the Gospel, and 500 people made decisions for Christ. A number of people reached are now in baptismal classes.

Yoshio Akasaka:

Significant to me is that my oldest son, Izumi, entered the Japan Bible Seminary to study and train in preparation for his future service in the pastoral ministry. Though I am not a man saved directly through the work of an N.A.B. missionary myself, I have been serving the Japan Baptist Conference for 26 years—since 1958, which was in the early stage of the



Pray that God will take away tribalism among the Christians in Mambilla so that love and unity will be restored." —Ishi

N.A.B. mission work in Japan. Therefore, the dedication of my son, Izumi, into full-time pastoral ministry can, in a sense, be said to be the dedication of a second-generation Christian through the N.A.B. work in Japan.

I am very grateful for the Lord's doing, taking this with great excitement as the sign that the Japan Baptist Conference can now expect the growing leadership of these second-generation Christians.

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"It is remarkable the way that the Lord used the tragedy of flooded rivers and submerged cities to bring many Brazilians to the saving knowledge of Christ."
—Nelson

What is one of the most challenging programs or ministries you feel your Convention is undertaking this year?

Nelson: I believe it is the three-year program adopted by the Brazilian Baptist Convention to begin five new church extension projects in strategic cities in our state. We have begun these new projects in Itajad, Blumenau, Criciuma, Gaspar, and Ilhota. These new church extension projects are coming along very well, and we trust that soon some will be organized into churches. Martha and I have helped in all of these except Gaspar and Ilhota.

Ishi: The most challenging program that the Mambilla Baptist Convention is undertaking this year is the building of the Maternity/Dispensary at Mbamnga. Medical care is one of our greatest needs in Mambilla. Another challenge is Mission Outreach. We started a new mission field in Bali two years ago, and now we have seven churches in that area. Many other villages in that area need the Word of God, too, and the Mambilla Baptist Convention must take the Gospel to them immediately.

Khama: The Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary is the most challenging program the Convention has undertaken. The Seminary is hailed as a giant step forward in the life of the Convention. This school trains academically sound preachers, grounded in the Word of God. They demonstrate in their churches what the Holy Spirit has given them through their training. Another goal was attained when the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa granted the Seminary full accreditation in February 1983.

Akasaka: Another long-range goal that the Japan Baptist Conference established in 1981 was to double its membership in ten years. Churches have willingly worked toward his goal, and have seen certain fruit with their efforts.

Now in this fourth year, the JBC is expecting, as well as planning, that each church should develop its own programs. Each church can be active in its own program realizing its growth in a more positive and concrete way. The JBC asked the Board of Missions to send the Rev. Dr. Edwin Kern as special missionary during his sabbatical leave from the North American Baptist College/Divinity School. With his 17 years of experience as missionary in Japan and with his background in Missiology, we expect that he can lead our churches in providing programs which are applicable to the situation here and now in Japan.

What was the most significant or meaningful event/experience in the life of your Convention this past year?

Ishi: The Mambilla Baptist Convention, Nigeria, experienced a great shortage of funds in the 1982-83 financial year. This happened because of the political riots, which affected some of our churches in 1982. In that year, not all churches sent in the harvest-thanksgiving offering to the Convention, and this affected the Convention budget in 1983. Because of this, some important items in the Convention budget were cut out.

Khama: When the revised Constitution was presented during the Triennial Conference of the Cameroon Baptist Convention in Belo Kom last April, it met with an enthusiastic, majority vote. Some of the changes effected were 1) The change from "Authority" to "Board" for the medical and education departments of the Convention; 2) The creation of a Development Board to coordinate the projects in the Convention; and 3) The operation of all Cameroon Baptist Convention boards, fields and churches under one Constitution.

Akasaka: The most meaningful experience for the Japan Baptist Conference is that a student has entered the Seminary. One of the long-range goals,

which the JBC established in 1981, was to see five people dedicate themselves to the work of the pastoral ministry in a five-year period. Izumi Akasaka is the first answer to this goal. He is going to the Japan Bible Seminary as a Japan Baptist Conference seminarian. The year of 1976 was the last year we had a JBC seminary graduate. We are all convinced that this has been done by the Lord who "is at work. . . both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). I also believe the Lord has opened the way by giving us contact with two other seminary students.

Nelson: It is remarkable the way that the Lord used the tragedy of flooded rivers and submerged cities in our State of Santa Catarina to bring many Brazilians to the saving knowledge of Christ. Thousands of blankets and much food were distributed, and visits were made by many officials of the Brazilian government. In addition to this help, our own Brazilian Baptist Convention distributed blankets, food, Gospel tracts, and Gospels of John. Thousands of people heard the Gospel for the first time.

What, do you see, are some of the obstacles that need to be overcome for effective ministry in the local church?

Ishi: There are four obstacles, which need to be overcome for the smooth running of the work in our local churches in the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria.

One obstacle is tribalism. Christians in most of our congregations come from different tribes. When these Christians meet in the Church, there is a lack of unity among them, and this limits the spirit of love for one another. For this reason, local churches find it hard to grow.

The second obstacle is polygamy. Many Christians in our local churches are being dismissed from the church membership because they married more than one wife.

The third obstacle is drinking. So many Christians in our churches spend their time in bars drinking rather than reading their Bibles and praying; thus some of them do not attend church services on Sunday.

The fourth obstacle is poor giving. Many workers do not receive their regular salaries due to the economic breakdown in Nigeria. This affects the church and results in poor giving. By God's power and through prayer, all these things will be overcome.

Akasaka: The first obstacle arises from the Japanese religious consciousness of Polytheism. This makes it difficult for the Japanese to believe in the one true God and to see their need of a faith which calls for clear repentance.

b) We need to establish churches native to the community yet proclaiming the pure Gospel with no compromise in the midst of a culture

where the worshipping of idols and other pagan customs are inseparable from daily life.

c) We need to establish churches with real body-life, by providing Bible teaching and training to activate lay people, standing firm on the Biblical faith.

d) Another obstacle is the prohibitive cost of land. We experience financial difficulties in purchasing church land in the metropolitan areas where it is easier to plant churches, but where the cost of purchasing land is even higher than in the rural areas.

Khama: Areas that need to be addressed for effective ministry of the Cameroon Baptist Convention are 1) How can we, as an organization, demonstrate the Lordship of Christ in each aspect of our work? 2) How can the Convention become a caring community to meet the needs of our members? 3) How well do our members understand the Bible? 4) How much do we have to contribute to the mission and fellowship of the worldwide Church?

Nelson: Resistance to innovations in some of the Brazilian Baptist churches is one obstacle. A number of churches feel, "We have always done things a certain way, so why change to another method?" This is a real hindrance in some of the interior churches where we work.

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"Polytheism makes it difficult for the Japanese to believe in the one true God and to see their need of a faith which calls for clear repentance."—Akasaka

Leadership in outreach in the hands of a few members is another obstacle. We need more Brazilians to become involved in the total life of the church. In many churches a few people do most of the work, or let the pastor do most of it. Church growth, in its fullest concept and reality, is an absolute necessity.

In what ways are the contributions of missionaries toward your Convention's ministry needed?

Ishi: Missionaries are still needed in the Mambilla Baptist Convention 1) to teach in our Bible School at Mbu (At present, we have three missionaries on the staff, but we need more); 2) to assist the national pastors in church visitation and to encourage Christians to grow in the Lord; and 3) to work in our Maternity/Dispensary at Mbamnga.

Khama: There are three departments in the Cameroon Baptist Convention: the Church Ministries Board with Missionary Ken Priebe as Evangelism Secretary; the Education Board with the Rev. E. W. Yongkuma as Education Secretary, and the Medical Board with Missionary Clemence Auch as Medical Secretary. The contribution of missionaries and partners in the Lord's vineyard is needed in each of these departments.

Nelson: Missionaries are needed to train Brazilians in personal evangelism and outreach. They are also needed to conduct music workshops in the churches and associations. Martha, my wife, has been doing some of this but finds it difficult to develop the whole music program of the church. Perhaps, if we would get more pastors who have some musical ability, it would be of help. Also, if we had one more missionary couple, we could do a better job in meeting the needs in Santa Catarina. We find it very difficult to attend to the many requests that come up.

Akasaka: The Japan Baptist Conference exists because of the contributions of the missionaries sent from the North American Baptist Conference for the past 33 years—since 1951. We need the help of your missionaries for a while more.

We, as missionaries, pastors, and churches, understand from the experiences of the past, the needs today, and the expectations for the future, that the missionaries are sent to work and to contribute in the specific areas. These are a) missionary families to work in church extension; b) missionaries called by or sent to work with established churches; c) missionaries for special ministries planned by the JBC such as student work and English teaching programs; d) short-term missionaries to make contacts with new people through the teaching of English; and e) missionaries/teachers for a given period of time to help in some special projects.

The requests for missionaries are being made with more consciousness of the actual needs within the plans of the Japan Baptist Conference and of our churches in order to use the contributions of the missionaries in a more effective way.

What prayer requests do you have regarding your Convention's work?

Ishi: 1) Pray that God will take away tribalism among the Christians in Mambilla so that love and unity will be restored; 2) Pray for our new mission field at Bali that the people there might open their hearts to Christ; 3) Pray that drinking of beer among the Christians in Mambilla will be reduced; and 4) Pray that the new building of the Maternity/Dispensary at Mbamnga will be completed soon.

Nelson: Pray for Pastor Nilton A. Souza, our Executive Secretary of the Baptists in Santa Catarina. Recently installed in this position, he is doing an excellent job, but the work is demanding.

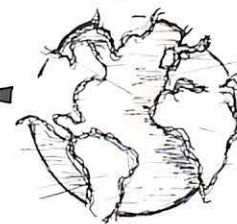
Pray for pastors for a number of churches without pastoral leadership.

Pray for the State Baptist plan of starting churches in various strategic cities in our state. In the last few years, the State Board has begun work in the following cities: Laguna, Cacador, Sao Bento Do Sul, Criciuma, Itajad, Blumenau, Lages, and Joinville e Chapeco. In most of these new works, there has been growth, in some accelerated progress, in others, very slow development. Pray that many might come to know Christ in these cities.

Khama: My prayer request for the Cameroon Baptist Convention is that the Lord Almighty, through the working of his Holy Spirit, will help our Cameroon Baptist Convention Christians to desire spiritual growth: growth as individuals; growth in the families, growth in the churches, and growth in the Convention.

In which aspects of life, do I pray for growth? In II Peter 3:18 it says, "But grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. . ." Why choose growth for a prayer request? It is because God is glorified through Jesus Christ when Christians grow in their daily living.

Akasaka: Pray that each of the Japan Baptist Conference churches will be able to accomplish the long-range goals for church growth. Pray that pastors will soon be found for the two of our eight JB churches without a pastor. Pray that the JBC through financial contributions from the local churches and other sources will grow financially in order to further carry on church extension for the growth of the JBC. Pray that the JBC as part of its vision for the future will be able as soon as possible to have 15 independent churches with a total of 1,000 members.



Zebulon — A Unique Christian Worker

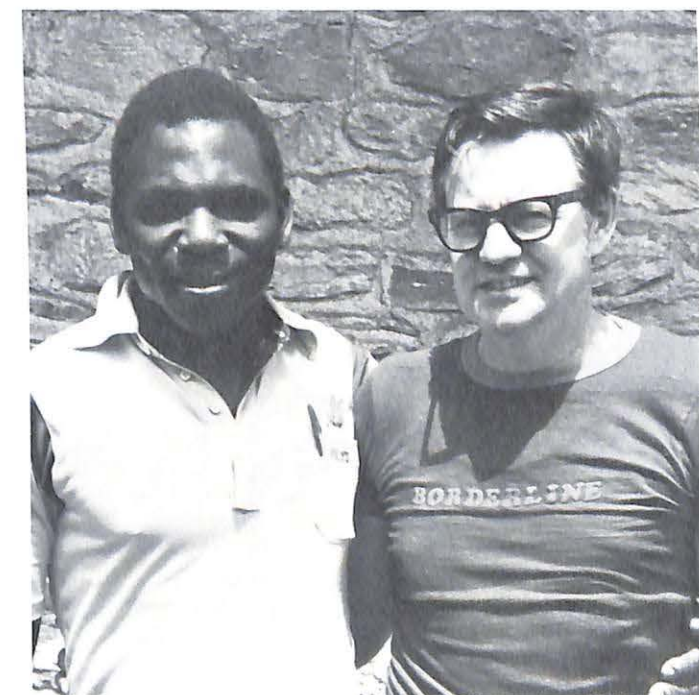
by Allan Effa

The Biblical Zebulon is one of the lesser known sons of Jacob. Perhaps he was an ordinary fellow who did not stand out among his eleven other brothers. The Zebulon whom I want you to meet, is anything but ordinary. Although he is a young man, he is one of the best known people in the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria.



Most people know Zebulon Wamni as "Dr. Zebulon" because of his work with the Mambilla Baptist Convention's Rural Health Program. You may think it peculiar to bestow such a title on someone who only has a primary school education plus a couple of years of studies at a medical auxiliary training school, but if such a thing as an Honorary Doctorate of Medicine could be granted, Zebulon would certainly qualify.

The Rev. Allan Effa, an N.A.B. missionary, serves as director for Theological Education by Extension and advisor to the churches and pastors of Warwar and Mbamnga Fields on the Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria.



Many of Zebulon's medical skills were learned by working closely with Dr. Willi Gutowski (right) during the time the mission administered the hospital at Warwar. There he was put in charge of the lab work and dispensary, and often scrubbed in as the surgical assistant.

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Since 1982, Zebulon (center) has been working with the Mambilla Baptist Convention's Rural Health Clinics. He, along with Missionary Barbara Kieper, travel to 20 villages each month. They see 300 to 500 patients a day, giving out life-saving inoculations, plus diagnosing and treating a variety of sicknesses.



After a busy two weeks of clinics, Zebulon returns to his home in Warwar. He sits back and rests, right? Well, not exactly. Besides caring for the needs of his lovely family, Zebulon leads a Theological Education by Extension group for some of the Warwar Hospital employees and their spouses. They have just completed a course on Christian Family Living and are now studying I Corinthians. Zebulon has a deep love for the Word of God and is often called upon to preach or to teach a Sunday school class. Theological Education by Extension has helped sharpen Zebulon's theological convictions and deepen his walk with God.

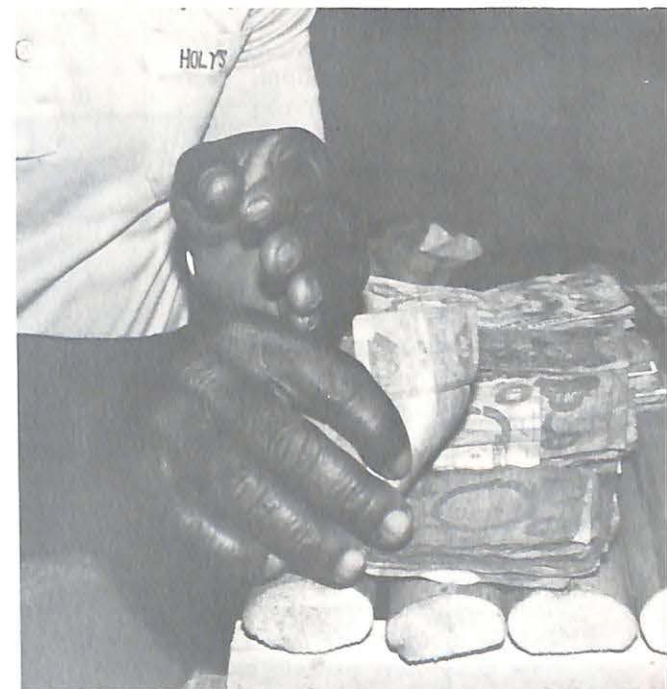


Sometimes patients begin to line up at 4 o'clock in the morning, and Zebulon doesn't finish treating patients until late in the afternoon. His experience in surgery at the hospital has come in handy in emergencies, such as sewing on severed fingers or suturing deep cuts or gashes. Whether it is pulling teeth, treating the infected liver of an alcoholic, or confronting a husband and wife with the fact that they have a venereal disease, Dr. Zebulon combines health teaching with a vibrant witness of the power of Jesus Christ to give new life.

Sometimes at the end of a long day, there is a knock on the door of the room where Zebulon is lodging: "Doctor, please come, my wife is going to deliver!" And so, a sleepless night is spent helping a new life enter the world, all the while knowing that before dawn the next multitude will begin to arrive.

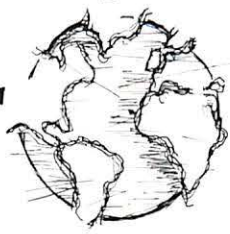


What does Zebulon do in his "spare" time? Well, he is also the Youth Director for the Mambilla Baptist Convention, a position he has held now for six years. That means holding retreats in the five secondary schools of Mambilla and planning a camp for all the Convention youth each year. Many young people come to him for counseling, and they always find a listening ear and a caring heart.



What else can be said about Zebulon? Much, much more. But I think you, too, are beginning to agree that he is a unique Christian worker. Pray for him and the many ministries God has given to him. □

The administrative skills Zebulon learned while working in the hospital make him the logical person to be the treasurer for Warwar Field. Every month he pays out the salaries to the field pastor, evangelist, and chaplain supported by the 26 churches of the Field. Because of his office, he sits on the Field Council that plans and directs all of the outreach and fellowship activities of this area.



Communicating Christ in Cameroon

by Lyombe Smith Eko



"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." — Edmund Burke (Attr.)

When Edmund Burke, the 18th century British statesman, made that statement, he most certainly didn't have radio, television, video, and films in mind. Nevertheless, I don't know a better statement of the predicament of the church than Burke's aphorism. Should the



Lyombe Smith Eko was Director of Baptist Communications Ministry, Great Soppo—Buea, Cameroon. Smith received his Bachelors degree from Sioux Falls College, SD, and his master's degree in communications from Wheaton College, IL, and returned to his home to minister to his people through communications.

church be involved in mass communication? If so, how involved should it be? What is the right "media mix"? Can the Great Commission (rather than the great commotion) be carried out through the mass media? These are questions which have probably been asked over and over again. Or have they?

The Cameroon Baptist Convention has been involved in Christian communications (primarily radio) since the 1960s. The groundwork of the Baptist Radio Ministry was led by, among others, Dr. Norman Haupt, the Rev. Bill Keple, the Rev. E. W. Yongkuma, the late Rev. Flavius Martin, the Rev. Larry Scheffler and Dave Steinhart.

Since its introduction, our Radio Ministry has broadcast Christian programs on government radio stations where free air time is available. (No private stations are allowed in Cameroon).

Early this year, construction work on our first sound recording studio was completed. This milestone was reached, thanks to the sup-

port of former missionaries, Dr. and Mrs. Ernie Zimbelman, and the donations of the Christians of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. This recording studio makes it possible for us to record quality Christian programs and good choral music.

New Media Coming to Cameroon — Television and Video

A new element has now been injected into the communications scene—television and video. Talk about bringing television to Cameroon started around the early 1970s. The northern Moslems, who form about a third of the population, rejected the idea outright, arguing that television was a Western Pandora's box which leaves nothing but corruption and moral decadence in its wake.

Nonmoslems argued that television was neutral and that Cameroon could not afford to live without a "window on the world." While the politicians were arguing, video was silently invading the country.

Right now, there are video clubs, rentals, and exchange centres in all urban areas. These clubs offer anything from "E.T." to "Dallas."

In an article entitled, "Video Mania Rocks the Country," the film critic of the weekly newspaper, *Cameroon Tribune*, says, "It is becoming increasingly possible to watch video, films that have been banned in our movie theatres. Video can now be found in many homes, night clubs, snack bars, beauty parlors, classrooms, and board meeting rooms. A revolution indeed." Right, now video tape machines are to Cameroon, what personal computers are to some other countries—a status symbol.

Television Broadcasts to Begin in 1985

Faced with this "video revolution," the Government decided to start television broadcasts in 1985. With the coming of television next year, a brand new area of witness is open to us. Are we going to be involved in this new medium? Or is television inherently evil?

Malcolm Muggeridge, the British author, and journalist said, "The media, in general, and TV, in particular, are incomparably the greatest single influence in our society today. This influence is . . . largely exerted irresponsibly, arbitrarily, and without reference to any moral or intellectual, still less spiritual, guidelines whatsoever."

Should the Christian communicator in Cameroon shun television because it stresses physical violence, brutality and sexual gratification above all else? I think the answer is an emphatic no!

John R.W. Stott once said that Christians must, "Get into the media and salt them." That, in my view, is the challenge the Cameroon Baptist Convention has in the years ahead. We can face this challenge by providing good, local Christian alternatives and by putting constructive ideas into radio and television.

Presenting the gospel creatively through the "New Media" should be a priority. Our communications ministry would, therefore, be an integral part of the total evangelistic outreach of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. A good mass communications ministry, supported by a good interpersonal evangelistic program, would probably save us from becoming a church of Christians, by Christians, and for Christians who forgot the Great Commission and are sadly out of touch with reality. □

Radio Ministry, a Capital Funds Project

A portion of Missions Capital Funds is set aside for a radio evangelism studio and equipment in Cameroon. In order to improve the continued evangelistic opportunity for free broadcast time on two government-operated radio stations, we need to build and equip a communications studio.

baptist world aid

Bangladesh Hit by Tornado and Floods

In May, a tornado, resulting in flash floods, seriously affected eight provinces in Bangladesh. The number of victims varies, but the Rev. Dennis D. Datta, general secretary of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship, places the figure at nearly 10,000,000. Latest estimates place the number of houses destroyed at 200,000, with 200,000 tons of crops—rice and jute—and 15,000 livestock also perishing. The disaster has been worsened by a sudden cyclone.

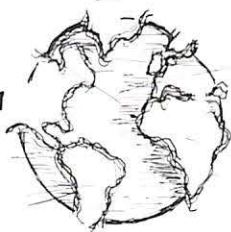
The area affected the worst is the Sylhet district, where the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship has churches and mission points. The people in the area are mainly tea garden workers. It is these people that the Fellowship seeks to serve.

Baptist World Aid has recieved an urgent request for aid for flood relief from the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship. Baptist World Aid has sent an emergency response of \$10,000, which will provide 200 families with medicines, clothes and building materials for one week.

More aid is urgently needed.

Your contributions to help the people of Bangladesh may be designated for

Bangladesh, Baptist World Aid,
North American Baptist
Conference,
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.



Nationals Ministering in Brazil

by Ralph Nelson

"We praise the Lord for fine Christian laymen and laywomen who are reaching others for Christ in Brazil," says Ralph Nelson, N.A.B. missionary in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil. "Four of these people are introduced to you here."

A Lay Preacher Begins a Church

As the son of the former executive secretary of the State Board for Baptist work in Santa Catarina, Almir Dos Santos, Jr., sensed the great need for evangelists and church workers.



Having studied part-time at the Bible Institute sponsored by the Santa Catarina Baptist Convention at its camp, and responding to God's call, Almir presented himself as an evangelist to serve as pastor of a new Baptist work. On January 1, 1983, he was appointed to begin a church in the city of Blumenau in a residential area called, "Fortaleza." He had been working with the young people in the Baptist churches of Bela Vista and Florianopolis.

During the short time this 29-year-old pastor and his wife have been ministering in Fortaleza, the church work has prospered. Beginning with nothing, the Lord has blessed Almir's ministry. The Fortaleza congregation now has a full program of activities: Sunday school, Sunday evening ser-

vice, Wednesday evening prayer meeting, youth work, and Boy's Brigade with one of the men from the Baptist church in Florianopolis helping. Thirty-five people actively participate in the Sunday school and other organizations. Many visitors attend, and many have made decisions to trust Christ as Savior.

Brother Almir, who is developing a music program in the Fortaleza church, plays the guitar and sings. As a lay preacher, Almir is being greatly used of the Lord as various people have received Christ as Savior under his ministry.

Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson held an evangelistic campaign and radio program in Fortaleza from March 30 to April 1. During this time, 28 people accepted Christ as personal Savior. These individuals are being followed up by Brother Almir and his team of personal workers.

The Nelsons are planning another evangelistic campaign in Fortaleza from October 4-7, 1984, with the help of the Rev. Jake Leverette, Burlington, ON, and the group he will bring with him. Pray especially for the television program that is being planned at that time, puppet presentations for the children in a mass rally, and messages by Jake Leverette.

Sound Judgement and Wise Decisions Characterize Moderator of Estreito Church

Of tremendous help to the Baptist church in Estreito, Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, are Vitalio and Lidi Bondarczuk. Vitalio, an electrical engineer at "Electrosul," is in charge of troubleshooting and maintaining power plants in Southern Brazil. In fact, he has visited the U.S.A. twice to view electrical power plants including the one at Niagara Falls. Through these visits, Vitalio has gained a good knowledge of American culture and has excellent relations with our mission.



Vitalio and Lidi, parents of two children, came to Florianopolis from Porto Alegre, where they had been members of a Russian Baptist Church and a Brazilian Baptist Convention church.

At 39, Vitalio, is the first moderator of the Estreito Baptist Church, sings in the choir, plays the mandolin, and preaches in the absence of the pastor.

People appreciate Vitalio, one of the mainstays of the church, for his sound judgment and wise decisions in business meetings. His wife, Lidi, the counselor of the "King's Daughters" and a member of the women's group, is very active in visitation.

Having studied hard in English, Vitalio translated for the Southern Baptist laymen from Texas who came to Santa Catarina to build churches during the day and to present the Gospel through messages in the evening.

Medical Doctor Ministers to People in a Variety of Ways

Dr. Jose Correia de Freitas, a medical doctor, is a very active member of the Baptist church of Barreiros in the city of Florianopolis. Freitas, who retired from the Brazilian Navy in 1967 as a Captain, teaches the adult Sunday school class at this church. In addition to this, he is actively involved in visitation.



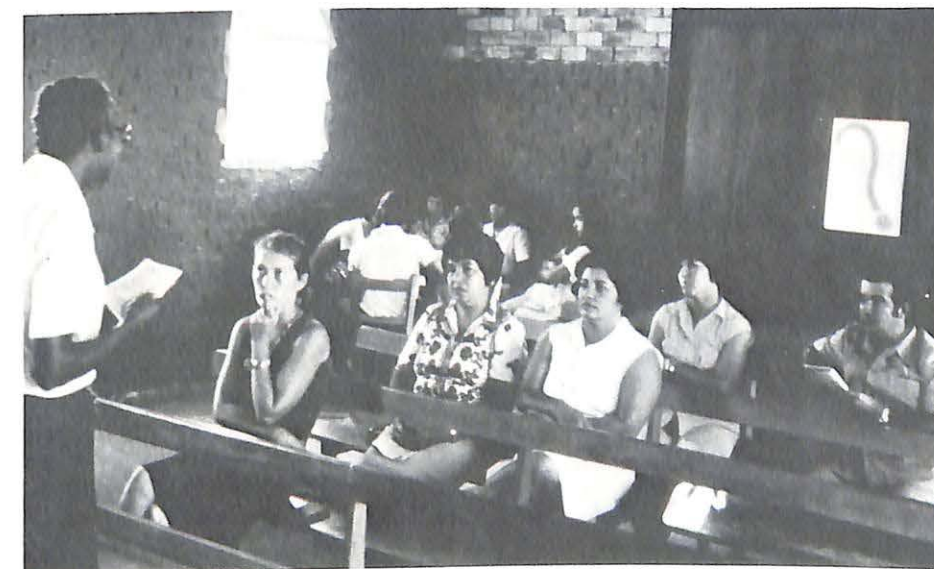
When Dr. Freitas came to Florianopolis several years ago, he began teaching medicine in the Federal University; then he went to work for the Socialized Medical Program in the city.

Very active in the Baptist men's work in Santa Catarina, Dr. Freitas works with Missionary Ralph Nelson, who is executive secretary of

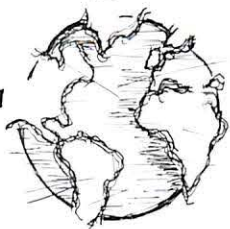
the men's work in Santa Catarina. Dr. Freitas gives excellent studies on preparation for marriage, birth of children, and hygiene to young people, couples, and to men's groups. He is active in his profession as a Christian doctor, distributing tracts, and Gospels of John, as well as loaning Christian books to his colleagues at the hospital where he works.

In May, Dr. Freitas visited eight cities west of Florianopolis, cities which were affected by the flooding last year. He worked with the Public Health Departments of these cities and spoke in each of the Baptist churches in the area. Dr. Freitas spoke on dating, courtship and marriage, and gave talks to the men's societies on drugs and related subjects. Pray for his ministry.

Although Dr. Freitas is retired from the Navy as a Captain, he is working with his final papers to receive a commission as a Vice-Admiral in the officer's reserve. This would give him more contacts with the top leadership in the Brazilian Navy.



Dr. Freitas gives excellent studies on preparation for marriage, birth of children and hygiene to youth, couples and men's groups. As a Christian doctor, he distributes tracts and Gospels of John to his colleagues and patients.



Women Serve in Key Positions in Cameroon

Two Cameroonian women were interviewed about the ways they, as Christians, are serving others in their respective professions, one in the medical field and one in education.

Both Esther Ngoh and Eirene Mbonga received their education in Baptist mission primary schools. Esther also attended Saker Baptist College and took her nurse/midwifery training at Bansa Baptist Hospital Private School of Nursing/Midwifery.

Esther is married; she and her husband have two children: Miranda Ajimsembom Ngoh, who is four years old, and Emmanuel Kfutuah Ngoh, who is eighteen months old. Her husband is on the nursing staff at the Mbem Health Centre and is entering brevete nursing training this September at Bansa Baptist Hospital.

Eirene is a widow whose husband died one year after their wedding. They had no children.

In what ways has the Cameroon Baptist Mission influenced or contributed to your life?

Eirene Mbonga: Christianity has made such a great impact in my life that it is difficult to measure. I was born to Baptist parents and my grandparents were also Baptists. I do not desire to trade my faith with something else. I thank God for my godly Christian parents who until this present day are actively serving the Lord in the Church and in the Cameroon Baptist Convention as a whole.



Esther Ngoh: The Cameroon Baptist Mission has contributed to my life by introducing me to Jesus Christ, changing me from an unbeliever to a believer.

While I was attending the Baptist primary and secondary schools and the Private Training School of Nursing/Midwifery, Bansa Baptist Hospital, I was continually reminded of God's Word. It has helped me to lead a Christian life and to know Christ more and more.

The Cameroon Baptist Mission has also helped to train me as a Christian nurse.

What is your profession?

Eirene: I was appointed the Chaplain of the Baptist Boys Secondary School, Great Soppo in Buea, five years ago.

Along with being the chaplain of the Baptist Boys Secondary School, which has a total enrollment of 450 students, I have a full teaching load. I teach religious studies to forms (classes) three to five (sophomores to seniors) with form three and four double streams of about 100 each and 60 in the fifth form (senior class).

Esther: The professional position I hold is "Chief of Post" at the Mbem Baptist Health Centre since May of 1984. This position was formerly held by Missionary Kathy Kroll, who is now home on furlough.

What value does Christianity have to you as a Cameroonian professional?

Eirene: Being a Christian gives me much joy. I have many opportunities to serve the Lord Jesus in my own country of Cameroon, among my people, as well as those with whom I may come across.

Esther: Christianity has helped me, as a Cameroonian professional, to learn to be patient with patients, to listen to them, and to understand their problems and to comfort them. It has given me an opportunity to witness to my patients. As Jesus carried out his ministry of healing, he did both physical and spiritual healing. Above all, being a Christian makes me different from other nurses who are not Christians.

As a professional person, how do you minister, as a Christian, to others? How do you influence others for Christ?

Esther: As a professional person, I do minister as a Christian to others by the way I behave and respond to them. Even when a patient annoys me, I don't speak back very rudely and refuse to give him care, but I hold



my temper and explain the situation to him. I still continue to give the normal care to him that he should receive. I pay attention to all the questions of the patients and give them the explanations that they need. I let them know that God cares for them even in their sick beds.

I influence others for Christ by the way I carry out my functions as a nurse, showing concern and love for my patients no matter the race, tribe, or qualification. I show I am a Christian by the way I talk to them, by not being harsh.

When the patients are hospitalized, their families provide food for them as the hospital does not. I try to help by giving some food to patients who don't have food because of lack of money or who came unprepared as emergency cases.

Eirene: As a professional person, I minister for the Lord Jesus in the

teaching field. Here I see that I have such a vast opportunity of witnessing and serving Christ among the staff and students of our Baptist schools. I experience great joy and happiness in teaching fellow Cameroonians, running Spiritual Emphasis programs, training courses, and writing short devotionals for our Cameroon Baptist Convention "Women's Manual" as well as serving in my local church.

Of what church are you a member?

Esther: I am a member of Zion Baptist Church, Mbem, Donga Mantung Division, where I am church secretary and choir leader. I have been a member in this church for two years.

Eirene: I am a member of Nazareth Baptist Church in Buea, since I was transferred from Saker Baptist College five years ago. It is a small church in Soppo Field with a very small membership.

Why are you committed to the work of the local church?

Eirene: I am committed to the work of the local church because as I serve my heavenly Father, it gives me the joy of sharing spiritual insights with other fellow members.

Esther: I am committed to the local church because it is necessary for Christians to meet, learn, and share from God's Word together. It also helps to build up the body of Christ.

What has been the most significant experience you have had personally, as a Christian, in the last year?

Esther: It is the experience of finding snakes in my house for three months consecutively. First, a snake was found on August 9, 1983, lying on my children's bed at about 9:30 p.m. It was killed before it harmed any of us.

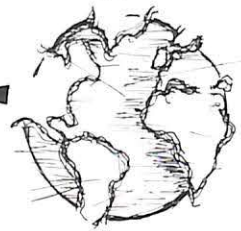
On September 12, while we were in the kitchen cooking, a snake crept in, unnoticed by us, and wrapped itself around my child's legs. When it was discovered, the snake quietly unwrapped itself and slithered toward the sleeping house. We chased and killed the snake.

On October 19, while we were sitting in the sitting room conversing, I suddenly sensed something harmful around. Looking toward our sleeping room, I saw a very long black snake struggling to go into the room. We rushed at it and killed it.

These were terrifying experiences because these snakes were all dangerous; they would have done harm if they were not discovered. But because the Lord was so good to me, I discovered the snakes each time they came. This teaches me that God cares for me and can lead me out of any danger that comes my way. If not, why didn't the snake bite my child when it wrapped itself around his legs?

Eirene: During this last school year, it has been a wonderfully thrilling experience to see 18 of our students at the Baptist Boys Secondary School, where I teach, follow Jesus Christ in baptism at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Soppo. Many other students of the Catholic and Presbyterian faith also did the same thing in their various churches around the college locality. These students attend our Baptist College. I thank God for this. □





An African Lady Helps a Missionary Child Accept Christ

by Christy Khama

Fifteen African and white children from Bamenda Station eagerly listened as I began to teach the Child Evangelism lesson at the Good News Club for children. The lesson included a story about Mike's experience with his new teacher in school. Mike, a nine-year-old boy, thought that his new lady teacher was so pretty and gentle that she would never "holler" at him.

However, the first time he was late for class, he found out differently and became extremely upset. At a Christian club that same day, the storyteller asked the question: "How would you feel if someone you liked very much suddenly turned against you?" Today's story from the Bible is just the opposite. A lady who expected someone she met to be angry with her discovered that he was very, very friendly."

Mrs. Christy Khama is the wife of the Rev. Samson Khama, executive secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention, Bamenda, Cameroon.



Mike listened as the storyteller related the conversation Jesus had with the woman at the well (John 4.) Mike thought of how angry he had become when his school teacher had punished him. He realized that he needed the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior from sin, and so the story ended.

After some additional singing, I invited any child who wished to accept Christ as his or her Savior to talk to me after the meeting. After the closing prayer, no child remained in the hall except my three children and Jason Lake. These children helped me take my books and other materials to my home as was their usual practice.

At the house, I gave each one a banana to eat. All of them, with banana in hand, went outside to play—except Jason.

I thought to myself, "Why does Jason want a second banana when he has not started to eat the first one?"

To my amazement he told me, "Auntie Christy, I want to accept Jesus."

I quickly took him to my bedroom because I did not want my children to disturb us. There we went through the plan of salvation; we prayed together; and Jason asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive his sin and come into his life.

The day Jason became a Christian, his parents, who are N.A.B. missionaries had gone to teach a leadership training course in a church outside Bamenda. Jason's mother shed tears of joy when she heard the good news.

"Why did God lead this boy to me for spiritual help, and why did this happen on the very day his parents were not home"? I pondered.

I cannot answer these questions except to observe that it is God who knows best and has his time for everything. It was just the right time for Jason. I am honored to be given the chance to lead the son of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. David Lake to Christ. Praise be to God for his wonderful love.

Postscript by Dr. and Mrs. David Lake:

Part of the answer to Mrs. Khama's question lies in the close friendship that has developed between the Khama family and the Lake family. In the process, Mrs. Khama has developed a good rapport with Jason. Cross-cultural friendship and communication between Cameroonians and North Americans is a two-way street. Too often we tend to see the benefits as flowing from North Americans to Cameroonians until we are reminded by incidents, such as the one above, that the blessings of such cross-cultural communication can and do flow miraculously in both directions. □



"It is important to teach children the ways of the Lord," says Christy Khama, "and how to follow in his ways." She has twenty children in her group, ages four through fourteen.

Children's New Life Club

Interview of Christy Khama by Eileen Priebe

Eileen

Priebe: When did you become interested in working with Children's New Life Clubs?

Christy

Khama: In 1981.

Eileen: How did you become involved, and did you have any training?

Christy: A missionary wife asked me to begin a Children's New Life Club on my compound. I was shown how to lead singing and teach songs and how to present a Bible lesson with Bible verses, prayer, and games. I attended Children's New Life Club Workshops and followed the lessons in the Children's New Life Manual.

Eileen: How often do you meet, and how many children attend the club meetings?

Christy: Our club meets weekly with the exception of school holidays. I have twenty children in my club, ages four through fourteen years.

Eileen: Do you enjoy it and why?

Christy: Yes. I realize it is a way for children to grow up. It is important to teach them the ways of the

Lord and how to follow in his ways. Otherwise, children are lost if we do not teach them. Our purpose is to teach and lead children to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Eileen: What has made it rewarding for you?

Christy: I enjoy the way the children learn the memory verses and sing songs with excitement. I have prayed with five children, leading them to the Lord.

Eileen: Have you had any struggles or difficulties?

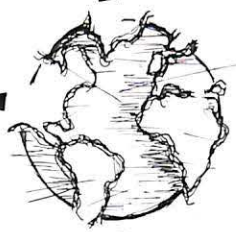
Christy: It is difficult when children do not come on time and come late, unless I have my children call for them. When they do arrive, they come with joy and excitement.

Eileen: What are your future plans for Children's New Life Club?

Christy: I plan to continue with my own club and encourage others.

Eileen: How do you feel you can inspire or encourage others?

Christy: I encourage others by sharing the importance of training children for their future lives and the importance of following Jesus. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6 NIV). □



Izumi Akasaka — Called to Minister

by Ron Stoller



Izumi Akasaka enjoyed a popular winter dish, "mizutaki," (boiled fish, meat and vegetables) at his graduation party.

Izumi Akasaka, the oldest son of the senior pastor in the Japan Baptist Conference, entered Mie University and became a member of the Bible Club on the campus five years ago. At that time, Ron and Joan Stoller, N.A.B. missionaries, were just starting to work with the University students, so both Izumi and the Stollers were learning much about Japanese University student life. Izumi became a very valuable member to the Bible club on the campus as well as the Tsu Christian Education Center.

One day in the spring of 1981, Izumi came to the Stollers and said he had some good news. He was selected as the one student who would be sent to Michigan State University as the

Mr. Ron Stoller is an N.A.B. missionary serving as the administrator of the Tsu Christian Center in Japan. The Center ministers to nearby university students and is the headquarters for the Japan Baptist Conference.



Mie University Bible Club met in Ron and Joan Stoller's home for graduation cake and coffee. Izumi Akasaka, president of the group at the time, pictured at center, is now preparing for the ministry.

exchange student for the 1981-82 school year.

"We were very happy for him and the privilege that he had to represent his school, the country of Japan, and the Japanese Christians on that campus in the United States for a year," says Ron.

While he was in Michigan, Izumi became involved in a local church and brought a Japanese girl, whom he had met at the university, to church. She later became a Christian before returning to Japan, so Izumi was a missionary to his own people in America.

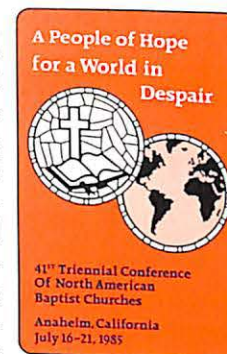
Izumi finished university in June 1982 and toured with his father, Pastor Akasaka, in North America visiting N.A.B. churches. Following the tour, Izumi returned to Japan where he served as the camp director for the Japan Baptist Conference church camps for the month of August.

During the fall of 1982, Izumi wrote his graduation thesis and also served as the student leader for the university Bible club. Izumi found some Christian friends, who joined the Bible club. They had many good Bible studies and fellowship times during his senior year. Izumi was the leader of the Bible studies at the Tsu Christian Education Center. His happy smile was an asset to the club, and his warm personality drew people.

In February 1983, at a graduation party for Izumi, the group enjoyed eating a popular winter dish called "mizutaki" (boiled fish, meat and vegetables). On his graduation day on March 25, 1983, Izumi was happy to have finished the hard course preparing him to be an English teacher in the Japanese school system.

Feeling called to the Christian ministry, Izumi entered a seminary in Tokyo in the fall of 1983 to prepare for pastoral work in the Japan Baptist Convention. Pray that these next few years of study will be a meaningful time for him as God continues to shape his life into the kind of messenger God wants him to be. □

Chuck Colson, California beaches, and Disneyland's Magic Kingdom are only part of the program being offered to all who plan to attend the 41st Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches at the Anaheim Convention Center, California, July 16-21, 1985. Packed into those six days are Bible studies, missionary speakers, special programs with exciting excursions for children and youth, great music, challenges for church growth, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship with North American Baptist folk from across Canada and the United States. As we focus together on being "A People of Hope for a World in Despair," let us pray that the Triennial Conference will make a real impact on our individual lives and all of Southern California.



A Conference Emphasizing Spiritual Enrichment and Commitment

Families and singles are encouraged to schedule their 1985 vacations for mid-July in Southern California. The Triennial Conference will be a time of spiritual enrichment and commitment, centering on the theme, "A People of Hope for a World in

Mrs. Karen Gebert is the secretary of the Local Arrangements Committee of the Southern California Association and a member of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA.



The Local Arrangements Committee of the Southern California Association has made plans in preparation for the 41st Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches. Members of the Committee are (first row): Leonard Justus, Jeannine Payne, Karen Gebert, Gayle Leuenberger, Bobbie Meekus, June Lowry (children's program), Shirley Milne (meal events), and Carl Gebert; (back row): Joey Link (youth program), Al Jeschke, Carol Justus, John Leuenberger, Dick Markly, Margarite Love (nursery program), Bill Kresal, and Pastor Ron Hartman.

A People of Hope for a World in Despair by Karen Gebert

Despair" (Romans 15:4-6, 13 and Matthew 9:35-38). Chuck Colson will be the keynote speaker. Church extension and church growth will receive appropriate emphasis, for Southern California is among the fastest growing areas in the United States.

Children, young teens, and youth will have separate programs designed to meet their particular interests and needs. A trip to Southern California's famous beaches will highlight the week. Bible studies, games, discussion groups, puppet shows, and trips to area points of interest will make the Triennial Conference a super experience for all the young people.

A Conference Located in an Area with Vacation Attractions

Southern California offers many activities and attractions for vacationers. In the Anaheim-Los Angeles metropolitan area, are museums (including one built in dinosaur territory), beaches, the Queen Mary, mountains, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Six Flags Magic Mountain, Lion Country Safari, and Griffith Park Zoo. To the south is San Diego with its famous zoo and Sea World aquatic park. Even farther south is colorful Mexico with bargains galore for interested shoppers. North of Los Angeles are the beautiful cities of Santa Barbara and Solvang (a Danish community).

The Anaheim Hilton and Towers is a beautiful, new facility, which has

many unique features that you would enjoy if you choose to stay there. Special rates have been negotiated for this event. Children may stay in the room free with their parents. Camping facilities are available in the Conference area; information will be provided with the registration packets so registrants will be able to make their own campground reservations.

The Southern California Association (SCANAB) is hosting this Triennial Conference. The Southern California Association is composed of six churches, two church extension projects, and approximately 1,500 members. Assistance from the Northern California Association has been deeply appreciated.

As the Local Arrangements Committee met to take care of the myriad details of planning for the Triennial Conference, it developed an awareness of the tremendous task that was before it. At first, it was a shock to deal in such large numbers.

You might want to picture in your mind the many facilities of the Anaheim Convention Center, including the enormous Arena which is 27,000 square feet and seats 9,000 people. Then try to imagine planning for buses, which must be hired to transport several thousand children, youth, and sponsors to the beach, after first arranging for sufficient sponsors and providing a sack lunch for each person on the bus!

Creative ladies have labored for months on decorations for the meal events. Blocks of hotel menu negotiations are nearing completion. A mass choir representing all the Southern California Association churches has been rehearsing for its part in the program. The week of the Conference has been carefully planned to inspire, challenge, stimulate, and excite each one who attends.

Pray about your participation in the 41st Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches. As the Lord guides you, plan to support the Conference in your prayers and with your enthusiastic attendance. Together in Christ, we can be a people of hope for a world in despair. □

Crosscultural Experience: Living in the Philippines

by Jennell Bertsch, Swan River, MB



My husband Lee and I spent three months in missionary training, two and one-half months waiting for our visas, and finally arrived in Manila on March 25, 1983. From the busy crowded city of Manila with its heavily polluted air and overabundance of jeepneys (passenger vehicles), we flew to the island of Negros. This island was to be our home for the next eight months.

On Negros, we lived in the center of the island in a mountainous region. Our "home" consisted of a 14-by 17-foot tent in a campsite shared with four North Americans and seven Filipinos. We worked together as a team, focusing on evangelism and community development needs (health teaching, spring capping, sanitation, and food production).

We experienced many "firsts" during our time in the Philippines. Some of these new experiences were:

- eating rice three times a day;
- baking in a tin over a fire;
- sleeping on a bed made of bamboo;
- going to bed at 8:30 p.m. and rising at 5:30 a.m. (regularly!);
- carrying water for cooking

- and bathing during our long dry season;
- doing laundry in a stream;
- chopping my own hamburger—by hand;
- seeing spiders that hop (really!);
- being the only one in a group not understanding what was being said;
- walking through a stream to get to class.

We fell in love with the country as we got to know the people. Living in the mountain region, we were among some of the most underpaid and under-serviced people on the island. Most of them were farm workers making the equivalent of about fifty cents a day with between four and eight children to feed and clothe. They are a people with many physical and spiritual needs.

We learned many lessons as we lived and worked among these people. One of the striking features we found was how willing the people were to share from the little they had. It made me reflect on our own culture. It almost seems that the more we have, the less willing we are to share of our means with others. They share out of their

poverty; do I share out of my wealth?

We also found them to be a happy people. They were well aware of all the obstacles facing them and their children, yet they were content and thankful for what they did have. They had a real joy in their simple life-style.

Our partners were both trained and dedicated people. But at first, life together had its tense moments (any time 13 people are thrown together, there are bound to be a few rough spots). I didn't realize how pronounced cultural differences are until I found myself in the minority! Filipino people are generally not opinionated (outwardly). When someone is the leader, they follow and, for the most part, do not question the leader's decisions. As you can already determine, that is quite different from our society. They found us to be highly opinionated and outspoken. We both had to learn to listen to each other and understand one another. I began to think that at home perhaps I need to take more time to listen and seek to understand others.

As guests in the country, we found we needed to be aware of our conscious and unconscious attitudes and actions. The role we were to have was that of servants. Working under national leadership, we were to follow and contribute in appropriate ways.

Being more of a servant was one of the most difficult lessons I learned abroad. In my devotions, I came across Philippians 2:7, which speaks of Jesus as our ultimate example of a servant. I began to realize that, as I am a faithful servant, God can use me for his Kingdom's sake wherever I am.

The Lord did bless our efforts as we saw two new churches built with over 100 in attendance at each church. What a privilege it is to be a servant of the King!

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



by Maria Rogalski,
German program packet editor,
Winnipeg, MB



It was my privilege to attend the Board of Missions meetings as your W.M.F. representative, April 3-5. What an experience! If I were to put my impressions and reactions into one word, it would have to be "overwhelming." That's what it was to me as I got a little glimpse into the mammoth job of our B.O.M. in administering our Conference's \$1,800,000 overseas missions budget that enables a total of 95 missionaries on our fields in Cameroon, Nigeria, Japan, and Brazil to spread the good news of salvation and to help new believers grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. What a task! And to think that we, as W.M.F., or in other words, *you and I*, have a part in this active response to our Lord's great commission.

I could not begin to tell you of the intricate mechanics of projecting and budgeting for salary-related and field operating expenses, for travel and furlough funds, baggage and health insurance, national workers' salary aid, equipment allowance and a myriad of other expenses necessary to facilitate the work of our missionaries on the fields.

Our Missions Director, Fred Folkerts, and his Associates, Oryn Meinerts and Ron Salzman, are real "miracle workers" as they juggle

and stretch the available finances to the limit and, at times, regretfully exclaim, "This is the bottom line; we cannot go beyond this bottom line." I found this to be particularly sad when it involved field requests for more funds and people, and when we had to inform the field, "We are sorry, but we cannot afford to send an extra missionary at this time."

But there was plenty of good news, too:

- The shared joy of sending out 14 new full-time and four short-term missionaries during the last year.

- The report that 17 to 20 new applications from prospective missionaries are currently being processed.

- The benefit our new missionaries had by having attended missionary training sessions that enable them to be better prepared for overseas service.

- The huge White Cross shipment of 238 cartons, weighing 15,830 lbs., representing a nominal value of \$16,892. (Can you imagine packing that?)

- The encouraging report that all systems are "go" for the proposed school for missionary children in Bamenda. In fact, our promised \$30,000 W.M.F. contribution to the Capital Funds Campaign will be the means to make this dream a

reality. The Board is just waiting for these funds to come in so that this project can get under way, the sooner the better.

- The definite strategies planned for a new outreach in the Philippine Islands. It is proposed to gradually phase into this work by appointing one missionary couple in 1985 to work along with the Baptist Conference of the Philippines to determine the best location and have two couples on the field by 1987. The \$25,000 of our \$50,000 W.M.F. 75th Anniversary gift will be used for start-off expenses.

It was a special privilege to have three missionaries present at the meetings. Reimer Clausen (Japan), Richard Kaiser (Brazil), and Dr. Dennis Palmer (Cameroon) gave us intimate first-hand glimpses into the joys and sorrows of their respective fields.

We took time out, right then and there, to pray for special concerns: the slow growth in Japan and for encouragement for the Japanese pastors; the financial difficulties in Brazil due to floods, droughts, and inflation; for victory in the spiritual warfare against the forces of the evil spirits in Cameroon that our missionaries confront almost daily.

Coming away from the meetings, Fred Folkerts' opening remarks on "keep on doing. . . because this will bring much praise and glory to the Lord" (Philippians 1:11, LB), really challenged my heart, and the words of a song kept coming to my mind: "By and by when I look on His face, I'll wish I had given Him more, more, so much more, more of my life than I'd ever before. By and by when I look on His face, I'll wish I had given Him more."

Did You Know. . .

that this month the W.M.F. executive committee meets at Oakbrook Terrace and that one of its major agenda items is planning for the Triennial Conference Women's Activities in July 1985? Pray for LaVerna Mehlhaff, Iona Quiring, and the other members of the committee as they make decisions and plans at this time.

Church Growth

APLINGTON, IA. Six new members were added to the fellowship of the Aplington Baptist Church, five by baptism and one by confession of faith. The Church rejoices with the decisions that were made. The Rev. Donald Patet is the pastor.

EDMONTON, AB. The Hillview Baptist Church (formerly Capilano Baptist), accepted 14 new members into its fellowship, two by baptism, five by letter of transfer, and seven by testimony.



"We thank God for the growth of our Church," says the Rev. Bruno Voss, pastor. The pastor's "Welcome Class" consists of another nine persons who are showing interest in our Church and its ministries.

The Pioneer Girls' and Boys' work has been doing well under the direction of willing workers. Vacation Bible School was also held this summer.

The Deacon Board began a "Shepherding Program." The parking lot was also recently paved.

DICKINSON, ND. Two hundred and thirty people witnessed the baptism of nine persons, including a family of seven, at an Easter baptismal service at Hillside Baptist Church.

The senior choir of Hillside Baptist Church presented the cantata, "Hallelujah, What a Savior," with the Rev. James DeBoer, pastor, as director.

The children's choir, directed by Dave Calluhan and Eileen Miller, presented the musical, "Little Big Lunch," on Mother's Day. The tradition of giving each mother a silk rose

to honor her on her special day continued.

"God has truly blessed our church. We began construction on an addition this summer for four more classrooms," says Bonnie Walther, reporter.

MARTIN, ND. The Rev. Bill Keple of Martin Baptist Church baptized one young woman recently (pictured).



Neighboring churches joined Martin Baptist to view the film, "The Answer."

Pastor Keple recently gave a series of messages on Revelation.

The church choir presented a concert, "Hymns from the Good Old Days," to which neighboring churches were invited.

A dramatization of "The Last Supper," "The Crucifixion," and "The Empty Tomb" was presented by the youth under the direction of Polly Keple and Ken Kost at the Easter sunrise service. (Delma Kost, reporter.)

PORTLAND, OR. The five-day evangelistic crusade at Trinity Baptist Church brought a spirit of renewal and spiritual discernment in the congregation. Attendance averaged about 200 at the services. Nearly 30 decisions for salvation and rededication marked the success of the campaign, which was the first of this size in more than a decade.

The congregation has shown a renewed interest in evangelism and a concern for the lost. Dr. Donald Richter is pastor of the church.

PORTLAND, OR. Trinity Baptist Church is a congregation of more than 90 years and 400 members but is not satisfied with merely continuing the status quo. Over the past two years, 16 people from the congregation have been sent at church expense to First Baptist Church of Modesto, CA, to study its success and to bring back

ideas that can be used. This pattern of looking at the best of others and using what is transferrable has been part of the current spirit of revival in the church.

Mike Kirkman, associate minister at Trinity Baptist Church, is leading the church to a renewed consciousness about evangelism and visitation as a key to church revitalization. The program is proving to be very successful after one year of use and practice. Dr. Donald Richter is senior pastor of the Church.

OCHRE RIVER, MB. The Rev. H. Poschwatta baptized seven people (pictured) recently. Following baptism, the Lord's Supper was observed and the newly baptized were received as members of Grace Baptist Church.



The senior choir presented a program, "Four Aspects of Worship," including songs of praise, confession, forgiveness, and dedication. The choir shared this concert with neighboring churches during the month. "We praise God for the blessings and work he is doing in our midst," says Fred J. Amman, reporter.

UNDERWOOD, ND. At First Baptist Church one adult and four young people were baptized (pictured) by the Rev. Wesley Gerber.



A weekend Bible Conference was held March 23-25 with the Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, as

speaker. On Saturday, there was a men's breakfast, a salad luncheon for the ladies, and an activity for the youth in the afternoon. (Lorine Lutz, reporter)



VERNON, BC. Pastor Henry Schumacher (pictured, second row, left) baptized six people (pictured) recently at Faith Baptist Church. (Erika Berger, reporter.)

Association Meetings

ST. CLAIR SHORES, MI. The Great Lakes Association Annual Conference, April 26-28, 1984, marked the first annual conference of the new N.A.B. Great Lakes Association. The N.A.B.G.L.A. is made up of the former Michigan Association, including the Florida churches and the Ohio churches of the Penn-Ohio Association. Meeting at the North Pointe Baptist Church with the Rev. Gordon Thomas, pastor, Warren, MI, the hearts and minds of the people were centered on "Growing Together," (Ephesians 4:15.)

God challenged the delegates and guests through the keynote speakers, Dr. John Canine and the Rev. Al Kuhnle; while Miss Cherie Lake and the Rev. Gust Bass spoke to ministry needs at the ladies' and men's luncheons respectively. This year's forum sessions on Lay Leadership, Church Finances, Women's Ministry, Right to Life and a special pastor's workshop also brought out additional areas of concern and challenge.

During the regular Association meetings, a special youth conference was also held. Speakers Bass and Canine challenged the teens in areas of

discipleship and personal relationships. The teens put some of what they had heard into practice during a service project with the nearby Garfield Baptist Church.

Special Events

APLINGTON, IA. The mothers and daughters of the Aplington Baptist Church enjoyed a salad luncheon with a delightful program following. Mrs. Elaine Elm of Williams, IA, a ventriloquist, captivated the attention of both the groups with the aid of her puppet partner, Jeremiah.

In addition, tributes were given to the mothers and daughters; musical selections were sung by some of the little girls. Mrs. Elm also sang as she accompanied herself on her guitar.

BETHLEHEM, PA. Carole L. Beckwith of Bethlehem taught a class in sign language, which continued for 12 weeks this summer, at Calvary Baptist Church. Carole, a native of Louisville, KY, first learned signing in 1974. She has been involved in deaf ministries in churches in Indiana and Illinois and has also signed for two years on a children's Christian television program. Carole is a secretary in the main office of The First National Bank of Allentown.

Calvary's Pastor, Larry E. Burd, said: "I am excited about the great potential of a deaf ministry in our church. We want to use all available means to share the 'Good News' of the gospel with those in the community." Interpretation of worship services is available at Calvary.

FAIR OAKS, CA. Sunrise Baptist Church held a reception for its new minister of music, the Rev. Larry Roberts (pictured), on April 29, 1984. Larry, a graduate of John Brown University, has a rich background of performing and ministering in Christian music, having traveled with music groups, served churches as music minister in Arizona, Texas and California, and had experience in TV programming. He and his wife, Alice, have two children: Brian, 9, and Mandi, 6 years old.

Larry's perspective of music in the life of the Christian church is much ap-



preciated at the Sunrise Church.

Senior Pastor Gene Kern, heads the staff of eleven. (Dorene Walth, reporter.)

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. Don and Bev Cielnicki presented a slide discussion program on "Abortion: The Christian Viewpoint" at Fountain Valley Baptist Church.

A film on Mormonism, "The God-makers," was shown on another occasion after which Carvell Stewart, seventh generation ex-Mormon, gave his testimony and led a discussion period.

The second annual Easter pageant, "Then Came Sunday," was performed twice on Palm Sunday morning. The Chancel Choir, Chorister Choir, and cast members performed excellently under the direction of Mike and Nancy Kutzel, music director.

The sunrise service on Easter Sunday morning featured a dramatic presentation, "Resurrection on Trial," produced by the senior high and college youth. Following this, the morning worship service featured special music by three choirs: Chancel, Choristers and Cherubs. Easter Sunday climaxed with the film, "See You Sunday," and the baptism of one individual. The Rev. Eugene Stroh is pastor. (Clara Unruh, reporter.)

HEBRON, ND. A skit and program, "Death and Love," commemorating Christ's death for our sins were presented by the youth and young married couples.

The high school students, their parents and youth sponsors enjoyed the annual youth banquet honoring the seniors. "It was a great means to communicate with our youth and to show our Christian love to them," says Delores Kitzan, reporter.

At the mother and daughter banquet, the speaker spoke on the need for touch.

(continued on next page)

The semi-annual, all-request music night was presented to a capacity audience. The choir, soloists, and ensemble groups sang.

A community choir consisting of members of all churches sang the cantata, "No Greater Love," under the direction of Gurmen Schimke, with Mrs. Duane Grubb at the piano and Pastor Herb Schauer as the narrator.

LANSING, IA. The seventh annual Iowa Association Women's Retreat was held at Central Baptist Camp, April 27-28, with 29 ladies attending.

Mabel Louise Steward of Christian Radio Station WWIB, Chippewa Falls, WI, was featured speaker, challenging the group with the retreat theme, "Lord, Mold Me into Your Image."

"A get-acquainted time of fun and games, hearty singing, special music and sharing followed by an inspiring devotional led by the guest speaker filled our hearts with blessings," says Jean Strauss, reporter.

A special offering of \$988.48 was taken for Central Baptist Camp.

The women voted to have a three-day retreat in 1985, which will be held April 12, 13 and 14.

LEHR, ND. The Ebenezer Baptist Church honored Pastor and Mrs. Ben Lutt on April 1, 1984, for their being five years in Lehr, and 30 years in the ministry.

The Rev. Alfred Biblehiemer, Bismarck, ND, a long-time friend of the family, spoke at the afternoon service, which was led by Deacon Rudeow Ulmer. Music was furnished by a son, Jonathan, and by a quartet. Many friends from former churches as well as childhood friends from the Harvey area attended. Five of the Lutt's children were present.

Pastor Lutt has made remarkable recovery from open heart and valve replacement surgery in March of 1983, as well as hernia surgery in April 1984.

VANCOUVER BC. Four couples dedicated their infants (a total of five infants) to the Lord at Bethany Baptist Church. "Among the couples, were our Pastor and Mrs. Rick Laser, who dedicated their youngest daughter," says Elsie Baum reporter. Associate Pastor Mark Wollenberg led the prayer of dedication and read Psalm 127:3. Each couple received certificate of dedication as a keepsake of the occasion.



PARMA HEIGHTS, OH. More than 800 persons enjoyed the presentation by the 60-member Chancel Choir of Parma Heights Baptist Church. The choir presented "I AM," a Resurrection Celebration Easter cantata, created and arranged by David Clydesdale under the direction of Mrs. Liz Dyke on Palm Sunday. A special opening narration was written by Mrs. Ruth Barnes, a church member.

"What words cannot describe, music and song did, since they are the universal expression of man's soul to his Creator and Savior," says John Bretz, reporter. No wonder that the congregation rose at the conclusion of the majestic finale, uplifted by the explicit call of the great "I AM."

"This cantata has taken many extra rehearsals and long hours of hard work by the choir. But their complete spirit of unity has again demonstrated their love for our Lord," says Liz Dyke, choir director. She expressed her conviction and that of the entire choir by saying:

"Since God has such an intense love for us that he shared his only Son to die for our sins, that we might forever live with him, should we not also sense the urgency of dedicating our lives to sharing the message of the great 'I AM' with those around us? What a beautiful way it is to begin the celebration of the Easter season!"



What a tremendous experience! A capacity crowd of members and friends witnessed a live presentation of Leonardo da Vinci's famous portrayal of "The Last Supper" on Good Friday at Parma Heights Baptist Church. The men (pictured), clothed with robes near to the color and style of da Vinci's painting, sat at the table in their respective posed positions for 30 seconds. The pose was then relaxed, and each disciple gave a brief history of himself and his work in the Christian ministry. At the end, the pose was again assumed and held for 30 seconds.

This was followed by a solo by Ray Streight, "Help This Shepherd Be a Lamb," and the Lord's Supper.

"The impact of the entire program was to let each one present relive a bit of our Christian Heritage," says Ron Hall, who directed the program. He added: "This drama gives us a deeper understanding of what took place at that historic 'Last Supper' and increases our determination to be of greater service to him." His wife, Edith Hall, designed and made all costumes.

"He is risen! He is risen indeed!" That was the theme on Easter Sunday as nearly 1,300 people gathered to worship the Risen Lord Jesus at Parma Heights Baptist Church. At the sunrise service, the youth under the direction of Pastor Terry Holley presented a drama depicting the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Music, pageantry, and drama made the resurrection come alive.

After a delicious breakfast served by the Men's Fellowship, members and friends of the Church gathered to exalt the Savior through singing and praise and hearing Pastor John Thielenhaus bring a sermon on the resurrection, "Almost Persuaded."

The day ended with the privilege of hearing Dr. Richard Houts, professor, N.A.B. Seminary, bring the evening message. (John Bretz, reporter.)

HILLSBORO, OR. More than 85 members and friends of Faith Baptist Church gathered at the Mountindale Conference Center for their annual Family Retreat. The Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Western Area minister, and his wife, Carol, were guests. Mr. Schauer spoke and led discussions on the theme, "New First Steps," based on Galatians 2:20.

A trio from the Cedar Mill Bible Church, Portland, presented a concert, and an old-fashioned group sing was featured, also.

On Sunday, the entire Church joined in worship at the Conference Center.

"This was a great time of fellowship and learning together," says Jim Green, pastor of the Church. Members of the Church had opportunity to become acquainted with several new families.

LA SALLE, CO. In memory of Alfred H. Reck who passed away on Nov. 17, 1983, a beautiful stained glass window was dedicated on May 20, 1984, at the First Baptist Church. Mr. Reck had been an active member ever since his baptism on March 26, 1948.

In December 1983, pew cushions were dedicated in memory of Levis Lengal at the First Baptist Church. Mr. Lengal who passed away Oct. 10, 1983, had been a member since March 5, 1961.



VANCOUVER, BC. Approximately 150 ladies attended the annual Mother-Daughter Tea at Bethany Baptist Church. Ten of the great grandmothers (pictured with relatives) received recognition. Younger women, grateful for their Christian heritage, told how a mother or grandmother had been a special blessing in their life. Ruth Liegmann encouraged the ladies to continue to grow spiritually, suggesting that "in time of discouragement, a focus on blessings, and praising the Lord is a good antidote." (Elsie Baum, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. Recently, the Rev. Bill McLeod lead a series on church renewal at Immanuel Baptist Church. Visibly led by the Holy Spirit, he touched the church in many of the areas where the members hurt most, challenging individuals and the congregation to obey and follow the demands of Scripture for a truly Christian life. The Rev. Waldemar Kroguletz is pastor.

YORKTON, SK. The Women's Ministries hosted a "Mother and Daughter" banquet and social evening on May 11 for ladies and invited guests. The theme was "Dolls of All Ages." Scenes from all stages of life were portrayed through readings and musical selections.

The special feature was a display of favorite dolls with ages as varied as the 99 ladies, youth, and babies present. A devotional by Evelyn Bertsch was on "Dolls with Character." A mission offering was received. (Hertha Rowden, reporter.)

YORKTON, SK. The Central Baptist Church choir presented a musical, "The Wondrous Cross," under the direction of Curtis Campbell with Irene Redekopp accompanying on the organ. The choir has been active throughout the year, using their God-given talents in praising the Lord.

The Rev. Del Bertsch is the pastor. (Hertha Rowden, reporter.)

Church Dedications and Anniversaries

EDMONTON, AB. The newly renovated sanctuary of Greenfield Baptist Church was dedicated to the Lord in November 1983. A banquet, held on Saturday evening, preceded the dedication service held Sunday afternoon with Dr. John Binder, executive director, N.A.B. Conference, as guest speaker. An open house for the community that Sunday evening concluded the festivities.

"We were very encouraged by the number of people who attended the open house who were not members of our church family, but were friends from the community interested in the growth of our Church," says Rebecca A. Metter, reporter.

A pot-luck dinner was held to bid a fond farewell to Associate Pastor Dave Henkelman and his family. Pastor Henkelman had been with Greenfield for approximately two and one half years and had been instrumental in organizing the Ladies' Time Out Program.

With the leaving of the Henkelmans, the Church welcomed Terry Harsch and his family at an installation service on June 3, 1984. Mr. Harsch has accepted the position of youth pastor. The Rev. Tim Schroeder is senior pastor of the Church.

HAMILTON, ON. The German Baptist Church celebrated 30 years of service on March 25, 1984. Morning and evening services featured music from several choirs, including a mass mixed choir composed of past and present members.

Flowers were presented to the church's founding members, and the names of members now deceased were read. The Rev. Rubin Kern and former Pastors John Goetz and Mark Woods, assisted Pastor Henry Goliath and Associate Pastor Mark Boughan with pulpit duties. (The Rev. John Wahl, first minister of the church, died in 1981.)

An anniversary dinner closed the anniversary celebration. (Connie Jeske, church member.)

in memoriam

ELMER WILLIAM BROWNSWORTH (82), Okeene, OK, son of George and Mary Hill Brownsworth, born March 15, 1902, in Dewey County, died May 1, 1984. His early years were spent in Dodge City, KS; later in Montana and Washington. He married Esther Geis in 1927. He farmed southeast of Okeene until 1962 when they moved to Okeene. He accepted the Lord, was baptized and joined Emmanuel Baptist Church, Loyal; later they transferred to Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, where he remained a faithful member. He is survived by two sons, one daughter, two brothers, four sisters, fifteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, his wife, and one son. The Rev. Edward Kopf officiated at the memorial service.

THE REV. MARTIN DE BOER, born to Hisko and Jennie (Vust) DeBoer on Dec. 17, 1898, in Little Rock, IA, died May 28, 1984. He received Christ as his Savior on March 15, 1913, and later responded to God's call into the pastoral ministry. He married Martha Bickel on Feb. 18, 1930, in Neustadt, ON. For more than 48 years, they served pastorates at Chancellor, SD; Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE; Lehr, ND; Buffalo Center, IA; Springside and West Ebenezer, SK; Fessenden, ND; and Loyal, OK. They retired in 1979 to Bismarck, ND, where they became active members of Century Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Martha; daughter and son-in-law, John and Ruth Peterson; son-in-law, Ray Ostrander; four grandchildren; three sisters and five brothers. One daughter, Lillian, preceded him in death. The Rev. Anthony Guenther, pastor, officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. CLARA DEVINE (95) died April 14, 1984. She accepted Christ as Savior at age 50 and was a member of Colonial Village Baptist Church for 45 years. She was faithful to her Lord in all those 45 years. Psalm 121 was included in her obituary. She is survived by her son, Douglas. The funeral service was held at Colonial Village Baptist Church on April 19, 1984, with Dr. A. W. Boymook officiating.

JEFFREY JOEL FREY was stillborn April 26, 1984, the son of Joel and Joyce Harms Frey. Survivors include his parents, Joel and Joyce, Allison, IA; three sisters: Janice, Janelle, and Jennifer, all at home; his maternal grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Harms and his maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Kate Ostercamp, all of Aplington, IA; his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Frey, Aplington, IA, and his paternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Gladys Verly, Grundy Center, IA. The Rev. Donald Patet officiated at the family funeral service.

ADAM GRENZ (74), Gresham, OR, born in Napoleon, ND, on March 23, 1910, died April 15, 1984. He moved to Portland in 1937 as a result of attending the N.A.B. Triennial Conference. He married Bertha Gieser (daughter of Pastor Karl Gieser) on June 12, 1938. They joined Trinity Baptist Church and have been active members. Among the evidences of his faith are his leadership roles as deacon, church clerk, president of Baptist Men, and Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his wife Bertha; a daughter, Vera Grenz, and two sons: Robert and Stanley; three grandchildren; and four brothers. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Donald Richter.

ALBERT IBLINGS (75), Milbank, SD, was born Aug. 16, 1908, in Parkersburg, IA, to William and Eta Veen Iblings, and died Aug. 28, 1983. His family moved to Corona, SD, in 1911, and to New Leipzig, ND, in 1923. He returned to Corona in the 1930s. He married Verna McCann in 1948 at Ellsworth, MN; she died in 1968. He married Emma Poppen in 1975. They lived in California from 1975-78. Mr. Iblings was a faithful member of his church and had a special kind of quiet, deep Christianity that he lived every day. Survivors include his wife, Emma; six sons: Terrence McCann, Brooklyn Park, MN; Randall Iblings, Maple Grove, MN; Roger Poppen, Spokane, WA; Richard Poppen, Sunnyside, CA; Daryl Poppen, Modesto, CA; and Dan Poppen, Mountain View, CA; 12 grandchildren; and four sisters: Mrs. George Schults, Ida Okken, Rose Iblings, and Mrs. Fred Sprung.

MILTON A. KING, member of Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, MI, for 10 years was born Feb. 3, 1900, in Ravenswood, WV, and died on May 19, 1984. He was predeceased by his wife in January 1984. Mr. King left a legacy of three children and a number of grandchildren, mostly Christians. Mr. King passed away at the home of his daughter in Goshen, IN. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boymook officiated at the memorial service.

CAROLINE NAASZ (96), Selby, SD, born Dec. 25, 1887, at Eureka, SD, to Jacob and Karolina Dieder, died April 7, 1984. She became a Christian as a young girl. On Oct. 28, 1906, she married Rudolph Schott; they lived at Zeeland and Linton, ND, and Roy and Lewistown, MT, where he died May 31, 1931. On Aug. 17, 1955, she married Ludwig Naasz. They lived at Herreid and Selby; Mr. Naasz died in 1975. Mrs. Naasz was a member of Herreid Baptist Church and an honorary member of the W.M.F. Survivors include one son, Royal M. Schott of Glasgow, MT; two daughters: June Newlin, Pocatello, ID, and Bertha Short, Washington State; one brother, Reuben

Dieder; six stepdaughters, Ella Kuebler, Esther Sieler, Martha Berndt, and Nettie Ochsner, Violet Schmierer, and Loretta Opp; one stepson, Chester Naasz; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was also predeceased by four daughters, one son, two stepsons, and one stepdaughter. Pastor Harry W. Johnson officiated at the funeral.

EARL H. ROSSOW (82), born May 25, 1901, in Campbell County, SD, to Charles and Anna (Kohlhepp) Rossow, died May 8, 1984. He farmed until retiring to Herreid in 1966. He married Christine Deibert, June 16, 1929. Earl accepted Christ as his Savior in 1918 and joined the Evangelical Church in Herreid. In 1957, he and his wife joined Herreid Baptist Church. He was a member of the Men's Brotherhood and past member of the Deacon Board. He is survived by his wife; two sons: James of Douglas, WY, and Kenneth of Mobridge, SD; two daughters: Mrs. Mervin (Ruth) Mittleider and Mrs. Larry (Gladys) Fjeldheim, both of Herreid; eleven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Charles, and one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Rux. He was predeceased by his parents, one brother, and one sister. Pastor Harry Johnson officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. ELLA SAYLER (70), Bismarck, ND, born April 14, 1914, at Turtle Lake, ND, the daughter of Philip and Martha Leddin Fried, died May 11, 1984. She married Arthur Sayler in 1939. He predeceased her in 1981. Ella was very active in Underwood Baptist Church before moving to Bismarck and joining Bismarck Baptist Church in 1983. She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Tom (Lorella) Donlin, Rapid City, SD, and Mrs. Everett (Carol) Heringer, Bismarck, ND; two sons: Larry, Canyon Country, CA, and Roger, New York City; two sisters: Olivia Vitko and Marguerite Anhorn; two brothers: Paul and Reinhold; and five grandchildren. The Rev. Wesley Gerber and the Rev. M. D. Wolff officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. LEA SUKUT (75), Bismarck, ND, born March 20, 1909, in Wishek, ND, the daughter of John P. and Elizabeth Mueller Seiler, died May 12, 1984. Lea married Aaron Sukut in 1931; they farmed north of Wishek until moving to Washington in 1944. They returned to Wishek and lived there until 1951 when they moved to Bismarck and joined Bismarck Baptist church. Her husband died in 1970. She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Lloyd (Darlene) Weisser, San Leandro, CA, and Mrs. Joe (Marlyn Jean) Kraft, Tacoma, WA; two sons: Arlyn, Inverness, FL, and Harvey, Fargo, ND; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. George (Elsie) Burgad; and two brothers: Donald and Ronald Sieler. The Rev. M. D. Wolff officiated at the funeral service.

what's happening

Mr. Henry Fluth, Minneapolis, MN, died July 3, 1984. He had served as N.A.B. Conference vice-moderator from 1970-73, and as Chairman of the Board of Missions from 1968-70. He is the father of Dr. Jerry Fluth, former missionary to Cameroon; Blaine Fluth, chairman, Church Extension/Church Growth Board; and Mrs. Iona Quiring, W.M.F. president.

The Rev. Carlo Walth resigned as associate pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, effective July 31, 1984, to accept a similar position in a non-N.A.B. church in Paradise, California.

The Rev. James Lavender resigned as the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX, effective June 15, 1984. He has accepted a position in a non-N.A.B. church in Austin, TX.

Mr. George Dunn resigned as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, High Prairie, AB, where he had served since 1978. He had accepted a position with a camp near Lac La Bischo.

The Rev. Leonard Pye resigned as pastor of Trochu Baptist Church, AB, effective July 1, 1984. He has served this church since 1980.

The Rev. Bruce Merrifield has accepted the pastorate of Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA, effective Sept. 1, 1984. He has served as pastor of Park Meadows Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, since its founding in 1976.

Mr. Loren Pullman concluded his ministry as Director of Christian Education at Fort George Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, effective May 13, 1984.

The Rev. Eric Coulon became pastor of Whispering Oaks Baptist Church, Parkville, MO, on Aug. 15, 1984. He has served the Bethel Baptist Church, Harvey, ND, as pastor since 1980.

The Illinois Association approved the Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carol Stream, IL, as an official church extension project in April 1984. The Rev. Eldon Schroeder is serving as interim pastor of this project.

The Rev. Rick Foster became pastor of North Sheridan Baptist Church, Peoria, IL, effective July 1, 1984. He is a 1983 graduate of the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

Mr. Dale Dreger resigned as pastor of Rabbit Hill Baptist Church, South Edmonton, AB, effective June 17, 1984. He has served the church as pastor since 1980.

Dr. Ron Heisler resigned as pastor of Southside Baptist Temple, Monclova, OH, effective Aug. 1, 1984. He was the founding pastor of the church (1973).

The Rev. D. Walter Schroedter resigned as Youth Pastor of Mission Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, effective Aug. 31, 1984. He has served in this position since 1974.

Dr. Donald Miller resigned as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, effective June 1984. He has served as senior pastor of this church since 1977. He is starting a new church.

Grace Baptist Temple, Upper Sandusky, Ohio has disbanded. The Rev. Everett Jennings, pastor, has accepted a position with a non-N.A.B. group. He served the Upper Sandusky church since 1981.

The Rev. Karl Bieber resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Jamesburg, NY, effective July 31, 1984. He served the Jamesburg church since 1969. He has moved to Gaithersburg, MD.

Chaplain Henry E. Wake was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 1, 1984. He is serving as chaplain in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

Mr. Donald G. Mashburn was ordained into the ministry on June 16, 1984, by the Greenvine Baptist Church, Burton, TX, where he is the pastor.

The Rev. Woodie Wood resigned as pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Junction City, KS, effective June 1, 1984. He has accepted the pastorate of a CBA church in Oregon. He served Highland Baptist since 1980.

The Rev. Merlyn M. Bowker is the pastor of Westland Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective June 3, 1984.

The Rev. C. T. Remple retired from the pastorate on May 6, 1984. He had served the Thornhill Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, as Associate Pastor for six and one-half years. He has served 45 years as a pastor in N.A.B. churches. "We terminate our official ministry in churches with a sweet taste in our hearts," says Remple.

The Rev. Martin DeBoer of Bismarck, ND, died May 28, 1984. He had served as pastor of the following N.A.B. churches: Chancellor, SD; Shell Creek Baptist, Columbus, NE; Ebenezer Baptist, Lehr, ND; First Baptist, Buffalo Center, IA; Springside and Ebenezer West Baptist Churches, SK; Fessenden Baptist, ND; and Immanuel Baptist, Loyal, OK, before his retirement in 1979. His wife, Martha, resides at the Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND.

The Rev. William Sibley (57) died in Wausau, WI, on June 9. He had been paralyzed and confined to a Veteran's Hospital for 12 years following an accident at the N.A.B. Ministers' Conference in 1972. His wife and six children survive. Mr. Sibley served the following N.A.B. churches: Calvary Baptist, Wetaskiwin, AB; Meadowlark Baptist, Edmonton, AB, and one in Wausau, WI.

Mr. M. Timothy Walker was ordained by Grace Baptist Church, West Fargo, ND, on June 3, 1984. He has served as student pastor of Plum Creek Baptist Church, Emery, SD, during his studies at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Willis Carrico resigned as pastor of Hartland Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, effective October 31, 1984, to retire. He is the founding pastor of the Church (1981).

Steven Burrell accepted the position of director of youth, South Calgary Community Baptist Church, Calgary, AB. He is a 1984 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Daniel T. Digatono was ordained by Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, on May 17, 1984. He is a 1984 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Mr. Norman Poehkle returns to studies at Regents College, September 1. He continues in a part-time position at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

Mr. Rick Weber became Minister of Adults at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH, in August. He is a 1984 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. He was ordained by his home church, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, in May.

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About 70 voting members of the General Council acted on Conference business at their annual meeting, June 7-8, in Chicago, IL. These members represent the 20 associations (with two to three representatives for each association) as well as the schools and the various departments of the Conference.

Moderator Gene Kern opened the General Council sessions by drawing the Council members' attention to the vastness of the ministry God gives to each of us.

Basing his remarks on 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:1-18, Kern drew analogies from the life of Paul pointing out that God constantly opens doors for us, but it is up to us to go through these open doors. Sometimes it is not easy to implement change. At other times, we are so filled with fear that we do not grasp the opportunities before us.

Kern pointed out that Paul was not content to stay in one place. Paul felt that each place God led him was an opportunity. God calls us to move from a place of familiarity. "There is a freshness, an aroma, that is appealing in a new place; the place or point at which we are now may have become musty."

"God not only opens doors for us"; states Kern, "but he is the adequacy. Our confidence rests in Christ."

God has given us unique ministries. We don't have to be like everyone else. Sometimes we think we need to make all ministries the same. Each of us needs to be creative, learning, and adaptive.

Paul saw himself as a fellow minister, going through the open door. He saw God as adequate, and he saw the need to involve people (Acts 3). "You are the letter..." Kern said, "carried out through committed people in our North American Baptist Conference churches."

"Any ministry that reduces involvement of people is headed for trouble. We need to motivate people. God extends himself through people."

Kern went on to say that "We need to remain faithful, adequate, sensitive servants. It's not what you know; people want to know how much you care."

Highlights of General

He also stated that people move forward in a survivalistic tendency. If we see hesitancy on the part of someone, we pull back and become men pleasers. "If I do thus and so, people won't like me."

An example of this is found in Peters' denial of Christ. After the resurrection, the disciples were not survivalists; they gave their lives for Christ.

Kern closed by saying, "We don't have to agree in the Council sessions, but when we are all done, we should be unified."

The Council approved 1) That the Western Area be divided effective Sept. 1, 1985, with one area consisting of the Northern and Southern California Associations and the other of the Central Pacific and Pacific Northwest Associations.

[Presently, the Rev. LeRoy Schauer is area minister for all four associations, which include California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and some of Montana. Concern was expressed by the representatives of the Pacific Northwest and the Central Pacific Associations about the financial implications for these Associations. The need was expressed for a full-time area minister for California to oversee church extension there. The area is too large for one man to cover. It was pointed out that Northern California would assume 66 percent of the area minister's support on Sept. 1, 1985.]

2) A basic budget for 1985 of \$4,550,000 plus a \$150,000 challenge fund. [The challenge fund is to be expended in 1986 only if the funds are received in 1985: \$80,000 for church extension and \$70,000 for missions.]

3) Moving toward achieving equality of subsidy for the N.A.B. College/Divinity School and the N.A.B. Seminary by 1987. The following general guideline recognizes the responsibility of the Finance Committee to make adjustments annually as conditions require:

1984 — 56 percent Seminary, 44 percent College/Divinity School;
1985 — 55 percent Seminary, 45

Council Actions



At the General Council sessions, the Rev. Fred Folkerts, on behalf of the Board of Missions, gratefully recognized the 32 years of distinguished missionary service of the late Reverend Fred Holzimmer and his wife Dorothy from August 1951 to May 1983. "Their faithful service together encompassed a great variety of ministries to the people of Cameroon and Nigeria. Fred effectively served as a field missionary, school and station manager, evangelism secretary, field treasurer and acting field secretary. Dorothy joyfully used her gifts as a hostess, Girls' Club leader and Women's Union advisor. Together their love and concern for people was always evident and their devotion to Christ an example for all."

persons in developing a general theological understanding, which will inform their personal and professional lives. It is not to be considered as adequate preparation for the pastoral ministry or to be used to fulfill requirements necessary for ordination.]

6) The Missions Department use of \$25,000 of the 1982 W.M.F. gift to missions for appointment of the first couple for service in the Philippines in 1985 with the options to postpone implementation of the plan into 1986 if finances or other circumstances require.

[It was pointed out by the Rev. Fred Folkerts, missions director, that it may not be feasible to begin a new work in the Philippines in 1985 if a) finances are not available, b) the Philippine government is still not granting visas to missions easily, or c) a missionary couple with theological and linguistic ability is not available.

7) That long-term disability coverage for Conference executive staff personnel at 60 percent of salary after a period of six months be secured and charged against the disability endowment fund at the cost of approximately \$4,000 per year.

[This is for U.S. personnel, since Canadian personnel is already insured under a separate arrangement]

8) A subsidy of \$413,000 for the N.A.B. Seminary for 1985 and a subsidy of \$340,000 for N.A.B. College/Divinity School for 1985.



The first evening, time was spent in prayer by General Council members, praying for concerns of the Conference, associations, and local churches.

percent College/Divinity School;
1986 — 52 percent Seminary, 48 percent College/Divinity School;
1987 — 50 percent each.

[It is understood that the Finance Committee will still seek to follow its responsibility as stated in the N.A.B. Conference Constitution.]

4) Approved the reappointment of Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director/associate executive director; Dr. Con-

stantino Salios, development director; and Mr. Robert Mayforth, financial services director, for three-year terms until June 30, 1987.

5) Giving N.A.B. Divinity School permission to initiate the Master of Theological Studies degree in the fall of 1984.

[This is a two-year program of biblical and theological studies for students who possess a baccalaureate degree from a recognized college or university. It is designed primarily to assist lay

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Ground Broken for New Library at Seminary



From left to right: Rev. George Lang, Library Administrator, NABS; Mr. Mike Evans, Sioux Falls Development Foundation; Dr. Richard W. Friess, Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Richard A. Deveraux, Community Campaign Chairman; Dr. Frank Veninga, Past President of NABS; Rev. Charles M. Hiatt, President, NABS; Mr. Ron Fiegeu, Fiegeu Construction Company, Sioux Falls; Mr. Daryl Dachtler, Student Body President, NABS; Rev. Leon Bill, Member, Board of Trustees.

On May 19th, 1984, more than 200 persons attended the groundbreaking exercises for the expansion of the North American Baptist Seminary Library, Sioux Falls, SD. Some of those attending were Seminary staff, President's Council members, the Sioux Falls business community and families of graduating seniors.

"We were pleased that the Sioux Falls business community was well represented," says Ben Hulsing, director of public relations for the Seminary. In March of 1982, more than 125 business leaders joined in a campaign that raised \$262,579. Over 260 persons pledged their financial support. A grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation brought our total campaign to \$312,579. Of this total, 85% has been collected.

"We thank God for the support the Sioux Falls Community has made toward the total effort of the Library addition," continues Hulsing. "The balance of the money needed is coming from the Conference-wide capital funds campaign. May God bless each of you as you give to this vital project."