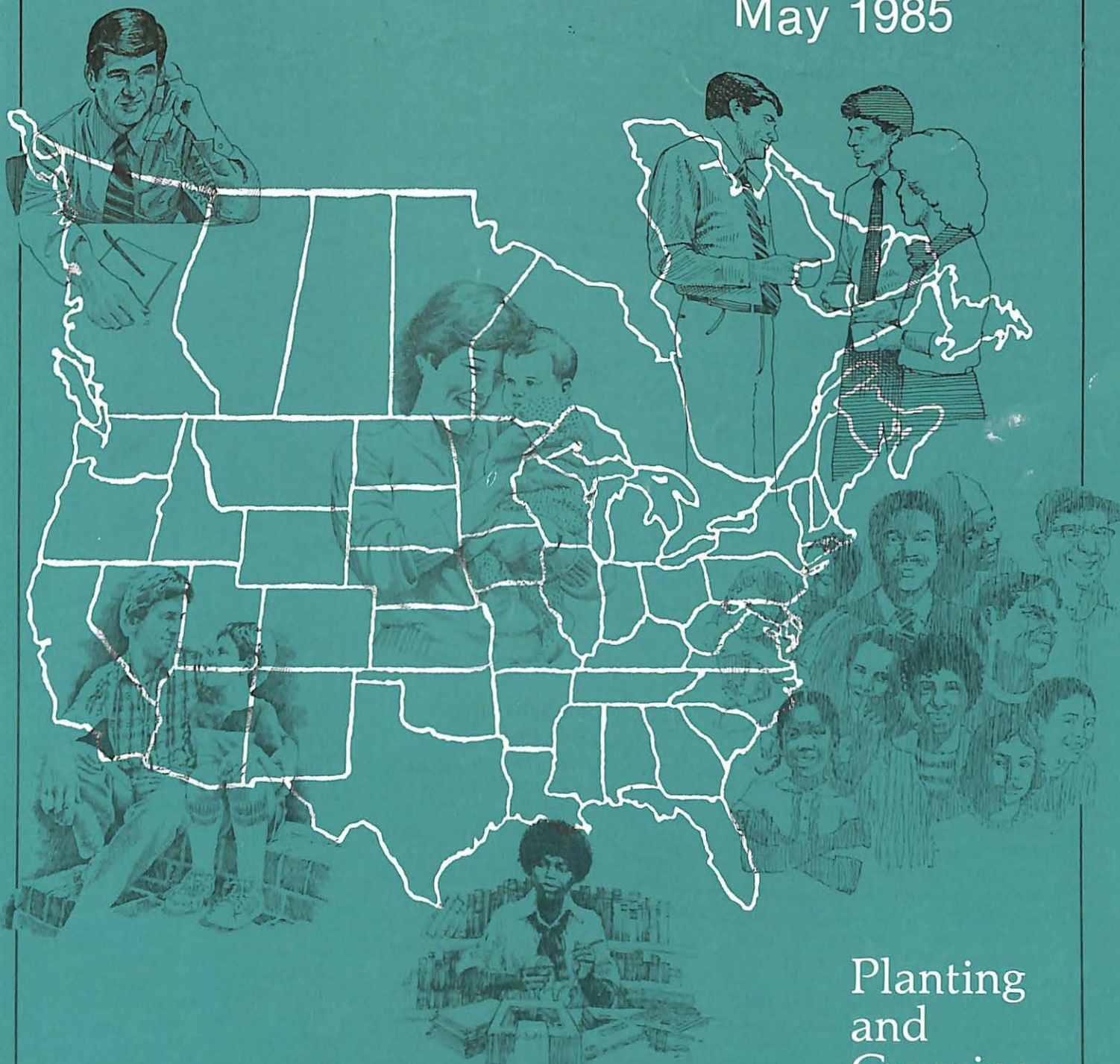


# Baptist Herald

May 1985



Planting  
and  
Growing  
*His*  
Church

## Growth—The Biblical Mandate We Dare Not Disregard!

by Ron Norman

God is interested in growth. Even a casual reader of God's Word cannot be mistaken about that fact. Therefore, we, too, are interested in growth as the North American Baptist Conference. The growth that we are concerned about includes growth in our faith (2 Corinthians 10:15), in our salvation (1 Peter 2:2), in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), and in love (1 Peter 1:22).

The growth that our Lord is concerned about includes the adding of people to his kingdom, to his Body, the church of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20). Therefore, we, too, are interested in doing all that we can to encourage this kind of growth.

Church growth is not a gimmick or a game. It is faithfulness to God, who wants his lost children found and transformed into responsible members of his Body.

### North Americans Receptive to the Gospel

The people in North America are the most receptive and responsive to ever walk the face of the earth. There are more winnable people today than there have ever been. In these days, we must not deceive ourselves by oft-repeated rationalizations of defeat. We must not become "keepers of the aquarium." We are "fishers of men!"

Most importantly, if the North American Baptist Conference is to rediscover church growth, our theological convictions concerning church growth must be awakened

*The Rev. Ron Norman is Church Extension/Church Growth Director for the North American Baptist Conference.*

and our managerial skills be devoted to harvesting ripe fields. We must become aware of the urgency of finding those potent combinations that God blesses to the increase of his followers (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Let us transmit our good words and good intentions into responsible discipleship as we in our churches become known for our devout living, fervent praise, and contagious witness!

Growth, in all ways, is the heartbeat of the Church Extension/Church Growth Department. As we address situations in any one of our eight basic areas of responsibility (Church Extension, Church Growth, Christian Education, Evangelism, Youth, Ethnic Ministry, Women's Missionary Fellowship, and Urban Ministry), it is both quantitative and qualitative growth that we are concerned about.

### Special Characteristics Emphasize Growth

Do you or does your church have these special characteristics which emphasize growth?

Is your objective to "make disciples"—actual followers of Jesus Christ, biblically rooted, and incorporated into the body of Christ?

Do you regard the setting of "faith goals" as an important part of your church's overall plan?

Do you take data and graphs seriously in analyzing the past record and present situation of your church to plan for new growth?

Do you realize that no one method



of evangelism will engage and elicit response from all men and women?

Do you harness the social sciences to develop effective strategy for the missionary task?

Do you emphasize practical research to gain the facts needed for developing evangelism theory and planning for Christian expansion?

Do you constantly test inherited evangelistic principles and methods and discover new ones?

Do you believe that because of God's grace, great numbers of people are receptive?

Do you emphasize new church planting, knowing that the Christian movement needs more than 500,000 new churches in North America?

Do you hold to a high doctrine of the church believing that the "folding of people" into the body of Christ, the church, is an essential part of evangelization?

### The Conference Is at a Crossroads

As a Conference, we are, in the next decade, at a serious crossroads. The deliberate turning away from evangelism and church growth is one of the chief reasons for the stagnant condition of many congregations today. The emphasis and thrust of growth principles has created new life and vitality in others.

May God help us to "plant and water" in such a way that he will cause great growth within us and beyond us! □

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BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (312) 495-2000. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing offices.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES in the United States and Canada: one year—\$8.00; two years—\$15.00; Church Family Plan—\$6.00; Single copy—\$1.00; foreign subscription—\$16.00 one year.  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Six weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Send address change to Baptist Herald Subscriptions, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.  
Member of Evangelical Press Association.  
News reported and views expressed are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference (Printed in the U.S.A.)

# Planting New Churches In North America



Eight church extension projects were approved by their respective Associations in 1984. Several of these pastors began their ministry in church extension in January 1985; others the summer or fall of 1984. The excitement that these men express about their ministry is refreshing. They are expecting to see God do great things. Over and over, you hear these pastors state that God was there preparing the people and the situation even before the pastor arrived in the area. They also remark about the many unchurched and unreached people in their areas. Some have never made commitments to Christ; others for some reason have been away from the church for years.

As Donald Ganstrom states in his interview on pages 10-11, one needs to view the task of a church extension pastor as one would that of an overseas missionary. These men and their wives are your missionaries, reaching people for Christ in North America. Their salaries are being paid through your giving to the Conference Mission and Ministry Goal for 1985. Remember them and the people to whom they minister as you pray and as you give.

## Folsom, California

Folsom, the ninth fastest growing city in California, is a city of about 12,000 people. Four hundred and fifty new homes went into Folsom last year, and it is projected that one thousand homes will be built this year. High-tech industries from the Silicon Valley are moving here, and it is estimated that one company alone will bring in some 10,000 employees in the next ten to fifteen years. Because of the tremendous growth in this area, Folsom was chosen to plant a church.

Folsom is an old town, dating back to the Gold Rush of 1849. It's a progressive community, but at the same time, it is rich in historical tradition. It's a very friendly, family-centered community. The motto of the town is "Where the West Came and Stayed."

Folsom is a middle class communi-

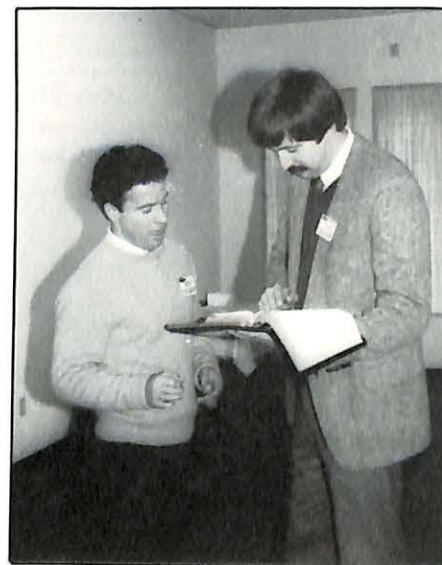
ty, but the property values are very high. Folsom also has a low income area with families in very difficult straits. Families of prisoners confined to Folsom Prison live here.

This work is a church extension project of the Northern California Association with specific assistance from Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, California, the largest church in the N.A.B. Conference. It was a church extension project itself ten years ago. People from this church living in the Folsom/Eldorado Hills and Orange Valley areas desired to see a new church begin. I was called to begin this ministry on August 1, 1984.

We began with a Bible study in Eldorado Hills. We had difficulty finding a place to meet for Sunday services. Finally, an answer to prayer

came when we were able to lease 2,400 feet of storefront in a new area of Folsom. It has been carpeted and has room for 150 people to worship as well as classrooms and an office.

We began services the last Sunday



Pastor Kent Carlson (at right), planning for Bible study.

in November 1984 with 17 people. Average attendance in December was 30. It since has grown to 58 the first Sunday in March. There are new families all the time. It is exciting to be part of this ministry now.

On Wednesday evenings, we meet for Bible study at the church. We are planning to move these into homes. In addition to our Sunday morning worship services, we began a Sunday school in April. We have a children's church and are planning to begin children's clubs in September.

A steering committee made up of five men acts as the administrative board of the church. We plan to incorporate as a church this summer and are working on a constitution

now. There is a tremendous spirit of expectation and cooperation in this group.

In March, we had our first Oak Hills Baptist Church Gong Show, which began with a pot-luck supper. Several pastors and their wives from the area served as judges for the talent show.

One of the emphases that we have as Oak Hills Baptist Church is to keep the family orientation, to be a church that visits in each other's homes. Our basic purpose as a church is three-fold: 1) to have a strong commitment to worship, so that when we meet together, we realize that we are a gathered community that exists for God as a worshipping community; 2)

to see ourselves as existing for each other as a nurturing and caring community, meeting in each other's homes and meeting needs, opening up, caring for each other, and spending time together. (California is an extremely busy and very private area. Every home has six-foot fences surrounding the property. As a result, it is difficult to meet someone else. That is why we emphasize inviting people to each other's homes and meeting in homes); and 3) to exist for the world as a redeeming and a serving community, to emphasize evangelism and involvement in various community projects. —Kent Carlson, pastor

## Gaithersburg, Maryland

Imagine extension cords running Idown some makeshift city streets supplying electricity for houses to be built. The growth in Montgomery County, Maryland, where Gaithersburg is located, is unbelievable. The



Pastor Jim Arends (left)

area is becoming the Silicon Valley of the East. Things are very expensive here. To curb the rapid growth, Montgomery County officials put a freeze on construction so they can catch up with providing the essential services, utilities and streets, as they have not been able to provide them quickly enough.

The exciting thing is that building freezes cannot stop Christ from building a new N.A.B. Conference church in Gaithersburg. You don't see a church spire anywhere. In the area, live high income, middle income, and low income people with a vast educational range. Washington is rated almost number one in the U.S.A. in terms of education. High-tech people and high-tech problems go hand in hand.

We're discovering that the time is ripe to start a church now. Behind the doors of these new homes are people whose sin cannot be camouflaged by a new house. There are children who need a Sunday school, parents who are hungry for God's answers for living, people with broken hearts as a result of broken homes, and young people who are looking for direction for their lives. These new home buyers need the forgiveness of sin and the rewards of eternal life that only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can give.

A Bible study began nine months ago with the help of the church extension project in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The pastor of that church, the Rev. Bill Mummert, provided valuable leadership in planning this new fellowship.

The Atlantic Association approved planting a church in Gaithersburg because of interested N.A.B. Conference people living here. Leonard and Eleanor Bertsch, formerly of Kansas City and of North Dakota,

## PLANTING NEW CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA

have opened their home for Sunday evening Bible studies. Those who meet with us on Sunday evening are leaders who are committed to this work and to Bible study.

In our group, you will find a doctor, a lawyer, and a young man formerly from Northside (Hillcrest) Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with training in nuclear energy through the Navy. We see the web concept at work as these people invite their friends to join us. We

average about two new leads on former N.A.B. Conference people in this area every week.

We plan to start a Sunday morning ministry as soon as we can find a meeting place. Due to the building freeze, this is very difficult. We're discovering that with the fast pace of this area, about the only time people slow down enough to think about getting together is on Sunday morning. If we want to reach people, we must provide time to study the Bible

and worship on Sunday morning.

My wife, Pam, and I moved to Gaithersburg in January of this year from the pastorate of an established church in Brook Park, Minnesota. It's an exciting ministry here.

A real prayer need for us as a church extension ministry in Gaithersburg is to find a stable meeting place that we can afford. Pray that God will raise up Christians to help win the lost for Christ. —*Jim Arends, pastor*

### Carol Stream, Illinois

The people of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Carol Stream, Illinois, are excited about ministry and are active participants in the work of the church. The potential for growth is tremendous in this the second fastest growing suburb in DuPage County. Now, more than ever before, the people are ready to meet the challenge.

During the Christmas season, the church cooperated with the village in a Christmas Sharing Program. Our church was responsible for contacting the homes of forty families to discover what their needs were. The people of the church donated food and clothing for these families. Since then, we have made follow-up contacts with these homes.

One family, in particular, has great needs. The husband has left the home; their home is being repossessed; and the wife is caring for four children, one of whom, the eight-year-old, was discovered to have a brain tumor since Christmas. We are praying and giving support to this family to help them in this time of crisis, letting them know that we care

and that the Lord loves them.

The idea of a new church started when some families from Village Green Baptist Church started meeting in home Bible studies in Carol Stream, where they live, in April 1983. These families were joined in July 1983 by a group of believers from the Bloomingdale Baptist Church, itself a church extension project in the early 1970s.

Following a survey of the Carol Stream area and Bible study and prayer meetings seeking the Lord's guidance, a group of 24 people met at the home of Dan and Martha Granzow to discuss forming a new church. The Granzows had been founding members of the Bloomingdale Church. The group chose the name, Cornerstone Baptist Church, for the new church because Jesus Christ is our "cornerstone."

The first worship service was held on November 13, 1983, in a savings and loan building in Carol Stream, with 65 in attendance. The first Sunday School classes began a few weeks later. The group outgrew these

facilities and moved to a junior high school in February 1984. In March, the Rev. Eldon Schroeder became part-time interim pastor. On October 7, 1984, the group moved to the old Carol Stream library, where it has use of the facility seven days a week.

Cornerstone Baptist Church was approved as an Illinois Association church extension project in April 1984. By October, the group had written a constitution and was received into the Illinois Association as a recognized church.

We look forward to continued growth in the coming months. At the present time, our charter membership is 51 with an average Sunday morning attendance of 80 and a Sunday School attendance of 63. We are trusting the Lord for an average mor-



Pastor Stephen Patrick (at right)

ning attendance of 110 by December 31, 1985. In the year we have been meeting, we have had two baptismal services.

We are also setting exciting goals in the areas of Sunday School, Family Night Ministry and Outreach. These

numbers would be meaningless except for the fact that they represent individual lives which we desire to touch for Christ.

We praise God for the privilege of serving him in Carol Stream. To God be the glory.

Pray for us as we seek direction as to what to do regarding our parking lot since we are renting the property. The village is requiring that our parking lot be paved.—*Stephen Patrick, pastor*



### Langley, British Columbia

Even before we arrived in Langley, British Columbia, on January 15, 1985, we had set a goal to have 200 people in our first worship service on Easter Sunday. God has been preparing people and the situation even before we arrived in Langley.

With the help of "New Day," we surveyed the Walnut Grove area and found a number of non-Christians living there.

When I asked one elderly couple if they attended church, and they said no, I asked, "Why do you think most people don't attend church?"

The woman proceeded to tell me why. "At least," she said, "that is why we don't go to church."

Her husband leaned over the rail-

ing and said, "Tell the man the real reason why we don't go to church." After talking with them for awhile, he said, "You know, our reason is not a very good one. I don't know why we quit going to church 30 years ago. We should try going to church again." They promised to come.

Several other non-Christian couples have also indicated an interest. I think this area is ripe for a strong evangelical work that will minister to the needs of the community.

Several committed Christians are working with us. Our greatest prayer concern is that a core group be formed as there was none when we arrived. So far, we have two home cell groups meeting regularly.

Yolanda Nokuri, daughter of Beatrice Nokuri, president of women's work in Cameroon, West Africa, attends Trinity Western College, which is located three miles from us. She helps contact students at the College by stuffing students' mailboxes with invitations to our church. There are quite a few N.A.B. Conference students at this school; many have not found a church home. We want to provide them with opportunities to serve in this new work. The administration of the College has encouraged me to contact the

students. As a result, I will also be contacting incoming freshman this summer, inviting them to our church.

A teacher at Topham Elementary School, where we are meeting, opens the school for us so that we do not have to pay extra fees for a custodian. The rent for the school is low, so the cost for a meeting place is very little. This is another way that the Lord has been preparing the way.

The principal of the elementary school is a member of another Baptist church in the area. He invited Yolanda and me to make a presentation on Cameroon to his sixth and seventh grade social science class since I had served there as a short-term missionary. This was an excellent opportunity for me to become acquainted with the children in the area as well.

The churches in the British Columbia Association are responding positively, as I present the new work to them. There has been a particularly strong response from the Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church in Surrey and its pastor, the Rev. C.I. Wiebe.

We requested certain items needed to begin our service, such as 200 chairs for adults, since the school chairs are sized for elementary school children. We also requested toys, playpens, and cribs for the nursery. Most of the families in the area have preschool or elementary age children, so we want to show them that we are well-equipped to take care of their children as they worship and study with us.

In preparation for our first worship service, we sent a mailing to the 4,000



Harold and Janet Neff



homes in the North Langley-Walnut Grove area. Recently, youth groups from Sunshine Ridge and Bethany Baptist Churches in Vancouver distributed flyers to the same homes. During the two weeks preceding Easter, we ran ads in the two local

newspapers and on two radio stations.

Another answer to prayer came when we were able to buy a new home within a few minutes drive of Topham Elementary School, where we meet. With the real estate market

being down in Vancouver, we were able to afford this house, which we moved into in April. God has been and is really doing good things. He is preparing the way. —Harold Neff, pastor

## Medicine Hat, Alberta

Because Temple Baptist Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta, desired to have a more effective outreach, they appointed a Future Planning Committee. After a four-month study on outreach and growth, the committee proposed that a new church be started in the southeast part of Medicine Hat. This is a new area of the city with many young couples and no evangelical church.

The committee's proposal met with 95 percent approval by the Temple Church. With this approval, we began Bible studies in the new area in the summer of 1984. In October, Sunday morning services began at Ross Glenn School. That is how Faith Baptist Fellowship began.

The two main goals of Faith Baptist Fellowship are 1) to develop a caring, growing Christian fellowship and 2) to have a strong, effective outreach in the Glenn community.

We are excited about the strong desire of our group to reach out and the response to life-style evangelism. As a result, two couples have joined our group. We are reaching out to people that we know do not know Christ to share his love with them.

Our goal is that each member of our core group will reach out to one or two couples this year. We sent two couples to Calgary for an Evangelism

Explosion Clinic in April with the plan that they will train the rest of the core group in evangelism; for evangelism is our main reason for existence.

God has blessed our group with strong leaders and good musical talent, with pianists and singers. A children's chorus as well as a men's quartet sing at some of the services.

Faith Baptist Fellowship averages about 40 in attendance. On March 3, we had 52 people which consisted largely of our core group. The group is really excited about the future.

Temple Baptist Church, our

mother church, supports us financially through its budget and at times, provides special music for our services. Its pastor, Loren Weber, spoke recently at our Sunday service. We enjoy a good cooperative fellowship with the people of Temple.

We'd appreciate your prayers for 1) a full-time pastor to begin this spring. (I am the interim pastor and want to go on to Seminary for additional training); 2) the establishment of an on-going evangelism training program for those with the group now and those who will join us; 3) our group to be a strong, unified fellowship; 4) the establishment of an effective Sunday school, and 5) steady growth through evangelism and discipleship. —Don Cantrell, interim pastor



Don Cantrell, interim pastor, Faith Baptist Fellowship, Medicine Hat, AB



Fifty-seven attended the first Sunday morning worship service of Faith Baptist Fellowship, Medicine Hat, AB, held in the library of Ross Glenn Elementary School on October 7, 1985.

## North Port, Florida

Church extension is a new and exciting ministry for me, and I love it. Establishing and organizing a church as well as door-to-door visitation challenges me.

When I moved from Aberdeen, South Dakota, where I had pastored an established church, to Sarasota, Florida, I contacted some former members of the church who are living in this area. They invited a few families, and in October 1984, we held our first Bible study with about 19 in attendance. With that, the idea for Crossroads Baptist Church was formed.

Working toward our first public worship service, we laid the necessary



As a result of contacting people, 49 attended Easter Sunday service.

groundwork. We rented North Port Learning Center and Day Care, 115 N. Biscayne, printed offering envelopes and visitation cards, rented a post office box, opened a business church account, distributed literature door-to-door, and placed advertisements in the newspaper. I started writing a weekly column "For Body and Soul," for the local newspaper.

On February 3, 1985, we held our first worship service with 34 in attendance. In February, we averaged 33 in the worship service and 20 in Sunday School. We have three classes for children and one for adults. On March 31, we reached the 50 mark in the worship service.

Everything is an obstacle to be overcome in church extension. For example, we meet in a day nursery. There are chairs for small children only, so we had to borrow chairs for adults. The Lord answered prayer, and we were able to buy 58 used, metal chairs for \$2.00 each.

We did not have hymnbooks either. I visited a home one day, and that couple started coming to church. They bought 19 new hymnbooks. We have a piano, but no pianist, so we sing to a taped music accompaniment.

As a bivocational pastor, working five days a week in real estate, I set

aside three afternoons a week to go door-to-door making about 500 contacts a month. My strategy is to visit every one of the 6—8,000 homes in North Port. To those people who show some interest, I send a letter and follow up with another visit. Four new families are attending our church as a result. Going door-to-door is good discipline for me as well as an excellent way to make contacts and provide good visibility.

The people who are a part of our ministry reflect various backgrounds; some were Baptists, some Lutherans, some from independent churches, and others with no church background at all. It's exciting to see people take ownership, to see evidences of love and unity in the Body.

For example, on a Sunday in March, a new couple came to the service. Two weeks prior to that, another couple had started attending. We had planned a pot-luck dinner for March 31. These couples, who had not known each other before, got together and volunteered to bring chicken to barbeque.

In March, another young couple who had been coming for several Sundays, said, "Our children like this church; we like this church; what can we do to join?"

People have been giving very well through the offerings. In addition to this, two people who had no connection with the church gave. I visited a businessman in his office to share with him. As I left, he gave me a check for \$100.

(continued)

## PLANTING NEW CHURCHES IN NORTH AMERICA

On another occasion, as a young mechanic from our church was servicing a customer's car, he had opportunity to share about our new church, and gave him some literature. Several minutes later, the man returned to give him a check for \$100 for the church.

We are in the process of organizing a leadership group. Plans are also being made for a spiritual retreat with the men of the church. This will be a time to pray, to search the Word, and to set some long-range goals for the church and for ourselves.

The name of our church, Cross-

roads Baptist, is significant for several reasons: 1) You have to come to the cross to get to Jesus; 2) everyone in Florida is from somewhere else, and it is a crossroads in life for many people; and 3) we did not call it North Port Baptist because we may not build in this particular area. —Monte Michaelson, pastor

### Flower Mound, Texas

For me, the most exciting thing about planting a church in Flower Mound, Texas, is to see how God has been working in people's lives even before we have met them. As we go from door to door inviting people and as we establish personal friendships, we see that God has prepared the way.

God has prepared people to receive Christ as Savior or to rededicate their lives to the Lord. They are excited, ready, and willing to serve. They want to soak in God's Word, and learn more and more about it. That's exciting, because we're seeing individuals grow in Jesus Christ; some start a new relationship with him; some begin where they left off many years ago.

It is also exciting to see how God leads. We started meeting in a clubhouse in the apartment complex where my wife, Barbara, and I live. We began these meetings not knowing where we would find a larger place to meet. If we intended to grow to about 150 people before constructing a building, there was only one other facility in Flower Mound large enough for the group to meet. That is a new YMCA.

The Lord removed the obstacles

before we could even worry about them. On March 3, we moved into the YMCA and began Sunday school, worship services, and other ministries there.

The majority of people living in Flower Mound are transported Northerners. There are a lot of lonely people living here who need fellowship and who want a church home because now they are away from "home." For some this is the first or second move in their lives. It is hard to make new friends because they have never had to work at mak-

ing new friendships before; they have always had the old ones. Others move every two years and are afraid to make new friendships because in two years they will be transferred. So in order not to feel the hurts of separation, they feel that it is best not to get close to anybody.

Economically, the people are middle to upper class, and they are business oriented, either owning their own businesses or working in some other business. They are very open to our ministry and are excited about what God has planned for them.

The Southern Association chose Flower Mound to plant a church because of its fast growth. Its location just north of the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and its accessibility to both Dallas and Fort Worth are some key reasons for its growth.



Douglas Harsch



Charlene Collova and Barbara Harsch meet to make plans to launch the women's activities at Flower Mound Baptist Church, Texas

One of the key couples, Ken and Anita Hale, in the North Carrollton Baptist Church, itself a church extension project in the process of building its first unit, was the founding couple of the Flower Mound church extension project. They sold their home in Carrollton and moved to Flower Mound with the intention of starting new work here.

We started worship services the first Sunday of January 1985. During

January, we averaged 27 per Sunday, in February, we averaged 32. The first Sunday in March, we had 44. It seems that the growth happens in spite of us. All that I am really doing is going door to door meeting people and inviting people to come, and I do the best I can in teaching and preaching. God's Spirit is going before us, preparing the way.

Two verses that we, as a church, and I, as a pastor, have claimed for

Flower Mound are Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," and Deuteronomy 31:8: "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." —Douglas Harsch, pastor

### Winnipeg, Manitoba

Our call to Winnipeg was one result of years of concern on the part of several individuals. They noticed the apparent inability of inner-city N.A.B. Conference churches to reach out to their neighborhoods.

Upon arrival here, I met some community residents who classed our churches with "typical" ethnic commuter churches whose meetings all seemed to deny the realities and the needs of the communities around

them. When neighborhood people saw the New Life Ministries sign in the window of our house, many assumed we were another of the many cults trying to stake their claim in this multi-ethnic, lower income area. It was in this mixed atmosphere of guilt and concern, cynicism and idealism, and suspicion and hope, that we began our work.

The neighborhood, which is very much multi-ethnic, used to be the German area of the city. As a matter of fact, the Baptist Mission Church is about three blocks away from us. Central Baptist Church and McDermot Avenue Baptist Churches are about a mile away from us.

It has been a year and a half since Virginia and I came to Winnipeg (still honey-mooners, as some called us), a young couple in a new city and in a new type of ministry as our first experience in full-time ministry. I have had my doubts, but the Lord has shown his grace in many ways.

We have had a Bible study on Wednesday nights and have started a basketball program at the University of Winnipeg as well as being involved

with a number of different community organizations. Other activities include a girls' club, ages 14-17, led by Annegret Schalm, whose commitment to the neighborhood was evidenced in personal contacts with community residents several years before our arrival.

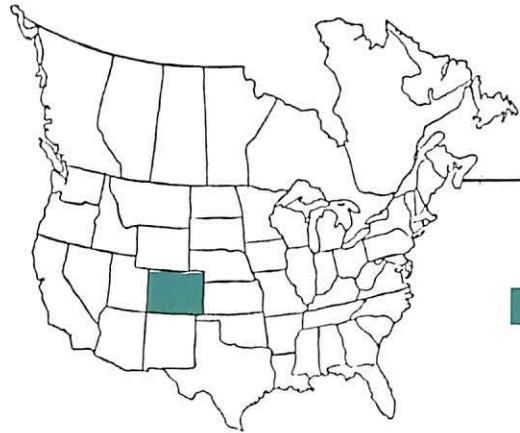
On January 23, Matthew John Lehotsky, our first child, was born. On February 24, Matthew slept through the first Sunday service of New Life Ministries. It was a very special time for our group and marked a new phase in our work. The Lord has begun to gather a core group that is also committed to establishing a new church in this community. We are grateful for the financial and prayer support from the Manitoba Baptist Association churches, and also to the Valley Stream Baptist Church in New York.

During a conversation with someone involved in one of the unsuccessful attempts at church planting here, he said, "The West End is the devil's home, but with God's help, we can plant a garden in his front yard." It now seems that other N.A.B. Conference churches in the inner-city are also growing in their community outreach. We're excited about being involved in God's work here in Winnipeg. —Harry Lehotsky, pastor



Harry and Virginia Lehotsky and new baby son, Matthew John





## Discipling in Del Norte

by Cal Kroeker

There are 1500 people in Del Norte situated on the extreme western side of the San Luis Valley of south central Colorado. The dry, desertlike climate surprises one when he realizes that he is at the 7800 foot elevation level. Most of the Hispanic people who work, work as potato warehouse laborers, lumber-jacks, farm workers, mechanics, and woodcutters. A little above minimum wage is the take-home pay. This is surprising as one sees the high food and housing costs of the area. Between 60 and 70 percent of the people are Spanish-surnamed. They are part of the ever-growing Hispanic population of the United States.

Early last June, my wife Deanna, our seven-month-old daughter Faith and I began our ministry here. We began to build on the 26 years of foundation that the Rev. David Keiry, his wife Priscilla, and their family had laid here. Much of the church growth and fruit we have seen we attribute to reaping where the Keiry's faithfully sowed the Word of God. They and Dr. Earl and Lois Ahrens have faithfully prayed for, supported, counselled, and befriended us.

Last summer we began with an

outreach to children through Bible school and summer camp. Through these ministries, one family started attending the church. To follow up the children's and young people's decisions, we started a Kid's Klub and a youth group.

One of the ladies came to Deanna and asked if a women's Bible study might be started. Seeing the need for growth and accountability to each other and the Lord, we started a discipleship group with a few of the people involved in the church.

During the fall, we had evangelistic meetings with the "Singing Mirelez" family. We were excited to see the wife of our next door neighbor go forward to receive Christ. This winter we were privileged to take part in what we would consider the highlight of our ministry so far. A man in his late 30s who has been attending with his family asked to be baptized.

The work is not without its struggles and discouragements. We have many people who attend, but few are members at this point. Few men attend church. Their wives and children attend, and the men may come on special events. Much of our meetings are made up of children.



Following graduation from N.A.B. Seminary, Cal and Deanna Kroeker and Faith began their ministry at Bethel Baptist Church in Del Norte, Colorado, in July 1984

We are still learning how to reach out and minister to people who are different to us culturally. Sometimes we lack the sensitivity and boldness which is required. There are ever-persistent problems of alcoholism, drugs, domestic violence, child abuse, and educational handicaps.

As for the future, we believe that the Lord gave us his encouragement for future expanded ministry by providing for us a much larger, well-equipped church facility last fall. It was a miracle. For only \$10,000, the N.A.B. Conference was able to purchase a building three times as large as our old one. We feel that this was the Lord's way of saying that he has more in store for his ministry if we all will remain faithfully obedient to him. □

The Rev. Cal Kroeker graduated from the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, a year ago and was appointed as a home missionary beginning in Colorado in the summer of 1984.



Missionary-pastor Cal Kroeker visits one of his members at work



## Ministry with the Hmong in Manitowoc

by Bruce P. Huffer

An exciting ministry with the Hmong Refugees was begun in 1979 by First Baptist Church, Manitowoc, WI, a church which was founded in 1850 by German immigrant families. The ministry to the Hmongs started when the Xang Vang family sought to be affiliated with an immersionist church.

### Who Are the Hmong?

The Hmong, a tribal group of people who lived in the hills of Laos, were originally an ethnic minority group in China. Their name means "free men." The Hmongs were recruited by the C.I.A. to wage a rear-guard action during the course of the war in Vietnam, which spilled over into neighboring countries.

In 1974 when the United States decided to pull out of Indo-China, the Hmongs joined in a coalition government with the Pathet Lao (Communist) and the Royal Lao forces. This relationship quickly dissolved when the Communists made the Hmongs the object of their persecution. In addition to armed conflicts,

chemicals known as yellow rain were dusted upon Hmong settlements.

In order to survive, these hill people left their homes and country to seek sanctuary in nearby Thailand. Those who made it across the Mekong River were arrested and placed in camps as refugees in Thailand. We are told that some 673,500 people from Indo-China (Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam) have been resettled in the United States. Wisconsin has absorbed 13,168 people, of which the largest single group are 8,910 Hmongs. Almost 400 Hmongs were resettled in Manitowoc.

### Meeting the Needs of the Hmong

After Pastor Huffer invited the Xang Vang family to attend First Baptist Church, they soon brought other relatives. A special church school class for adults was organized, with Pastor Huffer teaching, and Xang Vang translating. The congregation became involved in counseling,

teaching one-to-one literacy classes and piano, and helping to maintain homes. An unused plot of ground was plowed and offered to Hmong families for garden plots.

The needs of refugees vary, but the most important need is to be accepted as fellow human beings in our community and local church. Financial assistance for food, securing rental property, and providing household furniture and used clothing are some of the ways First Baptist Church meets the needs of the Hmong. When medical assistance has not been available, help has been offered to pay medical and dental bills or to secure free service.

In the spring of 1980, the Church responded to a request to assist in sponsoring two brothers to come to this country. They had no relatives in our community and no living parents. By August, these two young men, ages 17 and 27, were set up in housekeeping with an apartment, and enrolled in the public school system and/or the Lakeshore Technical Institute Learning Center. At the same time, the Church opened its facilities to the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association for monthly board meetings and special workshops.

In the meantime, some challenging developments have taken place in terms of Sunday school growth, and by January 1984, a youth group was formed. Some 21 Hmong youth and adults have been received into the membership of the First Baptist Church, and at least 29 others are enrolled in Sunday school adult and youth classes. Every effort has been made to integrate the Hmongs into the life of the church.

### Hmong Pastoral Worker Called

In mid-August, Mr. Cheu Vang



The Hmong children's choir, as well as adult youth choirs, are an important part of the ministry at First Baptist Church

was called as the Hmong Pastoral Worker on a part-time basis. Under Mr. Vang's leadership, an adult class is taught weekly and a special worship service is offered each month in the Hmong language. Used clothing and other items are distributed free in cooperation with other groups.

An Advisory Committee works closely with the Hmong Pastoral Worker. A Hmong adult choir has been organized, and a literacy class for adults meets every week. Special classes in cooking and discipleship are being developed.

Additional areas of ministry, such as lay development, senior citizens' activities, a youth choir, and home Bible study classes, are projected.

### You Have a Part in the Ministry

Even though the First Baptist Church of Manitowoc is a small congregation, it is self-supporting. Special funds to assist in the Hmong ministry have come from grants of the Wisconsin Baptist State Convention, the American Baptist Churches of the U.S.A., and the Church Extension/Church Growth Department of the North American Baptist Conference, since this is a dually aligned Church.

We covet your prayers and your continued financial support through the N.A.B. Conference for refugee assistance. Concerned Christians make a difference! There are still families waiting in refugee camps in Thailand for sponsors, so they can come to the United States.

God has brought to us a mission field in our own community, a bit of Asia in the heart of America and laid many opportunities before us. We thank God for blessing this work and for those who are giving of themselves to make this possible. □

The Rev. Bruce Huffer is pastor of First Baptist Church, Manitowoc, WI



Chue Vang began his ministry part-time as Pastoral Worker with the Hmong in August 1984

## On Choosing Church Extension Pastors



An interview with S. Don Ganstrom, associate director for church extension

**Baptist Herald:** Priority, performance, and profile are words used today in Church Extension circles. What do they mean, or how are they applied?

**S. Donald Ganstrom:** The words refer to church extension pastors. We are seeking to find pastors who are called, equipped, and ready to become church planters.

**BH:** The Fuller Evangelistic Association gives three categories of church pastors: 1) Catalyzers, 2) Organizers, and 3) Operators. What is a characteristic of each? Which is best as a church extension pastor?

**Ganstrom:** A *Catalyzer* starts a group from scratch and attracts people and other resources. The *organizer* takes a jumble of pieces and designs an orderly organization. The *operator* keeps an organization going, if main assumptions and philosophy of ministry are not changed. Naturally, we want to find a person who is a combination of all three to be a church extension pastor.

**BH:** How do you find pastors with these various abilities?

**Ganstrom:** It is not an easy task. The Church Extension/Church Growth Department is developing methods by which we expect to do a better job of challenging and selecting pastors for this important ministry of planting new churches.

**BH:** What methods are you using to identify potential church extension pastors?

**Ganstrom:** First, prospective church planters and their spouses participate in a two to three hour interview with an executive staff member of the Church Extension/Church Growth Department or with the area minister living nearest to the prospect. The questions relate to past performance and experience. Through this process, we confirm the pastor in his call to the ministry and assist him in determining how best to use his gifts.

**BH:** What is included in the interview?

**Ganstrom:** The first dimension relates to *Spiritual Discipline*. What is the prospective pastor's personal orientation toward God? How does this find expression through his life-style based upon biblical principles? The exercising of one's faith is of highest importance in church planting.

The second is *Pastor-Teacher Skills*. Preaching, teaching, counseling, discipling, worship leadership, and building "Body" cohesiveness are some important components of a successful ministry.

Third, *Growth Orientation*. A pastor's personal motivation and visionizing capacity are most significant in planting a new church. The pastor must have a strong desire to do well and have a deep commitment to excellence, believing in God's power to do great things through his committed servant.

**BH:** What are some other areas that will be covered in the interview?

**Ganstrom:** Another dimension is that of Interpersonal and Communication Skills. The church extension pastor should be able to convey and receive information, feelings, and concepts in ways that enhance relationships and understanding between persons. This can only be done through displaying Godly love and compassion.

The last dimension is that of Personal and Family Adjustments. Flexibility and adaptability are the keys in this area. Doing whatever is necessary whenever necessary becomes a rule of thumb. As the church grows, the pastor must grow or adjust by shifting priorities and emphases. There needs to be explicit agreement regarding each family member's role and involvement in the ministry. Each needs a deep sense of sharing the ministry vision.

**BH:** After the interview, what are the next steps?

**Ganstrom:** Pastoral profiles giving biographical facts, credentials, and other achievements are requested. Then references will be sought to give a broader view of a pastor's strengths and weaknesses.

**BH:** What is the next step?

**Ganstrom:** A review of the overall ministry expected of the pastor, in other words, the job description, will be discussed. Each church extension project is different.

Each project has its working partners and a support system. The Church Extension/Church Growth Department staff, the Association leadership, the area minister, the pastor, and the project nucleus, if there is

one, need a clear understanding of the task and the assurance that God is in all of it.

**BH:** Why is the Church Extension/Church Growth Department building a file of prospective church extension pastors?

**Ganstrom:** Through our past experience, we have found that some well-trained and well-experienced pastors are willing to be church extension pastors but lack the skill. Others are well-trained, fairly experienced, willing, committed, and skilled. Some pastors are fully equipped and willing, but their wives are not.

It is too costly to place inexperienced and unskilled pastors in a pastorate needing strong leadership, regardless of his desire and willingness. We have found that it is better to delay a project until we find the person with the style that will best fit the project.

It is most important that we find a team, a husband and wife, who are both committed and willing, along with having the needed skills for a church extension project.

**BH:** How has our record as a North American Baptist Conference been in starting new churches?

**Ganstrom:** Over the past 32 years, our record has been to start a new church every 70 days. The attrition rate has been 14.1 percent. It is hoped that with the new approach we are taking to find potential church extension pastors that a higher quality of ministry will result in less attrition of projects and pastors. The final result will be stronger churches and faster growth.

**BH:** It was hoped that by now the rate of establishing new churches would be one every 45 days so that our goal of 25 new churches by 1985 could be reached. Due to not reaching the 1984 Conference Mission and Ministry Goal, funds for starting new churches have also been cut back. What are the goals for this year now?

**Ganstrom:** It is hoped that with funds contributed toward the Conference Goal of \$4,300,000 in 1985, that four churches can be started this year. Pray with us that this goal can be reached and even surpassed.

**BH:** How should we view the church extension pastor?

**Ganstrom:** Experience of the past demands that we challenge men and women to church extension as a special missionary task just as much as overseas missions. □



# How to Have a Growing Sunday School

*In two Advanced Church Growth Seminars, sponsored by the Institute for American Church Growth (Pasadena), 287 pastors and denominational executives were asked: "What do you believe are the top seven reasons the Sunday School/church school/Sabbath school has declined during the last ten years"?*

*The top seven reasons chosen from a list of twenty-two possibilities were 1) Inappropriate teaching methods; 2) Curriculum does not emphasize outreach/growth; 3) Classes not open to new people; 4) Unwillingness to start new classes; 5) People too busy; 6) Inadequate lay leadership; and 7) Not enough Bible teaching.*

*From early responses to the "Annual Church Report" form, several superintendents and pastors of churches with growing Sunday schools were contacted and asked the question, "What were the key factors in causing your Sunday school to grow in 1984"? Their responses may stimulate you to consider ways your Sunday school can be improved to minister to the needs of your church and your community. In this way, it, too, can become a growing Sunday school. This should be a prayer concern, as growing Sunday schools have a direct relationship to the growth of a church.*



The adult Sunday school classes provide social contact, especially for the young married couples. We alternate between a study of a book of the Bible and a study relating to a practical area of the Christian life, such as "Communication—the Key to Your Marriage." This quarter, the pastor, Dennis Dewey, is teaching a class on "Healing Damaged Emotions." Quite a number of people are coming for that class.

Special training seminars for the Sunday school teachers to develop their teaching skills were provided.

We started recognizing perfect attendance by quarters and also had a promotion Sunday. The theme is "185 in 1985."

A very active program for mid-week services has been developed. This includes a children's club, with many activities that have helped reach many children that did not have a church background. This has had a direct effect on the Sunday school.

The visitation of new families who have moved into the community resulted in some of them joining the church.

Combine these things with a pastor, who is imaginative and industrious, and a praying people, and you have the basic things we have done to help the Sunday school grow. We give God the glory for what he is

doing in our church. —Don Rose, Sunday school superintendent, First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, Iowa



**S**unday school at Meadow Hills in Aurora, CO, is growing steadily for a number of reasons. The church is situated in a high growth area with many families in transition looking for a new church home. A second reason for steady growth is the offering of adult education with the belief that people are interested in a challenging learning environment. Another reason for our Sunday School growth is our children's worship service. This complementary ministry to our Sunday School allows children to enjoy and benefit from the total Sunday morning time.

Finally, our Sunday School has grown because of advances in our youth program, including a Sunday morning class as well as discipleship

during the week. While growth has been steady, we plan for even more growth as we are faithful to lead a total Sunday school program for children and adults.

We plan to enhance the growth of Sunday school by beginning a teacher training program. That will be done by the associate pastor, Randy Festog, so that each teacher will be prepared for the class situation. We also think that this will help provide support for teachers by means of prayer and affirmation.

Another plan for growth is to encourage teacher involvement with their students outside of class. We're asking the teachers to have about one Sunday School class function a month outside of class. Another plan we have is to provide curriculum for our young couples who are interested in education in a specialized area. We're thinking of designing curriculum for these young adults, young professional couples (YUPIES). —Roger Cauthon, pastor, Meadow Hills Baptist Church, Aurora, Colorado



**Y**ou ask why our Sunday School has grown? There are both external and internal factors. By external factors, I refer to the visibility of Nepean Baptist Church in the community in Ottawa, Ontario. Five or six times a year, we distribute flyers announcing events or programs, and at least one of those flyers specifically mentions the Sunday school. We try to maintain a high profile for the Sunday school. In addition to that, we have our Vacation Bible School in the summer just before the children

return to school. The timing of that seems to attract people to the Sunday school as well.

Internally, we have teachers who enjoy teaching and who have been trained mostly through the ICL program (Gospel Light's International Center for Learning). We also have a really dynamic adult class. It has a solid biblical content in the subject matter. It gives opportunity for a high degree of involvement of the people who attend, and it's generally a good experience.

The adult class studies vary; it might be a book of the Bible. Last fall we focused on a study on church life. Presently, we're doing a biblical study on the Sermon on the Mount, and we're using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Costly Discipleship* as a key resource.

The adult class has increased in attendance, and so the growth in the Sunday school comes mostly through families. —Sam Berg, pastor, Nepean Baptist Church, Ottawa, Ontario

**S**unday School has always been an important part of my life, as it was through a Sunday school contest that I became a Christian, along with my family. When I look back at Sunday school long ago, I try to remember what I liked about it. I remember the fun things and the exciting things, and that's what I try to incorporate in our Sunday School here at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, British Columbia.

We make Bible memory and open sessions fun with the use of puppets and balloons. They have school all week long, and so you need something exciting and fun, so children and youth are learning without realizing it.

An open session for kindergarten through grade five is held the first 20 minutes of Sunday School. Bible memory is stressed in my open session. We have a quiz box to challenge our adult classes with questions on the Bible. The total Sunday School meets once or twice a year together in an open session.

We have excellent adult classes, which have helped our Sunday School grow. In the two adult classes,

they study electives with topics of interest to them, that help them in everyday life. We plan to have four classes in the fall. They are not organized by age group.

Sunday school is a great opportunity to teach all ages to use the Bible as a guideline for their growing Christian life. —Pam McBride, Sunday School superintendent, Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, British Columbia



**W**hy has Quail Lakes Sunday School grown? Our Sunday school program at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, has always offered a variety of classes for our various age groups. In the adult area, these classes vary from topical Bible study courses to specific age level classes, such as our married couples class.

Within the last year and a half, however, we have strengthened the leadership course in the individual adult classes. We have enlisted several couples who meet on a monthly basis for planning and providing for this ministry. Each couple is assigned an area of responsibility and given a job description, which is constantly being updated.

The three most important areas of responsibility are the secretaries, the visitation, and outreach ministry roles. The core of dedicated adult leaders that work well together will relieve the teacher of extra concern. This in turn, encourages an atmosphere of growth and vitality.

In many respects, the adult classes mirror our children's Sunday school. However, some primary goals re-

garding teachers' effectiveness encourages a different approach. The quality of the teacher determines both the *quality* and the *quantity* of our Sunday school program. More often than not, we set out to change the curriculum or the room environment but neglect the one individual who sets the level of classroom success: the teacher.

Three very important elements are crucial to the quality of the teacher. Authoritativeness from the teacher suggests a prepared, confident, and alert teacher. Second, a trustworthy teacher disarms children's fears with an authentic genuineness. Third, a teacher must be enthusiastic. This will captivate and arouse the group, which would otherwise be put to sleep by a shoddy or boring preparation.

In essence then, the quality Sunday school will nurture a growing, learning environment. As Southern Baptists have epigrammed for years, "As goes the Sunday school, so goes the church." —*The Christian Education Staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, California*



**I** think the biggest reason for our twenty percent growth in Sunday School in 1984 is due to the fact that we are now offering electives, giving adults a choice, and we are providing capable teachers for these classes. In the past, we had only one or two adult classes. Last year, we expanded to three or four classes. We have a class for new converts and new members two or three times a year. This class runs for ten to twelve weeks.

The pastor teaches one of the adult classes. He recently completed a class on how to love your teenager. Now he is teaching a class on the doctrines of the Bible. This class is scheduled for 52 weeks. People seem interested in this subject, and the class is growing.

Another adult class is studying the will of God. Last quarter, they studied the book of James. Our other class is for older adults.

Before we offered these options to adults, many would come to church and neglect Sunday School, or they would come to Sunday School once in awhile, but they were not faithful. Since we have offered more options, we have seen more consistent growth in Sunday school. —*Tim Totten, youth pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin*



**T**he Sunday school at Emmanuel Baptist Church is oriented toward the whole family. It's traditional here—almost everyone goes to Sunday School. The whole family goes. We emphasize that. Our concern is that the parents attend Sunday School. In outreach, we try to interest the parents, because if the parents come, the children will come. Our experience has been that when only the children come and not the parents, once the children get to junior high age, we lose them.

Our church is located in a small town. Quite a few people come in from the rural area. It's one of our old, N.A.B. Conference churches. We have three adult elective classes. We've got a good program. The Lord's been blessing here.

Our church is a friendly church; everyone is made to feel welcome. This is a factor. The general atmosphere is one in which people appreciate one another; they are glad to see everyone come. —*Morley Schultz, pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, Manitoba*



**O**ne of the reasons for growth in the Children's Department of the Sunday School of Metropolitan Baptist Church in West Fargo, North Dakota, is that we have started an Awana children's club for those in kindergarten through grade six. They meet on Wednesday nights. The attendance has grown from 14 to about 40 in a year. Some of these new children are now coming to Sunday school.

In the adult section of the Sunday School, we divided the adult class of 40 into two classes. Since we have done that, both classes have grown. One class uses traditional Sunday School material, and the other offers an elective. It is presently studying marriage-related subjects.

Another factor that has helped our Sunday School to grow is that we started a Cradle Roll for those under age three. This has encouraged families with small children to come. Now parents faithfully bring their children instead of relying on others to give them rides. This has made Sunday School attendance more even throughout the whole year. Our percentage of attendance, when compared to Sunday morning worship, is good. It shows a positive attitude on the part of the regular members who attend Sunday School to make the whole Sunday morning a learn-

ing/worship experience and not just come to the worship service only.

Our teachers have always been a good, sharing, and dedicated group. They have been Christians, most of them, for many years. This adds to the stability and good attendance. A "class for a every age group" was a goal that we reached in 1983 and that helped our Sunday School become more attractive to newcomers.

We give a lot of credit to the pastor, Terry Stoltenow, for his efforts and guidance in the whole area of Christian education.

The year before, we experienced a 40 percent increase in overall attendance in Sunday school. In 1984, the increase was 23 percent. —*Sherwood Schrenk, Sunday School superintendent, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, North Dakota*



**O**ur Sunday School grew because the church grew. The attendance at Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church grew by about 27 percent; as a result, the Sunday School grew by 25 percent in 1984. There has been an increased emphasis on Sunday School growth.

Previously, we had a large committee consisting of the Christian Education Committee and all of the teachers. That group was not accomplishing very much, so we formed a smaller committee of three people. This committee put together some programs and ideas that are beginning to help quite a bit. These have to do with taking attendance, keeping records of people, sending out cards, and making telephone calls. The committee devised a system of contacting absentees by cards and phone calls depending how long students have been absent. Visitation

by the teachers is also encouraged. Keeping track of the people is a major emphasis.

Sunday School is emphasized in our announcements. Two new classes, one for college and career, and one for new Christians, have been added. Both of these classes have added some to the attendance. —*Dennis Kee, pastor, Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church, Bensalem, Pennsylvania*

**B**asically, we are reaching a lot of new young couples who have young children. This has helped our Sunday school to grow. These people

are from the community as well as people who are moving into the area. Some of these new people are employed by the gasification plant. People also are coming to our Church from surrounding towns in Mercer County.

We have an Awana children's club and an active youth program with about 20 youth involved. This draws people to our church. A two-story educational unit was added this past summer to the church; this gives us the needed space for Sunday School growth and mid-week activities. —*Gordon Voegelé, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, North Dakota*

## A Child Shall Lead Them

**I** thank the Lord for Bonnie Warren, a faithful member and children's worker of Sunkist Baptist Church.

At Thanksgiving time 1982, Bonnie challenged her young pupils to "bring their moms and dads to church next week" to hear about a new small church that was being started.

"Mom, the teacher said you just have to come." After many excuses and much reluctance, Pat and Connie relented to the pressure of their child to attend the Wednesday night service.

As a result, Pat and Connie started attending "that small church" on a regular basis. Pat was our first baptismal candidate, and Pat and Connie became charter members of our church.

Connie then invited her mother, Sallie, to our Easter service, and Sallie has continued faithfully to attend our church every Sunday. She followed the Lord in baptism in early 1984.

Sallie invited her son, Rick and wife, Shari, to church. They attended on Christmas Sunday 1983 with their two small children. Another decision for Christ and another candidate for

baptism.

Rick and Shari invited their friend, Laura Kelly, to come to Mountain View. Laura and her four children continue to attend our church.

The Warners and the Cox families have responded to the invitation of Rick and Shari to attend church. Recently, 14 people were in church as a result of Rick and Shari's invitation, and the story goes on.

**Observations for time and eternity:**

1) The teacher faithfully doing her job. Little did Bonnie realize the extent of one small invitation.

2) Permit the children to come unto me and forbid them not. (If you do, look what can happen.)

3) The Great Commission continues to work.

4) Decisions for salvation, baptism, and church membership have been made in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

5) Most of these people responded to the invitation to attend a special service: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Mother's Day.

Note what the Lord will do if we respond to the challenges of his Word. We just need faithful teachers, like Bonnie, to plant the seeds. Remember, God gives the increase! We are to plant and water. —*Norris L. Helms, pastor, Mountain View Baptist Church, Chino, CA*

# How to Plan for Evangelism in Your Church:

by Ray Harsch



To achieve evangelistic results, a church must have a commitment to evangelize. How a church plans for and implements evangelism becomes very important. An evangelism committee, composed of people committed to growing an evangelistic church, along with the pastor can make a vital difference in winning the community for Christ.

It is the responsibility of the local church to carry the message of Christ to the non-Christians in its community. The church can do this by encouraging people to make professions of faith under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, by baptizing these into the fellowship of believers, and by nurturing new Christians toward Christian maturity.

In order to give every person in its community the opportunity to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ, the church needs to plan. Its strategy should include 1) prayer for spiritual awakening, 2) plans for locating and cultivating the friendship of non-Christians, 3) principles for enlarging Bible study, 4) programs for enlisting and equipping witnesses, 5) procedures for planning and conducting evangelistic events, and 6) processes for follow-up with all new Christians.

The pastor's commitment to growing an evangelistic church determines in large measure whether the church is evangelistic. Growing an evangelistic church must become the magnificent obsession of the pastor and the church leaders if it is to become a reality in the church.

God, in his sovereign will, sends spiritual awakening to churches, communities, nations, and the world from time to time. It happens in God's timetable, but usually it comes in response to prayers of the people of God. Any major breakthrough in reaching large numbers of people for Christ will depend upon a concert of prayer for spiritual awakening by the Christian community.

Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. A vital part of any pastor's equipping ministry is to teach

his people to pray, by both example and word. By this, he creates a vision of the supernatural power that comes through prayer in the local church.

Someone has said, "Most Baptist prayer meetings include more time praying to keep saints out of heaven than to keep sinners out of hell." Prayer for the sick of body is in order, but prayer for the sick of soul is more important.

A pastor needs to establish the priority of prayer in his own experience until he is on intimate terms with his heavenly Father. Then he will be able to start a pastor's prayer group to strengthen all evangelistic activity.

## Outreach Activities

### Prayer Seminars

Prayer Seminars, as an outreach activity, are designed to lay the foundation for spiritual awakening in the local church. Aspects of prayer discussed in the seminar are 1) a vision of prayer, 2) obstacles to prayer, 3) what is prayer, 4) when to pray, 5) how to pray through the Scriptures, and 6) how to keep on praying.

### Pastor's Prayer Group

The Pastor's Prayer Group meets for spiritual awakening. It is suggested that seven men form the pastor's prayer group. Each layman is assigned one day a week to pray. The pastor then meets with the group once a week for prayer, possibly Sunday morning, for one hour. The men exchange prayer requests which have been written on 3 x 5 cards. The pastor calls each man by telephone on his day for prayer, has prayer with him, and encourages him to remember the requests submitted.

### Neighborhood Prayer Ministry

A Neighborhood Prayer Ministry is organized to create through prayer an atmosphere for spiritual awakening in neighborhoods where families live. Ways to do this are by 1) enlisting and encouraging Christians in the neighborhood to become a part of the neighborhood prayer ministry, 2) establishing personal relationships with the neighbors in order to provide opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, 3) enlisting and equipping church members to become neighborhood prayer leaders, and 4) initiating and continuing the neighborhood prayer ministry.

### People Search: Lifeline of Evangelism

Each church needs to determine the answers to these questions: Who needs the ministry of the church? Is everyone really welcome in your church? What kind of people are you actually willing to seek for membership in your church and its organizations? For whom is my church responsible according to New Testament teachings?

A prospect file is the lifeline of an evangelistic church. A church will be unable to challenge and enlist people in reaching outsiders if it fails to make an ongoing, aggressive effort to discover non-Christians.

Some of the information needed about a prospect include 1) name and how to pronounce it correctly; 2) the correct address (where they live and how to get there), 3) date of birth and school grades of children, 4) spiritual condition (the spiritual background of the individuals), and 5) miscellaneous information such as work schedule, transportation needs, and other family members.

### Inside Search for Persons with Spiritual Needs

Non-Christian relatives of Sunday school or church members need Christ and our evangelistic concern and witness. You may identify these people from Sunday school and church records of the deacon's family ministry records.

### Community Survey for Persons with Spiritual Needs

Surveys can be made by telephone or door-to-door. The purpose is to locate persons who are not church members; they are those who do not attend as often as once a month.

To have a successful community survey, you will need to 1) determine the area to be surveyed, 2) decide when the survey will be made, 3) set up a simple organization, 4) prepare the packets, 5) enlist the canvassers, 6) plan for processing the cards, and 7) plan for cultivation and follow-up.

The key reason given by those who join a church is that someone invited them to do so. In each church there are undoubtedly certain people who are particularly effective in reaching others. For that reason, the style of evangelism should be carefully adapted to particular situations.

Evangelism often fails; not only because the evangelizer occasionally "comes on too strong" but also because that person has not addressed particular needs of a given person. Churches would do well to experiment with numerous approaches to see which works best for their situation. The evangelism committee's responsibility is to reach new people in its community. □



"Growing an evangelistic church must become the magnificent obsession of the pastor and the church leaders if it is to become a reality in the church."

## maccabees' musings

### Methods—Unspiritual or Spiritual?

Tempers flared as the hour grew later at the board meeting of a Christian organization. Twelve men sat in a stuffy room hashing over a proposal for a better organized evangelistic outreach. Everyone seemed to have strong feelings about the matter, and though most seemed to favor the new approach, the two or three who were opposed grew more adamant as the night wore on.

The man on my right got very red in the face as he listened to the arguments pro and con; the later it got, the redder he got. I was trying to remember what you are supposed to do when someone has a stroke, when his suppressed anger finally exploded into speech.

His words seemed to sum up the feelings of the opposition: "I listen to these fancy proposals, and they make me sick. Does God need our efforts to get people saved? Aren't people getting saved with the way we are doing things already? We're not really doing much of anything anyway—God is doing it for us. I say just have faith, and keep praying, and everything will be all right."

This speech pretty much ended the discussion. Who could argue against the demand that we just have faith? That would be unspiritual. The meeting closed in prayer; tempers seemed to cool down; and we departed to our homes in peace.

Still, I was troubled by that last speech. The brother seemed to be saying that methods didn't matter, that our efforts counted for nothing. Yet I knew that the same brother who made that speech spent long hours devoted to witnessing and friendship evangelism—as I did. Weren't those things methods that God was using to win people to Christ?

Our new proposal was simply a way of getting more people trained and involved in witnessing, and of developing a better way to find evangelistic contacts. Was that really unspiritual? I wondered if the Bible

had anything to say in this matter. With this question in mind I read John 21:1-11, the account of Jesus' last encounter with the disciples on the shores of Galilee and of their catch of fish that came only at the Lord's direction.

Here, I saw, was the answer to our argument. Without the Lord's direction, power, and blessing, we will catch no fish. We can have the finest methods—the best boat, the biggest, strongest net; we can give of ourselves to the utmost, fishing from dusk til dawn; it means nothing without the power of God. So far my angry, red-faced brother was correct.

However, I noticed something more: After Jesus had given his direction, and he was obeyed, the net filled to its absolute maximum. John, a fisherman by trade, tells us in amazement that there were 153 big fish; yet the net was not broken. In other words, Jesus filled their net to the maximum extent that their methods would allow. He gave no more, no less, than what they could handle.

Suppose that instead of a net, they each had a line with a baited hook in the water; how many fish would they have caught? What if they had had a bigger net? I saw that whether or not they caught fish was not dependent on the disciples, but only on the power of God. The size of the catch, however, depended on the size of their net.

I assume that everything Jesus did he did with a purpose. In this incident with the fish, he taught that while souls are saved only by the power of God, the size of the catch depends on our methods. Methods, therefore, are not unspiritual; they are a measure of our faith in the power of God. On the other hand, methods may become unspiritual if they are really unbiblical, or if we become too dependent on the methods, and not on the power of God. I hope I can convince all the brothers of this at our next board meeting! □

## Just Getting Older

by Phyllis Hoffman,  
Medicine Hat, Alberta

*Never Say Old* is the title of a book I am reading by Bartlett and Margaret Hess, who are both over 65 years old. Margaret says, "Literature paints a dreary picture of old age. Many of us learned in school about the seven stages of man as described by Shakespeare," and she goes on to ask the question, "When does old age begin? . . . It does not suddenly drop off, not even a simple slope that everyone slides down, but it is rather a succession of levels down which some move more quickly than others."

It is a "process of compensation. Decline sets in only when you finally lose the power to make further compensations."

I agree with her wholeheartedly and often observing older people, living close to them, and now, working with them, I am more convinced than ever that one's attitude plays a great part in how you are affected by your older years. When should you start thinking about old age? Some say about 40, others a little older, and still others even younger.

"I just want to drop dead suddenly," some young folks say. Who doesn't? Youth thinks it prefers death to old age. But when the time comes, people usually prefer old age. To many people in active life, senior citizens represent a different species with whom they can't identify. "I'll never live to be old," they say. Their jokes about the shuffling gait or the quavering voice of old age seem to prove "old" has nothing to do with them.

George MacDonald, the Marquis of Lossie, says, "Age is not all decay; it is the ripening, the swelling, of the fresh life within, that withers and bursts the husk." Hess says, "Have faith in your own

capacity for self discipline. The compliments you get, your own feeling of well-being will soon reinforce your efforts. Have faith that God will help you do what you really want to do. Your body is not your own; it is bought with a price. You can use your body as a precious gift that is given to you for awhile."

### Our Ministry

In 1983, my husband, Walter, accepted the call to become the Chaplain of the Haven of Rest, Sunnyside Nursing Home, and Garden Apartments all located in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

At first, it seemed that we would never get used to the responsibilities of the chaplaincy. There were no young people, children, or young couples. But thanks be to God, it is much better now, and I do believe we can say that we have adjusted.

I, personally, found it to be more difficult. As a pastor's wife, I had been used to many different things such as trustees who sought my choice concerning carpets, curtains, and paint color for the parsonage. Now it was up to me to do the seeking. We are grateful to have a nice five-bedroom home.

It was a bit difficult to decide about our church. There are two North American Baptist churches here (Grace Baptist, Walter's home church, and Temple Baptist where he served as pastor over 25 years ago), as well as a new church extension project. We finally made up our minds to join Temple Baptist.

My husband seems to be as busy as he ever was and often busier! He has devotions and prayer at every meal at both Sunnyside Nursing Home and the Haven of Rest. He is also in charge of all the spiritual programming and tries to visit

each resident weekly. They feel free to call on him whenever they have a need.

There are other areas of involvement which are more seasonal, such as Christmas programs here and there throughout the city. Not only the churches but also the civic organizations send choirs, programs, and/or groups to bring cheer to our senior citizens. There is also a "tour of the lights" of our city at Christmas time.

In July, we have Stampede week which coincides with our local Stampede. Various individuals visit our Home, such as the Stampede Queen and her Court as well as the mayor and other prominent individuals. Our residents also partake of the various barbecues and picnics. It really keeps everyone hopping, especially Walter, although I do try to keep up. We even have our own parade during that week, and everyone enters in. The residents enjoy this immensely, both participating and watching. It's great fun; although it takes lots of work and effort.

The workers at the Home and men on the maintenance crew built two lovely barbecue pits at the back of the Nursing Home in the garden, and the residents enjoy the barbecues out there on nice days. There is also a new large addition which is being finished and which will house many of the activities as well as become a lovely place for our programs and special guests.

Four times a week, twice on Thursday and again on Sunday morning, we have special services for our residents. It helps to be able to play the piano and sing. Walter and I do lots of both, and he speaks on these occasions. I try to play my vibra harp each noon and at these chapel periods.

We have several registered

nurses who work here, especially at Sunnyside where complete hospital care is given and nurses must give out the medicine. We also have a craft director, cooks, nurses' aides, laundry workers, housekeeping staff, and maintenance men, who take care of all the lawn work, as well as management people, secretaries, and the chaplain.

In connection with the Haven of Rest and Sunnyside Homes, where about 100 people live, we also have a large complex of apartments, called the Garden Apartments. These house about a hundred people including couples and some singles.

We are truly grateful for all the residents and the many workers. Without their love and care, many things would be left undone. It's the challenge, the responsibility, and the joy that keeps us all going! It keeps us busy; but we love every moment of it!

God offers his open door to everyone of us. It's up to us to walk through it. Margaret Hess wrote, "Besides looking for the little joys, we can come to grips with the big question," a question our residents often ask Walter, "Why has God left me here?" People have found many different answers to that hard question. Some in the Nursing Home find other patients (residents) to whom they can minister. Others find a new kind of work, a second family in those who need them.

"I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest  
I'll sail the wide seas no more.  
The tempest may sweep o'er the wild, stormy deep,  
In Jesus I'm safe evermore."

— H.L. Gilmour

We are truly grateful to all who remember our senior citizens in prayer.

## Triennial Conference Highlights

by Audrey Milne,  
Southern California  
Association WMF president

"A People of Hope for a World in Despair"—What a great theme for our Triennial Conference! Vacation time in 1985 will be very special as families plan to attend the five exciting, challenging days of the Conference, July 16 to 21, in Orange County, California, at the beautiful Anaheim Convention Center.

As members of the Women's Missionary Fellowship, we are looking forward to a blessed time at our luncheon on Saturday, July 20. Be sure to be there! This will be a highlight for us as we meet

delightful friends at the tables, enjoy the program, and listen to one of the Lord's outstanding women—Anne Ortlund.

There will be a prayer room in which anyone may draw apart to praise the Lord for what he is doing, to thank him, and to uphold the speakers and the decisions being made.

As you prepare for this outstanding vacation, take time to pray that all might go well so that you can relax and enjoy what the Lord has in store for you. We warmly encourage you to come to this great gathering. It's time for us as Christian women to shed our anxieties about the future and truly show that we are a "People of Hope." Come prepared to receive a multitude of blessings.

## . . . for the Potter's use . . .

by Iona Quiring, WMF president, Rogers, MN

Art Linkletter used to ask the kids on his TV show, "If you could pick absolutely anyone to be your mom and dad, whom would you choose?" Usually the youngsters named a famous movie star, an outstanding sports hero, or a popular entertainer. Their choices didn't make any difference. It was just a game.

How much influence does a parent have? Does the hand that rocks the cradle really rule the world? To what extent are my faith, my values, and my lifestyle affected by my parents' example? Will my children accept and adopt for their own the principles I live by? What about their children?

I can't answer all of those questions. But I do know that God has given me a particular sphere of influence, and I am accountable to him for how I use it. In her book, *What Happens When Women Pray*, Evelyn Christenson says that we each have a spot on earth that

is our own sphere of influence. It belongs to us alone. As we pray in a very personal way in the sphere of influence that is ours, God changes people and circumstances to bring about his complete will. That's awesome enough for me!

Queen Jezebel and her daughter Queen Athaliah spread their evil influence all over Israel and Judah. Lois and her daughter Eunice lived their faith and shared it with young Timothy. Through him, they have blessed the Christian church since its beginning. King Solomon's unbelieving wives were able to turn his heart away from God. Ruth, who came to trust in her mother-in-law's God, became an ancestor of the Savior. All of these people are reminders that what I believe, and how I live, do make a difference in my world.

. . . Lord, use me . . . to be an influence for you.

Church Growth

MINOT, ND. Twenty-nine new members were added to First Baptist Church in February 1985. Eight of these were baptized by Pastor Lester Hirst.

During three consecutive services, all the candidates gave public testimonies. "They were marvelous accounts of the diverse, yet powerful way God had worked in each individual life," says Mrs. Inez Rhone, reporter.

HINESVILLE, GA. U.S. Army Chaplain (MAJ) Helmut A. Michelson recently baptized his two oldest children, Brian (now at West Point)



and Linda, (pictured) in Hinesville, GA.

Chaplain Michelson is presently stationed on Johnston Island.

DALLAS, OR. Nineteen new members joined the Salt Creek Baptist Church in 1984.

Three "sons of the church" now serving in other churches ministered at Salt Creek Baptist Church during December and January while visiting in the area: Steven May, Elk Grove, CA; Craig Holmes, Minneapolis, MN; and Clare Ruhler, Tigard, OR.

The annual new member recognition dinner was held Jan. 27, 1985.

The film series, "The Family, God's Pattern for Living," featuring John MacArthur, Jr., was shown during evening services Feb. 10-March 17, 1985. The Rev. George Breitreuz is pastor of the church. (Ruth Saunders, reporter.)

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. Three new members were added to the Fountain Valley Baptist Church fellowship in January. The Rev. Eugene Stroh is senior pastor.

IDAHO FALLS, ID. Although Eagle Rock Baptist Church has experienced a very cold winter, "great things are happening on the spiritual level," reports



the Rev. Willis Carrico, pastor. This winter, the "New Day" Singers ministered at the church; new people have visited; and seven believers (pictured) were baptized.

VANCOUVER, BC. Feb. 10, 1985, Bethany Baptist Church held a commissioning service for Harold and Janet Neff for the Langley/Walnut Grove church extension project for which Bethany will be the "facilitating church."

Harold, a recent graduate of the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke, and Janet (nee Tutschek), who grew up in Bethany, played violin and flute solos. The Rev. Ed Hohn, British Columbia area minister, gave the com-



missioning message and prayer.

Members of the British Columbia Lower Mainland Church Extension Committee are pictured with the Neffs and the Rev. Rick Laser, pastor of Bethany (second from left). (Elsie Baum, reporter.)

Special Events

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. The Community Choir of Meridian Woods Baptist Church presented a cantata at the Beech Grove Health Care Center in honor of Mrs. Anna Bredy, 94, member and wife of former pastor, the Rev. Adolph Bredy.

Other special activities included a progressive dinner for adults, sign language classes for families, and the

annual Harvest Dinner with Mrs. Iona Quiring, speaker. (Mrs. Sandra Gilkerson, reporter.)

EUNICE, LA. Mowata Baptist Church honored Mrs. F.D. (Emilia) Loewer with a "This Is Your Life" program for teaching Sunday school continuously for 53 years. Former students testified of her impact on their lives. J.A. Lengefeld, Sunday school superintendent, presented a plaque recognizing her service.



TROCHU, AB. Trochu Baptist Church welcomed its new pastor, Dean Eisner, and his wife Pam with a fellowship lunch and an evening welcome service Nov. 11, 1984. Mr. Eisner is a graduate of North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB. (Connie Reichel, reporter.)

SUMNER, IA. First Baptist Church and Cedarloo Baptist Church, Cedar Falls, IA, gathered at Central Baptist Camp near Lansing, IA, for a winter retreat in January.

The Rev. Otto Koning, Ypsilanti, MI, former missionary to Indonesia (formerly Dutch New Guinea), spoke. Various winter sporting activities were enjoyed.

The Rev. Dan R. Payne is pastor of the Sumner Church. (Retha Menke, reporter.)

AURORA, CO. Mr. Randy Festog joined the staff of Meadow Hills Baptist Church, Feb. 1, 1985, as associate pastor (part-time) for Sunday school and young married couples' ministries. Randy, a graduate of Denver Seminary and a licensed CPA, and his wife Cindy, have a one-year-old son, Brian.

John Santaferro, Denver Seminary student and intern pastor, and his wife Michelle began their ministry in the youth department at the church in Oc-

tober 1984. They plan to take a group of teenagers to the Triennial Conference of N.A.B. churches in Anaheim, CA, in July. The Rev. Roger Cauthon is pastor.

MONCLOVA, OH. The Rev. Charles P. Davis was installed as the new pastor of Southside Baptist Temple at a special afternoon service Feb. 10, 1985. A dinner honoring Pastor Davis, his wife Sharon, and their children, Brian, Benjamin, and Adam, preceded the service.

Participants in the service were Mr. Ralph Cowie, chairman, Board of Deacons and moderator, Bloomfield Hills (MI) Baptist Church, where the Rev. Davis formerly served as associate pastor; Mr. Danny Paul, chairman, Board of Deacons and moderator, Southside Baptist, welcome and prayer; and the Rev. Bill Taft, Great Lakes Area minister, installation message.

GACKLE, ND. On Feb. 10, 1985, Grace Baptist Church celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs. Bertha Klundt, (pictured with the Rev. Milton Falkenburg, pastor of the church.) She received



Christ as Savior in 1980 and was baptized in 1981 at the age of 96.

"Mrs. Klundt praises the Lord for his keeping power and blessing her so richly in her golden years," says Mrs. Irene Rivinius, reporter.

VANCOUVER, BC. Bethany Baptist Church hosted "New Day," Feb. 13-26, 1985. The discipleship team was there fourteen days and the music team, with Bethany member Susan Zenky, five days. They ministered in various ways, including visitation, puppet shows, teaching, music, and drama.

"Closing Chapter," their two-hour musical drama, "brought a clear message, that we in the church should love one another, and also the world, through Christ," reports Elsie Baum.

EBENEZER, SK. The Women's Mis-

sionary Fellowship of Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted a farewell service for their pastor's wife, Gayle Patrick, in January.

A farewell service for the Rev. Stephen Patrick and his family was held Jan. 20, 1985, following a potluck dinner. The Rev. R. Grabke, Springside, SK, and the Rev. D. Bertsch, Yorkton, SK, spoke.

The service included special music, words of appreciation, and the presentation of gifts to the family. (Martha Dreger, reporter.)

BURLINGTON, IA. Fifty Oak Street Baptist Church women attended a women's mini-retreat Feb. 1-2, 1985. Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, Conference director of women's work, led Bible studies on the theme "Happy Hearts and Hands."

Other activities included aerobic exercises and making crafts for residents of a care center. (Miss Floraine Miller, reporter.)

LORRAINE, KS. First Baptist Church welcomed its new pastor, Dennis Goodin, his wife Mavis, and their children, Jennifer and Daniel, at a potluck supper Feb. 3, 1985.

"Together we are looking forward to good things for Christ in our church. We appreciated the services of interim pastor Aaron Buhler, Lodi, CA, for several months while we were without a regular pastor," says Ruth Wilkens, reporter.

JAMESTOWN, ND. The Rev. Ray Hoffman and his wife Esther, former missionaries to Cameroon, West Africa, began their ministry Jan. 6, 1985, at Temple Baptist Church. Dean Giedt, church moderator, is pictured officially welcoming the Rev. Hoffman.



"We are looking forward to many years of serving God together under his leadership," says Leona Meisch, reporter.

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA. During an evening service at Fountain Valley

Baptist Church, two medical doctors from the congregation, Mike Linzey and Tony Zepeda, spoke on abortion.

Concert violinist Margaret Nikol gave a concert and told of her emigration from communist Bulgaria to the United States during another evening service.

On Jan. 27, 1985, after the Christian stewardship film, "Two Masters," was shown, over \$29,000 was pledged toward the new building under construction.

Thirty senior high youth, counselors, and drivers held a week-end ski retreat in the mountains.

A mini-musical, "Angels Aware," was presented by the Choristers on Feb. 17, 1985. Dr. Adolph Braun, pastor, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, spoke. The Rev. Eugene Stroh is pastor of the church. (Clara Unruh, reporter.)



DAYTON, OH. The Rev. Theodore A. Bretz was installed as pastor of Shroyer Road Baptist Church on March 24, 1985.

Participants in the service included Dr. John A. Sundquist and the Rev. Carolyn Vaccaro, ABC, USA, and the Ohio Baptist Convention; and Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director, N.A.B. Conference.

A reception followed the service. (William Wild, reporter.)

Mission Events

RAPID CITY, SD. South Canyon Baptist Church held its missionary conference Feb. 1-3, 1985, with N.A.B. Conference missionaries Dr. Rod Zimmerman, Bee Westerman, and Daphne Dunger (pictured) of Cameroon, West Africa, who led mini-sessions Friday evening, February 1.



Gillette (WY) Baptist Church joined the Saturday afternoon session held at Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD. A catered banquet followed the meeting.

On Sunday, February 3, Daphne Dunger spoke in Gillette; Bee Westerman at Mountain View; and Rod Zimmerman at South Canyon. After the evening service, Bee Westerman was recognized for her 35 years as a missionary in Africa. (Maxine Bettenhausen, reporter.)

LANSING, MI. A check for \$25,000 was presented to Ron Salzman, interim missions director, from Colonial Village Baptist Church by Kent Sparkia, stewardship committee chairman, for the purchase of a Land Rover to be used on the N.A.B. Conference mission field in Nigeria.



Also pictured are Pastor Arthur Boymook and Mrs. Gail May, chairperson, Missions Board. (Chuck Yeomans, reporter.)

## Church Dedication and Anniversary

ALPENA, MI. "Holding Forth the Word of Life" was the theme for Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church's centennial anniversary celebrated Aug. 10-12, 1984.

Special events of the centennial weekend celebration included worship services, fellowship hours, a young people's outing, an open house, lunches and dinners.

Speakers at the Civic Center dinner held Saturday were the Reverends Ferris Liske, Arnie Kischner, Walter Freil, Phil Voss, Gary Lutes and Warren Hoffman, as well as Darryl Sell and Jim Liske. Much special music was featured.

The 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, August 12, included special music by the choir and the Rev. and

Mrs. Walter Hoffman. Other participants were the Rev. Jacob Ehman, invocation; the Rev. Eric Kuhn, Scripture reading; the Rev. Walter Damrau, meditation and prayer; Dr. John Binder, executive director, N.A.B. Conference, message; and the Rev. Bill Taft, benediction.

The 100-year observance ended Sunday afternoon with a special service in which mementos were concealed in the church cornerstone for the Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church bicentennial in 2084. The Reverends Eric Kuhn and Jacob Ehman spoke.

The Rev. Victor Carle Rocho, German Baptist missionary, arrived in Alpena in June 1884; on Aug. 10, 1884, he and the F.C. Bruhnsens, the Gustav Hassenburgs, and the Friedrich Weinkauffs organized the First German Baptist Church. It was officially recognized Oct. 15, 1884, with the Rev. Rocho as its first pastor.

Services were offered in both English and German, and Sunday school classes continued in German until 1923.

Sixty-four years and seventeen pastors after the original church was built, the current church building was constructed. The Rev. Eric Kuhn designed the building, which was dedicated Dec. 9, 1956. Church members donated much time and effort in all construction projects including a parsonage and large church addition.

Church pastors since the Rev. Kuhn have been the Reverends Normann Klann (1960-1967); G. Hess (1968-1969); W. Hoffman (1970-1974); and Jacob Ehman (1974-).

One hundred fifty families are currently active in the church; an average of 280 students, ages three to adult, attend Sunday school.

Active groups in the church include the Women's Missionary Fellowship, since 1899; the Christian Service Brigade, since 1962; the Junior Church Program, since 1975; various other youth groups; and the Friendship Club and Fellowship Class for young married members. A bus ministry was started in the early 1970's.

## Youth

MEDICINE HAT, AB. On Feb. 15, 1985, 102 senior citizens of Temple Baptist Church enjoyed a turkey dinner prepared by members of the

W.M.F. and served by senior high youth.

On Feb. 16, 1985, 14 junior high youth with Loren Kopf, associate in Christian Education, and Doug and Heather Roberts, sponsors, took a four-hour cardio-pulmonary resuscitation course.

"Enthusiasm was great for this learning of a skill to serve others—as an application of their weekly Bible studies on the book of Mark portraying Christ as servant," reports Madeline Kern. Future service projects are planned.

CALGARY, AB. At the beginning of each semester, students at the University of Calgary who are members of North American Baptist Conference churches get together for fellowship and prayer. Attendance usually ranges from 30 to 40 students; an additional 20 students are unable to attend due to schedule conflicts.

The meeting at the end of January featured a discussion on challenges to the students' Christian faith encountered by University students. Short talks on the topic were presented by Tom Anderst, Management major from Brentview Baptist Church; Robin Senger, Education major from Grace Baptist Church; and Tim Strecker, medical student from Thornhill Baptist Church.

Three professors at the University of Calgary who attend N.A.B. Conference churches serve as sponsors for the group: Dr. Gene Huber, Department of Biochemistry, Grace Baptist; Dr. K.P. Schmidt, Department of Engineering, Thornhill; and Dr. Harry Hiller, Department of Sociology, Brentview.

"We challenge students of other universities to establish similar fellowships. It's great!" says Shelley Larsen, reporter.

HILDA, AB. The youth ministries of Hilda Baptist Church began meeting again this fall. All members participated in an original play written by several members for the Christmas program held in December.

The Rev. Herbert Bachler is pastor. (Linda Anderst, reporter.)

WINNIPEG, MB. The young people of Rowandale Baptist Church planned and conducted the church's New Year's Eve service.

Thirty-two young people enjoyed outdoor activities and were challenged by a talk on commitment at Lake Nutimek Camp the first weekend of January 1985. (H. Kahler, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. An anniversary provides an excellent opportunity to take time to specially honor a faithful pastor. Recently, Parma Heights (OH) Baptist Church did just that, and John Bretz, member, wrote, "It may serve as an example of what other churches could do."

Members and friends of the church praised the Lord for Dr. John Thielenhaus' ten years of service as their pastor at a special Sunday evening service that was a surprise to him. The church further surprised its pastor by flying in his mother and his brother and his wife for the occasion.



Participants in the service included Carl Guenther, moderator, reminiscences; Mrs. Liz Dyke and the Chancel Choir, special music; Pam Scott, appreciation to Mrs. Jane Thielenhaus; Howard Mohan, Deacon Board chairman, tribute to the pastor; and Arlyn Theilenhaus, the pastor's brother flown in by the church, message.

Sixty-three volumes of Spurgeon's commentaries were presented as a gift to Pastor Thielenhaus.

Parma Heights Baptist Church's membership has increased from 744 to 850, with 250 people baptized; the church staff has expanded; 10,000 square feet of space has been added; a nursery school and an accredited elementary school have begun; and missionary giving has increased. (Ruth Barnes, reporter.)



STOCKTON, CA. This photo was inadvertently omitted from page 26 in the April issue of the BAPTIST HERALD. Quail Lakes Baptist Church celebrated its 25th anniversary, Dec. 6-9, 1984. Participants included in the program were the Rev. G.G. Rauser and Dr. Alvin Harsch, former pastors; Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director; and the Rev. Fred Jantz, senior pastor.

HERMAN E. BRENNER (83), Boca Raton, FL, formerly Grosse Pointe, MI; member, Bibletown Community Church; survived by his wife Martha; four brothers: Jacob and Wilhelm, Germany; Emile, Tequesta; and Paul, Boca Raton, FL; three sisters: Marie Brenner and Emily Kussmaul, Germany; and Louise Tell, Oregon; Rev. Francis Crumly, pastor, funeral service.

AUGUSTA HILDEBRAND (87), Stafford, KS; born Jan. 13, 1898, to Ernest and Gretchen Wendelburg, Stafford, KS; died Feb. 22, 1985; married Ernest Hildebrand, Aug. 2, 1921; member, Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS; spent more than six years on four mission work trips with her husband to Cameroon, West Africa, between 1950 and 1964, where she ministered to women there; survived by her husband Ernest; two daughters: Virginia Hedrick, Hutchinson, KS; and Letha Hildebrand, Dodge City, KS; one sister, Dora Powelson; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; Rev. Elton Kirstein, pastor, funeral service.

HELMUTH HOFFMAN (66), Lodi, CA; born Feb. 9, 1918, to Jacob and Emma Hoffman, McPherson County, SD; died April 16, 1984; married Ida Fischer in 1941; member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; survived by his wife Ida; one son, Lee, Woodbridge, CA; one daughter, Donna Obuck, Placentia, CA; four grandchildren; his mother Emma, Ashley, ND; two brothers: Ernie and Ray; and one sister, Luella Opp; Reverends Walter Dingfield and G.G. Rauser, pastors, funeral service.

MARGARET A. JOHNSON (85), Sioux Falls, SD; born June 5, 1899, to Dick and Maggie Burfeindt, Avon, SD; died Feb. 7, 1985; married John E. Johnson, Feb. 24, 1927, who predeceased her in 1951; member, First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD; survived by one daughter, MarJean, Sioux Falls, SD; and two sisters: Mrs. Grace Bleeker and Mrs. Bertha Bangert; Reverends Leon G. Bill and Rodney Poppinga, pastors, funeral service.

MISS HANNAH MUELLER (95), Stafford, KS; born Aug. 9, 1889, to Rev. William and Mary Mueller, Big Stone, SD; died Feb. 2, 1985; member, Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS;

survived by many neices and nephews; Rev. Elton O. Kirstein, pastor, funeral service.

ESTHER ODELL (71), Elgin, IA; born June 9, 1913, to Edwin and Metta Miller Krueger, near Clermont, IA; died Feb. 21, 1985; married Aulden Oelberg in 1937, who predeceased her in 1950; married Roy Odell in 1970; member, First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA; survived by her husband Roy; two daughters: Beverly (Mrs. Gary Gilson) and Alyce (Mrs. Dean Hilgerson); grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Rev. Norman Miller, pastor, funeral service.

LOUIE KARL ORTHNER (65), Raymore, SK; born April 12, 1919, to Rudolf and Maria Orthner; died Dec. 2, 1984; married Evelyn Galenzoski in 1950; member, trustee, Raymore (SK) Baptist Church; predeceased by one son, Bruce, and a brother, Robert; survived by his wife Evelyn; six sons: Gerald, Dale, and Earl, Raymore, SK; Roger, Saskatoon, SK; Terry and Murry, Regina, SK; three daughters: Mrs. Barbara Ryer, Calgary, AB; Mrs. Janet Love and Pearly, Regina, SK; two brothers: Julius and Walter; four sisters: Mrs. Annie Neb, Mrs. Hulda Berkan, Mrs. Rose Nicolson, and Mrs. Eleanor Flathman; and six grandchildren; Rev. Don Harder and Darold Sauer, officiating, funeral service.

MARY I. RUSSELL (86), Detroit, MI; born Feb. 24, 1898, to Mollie and Albert Salzman, Kankakee, IL; died Jan. 27, 1985; married Fred Russell, Aug. 21, 1926, who predeceased her, October 1976; member, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, and Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; survived by a foster son, Wendell, Detroit, MI; a sister, Ruby Salzman; three brothers: Ernest, Albert and Arthur; Dr. Robert F. Penner, pastor, memorial service, Kankakee, IL; Dr. Herbert Hiller, pastor, funeral service, Detroit, MI.

ESTHER STOLZ (84), Tacoma, WA; born July 30, 1900, to Henry and Louisa Schultz, Nebraska; died Dec. 18, 1984; married Otto Stolz in 1921; member, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, and Olympic View Baptist Church, Tacoma, and helped establish Portland Ave. Baptist Church, WA; predeceased by her husband Otto and one son, Arthur; survived by one son, Paul; Reverends Ervin Gerlitz and Charles Rowe, pastors, funeral service.

# Growth Strategy— Meeting the Need

by Ron Norman

I believe that new growth is possible for many congregations in North America because I know that it is part of God's will for his Church.

Four out of five churches in North America are not growing! Of the 373 churches in the North American Baptist Conference, 160 experienced growth in 1983. These facts are of great concern to us, and we must give attention to this issue. If we do not, it will result in an ever-increasing decline and the multiplied loss of many opportunities to share the gospel and win people to Jesus Christ.

As I have talked with many church leaders across the Conference, I believe that new growth is possible for many congregations in North America. I'm convinced of that because I know that it is part of God's will for his Church (Matthew 16:17-19). There are also pastors and church leaders in our congregations who want to see their churches grow.

In order to provide assistance for churches, the Church Extension/Church Growth Department has spent the past twelve to eighteen months preparing a strategy for growth. This is available to our churches throughout the Conference. The overall purpose is to provide information, application, and consultation assistance to churches who desire to see growth.

Four major components are available. The first two are offered on a group basis as seminars while the last two are offered on an individual church basis.

## Component 1—Pastors Growth Seminar (7 hours)

This workshop is designed to provide a strong foundation for pastor and key church leaders in the development of a common vision of what God can do in and through their church. It is composed of four modules:

### 1) Creating a Life-style of Evangelism in Your Church

In this section, participants discover some keys to "relational" styles of evangelism that God is blessing today. Strategies that are more natural, more caring, and more effective in seeing people respond and then

remain as active church members are introduced.

### 2) Principles for Effective Incorporation

This section shows how to make sure each newcomer in the church becomes a fully integrated and responsible church member and suggests ways of "closing the back door."

### 3) Mobilizing Laity for Ministry

In most churches, a few members are doing most of the work. This module gives practical handles on how to reduce the "lay unemployment problem." Participants learn how to overcome the barriers that keep people from becoming involved.

### 4) Planning Strategy for Effective Evangelism

This session provides the basic concepts of planning for growth and of determining the stage at which your congregation stands in terms of its growth potential. It concludes with a description of how this overall strategy for growth can be continued.

## Component 2—Basic Growth Seminar (10 hours)

This workshop is designed to heighten the awareness of the leaders in your church regarding its growth potential. "People change before organizations change." It is designed to help church members see new possibilities for their church and develop bold new plans for more effective ministry. Participants are introduced to workable principles of church growth. Through a combination of creative media, small groups, charting, analyzing and planning, this seminar will leave your people with a new sense of optimism for the future. This seminar is for as many lay people and pastoral staff as are able to attend from each church.

## Component 3—Diagnostic Process

This procedure uses a diagnostic resource, "The Church Growth Op-

portunity Check-up." It provides a congregation with the information needed to gather the necessary data to help uncover hidden potential for growth. The congregation is provided with a diagnostic manual designed as a guide to data collecting. It covers such areas as General Church Information, Educational Ministries, Outreach, Incorporation, Discipleship, Inactivities, and the Community.

Over a period of two to twelve weeks, the data regarding these areas is collected. Through the help of specific church growth research systems and computer technology, it will be possible to accurately analyze all of this data in order to provide some realistic recommendations regarding the future possibilities of your church. These recommendations then become the basis for future plans and projections.

## Component 4—Consultation Process

This component involves the interaction of the pastor and congregation with the Area Minister and Church Extension/Church Growth staff in the development and initiation of a strategy for growth for that particular congregation over a two-year period of time. Here again, this process is on an individual congregational level intended to deal with the specific and unique needs of that group in that area.

As you can see, this is not a "fly-by-night," quick-fix event, but rather a strategy designed to assist in bringing a church to a point of understanding the present situation, what church growth principles need to be applied, and how to apply them.

Currently, there are more than ten Pastors Growth Seminars scheduled throughout our Conference. Speak to your Area Minister or call the Church Extension/Church Growth Department if you are interested in having one in your area. □

## what's happening

The Rev. Edward Kopf is the new pastor of Napoleon Baptist Church, Napoleon, ND.

New full-time staff added to Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, in 1984 included Elenor Kern, director of Women's ministries.

The Rev. Bernard Edinger concluded six years of ministry at Portland Ave. Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA, on March 31, 1985, to retire. He was honored by this church for 40 years of ministry on January 27, having served nine churches during this time.

The Rev. George Neubert has been serving as interim pastor at Turtle Lake Baptist Church, North Dakota.

The Rev. Brian Hayes is serving as associate pastor for youth and Christian Education at Midwest Bible Church, Chicago, IL.

The Rev. Leland Friesen has been serving as interim pastor at Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK.

The Rev. H. Glen Discoe died of a heart attack on Jan. 20, 1985. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO.

The Rev. Jim Green resigned from the pastorate of Faith Baptist Church, Hillsboro, OR, effective March 31, 1985. He plans to go into secular work.

Paul R. Wilson, was ordained on Jan. 27, 1985, by Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, where he is Minister of Youth and Music.

Dr. G.K. Zimmerman of Port Richey, FL, has resigned as estate planning counselor for the North American Baptist Conference, a position which he has held since 1979, to retire. In January 1985, he observed his 40th year of ministry with the North American Baptist Conference, having served various churches as pastor, (1943-55); as General Secretary, Sunday School Union (1955-61); as General Secretary of the Department of Christian Education, (1961-68); and as Executive Secretary of the N.A.B. Conference, (1968-79); as well as estate planning counselor (1980-85). His service during these 40 years has been appreciated by those who have worked with him and been served by him.



Crossroads Baptist Church, a church extension project pastored by the Rev. Monte Michaelson of Sarasota, FL, is meeting in the North Port Learning Center and Day Care, 115 N. Biscayne, North Port, FL.

Dr. Harold Tuttle became pastor of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO, on February 21, 1985.

The Rev. Billy Van Gerpen resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND, effective March 1985. He had served this Church since 1979.

The Rev. Craig Holmes has accepted the call as pastor of Gillette Baptist Church, Gillette, WY, effective June 1, 1985. He has served as Associate Pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN, since 1982.

Mr. Mark Davies became pastor of Hillview Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective May 1, 1985. He had been serving as interim pastor there while a student at North American Baptist Divinity School from which he graduates in May.

The Rev. James Leverette became associate pastor to minister to the English congregation at Baptist Mission Church, Winnipeg, MB, on March 17, 1985. He previously served as pastor of Hawkwood Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, since 1983.

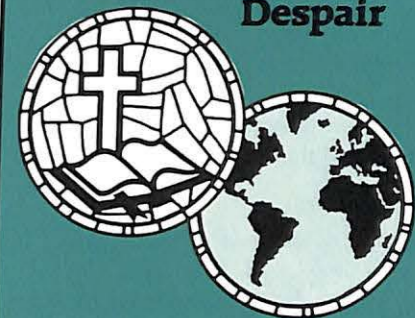
The Rev. R.I. Thompson resigned as pastor of Dorchester Drive Baptist Church, Erie, PA, effective July 14, 1985. He has served there since 1981. He is available for interim pastorates.

The Rev. Eldon Schroeder became pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Carpentersville, IL, on March 1, 1985. He had been serving as interim pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carol Stream, IL.

The Rev. Ed Underwood was installed as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI, on March 24, 1985.

The Rev. Dennis Hoffman becomes the pastor of Winton Road Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, on June 1, 1985. He has served as Assistant Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA, since 1982. A daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, was born to Dennis and Pat Hoffman on February 20.

## A People of Hope for a World in Despair



41<sup>ST</sup> Triennial Conference  
Of North American  
Baptist Churches  
Anaheim, California  
July 16-21, 1985

### Evangelism and Church Growth to be Emphasized

Professor Carl F. George, director of the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth, will speak on the topic, "The Role of New Churches in Evangelizing our Continent," on Wednesday afternoon, July 17, during the N.A.B. Triennial Conference to be held in Anaheim, California, July 16-21, 1985.

Professor George comes with wide experience in the areas of evangelism and church growth. He has led several building construction programs and has guided the planting of daughter churches. He has been involved in many innovative outreach programs, conducted church growth seminars for pastors and lay persons and done on-site parish analysis and consultations. He serves as senior editor of the Church Growth Training Program, for pastoral in-service training.

If you are concerned about evangelism and church growth, you will gain much practical help from Professor George's presentation.

Ernie Radke, Calgary, Alberta; chairman, Program Committee; vice moderator, North American Baptist Conference

Register now for the Conference. Registration forms were in the December issue of the Baptist Herald or are available from your pastor or the N.A.B. International Office.

Preregistration deadline is May 31, 1985.

## It Works!

by Norris L. Helms



What works? Is it visitation or personal invitation? I'll let you decide. Let me tell you a story about Mountain View Baptist Church in Chino, California.

On April 2, 1982, while going on door-to-door visitation, I met John Pruitt. I believe this was the providence of God because I met him on Friday afternoon, the only afternoon of the week when he would be at home. The Lord led me to that street on that day at that time. I met many other people that day, but only he responded by saying, "I'll visit your church, for sure."

He did not visit the next Sunday, nor the next, nor the next. Would he visit? He did worship with us for the first time on April 25, 1982. Rarely has he missed a single worship service or Bible study since that first Sunday. He and his wife are now members of our church. They have a young daughter and a younger son.

The Pruitts are youth sponsors, and both work in our children's program at church. John is a deacon, one of three.

The Pruitts invited their friends, the Fox family, to our church. After nearly a year of periodic invitations, they worshiped with us for the first time on Easter Sunday 1984.

Mrs. Fox invited her friend, Penny Dunne, to join her in worship, and Penny and her son responded the very next Sunday. After several

weeks, Penny Dunne invited her neighbor, Donna Hopson, to attend church with her. Johnnie and his daughter responded, and after one Sunday, Donna Hopson invited a friend who visited us the next Sunday.

On November 4, Penny Dunne was joined in worship by Ellen Devers and her two daughters, friends whom she had invited to church. And so last Sunday, the Pruitts (4), the Foxes (2), the Dunnes (2), the Hopsons (2), and the Devers (3) were all at worship together, 13 in total as a result of one invitation.

Now I ask you, was it the door-to-door visitation or the personal invitation that brought the results? In either case, a personal contact was necessary. Have you made a contact for Christ recently?

The bottom line of this story is that John Pruitt and I visited the Hopsons this afternoon. You see, Donna Hopson has expressed the desire to follow her Lord in baptism.

As you think of gifts for others, why not help to make it possible for someone to receive the gift of eternal life? But remember, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" In this case, the sermon was short and to the point, "Why not come to church?" But the results are eternal! □

The Rev. Norris Helms is pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Chino, California, a Southern California church extension church. This Church along with others in the Association will be hosting the 41st Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches, July 16-21, 1985, in Anaheim, California

## congratulations

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

*Strassburg Baptist*, Marion, KS; Rev. Perry Kallis, pastor; Mrs. Jerrie Kruse, agent.

*Sunshine Ridge Baptist*, Surrey, BC; Rev. C.I. Wiebe, pastor, Mrs. Esther Harris, agent.

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

*Forest Park Baptist*, Forest Park, IL; Rev. David Wick, pastor; Mrs. Nancy Shawl, agent.

*First Baptist*, Goodrich, ND; Rev. Craig Perry, pastor; Mrs. Freda Rauser, agent.

*Bethel Baptist*, Harvey, ND; Rev. Dan Edzards, pastor; Miss Helen Otto, agent.

*First Baptist*, Minitonas, MB; Rev. Ronald Kelway, pastor.

*Emmanuel Baptist*, Morris, MB; Rev. Morley Schulz, pastor; Mrs. Sam Hoffman, agent.

*Melville Baptist*, Melville, SK; Rev. Lewis Petrie, pastor; Mr. Clarence Fritzsche, agent.

*East Olds Baptist*, Olds, AB; Rev. Ritchie White, pastor; Mrs. Walter Unger, agent.

*First Baptist*, Plevna, MT; Rev. Herbert Vetter, pastor; Mrs. Martin Couch, agent.

*Latta Road Baptist*, Rochester, NY; Rev. Marc Maffucci, pastor; Mr. Carl Miller, agent.

*Sierra College Blvd. Baptist*, Rocklin, CA; Rev. Phyllup Putz, pastor; Mr. David Beasley, agent.

*Southey Baptist*, Southey, SK; Rev. Berthold Milner, pastor; Mrs. Grace Lang, agent.

*Venturia Baptist*, Venturia, ND; Rev. Randall Tschetter, pastor; Mrs. Lavilla Dollinger, agent.

*Mowata Baptist*, Eunice, LA; Rev. Daniel O'Clair, pastor; Mrs. Gloria Rockett, agent.

*Summit Drive Baptist*, Kamloops, BC; Rev. Werner Lemke, pastor.

*First Baptist*, Linton, ND; Rev. Randall Jaspers, pastor; Mrs. Martha Ballard, agent.

*Grace Baptist*, Ochre River, MB; Rev. Helmut Poschwatta, pastor; Mr. Fred Amman, agent.

*Quail Lakes Baptist*, Stockton, CA; Rev. Fred Jantz, pastor; Mrs. Sharon Estes, agent.

## baptist world aid

### Famine Continues to Ravage Africa

Famine in Africa continues to be on the rampage affecting millions of people. Through the Baptist World Alliance, the countries of Angola, Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Sudan, Somalia and South Africa, are receiving aid for world hunger relief. These funds are being channeled through existing Baptist conventions in the respective countries. Each of those conventions is a member of the Baptist World Alliance. Funds received for these purposes will be used for storage of food, transportation of food, purchase of food, and in some cases, purchase of medicines related to nutrition problems. Many countries are experiencing high numbers of refugees coming into their borders, which is accentuating the famine crisis.

We invite you to contribute toward African world hunger by sending your contributions to:

North American Baptist Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Avenue  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

### Pastor's Growth Seminars

Pastors' Growth Seminars began in February with the first being held at the North American Baptist International Office for the Area Ministers and the Executive Staff of the Conference. They continued in March in the Eastern Association and in April in the Manitoba, Illinois, and Minnesota/LaCrosse Associations.

Other seminars are scheduled for

May 10-11	Florida
May 16	British Columbia Association
June 14	Southern Association
September 18-19	Iowa Association
September 23-24	Great Lakes Association
October 21	Northern and Central Dakota/Montana Associations

A basic growth seminar will be held May 31-June 1 in the Minnesota/LaCrosse Association.

### Eleven Churches Complete Goals

Eleven churches have completed their Conference/Association Capital Funds Goals as of February 1985.

#### Alberta Association

Golden Prairie, SK;  
Membership—16; Goal—\$2,100  
Grace, Medicine Hat;  
Membership—119; Goal—\$2,100  
Whitecourt\*  
Membership—31; Goal—\$100

#### Atlantic Association

King's Highway, CT  
Membership—25; Goal—\$120  
Gettysburg, PA\*  
Goal—\$475

#### British Columbia Association

Faith, Vernon  
Membership—82; Goal—\$1,500  
Surrey, Sunshine Ridge  
Membership—344; Goal—\$1,770

#### Eastern Association

Lakeshore, St. Catharines, ON  
Membership—94; Goal—\$360

#### Illinois Association

Bloomington, IL  
Membership—207; Goal—\$250

#### Great Lakes Association

Colonial Village, Lansing, MI  
Membership—335; Goal—\$25,000

#### Saskatchewan Association

Central, Yorkton  
Membership—148; Goal—\$12,000

(\*Church extension project)

437 out of 1,281 individuals who made covenants on the Advance or Challenge Gift Levels have completed their covenants totalling \$160,849.

## Capital Funds Report



### How to Give a Gift You Can Take Back

Are you like so many of our friends . . . wanting to give more to North American Baptist Conference and its ministries, but concerned about your future financial security?

To help you give according to your desires, and still care for your future, we have several kinds of gift agreements, which allow the gift to be returned to you in case of future financial setbacks, or simply because you have need of it.

But in the meantime, you are making sure that your gift will be set aside, should you not need it during life, to help take the Gospel in to all the world through the various ministries of the North American Baptist Conference, and to do so with the least possible cost and delay in making your gift.

It's an exciting way to give.

For complete information on . . .

### How to Give a Gift You Can Take Back,

complete and mail this coupon today to:

Dr. Connie Salios  
North American Baptist Conference  
1 South 210 Summit Avenue  
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181

Dear Dr. Salios:

Please send me free information on Revocable Gift Agreements.

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

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*A renewed congregation is more powerful  
in God's hands than a collection of  
isolated Christians. Combined, the  
glowing coals of renewal burst into flame.*

