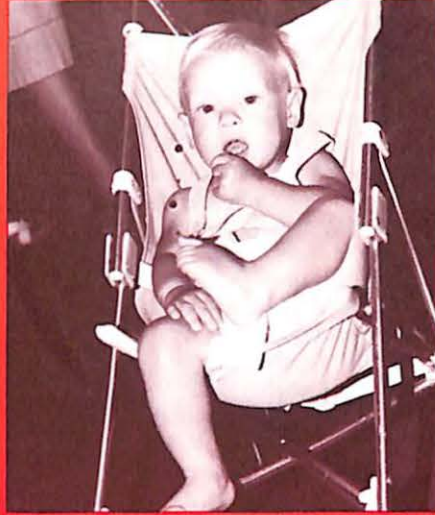


# Baptist Herald

November 1985



**A People of Hope  
for a World in  
Despair**

41st Triennial Conference  
Of North American  
Baptist Churches

The central graphic is a white rectangular box with a black border. It contains the text "A People of Hope for a World in Despair" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text is a circular logo divided into two halves. The left half shows a globe with a white cross and an open book. The right half shows a silhouette of the world map. Below the logo is the text "41st Triennial Conference Of North American Baptist Churches".

**Building Blocks for the Future**

by Milton Hildebrandt

Your financial support has been really outstanding in building foundations essential to the many ministries of the North American Baptist Conference. During this triennium, our people have given almost 111 million dollars for all purposes—Conference, Association, and local church. More specifically, for Conference ministries including our schools, our people have given almost 17.5 million dollars during this triennium. A new high in per capita giving which included the support of our schools, was reached of \$105 in 1984.

All of this giving supports some 90 overseas missionaries, some 35 church extension projects, a half dozen home mission churches, three schools, our Christian education and evangelism ministries, our area ministries, our Conference office support services, and a lot more. We support these ministries for about \$2 per member per week—quite a bargain.

**We've Been Building Foundations**

We have been building foundations within our North American Baptist Conference. I see several of considerable significance.

*Building financial foundations.* We've eliminated the debt that plagued us. We've established a more adequate operation reserve. We have been engaged in a very successful capital funds drive, which also benefitted our Associations. We've doubled the amount of funds available as loans to our churches and institutions.

*Building people foundations.* We have established new churches and conducted experiments in urban/ethnic ministries. We have an unprecedented commitment to help our churches grow. There is an openness and a vision among pastors and people to reach out in our communities.

New foundations have been built also in overseas missions as we build the national church there. We are also reaching out to unreached people.

*Building organizational foundations.* In my judgment, we have a staff that is capable, committed, open, efficient, and perceptive. I like the fact that our staff is balanced with clergy and laity. We have expanded area ministries to better serve our people.

*Building foundations in matters of principle:* I am proud of our willingness to deal with tough issues, the development of a statement of faith, discussion of equi-

ty of subsidy for our schools, and questions on ordination. These are all demonstrations of the essential concept of unity within diversity of actual practice. I believe we have come a long way in learning how to agree to disagree on some matters without getting into a first-class fuss.

*Building foundations in strategic planning.* We now have a six-year plan, a strategy for growth. Supporting that, we have the establishment of departmental goals and objectives. We prioritize our resources to the best of our ability to reach these goals.

These are only foundations, established for a purpose—to be built upon.

**What Are Our Challenges?**

We have a challenge to meet our committed basic budget. This is essential for carrying on all Conference missions and ministries. It is absolutely critical that we meet this basic budget if we expect to build upon our established foundations.

As you know, we experienced a shortfall of that budget in both 1983 and 1984. Further, we have experienced a six-year declining trend in the portion of our total giving designated for our Conference basic budget.

In 1979, our people designated about 13 percent of all contributions to the local church, the Association, and our Conference mission purposes for the Conference basic budget. In 1980, that dropped down to 12 percent; in 1982 to 11 percent, and in 1984 to 10 percent. You can see the significance of that declining trend.

While we are giving more and more each year, we have been giving proportionately less for the support of basic, committed Conference missions and ministries. That is a significant challenge.

We have a challenge in our several economies. We see fluctuating currency value, a somewhat unstable exchange rate, some depressed economies, and the ever-lurking threat of inflation. With the Canadian dollar presently depressed, we all need to give a bit more.

But we have the challenge to advance at home and overseas in our ministries. In fact, change and challenge are our constant companions.

**How Are We Doing this Year?**

Based on receipts for this year and past performance, I project basic budget receipts for 1985 of four million dollars. That represents a



potential shortfall of as much as \$300,000 for 1985. In 1984, the shortfall of \$297,000 was devastating to some of our ministries.

What does this mean? It means that we will have ministry containment, significant program reductions, and a backing off from planned advancement. I'd love to tell you that all was well, but I can't ignore the developing pattern. We have a very significant basic budget shortfall imminent.

**What Can We Do?**

We have exciting, demanding challenges waiting to be met. Many of our people have no idea at all of our ministries. We must tell the story of Conference mission and ministry programs to our people.

If we do that, 1985 will not only be a conference year to remember, but also the year in which we determined to build, to grow, and to make things happen. If we choose not to do that, to instead be content with that which is less than our potential, to sit on our hands, the building we place on our foundations might be better left un-built.

We do have the capability, the capacity, and, I believe, the determination to meet these challenges. Frankly, I'm convinced of it, and I hope you are, too, for whether we think we can—or we can't—we are probably right. □

*Milton Hildebrandt is a layman from St. Paul, MN, who in addition to his position with Minnesota Mutual serves on a voluntary basis as N.A.B. Conference treasurer. He was re-elected to this position at the Triennial Conference. This is a condensation of his speech at the Conference.*



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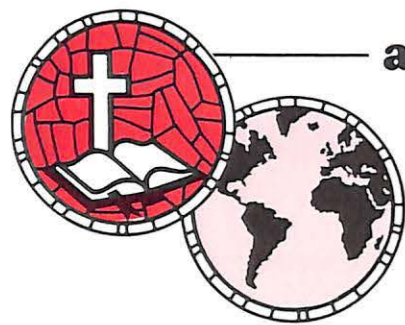
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Meeting at the Anaheim Convention Center in California, 4287 registered delegates and visitors of the North American Baptist Conference met in the 41st Triennial Conference sessions, July 16-21, 1985. Of these 1,047 were official delegates who transacted the business of the Conference. Registration figures stood at 2,222 adults, 133 singles, 1,369 youth and youth sponsors, 239 young teens, 241 children, and 83 preschool. Representation from the top ten provinces and states were as follows: Alberta—655; California—604; North Dakota—415; British Columbia—337; South Dakota—265; Illinois—242; Oregon—221; Minnesota—213; Washington—179; and Kansas—133. In all, five Canadian provinces and 33 states were represented, as well as Cameroon, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

This issue of the *Baptist Herald* gives a glimpse of the highlights of this Conference.



The Rev. Samson Khama, executive secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention, urged N.A.B.s to continue sending missionaries to Cameroon and expressed his Convention's appreciation.



Ron Rogalski (pictured), youth music director, Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, composed the music, and Rich Moore also of Fair Oaks wrote the words to the Conference theme song, "A People of Hope for a World in Despair." Rich is a new Christian of three years. Ron also led the music for the youth program at the Conference.



The Rev. Philip Sol, executive secretary, Mambilla Baptist Convention, Nigeria, brought greetings and thanked N.A.B.s for their missionaries and prayers.

Les Cook Photos



Mrs. Darline Bill of Sioux Falls, SD, served as Conference organist.



Registering



"Our missionaries are sowers in Japan as we are involved in student evangelism work and English language classes," said the Rev. Doug Woyke, field secretary in Japan.

Addressing the theme each morning, "A People of Hope for a World in Despair," Dr. Daniel Baumann, senior pastor of College Avenue Baptist Church, San Diego, CA, addressed the question, "What is the content of hope?" He went on to challenge the audience to feel the hurt of people today and to act on this feeling by ministering to people in despair. He emphasized discipleship and pointed out that it is a lifelong process. In his closing message, he emphasized the need for evangelism as well as for social concern. Summaries of his messages follow:

**Stand Firm—the Hope We Have** (Romans 15:4-6)

"We need, as a people of God, to stand firm in a fluctuating world," stated Dr. Baumann. He cited three authorities on which people may base their lives: Reason, experience, or God's Word. If one chooses to build hope on reason, there is nothing after this life. If on experience, what one experiences is real, and there will be imperfections. If our hope is based on the Word of God, one anticipates good only.

In answering the question, "What is the content of hope?" Baumann stated that hope is never egocentric; it is not based on people or leaders in our churches. Hope is centered on who God is. He went on to say that hope is always a gift of God's grace; we did not earn it. It is a supernatural gift of God, based on Scripture.

Baumann briefly referred to his congregation: "I want people in my congregation to be people of the book, people who allow the Bible to be the basis for life."

Baumann urged the audience to lean on the Word of God, because it is trustworthy; to learn the Word of God, being students always open to his teachings. He challenged the listeners to live by the Word of God, and to pray: "Allow your Word to take flesh in me each morning." Lastly, he stated that the world is full of people standing on the roadside, giving us wrong directions. "We don't need weathervanes; we need a compass—the Word of God."

**Feel Deeply—the Despair We Face** (Matthew 9:35-36)

In his second message, Dr. Baumann pointed out that there are people with aching needs all around us, people who are harassed, distressed, and bewildered. These people may be in our churches, our neighborhoods, and our homes, maybe even our pastor.

Baumann commended the N.A.B. Conference for the "Biblical Imperatives and Goals" which include increasing concern for each other, then the community, and then the world.

Reminding the conferees of the compassion of Jesus Christ, Baumann stated that the word used to describe tenderness was only used in reference to Jesus. From the depths of his being, Jesus uniquely reached out to people. He reached out to those who were in pain: the sick, the blind, the demon-possessed. He reached out to the grieving, the hungry, the lonely, and the bewildered. In speaking about the lonely, Baumann referred to ministry to singles: "Any church who takes seriously the singles will break down the walls of the church."

Baumann challenged the listeners to not only feel the hurt of the people in the world today, but also to act on this feeling by ministering to people in their need. He pointed out that Jesus looked at the world with compassion and did something about what he saw and felt by seeking out individuals one at a time to meet their needs. Jesus cares, and he can produce change.

**"Grow Up! The Opportunity We Claim"** (1 Thess. 1:4-10)

"Discipleship is the whole process of growing up; it is a lifelong process," stated Dr. Baumann on Friday morning. He pointed out that discipleship is not an option, for the key function of the Great Commission is to make disciples.

As disciples, he said, we need conviction and assurance. We need to become imitators of the Lord, calling people to follow him. We are to be models, pacesetters, people who do not go along with the crowd. We need to be reproducers, and to be servants. As servants, we are to bring



others to servanthood.

In carrying out our purpose as disciples, we can celebrate who God is and build people up in a mass setting. Through our local congregations, we can discuss and ask questions. In small groups, we can build relationships and friendships. Baumann pointed out that many people leave the church because they do not have close friends there. Through one-on-one relationships, we become disciplers of others.

Baumann emphasized that the ingredients of a discipling relationship include the regular input of one's life into another's, trust, and accountability; there is no growth without it. A discipling relationship is a lifelong process.

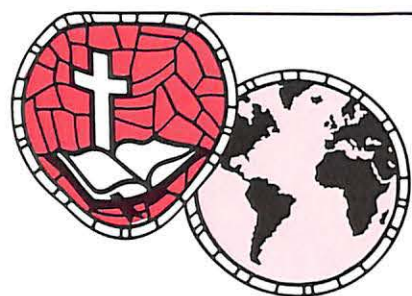
**Reach Out—the Ministry We Share** (Matthew 9:35-38)

"We need to reach out beyond the walls of our churches in reconciliation and in infiltration," declared Dr. Baumann in his concluding message Saturday morning. He emphasized that reconciliation is evangelism, God's work. "We are agents, but God is the changer."

Take time to win a person to Christ, Baumann said. Be sensitive and not complacent. The best sharing of Christ with others comes out of overflow. We must be real.

Our task is also to infiltrate, to have social concern. "There are big issues to tackle in politics, chemical dependency, and in business."

In closing, he asked the audience, "Do we really care?" □



### A People of Hope for a World in Despair

"Who defines the role of the church? The press, the politicians, or us?" asked Charles Colson in his message. "We do," he asserted, "as we declare that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Colson, chairman of the Board of Prison Fellowship, set out three principles to follow. The first is to obey our Christ. He stressed that obedience is essential in the Christian life. However, it is not easy to do today, for we get antithetical messages from the world and the Gospel.

The second principle Colson mentioned is that we are to be obedient to the Bible. What convinced him that the Bible is God's Word was not so much scholarship or archeological evidence but his own experience in the Watergate coverup. Those involved couldn't keep a lie together for three weeks. Colson believes it was humanly impossible for the apostles to maintain the resurrection story for the rest of their lives unless they actually saw the risen Jesus.

Thirdly, Colson declared that we are to be a holy people. We are the church. In contrast, our culture sees the church as a place to go on Sunday and be entertained. We must correct this fallacy by living biblically.

Holiness is more than individual righteousness, Colson asserted. It means going to those who are suffering and helping them. He illustrated this by telling of two women who renovated a building to house visiting families of prison inmates. One woman who stayed there said, "I don't know if there is a God, but if so, he must be like these two women."

There is no hope in our society today. Colson declared that hope must come from God's people as we proclaim that Jesus is Lord, are obedient to him, and are holy and repentant. Man's ways will fail, but God's ways will succeed. "You are the church, God's chosen instruments which cannot fail." □



### Growth and Renewal in an Established Church

In 1980 David Wick became pastor of Forest Park (IL) Baptist Church, which had been termed a graveyard. "The church had been in a long decline of membership and attendance," Wick said, "having given of its lifeblood twice in the '70s when it mothered a church extension project and again when the N.A.B. International Office relocated from Forest Park to Oakbrook Terrace."

"I came to Forest Park determined to preach the Word, love the people, and work hard," recalled Wick. Attendance dropped to an all-time low during his first year, but he said, "Never had I enjoyed the ministry so much. The congregation was so loving and accepting."

Each Sunday Wick told the congregation a different reason why he loved them. "As a small church, we couldn't possibly do everything, but what we did, we did very well."

Gradually, the church began to grow. Newer members were not kept on probation, but were welcomed into the church's leadership and ministry. Many new members came from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

"Most of our growth has come through conversions and rededications leading to baptism," Wick said. "We are still a small church, but we are working effectively."

Ministries of the church have included opening their building to street kids, hosting Campus Life rallies, and working with men discharged from the local V.A.'s drug detoxification program.

"This has happened first because of the emphasis on the ministry of the Word; second because of the congregation's genuine love and acceptance; and third because of the leadership's daring openness to different and sometimes risky ministry." Referring to the valley of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37, Wick declared: "Graveyards are where resurrections happen." □



### Reflections of the Moderator

The Rev. Gene Kern, Conference moderator, used the word "hope" as an acrostic to highlight several characteristics that need to prevail if we are to be the people of God.

Using the letter H, Kern said, "It is imperative for us to commit ourselves to *holy living*. He stressed living distinctively for God through a real commitment to the Lord Jesus and to the commands of his Word. "I believe not only are we to be separated from the things of the world, but also we are to be separated unto that to which God has called us."

Kern pointed out that we have countless *opportunities* as a Conference. "By faith we need to go through these open doors. There are opportunities for us to give sacrificially to share the message."

"What is your *purpose* as a church, as a person of God?" Kern asked. It is important that we glorify God in all of our ministries.

Kern referred to working together, "One of the uniquenesses of a Conference fellowship is to do some things better together than we could do individually. I'm thankful that we, as churches within the North American Baptist Conference, can hold each other accountable, yet there is that degree of independence." Kern feels that our purpose for existence is to take the message of salvation not only to the areas where we live but also to the ends of the earth.

E for *enthusiasm* conjures thoughts of excitement, which must come from within, because of God living in us. Jesus did not go about a task half-heartedly but with vigor and vitality. Kern closed by asking, "Will you be a people of holy living, going through the doors of opportunity with the distinctive purpose of glorifying God, taking that message in an enthusiastic manner?" □



### Our Unfinished Task

"God has ignited a fire in my soul that I cannot and do not want to quench—a love for renewal and for missions," began the Rev. Herman Effa, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, as he addressed youth and adults Saturday evening.

"We are people of hope because of God's goodness to us. We are confronted with an emergency because there is a world in despair that has not heard of Jesus Christ," stated Effa.

To mobilize us to meet the needs of people in despair, Effa says, "I believe three things will be necessary: A renewed mandate, a reconfirmed message, and a revived motivation."

Effa believes that the priority that our Lord wants us to take to heart is the mandate given by Jesus at his departure: The Great Commission. Effa expressed his concern that all of us take personal ownership of this mandate and do all we can to see the task completed.

The reason we are a people of hope is because we have a life-changing Gospel. We must reconfirm the Gospel message.

Having reconfirmed the message, we need a revitalized motivation. The Apostle Paul says: "I am under obligation." Effa pointed out that we realize our obligation as we recognize our spiritual blessings and advantages and our physical and material advantages, especially in contrast to the rest of the world. We have responded by giving for the needs of others, says Effa, "but we still spend hundreds of dollars on trivia. We could double our missions and church extension work, and it would only take a little shifting of priorities."

God is looking to us to use what he has given us to meet the needs of a world in despair. It's time we dedicate ourselves to finishing the task. □



### Baptists Working Together

Using Nehemiah 4:1-9 as his text, Dr. Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, compared the work of Baptist denominations throughout the world to the reconstruction of Jerusalem. Claas posed three questions: What is the project? Who are the people? What is the task?

He said that the project is building the walls of the Kingdom of God. He pointed out that Baptists in North America have all the resources, the know-how and the personnel, but the great revivals of our time are not taking place here, but in Asia and East Africa. He gave examples of the strong church growth in Korea. One reason, he says, is that the people are a people of prayer. In China, it is estimated that 17 million Protestant Christians meet in 1,300 open churches and another 17 million Protestant Christians meet in house churches. Africa enjoys the greatest growth in church membership—more than six percent.

Claas pointed out, "There are walls under construction in evangelism, church growth, Bible mission, church buildings, and worship services, by Baptists throughout the world."

Addressing the question: Who are the people? Claas stated that 34 million Baptists live and work in 143 different countries of the world. "We are very different. We do not share one creed, one Baptist dogma, or a certain confession of faith, but we share one blood, the blood that was shed on Calvary."

Using illustrations from Baptist groups in various parts of the world, Claas pointed out that our task today is 1) to believe, keep the faith, be a people of hope; 2) to witness, and 3) to act. "The work is not done; the walls are not yet completed," says Claas, "but people are eager to work." He thanked the members of the N.A.B. Conference for being true friends and supporters. □



### Mickey Mouse . . . Living Despair . . . Biblical Hope

"Thirty-five years ago, my mom and I emigrated from Germany to Los Angeles, CA. We were in despair," said the Rev. Fred Jantz, "my dad had been killed in the war." Jantz, who is now senior pastor of Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, said that he accepted Christ as Savior at a summer camp as he heard Missionary Paul Gebauer speak.

Jantz pointed out that hope is a word of expectation; it carries one on; and it is essential to all of us. People, even pastors, have needs; they need hope. Some think if I listen to this tape or read this book or go to this counselor, things will get better; hope rises, but nothing gets better.

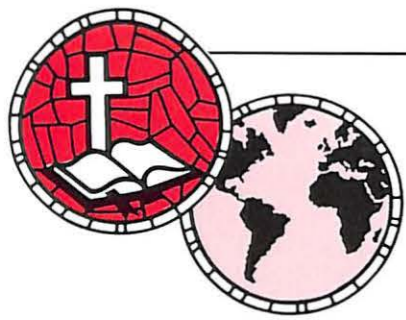
Jantz used illustrations of elements of hope found in fairy tales, in love songs, and in literature. He referred to an athlete who always lives in hope that he is going to win. When an athlete loses hope, he has to quit. "We must have hope or else we give up and cease to function," said Jantz. "Without hope, we succumb to the trivial things of life."

Jantz referred to the three pillars of the faith: love (1 Corinthians), faith (Hebrews 11), and hope (Romans 8). Hope is woven throughout Scripture, and it is the essential ingredient that needs to be experienced again and again.

Jantz pointed out that the despair of Good Friday caused the disciples to lose hope and go fishing. It was all over, they thought. But Sunday came and the resurrection of Jesus Christ brought about a resurgence of hope.

Jantz reminded us that Christ has risen; he has removed the despair for us. He brings hope to all men. We can look forward with hope because Jesus is coming again. He challenged the audience to be zealous of good deeds and to have a hope not quenched by circumstances. □

Les Cook Photos



## speakers



### How My Church Is Caring

"We don't believe that you either win them or feed them," stated Dr. E.V. Hill, senior pastor, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA. "We believe you do both!"

Hill used the analogy of a baseball game to make his point. Relating baseball to the work of Jesus Christ, "... first base in the church is to win the lost at any cost," proclaimed Hill. "The church that is not seeking the lost is lost! This world will not all be fed, clothed or housed before Jesus Christ returns, but all can hear the word about Jesus Christ."

The first care of Mt. Zion Baptist is to win the lost. The church has 57 committees to accomplish this task, committees such as Radical Thinkers, Tract Attackers, Jehovah Witness, Deaf, Drug, Prostitute, Pimp, Too Busy, and Intellectual. Only those people who have had experience or a special concern in the area concerned serve on a specified committee.

Hill challenged: "Your church will win others only as you organize the gifts and experiences of your membership to reach men and women for Christ." He pointed out that white evangelicals are seeking middle and upper level, well-dressed suburbanites. "This leaves 60 million Americans to the cults of our time. We need to organize to save the lost at any cost."

"Once you get people on first, you must get them to second base: to join the church and to be disciplined. Most white evangelicals go to the dugout and wait for the rapture," Hill said. Hill says that he has 43 committees to organize people on second. We must not quit the game, Hill pointed out, but we must join in the

fellowship of the church. "You must become living demonstrations of the love of God to an unbelieving society."

After you have been disciplined and have the assurance of salvation, you're prepared to go into the vineyard at third base and work.

"God did not save us to sit down. He saved us to work," Hill emphasized, "to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bring those outside inside." Mt. Zion has 87 committees on third to work: examples are a lending institution, insurance, low rent apartments, clothing for the needy, a soup kitchen, repair and rehabilitation. "We must also challenge wrong wherever we find wrong."

Hill pointed out that people who are saved and sit down are OUT. "We can't score on third," he said. "We have to go on home, 'cause you only score when you cross the plate, and are safe at home in Heaven." □



### Hope: A Vision for North America

"Hope is one of mankind's primary psychological and spiritual needs," stated Dr. John Binder, executive director. Citing numerous examples of the current sense of despair, he declared: "People need people, especially people who can share a message of hope!"

First, we need to be people of true hope, Binder said. Biblical hope springs from faith in God. "Because of what God has done in the past, the Christian dares to base his confident expectation for the future on the trustworthiness of God," he said.

Binder maintained that we can experience hope through ministry. Our calling in Christ liberates us from futility and despair. The Apostle Paul's burning compassion for the lost kept him going in spite of discouragements and setbacks. It will do the same for you and me.

Secondly, we need to be a people of vision. We are living in a time when it will

really cost to follow Jesus Christ. We should capture Jesus' vision of the "fields that are ripe for harvest." If there is no vision, ministry dies, and people perish. "Let us dream, let us plan," he urged.

Binder recounted the vision of Christian leaders in Korea and of revival and growth in Africa and Asia. "There is a subtle paganism in our land. There is nothing more important for us as churches and as a Conference than to grow," he declared. "That requires a renewal of our commitment to reach the lost."

The principle of strategy is a part of having a vision, Binder stated, referring to Jesus' sending out the 72 disciples. He believes that the church growth strategy and materials developed by the Conference are excellent.

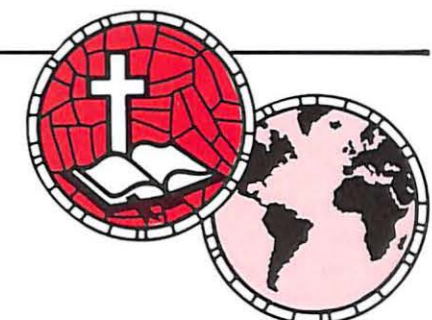
Lastly, Binder said, we need to commit ourselves to implement this vision cooperatively. "We are a part of God's team, and the local church is the most important center for evangelization." It is important that churches join together voluntarily to do together what they cannot do separately.

Binder noted that in its beginning, the Conference reached out to German-speaking immigrants. Today we have opportunities to reach other ethnic groups. "God has moved a sizeable portion of our world into our own cities," he pointed out.

Challenging the listeners, Binder said: "God does not need us as a North American Baptist Conference, but I believe he has chosen us and given us some areas of responsibility and opportunity. If we do our best and are found faithful, we will have the joy and blessing of sharing in God's work in our world. Let us commit ourselves to excellence, to doing our very best. Let us stop complaining that we don't have enough people, money, or tools. There is no shortage of anything we need—except vision, prayer and will."

How committed are we? □

## meal events



### Ministers' Wives Fellowship Breakfast

Mrs. Ardath Effa, Edmonton, AB, presided at the breakfast and program for the 215 ministers' wives in attendance. Mrs. Arlis Van Gerpen, (pictured left) Randolph, MN, and Mrs. Rita Donaldson, (at right) Avon, SD, wrote and presented a humorous skit entitled, "The New Minister's Wife." The Parschauer Sisters presented an inspirational musical package.



### Ministers' Fellowship Luncheon

Dr. Roy DeBrand, N.A.B. Seminary professor, spoke to 309 ministers at a luncheon Friday noon. DeBrand pointed out that sometimes we do not reach our dreams, but we must continue to try, trust, and totally surrender. He emphasized that "faithful, obedient dedication results in accomplishing the improbable."

The ministers voted to give \$1,500 to Baptist World Aid for Hunger and \$1,500 for the N.A.B. Conference basic budget. They had given \$5,000 for a project at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary this past triennium. The Rev. Ron Berg, Edmonton, as president, led the business session.

### Missions Breakfast

Two missionaries, one who just completed his first term in Nigeria, and one who is preparing to go to the Philippines, spoke to the 228 present and former missionaries and supporters at a Saturday morning breakfast. Allan Effa told of an experience as he took a trip to a remote area on motorcycle to meet some Theological Education by Extension students. Upon his arrival, he found no students at the church. His return trip home in pouring rain and in the dark found him at one point pulling his submerged motorcycle from a swollen stream. He struggled up a muddy, slippery hill, pushing this nonworking cycle only to land deep in a hole at the bottom of the hill. When he arrived home, he found driver ants in his bed. This experience nearly led to his resignation as a missionary. When he envisioned the faces of the people back home praying for him, he received courage to continue in the task God had called him to in Nigeria.

Newly appointed missionary, Leland Bertsch, told how God led him and his wife Jennell to answer the call to serve in the Philippines, although during their youth and college and seminary training they had not considered missions. He told of the influence of parents, and of the values and respect for all peoples which they had taught them. He referred to the influence of his former professor, Lewis Johnson, and commended the

church he has been pastoring, Temple Baptist, Swan River, MB, for allowing them a leave of absence several years ago to serve in the Philippines as short-term missionaries.

Lucille Wipf, missionary to Japan, received a Certificate of Appreciation for 25 years of service in Japan, and Fred and Nancy Folkerts for 27 years of service as missionaries overseas and at the International Office.

### Men's Luncheon

Through his personal testimony, Darrel Schuh, a contractor from First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, challenged the 475 men attending the Men's Fellowship Luncheon Friday noon to recall a commitment they had made to God and never kept. Schuh said, "We never test the resources of God until we attempt the impossible." Schuh related how as a young boy he had made a commitment to missions and how he, as a layman, and his family have kept that commitment. Commenting on God's provision and guidance as he and his family have served in Cameroon as part of the Conference's layman-in-action program, Schuh said, "God will give us ability if we give him our availability." Schuh has directed the construction of three dispensaries in Cameroon.

### Pension Fund Breakfast

Retired ministers and missionaries and spouses as well as those in the ministry 30 years or more were treated to a breakfast sponsored by the Pension Fund Committee on Sunday morning. These 89 people enjoyed fellowship and heard a brief report by William Kresal, Pension Fund administrator, and words of appreciation by Dr. John Binder, executive director.



Attending the Pension Fund Breakfast were Mrs. (Beatrice) Woyke, widow of former executive director Dr. Frank H. Woyke, Dr. Herbert Hiller and Mrs. Dan Fuchs.

### North American Baptist Seminary Breakfast

Speaking to 270 alumni and friends of the North American Baptist Seminary at a breakfast Friday morning Dr. Michael Hagan, professor at the school, strongly emphasized that ministers need to take safeguards so that they will not fall into sexual sin. He pointed out that sometimes ministers need to literally flee situations where a woman may attempt to entice a minister. There are times when one must say, "My secretary or my wife must be present during the counseling session." Hagan emphasized that a minister must reserve himself for only one—his wife. If ministers find their love for their wives waning, they need to do everything possible to restore the relationship—bring flowers and candy. Ministries are hurt and lives are destroyed through a minister's unfaithfulness to his wife.



Ben Engbrecht, administrative vice president, expressed appreciation for the support of N.A.B. Conference churches and individuals and the Sioux Falls business community in helping to make the new library addition possible.

Dr. Charles Hiatt and the Rev. Charles Littmann received certificates of recognition.



Les Cook Photos

### North American Baptist College and Divinity School Breakfast

At the Thursday morning breakfast, 252 alumni and friends heard President Walter Goltz say that the past year had been excellent at North American Baptist College and Divinity School, (Edmonton, AB). He thinks the excellent spirit among the students was due to the theme the students had chosen for the year, "I am a servant." They exhibited the Christian ethic in their life-style in contrast to that of the world: self-fulfillment. Goltz mentioned the financial needs of the school and encouraged alumni to support the schools out of gratitude for what God has done for them through the schools. Goltz closed by saying that the schools are helping young people lay hold of that for which Christ took hold of them (Philippians 3:12).



Roy Siebel photo

The Rev. Ed Fuellbrandt, pastor, (pictured at right) Edmonton, AB, and newly elected alumni president, challenged the group to pray for the professors, staff and students. "Sometimes it is difficult for students to handle their new-found freedom." Fuellbrandt stated that the schools have no pictures of starving children with distended bellies, "but I believe that as God's children we have a responsibility to give for the support of these schools. My dream is an endowment fund for professors' salaries."

The Rev. Fritz Goliath, St. Catharines, ON, invited the group to join the "Student Partner Fund" for "we need schools which truly support the N.A.B. Conference."

"His Project," a musical group from the schools presented the special music.



The business of the Conference was conducted under the Table leadership of Moderator Gene Kern, pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA. After announcement of committee appointments, the next business item dealt with Constitutional Changes.

"We've tried to make the constitution gender-free and to read more clearly," stated Mr. Stan Johnson, chairman of the Constitutional Change Committee.

Speaking to the motion that the Constitution be changed to read that the Missions Director be nominated by the Board of Missions and appointed by the General Council rather than elected by the delegates at the Triennial Conference, several delegates pointed out that they would prefer the right of the delegates to elect the Missions Director.

Dr. Richard Schilke, former missions secretary, felt that since the Board of Missions has a corporation, the General Missionary Society, with a constitution, that the Missions Director should continue to be elected rather than be appointed. He also felt that if the Missions Director were appointed, he should be appointed by the Board of Missions and not the General Council.

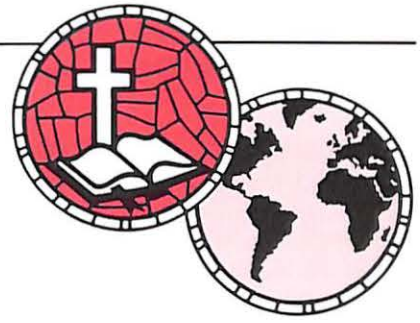
The Rev. Ralph Cooke, chairman of the Board of Missions, speaking in favor of the constitutional change, pointed out that the length of tenure of Conference department directors is not as long as it was in the past. The demands on the office staff are great especially with the pressure of the economic situation of the world today. Cooke went on to say that when the Board of Missions is faced with a vacancy it has difficulty replacing the person according to the constitution. If the individual is appointed between Triennial Conference sessions, that person is faced with election within one or two years after having relocated to Oakbrook Terrace. Cooke pointed out that the Board of Missions search committee's detailed efforts to find a Missions Director could be wiped out by a nomination from the floor of the Triennial Conference with a name that has not gone through a detailed study.

It was pointed out that according to the proposed constitutional change those who would recommend and appoint the Missions Director are elected by the Triennial Conference delegates (the Board of Missions) and by the Associations (moderators and General Council representatives); this gives good representation from all of the Conference.

One delegate spoke against the appointment of the Missions Director, saying that the "last island of grassroots support is the election of the Missions Director."

Another spoke against the motion saying that it reduces the amount of business to be conducted by the Triennial Conference delegates, and it does not give the delegates the ability to affirm the person through election.

Speaking to the issue of the General Missionary Society and its constitution, Dr. Binder pointed out that the General Missionary Society should not be an issue in this discussion about election. The G.M.S. was established in 1902, and functioned as the Conference until 1948 when North American Baptists, Inc. (U.S.A.) and North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada) were established. At that time, all assets of the G.M.S. were to be transferred from the G.M.S. to one of these corporations. Dr. Binder went



on to say that the G.M.S. is not an active corporation today because it holds no assets, receives no funds, and expends no funds. N.A.B. Inc. (U.S.A.) and N.A.B. Inc. (Canada) act in behalf of missions.

Since the recommendation needed a two-thirds majority vote, and since it was not achieved, the motion failed. This also was the case with the motion that the Church Growth Director be nominated by the Church Growth Board and appointed by the General Council rather than elected by the Triennial Conference delegates.

The recommendation to change the name of the Church Extension/Church Growth Department to Church Growth Department was approved. The Board chairman, Mr. Blaine Fluth, stated that the department needed a shorter name yet the name needed to be descriptive of the various functions of the Department. "We need growth in all areas of the Conference, so the name covers all functions of the Department."

More lay persons were given the opportunity to participate in decision-making at the Triennial Conference when delegates approved a Constitutional Change that virtually doubled lay representation at the Conference. The recommendation increased the lay delegates from one for every 100 members in the local church or fraction thereof above the first one hundred to one representative for every 50 members. The Constitution was also clarified to read "to send as delegates its senior minister or alternate . . ." In the past, the constitution provided only for the *ordained* minister to be a delegate. The constitution had not previously made provision for persons serving as senior pastors who were not yet ordained to serve as delegates. Ordained church staff members may also be delegates.

One delegate expressed his opposition to the addition to Article VIII—*The Executive Committee*—the responsibility of "annually evaluating the performance of the Executive Director and with the Executive Director the performance of the department directors." He felt that the Executive Committee should not be permitted to evaluate the performance of the Missions Director and the Director of Church Growth because these are elected positions.

Dr. Binder replied that the Executive Director, which is an elected position, is also being evaluated by the Executive Committee. This does not take away any responsibility from the respective boards. There is, however, a definite need for evaluation.

Mr. Richard Russell, chairman of the Finance Committee during the past triennium, supported this position stating that for salary purposes it was important to have evaluation of personnel.

The delegates then adopted the revised Constitution with the exception of the two items that failed.

A motion to replace the Pension Fund Committee with two Pension Program Advisors, one from Canada and one from the U.S.A., was approved. The two advisors would be specialists in the field to track laws, regulations, and tax shelters in Canada and the U.S.A. The high cost of committee travel expenses and the decrease of items in the agenda were reasons for the suggested change to two specialists in the field. In past years, the Conference had administered the Pension Fund completely; now the funds are primarily administered by the insurance carriers.

Greetings from the Rev. Billy Graham were read to the delegates. Graham expressed appreciation for the way N.A.B. Conference churches have supported his crusades. The delegates approved a response to the greeting indicating that they committed themselves to pray for the Anaheim Crusade which began during the Triennial Conference. The delegates also responded in prayer for the Crusade.

Delegates approved the recommended "Biblical Imperatives and Primary Goals of the North American Baptist Conference and Churches for 1986-1991." (They were printed in the July/August issue of the *Baptist Herald* and are also available as reprints from the Conference Office.) Each Biblical Imperative is followed by Conference goals. Dr. Binder stated that it is hoped that the people in our churches will try to develop plans and strategies to implement these goals on the local church and the association levels. He went on to say that specific strategies and plans are being formulated on the Conference level.

Following the adoption of the "Biblical Imperatives and Goals," the more than 1,000 delegates formed small groups of five to six people on the floor of the Convention Center to discuss ways the local churches and associations could formulate objectives to implement these goals. Summaries of the discussions were given to the Executive Director.

Dr. Peter Fehr, chairman of the Capital Funds Campaign, reported that \$3,060,508 had been pledged for Capital Funds through June 30. \$1,266,206 of the funds have been received as of June 30. \$745,261 has been distributed. Four associations have met their goals. Dr. Fehr thanked all who had contributed to the Capital Funds Campaign. The Conference Goal of the Campaign was reached when Sally Prast, chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Residence for Women in New York, announced the pledge of \$500,000 designated for Conference projects upon the sale of its property.

Delegates approved recommendations based on needs found by the Urban/Ethnic Study Task Force as a result of its two-year study. The four needs as stated in the recommendation are to provide education, encouragement, and fellowship, to provide resources for urban churches, to provide Conference models, and to provide Conference personnel. The recommendations to meet these needs included increasing educational opportunities through our Conference schools, promoting "urban/ethnic conferences" provided by other groups, providing seminars, and publishing articles as well as a newsletter; developing task forces on the Associational level, providing training for area ministers to assist churches in transition, recruiting promising urban pastors, developing pilot projects among existing N.A.B. churches and planting urban/ethnic churches. This recommendation also

provided for the appointment of a task force to implement these recommendations. (The complete recommendation is available from the Church Growth Department.)

Various delegates expressed their wholehearted support of the proposal. A delegate reported that his church is already benefitting from this assistance as they are ministering to the Vietnamese in their area.

Moderator Gene Kern expressed appreciation to Fred Folkerts, interim associate missions director, for his gracious spirit and his effective ministry as missions director. Folkerts received a standing ovation.



Church Growth Board Chairman Blaine Fluth introduced the "New Churches Fund Proposal." After positive comments from some delegates indicating the need to establish more new churches, the delegates approved raising \$1,500,000 during 1986-1991 to plant (12) new churches over and above the number provided for in the basic budget in areas where potential for growth is highly significant in North America.

Mr. Fluth stated that we, as a Conference, have supported a great overseas mission work. Church extension has largely made this possible, because without church extension, our Conference would have declined. "If we think missions, we also need to think church extension and church growth."

Delegates accepted the invitation of the Wisconsin/Illinois Associations to host the 43rd Triennial Conference in 1991 in Wisconsin. The 42nd Triennial Conference has been scheduled for Calgary, AB in 1988.

Newly elected moderator Mr. Ernest Radke of Calgary, AB, is the first Canadian layman to be elected to this position. Radke stated that he is thankful for the opportunity to serve as the moderator and in the past as vice moderator. He referred to Winston Churchill's remark: "Give us the tools



and we will finish the job." To achieve the goals and objectives we have adopted, "we need each and every one to supply tools to do all that is needed to be done," said Radke. "The greatest tool we have is prayer. We know the goals can be achieved." Radke referred to the Bible verse "That I will be an instrument (vessel) to build His (God's) Kingdom."

Radke invited all to Calgary in 1988 for the 42nd Triennial Conference.

### Elections

892 of the 1,047 registered delegates cast ballots during the Friday morning business session.



Conference Officers for 1985-88: Dr. John Binder elected as executive director; (left to right): Mr. Ernie Radke, Calgary, AB, as moderator; Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Minneapolis, MN, as vice-moderator, and Mr. Milton Hildebrandt, St. Paul, MN, as treasurer.



Church Growth Board: Mr. Blaine Fluth, Brooklyn Center, MN; (left to right), Rev. Fred Jantz, Stockton, CA; Rev. Ron Norman; Miss Carol Potratz, Bismarck, ND; Rev. Irwin Kujat, St. Albert, AB; and Rev. Dennis Dewey, Steamboat Rock, IA; (not pictured: Mr. Bill Kauffeld, Armprior, ON; Dr. Lee Negri, Fair Oaks, CA).



Board of Missions: Mr. Ron Salzman, (left to right) Rev. Harold Lang, St. Paul, MN; Dr. Ronald Hiller, Vancouver, BC; Dr. Jerry Fluth, Minneapolis, MN; Rev. Herman Effa, Edmonton, AB; (not pictured: Rev. Wayne Bibelheimer, Stockton, CA; Mr. Jim Biggerstaff, Aberdeen, SD; Mrs. Maria Rogalski, Winnipeg, MB).

N.A.B. Seminary Board (six year term): Chaplain David Samf, Germany; Rev. Manuel Wolff, Bismarck, ND; Rev. Phil Yntema, Vancouver, WA; Dr. Marvin Faust, Grosse Pointe, MI; Mr. Rod Fluth, Sioux Falls, SD; Mr. Warren Weeldreyer, Emery, SD; Rev. Harvey Wilkie, Edmonton, AB; and Dr. Janelle Christianson, Chancellor, SD.



Elected two department directors: Mr. Ron Salzman (left) of Carol Stream, IL, as Missions Director, the first layman to serve in this position, and Rev. Ron Norman as Church Growth Director for a second term.

N.A.B. College and Divinity School (six year term): Rev. Jake Leverette, Burlington, ON; Mr. Art Petrie, Leduc, AB; Rev. Ron Berg, Edmonton, AB; Mr. Len Semrau, Edmonton, AB; Mr. Al Peter, Edmonton, AB; Dr. Herb Pankratz, Chicago, IL; Rev. Siegfried Hoppe, Winnipeg, MB; and Mrs. Ruth Friesen, Medicine Hat, AB.

Elected by the Women's Missionary Fellowship as officers were Mrs. Sara Pasiciel, Steinbach, MB, president; Mrs. Manetta Hohn, Kelowna, BC, vice president; and Mrs. Peg Helland, Stockton, CA, secretary-treasurer.

Elected by the Ministers' Fellowship as officers: Rev. Tim Schroeder, Kelowna, BC, president; Rev. David Ewing, Bismarck, ND, vice president; and Rev. Allan Gerber, Ashley, ND, secretary-treasurer; Rev. Oliver Bender, Madison, SD, and Rev. Gregg Donaldson, Avon, SD, members-at-large.

Gene Enfield, Riviera Baptist Church, Salem OR, urged support of the New Churches Fund Proposal. "I figure it would cost each member of the N.A.B. Conference (an additional) \$5.00 a year."

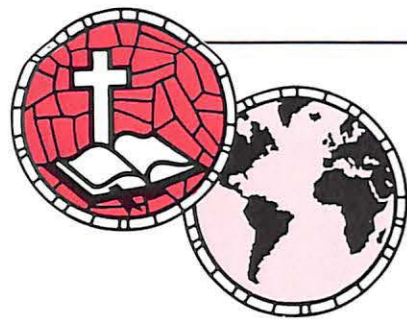


### Ordination Forum

Friday afternoon the Ordination Task Force met with delegates in a well-attended open forum to hear reactions and questions concerning the "Ordination Guidelines and Study Documents." There was much discussion on Part I: "Guidelines for Ordination and Recognition," especially in relation to some situations which an Association Ordination Credentials Committee might face. The hour was extended to give opportunity for discussion on Part Two: "Ordination of Women." The majority of speakers applauded the Task Force's Study Paper, but voiced their opinions against the ordination of women.

When one woman, a Master of Divinity graduate, was asked following the forum why she did not speak, she said: "No woman who was for ordination of women dared speak; the climate was not right; this was not the time."

The time was up before a discussion of Part III: "Ordination of Divorced Persons" could be had.



**Childrens' Program**

Children from grades one through six—241 of them—were involved in a program in the Convention Center during the morning and took field trips in the afternoons. The parents and children really appreciated the planning and work of the Children's Program Committee.



Dr. June Lowry, children's program chairwoman.



**Parents' Comments:**

"Our children are looking forward to going to the next Conference in Calgary, AB, in 1988."  
 "We're very glad there was a children's program."  
 "The lunch hour was hectic, but we

appreciated the concern for the safety of our children; children were not released until parents came to pick them up."  
 "We wish there was a program for the children in the evening."

**Children's Comments:**

"Missionaries came to our group to talk to us. Once with the missionaries, we pretended to be on a train in Africa; we all crowded on to the stage. It took time to settle us down after that."  
 "I really liked the P.O.W.E.R. Company puppet show."  
 "We sang."  
 "I thought miniature golfing was fun, but the water slide was too scary."  
 "I liked the trip to the zoo on Friday afternoon."  
 "I liked the boat trip the best in Newport Harbor on Saturday afternoon. We saw seals basking on the rocks, tanning themselves. There was a nice breeze and a pretty good view from the window."  
 "The room was really crowded with children, even more than we have at school."



**Youth Challenged to Move Beyond the Magic Kingdom**

Daily sessions with David Moore, youth minister from Southern California, focused on the theme, "Beyond the Magic Kingdom." From the book of Lamentations, Moore described to the youth the loss and sadness of a nation who played too long in their sin until their magic kingdom was brought to ruin. From Jeremiah came God's charge: "My people, you love it so (sin). What will you do at the end of it?"

Moore stated that there are certain times when it is easy to do what is right and to make the right decisions, just as it was easy for the people of Jerusalem who were under seige to follow God's commands and free their slaves (Jeremiah 34). Typically, these kinds of commitments do not last, Moore pointed out. For example, as soon as the Babylonian seige armies withdrew, the Jews went back on their covenant with the Lord and reclaimed their slaves. The Lord declared that these people were profaning his name.

Explaining that profaning the name of the Lord means to pollute, defile, wound, or desecrate the character of God, Moore urged the youth to determine not to do what the people of Jerusalem did. "We must persevere—grab hold of and hang on for dear life—to our commitments to the Lord."

"When we make covenants and commitments before God, then refuse to abide by them, and chase the 'magic kingdom' like the people of Jerusalem, we profane God's name."

Moore asked the youth: "What is your price? Satan has a lure just for you. The only way is to say, 'I'm not for sale. I will not chase this magic kingdom. I will be different!'"

At another session, Moore pointed out that the Lord hurled Jeremiah out of his little town into the city of

Jerusalem to speak out. "God tells you to get out of your shell and witness to kids in your school."

So often Christian youth groups are the worst offenders in shunning someone new or different who comes into the group says Moore. Beyond the magic kingdom standards are to reach out and love hurting people in your school.

Jeremiah said, "I'm too young, and I don't know what to say." Moore pointed out, "God won't allow you to



say, 'I'm too young.' The time is now, so that your Sunday evening services won't look like church anymore but like youth rallies." Moore pointed out that "In the hour that you need, the Spirit will give you the words to say."

Moore challenged the youth by saying: "Your message of hope is more important than the heads of state. Your love and ministry to those around you is more important than what is being done at the United Nations. God has been preparing you for this time, where you live, to minister to the people with whom you come in contact."

Moore said that he hoped the youth would have this goal: "I want to be famous—not in the Christian world—but to be famous in hell like Jesus Christ is famous in hell. The namby-pamby Christian will never be famous in hell. What would the devil say about your life? Are the demons concerned when you get down to pray? Have you fought the lie of the magic kingdom?"

On Friday morning following Moore's message about 400 youth

stayed behind to receive help in straightening out their relationship to Christ. Some of the decisions made were recorded on cards:

"I decided that I need to give my all, 100 percent, to Christ; I need him in every part of my life."

"I want to stop slipping back into the Magic Kingdom."

"I realize that I need an attitude change with my parents."

"I want God to forgive me."

"I've asked Jesus to get my life straight."

"I have been selling my life to popularity, acceptance and material possessions. I want to change that."

"I don't want to rebel in the process of finding myself."

"I want to break out of my cold heart."

"I accepted Christ into my life."

"I want God to do what ever he wants with my life."

The youth gave \$3,073.10 toward their \$15,000 project to start a new church in Texas.

**Comments from Youth:**

"David Moore did some great speaking and had some tremendous challenges for us as young people. It was a great experience."

"Great! Good concerts and singing." —Cindy

"Great! I learned more about the Lord's love." —Randy

"Pretty good. It's fun, but we need fewer counsellors." —Lance

"The program was excellent, especially the speaker and the music. The kids had a lot of energy."

—Some guides

"It's great to have been at the Conference—to meet old friends and to learn to know new ones for we share the bond of Christ with each other. This week, through God's Word and many people, I have been encouraged to keep my mind on God. We need to be encouragers to each other. We have a responsibility to reach out to these with love and concern to people who are in despair." —Brad Binder, Martin, ND





"Youth culture today promises a 'Magic Kingdom' to those who are captured through conformity. But there's nothing magic about that kingdom, in fact it's an illusion. Christians were meant to soar well beyond the delusion of a magic kingdom and to strive for the ultimate reality which RESTS squarely in the person of Jesus Christ."



Clockwise: Part of the 1,225 high school and college age youth and 144 counselors and guides as they met in the Ballroom of the Anaheim Hilton and Towers for the youth program.  
 2. Joey Link, youth director from Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, was the capable youth program chairman.  
 3. Youth and adults prayed as speaker, Herman Effa, gave the challenge to be missionaries on Saturday evening.  
 4. Dennis Agajianian shared his guitar-pickin' talent each day and his straight forward message: God calls us to be fishers of men not keepers of the aquarium.  
 5. The youth filled the floor of the Convention Center as they formed a mass choir Saturday evening and sang their theme song, "Kingdom of Love."

JR. HIGH ALIVE IN

Being a Christian in unChristian places



"He really relates to us," remarked one of the young teens, in referring to Ron Hafer, a nationally-known youth speaker from Biola College.

your lives that in your own strength you cannot turn over to God, but with his strength, you can?"

Approximately 30 young teens made a decision to recommit their lives to Christ.



"Ron Hafer is really a great speaker. He makes it interesting and that makes you listen," said a young teen from Canada.

"If Jesus were here today," Hafer asked the 239 young teens, "where would he be, and what characteristics would draw people to him?"

Speaking from Luke 6, Hafer declared that Jesus always went to the area of greatest need. He emphasized that just as Jesus knew what those around him in the synagogue were thinking, he knows what each of us is thinking today—and he loves us anyway. "Just as Jesus asked the man with the withered arm to stretch it forth, Jesus always asked people to stretch themselves," Hafer said. He asked the young teens: "What are the difficult areas in

David Carl, through a monologue, dramatized Christ's steps to the cross. David played a poor potter watching Christ. He also used his talent to play the guitar to accompany the teens in their singing.



Rainer Kunz, associate pastor, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, with his committee planned the program that kept the young teens interested. "Everything in the program was excellent," remarked a young teen.



Les Cook Photo

The teens met in small groups to discuss Ron Hafer's talks. Youth sponsors from throughout North America served as leaders.



In addition to playing tag, the young teens spent a thrilling, fun-filled afternoon at Raging Waters in San Dimas and another afternoon at beautiful Huntington Beach. "The waves were awesome," remarked a teen. They spent the afternoon swimming and lying on the beach to "catch some rays."



The puppet team, P.O.W.E.R. Company, from Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, was great, as they presented a play about temptation and doing the right things in life to the young teens. On Wednesday evening, the team presented "Jesus Loves the Children of the World" during the Conference's evening service.

Brian Binder Photos

Nursery Program

The Nursery Committee cared for 83 infants and children through age 5. "Our 'music' and program was a blessing to all our workers" reports one committee member. Mrs. Margarite Love (pictured far right, at left), was chairperson for this program.



singles

Singles' Program

Luci Swindoll urged the singles to live their lives to the fullest now in her speech, "Don't Wait to Celebrate." She drew from her experiences as a single. She also emphasized the value of personal relationships in her other talks to the more than 100 singles registered for the program. Mini-sessions and other social get-togethers offered opportunities for sharing ideas and for fellowship.



## Thank You!

Many people worked long hours for several years to make this 41st Triennial Conference a success. A big thanks goes to all those who worked in the background to make this Conference a time of spiritual renewal as well as a meaningful time of fellowship. We cannot say thank you enough. Readers may want to express their appreciation in writing.

### Local Arrangements Committee

Paul Jungkeit, chairman  
 Carl Gebert, vice chairman  
 Arleigh Wangler, Gary Pierce,  
 assistants to the vice chairman  
 Karen Gebert, secretary  
 William Kresal, N.A.B.  
 Office coordinator



### Youth

Joey Link ★ ★  
 Reid Galbraith  
 Warren Hoffman ★  
 Brian Hochhalter  
 Loren Kopf  
 David Moore  
 Ray Harsch ★

### Registration

Ruth Balzer ★ ★  
 Joyce Kells ★  
 Evelyn Finstrom ★  
 Al Keller ★  
 Connie Salios ★  
 William Kresal ★

### Children's Activities

June Lowry ★ ★  
 Heidi Eidem  
 Mark Glenn  
 Sussan Jungkeit  
 Judy Kuchenski  
 Carol Melvin  
 Lynda Stiles

### Nursery

Margarite Love ★ ★  
 Bobbie Melkus  
 Dickie Salios  
 Siela Tisdale

### Program Committee

Ernest Radke ★ ★  
 Connie Salios ★  
 Ralph Cooke  
 Carl Gebert  
 Walter Goltz  
 Ray Harsch ★  
 Charles Hiatt  
 Fred Jantz  
 Paul Jungkeit

### Property and Equipment

Marvin Pettey ★ ★  
 Ross Howden  
 Monty Macias  
 Dick Markley  
 Paul Payne  
 Glenn Timm

### First Aid

Janet Cozad ★ ★

### Transportation

Albert Jeschke ★ ★  
 Linford Castor  
 Leonard Eggert  
 Agee Hall  
 John Luenberger  
 Olin Martin

### Music

Mike Kutzle ★ ★

★ ★ chairperson of committee

### Ushers

Ron Hartman ★ ★  
 Steve Cone  
 Art Dagen  
 Siegfried Hoffman  
 Virgil Isbell  
 Gary Sawyer  
 Myron Schrandt  
 Bill Schumann  
 Glenn Timm  
 Warren Winslow

### Budget and Finance

Leonard Justus ★ ★  
 Carolyn Helms  
 Gaylon Leuenberger  
 John Leuenberger  
 Gary Jungkeit  
 Joe Love  
 Jeannine Payne  
 Gus Stark

### Publicity Committee

Barbara Binder ★ ★  
 Dorothy Ganoung ★  
 Art Helwig ★  
 Connie Salios ★  
 Eugene Kern  
 John Binder ★  
 LeRoy Schauer  
 William Kresal ★

★ N.A.B. Office representative

### Young Teens

Rainer Kunz ★ ★  
 Todd Capin  
 Ed Cunningham  
 Gregory Grigsby  
 Douglas Tweedy

### Decoration

Selma Jungkeit ★ ★  
 Carol Justus  
 Beverly Stark

## We Believe in the Holy Spirit

Statement of Beliefs Study Guide—Session 4

by Stanley Grenz

One of the most misunderstood aspects of the Christian faith today is the person and work of the Holy Spirit. To some Christians, the Holy Spirit is a great mystery, while to others, he is an object of great curiosity. Some Christians have little interest in being controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, while others are unduly preoccupied with experiencing his power.

Neither extreme, however, is advocated by the Scriptures. The Bible admonishes the believer to understand the significant role the Spirit fulfills in God's program. At the same time, the filling of the Spirit is marked by Christlikeness in character (Galatians 5:22-23) and joyful praise to Christ (Ephesians 5:18-23), not preoccupation with the Spirit himself.

### The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Hebrew word translated "spirit" originally meant simply "breath" and "wind." Because of the relationship between breath and the presence of life, the term came to refer as well to the life-principle in creatures. Finally, this word was used of the divine power that creates and sustains life. In this way, an understanding of God's Spirit arose in the Old Testament. This Spirit is the Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10-11) because of the moral holiness that characterizes the divine power.

The Hebrews were aware of many of the important activities of God's Spirit (e.g., creation—Genesis 1:2; 2:7; 6:3; sustaining of life—Psalm 104:29-30; prophetic utterances—1 Samuel 10:9-11). Yet their experience of the Spirit was only partial, for it awaited the coming of the Spirit-filled Messiah and the outpouring of the Spirit on all God's people (Joel 2:28-29; Jeremiah 31:31ff; Ezekiel 36:25ff).

The New Testament boldly declares this expectation has been fulfilled. Jesus is the uniquely-anointed one, and through his exaltation the

Spirit has been given. Jesus' promise of "another comforter" has been fulfilled at Pentecost, for the church has received the fullness of the Spirit.

*The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:21). Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior and bears witness to their new birth (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16). At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10). He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies and produces the fruit of Christlikeness in all who yield to Him (Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16, 22-23).*

With the writing of the New Testament, a fuller knowledge of the Holy Spirit has been mediated to God's people. From the Scriptures, the church has concluded that the Holy Spirit is the divine third member of the Trinity. He shares with the Father and the Son the fullness of deity. As the one who "proceeds" from the Father and the Son, he is the power of God completing the divine plan.

### The Work of the Spirit in Scripture

One major aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit centers on the Bible. Here the Spirit's task is twofold: inspiration and illumination. Inspiration refers to the activity of the Holy Spirit in "superintending" or "supervising" the writing of those documents which form the Bible.

Although the exact nature of this process remains a mystery, various means were utilized by the Spirit in prompting the authors of Scripture. For some, the means was a sense of divine command; for others, a sense of urgency or a personal desire or compulsion. In the same way, some parts of Scripture indicate divine dictation as their source (e.g., Exodus 19:3-6; Revelation 14:13); others suggest personal wisdom (Ecclesiastes, Proverbs), personal experience (1 John 1:1-4) or tradition (1 Corinthians 15:3). But all were motivated by the Holy Spirit ("plenary inspiration"). Therefore, the documents themselves are inspired. They are what God desired to have written, in order that his purposes may be served (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

Not only was the Spirit involved in inspiring Scripture, an activity which ceased with the completion of the Bible, he remains involved in the task of enlightening the minds of God's people to understand Scripture (see 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17; John 14:26; 1 John 5:7,11). This activity is known as illumination.

As dedicated believers, utilizing sound principles of Biblical interpretation, seek to obey the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit helps them see the significance of biblical truth. In this way, the Bible remains a living book and authoritative for the people of God. Note, however, it is not the Bible as interpreted by any mere person which is authoritative (cf. 2 Peter 1:21). Rather, as Bernard Ramm aptly said, "The proper principle of authority within the Christian

Church must be . . . the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures, which are the product of the Spirit's revelatory and inspiring action."

### The Work of the Spirit in Salvation

The purpose of God in giving the Bible to humankind was not primarily that of providing knowledge to satisfy human curiosity. Rather, the Bible is designed "to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15; see also John 20:31; 1 John 1:3). This task of employing the gospel message for the salvation of lost persons belongs likewise to the Holy Spirit.

The Bible clearly states that divine grace is indispensable in the salvation process, since personal salvation can never be attained through unaided human effort. Any attempt to be fully obedient to God's laws will end in failure (Galatians 2:16; 3:21; Romans 3:20). Humanity is totally depraved, that is, helpless to overcome sin. Salvation is possible only because of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:6-7).

The Spirit of God is the author of personal salvation as he applies the completed atoning work of Jesus to the life of an individual, bringing that one into the fellowship of Christ's body. The exact nature of the Spirit's working remains a mystery. Nevertheless, through the proclamation of the gospel, the Spirit is active. This activity directed toward the unregenerated may be described in four aspects.

First, the Spirit convinces an individual of personal sin, lack of righteousness and the inevitability of judgment (John 16:8). An awareness of personal sin is necessary for repentance.

Secondly, through the gospel proclamation, the Spirit issues the divine call to salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:20). It is to this invitation that the hearer of the Word must respond.

Thirdly, the Spirit illumines the

darkened mind of the unregenerate to see the truth of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-6). Without this activity, no person can accept Christ's work. Finally, power for repentance and faith (enablement to respond) is provided by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). The will is "wooded" and strengthened, so that Satan's strangle-hold over the person can be overcome.

When an individual responds to the gospel, the Spirit, who was formerly outside that person's life, now lives within. This transformation is known by various names—"conversion" (i.e., the new birth by the Spirit) and "baptism in the Spirit." All of these, however, point to the presence of the Spirit in one's life. The Spirit's presence is the mark of God's ownership of the believer and the guarantee of the believer's future redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Conversion, however, is not the end of the Holy Spirit's activity in a believer's life. Rather, this event sets in motion the sanctification process, i.e., the transformation of a sinful person into Christlikeness (2 Corinthians 3:18). Through cooperation with the Spirit, Christ's character is produced in the believer (Galatians 5:16ff), and power is given for overcoming temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). In this way, sin can be dealt with (Romans 8:1-14). The process of sanctification continues until Jesus returns. At that time, final glorification will occur. Through the resurrection, all believers will be made physically whole (1 Corinthians 15:50-57) and morally upright (1 John 2:2).

In the meantime, Christians are to minister together in the fellowship of Christ's church. To this end, the Holy Spirit gives various spiritual gifts to each believer (1 Corinthians 12:7). These gifts are the abilities and talents, through the use of which the Spirit himself seeks to build up the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7-12).

No gift, then, is given for personal

glory. Nor ought gifts to be viewed as personal possessions. Rather, the gifts are a stewardship from the Spirit. By using one's spiritual gifts, a believer glorifies God through personal involvement in the work of Christ's church on earth (1 Peter 4:10-11).

The filling of the Spirit, then, is crucial in every aspect of the Christian life. The Spirit is God's power by which sin can be overcome, Christ's character be reflected, and God be glorified through Christian ministry. For this reason, each believer must consciously utilize the resources of God's Holy Spirit.

### To Discuss:

1) In what ways is the Christian's experience of the Holy Spirit more complete than that of the Old Testament Israelite?

2) Why is the illumination of the Holy Spirit needed in order to understand and apply the Bible to contemporary situations?

3) Salvation comes only by God's grace. How should a knowledge of this affect the attitudes and life-style of the believer?

4) The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts unregenerate persons of sin. How should a knowledge of this affect the methods of evangelism used by a believer?

5) There is much confusion today concerning phrases such as "the baptism of the Spirit" and "the filling of the Spirit." When and how does the filling of the Spirit occur?

6) What impact should the hope of final glorification have on living in the present?

7) What is the importance of spiritual gifts for the ministry of the church in the world?

*This is the fourth in a series of 10 studies on the "Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference."*

## Church Growth



ST. CATHARINES, ON. The Rev. Fritz Goliath baptized five persons at Immanuel Baptist Church, June 16,

1985. They and three others were welcomed as members of the Church. (Ursula Koch, reporter.)



BEULAH, ND. Immanuel Baptist Church received eleven new members

through baptism and confession of faith, June 23, 1985. (Luella Forthun, reporter.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church held street meetings this summer in an intensified effort to further reach into its community.

Greg Huston joined the Church staff full-time in June after three years as a part-time staff member. He and his wife Toni have been with the Church for seven years. "God has brought much of the recent growth in our fellowship through his labors, particularly in evangelism, visitation, and discipleship," states the Rev. James Correnti, pastor.

Fred Strada and his wife Diane have been planting a church among the Spanish-speaking people of the area. The congregation now has 15-20 adults and is characterized by fervent prayer,

close fellowship, and active outreach. A graduate of Eastern Baptist Seminary, Fred is supported by the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

HAMILTON, ON. Associate Pastor Mark Boughan baptized four persons at German Baptist Church. They were welcomed as members June 16, 1985. (Connie Fiske, reporter.)

ABERDEEN, SD. Pastor Bob Klein baptized six persons at Calvary Baptist Church recently. They have become members of the Church. (Diane Hassebroek, reporter.)

OKEENE, OK. Zion Baptist Church welcomed seven new members, three by baptism and four by transfer.

The Rev. Leland Friesen is pastor of the Church. (Mrs. Donald Fisher, reporter.)

GOODRICH, ND. Pastor Craig Perry baptized six persons at an outdoor worship and baptismal service held by First Baptist Church, July 28, 1985, at Coal Mine Lake. These and



three others became members. (Freda Rauser, reporter.)

OCHRE RIVER, MB. The Rev. Helmut Poschwatta baptized two girls on June 30, 1985, at Grace Baptist Church. They and three others became



members of the Church. A communion service followed. (Fred J. Amman, reporter.)

## Association Meetings

BANFF SPRINGS, AB. The Alberta Baptist Women convened May 2, 1985, at Banff Springs Hotel for their annual retreat. Mrs. Freda Kanwisher, president, led the sessions. 325 women registered.

Mrs. Heidi Dahl of Burden Bearers, Abbotsford, BC, spoke on the theme, "Where Is Your Treasure?"

Missionary Kathy Kroll embodied the theme verse, Luke 12:34: "Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will be also." The mission offering was \$5,936. (continued)

Soloist Mrs. Sandy Babel of Zion Community Baptist, Edmonton, and a 40 voice ladies choir from Medicine Hat directed by Mrs. Ruth Friesen provided special music.

"The fellowship among the women strengthened and enriched our lives as well. God did, indeed, meet with us!" reports Caroline Zeitner.

**EUNICE, LA.** The Southern Association held its 102nd annual meeting at Mowata Baptist Church June 21-23, 1985. The Rev. Ron Norman, church growth director, spoke. Elmer and Ruth Strauss, missionaries on furlough from Nigeria, presented sketches of their daily lives and experiences in Africa.

Moderator Bob Walther, North Carrollton, TX, guided the meetings in which the main subjects were church extension projects in Texas and Louisiana and the bonding of the Association churches. (Mrs. Anita Hale, reporter.)

## Ordinations

**VANCOUVER, BC.** Harold (Hal) Neff was ordained June 30, 1985, at Bethany Baptist Church. Many N.A.B. churches were represented. Dr. Tom Johnson, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke.



A graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, Hal and his wife Janet are planting the Walnut Grove Community Baptist Church in Langely, BC. Hal had previously served as a short-term missionary to Cameroon (1979-1982). (Trudy Zindler, reporter.)

## Special Events

**HEBRON, ND.** First Baptist Church moved from its old building into its

new one Aug. 11, 1985.

During the Sunday school hour, members and friends shared testimonies of blessing received throughout the years in the old church building. The worship services were held in the new building. A potluck lunch with singing and testimonies followed.

The new building was dedicated Oct. 20, 1985. The Rev. Herbert Schauer is pastor. (Shari Krein, reporter.)

**BETHLEHEM, PA.** Don Lonie, evangelist, Bible teacher and radio personality, held a series of Family Life Conferences at Calvary Baptist Church Sept. 8-11, 1985.

The Rev. Larry Burd is pastor of the Church.

**CALGARY, AB.** Two members of Grace Baptist Church, Shanna Anderson and Denise Jorstad, wrote all the material used by the Church for this year's VBS, directed by Mrs. Irene Huber. All typing, proofreading, printing and collating was done in the Church. "Our church fairly burst at the seams with approximately 300 students and 65 workers," states Betty Adrian, reporter.

**WINNIPEG, MB.** McDermot Avenue Baptist Church dedicated its new Allen Digital Computer organ and Boesendorfer grand piano in a special



**CALGARY, AB.** The congregation of Hawkwood Baptist Fellowship, a church extension project, joined Brentview Baptist Church, its mother church, for a special worship service, June 23, 1985.

Hawkwood Baptist presented an overview of its ministry. The dedication of four of Hawkwood's newest generation highlighted the service.

Brentview Baptist pledged its con-



tinuing prayer support and encouragement and gave \$2,500 to Hawkwood's building project.

Participants included Erwin Kitsch, organ, and Carol Lepholtz and Edith Galbraith, piano.



"Trumpet, violin and flute selections, solos, choir anthems and children's chorus lifted our hearts to the Lord in worship, praise and gratitude," reports Maria Rogalski.

(continued)

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"This meeting (with Brentview) was a time of renewing old acquaintances and also served as our jumping off point for our area solicitation for our building fund," states Rudy Spiess, moderator, Hawkwood Baptist. "We are planning to build Phase I of our new facility in 1986."

Pastor Werner Dietrich and Reid Galbraith read Scripture. Organists Erwin Kitsch and Edith Zilkie were also recognized for their many years of faithful service.

**ELK GROVE, CA.** First Baptist Church held a farewell service for Donald Burnett, minister of Christian education, Aug. 18, 1985. Mr. Burnett will pastor the Riverview Church, Eugene, OR. (Rev. Merle Brenner, reporter.)

**FAIR OAKS, CA.** Sunrise Baptist Church celebrated the 25th wedding anniversary of Pastor Gene and Elenor Kern Aug. 4, 1985.

The congregation presented them with over 300 letters of love and appreciation. A program of praise included their favorite songs and slides. Over 700 people enjoyed a buffet dinner on the Church lawn.



"All plans for this special day were kept secret from the Kerns," reports Barbara Livingston. "It was a very special day for an extraordinary couple."

**JAMESBURG, NJ.** First Baptist Church held an installation service for its new pastor, Rev. Louis McLouth, Jr.

Those welcoming Pastor McLouth, his wife Carol and their family included the Rev. Wilmer Quiring, area minister, and representatives from Atlantic Association churches. (Grace Epp, reporter.)

**KELOWNA, BC.** Trinity Baptist Church held a special farewell service for the Rev. Richard and Inge Hohensee and their family Aug. 11, 1985. A mass choir, youth group and soloists provided music. Leaders of various Church organizations expressed appreciation for the Rev. Hohensee's ten years of service. The Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, spoke.

Prior to the farewell service, the Rev. Hohensee conducted a praise and prayer service. Results and joys of participating in various prayer opportunities were expressed. "Early morning prayer groups, prayer room, and prayer chains, had been strongly endorsed by our senior pastor and his wife," states Magdalene Spletzer, reporter.

The Rev. Tim Schroeder has accepted the call to become the new senior pastor of the Church. The Rev. Hohensee is now pastoring Emmanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN.** A men's prayer meeting is held at Faith Baptist Church at 6:45 a.m. on Tuesdays. Attendance ranges from 7-17, averaging about 12.

The organization of meetings is informal. An overall leader selected by the group prepares a three-month schedule. Regular attenders have a day in which they are responsible for Scripture reading, a devotional, making coffee, and providing food. The men meet in the Church kitchen.

The majority of the men are older; some are retired, and some younger men come on their way to work.

The pastors feel they have a men's support group and can be with the men as friends. When the Rev. Harvey Melhaff came to pastor the Church, his first official meeting was with the men's prayer group. Afterward he said, "What a way to start a ministry in this church."

Men in the group have learned to pray with others, to give devotionals, or to pray audibly in a group. Prayers have been answered, and the men have developed deep feelings as brothers in the Lord as they share their hearts with the Lord and with each other. (Seth Carlson, reporter.)

## Wedding Anniversaries

*Elizabeth and Jacob Keck* celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at a thanksgiving service hosted by their children at Startup (WA) Baptist Church, June 9, 1985.



**WALLY ABRAM (55)**, Coquitlam, BC; born June 18, 1930, to Richard and Amelia Abram, Shitomar in the Ukraine, Russia; died Aug. 13, 1985; immigrated to Canada, 1948; married Edith Bundt, June 30, 1953; member, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB; member, usher, Sunday school teacher, Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; survived by his wife Edith; one son, Art (Dehby), Maple Ridge, BC; two daughters: Lori (Mrs. Art Enns), Birch Hills, SK; and Glenda (Mrs. Bruno Hoffmann), Vancouver, BC; and two grandchildren; Reverends Ulrich Laser, Helmut Walterit and Mark Wollenberg, pastors, funeral service.

**AVIS HEERTS (60)**, Stout, IA; born May 5, 1925, to Saben and Jenny Pruisner Hagen, Buck Grove, IA; died June 17, 1985; married William R. Heerts, March 1944, who predeceased her in 1979; member, choir director, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, organist, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA; predeceased by her parents, one sister, Luella, and one brother, Bernarr; survived by her stepmother, Mrs. Katie Hagen; two sons: Bruce and Tim; three daughters: Rebekah (Mrs. Marvin Dewey); Lucinda (Mrs. Conrad Finck); and Muriel; three grandchildren; one sister, Hilda (Mrs. Russell Heerts); and one brother, Dr. Andrew Hagen; Rev. Howard Anderson, pastor, funeral service.

**BERTHA SCHEIBLER (77)**, Trochu, AB; born Aug. 8, 1907, Brisyce, Poland; died May 11, 1985; married Rudy Scheibler May 14, 1929, who predeceased her June 17, 1982; immigrated to Canada; member, W.M.F., and Bible studies, Trochu, (AB) Baptist Church; predeceased by 3 sisters and 4 brothers; survived by one son Irwin Scheibler (Mary); one daughter Alita (Mrs. Dave Evans); 6 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and two sisters; Rev. Dean Eisner, pastor, funeral service.

**ELMER F. SHERMAN (90)**, Everett, WA; born May 5, 1895 in Startup, WA; died June 29, 1985; member, Startup (WA) Baptist Church; survived by his wife Margaret; one daughter, Floraine (Mrs. Gene Hine), Lynnwood, WA; two sons: Raymond, Tumwater, WA; and Tom, Monroe, WA; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one sister, Erman (Mrs. Fred Stober) and a brother, William.

Correction: In the June issue of the *Baptist Herald*, William Arndt's residence was incorrectly listed as Wetaskiwin. It should have read Springside, SK.

## We Have a Great Work

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,  
women's work director

The Triennial Conference of N.A.B. churches in Anaheim, CA, was the highlight for our Conference this year. We were spiritually fed, challenged and refreshed. We rejoiced in rich fellowship as we became reacquainted with old friends and met many new friends.

God has entrusted a great work to the North American Baptist Conference. He has promised to guide us each step of the way as we undertake each project in this great work. The WMF financial project for December is to fund the missionary retreats for our missionaries at home and overseas. These retreats are times of spiritual refreshment, recreation and rejuvenation for our missionaries.

May God bless you individually and as a WMF group as you give to the support of these projects.

## JULY—A Month of Conferences!

For those of you who were not able to attend, here are a few of the highlights. Iona Quiring shares some of her impressions of the Women's Leadership Conference of the Baptist World Alliance, and, through pictures, you'll get a glimpse of the women's luncheon at our own Triennial Conference at Anaheim, California.



Warm fellowship was enjoyed around the tables.



Mrs. Iona Quiring, WMF president, presents a gift to retiring missionary, Tina Schmidt.



Representing the Cameroon Baptist Convention Women's Union, Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri brings warm greetings.



Guest speaker, Mrs. Anne Ortlund



Mrs. Ruth Carter of Bellwood, IL, provided beautiful dinner music.

Photos by Les Cook

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

by Iona Quiring, W.M.F. president, Rogers, MN

If the women in your church have participated in Baptist Women's Day of Prayer gatherings, and if you have contributed to the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer offering, I owe you a great debt of gratitude. So do about 250 other Baptist women from all over the world. Why? Because we attended the Women's Leadership Conference held every five years just prior to the Baptist World Alliance Congress. These pre-congress sessions are planned by the Women's Department of the BWA and are financed largely through the Day of Prayer offerings.

Maybe if I introduce you to some of the beautiful women who came to this Conference, you will get a tiny idea of what a marvelous experience it was.

Dena is about half my size, but she is a spiritual giant. She's from India; she teaches in a Bible school there. The daughter of a Baptist pastor, she had to delay her own education in order to support her mother and five brothers and sisters when her father died. She speaks English well, mostly self-taught, but she had never been out of her country. She had planned to travel to the Conference with a missionary friend, but at the airport everything went wrong. She was refused permission to leave due to some technicality; her ticket was torn up because it had been purchased in the United States; and her missionary companion was not allowed to stay and help her. Dena was frightened, but she didn't give up and go home. She had become convinced that this opportunity was from God, and she knew that he would answer prayer and get her to the Congress. He did! She arrived at the hotel in Los Angeles on time!

Mrs. William Tolbert, wife of the former president of Liberia, told us of the execution of her husband and her son in the coup five years ago and of her experiences in prison. She was released

48 hours after special prayer was offered for her at the 1980 Women's Leadership Conference. Her faith in Jesus Christ is firm, as was her husband's.

Estelle from Yugoslavia, and Renate from East Germany were enthusiastic participants at the meetings. The goal of the Baptist churches in Eastern Europe is to double their membership by the year 2000, or by the time Jesus returns, whichever comes first. They are well on their way to reaching that goal.

Linda is a beautiful young woman from one of the African countries, a bride of one month! Her mother has been active in women's work in the church, and now Linda is involved. Her invitation to the Conference was somehow delayed. It caught up with her only a day or two before she had to leave her village, but she made it!

Our own Beatrice Nokuri, president of the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, and also secretary of the African Women's Continental Union, contributed greatly to the program and to the good fellowship. She is recognized internationally as a fine leader.

Your Day of Prayer offerings helped to make this Conference happen! In addition, part of that offering, channeled through Baptist World Aid, has been used for literacy programs, for people in refugee camps, for victims of civil war, and for famine relief. We, North American Baptists, were especially excited to learn that some of this money also was given to the Mutengene Home Economics Center in Cameroon.

The speakers, the music, and the reports at these meetings were inspiring. But the informal sharing and prayer times, the visiting around the tables at mealtimes with God's women who are serving in Baptist churches of all sizes, in all kinds of political and economic situations, on every continent of the world—that was the best of all!

Lord, use me . . . to reach out to the world.

## maccabee's musings

Boris is a rugged, physically healthy young man—six feet tall, two hundred pounds, he lifts weights and can bench press three-fifty. Three years ago, he became a Christian. Before his conversion, he was a brawling, mean drunk. He would go to churches to beg for money and then threaten and harass people if he didn't get it. He wouldn't work; he lived to drink and fight. Then he made his decision for Christ. He quit drinking, and numerous Christians began to help him. He lived with one family for a year while they provided job training for him. But there was a flaw in Boris' new life: he still wouldn't work. He quit drinking and brawling, but he saw no reason why Christians shouldn't simply take care of him. His host family finally turned him out. He found another sympathetic family. They found him several jobs. At one, the work was too hard. At another, the air was dusty. At another, the boss looked at him funny; at another, some of his co-workers weren't Christians. His second home kicked him out. He comes to me whining and pleading, broke, homeless, and hungry. Should I help him?

Bruce is tall, slender, and wild-looking. He never washes, wears his clothes until they rot, and lives on the street because he wants to. His aged mother would take him home, but she makes him bathe, and he doesn't like that. Bruce lived in the state mental hospital for five years but had to be turned out when federal funding was cut. Except for the way he smells, he isn't dangerous to anyone. He comes to me regularly for help. Should I help him?

I long ago stopped giving Boris anything but exhortation. Why? Galatians 6:5 says, "For each one shall bear his own load." The Greek word for load is *fortion*, literally "cargo." Boris, like all of us, was designed by God to carry a certain amount of cargo. Paul said, "... if anyone will not work, neither let him eat." Boris wants me to carry his cargo for him. I won't do it. I tell him he has to carry his own. Destitution is God's way of telling him to go to work. I'm hopeful no one else will carry Boris' cargo for him; then maybe he'll begin to grow up. Or he'll starve.

Bruce I help every time I can. Why? Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens..." The Greek word for burden comes from *baros*, meaning a heavy, crushing weight—a load too heavy for one man to carry. Bruce has little or no capacity to carry cargo. His mind is gone. I think God sends him around to give me an opportunity to show love and compassion, "to fulfill the law of Christ."

There is a great difference between Boris and Bruce. Beware the badgering Borises who want to con you into carrying their cargo. Don't feel guilty about turning them away. Exhort them to work! Be compassionate with the broken Bruces, who are crushed under the burdens of life. And pray for the wisdom to discern the difference between "burdens" and "cargo." You will burn out trying to carry other people's cargo. You will also burn out when burdens come into your life, unless you are willing to accept help from others. God will faithfully give strength to us so that we might carry our own cargo, and bear one another's burdens.

*We thank the Rev. David H. Wick, senior pastor, Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, for writing this column during this past year.*

### Thank You, Lord!

Recently, one of the couples who had attended the Conference sent a \$5,000 check fulfilling the pledge for the basic budget which they had made during the Conference. They included this statement:

"The Lord is continuing to bless our family and business in many ways, and we thank Him daily for this. Our family enjoyed the Conference very much. My wife and I were encouraged by our experience there and challenged to a deeper commitment of our time and the resources God has entrusted to us."

## mission news

### Friendship evangelism works!

"Friendship evangelism works," says Ken Bayer, missionary in Torres, Brazil. "People are watching our lives and are influenced by what we do and say. Just recently an elderly couple gave their lives over to the Lord."

Ken says that it may have been because of his and Jerilyn's interest in this couple's lives. "We gave them odd jobs to do when the husband was temporarily unemployed," says Ken. "Then too, it may have started when we greeted the wife on the street during our first week here." Later she told us that people in Torres usually do not do that. The Lord can use a simple 'hi' to bring people to himself."

### Flexible Sunday School Lesson Leads into learning

"I've always believed in keeping the Sunday school lesson flexible so that a person can take advantage of ideal learning situations that occur," says Jerilyn Bayer, missionary in Torres, Brazil.

One such teaching opportunity arose when she had a new visitor to her class.

"What is your name," asked Jerilyn.

"John the Baptist," was the reply.

Surprised, Jerilyn asked him if he knew that there was a John the Baptist in the Bible. He replied that he did not know that.

"So I proceeded to teach the class about the John the Baptist in the Bible, who he was and how he prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ who came to earth to die for our sins," says Jerilyn. Needless, to say, Jerilyn's lesson plan was changed, "but we experienced one of those unique opportunities to teach."

### Missions Prayer Requests

*Pray for permanent visas for the Ken Bayers in Torres, Brazil. Pray that this will go through and be accepted even though the second year visas are not granted.*

*Pray for people to be receptive during special meetings and crusades in Torres, Brazil.*

## capital funds

*Money from the Capital Funds Campaign of the North American Baptist Conference has been sent to Cameroon for use in building two homes for national tutors at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ndu.*

*Cameroon Missionary Keith Eitel wrote recently about this housing project in Ndu:*

"It is very exciting to see these new houses being built. Mr. Alfred Bumuh, acting principal, and his family moved into the first new house in September 1985.

"During the month of May, I observed Mr. Bumuh make a daily walk to the new home construction site. There was a real joy expressed in his face.

"Cameroon faculty members will now be living in housing which is comparable to that enjoyed by our missionaries. In the past, Cameroon nationals with equal responsibilities to those of missionary staff have not been placed in the same type of housing. This is a significant step forward as missionaries assume more of a partnership role in Cameroon.

"The vision for this progressive step is being realized by the loving gifts of you, our co-workers in Canada and the United States. Thank you."

## what's happening

*The Rev. Brad Styck became pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, on October 7.*

*Garry Dick has become the new youth director at Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, effective July 1, 1985. Dawn Dirk formerly served in this position.*

*The Rev. Leigh Harrison is the new Minister of Visitation and Family Life at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.*

*Mr. Charles Ball is new Minister for Singles at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.*

*The Rev. Christopher Creech resigned as pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Mississauga, ON, effective August 31. He was the founding pastor of this church in 1981.*

*The Rev. C.I. Wiebe accepted the position of chaplain at the Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC, effective Dec. 1. He has served as pastor of Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, BC, since 1977.*

*The Rev. Fred Pahl, chaplain at the Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC, since 1981, has retired and moved to Nanaimo, BC. He is available for interim pastorates.*

*Mr. Donald Burnett, minister of Christian education at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, resigned effective August 20 to assume the pastorate of Riverview Church, Eugene, OR, a non-N.A.B. church.*

*The Rev. Will Dachtler has assumed a position in Financial Planning Services with Hillcrest Medical Center Foundation in Tulsa. OK.*

*Southside Baptist Temple, Monclova, OH, has changed its name to Southside Baptist Church. The Rev. Charles P. Davis, Jr. is the pastor.*

*Mrs. Thorwald Bender, wife of Dr. Thorwald Bender, of Watertown, WI, went home to be with the Lord on September 15. She with her husband served five N.A.B. churches.*

*The Rev. Elton Kirstein has accepted the pastorate of Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK, effective Nov. 1, 1985. He has served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS, since 1974.*

*The Rev. Robert Coombe has accepted the call to Brook Park Baptist Church, Brooklyn Center, MN. He had been serving as interim pastor there.*

*The Rev. George Jankovsky became pastor of First Baptist Church, Corona, SD, effective September 1. He had been pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church, Tyndall, SD.*

*Mr. Greg Huston has joined the church staff of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, on a full-time basis. He had been serving on a part-time basis for three years prior to this.*

*Chaplain (CAPT) R. Lee Boleyn became the advisor to the Protestant Parish Council and the total Protestant Chapel program at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire in June. His wife, Diane, is organist for the Protestant services.*

*In June Chaplain (CPT) David A. Uhler moved to Germany where he is Battalion Staff Chaplain for the 51st Maintenance Battalion in Mannheim and pastor of Sullivan Barracks Troup Chapel. He had served for the past three years at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.*

*The Rev. Traugott Vogel became Associate Pastor for German Ministries at Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, on October 1. He had been serving as interim pastor at Pilgrim Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.*

*The Rev. William O. Taft has been appointed to the Judson College Board of Trustees. He is Great Lakes Area Minister and lives in Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.*

*The Rev. Daniel Fuchs is serving as visitation pastor at Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, on a part-time basis since September 15.*

*The Rev. James Shriver resigned as pastor of Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlesville, NY, where he has served since 1980. He has accepted the pastorate of a non-N.A.B. church near New Port Richey, FL.*

*The Rev. Robert Lang is also serving as pastor of Cathay Baptist Church, Cathay, ND, effective September 1985. He is also full-time pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND.*

*The Rev. John Dikkers, pastor of Cathay Baptist Church, Cathay, ND, retired from this pastorate effective September 1985. He has pastored this church since 1975.*

A Central Treasurer is needed to oversee the accounting and internal auditing functions of the Cameroon Baptist Convention to begin Spring of 1986. This is a career position with business degree or experience as well as Bible College or Seminary training desirable.

Contact Ron Salzman, missions director, N.A.B. International Office, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181—(312) 495-2000

## Looking Back— Thank You Looking Ahead— "Reaching My World"

"A People of Hope for a World in Despair"—it was wonderful to be a part of the great mass choir, singing that theme song every evening at the 41st Triennial Conference in Anaheim, California.

What is a Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches? Well, it's lots of things. Let me tell you a little bit about it and then together we'll look forward to meeting in Calgary, AB, in 1988.

It's a gathering of about 4,500 North American Baptists from across North America, Africa, South America and Japan, 1,300 being high school and college age youth.

It's hearing missions reports and meeting and fellowshiping with our missionaries who are home at this time. It's meeting church extension pastors; it's hearing of new projects and outreach.

It's hearing updated reports from our schools in Edmonton and Sioux Falls.

It's attending daily Bible studies and evening exhortations, what a spiritual feast!

It's being a part of the conference business, finding out what's happening now.

It's being favoured by much musical talent: beautiful soloists; musical teams from our schools. We heard the Haven of Rest Quartet, the Parschauer Sisters; Cornerstone Quartet, and many others.

It's attending a Women's Missionary Fellowship luncheon, being one of 1,200 ladies who loves the Lord, and being encouraged by our new theme, "Women of Hope Reaching Our World."

And finally, and mostly, it's responding to God's call on my life for him to be Lord of all!

"Heavenly Father, please help me to be a woman of hope for a world in despair."

*Linda Marie Petrie (Mrs.)  
Melville Baptist Church,  
Saskatchewan*

## Vocal Care Hints Can Lengthen Ministry

by Nancy Barcus

Waco, Texas (BP)—A retired speech professor at Baylor University is offering ministers 10 extra years in the pulpit—just by showing them how to take care of their voices. Stokes calls ministers' voices "the most abused part of the human body."

During a recent voice workshop for ministers, Stokes told them, "I can give you 10 extra years in the pulpit if you faithfully observe several guidelines which are so sensible, you'll wonder why you didn't think of them yourself."

Most ministers do not realize that the human voice actually can wear out with continued misuse.

Dehydration is the chief enemy of the voice, Stokes said. Membranes in the vocal folds rub together and need lubrication. Traveling on airplanes can cause vocal damage, both because of the drier air and the need to talk above the sound of the plane's engines, he said. Emotional strain also can dry up the vocal folds, as can the common cold or allergies.

He recommends avoiding medication or lozenges, using natural remedies instead to restore moisture to the vocal folds. To increase saliva, he recommends softly biting the tongue between each of the rear molars, 10 seconds on each side.

Ministers should use a scarf to protect the throat against cold wind, and always wear a hat and a light coat to keep body temperature constant, he said. Light clothing is better than heavy clothing, because the skin can set its own temperature, he said. When breathing outdoor air, take in air through both the nose and the mouth, because the nose regulates humidity.

The common cold and allergies can be controlled by taking several precautions, Stokes said. Limiting starch in the diet will cut down on mucus and phlegm in the throat. He also recommends clearing the sinuses by natural methods whenever possible, by standing over a pot of steaming water. Antihistamines and decongestants dry the nose and throat and promote irritation of the vocal folds, he said.

Most of all, Stokes warns ministers to avoid straining the voice. Shouting can break blood vessels, and continued misuse of the voice can lead to contact ulcers, polyps and eventual voice failures, he said.

## Precipitous Change of Location

Possibly the most precipitous change in triennial conference sites occurred in 1940. Walter E. Kohrs, Peoria, IL, (then residing at Burlington, IA) recalls how the late Arthur Schwerin, leader in the Burlington church, phoned him to say: "Walter, the conference will be held at Burlington. That means that you and I have to get busy on publicity matters and other arrangements immediately!"

Reports had it that it was changed from a location in Canada because of anti-German sentiment building up in Canada prior to World War II. (Our N.A.B. Conference was formerly German Baptist.) Under Schwerin's leadership, conference committees were organized and plunged into action post haste since the change in the conference site occurred mere weeks before the conference starting date. (Normally, the conference site is announced six years ahead.)

But that's not the end of the story. Another problem developed when Minnesota political figure Harold Stassen, scheduled to be the main speaker, canceled his appearance at the conference when fog made it impossible for him to fly out of the Minnesota airport. Telephone and telegraph wires were "burned up" to arrange a last minute substitute!—Walter Kohrs

Since the voice is the tool through which the gospel is proclaimed, ministers must place a higher value on it, Stokes said.

"Your voice should express your inner being and sincerest thoughts. Clear articulation and proper breathing will bring souls into the kingdom in a way that shouting may fail to do. Your audience will heed your thoughts and not be sidetracked by a dislike for a strained and unnatural voice."

It often takes many sessions of practice to move from an artificial and damaged vocal sound to a natural voice, Stokes said. But the extra 10 years in the pulpit may be worth it!

## congratulations

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

*Brook Park Baptist*, Brooklyn Center, MN; Rev. Robert Coombe, pastor; Mrs. Colleen Huber, agent.

*Trinity Baptist*, Sioux Falls, SD, Mrs. Marjean Johnson, agent.

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

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

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

*Calvary Baptist*, Billings, MT; Rev. Mark Iblings, pastor; Mrs. Manuel Lang, agent.

*Faith Community Baptist*, Lenexa, KS; Rev. Eric Coulon, pastor.

*First Baptist*, Watertown, WI; Rev. Alan Kranz, pastor; Mrs. Russell Miller, agent.

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

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

*Immanuel Baptist*, Loyal, OK; Rev. Jeff Patet, pastor; Mr. Norman Vilhauer, agent.

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

*First Baptist*, Bison, KS; Rev. William Effa, pastor; Miss Clara Niedenthal, agent.

*Brentview Baptist*, Calgary, AB; Rev. Ron Kernohan, pastor; Mrs. Carl Lang, agent.

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

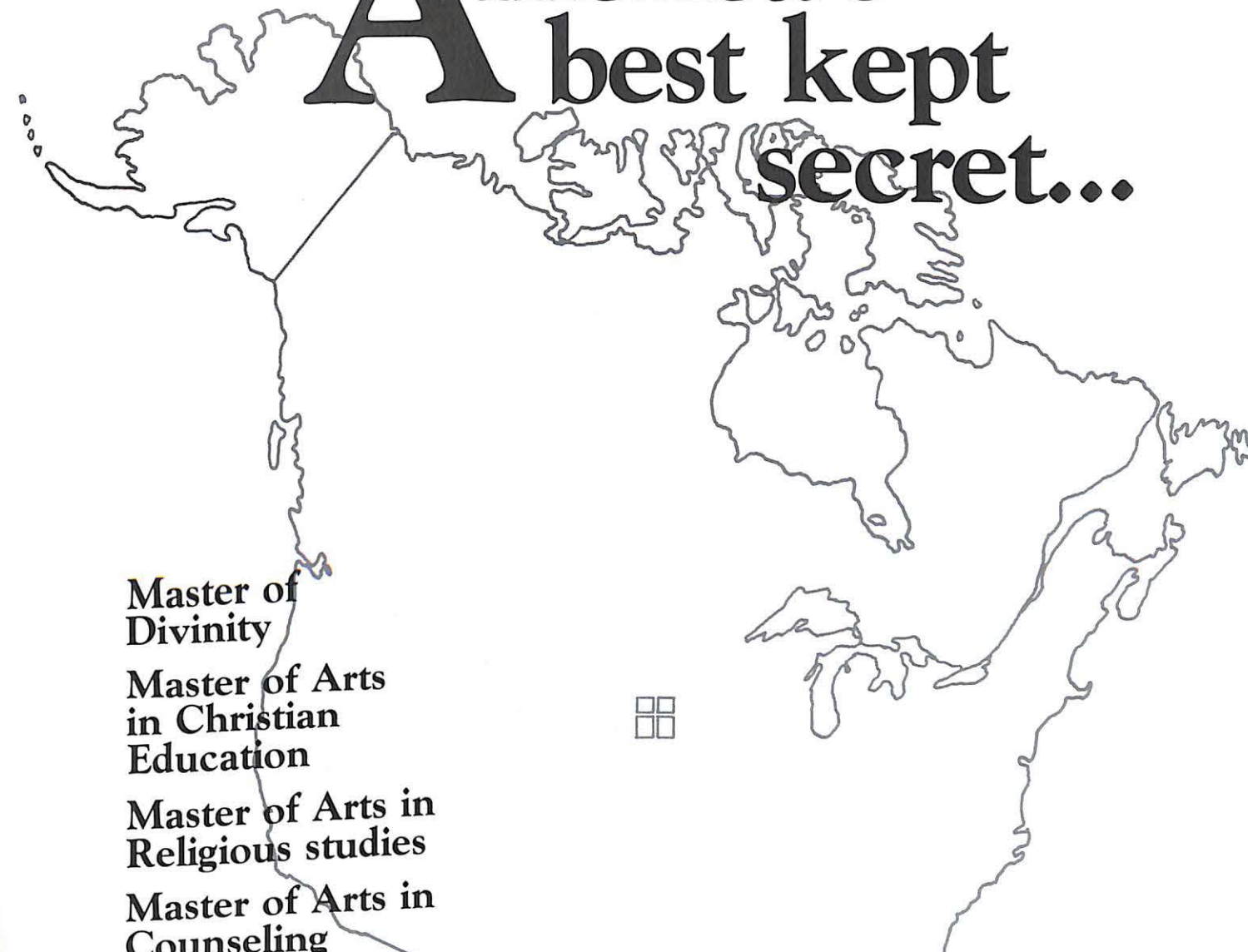
*First Baptist*, McIntosh, SD; Rev. James Grupp, pastor; Mrs. Leo Brochel, agent.

*First Baptist*, Medina, ND; Rev. Raymond Hoffman, pastor; Mr. Wilbert Staiger, agent.

*Sunrise Baptist*, Red Deer, AB; Rev. Doug Bittle, pastor; Mrs. Greg Biette, agent.

[One half (137) of our 373 churches are now on the Church Family Plan.]

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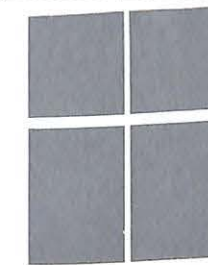


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