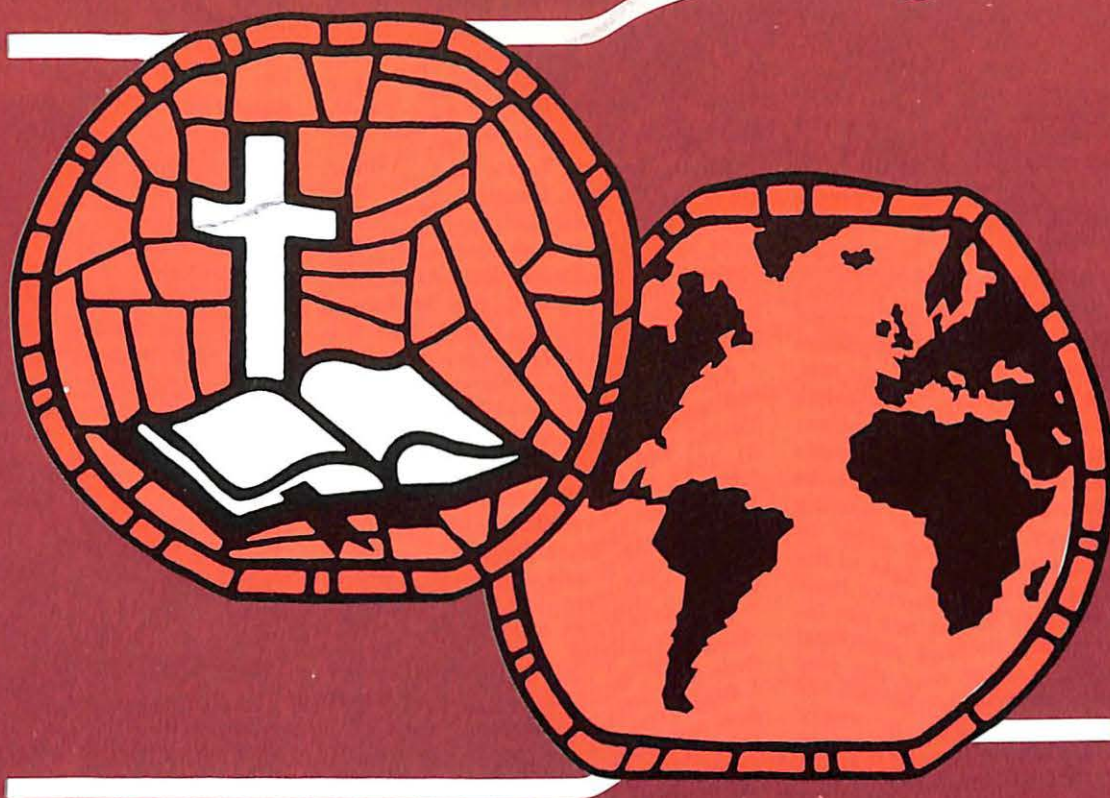


Baptist Herald

June 1986



North American
Baptist Conference

1985 in Review

Church Growth and Mission Boards Meet

The Church Growth Board and the Board of Missions met in April for their annual business sessions. Both boards expressed deep appreciation for their staff, the overseas missionaries, church extension pastors, home mission pastors, and "New Day" members. They also expressed appreciation for the faithful support of the Conference churches and individuals for the basic mission and ministry work in North America and overseas.

Both Boards felt that we must think of missions as not only being done overseas but also in North America. It was stressed that church extension pastors and pastors of home mission churches are also missionaries. "We need to educate our people about this," said several Board members.

Each Board struggled with the requests from the various mission fields overseas for more missionaries as well as planting more churches in unreached areas of North America, especially in light of the fact that giving to the Conference basic mission and ministry budget has not increased significantly to fund additional personnel in these areas over the past years. Another concern is the lack of significant church growth in many established churches and a need to plant more new churches in North America in order to increase our support base for fulfilling the Great Commission at home and overseas. Another concern is the devaluation of the dollar in relation to overseas currency in countries where we have mission work.

The Boards are requesting permission from the Finance Committee and the General Council to establish more special projects to seek money *over and above* what is being given by churches and individuals for the basic mission and ministries budget. These special projects would provide funds for new missionaries and missionaries returning from leave of absence as well as for planting new churches.

Highlights of the Church Growth Board

The Church Growth Board

* Heard a presentation of a detailed study by Southern Association representatives, Mr. Paul "Jackie" Loewer, Branch, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hill, Kyle, Texas; the Rev. Robert Walther, North Carrollton, Texas; and the Rev. Jacob Klingenberg, Houston, Texas. This presentation challenged the Board with the need to start at least five new churches from 1986-88 in the Southern Association over and above what can be funded through the Conference basic budget. It is hoped that a number of these new projects will be funded through the New Churches Fund.

* Accepted with regret the resignation of the Assistant Director for "New Day" and Youth, Warren Hoffman, effective July 31, 1986, so he can further his education.

* Cut "New Day" team membership from 17 to 14 so that only one van is needed to transport the team. The decision came as a result of extreme escalation of auto insurance premiums.

* Approved a new policy to encourage "New Day" members to raise a portion of their own support for 1986-87 team year.

* Approved the following church extension projects for 1986: *Orlando, Florida*, Jake Leverette, pastor; *Pleasanton, California*, John Emmons, pastor; *Urban/Ethnic ministry, West New York, New Jersey*, using facilities of former First Baptist Church, beginning June 1; *Vietnamese ministry, Stockton, California*, Daniel Nguyen, pastor; *Faith Baptist Fellowship, Medicine Hat, Alberta*, Allen Unger, pastor, effective August 1; *Coppell, Texas*, Dan Heringer, pastor, effective May 1.

* Approved \$9,500 from bequest money earmarked for home missions for Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church, Rio Grande City, Texas, to construct an addition to the church to house four new classrooms.

* Reelected Dennis Dewey as chairman and Blaine Fluth as vice chairman of the Board for 1986-87.

* Continues the search for a Church Growth Director and begins search for Assistant Director for "New Day" and Youth.

* Approved the reappointment of the Rev. Raymond Harsch as Associate Director of Church Growth and Evangelism through June 30, 1989, and Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff as Assistant Director of Women's Work through June 30, 1987.

Highlights of the Board of Missions

The Board of Missions

* Appointed one career missionary: Mrs. Karen Buchsdrucker (Allan) Effa to Nigeria effective October 1, 1986.

* Appointed four short-term missionaries for two-year terms to begin August 1, 1986: Karin Maertins to Ndu, Cameroon, to teach missionary children; Kathy Kwast to Japan to teach missionary children and conversational English; Ava Bandi to Japan to teach conversational English; and Dr. Bert Oubre to assist in medical work in Cameroon for one year effective the summer of 1986.

* Reinstated Kathy Kroll from a one-year study leave of absence to medical work in Cameroon in 1986.

* Appointed a task force to rethink and restate the Board's philosophy of missions including a purpose statement and a set of overall goals for mission outreach.

* Adopted a new Policy Manual.

* Affirmed strongly the continual need for goal setting and evaluation of those goals for the missionaries of our Conference.

* Appointed the Rev. Fred Folkerts for a three-year term to the position of Associate Director for Business Services, Missions Department.

* Reinstated four missionaries to Cameroon on special project basis: Betty Mantay, Sue Krier, and Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Palmer (special projects are subject to approval of the General Council at its June session).

* Elected Rev. Harold Lang as chairman and Rev. Wayne Bibelheimer as vice chairman of the Board for 1986-87. □

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Marilyn Schneider, editor's assistant
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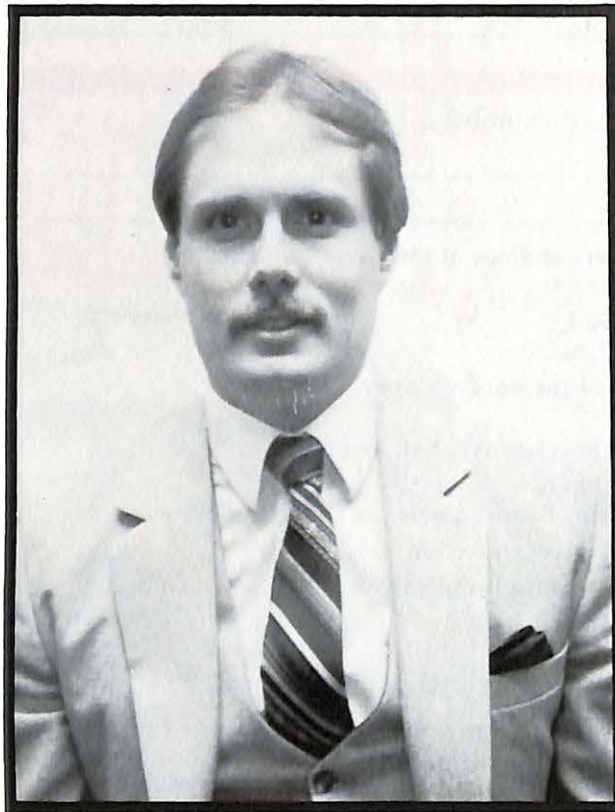
BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (312) 495-2000. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES in the United States—one year \$8.00; two years—\$15.00; Canada—one year \$10.50; Church Family Plan (United States)—\$6.00; (Canada)—\$8.00; Single copy (US\$)—\$1.00; foreign subscription (US\$)—\$16.00 one year.

ADVERTISING RATE: \$8.00 per inch single column (2 1/4 inches) black and white. OBITUARIES: \$4.00 (100 word limit).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Six to eight weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Send address change to *Baptist Herald* Subscriptions, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Member of Evangelical Press Association.

News reported and views expressed are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference (Printed in the U.S.A.)



Four Misunderstandings of the Great Commission

by Phil Kirsch

When Interstate 5 was built through the heart of Seattle in the early 60s, the engineers designing the project expected that Interstate 90 would also be completed within a few years, so they built a complicated set of ramps and bridges intended to link the two super-highways. However, construction of I-90 finally began in 1983. Meanwhile, motorists passed under a complicated network of bridges which led from nowhere to nowhere and ramps which ended abruptly in mid-air. Visitors invariably asked, "What are all those bridges for?"

Shortly before His ascension, Jesus Christ gave the church a set of clear instructions. We refer to them as the Great Commission; we acknowledge them as the purpose of the church; and we preach them frequently—but we have not held ourselves accountable for their fulfillment.

As a result, far too many churches are characterized by lots of activity with no apparent purpose. Indeed, the church often resembles that uncompleted freeway interchange. People with no church background frequently ask, "What do you go to church for?"

Jesus Christ came to earth for the expressed purpose of bringing men into obedience to His Father. Jesus commanded His disciples to pursue that same goal. He said, "Go into all the world, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you . . ." (Matthew 28:19-20, my paraphrase).

The Great Commission provides the church a concise and measurable statement of purpose. It tells us that our

works will be measured in terms of "disciples." But, somehow, we have come to measure our works in terms of "attendance," "buildings," "missionaries," "baptisms," and a host of other things that have to do with the process of making disciples rather than measuring the number of disciples we have actually made. Indeed, many believers have so misunderstood the Great Commission that they think they are fulfilling it when, in reality, they are only playing church. I think there are four misunderstandings of the Great Commission.

"How can we think we have even come close to fulfilling the Great Commission by merely presenting the Gospel in a place where non-Christians seldom go?"

The Goal of Presence

The first misunderstanding of the Great Commission can be called "the goal of presence" — the notion that it is enough for the church to exist in the community as a resource of divine truth. Occasionally, I hear someone say, "We preach the Bible every Sunday. Our service times are posted on the church sign and published in the local paper. Anyone is welcome to attend." That is commendable, but it does not fulfill the Great Commission because Jesus commanded us to make disciples, not merely hold meetings.

I am appalled by the number of people who believe

that an altar call is the mark of an evangelistic church. How can we think we have even come close to fulfilling the Great Commission by merely presenting the Gospel in a place where non-Christians seldom go?

Let me illustrate. When a young couple brings their newborn baby home from the hospital, they don't set the child down in the middle of the kitchen and say, "The milk is in the refrigerator, kid. Make yourself at home." Instead, they cradle the child in their arms and put the bottle in its mouth because they realize that the child is not capable of feeding itself. Likewise, the unbelievers around us are not capable of seeking out God's Word and applying it to their own lives; they are spiritually dead.

"We get excited when someone walks the aisle or prays a prayer, but we do practically nothing to encourage their spiritual growth and shrug our shoulders when they backslide."

The Goal of Public Relations

The second misunderstanding of the Great Commission is what I refer to as "the goal of public relations" — the notion that it is enough for believers to witness by example. I meet many people who say, "I have a hard time sharing the Gospel, but my life is a witness."

The problem with this attitude is that the Great Commission instructs us to teach Christ's commands, not merely model them. "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Of course it is important to be obedient to God in the sight of all men, but we cannot fulfill the Great Commission if we never speak the Gospel.

For instance, a helpless newborn cannot feed itself no matter how many times the parents demonstrate how to take a bottle out of the cupboard, fill it with milk, and put it in the warmer. Until the child grows tall enough to reach the cupboard shelf and gains the strength and

coordination necessary to hold the bottle and the milk carton, it won't be able to feed itself. It is only as we help people understand how to receive the filling of the Spirit by faith in Jesus that our example will be meaningful to them.

The Goal of Proclamation

The third misunderstanding of the Great Commission is "the goal of proclamation" — the idea that it is enough merely to present the facts of the Gospel. Some Christians invest much time presenting the Gospel door-to-door or passing out tracts. Again, such activities are commendable, but they do not fulfill the Great Commission.

The Great Commission tells us to make disciples, so we can't be satisfied with telling people they should become disciples. We can encourage people to follow Christ by showing love and being careful to see that they understand our message. Preaching the Gospel without checking to see if people understand what is being said is as foolish as throwing baby food across the kitchen expecting the child to catch it.

Christians frequently use words and phrases that non-Christians do not understand. For example, we talk about salvation as being "born again." I used to joke that somebody might think we were talking about reincarnation. Then I ran into a fellow who actually claimed that Jesus was teaching reincarnation in John 3.

Not only do non-Christians misunderstand our words, but they may also misunderstand our actions. There is a man who has been preaching the Gospel on the University of Washington campus for many years. I remember listening to him one day. Shouting at the top of his lungs, he condemned premarital sex, homosexuality, and drug abuse. He threatened his listeners with hellfire and brimstone. But a few hecklers in the crowd made it clear that his message was being understood as an expression of contempt for them. Although he had a genuine concern for their souls, they never got the message. All that the students seemed to hear was hatred and bigotry.

What good is preaching if people don't understand it? What good is witnessing if it is done in an offensive manner? I weep for those who think they have served Christ by nagging friends and relatives to attend church when, in fact, they have only succeeded in driving them farther from the cross.

"The Master will want to know why you did not love others enough to be sure they understood the Gospel message."

The Goal of Profession

The fourth misunderstanding of the Great Commission is what I call "the goal of profession" — the notion that it is enough to obtain an initial commitment to Christ. As a result, we get excited when someone walks the aisle or prays a prayer, but we do practically nothing to encourage their spiritual growth, and shrug our shoulders when they backslide. How can we be satisfied with anything less than maturing faith? Jesus commanded us to *teach* people to obey!

The fact that you gave the baby a bottle yesterday evening will not keep the child from needing another this morning. Likewise, your responsibility to teach the commands of Christ cannot be fulfilled in a single session.

A couple on our block "got saved" while I was in high school. Everybody at church was really excited about it because they had been heavily into drugs and alcohol. Their seven children were the terror of the neighborhood. They were welcomed into the church and treated like normal church members; nobody seemed to realize that they had special problems.

God had forgiven them, but the emotional scars which the years of sin had left on their children were still there. One child had a hearing problem and had to attend special classes. Another began stealing. Collective-

ly, they were still the terror of the neighborhood, and the poor wife who was suddenly sober enough to realize what they were becoming had no idea of what to do.

Meanwhile, the husband caught on to the idea that his wife should be submissive to him before he realized that he needed to love her. The marriage ended in divorce; the whole family dropped out of our church; and few people ever expressed any concern.

The spiritual infant mortality rate is far too high. Think of how many people come forward in evangelistic campaigns to make professions and how many of these are actually involved in area churches a year later.

Our converts are not the only ones who suffer when we ignore the Great Commission. The parable of the talents, given in Matthew 25 and Luke 19, suggests that our heavenly rewards will be based on our present works. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 indicates that our works will be tested by fire and that some will be "... saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." 2 Corinthians 5:10 says "... we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Do you suppose that it is enough to support a church and live a good life? At the judgment seat, Christ will wonder why you failed to teach others to follow your example.

Are you content to pass out tracts and invite neighbors to church? The Master will want to know why you did not love others enough to be sure they understood the Gospel message.

Are you satisfied when someone makes a decision to begin trusting Christ? Do you fail to help them grow to spiritual maturity? Christ will ask how you could tantalize others with a taste of the abundant life He promised and then fail to show them how to have it permanently. We are stewards of the Gospel, and "... it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV). □

A Letter to Dad

Dear Dad,

As I write this letter, there are less than three full days before Karolyn and I are married. On Father's Day, we'll be on our honeymoon, and I still wanted to congratulate you so I'll write the letter tonight and hope that with a little skulduggery from Mom you won't actually read it until Sunday.

Getting married is an occasion to reflect on who and what I am. A time to think back on all the things that have brought me to this point in my life—a time to remember people and their influence on me.

There are fewer profound relationships than that between father and son. I suppose husband-wife is the only one in the human realm that surpasses it. I am glad that we have become better friends these past few years and have enjoyed each other's company more thoroughly than when I lived in Lodi 12 months a year. I am sure there were times when you thought me unreasonable—and I know I felt that way about your regime. But you gave me so much of what you are that when the discussing was over, the actions were based on the values implanted in me.

I am not going to ask forgiveness for anything because there is nothing to ask forgiveness for—and that is the way things should be. You have taught me right from wrong, and that teaching influences my every action and thought. It is a powerful responsibility to be given a child to raise, and I feel that God will reward you greatly for your faithfulness in this area.

I want to tell you that I love you, that I respect your judgment, that I value your opinion, that I crave your praise and encouragement, and that I consider myself truly hand-picked of God to have been selected as your oldest son. You have placed a great deal of responsibility on me, yet you've supported me with great amounts of prayer. You and Grandfather have left a spiritual heritage for Matthew and me that, quite frankly, is awesome. Yet, it is a heritage that God has given us for a purpose, and He will provide our resources.

I suppose that what I am trying to say is this: I pray that God will make me the kind of father to my children that you are to me. When things get tough at work or you feel harried by the world, remember that you have three children who love you very much, children who are a credit to you and to the Lord you serve. The happiness you have brought and the maturity you have spawned will continue long after you are in Heaven. Thanks, Dad.

Your son,
Jonathan

(This letter was written by Jonathan McGladdery to his father ten years ago on Father's Day. Much happened to the family in the ensuing years. The most life-changing event was the death of Jonathan's father, Jim, in the crash of his small plane in September 1983. Emily, Jonathan's mother, writes: "Jonathan's last sentence has certainly proven to be true. We were left a Godly heritage and an example to follow. Jim's influence upon our lives was profound and still is." Emily, as was Jim, is an active member of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.)



Taking Care of the Lord's Money

An interview with Don Smailes of Edmonton, Alberta

"Don Smailes' testimony is significant in terms of his commitment to serving the Lord through the giving of his finances," says his pastor, the Rev. Ken MacDonald. So the Baptist Herald asked Ken to interview Don for our readers. Don, a member of Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, for 21 years, currently serves as a deacon in his Church. In 1969, he established a business, Alberta Respiratory Services, in the health care industry.

Baptist Herald: Don, what significantly influenced your life in the area of your financial giving to the Lord?

Don Smailes: I would pinpoint a period of personal renewal that came as an outflow of the Saskatoon Revival. Some people came to Meadowlark Baptist Church to share what God was doing. While I cannot remember their message, and it certainly was not on finances, God powerfully dealt with me in the area of His being Lord of my life and of my being ashamed of Him.

Being a Christian for a number of years, I had shared my testimony with others, but there were times when I did not share about how good God was because I was ashamed—it depended on to whom I was speaking. God broke me at the altar that day, and I dealt with the issue. I realized God is the most wonderful person in the universe and that He has done wonderful things for me. I needed to acknowledge Him as Lord of my life.

That renewal, the beginning of many

things in my life, certainly was the start of looking at my financial blessings and my giving to the Lord.

BH: Was the idea of giving a portion of your finances to the Lord a new realization for you?

DS: No, I had already responded to the challenge and was tithing. For me, it was not a big issue, because I had very few material possessions. I came from a poor family.

My father never really was free from debt. Although he had many, many positive qualities, he never was able to live within his means and often overspent. I remember our family working out away from home to pay off his debts. Consequently, I have been cautious about financial matters.

The idea of giving financially to the Lord was not new. My mother, following her conversion, set a good example. While my father was overseas, God wonderfully provided for our family. God later supplied financially for Bible school training in ways

that I could not explain. This caused me to realize that He had a claim on my finances.

BH: So the period of renewal in your life through coming to meet Christ in a new way and understanding the Lordship of Christ really affected your commitment to the stewardship of your finances?

DS: Yes. It seemed that finances became a way that I could visibly demonstrate my commitment to God. Here was a material substance that I could measure, that I could see. I thought, "If God is really God of my life, how can I demonstrate this?" I realized that God really did not need my resources, but that I needed a way to demonstrate that He is my God. So, "I put my money where my mouth was."

"I do not want anything to come between God and me that would rob me of the joy and the privilege of an intimate relationship with Him. This is the highest goal of my life."

BH: Don, how do you decide how much to give to the Lord's work?

DS: I believe the Scriptural principle of the tithe, giving one-tenth, is a minimum. The surplus beyond what I need for the care of my family is the resource over which I have stewardship.

As God blessed our family with financial resources, He challenged me to set a limit on how much we would spend on ourselves. I think that if we really believe that our financial resources belong to the Lord, much of

what we spend on ourselves would be considered self-indulgence and pampering. I see that as poor stewardship.

I've analyzed my level of spending and decided beforehand what standard of living is appropriate for our family. As the Spirit of God impresses on me areas that He would like me to support financially, I have the liberty and responsibility to support them. After all, if Jesus is Lord, it's really His money and not mine.

BH: How do you handle the pressure of managing the financial resources that God has entrusted to you?

DS: I see this tension as a healthy challenge. It forces my dependency upon God and my need for the members of the Body of Christ to help me in these decisions. God has blessed me with a number of people with whom I share this responsibility and in whom I can confide. These include my business associates and my pastor. They act as checks and balances on the decisions that I make.

I do not want anything to come between God and me that would rob me of the joy and the privilege of an intimate relationship with Him. This is the highest goal of my life.

BH: Perhaps a more contemporary word for the word "steward" is the term "manager." What does it mean for you to be a manager of God's possessions, of God's financial resources?

DS: God has really been impressing upon me His sovereignty. I had not spent very much time thinking about this before. I recognize that God is sovereign, and that it is not because of my talent or my great wisdom that material resources have been poured into my life. God gives, and God has the right to take away. I believe that I am nothing more than

a manager. I take that responsibility seriously as a blessing from God.

"If God is really God of my life, how can I demonstrate this? If we really believe that our financial resources belong to the Lord, much of what we spend on ourselves would be considered self-indulgence and pampering."

Larry Burkett's tapes, "God's Principles of Handling Money," have been a great source of help in forming how I feel about material possessions and finances.

BH: Don, what are some of the insights or lessons that have proven valuable to you in the area of stewardship?

DS: God continues to impress upon me the need for faithfulness, faithfulness in little things. Luke 16:10, 11 says: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted

with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" God has time and time again challenged me through these verses when I have been tempted to treat material possessions as if they were mine rather than God's.

It is a great privilege to be a part of what God is doing, and I want to be faithful. I'm overwhelmed with the fact that God even chooses to use us. I want my life to be built on the principles that make me useful in God's plan. To be faithful in little things leads, I think, to that privilege and opportunity for greater service.

I believe that we must be careful as God's managers to stay out of debt, or at least be careful as to how much debt we commit ourselves to, because that limits our ability to respond to whatever God has in mind.

I receive great joy in giving. It is true that it is more blessed to give than to receive. There is a reward now, not only in the future, but also a reward of God being pleased with what we do with our resources when we are faithful. It just feels good to give. □

We Believe Christians Are Salt and Light

Statement of Beliefs Study Guide—Session 9

by David T. Priestley

Being a Christian makes a difference in what a person wants, does and feels. It does not affect only his thinking and understanding.

In a variety of phrases, the Statement of Beliefs already has made this point. The Bible is "the truth by which God . . . leads people to Christian maturity" (Article 1). Christ dwells in all believers, and the Holy Spirit "produces the fruit of Christlikeness in all who yield to Him" (Article 2). "Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God" (Article 5). In the fellowship of the Church, Christians experience "mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship"; by sharing in the Lord's Supper, they constantly renew their "dedication" to Christ (Article 6).

Baptists enter the fellowship of the Church as changed people, as believers transferred out of the kingdom of darkness. God created man to have fellowship with Him and to be stewards over His creation, but sin changed that into an impossibility (Article 4). Christ gives us an opportunity for a new beginning through His death on the cross and His resurrection. God has redeemed us for a purpose that is more than just to escape hell.

The Baptist definition of the Church and of the believer emphasizes that changes have already taken place in each one who joins the church; this article reminds us that changes are to take place *through* as well as *in* the Christian.

Being a Christian makes a difference for us and in us; that difference then makes a difference around us. As we look at our world, our realism frequently becomes pessimism. Realistically, the power of sin is great. There are serious prob-

lems in society, in individuals, in governments, and in the environment. There are spiritual dimensions to each of those problems, embodied as they are in sinful and not-yet-perfected people. Even when we think a solution to one difficulty has been found, six other complications arise, or six unknown problems reveal themselves. Even with all of our "progress," the story of civilization too often looks like one step forward and two steps back. Many Christians

8, in a phrase which points to our relationship with what surrounds us, is: "salt and light."

We Are Salt

We are salt. Some see that as a metaphor for "preservative." As salt reduces spoilage, the people of God retard the world's rotting. So if being "salt" means we preserve society, we cannot do it if we do not actively work to reverse the ignorance, disease, immortality, corruption,

We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christlike spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4).

We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4).

reassure themselves of the inevitability of tragedy by such verses as: ". . . you always have the poor with you"; ". . . when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith in the earth?"; ". . . there will be wars and rumors of wars." Indeed, there are no promises that all of the world's Christians will bring about paradise on earth.

But there is the assurance that Christ is king; God is in control; and Christians will make a difference. We are not likely to make a difference if we are convinced we cannot. Article 8 confronts us with Christ's command and encouragement to make a difference. Christian maturity, Christlikeness, obedience, discipleship, growth, and dedication are terms which force us to ask: What should my life, character, nature be, since I am a Christian? The answer of Article

pain, discord, and evil in our family, our community, our country, and our world. Passively complaining about "things" or "them" may provide conversation, but Christ has not licensed us to complain; we are under orders to do something.

Some Christians are concerned that if we try to correct society's ills, we may never tell people that Christ wants to save them personally. Some do not feel free or interested in "social reform" of any sort (at most, they support the "city mission" which helps bums and winos).

This article doesn't demand that we engage in social reform. It reminds us that greed, selfishness, and vice are contrary to God's design for people and societies while truth, justice, and peace are consistent with what God wants. Regardless of the tragic effects of sin upon us and our relationships,

Top 25 per Capita Giving Churches to the 1985 N.A.B. Conference Mission and Ministry Budget

Church	1985 Membership	Dollar Amount	Per Capita
Cathay, Cathay, ND	42	\$15,822	\$377
First, Lorraine, KS	191	\$54,969	\$288
Ridgemont, East Detroit, MI	245	\$66,534	\$272
Zion, Drumheller, AB	83	\$22,341	\$269
Raymore, Raymore, SK	61	\$16,278	\$267
Faith, Minneapolis, MN	339	\$87,064	\$257
Emmanuel, Morris, MB	150	\$37,487	\$250
Oakbank, Oakbank, MB	90	\$19,134	\$213
Parkdale, Drumheller, AB	32	\$6,534	\$204
Grant Park, Winnipeg, MB	151	\$29,349	\$194
Zion Community, Edmonton, AB	294	\$55,907	\$190
Trochu, Trochu, AB	131	\$24,011	\$183
Hudson Bay Park, Saskatoon, SK	72	\$13,126	\$182
Olds, East Olds, AB	108	\$19,166	\$177
Ft. Richmond, Winnipeg, MB	100	\$17,695	\$177
Hilda, Hilda, AB	36	\$6,331	\$176
First, Ellinwood, KS	238	\$41,136	\$173
Calvary, Wetaskiwin, AB	134	\$22,682	\$169
Ebenezer, Ebenezer, SK	117	\$19,514	\$167
First, Golden Prairie, SK	16	\$2,589	\$162
First, Corona, SD	65	\$10,114	\$156
Foster Ave., Chicago, IL	175	\$27,313	\$156
New Leipzig, New Leipzig, ND	104	\$15,910	\$153
Bethany, Lethbridge, AB	76	\$11,147	\$147
Bethany, Vancouver, BC	464	\$68,191	\$147

Top 25 Churches in Total Giving to the 1985 N.A.B. Conference Mission and Ministry Budget

Church	1985 Membership	Total Giving
Faith, Minneapolis, MN	339	\$87,064
Bethany, Vancouver, BC	464	\$68,191
Central, Edmonton, AB	550	\$66,917
Ridgemont, East Detroit, MI	245	\$66,534
McDermont Ave., Winnipeg, MB	503	\$66,017
Brentview, Calgary, AB	503	\$57,232
Napier Parkview, Benton Harbor, MI	646	\$55,949
Zion, Edmonton, AB	294	\$55,907
First, Lorraine, KS	191	\$55,519
Trinity, Kelowna, BC	463	\$52,716
Ebenezer, Vancouver, BC	466	\$52,373
Mission, Winnipeg, MB	420	\$49,742
Ridgewood, Brookfield, WI	409	\$45,647
Redeemer, Warren, MI	850	\$44,996
Thornhill, Calgary, AB	322	\$43,088
Temple, Lodi, CA	1,194	\$42,139
Colonial Village, Lansing, MI	335*	\$41,261
First, Ellinwood, KS	238	\$41,136
Grosse Pointe, Grosse Point Woods, MI	429	\$40,263
Pineland, Burlington, ON	328	\$38,800
First, Elk Grove, CA	566	\$38,724
Bethany, Portland, OR	342	\$38,656
Emmanuel, Morris, MB	150	\$37,487
Sunrise, Fair Oaks, CA	1,598	\$37,295
Calvary, Bethlehem, PA	369	\$36,481

* 1984 Membership

"each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect" (Article 4).

By the way we live, we are to demonstrate that that is what God thinks. If we undertake a campaign to change visible blight in our city, or if we firmly, "in a Christlike spirit," behave with integrity and compassion in our job, we are contributing to the well-being of everyone around us. The witness to Christ's power to transform life will have no believability if our lives are not different in a way that preserves.

We are salt. Some see that as a metaphor for "flavoring." On the principle that variety is the spice of life, Christians have just as much right as non-Christians to provide another alternative amidst all the other flavorings our culture contains. This is an argument that just as salt is not intended to provide its own flavor but to bring out the true flavor of the others, so the Christian is to be a catalyst to give life to an otherwise bland world.

Christ makes a difference in how we enjoy life. The Christian, as Christ's "stand-in" in a family, job, and neighborhood, is an indication of what the truly flavored life can be like. How the Christian lives through difficulties, successes, tragedies and monotonies before the world testifies to the flavor Christ gives to live.

We are salt. Some see that as a metaphor for "thirst." Our lives should make people thirsty to drink the water of life which marks us off from others. The way we respond to others and to circumstances should identify us as a means of help to those hungering for wholeness and meaning in their lives.

We Are Light

We are also light. Our lives provide illumination to expose how dark it really is when God is ignored, how ugly life is without God. Our insight gives clarity to help others grapple with the problems and puzzles of their lives. Our characters stand as beacons for what human life can be when the fellowship for which we were made has been restored.

Qualities of Christian Life Consistent with God's Nature

The list of qualities suggested for Christian living and action are consistent with the nature of God. As Christ is formed in us, our conduct and our character necessarily will match His more and more. We stand for truth not as a "principle," but as a way of life. We are peacemakers; we show no favoritism; we excuse no falsehoods in ourselves or others; we feed, clothe, house and heal in Christ's name; we actively recognize the value of people in general and each person in particular.

This affects how we speak to and of others; it affects how we use our resources; it affects how we care and what we care about. It naturally puts us at a distance from those who just want to criticize or complain, and from those who want to solve all the world's problems. It means emotional involvement and identity with life because we see and feel dimly what God does about each circumstance.

Because the relationship of husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister are so central to everyone's well-being, Article 8 makes special mention of the family.

It is troubling to see and experience the pressures upon and the breakdowns of the basic human tie God established. It is easy to enumerate many factors which threaten the stability of this fundamental human link. Some of those factors can be addressed from the perspective of what has been said above: the Christian can take the initiative to correct what is out of order in the larger society. All will not do so, and success will not be complete.

Perhaps we need to focus on the family of which we are a part. Rather than lamenting what may jeopardize its stability, we need to commit ourselves to cultivating the attitudes and nurturing the activities which will give health and joy to living together.

Instead of fretting about how conflicting schedules destroy togetherness, work on finding a schedule which will maintain togetherness. Instead of ignoring the effects of how we talk upon others in the family, guard your tongue both in kindness within the group and in the subject about which the family talks

(Ephesians 5:12).

It is no accident that God has used the metaphor of the family to express our relationship with Him: we are the "household of faith," the "bride of Christ," and the "children of God." Address yourselves to making your family the reflection of the relationship God desires with each member of the household.

Because God commands us in His Word to be light and salt, we cannot be so pessimistic about the world in which we live that we let it just "go to hell." We ought not envision our responsibility to be only to fish people out of the soup in which they are already dead spiritually. We must catch sight of our duty to actually live as Christ-people in everyday situations. We are beachheads from which God intends to drive back darkness by exposing evil and exemplifying godliness.

To Discuss:

- 1) Discuss the various implications of "salt" and "light" as metaphors for what effect you are to have where you live.
- 2) How can Christians support efforts for justice, health, and well-being—in your town, your country, other nations? How can you support Christians who have committed themselves vocationally to work in these areas? How can you be a peacemaker when you are not a diplomat for your country?
- 3) What specific things can you do to preserve the "integrity and stability" of your own family? What can your church do to help its member families? What will your class commit itself to do to restore families under stress? What should your church do to help families that totally break down?

Dr. David Priestley is Assistant Professor of Historical Theology at North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

This article is the ninth in a series of ten studies focusing on the Statement of Beliefs adopted by the North American Baptist Conference.



North American
Baptist Conference

1985 in Review

Responding to Biblical Imperatives

The delegates at the 1985 Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches met in Anaheim and positively affirmed a set of proposed Biblical Imperatives and Goals. These Imperatives and Goals resulted from a planning process with the active participation of pastors, lay leaders, and Conference personnel.

The imperatives and goals were sparked by seeking answers to tough questions, such as: Who are we as North American Baptists? Why do we exist? What does God want us to be by the year 2000? What are the changes in our world, and how must we change to meet current and future needs?

Recognizing that we have limited resources of people and finances in comparison to the overwhelming need for spreading the Gospel today, it seemed clear that we must set priorities. That resulted in giving us the vision of the five Biblical Imperatives:

- Called to Worship . . .
- Commissioned to Witness . . .
- Compelled to Serve . . .
- Committed to Give . . .
- Commanded to Care . . .

Some Conference goals for the next six years arose naturally out of these imperatives. As you read this review of 1985,

you will see how the Departments are working to achieve these.

It has been very encouraging for me to hear reports of many churches using the same imperatives and developing their own vision or goals for ministry in their respective communities. If this process continues, its momentum under the direction of the Holy Spirit will produce very significant results.

I hope many more will catch the vision through a fresh study of Scripture, serious prayer, and a new sensitivity to the needs of people in our world and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

These imperatives have helped many to bring into clearer focus our identity, mission, and strategy. Hopefully, it will mobilize our various Conference ministry departments and churches into unified action and celebration that will draw more into the family of God.

Will you be an active participant with the talents, spiritual gifts, and resources that God has given you?

John Binder

John Binder
Executive Director



(Left to right); Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director; Dr. Connie Salios, development director; Dr. John Binder, executive director; Mr. Ronald Salzman, missions director; Rev. Raymond Harsch, acting church growth director; and Mr. Robert Mayforth, financial services director

The largest number of area ministers in the history of the Conference provided a caring ministry in 1985. Expansion to eleven areas came when the Western Area developed into two, California (Dr. Kenneth Fischer, area minister) and Northwest (Rev. LeRoy Schauer, area minister). Smaller areas allow area ministers to spend more quality time with pastors and churches.

Area ministers preach, conduct Christian life meetings, counsel, plan for and encourage church growth, work with pastoral staff search committees, meet with ordination councils, and celebrate special congregational events.

"Another important facet of this ministry is to 'stand alongside' and encourage pastors, hospital and military chaplains, and those in pastoral counseling," says Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director. Area ministers also join pastors in ministerial meetings and annual retreats.

Working with Association officers in planning Association events, church extension projects, and camping programs marks the third phase of their ministry.

Finally, area ministers interpret and promote N.A.B. Conference missions and ministries for prayer and financial support.

About one-half of the area minister personnel changed in 1985. The Rev. Isador Faszer retired as Alberta Area Minister, and Dr. Roy Seibel retired as Interim Upper Midwest Area Minister. Appointed to replace them were the Rev. Charles Littman, formerly North Central Area Minister, and the Rev. Jacob Ehman, respectively. The Rev. Ralph Cooke became North Central Area Minister.



Through
Area
Ministries

The Church Growth Department helps local churches and Associations reach out and witness to people without Christ through missions and ministries in Canada and the U.S.A.

The Church Growth Strategy, launched in 1985, challenges churches to major on the basics: Prayer, worship, visitation outreach, and teaching the Word.

Phase I seminars were held for pastors in 18 areas of the Conference. These pastors and their laypeople representing 98 churches in 35 regions enthusiastically participated in Phase II. Thirty churches are now involved in Phase III.

Four new church extension projects planted in and five new projects started in 1986 bring total of churches receiving Conference support to 33.

1985 statistics reveal that 235 out of 372 N.A.B. Conference churches baptized 1,695 persons; 172 churches showed a net gain of 1,669. Ten of the 20 Associations showed

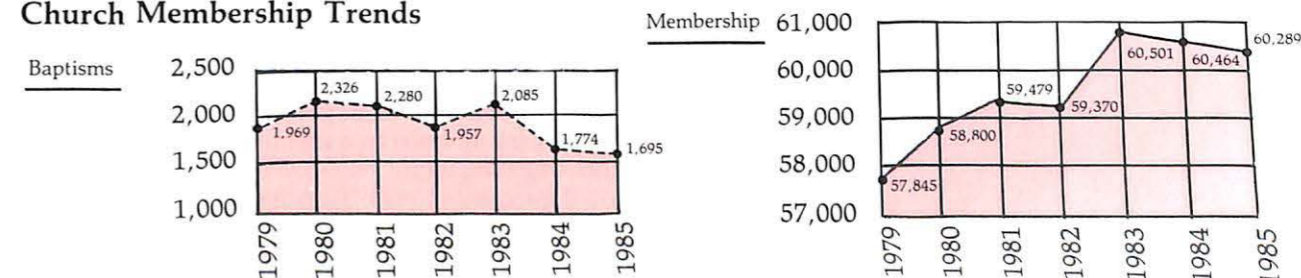


growth. Average attendance at morning worship services increased from 47,364 to 49,192.

Rev. Ronald Norman, director, returned to

Through
Church
Growth

7-Year Baptism and Church Membership Trends



the pastorate; Rev. Ray Harsch was appointed acting director; and Rev. Bernard Fritzke associate director for church planting, replaced Dr. Donald Ganstrom who retired.

The Women's Missionary Fellowship encourages women's ministries and missions in the local church. They gave \$275,398 in 1985 plus \$26,244 in Capital Funds and \$17,000 in blessing boxes. The Urban/Ethnic Task Force emphasizes meeting the needs of people who

come to North America from other countries. Home mission churches in Texas and Colorado continue to reach people for Christ.

"New Day," a team of 17 youth, conduct seminars on sharing Christ and give special musical and dramatic presentations. Summer opportunities are provided for youth to serve in church extension, home missions, and urban/ethnic ministries.

Through General Council

The largest attended Triennial Conference of North American Baptist churches met July 16-21, 1985, in Anaheim, California, and focused on the theme, "A People of Hope for a World in Despair." Delegates elected officers: Mr. Ernie Radke, Calgary, AB, moderator; Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Minneapolis, MN, vice moderator; Mr. Milton Hildebrandt, St. Paul, MN, treasurer; and Dr. John Binder, executive

director, as well as board members. They adopted "Biblical Imperatives and Primary Goals for 1986-1991," as well as approved a New Churches Fund. Registrations stood at 4,287 with 1,047 registered delegates, 1,369 youth, 239 young teens, and 241 children plus visitors from five Canadian provinces and 33 states. Offerings for overseas missions and church planting totalled \$84,382.

"We endeavor to tell of God's love as we witness to many people in a variety of ways in diverse places," says Missions Director Ronald Salzman. "We thank you for your support and encouragement.

"We have a superb career missionary staff with education and commitment to Christ and His work and a love for the people with whom they minister. Every overseas Baptist Convention where we have missionaries is alive, vibrant, and growing."



Cameroon Baptist Convention

- 101 future pastors in training
- 35 leprosy patients discharged free of disease
- 6.6 percent increase in membership to 38,016 in 489 churches
- 1,660 baptisms
- More than 65,000 treated in hospitals and dispensaries
- 511 received Christ and 292 restored to Him at Banso Baptist Hospital
- Many in secondary schools received Christ
- Cameroonian pastor serves unreached area
- 35 missionaries serve in theological education, secondary education, church/pastor seminars, evangelism and renewal, women's work, medical and administrative ministries

Brazil Baptist Convention

- 4 missionary couples serve in church planting, evangelism, and church growth in the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina
- 3 percent increase in church membership to a total of 6,160
- 500 baptisms in 85 churches
- 45 seminary students in training

Mambilla Baptist Convention

- 83 future pastors in training
- 26,086 people treated in rural health clinics
- 4.5 percent increase to a membership of 11,462 in 142 churches
- 677 baptisms
- 7 missionaries serve in theological training, medical work, evangelism, and administration

Japan Baptist Convention

- 7.5 percent increase in church membership in 7 churches totalling 319 members
- 22 baptisms
- 17 missionaries serve in student evangelism, English and Bible study classes, and church planting
- Higashi Muko Church showed a membership increase of 185 percent and built a new church building with sacrificial giving
- University student makes a commitment to Christ and is baptized; largest university Bible class ever

Philippines

- Rev. and Mrs. Leland Bertsch, appointed as our first missionaries to Philippines, left in April 1986, to begin language study

Other Significant Highlights

- \$100,450 given to Baptist World Aid to provide relief in 17 countries
- Mr. Ron Salzman was elected the first lay Missions Director, and Rev. Herman Effa and Rev. Fred Folkerts were appointed as Associate Directors.
- The falling dollar causes budget tightening and personnel reductions in overseas mission work.

The North American Baptist Conference supports three excellent schools to prepare people to serve: a four-year Bible College in Edmonton, Alberta, and two theological schools located in Edmonton and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Giving through the Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget provided \$609,073 for these schools in 1985 with a goal of \$716,600 for 1986. In addition, these schools solicit Annual Funds to support their ministries.

North American Baptist College offers training in a Bible College context. More courses transfer to various universities and colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada. Enrollment increased this year, after a three-year decline, with about 200 full-time students from different backgrounds. They are being equipped to serve as effective lay leaders in local churches or receiving an excellent foundation for continued education in secular vocations or for full-time Christian ministry.

Those who visit the campus find an excellent atmosphere. In 1986, Discovery Days, a college open house, drew 243 prospective students, the largest group ever.

Students form musical groups that tour Canada and the U.S.A. and serve Christ in a variety of ways off campus in area churches and the community.

North American Baptist Divinity School offers the Master of Divinity degree in pastoral training as well as the Master of Theological Studies and the Bachelor of Theology degree. Qualified, committed faculty provide theological as well as practical training for effective ministry. In April 1986, eight graduated from this school, which shares its campus with North American Baptist College.

"The Schalm Memorial Library is now debt-free," states President Walter Goltz. "Of the total cost of \$885,000, Conference Capital Funds provided \$150,000."

The College and Divinity School raised \$270,000 in 1985 and is raising \$285,000 in 1986 for its Annual Fund.

North American Baptist Seminary has been preparing persons for ministry since 1858. Its expanding programs provide theological training for pastors, missionaries, counselors, church staff, and laypersons.

Visitors to the campus find a positive spirit among the student body, faculty, and administration.

Total student body enrollment for 1985-86 stood at 275 with 32 graduating on May 25, 1986.



Through Education

Through Missions

"Equipping pastor/scholars who are capable of leading N.A.B. Conference church ministries is our mission," says President Charles Hiatt. "Our graduates have faced themselves, God's Word, and their own spiritual struggles under the kind but firm guidance of our faculty."

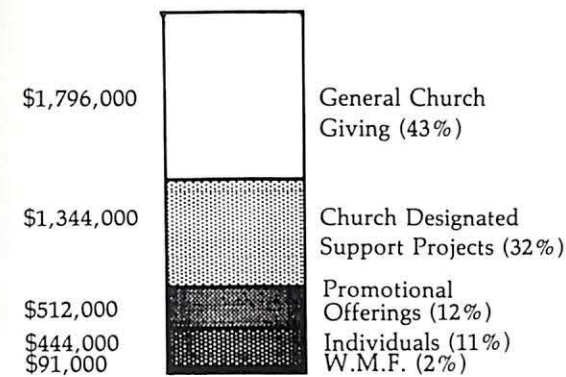
A student recruitment plan, the New Generation Campaign, launched in January 1986, has the three-year goal of recruiting 150 new full-time students to help meet the projected need for 193 new workers in the Conference before 1993.

The library addition, completed with support from Conference Capital Funds, was dedicated in 1985.

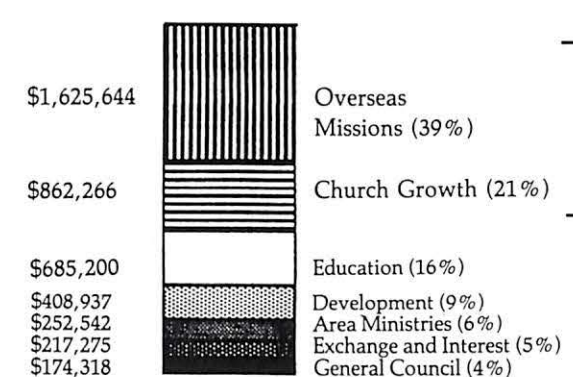
The Seminary raised \$385,000 for its Annual Fund in 1984-85 and has a goal of \$455,000 for 1985-86.



Source of Income
\$4,186,878



Use of Income
\$4,226,181



1986 N.A.B. Basic Mission and Ministry Budget

Through Communications

Communicating the results of ministries and missions through personal visits, the printed page, and audiovisuals is how the Development Department serves.

The year-end phonathon asking for prayer for the financial needs found pastors, churches, and N.A.B. Office staff united in prayer in a caring and worshipful way.

Giving

1986 was a record year of giving even though the Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget was not met. Churches' and individuals' giving affirmed positive support of the missions and ministries that we, as churches, do together.

Capital Funds

"Through the Capital Funds Campaign, strategic advances, not otherwise possible through the basic mission and ministry budget, were made in the Conference and Associations," says Dr. Connie Salios, development director. "\$797,121 was received in 1985."

Estate Planning

During 1985, \$37,089 was given for Con-

ference missions and ministries through bequests, a way individuals continue to have their money work for the Lord after their death. During the second half of the year, there were no field staff. Dr. Connie Salios, Robert Mayforth, and Steve Pace work in conjunction with Estate Planning Counselor Ray Lyne to help people plan their estates.

Publications and Audiovisuals

Results of your personal participation, prayer, and financial support affecting ministries at home and overseas are told through the pages of the *Baptist Herald*, the binational Conference magazine, "N.A.B. News," a bulletin insert, "Missions Update," quarterly, and monthly pastors' mailings.

Audiovisuals, slide sets, and videos were produced to promote home and overseas missions.

Moments With God draws us together as a family in worship, meditation, and prayer.

N.A.B. Directory and Association Reports and General Council Minutes are additional helpful publications.

Through Financial Services

Church Extension Investors Fund

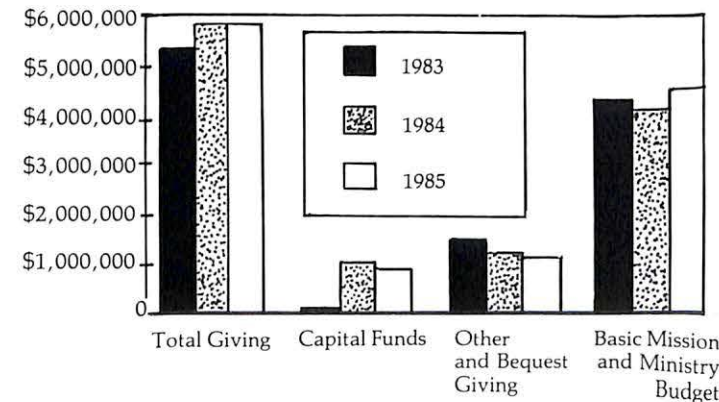
During 1985, investments in Church Extension Investors Fund (C.E.I.F.) increased by \$1,241,467 to a total of \$10,310,969, according to Mr. Robert Mayforth, financial services director. Included in this increase are 69 new or additional C.E.I.F./I.R.A. investments. This provided sufficient capital for five additional church loans from C.E.I.F. bringing the total to 170 loans amounting to \$10,946,515. Investors received \$986,732 in dividends.

The audited financial report is available upon request from the Financial Services Director, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

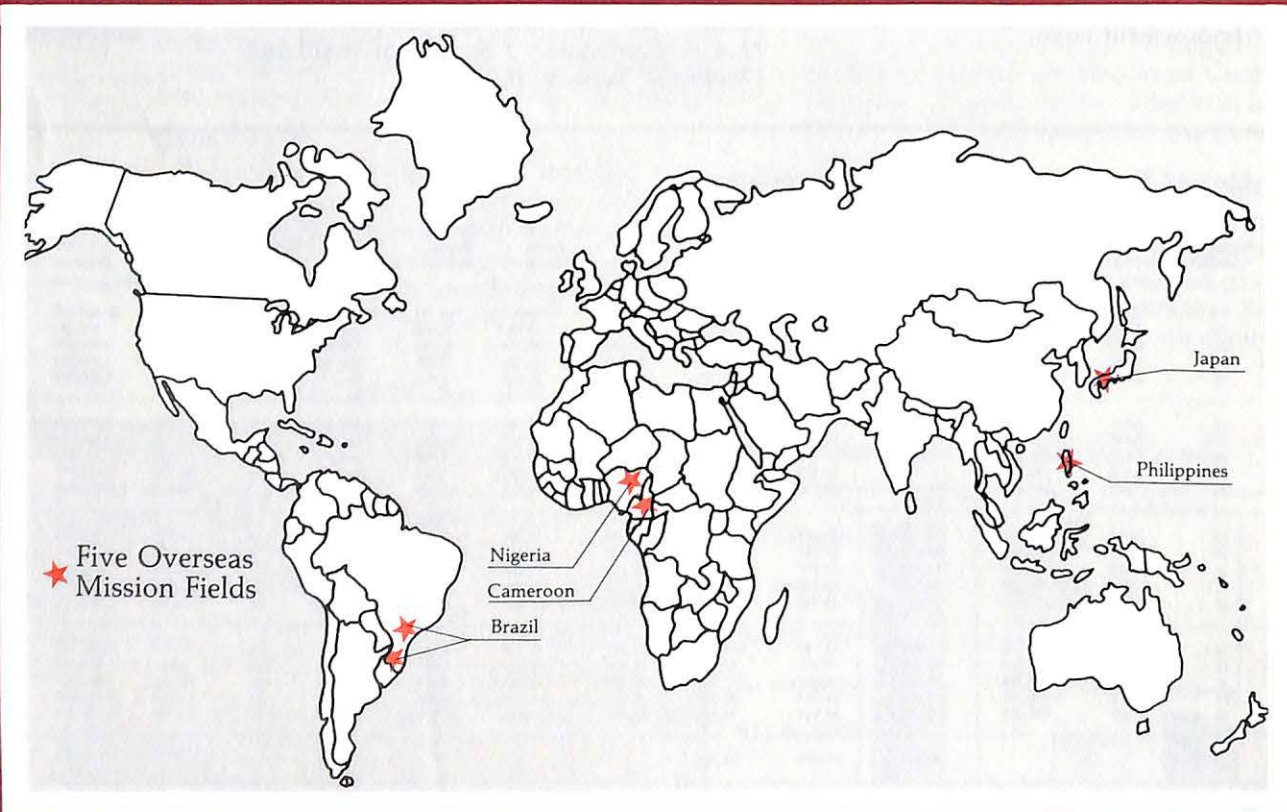
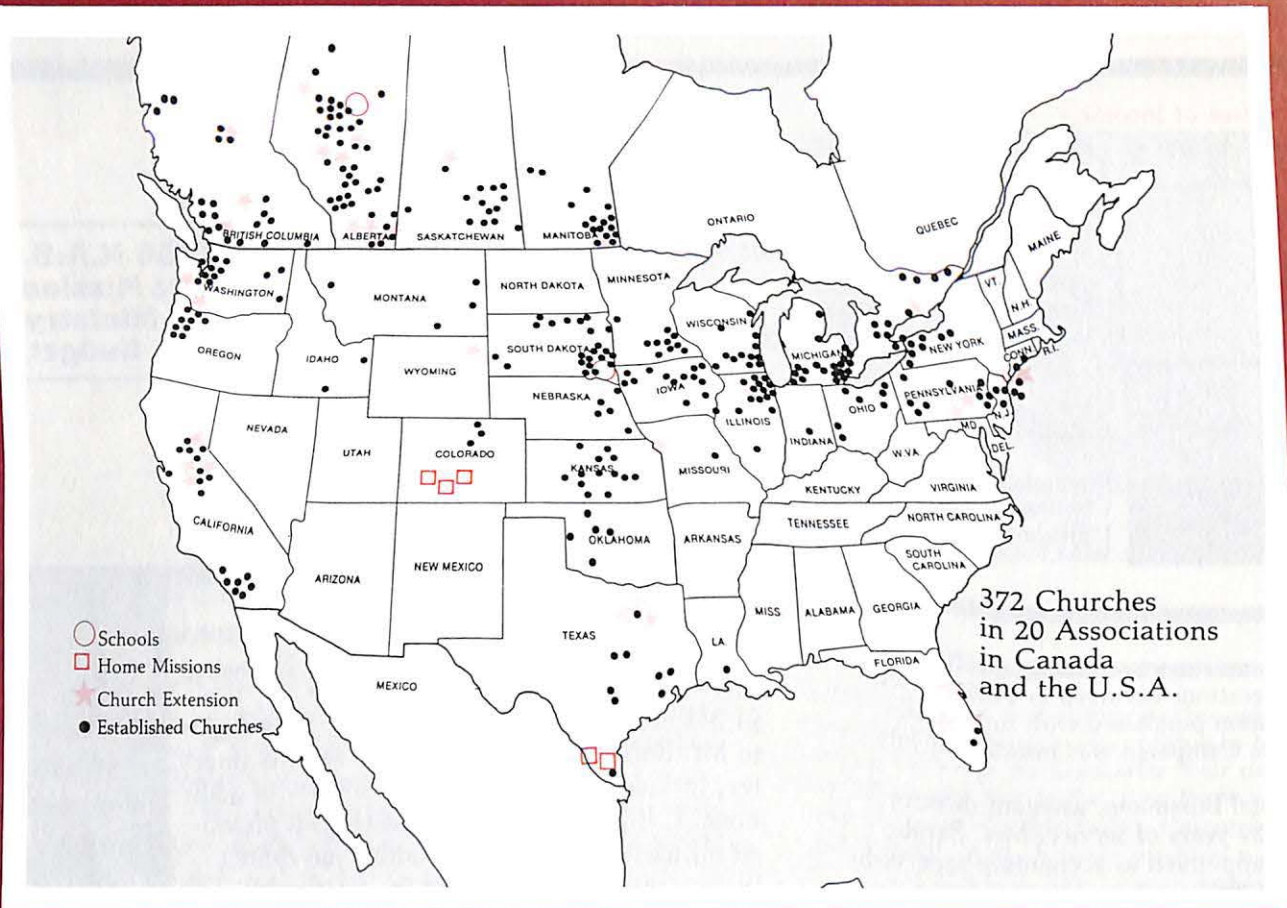
1985 Membership and Total Contributions to All Associations

Name of Association	Number of Churches	Membership	Total Local Church	Conf. Mission & Ministry	Conf. Special Funds	Conf. Capital Funds	Conf. Educ. Inst.	N.A.B. Assoc. Minist.	N.A.B. Related Minist.	Total for N.A.B.	N.A.B. Avg. per Member	Other than N.A.B.	Total All Purposes	Total Avg. per Member
Alberta	50	7,336	\$4,986,881	\$712,005	\$146,291	\$155,781	\$149,779	\$295,943	\$95,523	\$1,555,322	\$212	\$292,175	\$6,834,378	\$932
Atlantic	14	1,472	793,640	91,008	31,095	24,118	1,571	9,700	6,306	163,798	111	34,673	992,111	674
British Columbia	21	4,172	2,196,390	358,975	89,722	71,103	30,059	132,878	47,749	730,486	175	93,214	3,020,090	724
Central Dakota-Montana	29	3,506	1,418,998	175,601	46,124	20,928	35,823	42,790	19,490	340,756	97	30,775	1,790,529	511
Central Pacific	13	2,231	1,098,475	142,541	16,631	24,715	14,374	41,815	6,467	246,543	111	57,329	1,402,347	629
Eastern	25	3,561	1,667,532	235,227	50,851	15,597	25,439	53,649	12,206	392,969	110	84,623	2,145,124	602
Great Lakes	31	7,627	3,716,346	476,833	55,590	69,559	42,181	26,513	24,292	694,968	91	537,719	4,949,033	649
Illinois	17	2,426	1,061,639	166,289	17,932	31,651	14,913	29,373	4,957	265,115	109	59,137	1,385,891	571
Iowa	15	2,572	749,392	151,652	16,195	31,400	21,421	27,684	5,973	254,325	99	53,632	1,057,349	411
Manitoba	16	2,548	1,287,445	307,496	58,706	62,733	28,313	119,113	15,373	591,734	232	74,659	1,953,838	768
Minnesota-LaCrosse	12	1,549	689,497	159,126	20,643	46,662	23,969	32,889	4,292	287,581	186	12,110	989,188	639
Northern California	10	5,496	3,657,857	199,018	38,443	43,337	38,503	73,079	5,137	397,517	72	185,076	4,240,450	772
Northern Dakota	16	2,138	906,845	148,213	20,360	9,648	14,191	21,834	17,826	232,072	109	53,259	1,192,176	558
Pacific Northwest	14	1,940	937,833	92,876	26,370	36,191	6,546	28,074	6,546	196,603	101	33,835	1,168,271	602
Saskatchewan	13	1,331	1,197,479	121,023	33,344	13,779	21,070	35,286	5,431	229,933	173	134,760	1,562,172	1,174
South Dakota-Wyoming	16	2,549	1,045,778	153,826	18,140	51,400	73,847	34,079	5,069	336,361	132	38,118	1,420,257	557
Southern	13	1,028	417,089	45,268	9,452	16,597	7,932	26,096	1,819	107,164	104	6,890	531,143	517
Southern California	8	1,575	1,157,454	86,834	6,631	333	10,129	54,735	2,294	160,956	102	66,613	1,385,023	879
Southwestern	27	2,729	1,060,184	213,401	26,231	31,858	38,344	36,725	6,020	352,579	129	40,209	1,452,972	532
Wisconsin	12	2,503	870,008	109,303	15,916	14,485	10,669	23,623	2,974	176,970	71	83,795	1,130,773	452
Miscellaneous				40,363	31,159	25,246				96,768			96,768	
TOTALS FOR 1985	372	60,289	\$30,916,762	\$4,186,878	\$775,826	\$797,121	\$609,073	\$1,145,878	\$295,744	\$7,810,520	\$130	\$1,972,601	\$40,699,883	\$675
TOTALS FOR 1984	373	60,546	\$29,782,077	\$4,003,220	\$786,203	\$921,982	\$556,553	\$1,097,473	\$379,938	\$7,745,369	\$128	\$1,676,226	\$39,203,672	\$649
Total Increase (Decrease)	(1)	(257)	\$1,134,685	\$183,658	(\$10,377)	(\$124,861)	\$52,520	\$48,405	(\$84,194)	\$65,151	\$2	\$296,375	\$1,496,211	\$26

Three-Year Conference Giving Trends



Three-Year Giving Trends	1983	1984	1985
Conference Basic Mission & Ministry Budget	\$4,028,596	\$4,003,220	\$4,186,878
Other Giving			
Capital Funds	64,137	921,982	797,121
Overseas Missions Specials	206,107	267,621	276,347
Area Ministries	178,352	209,295	236,433
Bequests	507,721	70,762	37,089
World Relief, Baptist World Alliance, Pension/Retired Ministers' Assistance	83,518	193,518	173,119
Women's Missionary Fellowship Specials	52,947	69,476	61,596
Miscellaneous	69,280	46,294	28,331
Total Giving	\$5,190,658	\$5,782,168	\$5,796,914



mission news

Couple Seeks Abortion

A young couple recently came to Dr. Helen Marie Schmidt, missionary at Banso Baptist Hospital, and asked her to do an abortion.

"They already had one small child, and custom dictates that the wife should not get pregnant until this child is weaned. Her husband has been offered further education which will strain the budget, so they felt God was leading them to me for help with an abortion," says Helen.

"After several sessions of discussion and prayer with them, they decided to keep the pregnancy. I assured them that God did lead them to me, not for the abortion, but as a barrier to abortion," says Helen.

This is a Christian couple. Pray that God will strengthen their faith as they face the stress placed on them by society as well as the financial strain caused by schooling for the husband and a new member in the family.

Banso Hospital Staff Emphasizes Spiritual Health

Increasing numbers of people are utilizing the services available at Banso Baptist Hospital. While at the Hospital, patients hear presentations of the Gospel. Many are responding and making first-time decisions for Christ; others are rededicating their lives to Christ.

Surrounding churches are strengthened by the ministry of the Hospital staff when they are off duty. One of the staff pastors a church on Sundays; others direct choirs, teach Sunday school classes, and teach women's groups and Children's New Life Clubs.

"As students report back after they graduate from the Banso Baptist Hospital's nursing/midwifery school," says Dr. Helen Marie Schmidt, "they give testimony to spiritual growth during their training and hunger for similar fellowship."

Bible Conferences in Nigeria a Success

A real spirit of unity and cooperation was felt at all of the Bible Conferences held on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria. The Conferences focused on the theme, "Standing on the Promises of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

All the fields on the Mambilla Plateau showed an increase in membership, and all went over their goals for their Thanksgiving offerings.

"We praise God for the increase in the number of Bible study groups and prayer groups," reports Missionary Minnie Kuhn.

Every field has put a considerable portion of its budget into evangelism and mission outreach. "Praise God for this vision," says Minnie. "We are growing, and in the process, we are suffering some growing pains. We know that God's promises never fail and nothing is impossible with God."

Prayer and Missionary Nurse Help Save Life

"Please, Miss Reddy—Nancy has fallen from a mango tree!" a girl cried breathlessly at my door one Tuesday afternoon. Picking up my first aid kit, I headed to the accident site wondering if she had broken bones or a concussion. Worse than my imaginings, I found three staff members carrying Nancy who had an Indian Bamboo stick protruding from her chest. The three-inch diameter stick had pierced her under her right rib cage, plunged through her right lung, and was lodged behind her collarbone. She was conscious but in shock. "Please, Miss Reddy, take the stick out," she groaned.

We put Nancy in the back of a pickup truck, carefully holding the four feet of stick protruding from her so it would not jar. We traveled as quickly as possible to Limbe General Hospital.

Frustration mounted at the hospital as there was no doctor available, no oxygen, and no intravenous solutions. I monitored her pulse and asked the staff to quickly get the needed supplies and a doctor. And I kept praying!

After some time, a doctor arrived, but he was an obstetrician. He looked at the situation and said, "C'est impossible!"

Finally, a surgeon and anesthetist came, and Nancy went into surgery. We scoured the Saker Baptist College staff to find blood donors.

Nancy's parents from Buea arrived, and we tried to console and support them. After three hours of surgery, Nancy emerged in stable condition.

I stayed at the hospital that night to monitor her condition. She had no function of her right lung. I kept thinking about the severe trauma to her lung, the great risk of infection, and the lack of modern medical equipment.

The Saker Baptist College staff and students as well as many townspeople joined in prayer for Nancy. Each day brought rapid improvement in her condition. Her collapsed lung re-expanded and began to heal. She had some minor post-operative infection, but it was controlled.

Nancy has returned to school and is regaining her strength. We all consider her recovery a real miracle and a testimony of God's love and grace. —Helen Reddy, short-term missionary serving as teacher and school nurse at Saker Baptist College, Limbe, Cameroon, completes her ministry this June.





Love with Fervent Love

by Sara Pasiciel, WMF
president, Steinbach, MB



In doing research about the effects of mass media on our lives, I read about a new concept (to me) called the "narcotizing effect" of media. Because we receive so much information about what is going on in the world—and this includes information about the sick, the terrorized, the starving, the victimized people of so many countries—we often feel we have actually done something about these situations. The more we know, the more we want to find out. We read books, magazines and journals, watch TV documentaries, listen to tapes, then think, "At last, I really understand what these people are suffering—I know what it must be like." And because we know and understand, we think in our narcotized state, that we have "done something."

Perhaps this is an exaggeration, a picture not many of us would fit into—but I would venture to say that there are many people in communities all over North America who would benefit if the Christians nearby would leave their conferences, seminars, and discussion groups on social problems, and come to meet their very personal needs for food, clothing, companionship, or comfort.

It is important to be aware and, because of that awareness, to have compassion. But if we are to love as Christ loves, our compassion needs to be translated into fervent love—earnest, unfailing love, which stretches out to touch other people, strains to love them in

ways they can see and feel. 1 Peter 4:8-11 shows us that the compassionate love we have for one another and for others must be acted out in passionate service—faith in action, awareness becoming outreach. "Each one . . . must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God" (vs. 10, TEV).

Christ's love was a fervent love; although He had power and authority, so that He likely could have stayed at the temple to teach and share His wisdom, He took His message and His ministry away from the cities and the safe places. Sometimes He served; sometimes He healed; sometimes He fed; sometimes He listened—but always He demonstrated His love. In Matthew 20:34 we read, "Jesus had pity on them and touched their eyes; at once they were able to see, and they followed Him." The pity alone would have been understandable and admirable; the touch caused them to follow Him.

In his book, *Loving God*, Charles Colson states: ". . . maturing faith—faith which deepens and grows as we live our Christian life—is not just knowledge, but knowledge acted upon. It is not just belief, but belief lived out—practiced. James said we are to be doers of the Word, not just hearers. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor martyred in a Nazi concentration camp, succinctly stated this crucial interrelationship: 'Only he who believes is obedient; only he who is obedient

believes' " (p. 37).

First, we must feel compassion—sincere heart-hurt for those who do not know Jesus Christ, for those who are alone, who are in need. But then we must allow our fervent love—love for Christ, His Word, and for our fellow man—to lead us into action. We must do what we can do where we are, because we have been gifted by God and created in His image to be His image on earth.

Several years ago, we had a student at our school who had been injured in a sports-related accident. Though his mind remained bright and alert, he was in a wheelchair, unable to speak or move more than his upper body. I remember clearly the look on his face two years later as I saw him walking down a short flight of stairs, supported on either side by the clasped hands of two strong friends who looked equally ecstatic. Without special medical or surgical or psychological skills, this boy's friends had, with fervent love, reached out to do what they were able to do: carry books, read aloud, provide support both emotionally and physically.

". . . Whoever serves must serve with the strength that God gives him, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and power for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:11). □

Tanell Gerloff: Struggling to Prepare, Longing to Minister

by Fran Hoogestraat, Sioux Falls, SD



A woman, heart dissatisfied with ordinariness, seeks to develop ministry skills. As a single woman, she studies at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in the master of divinity program. The days hold many questions for her.

"Will I be able to answer the longings from deep within to minister in a culture other than my own? Am I really hearing God clearly as I ache to bring Asians to know Christ as their personal Savior? Wouldn't it be so much easier if I just tried to forget that 'call on my life for ministry'?"

Temptations to forget that call grow less possible with each day of seminary study. Each day the vision of hope joins a desire to serve capably as an enabled-by-God ministry professional. Tanell will tell you she did not formulate her mission, her goal, to complete a master of divinity degree. Tanell will tell you she never planned her life to follow this path. She will tell you that opening her options to include missions has been God's plan.

"Some days I question why I am in seminary. The work is hard; the pressures are many. I often think many other paths or choices in life would be much easier for me. But often I have not known what the Lord would do next with my life. Yet He has prepared the way, and then prepared me . . . and somewhere out in the middle of the new experience, I find myself loving it all, knowing it has been pro-

vided by the hand of God. These times in my life have caused me only to love God more. . . ."

At the University of Minnesota, Tanell pursued her interests in family, finances, anthropology, and spiritual and emotional health in home economics studies. "It was as valuable on the mission field as any degree could possibly have been." Her diversity of studies fit into her short-term ministry to Japan where she taught conversational English. Students ranged in age from nine to seventy-one. Now, wherever and however she serves, in North America or overseas, Tanell will lead Bible studies, direct church work, organize Sunday schools, and speak. "Since my life has been a series of juggling many unrelated things all at once, I look forward very much to ministry. Even now, all that I do fits with the pattern of my life. God has always provided experiences to stretch my abilities."

There can be emptiness in ministry preparation. There is an aloneness for ministry professionals. A great comfort and fulfillment come as the deep call of the heart is fed and pursued.

"It is hard to explain what the call of God feels like. Perhaps it is an unforgettable awareness of what I am to do. Perhaps it is a sure, definite direction of my life that appeals to me above all the rest. Perhaps it is the only thing I can do that will matter at the end of my life. It is a pursuit I can total-

ly justify and give account to God. Besides all of that, it is also what I want to do most of all!" □

"Women of Cameroon" Audiovisual Is Available

"Women of Cameroon," an audiovisual featuring the Baptist women and their impact on life in Cameroon, is available from Women's Missionary Fellowship Association Presidents.

"It is the goal to have each of our women's groups see this slide presentation in 1986," says LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director. Rental fee is \$3.00

Commanded to Care

Boyd Recognized as Lodi's Outstanding Citizen

LODI, CA. Mr. Kenneth Boyd was named Lodi's Outstanding Citizen for 1985. Lodi's Chamber of Commerce presented him with the prestigious William T. Harkins Award. Nominees for this award are judged primarily on their undivided service to the community through involvement in civic activities as well as time devoted to working with youth and church.

"Mr. Boyd has devoted his time and energies over the past several years toward making Lodi a better place to live," noted Bozant Katzakian, chairman, Outstanding Citizen Committee. Boyd is an active member of First Baptist Church in Lodi.

Racine Group Pickets Stores Selling Pornography

RACINE, WI. What began in a Sunday school class, "Social Issues," at Grace Baptist Church has made a tremendous impact on the community. The class, which studied such topics as abortion, pornography, and humanism, wanted to do a special project. They chose to picket stores selling pornography.

"Press releases were sent to local media, and interest was soon roused throughout the city," reports Joseph Orth, chairman, Grace Baptist Social Awareness Committee. "Six other churches of various denominations have joined our once-a-month picketing. Since we began in June 1985, a dozen stores have ceased to sell pornography, to the glory of God through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Houts Conducts Marriage Seminar

HEBRON, ND. Dr. Richard Houts, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, conducted a marriage seminar at First Baptist Church, March 15-16, 1986. He spoke on enhancing marriage enrichment through better communication and forgiveness between husband and wife.

"The sessions were open to the people of the community," reports Shari Krein. "Those who attended were strengthened and blessed."

Harvey's W.M.F. Sends Kilo Packages

HARVEY, ND. Members of Bethel Baptist Church's W.M.F. recently packed and sent eight kilo gift packages to the Alan Steier family and the Ronald Stoller family. Both families are missionaries in Japan. —*Mona Schmeets*

Commissioned to Witness

Dallas Church Welcomes 19 New Members

DALLAS, TX. Nineteen new members were received into the North Highlands Bible Church by the pastor, the Rev. Dennis Eenigenburg. This church also has a discipleship

program, "Equipping the Saints." Four membership classes are being conducted a year.

Hope Fellowship Baptist Begins in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, MO. Several families are involved in establishing a new church, Hope Fellowship Baptist. They have been meeting in a home Bible study group since Nov. 10, 1985, and began Sunday services in a home on Feb. 9, 1986. Totally self-supporting, the group secured a regular meeting place and interim speaker for Sunday services beginning March 23, 1986.

Several new families are potential new members. The "New Day" Discipleship Team surveyed the area for new prospective families, Feb. 26-Mar. 2, 1986.

Spiritual "Buddies" Promise to Disciple at McDermot

WINNIPEG, MB. At McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, six young people were baptized, and they testified of their faith in Christ. They also received the right hand of fellowship.

"Each new member was paired with a spiritual buddy who said a special prayer for his new fellow believer and committed himself to disciple that individual," reports Maria Rogalski.

Ten Join Community Baptist, Boca Raton

BOCA RATON, FL. Since 1986 began, four believers have been baptized, and ten new members have joined Community Baptist Church. A child dedication was held for six children March 16, 1986.

"God is guiding our growing church extension congregations, and we praise Him for His guiding hand," states Pastor Paul Meister. "We are looking forward to beginning our first-stage construction on 4.5 acres. We praise the Lord for \$40,000 given to our building fund by our North American Baptist Conference through Capital Funds Campaign giving in which our congregation also participated.

"New families in our community are becoming aware of our ministry and are excited about the Christian witness in their neighborhood. Pray for our people in the Florida churches as the North American Baptist Conference witness continues in one of the fastest growing communities in the United States."

Eleven Baptized at Sidney Church

SIDNEY, MT. Pastor Paul Brannan baptized eight young people and three adults at First Baptist Church recently.

"This was a wonderful experience to witness, and we praise the Lord for their commitment and Christian testimony," reports Gladys Tibbits.

Four Join Danzig Church

AVON, SD. Pastor Jason Haas baptized three young people at Danzig Baptist Church recently. They and one other were received as members at the communion service on April 6, 1986. —*Mrs. Richard Voigt*

Mowata Church Emphasizes Outreach

EUNICE, LA. Mowata Baptist Church designated four days during the month of March as outreach days. The goal

was to get as many people as possible involved in reaching and showing concern for a friend, neighbor, or recent visitor to the Church through a phone call, letter, or personal visit. Contacts were recorded on Outreach Contact Cards, and experiences were shared during the Sunday evening services.

The Church held nightly cottage prayer meetings during the week of March 16-22, 1986, in preparation for revival services.

Mowata Church Sees Results of Church Growth Emphasis

EUNICE, LA. Mowata Baptist Church participated in a Basic Church Growth Seminar led by the Rev. Ron Norman. "Many positive things have been happening since then," reports Pastor Dan O'Clair.

The "New Day" music team ministered during nightly services at the Church the following week. Many community friends came for a chicken gumbo dinner followed by music from "New Day." Many new people also came for the Sunday evening service, "Home Again, Portrait of a Family."

"Since that Sunday, we have had guests in every Sunday morning worship service, and God is working in a powerful way in the lives of individuals and His Church," states Pastor O'Clair.

Four Baptized at Dickinson Church

DICKINSON, ND. The congregation of Hillside Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of four persons at two services. Former Pastor Kenneth Unruh, Senior Pastor Jim DeBoer and Youth Pastor Daryl Dachtler participated in the baptismal services. —*Bonnie Walther*

Six Baptized at Harvey Church

HARVEY, ND. Pastor Dan Edzards baptized six young people at Bethel Baptist Church recently. —*Mona Schmeets*

Compelled to Serve

Central Observes Day of Fasting and Prayer

EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist Church observed a day of fasting and prayer on March 2 to seek God's will regarding a new pastor.

The former pastor, the Rev. Herman Effa, is now Associate Director for Promotion, Missions Department of the North American Baptist Conference. The Church had expressed its appreciation for Pastor Effa's excellent biblical teaching, concern for spiritual renewal, and his strong emphasis on missions. Mrs. Effa was cited for her work, especially with women's ministries. President Walter Goltz of the N.A.B. College/Divinity School stated that Rev. Effa was an example of a "model pastor" for the Divinity School students. —*Kurt Remus*

Brenner Recognized for 20 Years at Elk Grove Church

ELK GROVE, CA. "Gratitude to God was expressed on

January 26 for the growth that First Baptist Church has experienced the past 20 years under the leadership of Senior Pastor Merle Brenner," reports Darlene Schuh. During his pastorate, the church has grown in grace through the ministry of the Word. This has caused growth in the Church numerically from 226 to nearly 600 members, financially as a by-product of spiritual loyalty and vitality, and relationally by developing bonds through the spirit of unity and mutual concern.

"Our vision grew as we expanded our outreach to community and overseas missions. Pastor and Mrs. Brenner's ministry can best be characterized as faithful service to God, His church, and the communities in which they served," says Mrs. Schuh. Pastor Brenner has retired from the full-time pastoral ministry of 33 years to interim pastoral ministry. The Rev. Norman succeeded Rev. Brenner.

Rowandale Invites Community to an Open House

WINNIPEG, MB. Rowandale Baptist Church held an open house, April 6, 1986, to show its neighborhood its two-story building addition and remodeling. The building committee and deacons welcomed about 115 neighbors and friends and toured with small groups.

"Some of the elderly neighbors commented that they would be coming to the services knowing that there are ground-level washrooms and a lift for the handicapped," reports Helga Kahler.

One week of special meetings followed the open house. "The Rowandale Church family and Pastor Kenneth Schmuland welcome you to visit the Church when you are in Winnipeg," says Helga.

The Church gave \$8,600 for a recent missions offering.

"Central, Edmonton, observed a day of fasting and prayer for a new pastor."

Called to Worship

Fessenden Church Focuses on Spiritual Renewal

FESSENDEN, ND. For ten Tuesday mornings, members and friends of First Baptist Church viewed the film, "How Shall We Then Live?" by Francis Schaeffer. It pointed out how people accept Christianity and how their values were focused on things in this world. When a church ceases to be based on Christ, it ceases to be the church which God intended for man.

The Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister, spoke at the Church during Spiritual Enrichment meetings recently. —*Regina Pepple*

35 Youth Attend Retreat in Dickinson

DICKINSON, ND. Thirty-five youth attended a junior high retreat held at Hillside Baptist Church recently. Several made renewal commitments. Dan Grueneich spoke on the theme of self-image and presented a worship concert.

Youth Pastor Daryl Dachtler and 11 youth from the Church attended the Central Dakota-Montana Association Youth Retreat held in Isabel, SD. Pastor Dachtler spoke on the theme from Romans 12, "I made up my mind, I think."
—Bonnie Walther

Vancouver Churches Involved in Renewal Crusade

VANCOUVER, BC. Ebenezer Baptist Church together with four other Vancouver area N.A.B. Conference churches hosted a "Renewal" crusade with evangelist Ron Susek. The week-long meetings were well attended by both church members and community residents. Nightly challenges resulted in several first-time commitments and many rededications and recommitments.

"The crusade left us all with a renewed desire to serve," reports Irene Frers. "Those who responded to the daily altar calls will be followed up in a coordinated effort by the churches involved."

Salazar Speaks at Bison's Renewal Meetings

BISON, KS. Bison First Baptist Church held spiritual renewal meetings, Feb. 23-28, 1986. The Rev. Anthony Salazar, Lenexa, KS, spoke on the book of Ephesians. Music and children's stories were also included. People experienced spiritual renewal and encouragement.

The Church observed the World Day of Prayer with the local Methodist ladies as guests.

The Rev. William Effa is pastor of the Church. —Clara Niedenthal

"The Crusade left us with a renewed desire to serve."

Committed to Give

Chancellor Church Burns Mortgage Papers

CHANCELLOR, SD. On March 23, 1986, the Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister, and Pastor Harry Haas led the congregation of First Baptist Church in burning papers representing the debt incurred during their recent building program.

Contributions from members and friends of the Church and bequests from the estates of several members provided the necessary funds to erase the debt for the 15,000 square foot facility begun in 1980. The cost of the building and furnishings totalled approximately \$450,000.—Raymond DeNeui

North American Baptist Conference Church Growth Strategy

The following is a list of churches which have enrolled in Phase III of the Conference's Church Growth Strategy. Phase III is the opportunity checkup/diagnostic analysis of the church and the community. It helps the church determine what ministries they should be involved in that will result in growth. All of these churches have been involved in Phase I and II of the N.A.B. Conference Church Growth Strategy. The first two phases involved attending regional seminars. Phase III of the strategy now focuses on each individual church that enrolls.

Eastern Association: Bethel Baptist, Getzville, NY, *Elwin Colson*; Temple Baptist, Cheektowaga, NY, *Bernard Thole*; Winton Road Baptist, Rochester, NY, *Dennis Hoffman*.

Central Pacific Association: Glencullen Baptist, Portland, OR, *Wayne Williams*; Eagle Rock Baptist, Idaho Falls, ID; First Baptist, Paul, ID, *James Dillon*; Trinity Baptist, Portland, OR, *Donald Richter*; Hollyview Baptist, Boring, OR, *Douglas Radke*.

Illinois Association: Cornerstone Baptist, Carol Stream, IL, *Stephen Patrick*; Foster Avenue Baptist, Chicago, IL, *Michael Campbell*.

Minnesota-LaCrosse Association: Apple Valley Baptist, Apple Valley, MN, *John Hisel*; Brook Park Baptist, Brooklyn Center, MN, *Robert Coombe*; Bethany Baptist, Hutchinson, MN, *Harold Kelm*; Faith Baptist, Minneapolis, MN, *Harvey Mehlhaff*; Redeemer, St. Paul, MN, *Rubin Herrmann*; and Riverside Baptist, St. Paul, MN, *Harold Lang*.

Northern California Association: Sierra College Boulevard Baptist, (Rocklin) Loomis, CA.

Southern Association: North Carrollton Baptist, Carrollton, TX, *Bob Walther*.

Southwestern Association: Sherwood Park Baptist, Greeley, CO, *Mike Hodgin*.

Pacific Northwest Association: Calvary Baptist, Tacoma, WA, *Ervin Gerlitz*; Sierra Heights Baptist, Renton, WA, *Gary Vossler*; Timberline Baptist, Lacey, WA, *Larry Neufeld*.

Great Lakes Association: Grosse Pointe Baptist, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, *David Wick*; Colonial Village Baptist, Lansing, MI, *Elmo Tahrán*; Ripley Boulevard Baptist, Alpena, MI, *Rod Thompson*, interim pastor; First Baptist, St. Joseph, MI, *Robert McBroom*; Oakridge Baptist, St. Joseph, MI, *Jack Whitehead*; Lakeshore Baptist, Stevensville, MI, *Norbert Stubel*; Parma Heights Baptist, Parma Heights, OH, *John Thielenhaus*.

Iowa Association: First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA, *Dennis Dewey*.

SAM BAUER (79), McClusky, ND; born Jan. 7, 1907, to Ferdinand and Louisa Bauer at McClusky, ND; died Feb. 10, 1986, at Bismarck, ND; married Maggie Faul, May 31, 1936, who predeceased him in 1976; survived by two sons: Morris, McClusky, ND; and Raymond, Ashley, ND; one daughter, Shirley, Bismarck, ND; two grandchildren; three brothers: Edwin, Merle, and Frank; and four sisters: Mrs. Dorothy Kensmoe, Mrs. Ella Bottnen, Mrs. Viola Reiser, and Mrs. Lillian Elkin; Rev. Oscar Fritzsche, pastor, funeral service.

VERA MARIE (LEISCHNER) GASKILL (80), Turlock CA; born Feb. 15, 1905, Parkston, SD; died Jan. 29, 1986; married Herbert George Gaskill in 1938, who predeceased her in 1963; member, soloist, accompanist, Sunday school teacher, deaconess, W.M.F. president, church records keeper, Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; Dr. K.L. Fischer and Rev. Ernie Rogalski, pastors, funeral service.

JULIUS GOLTZ (90), Winnipeg, MB; born Dec. 22, 1894, to Johann and Louise Goltz (nee Buss) in Lutsck, Russia; died Sept. 19, 1985; married Lydia Wuerch in 1921; faithful member for 46 years, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB; predeceased by two sons in infancy; survived by his wife Lydia; five daughters: Violet (Mrs. Ernest Buhler) and Lily (Mrs. Julius Koenig), both of Portland, OR; Lorraine (Mrs. George Job), Kelowna, BC; Verna (Mrs. Wayne Sandison) and Shirley (Mrs. Kenneth Dawson), both of St. Andrews, MB; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; Reverends Werner Dietrich and Reid Galbraith, pastors, funeral service.

OTTO G. GRAALMAN (99), Okeene, OK; born July 31, 1886, to Rev. Edward and Emma Graalman at Concordia, MO; died March 3, 1986; married to Laura Scholz, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Scholz, N.A.B. colporters, for 71 years; she predeceased him in 1982; both Otto's and Laura's parents served as N.A.B. pastor and wife; faithful member, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK; survived by one son, Robert (Margaret), Fairview, OK; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; Rev. Elton O. Kirstein, pastor, funeral service.

KATHARINA HOFF (86), Wishek, ND; born Aug. 19, 1899, to Christ and Katherina (Meidinger) Herr in Wishek, ND; died Dec. 16, 1985; married Fred A. Hoff, April 3, 1919, who predeceased her in August 1981; faithful member, First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND; predeceased by two daughters and six brothers; survived by six daughters: Frances (Mrs. Melvin Hoffman), Wishek, ND; Marjorie (Mrs. Jacob Gegelmann), Halliday, ND; Thelma (Mrs. Harvey Kemp), Shenandoah Junction, WV;

Vivian (Mrs. Henry Swierenga), Scottsdale, AZ; Delores (Mrs. John Hoeldtke), Seattle, WA; and Loretta Blank, Alexandria, VA; 18 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; four sisters: Mrs. Lydia Bertsch, Mrs. Adeline Nitschke, Mrs. Rose Grandbois, and Mrs. Esther Zimmerman; and one brother, Henry Herr; Reverends Gordon Huisinga, Harvey Kemp, and John Hoeldtke, pastors, funeral service.

PHILIP HUBER (80), Olds, AB; born Jan. 6, 1906, in Serath, SK; died Feb. 9, 1986; married Frieda Haerle, Nov. 10, 1931; member, Sunday school superintendent, teacher, deacon, East Olds Baptist Church; survived by his wife Frieda; two daughters: Pearl (Mrs. Bill Weiss), Vancouver, BC; and Gloria (Mrs. Roy Weiss), Medicine Hat, AB; two sons: Dr. Gene (Irene), Calgary, AB; and Len (Helen), Olds, AB; 11 grandchildren; one sister, Anna Orthner, and one brother, Rev. Adam Huber; Rev. Ritchie White, pastor, funeral service.

BERTHOLD KLINGMAN (75), McClusky, ND; born Feb. 7, 1911, to Philip and Elizabeth Klingman at Kief, ND; died March 12, 1986, at Anamoose, ND; married Elvina Kukert, Oct. 13, 1934, who predeceased him in June 1985; survived by one son, Marvin, Kief, ND; one daughter, Betty Mae (Mrs. Cecil Schuh), Anamoose, ND; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and four sisters: Christine Olstad, Martha Kluck, Melita Augusteid, and Bertha Hoffer; Rev. Oscar Fritzsche, pastor, funeral service.

JOHANNA KUSLER (78), Baker, MT; born Nov. 4, 1907, to Daniel and Elizabeth Schweigert in Artas, SD; died Jan. 30, 1986; married Theodore Kusler, Oct. 30, 1927; member, Plevna (MT) Baptist Church; survived by her husband Ted; four daughters: Shirley Opp, Virginia Malley, June Opp, and Gloria Follmer; 8 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 7 brothers, and two sisters; Rev. Herbert Vetter, pastor, funeral service.

MIKE PILIPANKO (89), Turtle Lake, ND; born Nov. 8, 1896, in Kiev, Russia; died March 1986; immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1915; married Lydia Zarek who predeceased him in 1932; married Lena Eisenrich Lushenko; member, custodian, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; survived by his wife Lena; five sons: Walter and Rollie of California; Eugene of Minnesota; Riley, Benedict, ND; and Dale of Utah; three daughters: Elsie (Mrs. Wallace Grandberg); Violet (Mrs. James Gallardo); and Gladys (Mrs. John Gurski) of California; 12 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren; Rev. Lynn Heinle, pastor, funeral service.

HULDA (nee ZAFT) PILIPIUK (77), Vancouver, BC; born Dec. 23, 1908, in

Lodz, Poland; died January 18, 1986; married Zenon Piliipiuk, March 31, 1952; immigrated to U.S.A. in 1953; member, Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, and Bethel Baptist Mission Church, Surrey, BC; survived by her husband Zenon; two daughters: Edith (Mrs. Guenther Wagner) and Mrs. Hanna Paul; five grandchildren; and two sisters: Mrs. Martha Drews and Mrs. Toni Arnold; Rev. R. Hohensee, pastor, funeral service.

FRANCIS WHITE (83), Lansing, MI; born in 1903; died March 7, 1986; member, deacon, church greeter, Sunday school teacher, Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, MI; survived by his wife Clara; one daughter, Mrs. Shirley Bandy, Charlotte, MI; one son, Robert, of California; and four grandchildren; Rev. Elmo Tahrán, pastor, funeral service.

ELLY ZADER (75), Vancouver, BC; born Nov. 10, 1910, in East Prussia, Germany; died Jan. 31, 1986; married Eduard Zader in 1929, who predeceased her in 1984; member, Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, since 1955; survived by three children: Gisela (Mrs. Robert Rosentreter); Gerhard (Ruth); and Gertrud (Mrs. Charles Nielson); 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; Rev. R. Hohensee, pastor, funeral service.

EMILIE ZICHERNER (97), Winnipeg, MB; born May 17, 1888, to Wilhelm and Auguste Eichhorst in Lublin, Poland; died Nov. 5, 1985; married Adolph Zichner in 1908, who predeceased her, Dec. 22, 1957; faithful member, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB; survived by two daughters: Ella Reschke and Freda Sobey; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren, all of Winnipeg, MB; three brothers; and two sisters; Reverends Werner Dietrich, William Eichhorst and Reid Galbraith, pastors, funeral service.

LILLIAN ZUMBAUM (71), McClusky, ND; born Dec. 6, 1914, to John J. and Caroline Engel at Denhoff, ND; died March 21, 1986, at Bismarck, ND; married Benjamin Zumbaum, Feb. 28, 1934, who predeceased her in 1968; survived by two sons: Jack (Norma), Dickinson, ND; and Richard (Cindy), Denhoff, ND; three daughters: Joyce (Mrs. Mylo Miller), New Lano, LA; Kathleen (Mrs. Myron Mindt), Goodrich, ND; and Carol (Mrs. Dean Zuraff), Bismarck, ND; 9 grandchildren; one brother, Arnold; and five sisters: Helen Kluck, Ruth Gessele, Ethel Gessele, Esther Higgins, and Lorraine Werner; Rev. Oscar Fritzsche, funeral service.

Responding to the Biblical Imperatives

by Klaus Hildebrandt

While pondering the question how we at Central Baptist Church are setting objectives to meet the Biblical Imperatives and Primary Goals adopted at the Triennial Conference, the idea occurred to me that 1991 is still somewhere in the far distance. Yet, if we consider that the average pastor in some of our churches only stays—or should I say “lasts”—about five years, and that these five years pass very quickly, then a five-year goal becomes quite realistic. Thinking of the purpose for our churches, they should not only be “goal-oriented” but also “result-oriented”!

Because of the urgency of time, Central Baptist Church has already started to do something about responding to the Biblical Imperatives. For one thing, we now have a Deacons' Breakfast every three months or so. At this time, we come together with the church board, not to “devour one another,” not to discuss the day-to-day business of the church, but to look at long-range goals and commitments for the church.

Looking at our imperatives, we find that we are *Called to Worship*. For us, that means that wherever and whenever God's people meet to worship, we, as a church, need to be open to new forms of worship along with our more traditional forms of worship. Whatever form might develop or be developed, the primary goal must always be “that we may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (Philippians 3:10).

We also find that we are *Commissioned to Witness*. As a church, we are indeed fortunate this year to be involved in a major evangelism crusade with Terry Winter in the Kitchener/Waterloo area. This will give us another opportunity for witness in the neighborhood.

In addition to our witness, we are *Compelled to Serve* and *Commanded to Care*. We interpret this as becoming interested in the needs of our church and our community and then involved in catering to the needs of those around us. (Interested/interest = Latin *inter esse* = to be inbetween, to be into something, to become actively involved.)

And then we are *Committed to Give*. Just as God gave His only Son,

so we also are encouraged to give. We will encourage our people to give as the early church did: “According to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, . . . not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God” (2 Corinthians 8:3 and 5). I sometimes wonder if that type of giving would not double the budget!

Whenever I give, I care.

Whenever I care, I love.

Whenever I love, I serve.

Whenever I serve, I am also a witness.

When I care, give, serve, witness,

I WORSHIP THE LORD. □

The Rev. Klaus Hildebrandt is a pastor of the Central Baptist Church Kitchener, Ontario.

what's happening

Mr. Neal Effa has accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, MB, effective April 1, 1986. He served this church as interim pastor for one month prior to accepting this call. Mr. Effa served as part-time Youth Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB, while completing his Master of Divinity degree at the Winnipeg Theological Seminary.

Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, installed the Rev. Phyllip Putz as its new pastor on Palm Sunday. He formerly served Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church, in Rocklin, CA.

Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, installed the Rev. M. Timothy Walker as Associate Pastor on March 16, 1986. Dr. Walker has served Trinity Baptist Church since February 1985 as Interim Associate Pastor. Rev. Marvin Dewey, N.A.B. Seminary, gave the installation message, “Press On: The Future Belongs To Us.”

Dr. Walter Kerber has been appointed as a Canadian pastor on the Board of Missions by the General Council to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Herman Effa, who has become Associate Director for Promotion, Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference.

The Rev. Fritz Goliath was appointed by the General Council as a Canadian representative on the Board of Trustees of the N.A.B. College/Divinity School, Edmonton, AB, to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Jake Leverette who is serving an N.A.B. Church extension church in Florida.

The Rev. George Neubert of Bismarck, ND, died February 20, 1986.

Mr. Chris Codey is the new Associate Pastor at Community Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI

Mr. Steve Kellar is the Youth Director at Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR.

Mr. Steven P. Trampe is the New Minister of Youth at Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, effective September 1986.

Chaplain LTC Henry E. Wake will become the Division Chaplain for the First Infantry Division, Ft. Riley, KS, this summer. There are only 16 Divisions in the Army, so this selection is an honor. He will be pastor to 25 other pastors. He has been stationed in Germany.

Mr. Michael Westcomb resigned as pastor of Pioneer Baptist Church,

Pound, WI, after serving there for four years.

The Rev. Fred Sweet has accepted the call to pastor Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, Alpena, MI, effective June 1986. He has been serving Tri-Community Baptist Church, Elk Grove Village, IL, since 1979.

Chaplain (CAPT) R. Lee Boleyn is the Advisor to the Parish Council and has responsibility of the Protestant program at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire.

Chaplain (COL) David Sampf has been reassigned from Germany to Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, IL, effective June 15, 1986. He will be a pastor to pastors and their enlisted support personnel.

Chaplain Curtis J. Wiens has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. Chaplain Wiens joined the Army in 1969 after graduating from the North American Baptist Seminary and serving the First Baptist Church of Appleton, MN, for a brief time that year. During a break in his time of service with the Army, Wiens pastored the First Baptist Church of Durham, KS, between 1972 and 1974. Wiens is the son of the late Rev. Peter J. Wiens, who pastored a number of N.A.B. churches in the Midwest, and Mrs. Wiens of Lynchburg, VA. During the Fall of 1985, Chaplain Wiens completed the Army Command and General Staff Course, a specialized course of study which prepares officers for the increasingly difficult positions of command and staff work at higher positions. He also received training at the United States Army Chaplain School in the area of becoming a Training Manager for chaplains at the local installation level. Chaplain Wiens and his family are presently living in Hinesville, Georgia, where he is assigned to the 24th Infantry Division.

The Rev. Terry Fossen is the new pastor of Central Baptist Church of Edmonton, Alberta. He has been associate pastor at the church, and in 1985 he and his wife served as missionaries in Nigeria while on leave of absence from the church.

The Rev. Allen Unger has accepted the pastorate of a church extension project, Faith Baptist Fellowship of Medicine Hat, Alberta, effective August 1. He has been pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Drumheller, Alberta, since 1981.

Mountain View Baptist Church of Chino, California, disbanded on Feb. 28, 1986. It was recognized as a church in 1984.

The Rev. Richard Grabke of Springside, Saskatchewan, was re-elected moderator of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association, Rev. Delvin Bertsch of Yorkton, as vice moderator, and Mr. Darold Sauer of Regina, as General Council Representative.

The Rev. Daniel Kiblin resigned as pastor of Twin Grove Baptist Church, Long Grove, Illinois, effective June 1, 1986. He has served this church since 1978. He has been accepted into the Pastoral Clinical Education Program at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois.

The Rev. David Wood has accepted the call to be pastor of Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, effective June 1986. He has served as Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, since 1978.

Dr. Gerhard Kalmbach is working as a counselor for seven churches in Lethbridge, Alberta, including our three North American Baptist Conference churches in the city. He previously served part-time on the staff of Park Meadows Baptist Church.

The Rev. Norris Helms has accepted a church staff position with First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, California. He previously served a church extension work in Chino, CA.

Mr. Eric Spletzer is working as an intern at Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia, under the direction of Pastor Tim Schroeder.

Mr. Chuck Feeney is the new Minister of Youth at Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, Oregon.

A new church extension project is beginning in Coppell, Texas, in June, with the Rev. Daniel Heringer as pastor. This project was approved by the Church Growth Board meeting in April 1986 and the Southern Association.

Mr. Brian Kimball is the assistant pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, British Columbia.

estate planning

Stewardship Is Not Just for the Wealthy

One very serious problem which one often encounters in talking with people is that many individuals think that estate planning is just for the wealthy.

A famous French philosopher once left a will which read,

"I have little, I owe lots. The rest I give to the poor."

In today's economic climate, many of us feel that way. In fact, I often hear, "I don't own much." "We really don't have enough to need to plan." "I don't know what will happen between now and the time I die, with hospital bills, nursing facilities, and inflation."

All of these are negative forces in the minds of many Christians, which keep them from experiencing the blessing of knowing that when they face God, they will be found faithful, even in the final testimony of stewardship, their will.

In the Scriptures, one does not find God stating that faithful stewardship is only for those who have accumulated large amounts of wealth. In fact, one of the greatest compliments He gave to a steward was to the widow who had little to give, but was faithful with what she had.

Do not let today's negative economic forces rob you of this blessing from God. He has provided for your needs, according to His riches in glory.

When you examine your assets, you will probably find that you have more than you realize; your home, life insurance, household goods, savings accounts, stocks, or bonds add up. Regardless of the size of your estate, it is important that you complete your planning.

For many, a will is sufficient, often combined with a durable power of attorney to manage property in a case of disability prior to death, but for others, it might be necessary to create a trust. If your estate is large enough that there will be estate tax implications, or if you have minor children, a trust is definitely needed.

Regardless of the size or complexity of your estate, proper planning is not as costly and as complicated as you may believe. In fact, it can be quite

simple. We would like to show you how easy it is to have the satisfaction of knowing that God's blessing will be yours.

It is important to plan your estate now. Remember, God has promised you forgiveness for your sins, but He has not promised tomorrows for your procrastinations.

It would be sad for individuals who have lived godly lives to face their Savior and then realize that something so important has been left undone.

They have missed the fullness of God's blessing.

Why not let us help you today as you begin planning your estate, or let us help you review the plan which you have, in light of current probate and tax laws?

It's your estate . . . plan it carefully.

For additional information about planning your estate, please complete and mail this coupon today.

Dr. C. Salios
North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Please send me a free "Will and Trust Planning Guide"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____

Code _____

Birthdate _____

Spouse's Birthdate _____

Telephone _____

baptist world aid

Severe Flooding in Bolivia and Peru

Two countries in South America have been hit by severe flooding. They are Bolivia and Peru.

BOLIVIA. The level of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia has risen dramatically to the highest levels recorded in this century. More than 165,400 people in every residential community bordering the lake are affected. Crops have been ruined and animals killed.

Funds are needed for temporary shelter, food, medicines, blankets, and clothing. Agricultural tools and supplies will also be needed.

PERU. Fifty thousand families are victims of flooding in Peru in Puno Department, southern Peru. The Peruvian government has declared Puno a "zone of emergency."

These people have lost everything. Their crops have been destroyed, and many animals have been killed.

Funds are needed immediately for food, medicines, blankets, clothing, and shelter.

BAPTIST WORLD AID has sent an initial response to the *Baptist Union of Bolivia* and to the *Baptist Evangelical Convention of Peru*. These Baptist denominations will distribute the money and supplies where needed. Further grants will be made as funds are received to meet these relief needs.

Contributions earmarked for Aid for Flood Victims in Bolivia and Peru may be sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.

readers' respond

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation for your printing the article, "A Post-Conference Look at Ordination," in the April 1986 *Baptist Herald* as the feelings as well as facts presented are the expressions of many. A great deal of gratitude needs to be directed to the panel who prepared the *N.A.B. Study on Ordination*. This effort and presentation provided a fine preface for our "forum" at the 1985 Triennial Conference. I sincerely hope there will be more open dialogues on this timely, important matter—ordination. —Pastor Eric Coulon, Sioux Falls, SD.

Dear Editor:

"I enjoy the new format of the *Baptist Herald*. I especially enjoyed the March 1986 issue. I felt so much a part of every missionary endeavor! I have also been enjoying the articles on Baptist Statements of Belief. I'm learning a lot about the things that make us Baptists so unique." —Marion Rosone, Davis, IL.

anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. William Pritzkau celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Feb. 23, 1986, at Napoleon (ND) Baptist Church. —Claudia Schulz

The First Baptist Church
15 Half Acre Road
Jamesburg, New Jersey 08831

Will celebrate its centennial
October 25 and 26, 1986.

Speaker at our Centennial will be
Dr. John Binder.

You are invited to join with us
in these festivities.

Louis McLouth, pastor

capital funds

1985 Capital Funds Have Been Dispersed

Strong giving for the "Building on Foundations of Faith" Capital Funds Campaign led to the completion of various projects and enabled others to begin. At its meeting in February 1986, the Conference Executive Committee approved distribution of the \$797,121.40 received in 1985 as follows: \$223,282.59 to Associations and \$573,838.81 to the various Conference Departments.

Some of the projects assisted by these funds are:

Missions: Housing for the Alan Steiers, missionaries in Nagoya, Japan; remodeling the principal's house at the Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Nigeria; completion of the second tutors' duplex at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu, Cameroon; and the completion of the girls' dormitory at Kom Baptist Technical School, Cameroon.

Church Growth: Assistance toward a new church building at the home mission church in Edinburg, Texas; provision of seminars and resources for declining churches; "New Day" van; assisting new churches in Texas and Florida with land/building; and funding of urban/ethnic ministry research, audio-visual, and task force.

Education: Elimination of the debt on the Schalm Memorial Library, North American Baptist College/Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta, and the new library addition at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Conference Financial Services: Computer and word processing equipment.

Development: Audiovisual equipment for Area Ministers and in-house needs.

Thank you for your faithfulness in completing your commitments for Capital Funds to build on the foundations of faith.

congratulations

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

Meridian Woods Community Baptist, Indianapolis, IN; Mr. David Detmer, pastor; Mrs. Lewis Gilkerson, agent.

Bethany Baptist, Lethbridge, AB; Rev. Peter Schroeder, pastor; Mr. Horst Zimmerman, agent.

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

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

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

Faith Baptist, Minneapolis, MN; Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, pastor; Mrs. Theron Frazer, agent.

Emmanuel Baptist, Morris, MB; Rev. Manuel Schulz, pastor; Mrs. Agnes Walter, agent.

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

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

Hartland Baptist, Prince George, BC; Rev. Cliff Spence, pastor; Mrs. Edith Janssen, agent.

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

Springside Baptist, Springside, SK; Rev. Richard Grabke, pastor; Mrs. William Kriger, agent.

Sunshine Ridge Baptist, Surrey, BC; Mrs. Esther Harris, agent.

Temple Baptist, Swan River, MB; Mr. Neal Effa, pastor; Mrs. Leona Seib, agent.

Trochu Baptist, Trochu, AB; Mr. Dean Eisner, pastor; Mrs. June Haller, agent.

Fort Richmond Baptist, Winnipeg, MB; Rev. Helmut Strauss, pastor; Miss Diane Giesbrecht, agent.

Baptist Herald

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Non-profit organization
Second class postage
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Committed to Give

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

1986 N.A.B. Basic Mission and Ministry Budget— \$4,400,000

Overseas Missions	\$1,839,000
Church Growth	1,095,200
Education	798,700
Conference Services	487,500

TOTAL	\$4,220,400
Exchange and Interest	179,600
TOTAL	\$4,400,000

(Special Projects) \$918,125

Recognizing God's ownership of all resources of the world and our stewardship of what He has entrusted to us, we prayerfully consider our part in helping to achieve this goal.



North American Baptist Conference
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Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181