

Baptist Herald

March 1986

Cameroon



Every
Baptist
A
Missionary



Nigeria

Cameroon



Japan

Cameroon



Brazil



Praise God for Answered Prayer

by John Binder



I am moved by your overwhelming, positive response in December through the prayer phonathon and by the faithful giving of churches and individuals for the ministries God has entrusted to North American Baptists. You gave a record \$1,163,710 in December 1985—17 percent more than the same month last year. Thank you.

Together, churches and individuals gave a total of \$4,186,878 for the 1985 Conference Basic Budget. This is five

percent more than in 1984. We missed the goal of \$4,300,000 by \$113,123. However, this is a very commendable record in view of economic shifts and setbacks which many individuals and churches experienced in 1985. Your record giving is evidence of God's faithfulness and also your faithfulness as God's people. Thank you for the many letters and phone calls expressing your concern and telling us of your prayers.

Total expenses for 1985 are not

known at the time of this writing but are estimated to be around \$4,235,000, so there will be some deficit.

I am deeply grateful to God and to each of you who had a part in these accomplishments. Even though there had to be some cut-backs, new churches were started; new missionaries appointed; persons prepared for ministry; and the message of hope in Jesus Christ was proclaimed and lived in thousands of places around the world. Praise God!

Total Giving Toward All Purposes in 1985 North American Baptist Conference

	1984	1985	
Basic Mission and Ministry Budget Giving			
<i>Overseas and home missions; church extension; church growth; evangelism; publications; area ministries; subsidy for N.A.B. College/Divinity School and N.A.B. Seminary; N.A.B. International Office staff. (Goal was \$4,300,000 in 1984 and 1985.)</i>	\$4,003,220	\$4,186,878	4.6% increase
Other Giving			
Capital Funds	921,982	797,121	13.5% decrease
Overseas Missions Specials and Short-Term Missionary Support	267,621	276,347	3.3% increase
Area Ministries Income from Associations	209,295	236,433	13% increase
World Relief	125,582	108,851	13.3% decrease
Bequests	70,762	37,089	47.6% decrease
W.M.F. Specials	69,476	61,596	11.3% decrease
Pension and Aged Ministers Assistance	31,994	28,281	11.6% decrease
Baptist World Alliance	35,942	35,987	.1% increase
Miscellaneous	46,294	28,331	38.8% decrease
Total Giving	\$5,782,168	\$5,796,914	.3% increase

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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.

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.)

Every Baptist a Missionary

by Herman Effa

Deep into the jungle off the Nigerian Mambilla Plateau, an unreached tribe has a first opportunity to hear of Jesus Christ and his power to save. The response is enthusiastic, and a witness is established. On the Plateau, an average one-day bush clinic sees 450-500 patients given medical attention. The concern for physical need has opened the door to share the Gospel with them.

In Furu-Awa, Cameroon, accessible only through long and difficult trekking or helicopter, 350 people gather to hear the good news of salvation, and more than 50 respond to the invitation. A neighboring chief sends a delegation requesting that a church be established in his village.

At Ndu in Cameroon and Mbu in Nigeria, 20 students graduate from our theological schools and are prepared to minister.

At Bansa Baptist Hospital, Dr. Helen Marie Schmidt restores sight to a blind man through surgery, but he returns home doubly blessed for he also sees spiritually, having received Christ.

In Brazil, an attorney and his wife are marvelously saved in a crusade, and in a city of 30,000, a church building is erected where no Baptist witness existed a year ago.

In Japan, through faith and sacrifice, a congregation builds a sanctuary to accommodate more than 200 people, trusting God to give them a harvest of souls in the near future.

Your response to all this is probably, "Sounds great! I wish I could be a part of something as exciting as this!" I have good news for you! You are, and if you aren't, you certainly can be! What you have just read about is God's work. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3:11 that "we are laborers together with God."

As a North American Baptist family, these accomplishments in our various ministries belong to all of us. The success or failure of any one of these is directly related to you and me. The missionary on the front line is totally dependent upon the supply line that keeps him there.

During World War II, the ladies manning the welders in the aircraft factories and the grandmothers knitting stockings and sweaters for our soldiers were as much a part of the battle as the troops in the front lines. Our mission and ministry is just such a cooperative effort. With your personal involvement in intercessory prayer and sacrificial contributions, the effort will certainly succeed.

This issue of the Baptist Herald will give you insights on how your prayers and gifts make a difference. YOU are on the cutting edge of missions. You are a missionary!

The Rev. Herman Effa is the newly appointed Associate Director for Promotion for the North American Baptist Conference.

Have I Helped in Japan?

As you pray, you unleash the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, to work in the hearts of hundreds of Japanese who know very little about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you prayed, the Lord changed the life of Mr. Takahashi, a businessman in Kyoto. His wife was saved out of the Jehovah Witness cult. Their two sons have received Christ! They are a new family in Christ because you prayed!

As you give, you provide funds which enable pastors and missionaries to be an extension of yourself in Japan. Several of our Japanese churches are still too small to fully support their own pastor. Just think, without learning Japanese, you can be involved in

Me, a missionary helping in Japan? Yes, you are vitally important in our mission



home Bible studies in Japan because you give to support a missionary or pastor!

Did you know that birthday cards, Christmas greetings, and kilo boxes support missions in Japan? It is through those seemingly insignificant things you do that we who are

on the field are reminded that you love us and are concerned for us! And when we know we are loved, we are encouraged even when the work which God has given us to do does not progress as quickly as we would like it to.

The most effective way you help in Japan is by being a concerned "missionary" right where you are. If you are actively involved in the outreach ministries of your own church, you will be actively involved in praying and giving for the Lord's work in Japan and the other overseas fields in which we, as a North American Baptist Conference, are involved.

Yes, you are a missionary! You have gone with us overseas through your prayers, giving, love, and concern for God's work right where you are! —Missionary Douglas Woyke is field secretary for the North American Baptist Conference Mission in Japan.



Nigerian Baptists Send Pastors to New Area

Therefore, we go forth evangelizing non-Christians, baptizing those who put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and then we teach them "to observe all things he has commanded" us.

It is a most joyous day when we see believers who have been baptized by immersion forming a living organism called the Church. We have noticed that their first concern is to witness to those in their own and surrounding villages. This, we believe, is their "Jerusalem" that Jesus referred to (Acts 1).

It is exciting when we see this young church, the Mambilla Baptist Convention, become a part of the Baptist World Alliance and then send their contribution for world relief. They are helping people whom they may never see on earth—just as many of our North American Baptists are helping in our North American Baptist Conference mission fields.

Another part of the Lord's statement included "Judea and Samaria." It was a great step forward when the Mambilla Baptist Convention sent two of their own trained pastors

The Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is the mandate for missionary service. As a North American Baptist Conference, it is our responsibility to maintain works in Brazil, Cameroon, Japan, and Nigeria.

as their commissioned missionaries to people in "Samaria" back in 1982. Their anxious moments turned to joy when the reports were given that believers have been baptized and new churches established.

When it was further learned that there were still many in the adjacent area who were unevangelized, three more pastors were sent by the Convention to preach, baptize and teach. We trust that the five new churches in "Samaria" are only the beginning of the Mambilla Baptist Convention's acceptance of the challenge of our Lord.

You, as North American Baptists, have showed them a good example with your missionaries encouraging the Convention to lift up their eyes and "behold the fields white unto harvest." —Missionary Elmer C. Strauss with his wife Ruth recently returned to their second tour in Nigeria, where they are serving as missionaries in Jos.

**"Their first concern is to witness to those in their own villages."
—Elmer Strauss**

Links in Chains of Events

showed me his library, saying: "You may choose any of these books you like." These books are also a reminder of the churches who faithfully support me as their missionary. This is an important link in the chain of events causing Cameroonian Christians to teach the Word of God to their children.

Among the books in my office, there is a Bible atlas and a commentary which remind me of the pastor who

Another link in this chain of events is my privilege and responsibility to teach a course of Christian Education to a class of students at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. These students are learning to write a series of Bible lessons for children. As I plan and edit these lessons, the atlas and commentary are used again and again.



A class of student-wives is learning how to use the wachs-crayons (colours) sent from North America by our W.M.F. groups. These students are colouring the mimeographed, foolscap-size pictures. We study the Bible lesson on the back of each picture.

On Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m., a student rings the bell. Some seventy children come running from various directions to assemble in four groups. Some pastors' wives-in-training find it a joy to teach Bible lessons to these children.

Samuel (left on photo) is a paraplegic. He comes again and again to visit, and observes children trying to blow a paper boat in a basin of water, an introduction to the story about Noah's Ark. Now Samuel is visiting for two weeks in a nearby village, teaching these lessons to other children.

A missionary colleague tells that in her group ten children gave their lives to Christ.

Emmanuel, son of a Cameroonian pastor, comes to visit during his vacation from Secondary School. He colours pictures and then teaches a group of more than 60 children near his home. Eric, his friend, who had accepted Christ as his Saviour during children's meetings two years ago, helps Emmanuel by teaching a different group of more than 40 children.

The Field Chairwomen of the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention held a workshop. During this, they gladly learned how to use Bible lessons, which are now available to them, to teach the children

of their churches.

Another parcel with wachs-crayons (colours) arrived, and so the chain of events continues to allow the Word of God to accomplish the purpose for which it is sent (Isaiah 55:10-11). I say: "Thank you, Lord, for the Christian brothers and sisters who constitute our churches, sending their financial contributions with their prayer support." — *Annemarie Hattenhauer is Director of the Women's Department of the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu, Cameroon.*

Mail Day: An Occasion for Celebration

Vroom!
Vroom!
A motorcyclist pulls into my front yard at Mbamnga. His brakes squeal slightly as he comes to a halt and gives two sharp toots on his horn. I run out to greet the dust-covered visitor with a can of cold Coca-Cola which he

Vroom!
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A motorcyclist pulls into my front yard at Mbamnga. His brakes squeal slightly as he



*"The faithful letters of many did much to buoy my spirits and encourage me when times were rough."
—Allan Effa*

gladly accepts as he hands me the bulky mailbag. We visit a few minutes; he glances at the dark clouds on the horizon, bids farewell and begins his return journey.

That scene repeated itself often during my first term of service on Nigeria's Mambilla Plateau, but never often enough! The lack of regular mail service was one of the most difficult things to which I had to adjust. Mail Days on the mission field are real occasions for celebration, sometimes coming as much as six weeks apart. The arrival of the long-awaited mailbag usually means putting aside everything else; even the preparation of dinner is postponed until every letter has been read.

The faithful letters of family, friends, and many "strangers" who have since become good friends did much to buoy my spirits and encourage me when times were rough. I enjoyed receiving the Sunday comic strips or the Sports and Entertainment sections of a big city newspaper. This did much to help me keep in touch with the ever-changing North American culture. One young person sent me articles describing break dancing, and a grandmother sent me a picture of the Miss Universe pageant finalists, "in case you forget what they look like!"

A poem, a sermon outline, a verse of Scripture, a word of encouragement, and, above all, those precious prayer warriors reaffirming that they are praying for me each day . . . these are significant ways in which many have ministered healing and good cheer to me on the mission field. — *Allan Effa is on furlough after completing his first tour of service as a missionary ministering to pastors and lay people in remote areas of the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria.*

Angel in Disguise

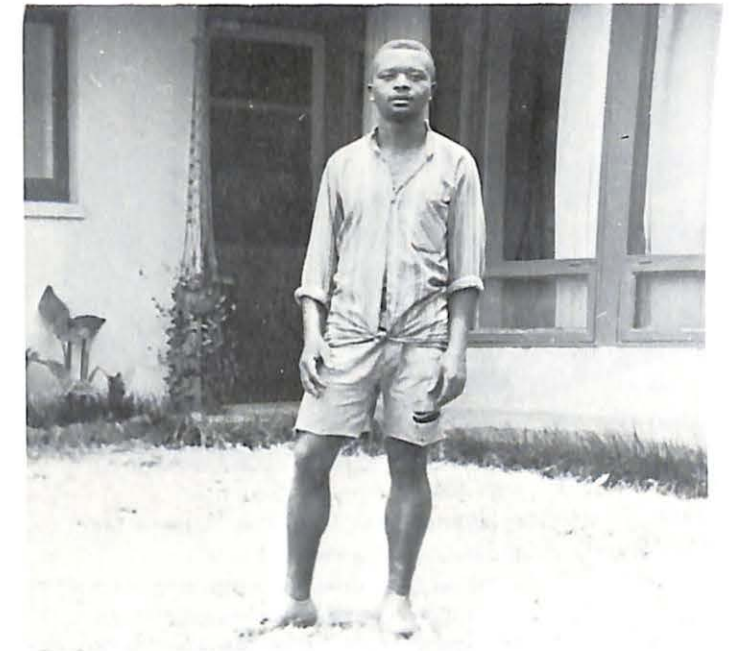
Recently, a young Cameroonian, Joseph, accompanied one of his relatives who entered Mbingo Baptist Hospital for treatment. As is the custom in Cameroon, Joseph came along to provide additional care for this patient at night. Joseph slept on the floor beside the bed to help care for his relative and prepared meals for him during the day. This Joseph did willingly, consistently, and lovingly for three months.

When it came time for the patient to be discharged, there was no money to pay the bill. The relative left for home, but Joseph stayed to clear the grass on the hospital coffee plantation for several weeks until he had paid the bill for his relative.

In the evenings, we would hear a soft knock. It would be Joseph; he had someone with him. This person would also be caring for a patient at the hospital. Joseph would ask, "Do you have an extra blanket or some food? This person has none."

We tried to find what he needed because we felt that Joseph was such a caring person that he was an "angel in disguise." He is a person who has nothing but who always looks out for the needs of others.

In Cameroon, people are given names that describe the person. We, at the hospital, named Joseph, who is from a chief's family, "The Prince and the Pauper."



We shared God's love with Joseph, and while he was in Mbingo, he attended church services where he also learned about Jesus.

We thank you at home for your prayers and support for the mission work in Cameroon. This makes our work here possible. You are also "angels in disguise." — *Ken and Fran Jones are medical missionaries serving at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Mbingo, Cameroon.*

*"Joseph is a person who has nothing, but who always looks out for the needs of others."
—Ken Jones*

God Provides Wisdom Through Prayer

Several things come to mind as we think of how individuals and churches have helped us while we were in Cameroon. Prayer support cannot be measured in earthly terms, but we are convinced that because of prayer, help and encouragement came when we were struggling for the proper solutions. Suddenly all became clear—God provided wisdom in answer to prayer.

Another form of encouragement came when our home church, Century Baptist in Bismarck, North Dakota, scheduled a telephone call to us during a Sunday morning service. Sharing with them and being assured of their prayers was long remembered. The letters following that experience from people in the church telling us what that visit meant



"We are convinced that because of prayer, help and encouragement came when we were struggling for the proper solutions."
—Clem and Sylvia Auch

to them made us feel like we were a team working toward a common cause.

Personal telephone calls from our pastor were also appreciated. The assurance he gave us of his support truly encouraged us. Almost all missionaries can be reached by telephone; some need preliminary arrangements.

Tapes received from various churches of special music, services, events, and personal messages have meant much to us. At times, we hunger for our own style of preaching and enjoy hearing "our pastor" or other speakers we know. Sometimes these messages are used at our weekly compound prayer meetings.

Financial support becomes crucial when we are asked to make cutback adjustments due to limited income. There is still a tremendous need to expand to unreached areas with the gospel in a wholistic ministry.

We express our deep appreciation for all the support we have received. God has made us a team for his glory. —Clem and Sylvia Auch, missionaries serving in Cameroon, West Africa. Clem served as the Medical Authority Secretary and Sylvia served as a nurse in Bansa Baptist Hospital and Nurses' Training School. They are presently on furlough.

A Triad of Christian Witness

Church ministries, schools, and medical work: This is the basic order in which the Gospel was brought to most areas of Cameroon. However, in Nso, the order was medical work, churches, and then schools.

In 1952, a young man twenty years of age came to Leslie Chaffee, missionary doctor, to apply for work and was hired as a labourer.

Church ministries, schools, and medical work: This is the basic order in which the

As a hospital labourer, he was required to attend morning prayers every day. This plus the witness in the Kumbo Baptist Church helped this young man to come to know Christ. At the time of his baptism, he took the Christian name of John.

John Wiyfofe felt a burden to carry the Gospel to his own people at Kishiy, a small village located about five miles from Kumbo. So in 1954, with the help of hospital workers who used their weekends off to witness in unreached places, a small prayer group was started at Kishiy. This prayer group grew into a church.

Since there were young families, the Baptist Christians asked for a Primary School where their children could have an education that included the teaching of God's Word by Christian teachers. After many visits to the authorities and struggles to get a plot of land for a school, the prayer of the Kishiy Christians was answered—they were able to open a Baptist school.

Bansa Baptist Hospital staff has not only brought the Gospel witness to many, but also they are ministering to the physical needs of people. All of John's children were delivered at this hospital. A few years ago, John developed severe eye problems and is so grateful that through the services of missionary doctors, his eyesight was saved.

The witness goes on through God's



children. John's oldest son, Paul, is storekeeper at Bansa Baptist Hospital, and Paul's wife, Lydia, is a secretary. They, too, fulfill the role of "Every Baptist a Missionary" as they work and witness. —Missionary Eleanor Weisenburger is a nurse/midwife at Bansa Baptist Hospital, Cameroon.

"Because of John's concern for those in his village, he, with hospital workers, returned to bring the Gospel to them. A school and a church were started."
—Eleanor Weisenburger

Cameroon Baptist Convention Involved in Communications Ministry

It is Thursday night. As the clock approaches 10:15 p.m., the government radio technicians in Buea load their reel-to-reel tape deck to broadcast the next program.

The announcer takes his seat behind the microphone. "And now, stay tuned for our next program, 'Moments for Meditation.'"

The sign-on tune plays briefly and fades to give way to the announcer for the Baptist program. "Good evening, and welcome again to 'Moments for Meditation,' a program of inspirational music and Scripture to lead you into the presence of God at the close of this day. 'Moments for Meditation' is a production of the Communications Ministry of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. In tonight's program, we focus on the topic, 'God, Our Mighty Creator.'"

In Cameroon, radio is not merely a source of entertainment; it is the key to communication on all levels of Cameroonian life. When a family member dies, relatives are notified through radio. At the close of every school

year, students, parents, and teachers listen eagerly to hear the final results of government examinations. Newly hired, transferred, or promoted employees of the government and private sectors are officially informed of their appointments through radio. Church executive members of all major denominations are notified of meetings and activities through the same means. As you can see, in a country where television is just now being introduced and where less than five percent of all homes have a telephone, owning a radio is not a luxury—it is a necessity.

Being aware of this fact, the Cameroon Baptist Convention has long realized the value of Christian broadcasting over air time donated by government radio. In 1983, construction of a new recording studio began on the campus of Baptist Boys Secondary School in Soppo. This would make the recording of Baptist programs for broadcasting over government radio much easier. But it also meant that professional recording equipment was needed to produce quality programs.

While construction for the studio was under way, a member of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, came to Cameroon for a visit. He was impressed with the potential the radio ministry had for reaching into many homes. He also saw the need for new recording equipment. Upon returning home to Sioux Falls, he shared this need with his home church. Together, they responded by donating all the necessary high quality recording equipment.

Through their generosity, we are now able to produce three Baptist programs every week. "Baptist Meditation" is a one-half hour program aired at 6:30 every Sunday morning. It features music and a sermon by one of our Baptist pastors, laymen, or theological students. On Tuesday at 6 p.m., "Baptist Voice," a 15-minute program, communicates convention news, events and announcements of church activities.

In September 1984, a new program, "Moments for Meditation," was begun. Efforts to produce good programs were hampered by the lack of a good selection of Christian records. Many churches and individuals in North America heard of our need and responded to the need by donating used records.

Some of the proceeds of a "starvation" held by the youth group of Immanuel Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC, were donated to the radio ministry. In addition, several new records were sent. This desire to assist the radio ministry came as a result of one of their members visiting Cameroon. While helping to tape a program, he saw the need for more



In Cameroon, radio is the key to communication on all levels of life.

good quality Christian records. A dehumidifier for the recording studio was donated by a couple from North Dakota. The high humidity in Buea makes a dehumidifier very necessary to protect the equipment and prevent mold from forming. God has been using the radio ministry in Cameroon in a wonderful way. This ministry has been made possible mainly through the support that individuals, youth groups, and churches have given. The Baptist Christians of Cameroon say "thank you." —Mr. Peter Ngong is the radio announcer and program coordinator, missionary Marlene Schroeder is the program writer, and missionary Harold Schroeder is the acting director of the radio ministry of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

Just Some Glue and a Broken Clay Pot

I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now . . . "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ" (Philippians 1:4-5; Colossians 4:3).

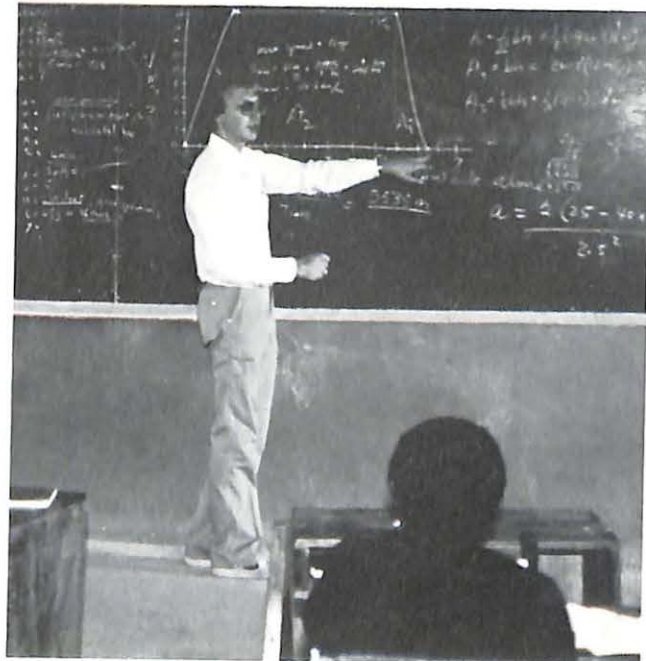
God only knows and only eternity will tell us the effect our lives have had in this world, whether for good or bad. Among Christians, the missionary is typically held up to be the ideal, along with pastors and other "professional" workers in ministry, of what we all should be like. We wonder and marvel at the supposed super-spirituality of such people. How can we ever hope to attain to their stature before Christ? I used to think like that myself, before I became a short-term missionary.

Understandably, the moment I became a short-termer I did not cease to be Norton Redlich, with all his faults and shortcomings. I did not suddenly emerge from my cocoon transformed into "Super Saint," ready to carry the Gospel message to everyone I met with a power and persuasiveness that none could resist.

If there is anything I have to glory in, it is the grace of God *slowly* at work transforming me into a useful vessel, due no doubt in a large part to the intercession of God's people. Sometimes I reject the title I have been given, missionary, because of its connotation. I am just a broken clay pot that God is putting back together, piece by piece, into something that holds water.

Yesterday, God used this clay pot, cracked and leaking though it was, to draw eight souls into his kingdom. These eight students plus another who confirmed his decision made a month earlier are in Class 5 at Kom Baptist Technical College. Anyone who by their faithful intercession provided some of the glue that God used to mend me has a vital part in this ministry.

"Yesterday, God used this clay pot, cracked and leaking though it was, to draw eight souls into his kingdom. Anyone who by their faithful intercession provided some of the glue that God used to mend me has a vital part in this ministry." —Norton Redlich



"When I became a short-term missionary, I did not suddenly emerge into 'super saint.'"
—Norton Redlich

I like what Dennis Kerber said in a previous issue of the *Baptist Herald*: "Missionaries are ordinary people on the other side of the ocean" (italics mine). Yes, we are ordinary people, who have an extraordinary God, who answers the prayers of ordinary people, like you! —Short-term Missionary Norton Redlich is the vice principal at the Kom Baptist Technical College, Njinikijem, Cameroon.

Needed: Support Teams

Recently I saw a movie on T.V. about a group of Americans who planned to climb to the top of Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. They knew that not all of them would actually be able to reach the top. As they ascended, they also needed support teams at each campsite to provide food, shelter, and advice and to care for the frost-bitten climbers who had to return to the shelter of the camp in order to preserve their lives.

As the climbers began to reach the steep upper heights, the weaker ones turned back. Finally only two were left.

Between them, they had only one bottle of oxygen. Without oxygen, it would be impossible to scale the last high ridge. A decision had to be made.

One of the members offered to give up his chance to reach the peak and returned to the nearest camp. With the last bottle of oxygen to support him, the other climber set out alone.

Of a team of twelve members, only one was able to set foot on the top of Mt. Everest. Before he descended, he laid in the snow symbolic tokens of his other team members who had not been able to reach the top, but who had helped make it possible for him to do so, through their careful planning, provision of



necessities, and their accompaniment as far as their strength would permit. Two members had actually lost their lives. All deserved to share equally in the victory and the glory.

In an N.A.B. church in Edmonton, a youth group sponsored a Bike-a-thon to raise money for missions. They received almost \$4,000. A handicapped girl in a wheel-chair earned \$800 by her efforts.

In another N.A.B. church in Toronto, a youth group prepared a dinner for the church missions night and led the program, concluding with small groups around the tables praying for the requests given in promoting missions among university students and church youth groups.

Only a small number of people may actually be sent out to do overseas mission work, but they need a large support team to plan, to provide the finances, to communicate, to encourage by their own example and to pray. —Miss Florence Miller is the cooperating missionary in the Ikeda Church in Japan, short-term missionary coordinator, and English/Bible teacher in our N.A.B. Mission in Japan.

Nuts, Bolts, Etc. in Missions

During our recent furlough, I shared with some men at North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren, MI, the problems we have at times in obtaining bolts and screws for repairing equipment and the cost for having special bolts made. Shortly before our return to Cameroon, one of the men came to me with

several small bags of assorted types of screws, bolts, washers and nuts.

Since returning, that assortment has provided carriage bolts for mounting a table saw to a wooden stand, anchor bolts for the steeple on our chapel, screws for mounting a blackboard to the wall when all we could find locally were too short. Now whenever some odd-sized bolts or screws are needed, we first check these bags to see what is available.

While in Parma Heights, Ohio, we and the couple with whom we were staying visited an auction sale. The result was the purchase of an old Royal typewriter with a cast frame, which stands up to wear better than the modern ones with many plastic parts.



Wilfred Fon, a student at CBTS and Assistant Librarian at the Seminary, makes valuable use of this manual typewriter.

We then visited several typewriter repair shops to find a key type face for square brackets [], which are often used in the typing of Library Catalog Cards. After visiting several and telling them why I wanted the key, one of the men became interested in what we were doing and not only arranged to get the key face for us from another make of typewriter, but also showed me how to use a small piece of foil to hold the key face in place while adjusting it before soldering it.

While talking about the typewriter which I had just obtained, I was introduced to a man from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit, MI, who repaired typewriters before his retirement. Using his contacts, he arranged for cleaning and ordered parts to bring the typewriters into good repair.

Each of these persons may not have thought that his contribution was a big one, but all

of these have helped to make the work move more smoothly and with less frustration. To all of these persons and many others like these, we are most thankful. —*Missionary David Burgess is the librarian, bursar, and a tutor at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ndu, Cameroon.*

Volunteering to Teach

Have you ever asked yourself the question,

"How can I become more personally involved in missions—in addition to praying and giving?" Responding to this question in March 1985, Dr. and Mrs. Roy (Gladys) Seibel volunteered for a special type of ministry in Brazil.

The Seibels participated in church services through preaching and testimony in the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. Roy presented a special session on "Creative Conflict Management," and led a one-week course for 35 Seminary students on the subject, "Life in the 'Body' (Church)." He also taught a one-week course, "Preparing the Church for Growth," for pastors. Of the pastors who attended, 10 received graduation certificates provided by the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary, Porto Alegre.

This was the first time that the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Seminary sponsored a course to help the pastors in their actual ministries in the local churches. Cooperating with the effort by the two seminaries was also the Rio Grande do Sul Pastors' Fellowship through the leadership of the Rev. Eliezer D'Avila. He and his wife had previously studied at our North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls.

Brazilian Baptist pastors, their wives, Seminary students and your missionaries are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Roy Seibel and the North American Baptist Seminary for this special ministry. You, as North American Baptists, were represented in this ministry.

From the beginning of the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981 until the present time, North American Baptists have actively supported the Seminary with teachers, prayer and financial gifts for general support, scholarships, books, equipment and furniture.

What are the results? God has provided growth for his glory. In 1981 there were 11 students, 10 teachers, and 1,500 books in the Seminary library. In 1985, there were 45



students, 25 teachers, and 3,300 books.

The first graduation took place in December, 1984 with five graduates; seven graduated in 1985. Some graduates have already been ordained and are serving in our Baptist churches in Rio Grande do Sul. One graduate continues to prepare for missions.

There has been significant growth in the work in the established churches, in new church extension projects established and in the Seminary. Future growth depends upon all North American Baptists, including the N.A.B. missionaries working side-by-side with Brazilian Baptists. May God help each of us to be "found faithful"! —*The Rev. Richard Rabenhorst is Field Secretary of our N.A.B. mission in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, Brazil, and Church Growth Director for the Brazilian Baptist Convention of Rio Grande do Sul.*

Roy Seibel presents the certificate to Eliezer D'Avila, who studied under Roy at N.A.B. Seminary, by giving a Brazilian "abracô" or hug.

Women Pray Daily

When I was appointed as a missionary in 1963, several women in my then home church told me they would pray for me daily in their family devotions. I thanked them and went to Cameroon assured of their support. Soon I received a Thanksgiving card from them, then a Christmas and an Easter card, each with a note on it and comments that they continued to pray for me daily. This has continued for 22 years.

Each time I return on furlough, I am lovingly welcomed by these women and again assured of their daily support. This has been a tremendous blessing to me, and also a challenge to live up to their expectations for their missionary.—*Mrs. Patricia A. Meinerts and her husband are houseparents for the missionary children at the Bamenda School in addition to his responsibilities as field secretary for N.A.B. mission work in Cameroon. Pat is actively involved in Cameroon Baptist Women's Union ministries both on the local and national levels.*



School for the Blind

In 1983 when I was home on furlough, the Cameroon Baptist Convention Integrated School for the Blind was on the threshold, ready to emerge into reality. Since I'd had a part in the conception of this new type of ministry, I was excited. That excitement spilled over especially in the Vancouver, BC, area and the Pacific Northwest Association.

As I was researching methods and equipment for teaching the blind, some of the Christians became interested and active in my search. Visits to institutions and persons involved in teaching the blind in Vancouver, BC, soon led to the purchase of a braille typewriter, a braille copy machine, special paper and books, and to the donation of a



Cameroon, the Rev. and Mrs. Clem Auch, Betty Mantay, and I visited Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. We went there to take care of matters concerning the Banso Baptist Hospital Nurses' Training School and the Cameroon Baptist Convention Medical Work.

While in Yaounde, we visited Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church and looked at the lot chosen for the Medical Dispensary. A number of people from the Church told us of their dreams and prayers. They also related the miracles which occurred as they were working to acquire the property as well as the progress being made.

As we viewed the site and heard and felt the enthusiasm of the Yaounde Christians, both Betty and I said we wouldn't mind working at

"People are emerging as self-supporting, educated individuals who know God really loves them."
—Helen Schmidt

whole library of braille books. There was no way I could pack these things myself, but it seemed to present no problem to some of our faithful Baptist people who were used of God to pack and ship this cargo to Banso Baptist Hospital from Seattle, Washington.

Today, 13 blind and partially-sighted children are learning to communicate and are learning that their blindness may slow them down but that it does not make them second-rate citizens.

At Mbingo, adult blind are learning to farm and raise small animals. Some of the seeds they plant were donated by one of our churches in the State of Washington.

People who were condemned to sit in the corner of their mud huts are now emerging as self-supporting, educated individuals who know for certain that God really loves and cares for them. —Missionary Helen Marie Schmidt, M.D., FACS, is the Chief Medical Officer at Banso Baptist Hospital, Cameroon.

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Dispensary— a Reality

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Dispensary is no longer a dream; its reality is an answer to prayer. We opened our doors Sept. 23, 1985, and began with nine patients; this number quickly increased so that by the end of November, we had seen 2,710 patients.

In May 1985, a month after I returned to



the Dispensary. I never believed that I would be the one to open it.

Now I am in Yaounde working along with ten national staff. This is in answer to the prayers of the Christians here and you of our North American Baptist Conference churches at home. In addition, over a year ago, First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, CA, sent a group of laypeople led by Darrell Schuh to supervise the laying of the foundation of this clinic. (See the *Baptist Herald*, September 1985, page 15, "Six from California Build in Cameroon.")

The Dispensary was officially dedicated in early 1986. We, as a staff, are dedicated to serving the Lord in this place. We pray each morning that our lives will be a witness for the Lord that day and bring honor to his name. —Trudy Schatz, director, Medical Dispensary, Yaounda, Cameroon.

Faces and Places of Our Mission Outreach for Christ

"How could I help the people in my church pray for our missionaries and their work, our work with Christ, with a growing sense of understanding and involvement? Some of our people have been faithfully involved in supporting the North American Baptist Conference mission outreach for many years. Others are newer to our Conference family.

I had been a missionary to Japan; now I am on the other side of the situation as a pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Parkson, South Dakota. I determined that we would mention the missionaries of the week and pray for them as a regular and essential part of our worship of God each Sunday morning.

In search of an answer to that question, I wanted to keep things as simple yet effective as possible. I knew that posters only reach a small minority. I thought: If only we could have a few pictures of the missionaries of the week and the places where they serve in front of the congregation *right at the moment* the missionaries are prayed for on Sunday morning, wouldn't that have a significant impact?

When our son Bart came home from the Navy for Christmas, we talked about my dream and began to do a bit of experimenting. I wanted the pictures to be presented in a way that would not disrupt the beauty of our worship of God.

We purchased a large sheet of white matte finish plastic drafting material from a drafting supplies store for \$7.50. A member of the church built us a 34 x 52 inch wooden frame and stand for our screen and stained and finished it to match the interior of our church. We use a Kodak Carousel projector behind the screen. This rear projection arrangement gives us a reasonably brilliant picture even with the natural light from uncovered windows. The ushers turn the sanctuary lights off when we begin to show the pictures.

We usually select our comments about the missionaries of the week from "N.A.B. News and Update." We use just two or three slides to illustrate the comments. We started with the overseas missionaries but are expanding the moments to include the South Dakota pastor of the week and an N.A.B. Conference leader. Even with that, the entire "missionary report" with slides takes two to five minutes. Switches have been arranged so that the pro-

jector can be turned on and off and the slides advanced directly from the pulpit.

An obvious problem we ran into was where do we get the slides? And the answer is simply anywhere we can. Of course I have some to help with Japan. When missionaries or pastors are in the area, I take the camera along and get their pictures. When "Update" comes a few weeks before the beginning of the quarter, I go through the slide file I have and see what ones I need. Although it is not ideal, for the ones I don't have, the missionary pictures sent out from the N.A.B. International Office, or the Missionary Prayer cards, can be simply turned into acceptable slides.

I use an Olympus 33mm camera, a standard lens plus a set of lens extension tubes, a tripod and natural light near a window and get acceptable slides from the *Baptist Herald* and other North American Baptist Conference publications as well.

A young photographer in the church has helped me make the slides. An adult member provided pictures she has gathered from our publications over the years. Missionary prayer card pictures, especially those in color, have made good slides for us. Former missionaries have generously loaned us slides or have had duplicates made for us of missionary people and places.

Experience taught us that in making the slides it is much easier to frame the pictures with black construction paper when we take the slides than to try to mask the finished slides. A few standard size frames cut from construction paper meet most of the needs. Missionary maps turned into slides help us know where our missionaries are.

There are a number of ways the slides could be organized. We keep ours all together in a slide file in alphabetical order and pull out the ones we need each week. That simple arrangement works fine for us.

Our total "mission report" on Sunday morning seldom takes five minutes, but it does help us to pray for our missionaries with a face and a place in mind and stimulates and informs our praying.

One reflection after using this approach to missions stimulation is: We have helped the "people" and "places" of our missions outreach come more alive for us at Memorial Baptist Church. Along with that, we want to give more emphasis to "events," vignettes, and "results" in sharing and praying for what God is doing through N.A.B. Conference missions and missionaries. □

The Rev. Richard Mayforth is pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD, and is a former missionary to Japan.

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Centre—God's "Yes" to a Request

by Peter Mabu

After the reunification of Cameroon on Oct. 1, 1961, many English-speaking Cameroonians found themselves in their new national capital, Yaounde. Most of these people were civil servants and students from the former British Southern Cameroons. Their numbers grew with the centralization of administration and creation of more institutions of learning in Cameroon. This increase in the numbers of English-speaking Cameroonians (Anglophones) called for special services that would meet the needs of those who did not understand the French language.

In academic circles, a bilingual primary school was opened, and the University of Yaounde established a bilingual institution of higher learning. In the religious area, a need for English language congregations existed, even though several Protestant and Catholic French language congregations were already present in the national capital.

The Will and the Way

Like many other Christians who came to Yaounde from the English-speaking part of Cameroon, the few resident Baptist Christians joined their sister Baptist churches of the East for worship services following the French language services. But the inconveniences of this arrangement and their desire for autonomy led English-speaking Christians to seek a means of worshiping separately.

On May 5, 1973, a missionary delegation from Bamenda led by the then Evangelism Secretary, the Rev. Oryn Meinerts, accompanied by his wife, Patricia, and the Executive Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, the Rev. S. Ngum, visited Yaounde to study the possibilities of starting a Cameroon Baptist Convention church in the national capital. They acted on the mandate of a CBC General Council Decision of December 1972 regarding the aforementioned needs.



Missionary Trudy Schatz and the team of devoted medical staff have proven to the people of Yaounde that they are concerned for their physical and spiritual needs.

Their plans materialized on May 8, 1973, when they set up a ten-man organizing committee to start what would become the first CBC church in Yaounde. Brother Johnson Gabuin, a civil servant working with the Ministry of Agriculture, was elected chairman of the young committee which was charged with the tasks of evangelizing, witnessing, and searching for land on which a CBC Centre could be built.

Mobile Congregation

In the absence of a chapel, the young group, whose membership hardly reached thirty, decided to worship in members' homes. This mobile congregation used these homes in spite of problems until 1974 when they were allowed to worship in one of the classrooms of the government Bilingual Practising College of the Advanced Teachers Training College ("Ecole Normale Supérieure"). Even though there were inconveniences worshipping in this school, the people endured and continued their search for land.

At Last!

Fortunately, in 1980, after more than six years of continuous praying and searching, an answer came. They found a piece of land, 4,976 square metres in area, located at Etoug-Ebe, a neighbourhood which is a few kilometres from downtown Yaounde. But seeing the land and affording it were two different things. How was the small congregation of less than 50 registered Christians going to raise 14,000,000 francs (\$35,000) to pay for the land?

With only 6,000,000 francs, all the church could do was to negotiate a smaller portion of the land. But this would mean making no provisions for expansion in the future. Hence, the church decided to seek financial assistance from the Cameroon Baptist Convention, buy all the land available, and in the future, apply for a dispensary to be built on the land to get something out of the large amount of money that had been invested in it.

The reply from the CBC was positive, and the land was purchased for about 14,000,000 francs (\$35,000).

Take Off

The first structure to appear on the land was a tent. In this, Christians continued to worship following an evangelistic crusade in which visiting youths from the U.S.A. participated in April 1981.

The use of a tent, however, did not make the Christians forget the need for a small chapel which they had to construct for a worship place. Before June 1982, the Baptist Christians in Yaounde had built their own small place of worship, a small church building that could hold at least 350 people. The arrival of the Rev. Elias Bongmba as the first pastor of the Church climaxed the development trend. But more was still to come.

Having their own place of worship and a pastor to take care of the congregation, the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church applied to the government for a medical dispensary, a service the Christians believed could greatly serve as a medium of evangelization. This application was granted, and construction of the dispensary was started at once. While the church was busy with the construction of the pastor's house, the medical board of the CBC was working hard on the main building of the Dispensary. Both buildings are now completed, and the Dispensary is effectively ministering to the physical needs of the inhabitants of Yaounde.

Challenges

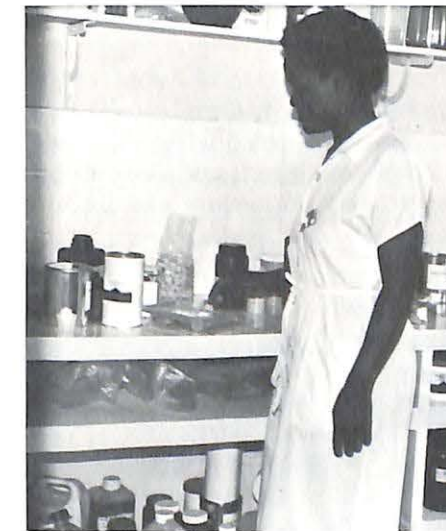
It sounds like a fairy tale! From a mobile congregation to a classroom church, a tent congregation, and today an established church with its own small church building and a health centre. However, this should not surprise any Christian who believes that God still uses his children to effect miracles for his glory.

The Health Centre at Etoug-Ebe is an annex of the Bansa Baptist Hospital which has done much to bring physical and spiritual relief to the sick in body and mind.



Mr. Peter Mabu has been the chairman of the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church in Yaounde. Mr. Mabu is also the Assistant Editor-in-chief/Deputy Managing Editor (English Editor) of Camnews, the leading national newspaper in Yaounde, the capital of the Republic of Cameroon.

small for those who attend services at the Centre. They also need to replace their pastor who left for further studies in the U.S.A. They have the hope that the Lord who is responsible for the achievements of the past will continue to lead the group. They rejoiced in the completion of the construction of the dispensary and now look forward to beginning work on what some of the Christians here already refer to as a cathedral. This would portray the big way in which the Christians of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church think and act for the Lord. □



Two Appointed for Short-term Missionary Service



serving as short-term missionaries.

Lea Jane Kraemer of Stockton, California, is teaching English Conversation classes in the Kyoto, Japan, area. She felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit to commit her life to missionary service if God so willed during a missions conference in 1973. She remembers, "I prayed fervently that God would reveal to me whether I was his because I was shrouded in doubt." In April 1974 she made a Lordship decision in her life.

In April 1976, Dr. Kenneth Fischer baptized Lea at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, where she has been an active member. At the time of her short-term missionary appointment, she was serving as a deaconess and a teacher of two-year-olds at the Church. Her hobbies include reading, cross stitching, building with wood, fixing things, and making at-

tractive and usable items out of the unusable and unattractive.

Lea grew up on the outskirts of Stockton, CA, with her parents and her older sister, Linda. Her mother Florris is a member of Temple Baptist Church; her father Leo is no longer living. In 1975, Lea graduated from the University of the Pacific with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. For the past ten years, she has been a teacher and assistant director at Discovery Days School in Stockton.

"My life goal is to be a woman after God's own heart, and he is in the continual process of showing me what that means and the cost involved," says Lea. "My motivation for missionary service is obedience to the Lord's direction and a desire to serve others."

Two young, women, recently appointed by the Board of Missions, arrived in Japan and Cameroon, respectively, in January and are now



Baptist Convention and Mission in Kumba, Cameroon.

Janet indicates that she was always interested in missions. This interest was fed by people associated with the Navigators, church members, Sunday school teachers, her Grandmother Strom, and her friends. During the last five years, people have specifically encouraged her to apply for short-term missionary service. While attending a Christian concert in the fall of 1982, the Holy Spirit convicted her through one of the songs. "God spoke very clearly to me. Since then he has given me the desire and willingness to be available," says Janet.

Born in Carrington, North Dakota, to Raymond and Dorothy Schaffer, Janet has an older sister and a younger brother. Following her graduation from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks with a BSBA degree in Accounting, she worked in a bank in Carrington. Since 1981, she was employed as an

assistant auditor at Central Life Assurance Company in Des Moines, Iowa. She likes to read, travel, write letters, bicycle, walk, canoe and play the piano.

During the summer of 1985, Janet spent three weeks in Kenya on a work project. She has also been involved with the Navigators and a singles group and Bible studies at the church she attends in Des Moines.

Pray for these two young women as they adjust to new cultures, peoples and ministries, and support and encourage them through cards and letters. □

If you are interested in short-term missionary service, please call or write Ron Salzman, Missions Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 (1-312-495-2000). You may also help by encouraging others to apply for short-term missionary service. Persons are needed to fill positions for the fall of 1986.

We Believe the Church Is Christ's Body

Statement of Beliefs Study Guide—Session 7

by David T. Priestley

It is to be expected that a Baptist confession would have much to say about the Church, for what distinguishes us from other Christians is primarily our understanding of matters related to the Church (though they relate, in turn, to other aspects of Christian doctrine). Our uniqueness on this point is concealed nowadays by the many independent and "Bible" churches who have adopted views which Baptists introduced within English-speaking Protestantism.

The study of this Article should challenge us to be more faithful to principles which our forebears advocated when it was risky to disagree theologically with the majority. And if it seems so commonplace to you, earnest conversation with a non-Baptist on the topics mentioned here will awaken your awareness of how different we are from other Christians.

A number of factors must be kept in mind as you read. 1) The Statement of Beliefs is intentionally a Baptist Statement. 2) The differences among Christians and the Christian confession of others both must be taken seriously. 3) Baptists have not always been unanimous on some of the ideas expressed, but they need to be thought through and decided upon from the perspective of Scripture and of Baptist history. 4) Much that we do in our churches will be understood much better if we learn when and why we started doing and thinking as we do.

In this article and the next, you will be stretched to think like a Baptist. After all, the Statement was written and adopted to explain the way Baptists understand God's Word, not the way Methodists or Quakers or Campus Crusade or Regions Beyond Missionary Union International understand it.

The first sentence of Article 6, probably, will find no objectors. It

states the obvious and fundamental Christian conviction that being in the church is inseparable from salvation through Christ. To be saved is to be in the church; to be "in Christ" is to be in "his body." But once that is agreed upon, disagreements appear.

It is a peculiarity that has arisen in some segments of North American Christianity during the past hundred years or so that regular and formal involvement with God's people for "worship, nurture, service and the proclamation of the Gospel" is

intentionally reminds us that Christ commands his followers to be baptized; that command obligates us also to participate wholeheartedly in a Christian congregation.

"Self-governing"— "Congregational"

Baptists understand that the Bible teaches several things about the structure of the local church in which Christians unite. 1) Christ is the King in that fellowship. His rule does not

We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5). Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48). Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28). The form of government is understood to be congregational (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23).

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believers' identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship and a more effective fulfillment of Christ's commission (Acts 15; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3).

separate from surrendering to Christ as Lord; it even has become an option many choose not to exercise. Being a Christian on your own or church-hopping are unknown in Scripture and church history; one cannot pretend to be a Christian while ignoring fellowship and responsibility in a local church. The Statement quite in-

come through a chain of command but is exercised directly over each individual. 2) That is why each congregation governs itself; neither civil government nor outside church agencies may decide what will be taught and done in a local church. 3) This means that within the church every member, not an individual or com-

mittee, makes decisions concerning members, policies, leaders, and goals.

The Baptist movement arose during a time when there was vigorous discussion among English Puritans whether the church should be organized episcopally or presbyterially or congregationally. Supporters of the first two forms of government for the church argued from Scripture that Christ ordered that there be bishops to superintend all the churches or that Christ ordained that there be elders to teach and rule in each church. The congregational argument began with Christ's claim to directly control the affairs of each church; episcopacy and eldership too easily interfere with Christ's rule and put men in the Lord's place.

Scripture requires a church to be organized in a way which "consciously acknowledges each member's responsibility before God for the health of the whole body. It declares that God is sovereignly free to work in and through any member he has incorporated into the body of Christ. By joining a Baptist church, we offer ourselves to God in exercise of our stewardship for the body of Christ" ("The Congregation is the Church," *Baptist Herald*, September 1982, p.9).

It is not enough, when developing a biblical ecclesiology, simply to identify what the New Testament says about the responsibilities and election of elders, pastors and deacons. The recent popularity of "eldership" teaching among evangelicals dares not blind us to the heritage which the Holy Spirit produced in the hearts and minds of Baptists of earlier generations.

My colleague in this series also has written a readable guide to Baptist belief and practice. A special North American Baptist Conference edition is available from the N.A.B. International Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, and College and Seminary bookstores: Stanley J. Grenz, *The Baptist Congregation*. A study guide for it has also been written.

"Ordinances"

Baptist writers have always been quick to insist that the rites which their churches celebrate are "ordinances" not "sacraments." By calling them ordinances, we emphasize

positively that Christ ordained or "ordered" them, but it is less clear what we mean negatively by refusing to call them sacraments. We suspect that a sacrament is supposed to inject spiritual life into whoever gets it, regardless of personal attitude toward God, but many Christians who use "sacraments" would reject that interpretation.

Over the years, Baptists have explained the ordinances in different ways; some even have used "sacraments" when speaking of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The New Testament describes these events as our acts of testimony; yet somehow they are also God's acts to further our Christian growth. We assume there is faith in those who participate in them. We dare not let our fear that some may understand them as magic prevent us from assuming also that there is grace to those who do them.

Because we carefully read the Scriptures which explain the ordinances whenever we do them, they are a Word of God which touches our eye and our body, our mind and our spirit. We cannot separate the Word or the Spirit from the ordinances; they are both our acts and God's.

"Ordinances of the Church"

There are several specific issues related to the ordinances on which Baptists have not been of one mind over the generations. One is the relation of the ordinances to the local church. Usually, Baptists have felt that only by the decision of each congregation can someone be baptized or the Lord's Supper be celebrated.

More recently, some have said that any Christian may baptize a believer, or that a Christian may be baptized without joining the church which baptizes. Some think that any group of Christians may celebrate the Lord's Supper (at camp, for example, or in a home Bible study). It has also become the practice in many churches that baptism is not required of those who participate in the Lord's Supper, only "faith in Christ." Random collections of Christians are unknown in Scripture; so the older Baptist understanding generally was that what Christians are required to do together necessarily must be done as a church.

"Baptism"

To explain the nature of baptism, Baptists have emphasized the literalness of the word. Only immersion, they say, is baptism. This raises a problem when someone has become a believer, then joined a church which does not practice immersion, and later wishes to join a Baptist church. Although there have been exceptions, persons not immersed after professing faith in Christ have not been considered members in Baptist churches.

Immersion alone is baptism because immersion alone portrays death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3f), immersion alone requires re-clothing (Galatians 3:27), immersion alone represents total washing (Hebrews 10:22-25). As the initial act of Christian obedience, immersion is what the Lord commanded his disciples to do (Matthew 28:19).

Confusion on the practice arises because other Christians call a different action "baptism." Baptists have always struggled between doing as the King has commanded about baptism and, on the other hand, showing consideration for the good intentions of other Christians who, in fact, have changed what the King ordered us all to do.

While the verses mentioned above tell us what baptism means, Baptists also understand that only those already believers, already regenerated are eligible to be baptized; the qualification for baptism is a "pure conscience" (1 Peter 3:20f).

A personal declaration of trust in Christ as Lord and Savior must be made at our baptism. Even immersion would not fulfill the instructions of the Lord if the person was not a believer when the act was performed.

"Lord's Supper"

The Holy Supper, also, is a universal practice among Christians; although there have been arguments for a thousand years about what happens at the Table. From 1 Corinthians 11 and the parallel passages in the Gospels on the Last Supper, we know that the Lord's Supper is a remembrance and a proclamation, both of the truth of Christ's redeeming work and of our trust that he did it for us personally. It is in anticipation of his return and of the final banquet with

the Lamb. It is a communion, a sharing with Christ and his people which unites us in our commitment to the Lord. It is a "thankful dedication" of ourselves to the Lord; so many Christians call it a "Eucharist," a thanksgiving. It is also an expression of dependence upon God for the nurturing of our Christian lives, illustrated in the nourishment our bodies receive from the bread and the cup.

"Association and Conference"

Important though the local church is in our understanding of the nature of the Body of Christ, Baptists usually have tried to form partnerships with other congregations as a larger representation of that Body. All God's spiritual gifts, including leadership, are to be expected in each church. But sometimes even a whole group of believers may be too close to an issue to see it clearly, or what they are considering may affect other churches; so Baptists have recognized the need for advice from sister churches. Sometimes a single church lacks the resources to fulfill ministries for which God gives them a vision; so they join with other churches to do a larger task together. And sometimes Christians simply need the encouragement and joy of fellowship with other churches. The association (and the conference which links the associations) is the larger expression of Christian unity to which a Baptist church commits itself. God is not at work only where we are; but also as we offer our help and ask for others' help to get God's larger work accomplished.

For about two centuries, Baptists and other evangelicals have organized societies for getting cooperative work done. But with so many demands upon our attention and our resources, it takes determination to support Baptist projects as those which have the first claim of Christian fellowship upon us.

Baptist evangelism needs Baptist help; Baptist church planting needs Baptist help; Baptist schools need Baptist help; Baptist missions need Baptist help; Baptist relief agencies need Baptist help. It is curious that God's people will give generously to ministries which invade our interest

but which have little relationship to our circle of Christian work and fellowship and then ignore the needs to which long ago or recently we have committed North American Baptist Conference support.

We take offense when someone in the North American Baptist Conference family asks for our money; but we are happy to oblige someone "off the street" who asks for a handout. It is a peculiar kind of stewardship and fellowship that responds to a stranger, though a brother in Christ, but that resists a brother within the network of our Baptist friendships and associations.

Summary

Baptists have differed from other Christians most regularly on the question of what the church is and how it is to operate. But we have done so, not because it is the "Baptist way," but because it is the "Bible way." We are convinced that our practice is most faithful to what Christ, the King of the Church, has told us in his Word.

We are not saying that no one else is a Christian. We mean that a Christian who understands the Bible's teaching differently just is not a Baptist.

If someone is convinced that the Baptist way is less true to Christ's will than another, he should take a label which historically identifies that other way. But we who remain Baptists must not let others quench our joy in the fellowship of Baptist Christians by accusing us of putting a denomination before the Bible. It is because of the Bible that we are Christians who are also called "Baptists."

To Discuss:

1) Is it really helpful to emphasize membership in the "universal church" or the "invisible church"? Where do you see "the church" when you look for it today?

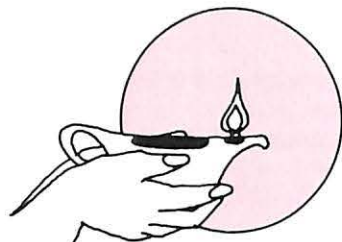
2) Consider the responsibilities of congregations in the New Testament. What responsibility and ability for each of us in our church can be learned from that? How seriously can Christ be considered Lord of the

church if we only allow him to speak through a few people?

3) Considering the meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper, in what way does the Holy Spirit work through the ordinances to foster faith and spiritual growth?

4) What responsibilities do you and your church have to your association (camps, church extension, meetings) and to the conference? What can you do through them that you cannot do alone? Are you supporting non-Baptist agencies when Baptist agencies are doing the same things? What blessings are you missing by ignoring fellowship and work with other Baptists?

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



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

Women of Hope— Reaching Our World

by Sara Pasiciel, WMF president,
on sabbatical in Kandern, West Germany

"I hope you'll be able to come next week . . . She hopes to have a career in teaching . . . I hope he passes his exam today . . . I hope my dress isn't too wrinkled . . ."



Because I've been thinking of our theme for the next three years, I'm very conscious of the way I hear this small word "hope" used. We seem to hope for everything from a sunny day for our picnic to a win for our favorite football team. Women of Hope—it almost sounds tentative, incomplete. . . .

But then, we look at our theme verse, which puts the word and the idea of "hope" into strong and clear perspective: "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loves us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16,17, NIV).

Our hope comes from the Lord—indeed our hope is in the Lord and in his promises. Psalm 42:11b says, ". . . Put your hope in God . . ." One author says that hope is "waiting for God," opening our eyes wide, straining them in expectancy as we wait for God to act—knowing he will speak to us through his word. He will fulfill his word to us, he will complete what he has begun in us, he will one day come again! *That's hope!*

And this hope encourages us and strengthens us in our deeds and in our words. We don't sit in seclusion holding our hope to ourselves as a dark secret—we have strength to reach out to those who have no hope, to those who have lost hope, and we become "Women of Hope—Reaching our World."

As I begin writing this monthly column, I'd like to spend some time (and space) looking at one part of our theme verse which helps us to begin to see *how* we go about "reaching our world."

"Our Lord Jesus Christ and God our father, *who loved us* . . . and gave us . . . hope." If we are women of hope, it is a hope from him *who loved us*. And if we are to reach out in the strength of that love, we are to imitate Christ and, in so doing, become a witness to that love.

During the first year of our Triennium, we will concentrate on the *fact* that we are "Called to Witness." We must be the image of Christ to our world, to those who have no hope. In the next few months, we'll look at the characteristics of Christ's love which enabled him to reach out and which provide a pattern for our own witness.

Please pray for your new executive committee as we begin this Triennium and pray for each other this year, that each day we as women will make a difference in our homes, in our communities, even in our churches because he loved us and gave us hope which

encourages and strengthens us in our witness both in word and in deed.

Women in Ministry

Leona Gerber,
Social Service Designee

A day in the life of a Social Service Designee can be as humdrum as writing a policy and procedure manual. Most days, however, are filled with numerous tasks because this is, basically, a people-oriented position, not a desk job.

I work at the McIntosh County Memorial Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility, Ashley, North Dakota, four days a week. The Facility houses elderly people who require intermediate and skilled care. Intermediate care includes supervision with medicine and minimal help in the activities of daily living. A person requiring skilled care needs professional care because he/she may be too ill, physically, or emotionally, to look after him/herself.

Many are widows or widowers who were unable to cope with living in their own homes. They have had to give up their homes and personal possessions. Some have used up all of their money and are on Social Services, which simply means county assistance.

There are many needs. Loneliness, illness, anger, bitterness, guilt, unhappiness, and nonacceptance are some of the emotions I help the people deal with. Quite often the elderly are not prepared for old age. They have not accepted the fact that they could become too disabled to look after themselves. Although only five

percent of the elderly enter nursing homes, all need to prepare for old age by accepting the fact that they will reach the age of 70 or older. With advanced medical techniques, we will see many more reach the ages of 80, 90, and even 100 in the next years.

We try to minister to the whole person—their emotional, spiritual and physical needs. We cannot separate any of these characteristics. Good nursing care is provided by capable staff. Their physical needs, which in some cases are numerous, are met in the best possible way.

In the spiritual realm, pastors from the community visit often, and every week a different pastor conducts chapel services.

The Social Service Designee tries to provide emotional stability and a caring atmosphere. It is my duty, as well as the rest of the staffs', to try to help meet the many emotional needs of the elderly residents.

If the resident has accepted the fact that he/she needs to go into a nursing home, the transition from home to nursing home will go reasonably smoothly. Quite often, however, it is the children's responsibility to initiate discussion about entering a nursing home, and then there may be friction. This can be a trying time as roles change dramatically. Children take on the role of parents and parents the role of the child. This can create much tension as children do not want to assume this new role, and, of course, quite often parents resent their children assuming the role of authority. I must deal with guilt in the children because they are in the position of making decisions which make them uncomfortable. The parents, in turn, are angry, hurt, and disappointed at what "life has dealt them." This is not a happy time, so both sides need to vent their feelings, and quite often I am the sounding board. During the venting of these feelings, both sides are

encouraged to make decisions which will be acceptable to each other.

Becoming a resident may be traumatic. A married couple will be in a room together. A single resident, however, most often comes into a small room and gains a roommate he probably does not know or someone he knows very well and would rather not room with. Putting two people from different backgrounds together can be a very hard adjustment. One person may want his window open; the other closed. One prefers light; the other the curtains drawn. One may be an avid television watcher; the other hates it. The possibilities of difference are endless, and in the last years of their lives, they may be called upon to make accommodations which are extremely difficult. It is my job to put together two people who will be reasonably compatible and to help smooth over the rough edges when difficulties arise.

Residents face many changes: lack of privacy, very few possessions, not being able to come and go as often as before, not planning their own meals, eating institutional food. Some make these adjustments without too much difficulty, and others never quite accept living in a nursing home.

Each one needs love, acceptance, praise, and encouragement, just as we need it. I work closely with them, encouraging them to accept their situation in life, helping them with roommate difficulties, praising them for accomplishments such as crocheting or walking with a walker. Many of the elderly become my close friends, and we share family joys and personal problems.

God's Word gives encouragement, so I often read the Bible to a resident who cannot read. God's Word gives strength to an aphasiac resident who is frustrated because she is unable to express herself. When a resident asks for prayer, I will offer a prayer of comfort and

encouragement.

We all need a touch of love, and this can be expressed in many ways—a smile, a word of encouragement, an accepting attitude. An elderly lady who has no family and few friends in the community often wishes to hold my hands. I began telling her that God loves her and that I love her, too. She said, "No, no, God can't love me; I'm too bad." I tried to explain to her that God loves her. It doesn't matter what she had done. She did not respond until I began singing, "Jesus Loves Me." I sang this chorus to her for a long time. She is now able to say, "Jesus loves me, and I love Jesus."

Leona is also a pastor's wife. Her husband, Allan, pastors Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND.



March 7 is the World Day of Prayer. Our theme is *Choose Life!* The program and guidelines centering on *Choose Life!* were written by Mrs. Dorene Walth, Citrus Heights, CA. Plan to join with the many groups and individuals who will be praying all around the world.

Our financial support project for the month of March is evangelism in Nigeria.

Called to Worship

Bethany Youth Enjoy Home Bible Studies

VANCOUVER, BC. The Rev. Mark Wollenberg, associate pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, meets each Tuesday evening for Bible study with youth in grades 11 and 12. The meetings are held in the young people's homes, a different home each month. "Fellowship and refreshments are also enjoyed as a bonus to the joy and benefits of Bible study." —*Elsie Baum*

Prayer Important Stress Effa and Binder

MEDICINE HAT, AB. The weekend of Nov. 2-4, 1985, became a mini-missions emphasis at Temple Baptist Church as Missionaries Allan Effa (Nigeria) and Wilma Binder (Cameroon) shared their work.

Allan emphasized the power that fervent prayer has in the spiritual warfare missionaries face. Wilma stressed the power of prayer in the spiritual and emotional healing God can provide as we care for hurting people around us at home and abroad.

The Rev. Loren Weber is pastor of the Church. —*Madeline Kern*

Berg Speaks during Spiritual Renewal Emphasis

MEDICINE HAT, AB. Twelve Medicine Hat churches of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada met in a Festival of Praise Nov. 17, 1985, to conclude a week of simultaneous meetings in their churches. The Rev. Ron Berg, pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, ministered at Temple Baptist Church during the week of spiritual renewal. His messages, based on James 1, were taped for sharing.

Pastor Loren Weber says, "Hearts were warmed, challenged, rebuked and stirred." Through these meetings, people experienced renewal and reconciliation. "We trust to see changed lives," reports Madeline Kern.

Napoleon Church Holds Special Services

NAPOLEON, ND. Napoleon Baptist Church held Harvest-Mission services Oct. 6, 1985, with the Rev. Jim DeBoer, pastor, Hillside Baptist, Dickinson, ND, speaker.

The following week, Deeper Life meetings were held with Pastor DeBoer.

The ladies of the Church hosted Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. About 100 ladies heard Mrs. Ray Hoffman speak. —*Claudia Schulz*

Missions Emphasized at Grace Church

MEDICINE HAT, AB. Members and friends of Grace Baptist Church heard missionaries Wilma Binder, Cameroon, and Allan Effa, Nigeria, speak at their church recently.

Wilma also spoke to ladies from Temple, Faith, Hilda, and Golden Prairie Baptist Churches at the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer service.

The Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman held a week of Inter-Church Crusade services at the Church.

The Rev. Arthur Freitag is pastor of the Church. —*Violet Treiber*

Missionary Conference Sponsored by Swan River and Minitonas Churches

SWAN RIVER, MB. First Baptist, Minitonas, and Temple Baptist Church jointly sponsored a missionary conference, Nov. 21-24, 1985, with the theme, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Missionaries Dr. Rodney Zimmerman and Dr. and Mrs. David Lake (Cameroon), the Rev. and Mrs. Harry Lehotsky (New Life Ministries, Winnipeg, MB), and Mr. James Moses (Native Evangelical Fellowship) participated.

"The missionaries' personal dedication and awareness of missions has given us as a church family a renewed incentive for missions," reports Lynn Patzer.

Two Baptized from Church Extension Church

TABER, AB. Community Baptist Church travelled thirty miles to a neighboring Mennonite Church to witness the baptism of two of Taber's adults and to participate in a communion service.

"It was challenging to hear through their testimonies how Jesus Christ can draw men and women to himself when his people let him reign in their lives," reports Dennis Liesch, pastor.

"Appreciation is felt for the Conference for their willingness to support the Church Extension Project in Taber," states Pastor Liesch.

"Appreciation is felt for the Conference for their willingness to support the Church Extension Project in Taber."

Kansas Women Meet

JUNCTION CITY, KS. Over 80 women from the Kansas N.A.B. churches met at Rock Springs Ranch to hear Mrs. Janelle Hiatt, Sioux Falls, SD, speak on the theme, "Keeping Your Balance" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Representatives of various churches led eight workshops. Activities included exercise sessions, special features, sharing and meaningful prayer times. A committee from host churches, Emmanuel Baptist and Strassburg Baptist, planned the retreat. —*Kathryn Hett*

Fleischmann Memorial Church Emphasizes Bible Study and Prayer

PHILADELPHIA, PA. Assistant pastor Greg Huston meets regularly with nine men in three discipleship groups at Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church. The weekly women's Bible study, led by Toni Huston, has nine regular attenders.

"It is especially encouraging to see brothers and sisters from the community actively participating and rising to leadership in evangelism and in leading worship in the church," reports the Rev. James Correnti, senior pastor.

"We are also excited by the growing number of relationships of the congregation to those who do not know Jesus Christ; it is not unusual to meet to pray for a dozen people

who are being ministered to by various members," says Pastor Correnti.

New people are visiting the Church, and several have professed Christ as Savior. "With a growing burden for Christ's work around the world, we have been calling for special prayer every other Saturday morning, and as leaders, have begun to meet several times weekly for prayer," says Pastor Correnti.

"It's encouraging to see people from the community participating and rising to leadership in evangelism and in leading worship in the church."

John 15 Emphasized at Kansas Fellowship

MARION, KS. The Kansas Fellowship held its 1985 sessions at Strassburg Baptist Church, Nov. 1-2, 1985. The Reverends Dennis Goodin and James Harris expounded on John 15:1-8 during devotional times.

Special guests, the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, and Miss Florence Miller, missionary to Japan, spoke.

Delegates from the churches heard committee reports, individual church reports, and transacted business matters.

The Rev. Perry Kallis, host pastor, led a time of thanksgiving and praise at the closing service. —*Kathryn Hett*

Commissioned to Witness

Two Added to Bethany Church

VANCOUVER, BC. Rev. Rick Laser baptized two young men at Bethany Baptist Church Nov. 17, 1985.

The Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, informed the Church of progress and plans regarding further outreach in British Columbia and overseas. —*Elsie Baum*

DeBoer Speaks at Christian Life Meetings

MC CLUSKY, ND. The Rev. James DeBoer emphasized "Foundational Principles in the Body of Christ" in his messages during Christian Life meetings held at McClusky Baptist Church recently. Rev. DeBoer is pastor of Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND.

Daniel Grueneich of Rock Rapids, IA, provided special music and ministered to the children with puppet storytelling.

The Rev. Oscar Fritzke is pastor of the Church. —*Irene A. Froehlich*

"New Day's" Ministry Appreciated in Arnprior

ARNPRIOR, ON. First Baptist Church hosted "New Day," Oct. 30-Nov. 10, 1985. During this time, they presented five concerts, two dramas, and held programs at the nursing home, public and private high schools, and the

W.M.F. They also called in the community and held an outreach seminar.

"New Day" was also featured at the Eastern Association Fall Youth Retreat, attended by approximately 170 youth.

"First Baptist Church appreciated 'New Day' as they worked with us in fulfilling the commission to witness," reports Dorian Getz.

Southey Church Emphasizes Reaching Children

SOUTHEY, SK. Southey Baptist Church had a special emphasis on reaching the children of their community recently. A representative from Child Evangelism held one week of meetings; the following month, representatives from the Canadian Sunday School Mission held special meetings for one week.

The Rev. Sig Schuster, area minister, challenged lives during special "Deeper Life" meetings held Nov. 13-17, 1985.

The Rev. Bert Milner is pastor of the church. —*Annette Lang*

Ten Baptized at Lakeview Heights Church

KELOWNA, BC. As of the end of November 1985, the Rev. Gerald Scheel baptized 10 persons at Lakeview Heights Baptist Church. They and one other person have become members of the Church. —*Dorothy G. Fritzke*

Five Baptized at Dickinson Church

DICKINSON, ND. Associate pastor Daryl Dachtler baptized three youth, including his two daughters, at Hillside Baptist Church, Nov. 24, 1985. Pastor Jim DeBoer also baptized two youth in the same service. —*Bonnie Walther*

13 Join Aberdeen Church

ABERDEEN, SD. The Rev. Robert Klein baptized seven people at Calvary Baptist Church. They and six others joined the Church recently. —*Diane Hassebroek*

Committed to Give

\$19,000 Given for Missions at Central Alberta Conference

CARBON, AB. Eight churches participated in the annual Central Missionary Conference Nov. 10-17, 1985: Community and Sunrise Baptist, Red Deer; East Olds Baptist; Trochu Baptist; Community Baptist, Beiseker; Carbon Baptist; and Zion and Parkdale Baptist, Drumheller. The mission offering goal of \$15,000 was reached before the closing program. The final tally totalled \$19,242.

Missionaries Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Nelson, Brazil; Wilma Binder and Dr. and Mrs. David Lake, Cameroon; and Allan Effa, Nigeria, developed the theme, "The Unfinished Task . . . Come Over and Help Us" (Acts 16:9).

"All the missionaries' messages made the appeal that the task is unfinished. In Cameroon it is evident that our retired and senior missionaries seeded the gospel message. It took

biblical imperatives in action

root and grew. Today the present missionaries are reaping. The harvest is ripe, but the reapers are few. In other areas, the task has just begun. Allan Effa, on his return to Nigeria, will be sowing the seed to the 40,000 unreached Fulani in the Mambilla Plateau. The call continues, "Come over and help us," reports Ida Ziegler.

Farmers Give Generously In Spite of Economic Difficulties

OLDS, AB. Members from six churches in Central Alberta were encouraged when, at the closing rally of their week-long missions conference, they found they had surpassed their \$15,000 goal for N.A.B. missions by over \$4,000.

Churches from Beiseker, Carbon, Drumheller (Parkdale and Zion), Trochu, and East Olds participated.

"These churches are comprised mostly of farmers who, after a second year of poor crops due to adverse weather conditions, have seen fit to give generously to the Lord's work during a time of economic difficulties," reports Jeanine White.

Lakeview Heights Church Emphasizes Stewardship

KELOWNA, BC. Lakeview Heights Baptist Church held a Thanksgiving/Stewardship potluck Oct. 20, 1985. They raised \$8,072 toward debt retirement. Guest speaker Dwayne Harder, marriage counsellor from Vernon, BC, challenged everyone with his message on stewardship.

The Rev. Gerald Scheel is pastor of the church. —Dorothy G. Fritzke

Faith Promise Goal Set For Missions

GLADWIN, MI. Round Lake Baptist Church set its faith promise goal at \$19,500 for missions at its annual Missions Conference held recently.

The Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Strauss, missionaries to Nigeria, spoke at the two-day conference. "It was a weekend of many blessings and commitments," reports Mrs. Jean Kleiss.

The Rev. Robert Brown is pastor of the Church.

Compelled to Serve

Laser Encourages Teachers to Study God's Word

VANCOUVER, BC. The Rev. Rick Laser, pastor, encouraged study of God's Word "to learn, to do, and to teach" during the promotion of Sunday school students and recognition of teachers and workers at Bethany Baptist Church. —Elsie Baum

Dickinson Church Commissions Missionary

DICKINSON, ND. The Rev. James DeBoer led a commissioning service for Carma Kusish at Hillside Baptist Church, Dec. 1, 1985. Carma, the daughter of Fred and Cleo Kusish of Dickinson, will teach music to missionaries' children in Brazil. Pastor Archer from T.E.A.M. headquarters in Canada spoke. —Bonnie Walther

Harris Speaks on New Pastors Facing Difficulties

SIOUX FALLS, SD. Dr. J. Gordon Harris, vice-president for academic affairs, North American Baptist Seminary, gave the charge to Trinity Baptist Church, "What Happens When a New Pastorate Becomes Difficult?" (Exodus 4:29-6:8) during the installation of its new Senior Pastor, Eric A. Coulon.

Dr. Harris cautioned that when resistance increases and church work becomes difficult, a normal response is for the church to blame their leader and the leader to question his call to that ministry.

"A better response is to make the pastor successful by patiently expecting God's mighty signs and their hard work to overcome the resistance of the world," stated Dr. Harris. —John Richter

"A better response is to make the pastor successful by patiently expecting God's mighty signs and their hard work to overcome the resistance of the world."

Commanded to Care

Edmonton Church Has Unique Banquet

EDMONTON, AB. Over 90 people from the various youth groups of Central Baptist Church held a unique Christmas banquet Dec. 7, 1985. Instead of the traditional turkey dinner, all foods were representative of N.A.B. mission fields in Brazil, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Japan. Different people described each course and also the Christmas customs of that country.

The profit from the banquet is going to a missionary project in Nigeria. In addition, everyone was asked to bring canned food which was distributed to the needy in Edmonton.

Errol Martens, co-director, Alberta "Youth with a Mission," described that organization's outreach to Greenland this summer.

The Rev. Herman Effa is senior pastor of the Church. —Kurt Remus

East Coast Women Challenged to Renew Priorities

KESWICK, NJ. Women of the Atlantic Association considered the topic, "Balancing Our Priorities" at their 22nd annual retreat held at the beautiful Keswick retreat center Nov. 1-2, 1985.

Miss Mae Stewart, professor of philosophy and Greek, Philadelphia College of Bible, Langhorne, PA, spoke. She challenged the 93 women present to review their values and priorities in light of biblical standards.

The women also enjoyed special music, helpful discussion groups focusing on personal and ministry concerns, and rich times of fellowship.

The missionary offering totalled \$324. —Mrs. Lynda Kosik and Pam Arends

"Renewing Our Vision" Is Emphasis of Central-Pacific Association

SALEM, OR. The Central-Pacific Association held its 98th session at Riveria Baptist Church. The Rev. Fred Folkerts, associate director, missions department, spoke on the theme, "Renewing Our Vision" (Hebrews 12:2).

"The business sessions conducted by Chuck Moehring, moderator, reminded us of our vision as an Association and the work to be carried out with love and excitement. We praise God for the vision he has entrusted to us and pray that as we minister through our Association, camp, churches, and individuals, we can bring God's love to others," reports Kathy Fornshell.

Music, messages, and workshops were included in the sessions.

Officers elected for 1986 were Wayne Williams, Glencullen, Portland, moderator; Marvin May, Salt Creek, Dallas, vice moderator; and Kathy Fornshell, Bethany, Portland, secretary.

Wedding Anniversaries

John and Emma Bruniski celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October 1985. They are members of Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, and formerly of N.A.B. Churches in Medicine Hat, and Trochu, AB.

Henry and Erna Loch, longtime members of Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 25, 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Bertsch of Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 10, 1985.

John and Emma Wagner of Southey (SK) Baptist Church celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 3, 1985.

in memoriam

KATIE FUEHRER (85), Bismarck, ND; born May 12, 1900, to Alexander and Katherine Walther in Mound City, SD; died Nov. 20, 1985; married Edward Fuehrer in 1928; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by her husband Edward; three daughters: Mrs. Betty Mehrer, Minneapolis, MN; Ruby (Mrs. Robert Cooper), Madison, WI; and Arlene Kay (Mrs. Gene Dronen), McKenzie, ND; one son: James, Bismarck, ND; ten grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Magdalen Fuehrer; Rev. M.D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

EARLE N. JOHNSON (55), Salem, OR; born Feb. 27, 1930, Salem, OR; died Oct. 30, 1985; member, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, deacon, moderator, Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, OR; survived by his wife Pearl; one daughter, Teresa Demaria; two sons, Michael and Edward; three grandchildren; and his mother Bernice Johnson, all of Salem, OR; Reverends Wally Kroguletz and S. Donald Ganstrom, pastors, funeral service.

GUY ARTHUR ROE (91), Bismarck, ND; born in 1894 to Milton and Mathilda Roe at Lorah, IA; died Nov. 30, 1985; married Dora Carlson in 1928, who predeceased him in 1941; married Emma Schell in 1943; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by his wife Emma; one sister-in-law, Bernice Roe; and two nieces; Reverends M.D. Wolff and Orville Meth, pastors, funeral service.

WILLIAM SIEB (73), Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; born Sept. 22, 1911, Dortmund, Germany; died July 20, 1985; immigrated to Detroit in 1921; married Evelyn Wegner, 1941; member, Sunday school teacher, choir and quartet member, Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; survived by his wife Evelyn, three brothers, five sisters, and cousins; Reverends Lawrence Wegner and Herbert Hiller, pastors, funeral service.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weidman celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18, 1985. They are members of East Olds Baptist Church, Olds, AB.

Recognitions

First Baptist Church, Underwood, ND, honored Pastor Wesley and Doris Gerber on the 10th anniversary of their service at the Church and their 30th year in the ministry. —Lorine Lutz

AEILT SENTS (68), Aplington, IA; born March 18, 1917, to Fred and Johanna Junker Sents in Grundy County, IA; died Nov. 16, 1985; married Carol Lewis, Oct. 24, 1942, who predeceased him on May 28, 1953; married Janice DeBoer, May 28, 1977; faithful attendee, Aplington (IA) Baptist Church; predeceased by one brother, Edwin; survived by his wife Janice, Aplington, IA; two stepsons: Mark DeBoer, Storm Lake; and Jim DeBoer, Aplington, IA; two brothers: Rudolf and Lester Sents; two sisters: Loretta (Mrs. Bennie Heikens), and Lillian (Mrs. Harold U. Haan); and one sister-in-law, Mrs. Bertah Sents; Rev. Donald Patet, pastor, funeral service.

FERDINAND SCHULZ (78), Chilliwack, BC; born Jan. 1, 1907, in Waldwerder; died Oct. 25, 1985; married Olga Gusek, May 20, 1929; immigrated with his family to Canada in 1953; member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, treasurer, lay preacher, Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC; predeceased by three children and four brothers; survived by his wife Olga; two sons: Otto (Linda), Chilliwack, BC; and Manfred (Joanna), Chilliwack, BC; two daughters: Margaret (Mrs. Len Schmidke), Richmond; and Erica (Mrs. Wally Strelau), Richmond; 8 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Adina Lau; and two brothers: Sam and Robert; Rev. Leonard Strelau and Dr. H. Waltereit, pastors, funeral service.

help needed!

Husband and wife teams and single adults to give two years of their lives to a challenging yet necessary ministry: parenting troubled and needy teens.

This missionary outreach is seeing the long-term effects of its commitment and if you consider giving of yourself to this cause, please contact us for a salary and fringe benefit package as well as a job description.

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world news

Hunger Relief Groups Assess Africa's Needs

WASHINGTON (BP)—As a new year approaches, Africa may be moving from a crisis of acute hunger to a crisis of chronic hunger, underscoring the need for long-term assistance and development.

Recent assessments by hunger relief and development organizations working in Africa illustrate both significant progress and continued need. Reports from famine-stricken countries indicate that while emergency food aid requirements for 1986 may be half the amount needed in 1985, millions of people will still have critical food needs next year.

The U.N. Office for Emergency Operations in Africa noted in a recent status report that the emergency is still "acute" in 12 countries.

Rains have returned to parts of the continent, but they have been unevenly distributed and too little, too late for harvests in many areas. In addition, transportation problems and civil strife in some countries have continued to hamper relief efforts.

In Ethiopia, where much of the world's attention has been focused in the last year, relief officials estimate six million people will still be in need of international food assistance next year. Transportation problems and lean crops will add at least another year to short-term relief efforts in that country.

Other illustrations of continued need: Ethiopia alone now has at least 200,000 orphans; an estimated four million persons have been displaced by famine and civil strife; in the Sudan approximately 12,000 homeless boys between the ages of 7 and 17 are roaming the streets of Omdurman and Khartoum.

Across Africa more than 17 million children under age five are suffering from malnutrition, a trend which will harm the continent's development for genera-

tions. In countries such as Ghana and Burkina Faso, more than 40 percent of the children under five are malnourished. More than 18 million people in seven countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Botswana, Sudan, Mozambique and Lesotho) are still "at risk" because of food shortages. —David Wilkinson

High Court Rejects Appeal From Fundamentalist School

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand lower rulings upholding an Iowa law that exempts the Amish community, but not independent fundamentalists, from sending their children to public schools or to private schools with state-certified teachers.

According to Iowa officials, that portion of the state's compulsory school attendance law was designed for groups such as the Amish who are "isolated from the mainstream of American life." All other children, the state contended in a legal brief asking the high court to reject the case, must attend a public school or a private institution with certified teachers because of the state's "compelling interest" in insuring the education of its citizens.

Ten parents of children enrolled in a Christian day school operated by the Calvary Baptist Church, Charles City, Iowa, brought suit challenging the law after that state board of education approved a recommendation by superintendent of public instruction Robert Benton to reject the parents' application for exemption from the statute.

They contended that by limiting the exemption to groups such as the Amish, the state unconstitutionally established religion by creating a "suspect classification" of religions exclusively entitled to be exempted. But at trial in a state district court and in the Iowa Supreme Court, the parents lost.

Their unsuccessful appeal to the nation's high court marks the end of a three-year battle for exemption. —Stanley Hastey

Norman Resigns

The Rev. Ron Norman resigned as Church Growth Director effective Feb. 1, 1986, to become pastor of First Baptist Church,



Elk Grove, CA. Norman was elected to this position in 1982 at the Triennial Conference and reelected in 1985.

During his ministry at the N.A.B. Office, Norman was involved with research on church growth in North America. As a result, the Church Growth Department has excellent tools and resources to help churches in church growth. Churches are asking for this help and actively participating in the Church Growth Seminars.

Dr. John Binder, executive director, thanked Norman "for 3½ years of investment of energy, gifts and your life in the Lord's work—the work of church growth and expanding the Kingdom of God through our Conference."

The Rev. Dennis Dewey, chairman, Church Growth Department, stated: "Super-organized is the first impression one has of Ron Norman. He has things under control. When you spend more time with him, other things become quite clear: he loves the Lord and has a pastor's heart; he is creative yet practical. This all adds up to a job well done. Thanks, Ron."

The Rev. Ray Harsch, associate director of evangelism and church growth, noted that Norman was a coworker who worked well with others, had fine administrative ability, and did a good job. He was willing to be out in the field among the churches. He also commended Norman for having initiated a thorough study of urban ministry.

A search committee has been appointed by the Church Growth Board to find a Church Growth Director. Since this resignation occurred between Triennial Conference sessions and it is an elected position, the Church Growth Board will make its recommendation to the General Council, who will then appoint a replacement.

what's happening

Mr. David Jahn, an N.A.B. Seminary graduate, was ordained Nov. 17, 1985, by First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON. The Reverends Phil Zylla, Wilmer Quiring and Lyle Richards, Spruce Grove, AB, spoke.

Dr. Stanley Grenz was recognized for his effective service as interim pastor March-December 1985, at Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. He is professor at the North American Baptist Seminary.

Mr. George R. Olson was ordained by Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, on Sept. 1, 1985, upon recommendation of an Ordination Council of the Northern California Association. Senior pastor, the Rev. Gene Kern, gave the ordination message. Rev. Olson has many years of ministry experience and presently serves as a Chaplain at the Folsom (CA) State Prison.

Mr. John Wesley Holmes became pastor of the Cedarloo Baptist Church, Cedar Falls, IA, in January 1986.

The Rev. Brian Perry, youth pastor at Victor Baptist Church, Victor, IA, since 1982, has resigned to become pastor of youth and Christian Education at First Baptist Church, Spencer, IA, effective Jan. 15, 1986.

The Rev. Randall Kinnison, Ellinwood, KS, has been appointed to fill an unexpired term of the Rev. Leon Bill on the North American Baptist Seminary Board.

Mr. Daniel E. Leverette, associate pastor of youth and Christian Education at Pineland, Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, died as the result of injuries sustained during a tobogganing accident on New Year's Day.

The Rev. James Derman became senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS, in December 1985. He has been serving as the associate pastor for the past year.

Mr. Jerry Winkley became the youth director at First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS, on Dec. 1, 1985. He is a graduate of Calvary Bible College, Kansas City, MO.

Dr. William Cummins has accepted the senior pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, effective early April 1986. He has served as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, since 1977.

Mrs. Sarah Redlich was recognized recently for her 25 years of service at the North American Baptist International Office where she is head book-

keeper. She began working in the N.A.B. Office in 1960 in Sunday School Literature sales, later as a secretary in the Stewardship-Higher Education Department, and for the past 12 years in bookkeeping in the Financial Services Department.

The Rev. R.I. Thompson of Superior, WI, began as interim pastor of Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, Alpena, MI, on February 1, 1986. He formerly served as pastor of Dorchester Drive Baptist Church, Erie, PA.

The Rev. Jake Leverette has accepted the pastorate of the new church extension project in Orlando, FL, which was begun this past year by the Rev. Bernard Fritzke. Rev. Leverette, who assumes this pastorate on Jan. 15, 1986, has served as pastor of Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, since 1980.

Dr. William Curling became pastor of Central Valley Baptist Church, Donna, TX, on Nov. 3, 1985. He formerly served as a medical missionary to Nicaragua.

Mr. Doug Stump became associate pastor of Fort George Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, on June 1, 1985.

Mr. Dale Goncalves resigned as assistant pastor of youth at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, effective Dec. 18, 1985, to accept a call to Fremont Evangelical Free Church in California.

The Rev. Rod Poppinga has accepted the pastorate of Anamoose Baptist Church, Anamoose, ND, effective June 1, 1986. He is a 1986 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Phyllip Putz accepted the pastorate of Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, effective March 1, 1986. He has been serving as the pastor of Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church, Rocklin, CA, since its founding in 1979.

Mr. Mark Boughan, associate pastor of German Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON, resigned to accept a call with the United Baptist Convention of Canada and is pursuing further studies at Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

The Rev. Merle Brenner became interim pastor of First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, on Feb. 1, 1986. He just concluded 19 years of ministry as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA.

The Rev. James Wheeler resigned as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Howell, MI, on Dec. 31, 1985.

Mr. Ellis Clive became pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Howell, MI, on Jan. 1, 1986.

The Rev. Billy Van Gerpen is serving as interim pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church, Tyndall, SD.

The Rev. Jacob Ehman began his ministry as Upper Midwest Area Minister in Feb. 1, 1986. His address is 4969 N. 106th St., Milwaukee, WI 53209.

Mr. David Steinhart became pastor of Forest Park Baptist Church, Forest Park, IL, on Jan. 1, 1986. He is a 1984 graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL, and a former N.A.B. Conference short-term missionary to Cameroon.

The Rev. Gary Osterkamp became pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Mississauga, ON, on Jan. 1, 1986. He had been serving a church in Toronto, ON. Prior to that, he and his wife were N.A.B. Conference missionaries in Brazil.

Mr. Herb Radke became the Minister of Music and Discipleship at Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, an Nov. 1, 1985. He is directing the Adult Choir and developing a band as well as a children's choir. He has been teaching in the public school system for the past six years in Sundre, AB. He and his wife Kathie have three children.

The Rev. and Mrs. Terry Fossen completed their short-term missionary tour at the Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Nigeria in December. He returned to his associate pastor responsibilities at Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

The Rev. Ray Harsch was appointed Acting Church Growth Director effective Feb. 1, 1986, by the Church Growth Board. He assumes this in addition to his responsibilities as Associate Director for Evangelism and Church Growth.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Baptist Home Inc. and the Baptist Apartments Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on April 15th, 1986, at 10:00 a.m. at the Baptist Home, 1100 East Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND.

baptist world aid

El Salvador—Civil Strife Relief

In a recent letter, Carlos Isidro Sanchez, executive secretary of the Baptist Association of El Salvador, writes that since January 1981, El Salvador has been suffering from civil strife. To date about 1,000,000 people have sought refuge in other countries. Almost 900,000 people in the interior are directly affected and have been displaced from zones where they live. Many have immigrated to the urban centers.

El Salvador has always been a poor country with a population that does not receive even the minimum of services in education, health care, housing, and employment.

Sr. Sanchez continued to say that as Christians the Baptist Church in El Salvador has sought to help with assistance programs to alleviate the condition of the people in need as best they could.

Since February of 1983 they have given aid in four major areas: a) a nutrition program for children, b) a program of medical assistance, c) aid to victims of the civil strife and d) aid to the victims of the flood of September 1983.

Checks may be made out to North American Baptist Conference and sent to 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for relief in El Salvador.

N.A.B.s Give \$108,851 in 1985

Through the North American Baptist Conference, churches and individuals gave \$108,851 in 1985 for Baptist World Relief and \$125,582 in 1984.

These monies were channeled through the Baptist World Alliance to various Baptist Conventions in countries around the world to aid in disaster relief, to feed the hungry, to help in reconstruction, and to help people become self-sufficient again. Thanks for caring.

Looking Back in Gratitude— Looking Forward in Hope

In 1984 through Baptist World Aid, a total of 21.4 million dollars was given by Baptists for relief and development projects. A large portion of this money went to world hunger and disaster relief. Other extensive development and education programs also received strong support. A significant contribution was made for fellowship assistance, grants given directly to Baptists within the Baptist World Alliance family.

Some of the assistance included relief work by Baptist medical teams in the Philippines following typhoon disasters in 1984 as well as for the people of Lebanon still suffering as a result of war in their country, and for food and supplies airlifted to Ethiopia.

Projects for 1985-86

The Division of Baptist World Aid has adopted projects for 1985-86 totaling \$1,053,000. Half of this amount is for continuing hunger projects, a follow-up to disaster relief and assistance to victims of civil strife. Development projects totaling \$475,000 cover agricultural assistance, skill and vocational training, medical equipment and a new educational project being projected to provide high school education for young people in Rwanda, and for education and training centers in South Africa. The remaining \$75,000 will be used for fellowship assistance in Eastern Europe and Bangladesh. The largest amount in this section is for \$45,000 to cover the cost of the *William Barclay New Testament Commentaries'* Russian translation for this year.

The government of the Soviet Union has granted a permit to import 1,000 each of the first five volumes of the *William Barclay New Testament Commentaries* translated into the Russian

language. This project is nearing completion and plans were to deliver these volumes in January. Letters of request for permission to ship the additional volumes have gone to the Soviet Union, and we covet your prayers that this permit may be forthcoming soon.

Permission has been given to seek out a suitable site for a Baptist seminary to be built in Moscow. This permission comes after many years of faithful prayer and application.

Baptists in Poland and in Hungary have been given permission to proceed with the construction of facilities for their seminaries. In these important new developments, opportunities are opening up to Baptists of the world to provide the financial support needed to assist our brethren to complete these important projects. In this way, we can all share in the work of evangelism in these countries through the training of future pastors and leaders.

The Disaster Relief Fund remains open for gifts to be used to respond to needs as disasters occur. The African Response Fund will also continue to meet the hunger needs in various countries in Africa.

Baptist World Aid covets your continuing prayer partnership and financial support of these programs of the Baptist World Alliance.

Archie R. Goldie is Director of the Division of Baptist World Aid.

capital funds

New Van Purchased for "New Day"

One of the key ministries of the Church Growth Department is that of the "New Day" Teams. This year, once again, there have been some remarkable blessings: Great attendances, people won to Christ as a result of the door-to-door ministry, and widespread appreciation for the drama emphasis.

Naturally, we need adequate transportation to bring these teams to our churches as well as to help them in their calling program. "New Day" was in special need of a new vehicle for one of this year's teams as the vehicle they were using was unreliable.

As a result, an order was placed for a new Ford van which has the features that provide the kind of transportation needed.

Because of the Capital Funds giving, we were able to make this purchase and provide this van for the 1985-86 tour. This has alleviated the constant worry and concern by all involved as to whether the former vehicle being used would be adequate and safe.

About \$6,000 of capital funds contributed in 1985 was used to subsidize the purchase of the van. This amount was designated for the portion identified for use in helping our established churches grow. Thank you for your contributions through Capital Funds which made the purchase of this van possible. —Ron Norman, church growth director



new day

"New Day" Ministers at Correctional Facility in Lebanon

It's time for yet another update on your favorite "New Day" Team! Something happened that recently changed our outlook on many things. The music section of "New Day" was in Beavercreek, Ohio, where they visited a correctional institute in Lebanon. . . NO not that Lebanon, the one in Ohio!

Adrenalin ran high as our hearts filled with the excitement of sharing. Our minds were full of questions and concerns: "How will they accept us in our suits and dresses?" "We don't want to come across as better than they are!"

Many of the inmates were helpful in carrying equipment. They seemed so eager to talk to us—to get to know us. The air was charged with excitement and expectation.

Reclaim Your Old Camera or Tape Recorder to Help Share the Gospel

Do you have a 35mm camera collecting dust or a reel-to-reel tape recorder or cassette recorder sitting idle in the basement?

Perhaps you purchased a 35mm camera a few years ago but just don't use it any more. Or, maybe you have just purchased a new stereo system, and your old equipment is still in good condition, but you just don't use it now. You can put that camera or tape recorder to work sharing the Gospel through the North American Baptist Conference "Equipment Recycling" Program.

Our missionaries need cameras to help graphically illustrate their presentations when they share their ministries with the churches. We also need recorders and projectors to present the Gospel and mission needs both at home and overseas.

You can help extend the Kingdom of God by donating your used or no longer needed cameras, tape recorders, amplifiers, and other audiovisual equipment in good working condition to the North American Baptist Conference. You can also claim a tax deduction for the value of the donated equipment.

If you would like to know more about the "Equipment Recycling" Program, call or write Art Helwig, associate director of communications, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone (312) 495-2000.

The concert began on a high note; we truly felt the power of the Holy Spirit moving among those men. In that audience were Christians who were praying for us. The smiles we saw were all we needed to know that God was at work.

We sang a song entitled, "We Will Stand"; after the phrase, "I don't care what label you may wear . . ." 150 men rose to their feet cheering and applauding. There was no self-glorification in this, because we knew these men were praising the Lord with their actions. They were joyfully agreeing that in Christ there is no East or West; we are all equal in his eyes. A man accepted the Lord that day as a result of prayer and God's working through the ministry of "New Day." We left that place encouraged and excited about our opportunity to serve in yet another way.

When we are willing to invest time and energy into sharing Christ's love with those around us, Christ showers us with blessings a thousandfold.

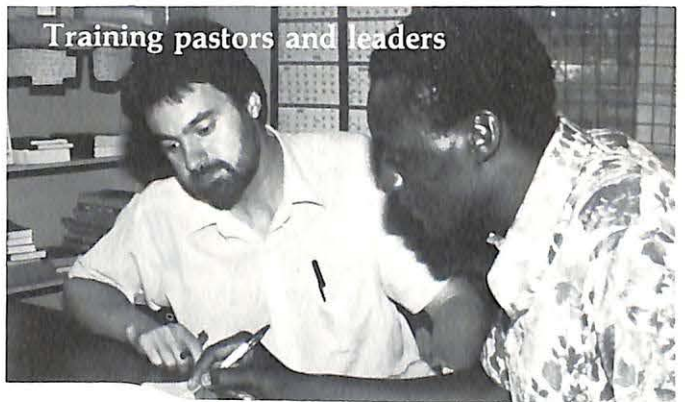
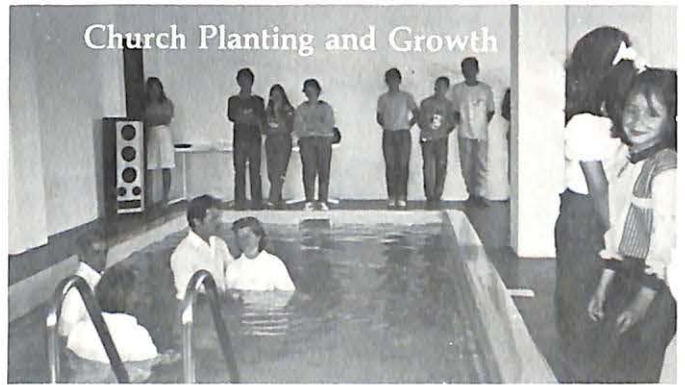
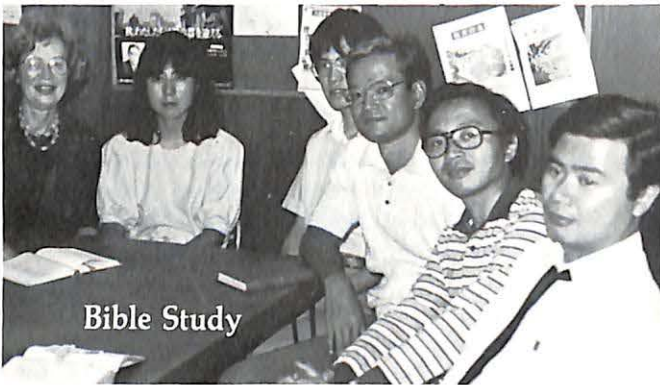
2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 12-13 . . . God will supply the generous giver with more than enough to meet his own needs AND (yes, there's more) with more than enough to give for every good deed.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts and promises!—Susan Zenky, "New Day"

Baptist Herald

1 So. 210 Summit Ave.
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