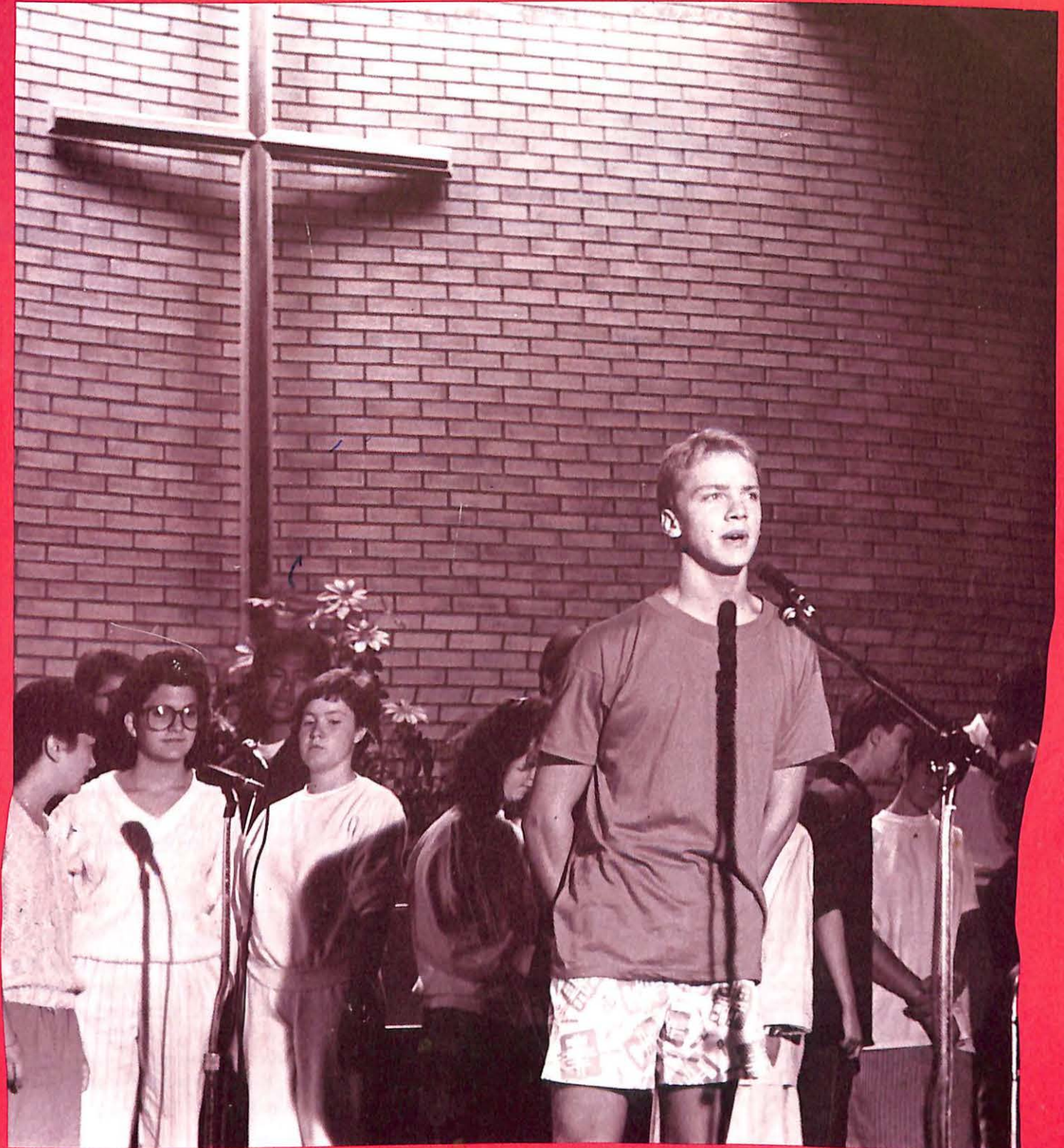


# Baptist Herald

November 1986



## Kansas BYF Has New Adventure

by Shelia Strobel

For their summer camp, the Kansas BYF tried a new adventure. A group of 22 workers, including sponsors, traveled to the San Luis Valley in Colorado to work at the home mission churches, July 22-29.

They spent the major part of the week at Bethel Baptist Church in Del Norte doing carpentry work and painting the new addition to the church inside and out as well as the existing building. (A group of men from various N.A.B. Conference churches had previously been there to construct the new addition.) Also, a group of the guys unloaded 58,000 pounds of food commodities off a semi truck at the Monte Vista church.

Evening activities included a daily Bible study led by Rev. Ben Hulsing from the N.A.B. Seminary, as well as swimming, mountain climbing, and visiting the Great Sand Dunes.

Group members took part in the services of the three churches at Del Norte, Monte Vista, and Center, on Sunday morning. From there, they traveled to Denver where they were housed by members of Meadowhills Baptist Church of Aurora. Monday was spent sightseeing. The group returned to Kansas on July 29.

Mr. David Riffel, Wichita, state BYF director; the Rev. Perry Kallis, Marion, camp pastor; and Mrs. Linda Kallis, who prepared meals, accompanied the group. The weeklong workcamp provided the youth with a hands-on mission experience and an opportunity to serve the Lord in ways many had never done before. It definitely was a spiritually maturing time. □



Kansas Youth replace summer camp with a workcamp in Colorado.

## Edmonton Youth Go to Chicago to Minister

by Carol Fulmore

A taste of urban ministries was one of the experiences of the "Son Seekers," a musical-drama group of 25 high school young people from Meadowlark Baptist Church.

The group, with their six sponsors, traveled from Edmonton to Chicago, Illinois, between July 13 and August 3. Enroute they presented a musical drama, "The Warrior Is a Child,"

eleven times.

In Chicago, the group assisted with the VBS at Albany Park Baptist Church. They also participated in urban ministries, helping in soup kitchens, overnight shelters, and community programs.

The "Son Seekers" were led by Youth Pastor Allan Kjesbo and his wife Denise. The Rev. Ken MacDonald is pastor of Meadowlark. □

## North Pointe Youth Group Enthusiastic about Program

by Ginny Thomas

The youth group at North Pointe Baptist Church has more than tripled in size and has shown a contagious enthusiasm to those they meet. Recent activities included presenting "An Autobiography of a Church Pew," and white water rafting. Some of the youth are headed for specialized Christian service.

SWAP (Summer with a Purpose) is an annual program for junior high youth held at North Pointe Baptist Church. The program consists of Bible study, recreation, snacks, and field trips. Many of the youth come from outside the Church.

Paul Thomas is Youth Minister at the Church. □

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# What Are Our Youth Thinking?

Recently, the Baptist Herald asked youth pastors and sponsors of youth groups in our churches to participate in a youth survey. Junior and senior high youth groups from twenty-two churches responded. Responses from youth across

Canada and the United States tended to be similar whether they were from small towns, or urban, suburban, or rural areas. A summary of answers the youth gave to the survey follows.



Immanuel Baptist, Vancouver, BC, youth.

## What would the youth like to be able to tell their parents or feel free to talk about with them?

Youth want open communication with their parents. They want to be able to express their own opinions and feelings about things, to discuss their ideas and actions in an atmosphere of acceptance and support.

"I would like to feel free to be open and not expect punishment for honesty," one youth wrote. Another stated, "I would like to talk to them about *anything* without their being judgmental."

Commented one youth sponsor: "Youth have a fear of talking to their parents because they are afraid of being laughed at or not taken seriously. They don't want their parents to look down upon them when they need to 'just talk.'"

Topics cited on almost every group's survey sheet as items youth would like to talk with their parents about included school and grades, friends, peer pressure, the opposite sex, dating, sex, and making decisions. "Things are not as easy as parents think they should be," declared one teen.

Personal and family problems are other areas

youth wish to talk about. "I'd like to feel free to talk to my parents about my secrets and problems, so I don't have to hold them in," confided one teen. Another wanted to talk about problems at home, "because my parents think it's all fine, but it's really different since their divorce."

Several teens felt they had a very good relationship with their parents. "I feel free to discuss almost anything with them," stated one senior high youth, "but I wish there were more communication. I would like to be able to tell my parents that I can take care of myself and deal with the consequences of my actions, although their concerns are very appreciated."

## What kinds of responses by parents do youth appreciate? Not appreciate?

Youth had very definite opinions on this question. Overwhelmingly they liked to hear "Yes!" Youth crave praise and appreciation from their parents. The comment, "I appreciate it when they tell me, 'You did a good job!' or 'I'm proud of you!'" was repeated many times on the survey

sheets. "If I did a lot of good, don't just pick out the one thing I didn't do or forgot to do," requested one junior higher. Youth also want their parents to tell them, "I love you."

In addition to positive responses and encouragement from their parents, youth appreciate their willingness to listen, their understanding, and their open-mindedness. "I appreciate a reasonable, positive, honest response from parents, *after* they've listened to your *whole* problem," stated one youth.

One youth sponsor wrote, "Kids want to be heard and listened to as an important person, someone that the parents are proud of. Kids like to be encouraged, not continually torn down or given negative responses."

Youth were equally definite about what parental responses they did *not* appreciate. An outright "No!" with no reason given, or a negative answer accompanied by a lecture frustrated youth. "Youth want honesty," stated one youth sponsor after discussing this question with the church youth group. "They don't want their legitimate questions pushed off with arbitrary answers or responses such as 'You're too young to worry about that.' These are unsatisfactory to the young people who need to know."

One youth group came up with a series of "don'ts" for parents: "Don't beat around the bush; don't compare us to other siblings or friends; don't call us names; don't say things to put us down." Nagging, yelling, anger, distrust, assuming the worst, and bringing up too much of the past were also disliked by the youth.

"I don't appreciate it when my parents bug me about always doing something," said one youth. A senior high youth stated: "I do not appreciate responses which try to motivate me through guilt, shame, anger, or fear." Another teen said, "I don't appreciate it when parents assume you ask questions (for example, about sex or alcohol) because you're in trouble."

## What are things they wish parents would tell them?

Once again, youth indicated that they wished their parents would tell them that they love them and are proud of them. Youth want their parents to tell them "that they are important and special; that they have unique gifts and talents; that they accept them no matter what; that they believe in them."

In addition to this affirmation, youth would like to have their parents' advice on the problems they

face. "They would like their parents to tell them everything so they can be ready when they face good and bad situations," reports one youth sponsor.

Youth showed great interest in learning about their parents' past. "I wish my parents would tell me more about themselves before I was born and about their philosophies (beliefs) and expectations in life, in me, in themselves, and Christian living," stated a senior high youth. Another added, "I wish they would tell me about when they were young and went through the same kinds of problems."

Youth indicated that they wanted to understand their parents and the pressures they face better. "I wish my parents would tell me more about their problems and feelings," said one teen.

Other items that youth wished their parents would tell them about included family schedules and family situations and problems. "I wish my parents would tell me if the family is having financial difficulties," said one youth. "Youth would like to be informed about 'family secrets' such as divorce," stated a youth sponsor.

## What things do youth think they could do to better understand and help their parents?

For the most part, youth suggested treating their parents as they wish their parents would treat them: "Listen to them"; "Spend time with them"; "Try to look at situations from their point of view"; "Be patient"; "Be honest"; "Talk to them about what they do and what they like."

Youth from Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, discuss survey questions.



One youth group summed it up: "Young people should take the time to listen to their parents. Parents should talk about their teen years. If parents would do that, teens would understand why the parents react the way they do."

Another group advocated tolerance and understanding: "Don't criticize them (parents), either for what they say or how they do things. They will inevitably be different; it can't be helped. Don't try to change them to the latest trends and styles, but accept them for what they are and where they are at."

Specific suggestions for getting to know their parents better were numerous. These included working side-by-side with parents; attending functions they are involved in; and participating in an activity, sport, or hobby the parent enjoys. Several mentioned watching television with their parents, "even if it means watching nature shows on public TV with dad," or watching "Huntley Street" in German.

Youth felt they could help their parents by cooperating more and volunteering to help. "I could do what they say without complaining," suggested one teen. "I could have more responsibilities for a while," decided another.

Better communication from the teen to the parent was also mentioned: "I could explain things better"; "I could better inform them about what's going on in my life." "We could have family discussions," suggested one teen. Several thought going out weekly for a family gathering would also be helpful.

### What are ways youth reach out for Christ to their peers? To invite them to church or the youth group?

Foremost in their answers, youth mentioned life-style evangelism. "The only way any age person can reach out for Christ is to live what they believe," declared one teen. "Reach out to peers by getting to be friends, exchanging ideas, and by being an example," said another. "We've reached out by taking in kids who didn't really fit in, accepted them, and made them feel welcome," observed a senior high youth. Youth also stressed helping others who were in difficult situations.

In addition, youth reach out through their conversations with peers. "I start with some common ground and try to introduce Christ into that common ground," reported one senior high youth. "Steer conversation to Christ," and "Tell them what the Bible says about things they are discussing," were other suggestions.

Most youth mentioned that they invite their peers to the activities of their youth groups as a

major way of reaching them for Christ. "I invite them to a youth group activity and then, eventually, if they don't feel too threatened, to a church service," related one teen. Others use Christian music as a witness or invite their peers to Christian rock concerts. Retreats, camp, and VBS were also cited as places youth took their friends to expose them to the Christian faith.

### How do youth care?

Some youth groups were confused over the meaning of this question. Those who responded emphasized being sensitive to and aware of the needs and feelings of others in order to offer support: "I listen to others' problems and comfort them. They rely on me. I hurt when they do." "Youth care by being there and taking action." Several mentioned sacrificing time and money to do something for someone with a need.

Several youth groups reported on specific ways they care for those outside of their immediate circle of friends and family. "Youth care through various planned activities such as a starve-a-thon to raise money for the hungry," wrote one youth sponsor. "Youth care by supporting foreign children," stated one youth. "We show we care by visiting shut-ins," said another.

### What do youth most care about? What is their major concern?

The major concerns of youth ran the gamut from the personal (their physical appearance, popularity, school grades) to the global (world peace, nuclear war, hunger).

Many focused on personal concerns. "Acceptance both by parents and peers rose high on the list of major concerns faced by youth today," reported one youth sponsor. "Their major concern is enjoyment or pleasure," concluded another sponsor. "This is achieved through various outlets such as friends, music, and money. They also care about their relationships with the opposite sex, as well as their friends of the same sex. They care about God and their devotional life, as well as getting a job and their education."

Many of the concerns cited by youth centered on their relationships. Declared one youth, "I care about my friends and family and God." "I'm concerned about my friends and relatives knowing the Lord," said one junior high youth.

The future and what it holds for them was another major concern of the youth surveyed. "What am I going to be and do when I grow up?" asked one youth. "I'm concerned about my future and the future of my family members," stated one

senior high teen.

Some youth also voiced political and social concerns. Quite a few mentioned the threat of nuclear war. Others were concerned about the poor, unemployment, abortion, tensions with the Soviet Union, homosexuality, and curing terminal diseases.

### How do youth view (feel about) the future?

Answers to this question swung from one end of the spectrum to the other, from optimism to pessimism, from anxiety to confidence. Many answered simply, "Scared"; others, "Optimistic." Sometimes contradictory feelings were expressed by the same person. "It's neat, exciting, scary," said one youth. "I usually get nervous because I'm afraid I'll make a wrong decision or do something that will affect the rest of my life. But I also get a little excited about all the good things ahead that I don't know about," explained one teen.

A few take a more casual approach and some are indifferent, "I don't think most youth think too much about the future," stated one youth. "I think they just go on day-by-day and hope things just keep getting better. They just don't want to think about it."

Often youth focused on their immediate future. "Youth care about what they are going to do in the future (their vacation, marriage), but their concerns are generally more immediate such as getting a summer job, vacation plans, dates, and passing grades," one youth leader summarized.

A number agree with the teen who declared, "The world is in deep trouble." Concern about world peace and the possibility of nuclear war surfaced again. Many mentioned the assurance they have from their faith in God: "The future looks uncertain, but I feel God will take care of it." "I'm thankful that Jesus gives hope." "We really don't have to worry about it because we know what will happen in the end times."

### How do youth feel the church can better meet their needs?

The great majority of youth wanted their churches to continue and even increase their support of their youth group and its activities. "They would like regular sponsors or leaders who stay longer," reported one youth sponsor. "They would like proper facilities and access to more funding so they can do more activities such as Christian concerts." "Have more youth specials—music, drama, plays," suggested one youth.

Youth requested, "Understand us"; "Have more understanding of our likes and dislikes"; "Ask us to help figure out what our needs are"; "Take more surveys like these." One youth sponsor commented: "In between the lines, I see the youth desiring respect and support from adults within the church."

A number of youth suggested some changes in the church. "Give up old traditions in favor of better communication and more interesting activities," said one. "Have interesting sermons with a lot of illustrations," requested a junior high youth. The youth wanted their church to be a place of spiritual growth.

### How would youth like to be involved in the local church?

Youth want to be involved in decision-making in their churches. One senior high youth wrote. "Let us have a voice in the church." "Have a youth on a church board," another requested. "Youth feel it is very important to get their feelings and opinions heard at the church meetings," stated a youth sponsor. "They would also like some say in choosing the Sunday school curriculum."



The young people of Shady Grove Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, offer helpful hands. Pastor Jim Arends says this reflects a bit of the importance of our young people in our church planting efforts. From left to right: John Randall, Scott Brown, Holly Brown, Debbie Mason, and Jeff Davis.

Some specific areas that youth indicated they would like to be involved in included working with younger children in Sunday school, clubs, junior church, and the nursery. Many youth mentioned involvement in music ministries, ushering, work projects, and upkeep around the church. Other suggestions included, "Helping preach the Word of God to people," and "participating in and planning Sunday services." "Youth want to be asked to do something important," concluded one youth sponsor. "They want to be responsible and accountable for something important." □

# Can Junior Highers Experience Revival?

by Virginia Heumann

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!" (Ephesians 3:20 NIV).*

The numbers were startling. Over a four-week period, 70 Junior Highers brought 160 visitors to their youth group, and saw 120 of them respond to invitations.

Adults at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, California, began to wonder what was happening in their Junior High Department. They had heard about the annual Junior High winter competitions, when students competed on teams to bring friends to Wednesday night church. The spring Junior High musical last year had given them a taste of what went on at these competitions with the choir enacting a competition night complete with cheers, stuffing your team through the inner tube relay, and a burger-eating contest.

Everyone enjoyed seeing the Junior Highers having a good time, and parents were glad their kids had a chance to be involved in an active youth program. But then this year's "Big Time Wrestling Competition" numbers appeared, and it became apparent that something more was happening in the Junior High Department than just "fun and games"! Revival had begun in the lives of Junior Highers at Quail Lakes—revival immeasurably above and beyond what staff and students imagined when they began to ask for it.

During the first few weeks of school, our Junior Highers were en-

couraged by Junior High staff to meet as many people as they could in their classes at school and to begin identifying people they could pray for and invite to church. "Revival begins with cleansing our own hearts," one of our Sunday school teachers reminded them one Sunday morning as he led opening prayer time. He asked for students to share the names of friends they wanted to invite to church so that the whole group could pray for them. Sharing names of friends also made students accountable to each other to be sure to invite those friends and encouraged others who might know that person or persons to invite them also.

## Junior Highers Begin to Pray

A main key for revival is prayer, and so Junior Highers began to pray. In Sunday School, they prayed as a large group and also in small classes with individual teachers. Two mornings a week, groups from three local Junior High schools met to pray before school for each other and their friends. A core group of students began meeting before Wednesday night meetings to pray for the program that night and the new people who came. Small discipleship groups met on Fridays for intensive Bible study and more prayer.

During 24-hour church prayer times, Junior High leaders signed up for early morning hours and had kids

stay overnight at their houses so that they could enjoy the adventure of getting up at 3:00 a.m. to pray for an hour at church. The Junior High staff of ten and Junior High Youth Pastor Jon Hathorn also prayed at staff meetings on Monday night and before Sunday School.

## Involvement—also a Key

A second key to revival is involvement. The Junior High staff made a conscious effort to include Junior Highers in programming of activities and leadership. Wednesday night core group students were given responsibilities in leading small group discussions of general interest questions which would lead directly into that week's lesson. Students generated interest in upcoming events by performing skills and passing out flyers at school. Rather than having adult leaders for "Big Time Wrestling," student volunteers were made team captains and took responsibility for phoning the members of their team, generating spirit and organizing their team for games.

The greatest impact of involvement, however, were the student testimonies on competition nights. Four students shared how they had come to know Christ and how that had changed their lives and given them meaning in life. Seeing Junior Highers just like them stand up and talk about a friendship with Jesus made it possible for others to make a stand for Jesus later when Jon shared, in a very simple way, the need of each person to accept Jesus personally.

## Adults Enlisted for Follow-Up

A third key to revival is hard work. In addition to preparation for the competition itself, students and staff were faced with the need to follow up on 30 to 40 decisions each week. The staff wanted to be sure each student was talked to individually and that their decision was clarified, both for themselves and the staff members who wanted to be able to meet their needs in order to help them grow. Forty adults from the Church were enlisted to help in follow-up. A burden for follow-up on decisions is a joy to share with others!

## A Feeling of Freedom to Witness

The fourth key of revival is that it is only a beginning. The greatest joy of all is that although competition has ended, evangelism in the Junior High Department has not. Along

with bringing back the friends they invited to the competition, Junior Highers have continued to bring new friends—30 in the three weeks following competition. Many students have reported that the competition emphasis has made them feel much freer to talk about church and Jesus at school.

Now to the God who gives wisdom as well as revival, the Junior Highers and staff of Quail Lakes give thanks and praise and ask that He help them to continue on in the work He has begun! "This is the assurance we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we have asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15 NIV). □

*Virginia Heumann is one of the youth workers at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA.*



# Teamwork: Go for It in Youth Ministry

by Paul Wilson

Every successful businessman knows that the key to a prosperous business is its people. Our Master's business is no exception! The key ingredients for success in any area of ministry are the input and involvement of God's people. Nowhere is the need for committed, Spirit-filled Christians more acute than in local church youth ministry.

Unfortunately, some churches have adopted a philosophy of youth ministry which serves a program and ignores the needs of people. For any youth ministry to be worthwhile, it must seek to meet the needs of young people. Activity for the sake of activity is worthless. Activity which draws young people closer to the Lord is invaluable.

## Excellence Is the Goal

Essentially, our goal at Brentview Baptist Church is excellence. It is our desire to see young people mature spiritually, socially, and in their service to the Lord. These goals are worked on through a "team" effort in which the youth pastor, youth sponsors, young people, and parents get involved and share ideas. When problems arise, team solutions are sought and implemented. In my view, improvement, flexibility, creativity, and change are required for a viable long-term ministry to young people. A youth program must be relevant to be effective.

## Activities to Meet Spiritual Needs

To effectively meet spiritual needs, our team has employed four activities. First, weekly Bible studies are held for Junior High, Senior High, and College and Career young people. In each of these studies, individual spiritual growth is encouraged through an investigation,

discussion, and application of biblical truth. Young people are encouraged to ask questions which relate to their own spiritual needs and struggles, and the group is challenged to give practical biblical help to their peers.

opportunity for young people to share what God is doing in their lives. Enthusiastic singing, a concentrated time of prayer, and informal conversation make these times a rich blessing.



Last July, eleven of Brentview Baptist Church's young people gave two weeks of their summer to serve the Lord at the North American Baptist Conference Spanish-American Mission in Del Norte, Colorado.

Second, Sunday evening after-church fellowships are held twice a month. These gatherings provide an

Third, Sunday school classes for each group provide another setting for learning. Finally, youth retreats

draw young people closer to each other and to their Lord. Important life-changing decisions are often made during these special times of input.

## Activities to Meet Social Needs

Social needs are addressed through creative and often crazy times of wholesome fun. Car rallies, a missing persons night, barbeque and baseball, and a talent night are some of the social events held twice a month.

At times, social events are planned with outreach to friends from school or work as the primary focus. Usually though, members of a youth group come to enjoy an evening of fun with their friends. While a youth group should not be based solely on its social activities, such events do enable young people to develop important social skills which will make meaningful relationships possible.

## Experiences to Develop Spiritual Gifts

In service, our young people are encouraged through a variety of means to discover and develop their God-given spiritual gifts and talents. Through participation in drama, music, doing a church service at a local nursing home, and the leading of an evening church service once a month, our young people experience the challenges and blessings of serving God and His people. In addition, members of a Youth Executive enhance their leadership ability through a training course and hands-on experience.

The vision of making Christ known through missions at home and abroad is shared regularly. This past year, an outreach Bible Study was started at the University of Calgary.

Last July, eleven of our young people gave two weeks of their summer to serve the Lord at the North American Baptist Conference Spanish-American Mission in Del Norte, Colorado. Also this past summer, a number of young people worked at Camp Caroline, an Alberta Baptist Association camp, and at other Christian camps in the area. In each of these endeavours, it is my prayer that young people may grow as servants of our living Lord.

In conclusion, a vibrant youth ministry is essential in the life of every church. This ministry must be

people-oriented, spiritually-based, socially active, and concerned with the development of useful servants. When these ingredients are present, I am convinced that God will do a work in our young people that exceeds our greatest expectations. □

*The Rev. Paul Wilson is Minister of Youth and Music at Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, and has been appointed Chairman of the Youth Program for the 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Conference Churches to be held in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31.*



Social needs are addressed through creative and often crazy times of wholesome fun for the youth at Brentview Baptist.

**A vibrant youth ministry is essential in the life of every church. This ministry must be people-oriented, spiritually-based, socially active, and concerned with the development of useful servants.**

# Building Your Youth Ministry

by Allen Kjesbo

Any philosophy of Christian ministry needs to start with a philosophy of God and His involvement with His people. I am convinced that God works in the lives of the young.

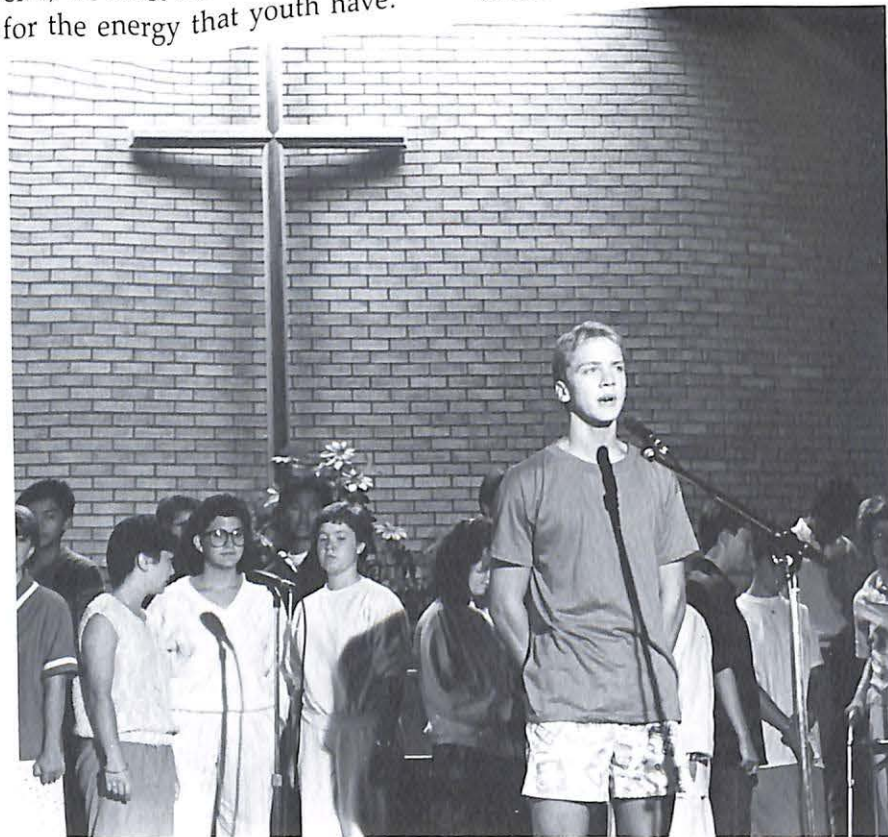
As we look at the heroes of the Bible, we see that they started their pilgrimages with God as young people. Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, David, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, were all walking closely with the God they loved and worshipped when He broke into their worlds and used them in a mighty way. I believe God chooses to be involved in people's lives, and that He desires to start early in a person's life.

I have great respect for young people, their talent, their energy, and their commitment. Young people can be compared to mustard seeds. They enter our youth ministry unnoticed, but in a few years, with proper nurture and teaching, they can experience great growth and impact their worlds for the cause of Christ.

When young people enter Junior High, they are open to change and, in fact, desire it. Junior Highers go through marked changes, and in many cases, it will be in contrast to their families. Youth Ministry can provide godly options for change. When a church can provide people who love youth and can challenge them, the church will reap a harvest of positive change. Instead of our schools changing the youth, they can be changing our schools.

Young people have great energy to carry on the cause of Christ. Give a young person a cause, and results can be expected. If youth grow up in a church, they enter the youth ministry of the church before their first job, the academic expectations of high school, and the grip of

materialism take hold of their energies. Before adolescents become sidetracked by peripheral issues, we have the opportunity and responsibility to enlist them in a cause that will change not only their lives but also potentially the world. To this end, we must not be ashamed to ask for the energy that youth have.



*We attempt to provide many opportunities to stretch a youth's commitment. The last level is the point where youth have to earn the right to be there—to be involved in a discipling group, a music/drama group, or a leadership group.*

## Relating Youth's Commitment to the Christian Community

Young people have an understanding of commitment. They excel when they are committed to something. Unfortunately, while youth may understand commitment, many do not understand it as it relates to the Christian community.

When I was in High School football, I understood what it meant to be committed to the team. The team had expectations, and if those were not met, there was accountability with consequences. I knew that if I missed a practice, I would not be able to play in several of the games. I was a committed person. But, if I missed

church or a youth activity, I really did not think it was a big deal. I understood commitment, but I did not see how it related to my walk with God.

Like me, many youth have never thought about commitment in relationship to their walk with God. Church leadership needs to be bold for the sake of Christ and to hold

youth accountable, in love, to Christian standards. If we fail to bring young people's commitment into the church, we have failed in teaching the value of Christ in our lives. The commitment is there; we now need to apply it to the areas of a young person's life that will bear eternal significance.

## Stretching a Youth's Commitment

At Meadowlark Baptist Church, we attempt to provide many opportunities to stretch a youth's commitment. The first level is a social setting where newcomers can come and no expectations are placed on them.

Then there is a midweek activity that requires a young person to listen for 10 to 20 minutes. The Gospel is shared in an environment that combines the Gospel with light, non-threatening activities.

Sunday School is the next level. There is solid teaching and periodic quizzing so that each youth is accountable for the information shared.

The last level is the point where youth have to earn the right to be there. This is a group where involvement costs. It can be a discipling group, a music/drama group, or a leadership group. We have not stretched their commitment until they have had to work.

## Providing Continuity through Youth Sponsors

As I work with youth, I also attempt to invest my life in youth sponsors. Youth move on every year, but the sponsors provide continuity. Any long-term youth ministry will need faithful, godly sponsors. The message and principles of Christ are best communicated through relationships.

As I look back at my education, it was not the brilliant lesson plans that made me interested in a topic; it was the teacher who not only shared materials but also his or her life. In a balanced youth ministry, we need sponsors of varying ages and interests who can communicate truths and challenges through relationships. These relationships need to be characterized by depth and transparency. It is these relationships that allow a youth ministry to grow and be inclusive of all.

## A Youth Pastor's Role

As I attempt to develop a philosophy of youth ministry, it is important to keep a proper perspective on who I am as a youth pastor. Many people are not sure what a youth pastor is. I am not "one of the kids," although I spend a great deal of time with them. I need to always be communicating that I am there for them and that I have a broader perspective than their peers.

As youth pastor, I see myself as a "parent figure." My role as youth pastor can be characterized by three actions that are parental in nature. My first role is to love youth. This summer we had the opportunity to travel from Edmonton to inner city Chicago to participate in Urban Ministry with our Senior High. While there, I participated in many forms of ministry. The key ingredient in ministries that were reaching people was love. If we love the people God gives us, God will work among us.

I must also discipline youth. Disciplining youth and loving them go hand in hand. Before I can effectively discipline them, I need to effectively love them. Discipline is a positive action that desires restora-

tion in the process of disciple making. Discipline makes a relationship real, calls young people to accountability, sharpens commitment, and produces long-term relationships.

The third action is an exciting opportunity. That is when I dream and challenge young people to action. This spring I took some of my High School graduates out and talked about their future. It was fun to share with them how I could see them using their talents. It is a special privilege to be a part of shaping people's lives.

Wherever you live, there are young people. You may not be called to youth ministry, but with a kind word or an affirming smile, you can be building your youth ministry. Develop a love for youth that makes them feel accepted. Energy invested in youth will return with high dividends. □

**I have great respect for young people, their talent, their energy, and their commitment.**



*Allen Kjesbo is the Youth Pastor at Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.*

# Youth Experience

## Cross-cultural Ministry in Nigeria

by Edwin C. Kern

"A mega-job is being left up to so few missionaries and Christian leaders in Nigeria," was the analysis of one of the members of the Good News Ambassadors who served on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria in May and June this year. "I think I'll have to go back to Nigeria."

A team of five students from the North American Baptist College/Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, was selected on the basis of their musical and dramatic abilities by the Campus Life Committee of the schools to serve in this cross-cultural ministry. Those chosen were Brent Eisner, Susan Elliott, Elana Hohn, Dianne Itterman, and David Ulrichs. This service opportunity was arranged by the schools in conjunction with the Mambilla Baptist Convention of Nigeria and the North American Baptist Conference Missions Department.

Youth leaders of the Mambilla Baptist Convention and N.A.B. Conference missionaries working with the Convention arranged the itinerary, planned for the food and lodging, and scheduled vehicles and drivers for transport to the various meetings.

Team members repeatedly expressed gratitude for the hospitality of the Nigerian church people and the loving care given by Missionaries Barbara Kieper and Minnie Kuhn. In addition to their already overloaded schedule, these missionaries willingly and graciously shared with the team members their love, concern, and teaching from their own experiences in Nigeria.

The Good News Ambassadors held youth rallies in the government

secondary schools and one primary school, participated in market-place meetings, and were involved in five associational youth conferences organized by the Mambilla Baptist Convention. Their programs consisted of musical ensembles, testimonies, messages through drama, and discussion periods. As a member of the team, I presented a lesson on giving a testimony and usually gave a message inviting peo-

ple to accept Christ or make a commitment to Christ for service in the church and in the world. Several responded to the claims of Christ on their lives.

The team also gave music-drama presentations to the students at Hillcrest School in Jos. Interaction with these students gave team members some understanding of the problems and opportunities of expatriate students.



The Good News Ambassadors from N.A.B. College/Divinity School making a drama/music presentation at an elementary school at Mambilla in 1986-May

Brent Eisner photo

As the team members served, they encountered a variety of cultural, social, and physical experiences. Our trips in the Land

Rover took us over hills, rocky roads, and across rivers. The drives along the scenic escarpments, at various times of the day, were an ex-

hilarating experience as majestic scenes unfolded before us. Passing through villages, we were jolted into the realization that our skins were white as children greeted us with shouts of "baturi" meaning "white man."

As we neared some of the churches, we were welcomed by a choir that met us outside the village. The provision of a place to lodge and a good meal were always refreshing experiences after the ride in a Land Rover over the roads of the Mambilla Plateau. After a time of relaxation, the opportunity to interact with the people of the church and the village were always rewarding experiences. Friendships made with the Christians will linger long in our memories. The privilege of sharing Christ with a serious seeker was evidence of the fact that God is at work in cultures other than our own.

Some Nigerians remarked about "the great sacrifice of the Good News Ambassadors team members." However, one team member replied, "God gave me ten times more than I have given Him." Another member observed the generosity of the people by stating that "in their poverty, they are rich in their giving." The desire of the Nigerian youth to learn God's Word and about the Christian life was evidenced through the oft-repeated statement: "Teach me." It became painfully obvious that these young people were eager to learn but rarely had someone to teach them.

The Good News Ambassadors were overwhelmed by the courage and deep commitment of the mis-

sionaries. One member remarked, "They give so much of themselves because they see people through God's eyes."

All team members felt their limitations in cross-cultural ministry, but they also experienced the Lord's guidance as they ministered, especially in times of insecurity, fatigue, and communication difficulties. Unexpected changes in programming taught all of us lessons in the importance of being flexible.

As we left Nigeria, hearts were heavy, and tears flowed freely as "good-byes" were said. However,

all praised the Lord for including this Mambilla experience in their spiritual pilgrimage with Christ, the Lord of the Church. □

Dr. Edwin C. Kern is Professor of Missiology and Church Growth at the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta. He taught a one semester course for 13 students including the Good News Ambassadors during the school year before accompanying the team to Nigeria. Other members of the class went to places such as Liberia, Kenya, or Colorado to serve during part of the summer.



Crossing the river to get to Mambilla for meetings in secondary schools and to participate in youth conference.

Ed Kern photo

"They [missionaries] give so much of themselves because they see people through God's eyes."



# Spiritual Growth—A Lifetime Opportunity

by Ted Faszter

Have you taken your children back-to-school shopping? It was that kind of week at our house. Pencils, pens, erasers, lined paper, plain paper, folders. Jeans, shirts, blouses, and shoes. It's hard to keep from feeling a bit nostalgic. Our little girls are no longer little. No more trips to elementary school. Both our daughters are now in junior high.

Growth. How do you measure it? On a door frame? Or a tape measure? And how do you measure spiritual growth? Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me" (Matthew 11:29).

Growing in Christ is a lifelong task for adults and children. A new year in school also means a new opportunity for Christian education. How long has it been since you've been in a Bible study? How long since you've taken your children with you to Sunday school? The home and the church need to work together to provide an inviting climate for spiritual growth for children and adults.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Moses challenges adults to develop a loving relationship with God first, and then to teach their children diligently the ways of God. Moses says, "Teach your children about the Lord when you get up in the morning, at bedtime, and throughout the day." So parents must talk about the Lord and read the Bible.

Much spiritual teaching is also informal and non-structured. It's teaching by example. Sometimes the ways of God are more caught than taught. Children need to see that Christianity involves more than just an hour on Sunday morning. What happens when we hit the wrong nail

with the hammer? When the car pool is late? What do the way we drive, talk, and work say about our relationship with Christ?

The church can't teach your children the ways of the Lord alone. It takes cooperation with the home. This year why not consider teaching a Sunday school class or leading a youth group or enrolling in



an adult Bible study. How about planning some times at home for your family to read the Bible, pray, and perhaps even sing together. As your whole family becomes involved in Christian education at home and at church, you will see growth that is spiritual as well as physical.

Most of us adults reading this arti-

cle have been out of school for many years. When can we stop being concerned with our spiritual growth? I love the last words of Peter, recorded in 2 Peter 3:18. Peter is writing to adults and leaves them with this final challenge: "Continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." That's right. Spiritual growth must continue throughout our lives. No

spiritual dropouts allowed! So enroll now in the School of Christ for 1986-1987. Happy growing! □

Dr. Ted Faszter is Professor of Christian Education and Music at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

# Youth Skip Break to Help Needy

by Jim Walton

Easter vacation usually means a week of fun away from school. For 100 junior high and senior high youth in Rochester, New York, it meant devoting their vacation to fixing up homes of elderly, poor, and handicapped in their city. Each youth paid \$60 to participate in this work camp experience.

"I learned how to care." "What a pleasure it is to work for and to help people." "It's a chance to live what we believe." These were comments of teenagers participating in the Flower City Workcamp, a mission experience sponsored in Rochester by Latta Road Baptist Church and 17 other area church youth groups.

"I was skeptical about what it was going to be like. When I came back, I was dead tired, but so glad I worked. It was great to be able to give."

Planning for the workcamp began in December, when two of the youth leaders in the area suggested gathering our groups together to fix homes for the needy in our city. They felt this would be a time of putting our faith into hardworking action. It would foster interchurch fellowship and cooperation. It would be a strong witness to the community. And among the youth, it would increase mission awareness and spur spiritual growth.

By January, the core committee had identified 14 areas of responsibility, such as work site selection and arranging transportation, each of which were delegated to one of the participating youth sponsors.

Finding the work sites, evaluating the need, and ordering appropriate materials proved to be tedious and time-consuming. Government agencies, private "connections," and

local merchants of lumber, hardware, and food were all tapped for sites and supplies. The stores helped with donations and reduced pricing.

Thirty-eight homes were finally selected as possibilities. Volunteers assisted with the carpentry, plumbing, food preparation, and site monitoring, while the kids, in crews of six, contributed the manpower.

divided into work crews to get acquainted, shared expectations, and signed a contract with God.

The work was done from Tuesday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The tasks varied from house to house, but included a lot of caulking and insulation, repairing and painting of interior walls and ceilings, plumbing and carpentry work such as building a wheelchair ramp, and fixing rick-



Youth from Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, participating in Flower City Workcamp

All participants stayed at one of the churches for the duration of the workcamp. Orientation was on Monday night. Seventy-five teenagers, about twenty adult sponsors, and a dozen other adult workers cleared their schedules to dig into this experience. Assembled in the gym, we watched slides of former work camps in other locations, heard testimonies, learned rules, found prayer partners,

ety porches, stairs, and railings. In one home, a furnace was installed.

On Wednesday, our work crew replaced a bathroom floor. A little girl who lived there peeked around the corner to observe. Finally she asked, "Are we going to have hot water now?"

"Don't you have any hot water?"

"No. My mama boils it on the stove so we can take baths."

The next day we pulled in a hot water man to fix their heater and replaced the faucet sets so the water would run now that it was available.

As youth reflected on their experiences, we heard statements such as "you don't see poverty until you go to something like this. They (the people) really show you love. It's a good opportunity to help people." "We bought the lady a rose and a card and gave it to her. She was sad that we were leaving, and she wants us to come back to visit." "The lady kept thanking us. She really appreciated what we did."

"Our crew had a saying: 'If it doesn't move, caulk it. If it does move, caulk it to something that doesn't.'"

Evenings back at the church were



full of music, drama, volleyball, basketball, and a chance for kids to share their day.

Our final get-together on Friday morning sealed the event. We were thrilled to have finished 25 sites. The media had shared our venture with the city. Kids testified to the Lord's working in their lives. One girl summed up our week beautifully

when she shared, "You don't realize how much you have until you see what we saw. We might not be able to change the world, but we can change one person." □

Jim Walton is the Assistant Pastor at Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, New York.

## What Teenagers Can Do about Stress

"Teenagers tend to think of themselves as being invincible . . ." says clinical psychologist William D. Brown. "But stress affects them just as it affects adults. Stress is simply wear and tear on the body, and everyone, including teenagers, experiences that . . . Death is the only stress-free condition there is!"

One of the most common stresses for teenagers, Dr. Brown says, is when their parents set unrealistic goals for them. "Every child isn't going to become an Eagle Scout," he points out. "Every child isn't going

to be the best little league ball player or the champion majorette. All children don't excel in the same areas."

He maintains that actually stress is neither negative nor positive. "It's a person's response to it," he says, "that makes the stress negative or positive . . . No one chooses to lose a loved one, to be fired from a job, to fail a course in school, or to be rejected by someone he's dating. He or she cannot control the events or the resulting stress. But he can control his response to it."

Teenagers can best deal with everyday stress, Dr. Brown summarizes, by developing a positive attitude toward it. Parents can aid them, he says, by helping them to "find their strengths and then (to) work with them at developing them." According to Dr. Brown, a positive attitude toward stress can be greatly enhanced in some very practical ways—by eating balanced meals, getting eight hours of sleep at night, abstaining from tobacco and alcohol, maintaining normal body weight, and exercising regularly. □

## Answering a Call for Help in Cameroon

by Henry Schroeder

It isn't every day that a call for help for a specific problem is directed to a specific person. That is what happened last winter when Dr. Dieter Lemke of Edmonton, Alberta, approached Dr. Malcom McPhee. Dr. Lemke, a former missionary doctor, was going back to the Banso Baptist Hospital in Cameroon to fill in for some doctors on furlough. He would be facing some serious urological cases. He also knew there was not one urologist in Cameroon. Dr. Lemke persuasively presented the need at Banso to Dr. McPhee who then agreed to take a month out of a very busy schedule to operate as well as train surgeons at Banso. I was recruited as technician for the electro-surgical equipment.

Special instruments and generators amounting to \$31,000 were obtained by Dr. McPhee, donated to Banso Baptist Hospital, and flown over to Cameroon by a Canadian Forces aircraft. It was accompanied by Paramedic Andy Anderson, a member of Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

In May of this year, Dr. and Mrs.

McPhee, their son Christopher, and I flew to Douala where we were rescued from the Customs red tape by Missionary Harold Schroeder and driven to Bamenda by Dr. Oryn Meinerts, field mission secretary.

The next three and one half weeks were busy. Gonorrhea is widespread, and the disease creates many urinary problems. Dr. McPhee performed 83 operations while training Gad Fokum and Jim Eschenauer, doctors at the hospital, in urological procedures. The Catholic Hospital at Shisong heard that Dr. McPhee was at Banso and borrowed him on several occasions to assist with serious cases.

As technician, I worked with Peter Fai and David Kayuh. We serviced or repaired more than 100 pieces of equipment, which included Eleanor Weisenburger's Volkswagen; the methane generating latrine at Mbem; as well as X-Ray and dental cavitrons.

We accomplished more than we had expected, but at that we merely scratched the surface. Follow-up visits are being planned for both the medical and the technical. Mr. Pius

Tih, the Banso Hospital administrator, is preparing a maintenance shop which the Schroeder "Clan" and the Edmonton and area churches will equip with the necessary tools.

The wives, Barbara McPhee and Marlis Lemke, were busy sewing, doing the laundry for all of us, and even ironing our socks. (The ironing is necessary to kill the unwanted insects.)

Our time was up on June 14, and we left feeling that our contribution was rather small. The doctors and hospital staff work very, very hard. Their dedication to the ministry of others is a strong testimony to the love of God. It is a fulfillment of the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (NIV).

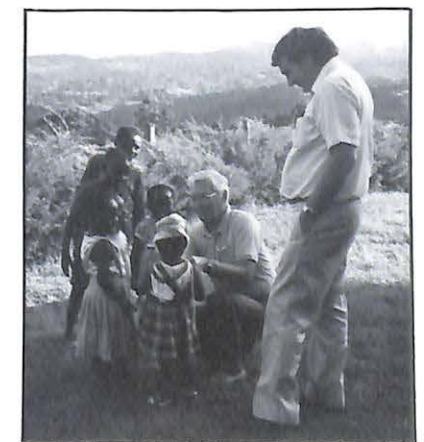
Henry Schroeder is a member of Hillview Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.



Barbara McPhee (right) sewed gowns for children and ward staff at Banso Baptist Hospital.



Dr. McPhee and Dr. Gad Fokum, correcting a stricture.



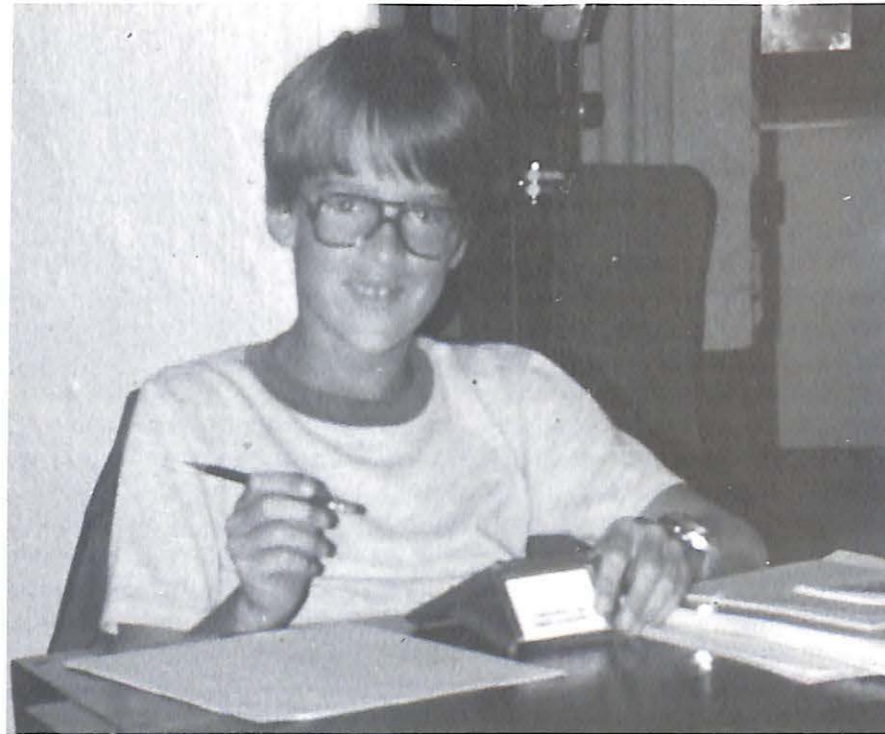
Dr. McPhee (standing) and Henry Schroeder (kneeling) visit with new friends in Cameroon.

**Burgess Is First Graduate of Cameroon Missionary Children's School**

Mark Burgess graduated from Grade 8 at the School for Missionary Children at Bamenda, Cameroon, on June 13. Significant is the fact that he is the first student to graduate from the school begun in the fall of 1983.

"That evening, we had a Progressive Dinner in his honor," says Missionary Nancy Grover, principal and teacher at the school. "The students and David and Mary June Burgess, Mark's parents, enjoyed great hospitality as they went from house to house. At the last home, all adults on the compound and invited guests joined us for dessert and a short program. The evening was a joyous occasion to be long remembered."

Mark will take his ninth grade by correspondence with the University of Nebraska. Pray for him and other missionary children in their studies.



Mark Burgess is the first graduate of the Cameroon School for Missionary Children at Bamenda.

**Cameroon Students Complete Course on Prayer**

Fourteen students of the Class One of the Certificate of Theology Course completed the T.E.E. course, "Talking with God," at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. Annemarie Hattenhauer, teaching the class for the first time says, "We studied and prayed together as we enjoyed the course. I trust this course has helped us to continue to grow in our prayer life. We began to pray specifically for the Muslim brother of one of the students and for the witchdoctor who is the relative of another student of this class."

Eleven men and six student wives graduated from the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary on June 29.



**Children Accept Christ at 3-H Camp**

"God does wonders! During the first lesson of our mini-3-H camp, our youth pastor talked about ordinary leavened bread and the living bread from heaven," says Missionary Pat Meinerts. "After a clear, lengthy lesson, he asked those who knew they had the Living Bread to stand up. About one half of the 70 girls stood. After asking them to be seated, we prayed with those who responded that they wanted to receive the Living Bread, Jesus Christ."

Two days later, Pat Meinerts asked one of the older girls who prayed to receive Christ if she had told her mother. With a big smile on her face, she answered, "Yes."

"Please pray for this girl, Janet, and others who accepted Christ at camp, that they may grow in Christian maturity," says Pat, who serves as women's advisor on the Bamenda and Ndou Fields in Cameroon.



Missionary Eileen Priebe fries meat rolls at a 3-H Girls Camp in Cameroon. Photo: Pat Meinerts

**The Lord Is at Work in Japan**

"We've seen the Lord at work in many ways in Japan. About 75 people attended an outdoor worship service and picnic; our church family is studying a book on family life and how to raise children in a godly way in one of the Bible studies; the church started a baby-sitting service during the Sunday morning service; about 55 ladies attended a ladies' luncheon with an evangelistic message at the Higashi Muko Church; an older lady who started to come to church because of conflict with her daughter-in-law has experienced God working in her life; a father who came to church to seek prayer for his sick daughter is experiencing God in his life, also, and



The congregation of Higashi Muko Church at worship.

his daughter is getting better," says Missionary Reimer Clausen, cooperating missionary for Higashi Muko and Rakuyo Churches in

Kyoto. Pray that the ladies who attended the luncheon will come to know Christ as Savior. Pray for a revival in Japan.



# WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

## Be Thankful!

by Anita Gutowski, former missionary in Nigeria

Sometimes we need a reminder of how good we have things in order to praise and thank our Father and Protector. Let's look at life for a Mambilla "bush" or country girl.

Let's call her Rachel. Born to a Christian couple, she is given a Bible rather than a traditional or Muslim name.

Before her birth, her mother comes to the Mission Clinic (the only one available for 20-30 miles) for six to ten prenatal visits where she has about five minutes of the Nigerian midwife's time. During her final weeks, she will move in with friends or relatives near a Maternity Hospital. If all goes well, she will go into labor, hike over to the Maternity (anywhere from 5 to 20 miles) and be delivered of a fine baby girl. Three or four days later she will wrap her baby in a new layette (if it is an N.A.B. Maternity) and begin her slow journey back on foot with the baby tied across her breast (the baby is transferred to the back at about four weeks). Some family members will help carry her blanket, cooking pots, clothing and some food that was prepared the previous day.

After four weeks, she returns for tetanus and whooping cough vaccinations for her baby. Mother is taught how to supplement baby's food with mashed bananas. She is reminded to feed the baby only boiled water, bathe it daily, and keep it warm. She worries about measles as she knows at least a fourth of the children die from this illness. She hopes the Clinic has measles vaccine on hand when

the baby is six months old so she can get vaccinated.

Soon Rachel begins to crawl on the dusty, dirt floor, or out in the front yard, or perhaps it is farm time and the child is left with an older sibling in a corner of the field to be amused, while the mother works from dawn to dusk hoeing and planting her corn.

Rachel soon gets diarrhea which worsens quickly. Within two days, she is hot and feverish. Again mother treks back to the Clinic in the hot sun. After a week of treatment, she is better, but on the way home, they get caught in a tropical downpour. The next morning Rachel is coughing and is soon sick with pneumonia. Again the mother rushes back for medicine. Because she has run out of money, she borrows to pay for the antibiotics.

Rachel walks now, but her mother complains that she is always hungry yet has a large belly. The child has worms, which are taking their toll, and she shows signs of malnutrition. At 15 months, Rachel is no longer breast-fed, as her mother is three months pregnant.

During the next three years, Rachel struggles for survival. She has very little resistance to disease. If she doesn't get TB or any other serious sickness, and gets a cure for the worms, she may make it till she has enough teeth to chew tiny bits of meat she gets a couple of times a week and learns to eat peanuts and some fresh fruit.

When she is six, Rachel begins school. Her father buys her cloth

which the market tailor will sew into a dress uniform. She gets her first pair of plastic shoes. She may walk as far as three miles to school or stay with a relative. She is registered in grade one with 100 or more others. There is one

There is one small classroom, so half of the children meet outside, or come in the afternoon only. There are no desks, only a very rough blackboard, and a shortage of chalk. They have a dozen very old readers which must be shared. Arithmetic is taught by memorization. She rests her notebook on a slab of wood on her knees, sitting on a tiny bamboo stool which she carries on her head each day from home.

By grade six, Rachel will have learned to read at about grade two level. She may know her basic sums, some singing and some lessons in religious studies. She has never seen crayons, paints, library books, or drawing paper.

After school each day, Rachel will help her mother with the younger children. She must also help cook, get firewood and water, tend crops, and endlessly pound corn for corn flour. Any homework is done by the light of a lantern (bushlamp).

If she passes her final exams from Primary School (class seven), she may be asked to attend an interview for teacher's training, secondary (high) school, or technical training of some kind. She has very little choice as to what, but hopes for something. The interview is vague, and her father realizes at least \$200 will have to be paid as a bribe. The uncles are summoned; the money is raised and sent subtly to the right person. She is accepted.

Rachel develops into a lovely girl. Her uncles expect a good return on the dowry, so they continue to help her father outfit her for school. She is sent into the big town some 40 miles away to high school. She must keep her head, watch her morals carefully, or she will end up a pregnant dropout! She must study hard for four full years. After her final exams, she may go into further training or she may marry.

Rachel has seen a new way of life for an educated girl. She wears western-style clothing and likes to listen to the radio and keep up with the modern trends in Nigeria. It is costing her family a great deal.

She has been attending Religious Studies, Sunday school and church most of her life and considers herself a Christian. She may feel it a waste to return home. She wants to marry someone who can provide a more modern style of life. Her uncles would like her to marry a very influential, rich Moslem. Her mother pleads with the uncles and begs her husband to allow their daughter to marry the young Christian boy in the next village who may not be as rich. However, he works for the Forestry and could provide a good life for her. Rachel is confused. Should she marry the Christian man and remain an ordinary woman, or might it not be so bad to marry the rich Muslim, and

live in a fine house and have all that prestige in the community? Maybe she could be a witness to him, and he would become a Christian!

She finally convinces her father and uncles that she cannot and will not marry a Moslem. There is a lot of trouble with the uncles, who make it difficult for the Christian man when he presents dowry. They demand more and more for the girl. He gives up all his savings and even borrows from other members of the family until finally an agreement is reached and permission is granted for the marriage to take place. They are married in his home church and move into his compound where he has prepared a tiny, temporary mud house and kitchen with a packed floor and grass roof. Eventually, they hope to save enough money to build a nice house. Perhaps she can get a job and work for a while until they begin a family. Will she become a good leader in the com-

munity? Will she teach some of the things she has learned over the last few years and be a good example to her sisters, one of whom now stays with her? Will she raise her own children with a new knowledge of cleanliness and be an example in serving Christ through the church? Will she be an obedient and hard-working wife in the family, not stubborn and proud like many others who have been educated?

Now that you know about Rachel, compare her to yourself, your daughter, or sister, or perhaps a granddaughter or friend. What do we have to complain about? Begin praising God!

Let's not clutter our prayers with complaints, but rather give our Heavenly Father honor and praise for the many good things we have taken for granted for so long. Let's rather "clutter" our prayers with requests for those in lesser circumstances who are in need everyday for a bare existence.

## President's Corner

### A Growing Love

by Sara Pasiciel, WMF president, Steinbach, MB

Our wedding anniversary recently caused me to think about marriage and to be grateful for marriages which last. Most young people who marry do so in a state of extreme happiness and with strong feelings of love and attachment. The new spouse is the center of life for a time—all activity and attention is focused on him or her, and joy is determined by each one's response to the other. But after five years, or ten or even nineteen, the business and busyness of living has affected the marriage: responsibilities, children, maturity and knowledge—all of these can and do change a marriage. There are no longer the strong "feelings" that were

present at the beginning of the marriage. Does this mean the marriage has failed? Of course not! The depth and type of commitment has changed, has grown richer and stronger, and the rewards are obvious. We don't give up on a marriage because our feelings change.

Yet it is ironic that many Christians become discouraged at various points in their Christian lives, and claim that they must have lost their faith because they no longer have the same strong feelings of love and commitment which they had when they first became Christians.

Is it wrong to expect to feel strongly about our faith? Can we drift away from God, even though we believe we had a firm conversion experience?

In his book, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*, Henry Thiessen states that "... a man's life is governed by what he believes, and in religion by the Person in whom he believes." The basis of our faith is not our feelings or even our relationship with God—the basis is God Himself.

Instead of worrying about our feelings and frequently asking, "But what does this mean to me?" we need to remind ourselves that God does not change. How we feel about Him does not affect His character or His attributes. He is God—He is the sovereign Lord as revealed in the Scriptures, and we can know Him through the grace of His Holy Spirit. I continue to believe because I choose to remember what God has done for me and for millions of others who have turned to Him, and because I know through His Word that He is God and He is there.

And because my faith is based not only on feelings, but also on the assurance of the Holy Spirit and the Word, I can cease to concentrate on myself and get on with the results of faith—the love I have for others and the good works which come as an outgrowth of that love. In James 2:22 we are reminded, "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did" (NIV).

## Commissioned to Witness

### Nine Baptized at McDermot Ave. Church

WINNIPEG, MB. On June 15, 1986, the congregation of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of nine new believers. On the previous Sunday evening, they had shared how they came to know the Lord and their decision to be baptized.

"Each of the baptismal candidates was paired up with a spiritual partner, compatible in age and interest," reports Maria Rogalski. "These partners commit themselves to keep in contact with and encourage the new believers in their walk with the Lord."

### Bellwood Church Welcomes 12 New Members

BELLWOOD, IL. Twelve people were received into the membership of First Baptist Church on July 20, 1986—seven by baptism, one by transfer of letter, and four by reinstatement.

Mr. William Kresal is pastor of the Church.

### Eleven Join Lakeview Church in Kelowna

KELOWNA, BC. Lakeview Heights Baptist Church welcomed 11 new members. Five young people were baptized, and six others were received into membership by the Rev. Gerald Scheel, May 19, 1986. —*Dorothy G. Fritzsche*

### Two Join Ochre River Church

OCHRE RIVER, MB. Two young people were baptized and received as members of Grace Baptist Church, June 22, 1986.

Grace Baptist Church held a special "Friend Day" recently. "We made a special effort to invite our friends and neighbors," reports Jean Roos. "This service was well-attended, and our prayer is that the seed sown will bear fruit."

### Five Baptized at Hunter (KS) Church

HUNTER, KS. Five young people were baptized and became members of Bethany Baptist Church, July 20, 1986. "We praise God for this since population and church membership have been declining in rural central Kansas for the past decade," reports Rev. Anthony Dickerson, pastor.

### Five Join Eureka Church

EUREKA, SD. During the evening service at First Baptist Church, May 18, 1986, three persons were baptized. They and two others were later extended the hand of fellowship. The Rev. Walter L. Weber is pastor of the Church. —*Mrs. Harry Bertsch*

### Outdoor Baptismal Service Held at Wishek

WISHEK, ND. Pastor Gordon Husinga baptized ten persons, including five members of one family, at First Baptist Church recently. Eight of these were baptized at an outdoor baptismal service held at Green Lake as part of the Church's centennial. —*Mavis Schnabel*

### Four Baptized at Salt Creek Church

DALLAS, OR. Four young people were baptized at the beginning of the Sunday school hour by Rev. George Breitreuz at Salt Creek Baptist Church, July 20, 1986. They were received as members of the Church during the worship service.

As this was Pastor Breitreuz's last Sunday before assuming a new position at Trinity Baptist Church in Kelowna, BC, a farewell picnic was held in the Breitreuzs' honor in the evening. —*Ruth Saunders*

### Eight Baptized at Grand Island Church

GRAND ISLAND, NY. Pastor Steve Turner baptized eight persons at Whitehaven Road Baptist Church recently. They and nine others joined the Church during the service that followed.

The Church welcomed nine additional members into their fellowship, Aug. 31, 1986. "We praise the Lord for all these as they join our congregation in worshipping Him," reports Morgot Stickl.

### North Pointe Has "Moms' Class"

WARREN, MI. The "Moms' Class" is held at the North Pointe Baptist Church for mothers of children attending VBS. They have a Bible study and enjoy crafts and special refreshments. "The hunger of the Word is what is outstanding with these ladies, most of whom are from outside the Church," reports Ginny Thomas.

### Golden Prairie Dedicates Renovated Facilities

GOLDEN PRAIRIE, SK. The Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, challenged the congregation of First Baptist Church with the theme, "Building a Dynamic Church," as they dedicated their renovated basement. The renovation cost totalled \$30,000.

"Friends of the Church as well as former members who contributed to the building fund were guests at a dinner following the service," reports Leota Fritzsche. "We also bid farewell to Pastor Harry Friess and his family at this time."

### Five Baptized at Hillcrest Church in Ohio

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, OH. Five people were baptized recently by the Rev. William McLatchie and were received into the Hillcrest Baptist Church. "We thank God for these new people," reports Alice J. Stevens.

### Valley City Church Is Growing

VALLEY CITY, ND. First Baptist Church completed its first year in its new building. With the Rev. Richard Lute, pastor, the congregation has seen an increase in attendance, with six received by letter and eight baptized for a total of 14 new members.

The Church started an Awana program early in the year with over 40 children attending. They look to double that number this fall.

Pastor Harry Haas, Chancellor, SD, held a fall revival at the Church, Oct. 12-17, 1986. "The people here are excited, and are looking for greater things from the Lord," reports Diretha Terry.

### Church Extension—a Priority in Southern Association

CARROLLTON, TX. During the Southern Association annual meetings held at North Carrollton Baptist Church, July 18-20, 1986, the 71 delegates made several important decisions. They decided to begin a new extension project in the Austin, Texas, area, as well as to support Pastor Dan and Geri Heringer in the Coppell extension project.

Flower Mound Baptist Church was officially recognized and welcomed into the Association by Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister. —*Anita Hale*

## Compelled to Serve

### Wishek Church Marks 100 Years

WISHEK, ND. "100 Years - to God Be the Glory" was the theme song sung by over 500 members, guests, and friends at the centennial festivities of First Baptist Church, July 5-6, 1986. The guest book registered people from 24 states and one province. Over 400 people attended the Fellowship Supper held on Saturday night.

Speakers included the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, son of the Church; the Rev. Clemence Auch, former pastor of the Church and missionary to Nigeria, West Africa; and Dr. Gideon Zimmerman, a son of the Church. They spoke on "Yesterday," "Today," and "Tomorrow," respectively, challenging the Church to carry on our commission to serve Christ daily.

"Our decorations are dismantled, our guests are gone, and we, as a church, face the future with the renewed hope in the fact of 'Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow,'" reports Mavis Schnabel.

### Brooks Church Celebrates 10 Years

BROOKS, AB. "Celebrating Ten Years of God's Goodness" was the theme that highlighted the 10th anniversary celebrations of Brooks Baptist Church.

Activities on Aug. 2-3, 1986, included a banquet highlighted by anecdotes from the past as well as a trivia quiz about the Church's history. Sunday began with participation in a community service in conjunction with the town's 75th

anniversary. A service of praise and thanksgiving was held in the afternoon. Participants included the Rev. Isador Faszer, former area minister; the Rev. Charles Littman, area minister; and the male choir from the mother church in Medicine Hat. "God's goodness continues to be evident in the life of the Church," reports the Rev. Harald Gruber

### Ashley Church Celebrates 90 Years

ASHLEY, ND. Ashley Baptist Church celebrated its 90th anniversary, Aug. 9-10, 1986.

The Rev. Ray Hoffman, a son of the Church, spoke at a banquet Saturday evening. Reverends Isador Faszer and A.W. Bibelheimer, former pastors, stressed the anniversary theme, "Continuing in the Grace of God," at the Sunday morning and afternoon services, respectively.

Special music was provided at all services. Sharing and greetings were part of the afternoon service.

The Rev. Allen Gerber is pastor of the Church. —*Florence Kranzler*

### Trochu Church Observes 75th Anniversary

TROCHU, AB. Trochu Baptist Church celebrated its 75th anniversary, July 4-6, 1986. Many former members and friends joined the congregation in seeing a movie and slides of events during the past 75 years. They also heard from former pastors and members presently serving in the ministry.

The Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, and the Rev. Ron Mayforth, N.A.B. College, gave special anniversary messages on the theme, "Rooted and Grounded in Christ."

Mr. Dean Eisner is pastor of the Church. —*June Haller*

### Emery Church Observes 100th Anniversary

EMERY, SD. "The Unchanging Christ in a Changing World" was the theme for First Baptist Church's centennial anniversary celebrated Aug. 8-10, 1986.

Special events of the centennial weekend celebration included a pageant, banquet, lunches and dinner, open house, special music, and greetings from Association and community churches. Former sons and daughters of the Church shared and reminisced.

Dr. Roy De Brand, former interim pastor; the Rev. Dan Van Gerpen, former youth and music director; and former pastors, Dr. Roy Seibel, the Rev. Leland Friesen, the Rev. Manuel D. Wolff, and Dr. Charles Hiatt, also shared their experiences and participated in the worship services. Other participants included the Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister; Jon and Pam Cooke, youth and music directors; and the Rev. Elmo Herman, pastor. —*Margie Fluth*

### Southwestern Association Meets in Colorado Home Mission Churches

SAN LUIS VALLEY, CO. "Those attending the South-

continued on next page. . .

(biblical imperatives in action)

western Association meetings, Aug. 1-3, 1986, experienced the freshness of a missionary challenge," reports Ruth Kirstein. The Association sessions were held in all three San Luis Valley churches: Faith Baptist, Center; Bethel Baptist, Del Norte; and Grace Baptist, Monte Vista. This gave attendees a unique opportunity to become personally acquainted with the people of these home mission churches.

The Rev. David and Priscilla Keiry, Center; Dr. Earl and Lois Ahrens, Monte Vista; and the Rev. Cal and Deanna Kroeger, along with members of their churches, brought spiritual challenges and biblical messages throughout the sessions.

Highlights of the meetings included the welcoming of Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, into the Association.

During the business sessions, delegates voted to support the hope Fellowship Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo, as a new church extension project. They also adopted a budget of \$40,750 for 1987.

Through Resolutions, the delegates covenanted to pray regularly for the work of the Southwestern Association; urged strongly to hold firm to the teaching of the Historic Biblical Evangelical Doctrines of the Faith as a North American Baptist Seminary and College/Divinity School; and to be wise stewards of the blessings received from God and be generous in the giving of our tithes and offerings to the work . . . to which we have been called as North American Baptists.

## anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Mayer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 22, 1986, at First Baptist Church, LaSalle, CO.

Margaret and Cecil Raymond of Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, June 30, 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Roth of Odessa (WA) Baptist Church celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, April 25, 1986.

## in memoriam

BERTHOLD CIRANKEWEITSCH (73), born Aug. 31, 1913, at Rozyszcze, Poland; died Aug. 27, 1986; immigrated to Canada in 1927; married Hilgard Kaiser, December 1939; member, choir member, Trochu (AB) Baptist Church; survived by two daughters: Genevieve (Mrs. Raymond Layden), Olds, AB; and Elaine (Mrs. Arnold Kelbert), Minitonas, MB; ten grandchildren; his mother, Hedwig Cirankewitsch; and four sisters; Mr. Dean Eisner, pastor, funeral service.

ADOLPH MARION HILL (76), Kyle, TX; born in 1909 to Will and Ida Hill, at Kyle, TX; died June 22, 1986; married Emma Koch, 1939; member, Sunday school teacher for 40 years, deacon, treasurer, clerk, president and secretary of the Baptist Men's Association, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX; church organizer and Southern Association Church Extension Committee chairman; Board of Missions member, Merger Study Committee member, and Southern Conference moderator, North American Baptist Conference; survived by his wife Emma; three children: Roxie Kleinworth, Houston, TX; Linda Schmeltekopf and Marion Hill, Kyle, TX; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two brothers: Leroy and Marvin; three sisters: Elanora Bieber, Malinda Petty, and Nadine Goodman; seven nephews; and three nieces; Reverends Winston Smith and Milton Zeeb, pastors, funeral service.

KENNETH H. HOEKE (70), Milbank, SD; born Oct. 25, 1915, to Antone and Mary (Van Asch) Hoeke; died July 14, 1986; married Martha Sprung in 1945; member, trustee, usher, Corona (SD) Baptist Church; survived by his wife Martha; two daughters: June Van Asch, Aberdeen, SD; and Karen Hanson, Belle Fourche, SD; three grandchildren; two brothers: George and Antone; and two sisters: Mae Hermans and Verna Hoogestraat; Rev. George Jankovsky, pastor, funeral service.

EDITH MAY HORSLEY (81), Sumner, IA; born May 20, 1905, to Roy and Alice Towner Hillier at Charles City, IA; died Aug. 16, 1986; married Wallace James Greenlees, June 16, 1936, who predeceased her, March 24, 1945; three children were born to this union: Barbara Ann, James and Janice; married Louis Richard Horsley, March 7, 1948; member, Sunday school teacher, WMF officer, First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA; survived by her husband Louis; one son, James Greenlees; one daughter, Janice (Greenlees); six grandchildren; one brother, James Hillier; and one sister; Rev. Dan Payne, pastor, funeral service.

GUSTAVE FRED LANGE (76), Columbus, NE; born March 14, 1910, in Platte County, NE; died June 26, 1986; married Martha Trienies in 1931; member, Sunday school teacher, trustee, deacon, Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE; survived by his wife Martha; six daughters; 14 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one brother; and three sisters; Reverends Clyde Zimbelman and William Effa, pastors, funeral service.

DORA BUDDE POWERSON (91), Stafford, KS; born Oct. 11, 1894, to Ernest and Gretchen Wendelburg; died July 7, 1986; married Ben Budde, Aug. 16, 1923, who predeceased her in 1944; married John Powelson in 1958, who predeceased her in 1970; faithful member, Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS; survived by many nieces and nephews; Rev. Jim Derman, pastor, funeral service. Memorials may go to the church.

WILHELM SCHMIDT (86), Springside, SK; born Aug. 17, 1899, in Wolhynien, Russia; died June 24, 1986; immigrated to Canada in 1927; member, deacon, choir member, Lockwood (SK) Baptist Church, later amalgamated with Nokomis (SK) Baptist Church; predeceased by two brothers, two sisters, his wife Agatha in 1983, and an infant son; survived by one son, Walden (Elfriede), Peru; one daughter, Velma (Mrs. Lawrence Besler), Springside, SK; four grandchildren; three sisters-in-law: Olga Schalin, Lydia Schalin, and Evelyn Neuman; and one brother-in-law, Ewald Wolter; Rev. Richard Grabke, pastor, funeral service.

MRS. JACOB (CHRISTIAN) WAGEMAN (83), Ashley, ND; born Feb. 12, 1903, to Heinrich and Sophia Nies, at Eureka, SD; died Aug. 21, 1986; married Jacob Wageman, Dec. 3, 1925; member, WMF member, music ministries, Ashley (ND) Baptist Church; survived by her husband Jacob; two daughters: LaVerne (Mrs. William Giedt), Ashley, ND; and Mayvis (Mrs. Dwight Baumann), Pittsburgh, PA; five grandchildren; two brothers; and three sisters; Rev. Allan Gerber, pastor, funeral service.

# Lake Nyos Gas Disaster

by Ken Priebe

The road leading to Lake Nyos from Wum is one of the most picturesque in Cameroon. The rivers and valleys with palm trees and gardens give one a sense of peace, serenity, and life. However, as Rev. Peter Evande, assistant evangelism secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention; Rev. Samuel Fointama, Wum field pastor; Pastor Johnson Ndi, church pastor of Wum; and I proceeded with our four-wheel drive vehicle up the hill to the village of Nyos, we were met by one family after another leaving the area.

Each family carried the bare necessities for life. We asked where they were going. Some answered: "We do not know; we are just leaving." As we entered the village, we saw the horrifying signs of death: Cows lying dead on the road; goats lying dead in ditches, dogs and chickens dead in compounds; and freshly dug graves covered by fresh soil—not a living person in sight. Some houses had open doors but no sign of movement. There was no need to stop. We knew already from one pastor that our 35 Baptist Christians in this village were dead. This included the 15 who were baptized two weeks before this disaster.

We traveled 10 kilometers from Nyos to Su-Bum in silence. Death was still all around. We drove immediately to the hill in Su-Bum where our church was located. Here, too, all was silent until someone came to inform us that some people from our Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary at Ndu were digging a grave for a family of one of the students.

We went to the home and met Missionary Ken Gullman and Rev. Lulu Williams, both teachers at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary; Rev.

Ilijah Jam, pastor of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Church in Ndu; and Pastor Jacob Wandia, whose family they had come to bury. We joined in digging the mass grave. We buried seven of the nine people who had occupied the house. One young man was found dead in his room, kneeling in prayer beside his bed. It was an astonishing yet peaceful sight. Days before this disaster, someone had written on the door post, "God is with us." This was true because all were Christians and died as believers. After the burial, a short service was held. We left Su-Bum for Ndu with heavy hearts, trying to forget the sights and thoughts of death.

Since this disaster, our Cameroon Baptist Convention has provided aid for the victims of this terrible incident. As a Baptist church, we have been one of those most heavily affected. From our church in Su-Bum, whose membership was 165, 105 died plus 117 children. Of the 28 new Christians in the Church Membership Class, 18 died. Presently, there are 37 Christians in the Government Hospital at Nkambe with probably more than that at the Wum Government Hospital. There are around 200 children at both hospitals; many are now orphans. Many other Baptist Christians in surrounding villages have also been affected and burnt by the gas.

Approximately 1,500 people died from suffocation and burns in this Lake Nyos disaster. Because of this great loss of life as well as the suffering of those living, we as a Convention are committed to help in the immediate as well as the long-range needs for rehabilitation. We have given assistance in cash and kind and aided in medical relief using the Helimission helicopter and some doc-

tors from our Mbingo and Bansa Baptist Hospitals. We gave the two government hospitals immediate financial aid as well as clothing, medicines, and food for the victims. Everyone has shown love, concern, and a visible, caring spirit.

This incident affected the church positively. Some of those who were sleeping or backsliding have been shaken up, and the faithful have been strengthened. The first Sunday after the disaster, attendance at church was higher than ever before. It is a time for witnessing, evangelism, and church growth. Those who have died left us an unspoken message: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know the day or the hour . . ." (Matthew 25:13), and "Rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation and continuing instant in prayer" (Romans 12:12). May this message affect all of us and help us to grow mature in Him.

*The Rev. Ken Priebe is a North American Baptist Conference missionary serving in Church Ministries and Growth in Cameroon, West Africa.*

Thank you to all who helped provide relief funds for the disaster in Cameroon. More than \$100,000 has been received for this need.

# Is 12 Years Too Long to Wait?

## Dear Friends in the Gospel of the Saviour,

1986 has been a most encouraging year for us. We have seen eight people baptized in three months, and we rejoice in the mighty work of God! Some of these are people with whom we have worked for almost a year. Sometimes it takes that long to establish a relationship, get a Bible study going in their home and make them feel welcome enough to venture out to a service, feel part of the body of Christ here, and finally request formal membership. (The actual turning to Christ in faith and repentance usually occurs somewhere in the middle of all this!)

Especially exciting is that of these baptisms, the majority were "ethnic" people from the community (in this case, Puerto Rican). The foundation that we have labored to see built over the last 12 years is finally becoming a reality. One extended family with whom we began ministry some five years ago only started to attend this year. We are seeing some community residents inviting their own neighbors.

As of mid-July, we completed three street meetings. Two were done with the help of the touring Teen Challenge Choir and the final one with Luis Centeno, a local minister with American Missionary Fellowship. Also joining us was our own Councilman, John White, Jr., always bold in his witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, who testified and sang at one of the meetings.

After working through the many names of people who requested follow-up, we have settled into four home Bible studies with new people who seem to be serious about seeking to know the Lord. Of course,

there is also the general awareness in the community, which continues to grow, that we are a church which is willing to be out among the people, serving in the name of Christ. It is not unusual to have visitors in our morning service whom we first met in the street in previous summers, with no formal contact in between. Pray that the Lord would bring eternal fruit from these efforts.

One of the most beautiful scenes all year was on Resurrection Day after the morning service, when I saw my associate, Pastor Greg Huston (with whom I have worked for about eight years), talking with one of our Puerto Rican members (whom he has discipled for some five years), who had once again brought one of his friends.

Tears came to my eyes as I realized that this was the first time I could have taken a photograph of 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these

entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." Is 12 years too long to wait for such a picture? Such is the biblical "normalcy" that God has gradually been bringing to Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Do be encouraged to continue faithfully in prayer for us. Our gracious God has certainly been hearing. □

*In Christ,  
Jim Correnti*

*Rev. Jim Correnti is senior pastor of the oldest North American Baptist Conference Church, Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church. This church is ministering to its community in city center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

**"And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."**

Loren Stark, assistant pastor of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia, was ordained by that Church on June 22, 1986. Prof. Werner Waitkus of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, spoke on "What It Means to Be a Minister Today." Rev. John Wollenberg, Osoyoos, and Rev. Gerald Scheel, senior pastor, Lakeview Heights, also participated in the service.



Mr. Lamont Loudenslager accepted the position of associate pastor at Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, North Dakota, effective November 1, 1986. He had served as pastor of First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, South Dakota, since 1982.

Mr. Jim Renke has accepted the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, George, Iowa, effective October 1, 1986. He is a student at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mrs. Peter Aaldyk of Seven Sister Falls, Manitoba, died July 3. She was the wife of the Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp administrator, Rev. Peter Aaldyk. She had served with her husband as a missionary to the Indians on the Bull Reserve in Alberta and as a pastor's wife at Whiteshell Baptist Church before becoming involved in this camp ministry.

The Rev. Al Grams has accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Dearborn, Michigan, beginning September 1, 1986. He formerly served Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Dan Meyers accepted the position of youth worker with Christian Education responsibilities at Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, Montana.

Mr. Phil Kirsch was ordained to the Christian ministry on July 26, 1986, by the Evergreen Baptist Church, Renton, Washington.

The Rev. James Ricks is the new youth minister at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, California, as of August 15, 1986.

The Rev. David Mitchell was welcomed to the pulpit of First Baptist Church, Lodi, California, on September 7. He previously served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Corona, CA. He is presently working on his Doctor of Ministry Degree at Talbot Seminary.

The Rev. Etan Pelzer was installed as pastor of Apple Valley Baptist Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota, on September 7, 1986. Area Minister Jacob Ehman was guest speaker at the service as well as the Rev. Harry Kelm, Hutchinson, Minnesota. Churches from the Minnesota-LaCrosse Association were invited to the service.

The Rev. Steve Turner became pastor of Whitehaven Road Baptist Church, Grand Island, New York, on April 27, 1986, after serving the Church for one month as interim pastor.

Mr. Paul Thomas was licensed to the Gospel Ministry at North Pointe Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan, during a Sunday evening service in August. The Rev. Bill Taft, area minister, was guest speaker. Mr. Thomas has been youth minister at North Pointe Baptist for four years. His father, the Rev. Gordon Thomas, is senior pastor there.

Recipients of academic awards for 1985-86 at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, were Edwin Rafferty and Robin Stoops, Church Ministry Award; James Liske, Scripture Interpretive Reading Award; Gordon Stork, Julie Berndt, Lois Nicholas, and Perry Friesen, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges; Jerry Mathis, superior achievement in study of biblical Hebrew; Gordon Stork, outstanding results in biblical Greek; Timothy Caspers, excellence in Christian Education; Ronald Anderson, Julie Berndt, Timothy Caspers, James Liske, Tim Mason, Robin Stoops, and Gordon Stork, Evangelical Teacher Training Association Awards of Teacher's Diploma for Study and Excellence in the Bible and Christian Education.

The Rev. Lanny Garman resigned as associate pastor of youth at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento,

California, effective September 15, 1986.

Harsch Named Outstanding Church Growth Associate of the Year

The Rev. Ray Harsch has been named "Outstanding Church Growth Associate of the Year" by The Institute for American Church Growth. Rev. Harsch received the award for his outstanding work in conducting more than thirty Church Growth Seminars in churches in Canada and the U.S.A. in one year. His continued commitment to teaching those churches more about reaching others for Christ and His Church was recognized.

Rev. Harsch is Acting Church Growth Director for the North American Baptist Conference.

The Rev. Bernard Thole resigned as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, New York, to accept a high school teaching position in New Hampshire. He served as pastor at Temple Baptist since 1977.

The Rev. Wil Dachtler of Tulsa, Oklahoma, accepted the position of Chaplain at the Baptist Home in Bismarck, North Dakota, effective October 1, 1986.

The Rev. Bill Van Gerpen accepted the position of pastor of Tyndall Baptist Church, Tyndall, South Dakota. He had been serving there as interim pastor.

Mr. Marlo Fritzke became assistant pastor at Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, on September 14, 1986.

Mr. Ellis Clive resigned as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Howell, Michigan, effective August 31, 1986, to accept a position at a non-N.A.B. church.

Dr. Bill Cummins resigned as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, California, effective September, 1986.

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## Would You Like to Increase Your Income?

I'm sure that question got your attention. Certainly, all of you would like to increase your incomes in order to afford items of necessity or enhance your life-styles. And many of you would like to be able to give more.

There may be a way that you can do both. You can increase your income by taking property that is currently producing a low return and transferring it to an agreement which provides additional income. And a portion of that income may be received tax-free.

With that same agreement, you can make a gift to the North American Baptist Conference. From your gift, you will receive a current income tax shelter, resulting in your payment of lower taxes, and your return on your investment will actually be increased.

We can help you increase your income as you make a gift. Let me give you an example.

Several years ago, Mrs. Smith purchased some stock that has proven to be a very successful investment for her. Today, it is worth \$15,000. However, Mrs. Smith would like to receive more income than the dividends from the stock provide. She would also like to be relieved of her investment responsibilities.

In addition, Mrs. Smith is 70 years of age, is concerned about her estate plan, and wants to give a portion of her estate for the ministries and mis-

sion work of the North American Baptist Conference.

To help meet all of Mrs. Smith's desires, she transferred the stock to the North American Baptist Conference, in return for our promise to pay her a lifetime income. Her benefits from the transfer are as follows:

1) She will receive a guaranteed annual income of \$1,170, of which \$462 will be received tax-free.

2) Mrs. Smith will receive an income tax charitable deduction of \$7,658, resulting in a current federal tax savings of \$2,451 in a 32 percent tax bracket.

3) Mrs. Smith originally paid \$5,000 for the stock. If she had sold the stock, she would have capital gains tax payable on \$10,000. Because of the unique provisions of this agreement, capital gains tax is only payable on approximately 50 percent of her gain, and this amount can be prorated over her 15.9 year life expectancy. This will result in an actual tax savings of \$640.

4) The property is no longer in Mrs. Smith's estate, thus avoiding estate tax and probate costs.

5) Probably most important, Mrs. Smith has the satisfaction of knowing that even while she is living, a portion of her money is being used to help in the ministry of the church.

Naturally, the circumstances would be different for you. However, if you are retired or near retirement, if you have appreciated property, or would simply like to know how you can make a charitable gift and retain the income, please write for our special planning report. It will give you complete details on

how this vehicle would work in your situation.

### How to Make a Charitable Gift and Retain the Income

For further information, please complete and mail this coupon today.

Send to:  
Dr. Connie Salios  
North American Baptist Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Avenue  
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181

Yes, I would like to know more about how I can increase my income and at the same time make a major gift to the North American Baptist Conference.

Please send me a free special planning report, "The Charitable Gift Annuity," to explain the details to me.

I would like for you to show me how my income would be increased in my circumstances.

I now own property valued at \$\_\_\_\_\_ which I purchased in 19\_\_\_\_ for \$\_\_\_\_\_. My birthdate is \_\_\_\_\_. My spouse's birthdate is \_\_\_\_\_. My top tax bracket is \_\_\_\_\_ percent.

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## baptist world aid

### Commentaries Provided in Russian for Baptists in Soviet Union

The first 5,000 volumes of *Barclay's Commentary* in the Russian language were shipped to the Soviet Union at the end of 1985. Rev. Archie Goldie and a group of Baptists from North America attended a service of celebration and dedication in Moscow in January 1986 to mark this important event. Applications have been made to secure further permits for the importation of these books.

The delay in securing permits for the importation of the completed books is creating difficulty and a potential additional cost for storage. The committee has therefore decided to print only 2,000 copies of the last eight volumes to be printed in the series.

The Baptist World Aid Committee has approved a goal of \$80,000 to be raised for printing and delivering the *Barclay Commentary* in the Russian language to Baptists in the Soviet Union. If you are interested in helping provide these commentaries, send your contribution to: *Commentaries for Russia, Baptist World Aid, North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.*

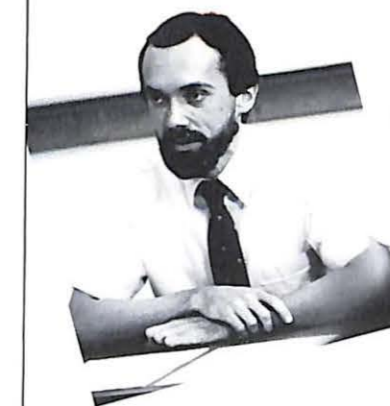
## capital funds

### School for Missionary Children to be Located at Ndu

After much prayer and searching for land, the school for missionary children in Cameroon will be located at Ndu on the site of the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary according to Miss Nancy Grover, principal and teacher.

The Planning and Building Committee finalized the school building floor plan and chose possible sites for the Teacherage and Hostel. The building, designed to blend in with the buildings of the Seminary, will be constructed of stone and cement blocks.

The school building is scheduled to be completed by spring 1987. "Thank you for praying concerning the location of the school as well as for contributing through Capital Funds to



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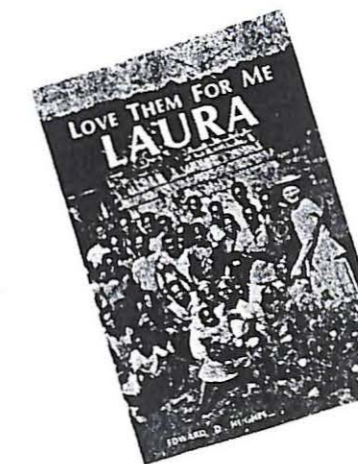
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make a building for the school possible," says Nancy.

The site for the school had originally

been chosen in Bamenda, but the land was not available due to the government deciding to put an airstrip there.



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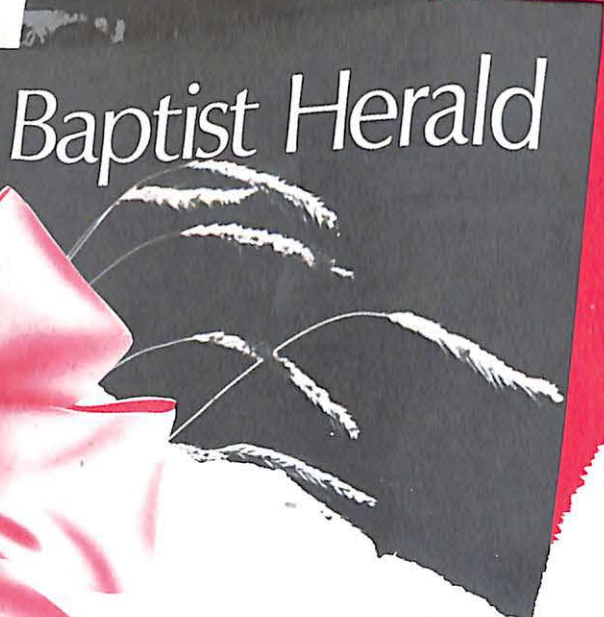
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