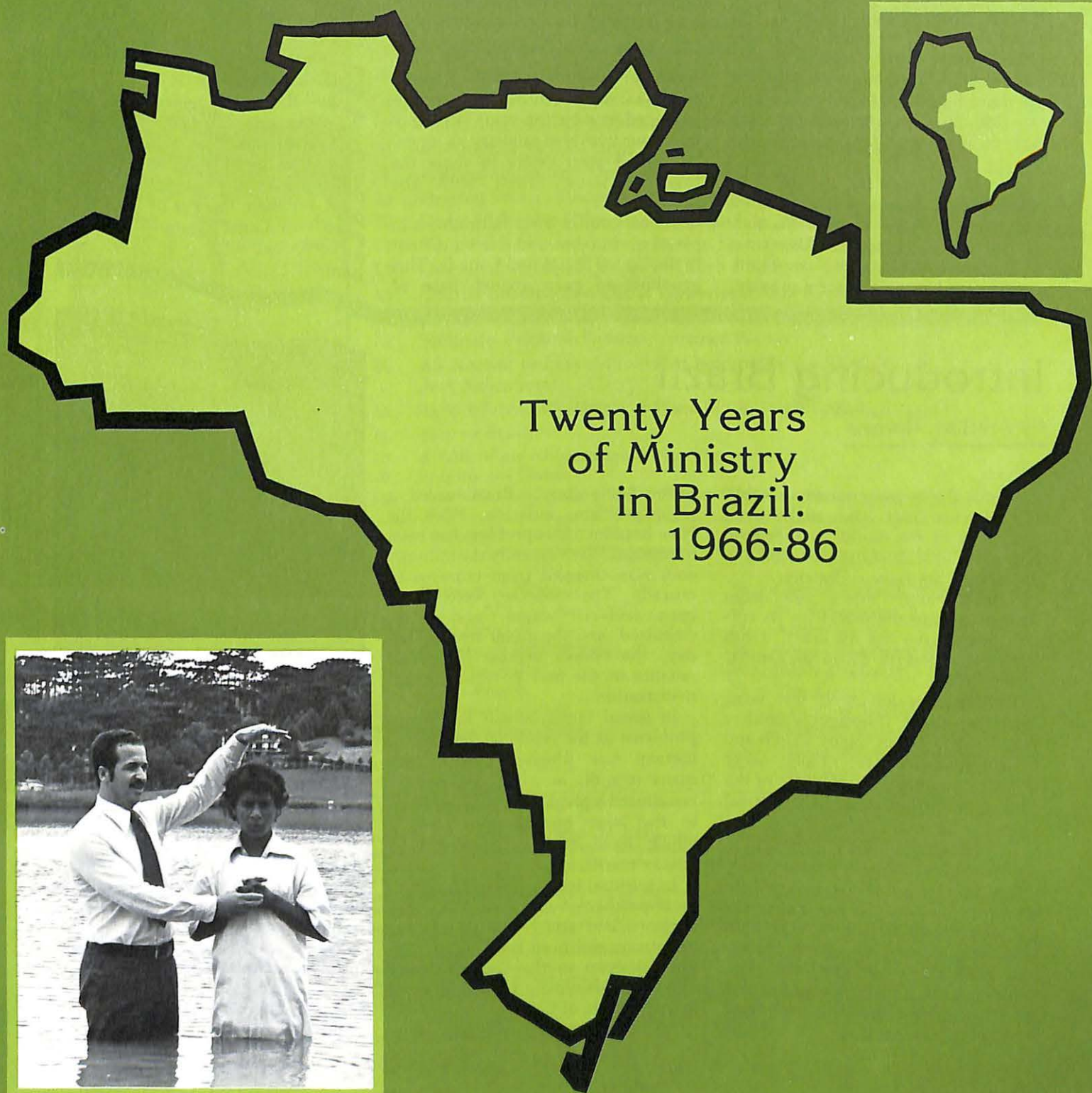


Baptist Herald

September 1986



Twenty Years
of Ministry
in Brazil:
1966-86

Twenty Years of Ministry in Brazil: 1966-86

by Richard Rabenhorst

We thank God for His many blessings upon the North American Baptist mission work in Brazil. This ministry, begun 20 years ago, is carried on in complete cooperation with the Brazilian Baptist Convention. We are thankful for the privilege of working side by side with our Brazilian Baptist brethren. This issue of the *Baptist Herald* features our work, which is carried on in the two southernmost States of Brazil, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul. They border Uruguay and Argentina. As your missionaries, we thank you deeply for your faithful prayers,

financial support, gifts, letters, packages, and visits which have encouraged us over the years. We look upon our lives and ministry as an extension of your desire to share the love of Jesus Christ with the Brazilians.

Thank you for your faithfulness in planting churches and sharing Christ in the United States and Canada. This provides an even greater base of

operation in enlarging the mission work of North American Baptists around the world.

Continue to join us in prayer, as even greater doors of ministry open to us here in Brazil. We need additional missionaries and financial support, for there is complete liberty to preach the Gospel. Let us be faithful to God's call and command in missions.

Introducing Brazil

by Myriam Ramos

Brazil, the largest country in South America and the sixth most populous in the world, is a Federal Republic with 23 states. Its capital is Brasilia in the Federal District.

Traditionally, Brazil has been known around the world for its coffee. During the last 40 years, it has become known for Carnival, samba, and soccer.

Indians first inhabited this large territory. Later, Portuguese settlers came, then African slaves, Dutch and French invaders, and finally, other European immigrants. Because of the Portuguese colonization, the official language became Portuguese.

In 1964, a political revolution resulted in a military dictatorship. After 20 years of repression and authoritarianism, the Brazilian people won the right to have a civilian President. Today, Brazilians are experiencing the "New Republic." The country now has achieved a new democracy, with direct elections at all levels of government.

For many years, Brazil faced a great problem, inflation. With the New Republic, this problem has been minimized. Very recently the national coin was changed from cruzeiro to cruzado. The monetary system has been revived, wages, and prices stabilized, and the dollar frozen. Today, the people express hope and reliance in the new government administration.

In social terms, Brazil has many problems as the result of the high illiteracy rate. Unemployment leads many to a life of crime. Job-seeking has caused a great influx of people into the large metropolitan centers, which have become infested with shanty towns.

In spiritual terms, Brazil presents a great number of rapidly proliferating religions and sects. The people are idolatrous and need the Gospel. The door is open to the Gospel. Many pioneer fields remain to be cultivated by the people of God.

Although many Brazilian mis-

Myriam Ramos, Brazilian pastor's wife

sionaries serve here, their number is not enough. We still need you to send North American Baptist missionaries to help in the work.

Pray to God to send forth laborers into His harvest in Brazil.

Mrs. Myriam Ramos is a Brazilian pastor's wife.

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Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Convention

by Wilson Alves de Oliveira

Rio Grande do Sul is different from all of the other States in Brazil. Its history is based on the gauchos or Brazilian cowboys who dominated large areas of ranching land raising cattle.

The great distances between the ranches helped give the gaucho a courageous, fighting spirit. He was always ready to defend his land, especially when it was invaded by the "Castelhanos" or Spanish descendants who lived in neighboring Uruguay and Argentina.

With fertile land and few inhabitants with large herds of cattle, the State was envied by the neighboring countries. Rio Grande do Sul is the only State which had to fight to become a part of Brazil.

European immigration began in 1824 with the arrival of German immigrants followed by Italians about 50 years later. As a result, these groups enriched the culture and began to industrialize the State.

Rio Grande do Sul is a great "mission field." With much faith, we, as Baptists, seek to reach the people with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. The State has a population of about 8,500,000 in 244 counties. We, as Baptists, do not have a work in 190 of these.

From 1979-1982, the Brazilian Baptist Convention of Rio Grande do Sul

"Our goal is to have a Baptist Church in every city throughout the State," says Rev. Wilson Alves de Oliveira, general secretary, Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Convention, Brazil.



was engaged in a program known as "TRANS-RS." The purpose was to start eight church extension projects in cities where there was no Baptist witness. We continue to reap the blessings of this mission outreach.

In 1984, with the help of the State Convention as well as the Southern Baptists and the North American Baptists, a new program was begun. The goal was to reach out to an additional seven cities including Torres where Ken and Jerilyn Bayer serve. With these two mission endeavors, a total of 15 cities were reached in five and one-half years. Presently, there are about 500 people who hear a message from God's Word every Sunday as a result of these ministries. Thousands are being reached by radio. Many more lives will be touched through the testimony of our mis-

sionaries and by the witness of the new Christians.

Our goal is to have a Baptist church in every city throughout the State.

The participation of the Brazil Rio Grande Baptist Mission of the North American Baptist Conference has been of great importance. We count on your help.

Pray for new missionaries to join us. □

The Rev. Wilson Alves de Oliveira is the General Secretary of the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Convention, Brazil.

Santa Catarina Baptist Board Sets Goals for Outreach

by Nilton A. Souza

"We are grateful to you and are always ready to make your efforts count," says Rev. Nilton A. Souza.

Our first word to you is one of gratitude. We praise God for the workers and resources He has given us, and we thank the many loving

and dedicated believers, who, challenged by God and inspired by Conference leaders, have become involved in the Great Commission.



In response to your effort and support, we've set some high goals: To have a Christ-centered life, an ever-growing faith, an expanding vision of God's will in light of our people's needs, and, as a result, a spirit of revival and dependence on God.

In the State of Santa Catarina, we have 35 churches, 14 church extension projects, and dozens of preaching points. However, we only have ministry in 34 of the 199 municipalities in our State. What's more, of our 325 churches, only 11 are able to support their pastors full-time. The others that have pastors receive aid from the Missions working with us as well as from our limited funds from the State Missions Offering and Cooperative Plan.

Twelve of our churches are without full-time pastors. Where are the pastors? How will we support them? We trust God and follow this motto: "Nobody should neglect to do the little he can just because he can't do as much as he'd like."

Baptists have worked in Santa Catarina for 94 years. Until 1942, their work was almost totally among German and Latvian immigrants in their own languages. The First Baptist Church of Florianopolis was organized in 1942. From 1942 to 1976, 17

churches were organized, and from 1978 to 1985, 14 more. During this latest period, we have had the help of Southern Baptist and North American Baptist missionaries. We grew quickly. We feel the need to keep growing, but, above all, to promote self-support of what we already have.

We've Set Goals

We have set goals as the Santa Catarina Baptist Convention.

1) *To strengthen small churches.* To do this, we hold evangelistic campaigns, train local leaders, and support pastors. You help us by providing missionaries and films. In a special emphasis, we hope to conduct simultaneous campaigns in 10 to 15 churches during a single month.

2) *To increase the work in large cities.* We need strong churches in the large cities so that they, in turn, can reach out to neighboring communities. We're asking God to provide prosperity in these cities and the ability to begin new churches.

3) *To open churches in strategic cities.* This year we started a new church in Rio do Sul. Thanks to your financial help, we're able to give toward the support of the pastor there.

4) *To study the possibility of opening a Seminary.* Because of the climate, the financial situation of our churches, and the tough challenge to the Gospel that Santa Catarina presents, few pastors stay in a church very long. Our seminary-bound young people leave the State to study and rarely return. This is a serious problem, and we are seeking the Lord's guidance.

5) *To establish a discipleship program in all our churches this year.* Training clinics are being held. Core groups and teams are already being formed. We hope to have hundreds of workers disciplined soon who will, in turn, disciple others.

6) *To reach more people with the Gospel through using an evangelism tent.* Many people are prohibited from or afraid of entering a Protestant church, but they would not balk at entering an evangelism tent. This will give many the opportunity to hear the Gospel.

We are grateful to you and are always ready to make your efforts count in carrying out God's will here in Brazil. □

Rev. Nilton A. Souza is the Executive Secretary, Santa Catarina State Baptist Board, Brazil.

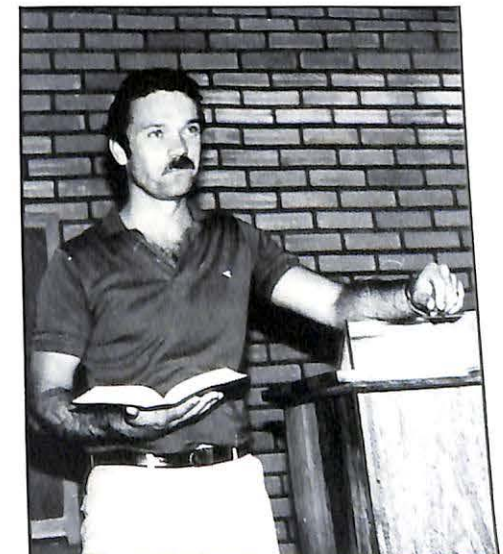
Called to Worship

Spontaneity— a Part of Worship in Torres Church

by Ken Bayer

Most of us are used to a printed "order of worship" in our church bulletins. I have thought

"As the service begins, a quick look at who is present helps me understand the needs, struggles and problems to address," states Ken.



about adding this feature to our service at our church in Torres, Brazil, but so far I have not done this.

The reason for this flexibility in the order of worship is that almost every Sunday our congregation consists of new faces. These people, a bit apprehensive about being in a "believer's" church, are confused and searching. As we prepare for the service, we wonder who will come. Will it be the usual faithful ones, or will 50 percent or more be non-Christians? Will we have 30 rowdy, uncontrollable children or five screaming toddlers? Will there be an interference such as a power failure, a party next door, or a drunk who staggers in to add his words of "wisdom"? Will we start on time or wait 30 minutes for a congregation to arrive?

As a typical service begins, a quick look at who is present helps me understand the needs, struggles, and problems to address. The introductory prayer may be altered. A fitting Psalm is read. Sometimes our congregational prayer is placed at the beginning. The message of salvation is crisply and clearly summarized between choruses.

The sermon theme is often applied in a redirected manner. I may ask questions to tie thoughts together and hold attention. Depending on who is

The message of salvation is crisply and clearly summarized between choruses as Jerilyn Bayer accompanies the singing.



there, the illustrations, conclusion, and demand for response of the sermon may be totally altered. At times, 50 percent of the sermon is cut and new thoughts added on the spur of the moment.

As the service ends, a voice in the back asks us to visit them this week. Another suddenly wants to make plans for a home Bible study. I tell them to wait until after the service. After a few announcements, I pronounce a benediction. An hour later,

we may still be talking, counseling, or praying with someone.

Although our order of service may vary, our aim is always the same—to know God better. It is as He is worshipped that God makes Himself known to men. □

The Rev. Ken Bayer and his wife Jerilyn began this church in Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, about a year and a half ago.

Someone Is Praying for You

by Beth Rabenhorst

While I was in the kitchen preparing dinner, listening as usual to a tape, I heard the words of this song: "When it seems that you've prayed til your strength is all gone, And your tears fall like raindrops, . . . Jesus cares . . . He'll speak your name to someone in prayer. . . . Remember, someone is praying for you."

I bowed my head and said, "Thank you, Lord, for your love, and for reminding me that somewhere, some-

one is praying for me and for our family here in Brazil."

Recently our family has experienced what many families have gone through. Our oldest son, Murrey, 18, completed his high school education in Brazil and went to Canada in August to study at the North American Baptist College in Edmonton, AB. We're grateful for the way the Lord has led and directed him to attend a Christian college, but Edmonton is so far away, and we miss

him very much.

We're thankful that during these years in Brazil our three children have been able to live at home and study at the Baptist School here in Porto Alegre. Marcus is a senior this year, and Melody is in fourth grade. Since their schooling is in Portuguese, we try to keep up their English by speaking it at home and teaching them to read and write by using a correspondence course. It has not been easy to maintain two languages;



Dick Rabenhorst congratulates his son, Murrey, upon his Brazilian high school graduation in December 1985.

sometimes it's been very frustrating. Presently, I'm trying to teach Melody, our 9-year-old, to read and write English so she'll be able to attend a fourth or fifth grade class during our furlough year in North America beginning December 1986.

It's wonderful to know that although there are days of loneliness, uncertainties, and frustrations, Jesus does care and He reminds someone, somewhere, to pray for us. Are you that special someone who has prayed for us today? □

Beth Rabenhorst is a missionary serving in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Commissioned to Witness

Witnessing through a Home Bible Study

by Martha Nelson

On a hot, sunny afternoon, we climbed a seemingly unending crude concrete stairway that led to the top of a mountain. I told myself that I would never again complain about the mere two flights of stairs we have to climb to our apartment. The more we climbed, the more breathtaking was the view, and the more I felt my legs wobbling.

The neighborhood had literally mushroomed with houses, many of them simple shacks, or "Meia-Agua" (half-water) as the Brazilians refer to them. These shacks have a slanted roof on one side where the rain can run off.

Ralph went up one side of the stairway, and I went up the other, each carrying a heavy handbag full of New Testaments to be distributed to each home. (The World Bible League has provided 25 million New Testaments to be distributed free throughout Brazil.)

Giving out Bibles on the seemingly unending crude concrete stairway.



The beautiful weather brought many people outside so we had many curious onlookers.

"Isn't that amazing!" said one lady. "Just yesterday I told my brother I wanted to buy a Bible so we could read it in our home! I just don't know how to thank you!"

Many homes have no Bible and those who have them rarely read them as they feel they cannot understand.

At each home, we briefly explained how to follow the underlined

passages which explain the plan of salvation in simple Portuguese. We were met by a positive response by the majority of people to whom we witnessed.

At the top of the stairway, we once again paused to catch our breath. Pedro, a man in his early twenties, was splitting huge boulders with a sledgehammer and chisel to level out his land to prepare for construction of a wood house. The entire lot was a solid mass of enormous boulders, so

it looked like an impossible task from our viewpoint. Once again I realized how much we have and how much we take for granted in life.

When he saw us presenting a Bible to his brother-in-law, Polidoro, Pedro stopped working and walked over to Ralph. Pedro asked, "What church are you with? How does it differ from other churches in Brazil? What does your church teach?"

Using one of the New Testaments we were distributing, Ralph explained the Gospel to Pedro and told him that our churches use the Word of God as their textbook.

Polidoro, the brother-in-law, recently accepted Christ while in a hospital. A woman from the Estreito Baptist Church in Florianopolis had visited in his hospital ward. While there, she witnessed to him as well. Polidoro invited us to have a Bible study in his home.

The following Sunday afternoon we met in Polidoro's home with both men present with their families. In the evening, all of them came to the Baptist church where Ralph is interim pastor in Pantanal. Pedro and Polidoro came forward to publicly acknowledge their faith in Christ. They have faithfully attended the Bible study at Polidoro's home, and we have had the privilege of leading their wives, Zenita and Jalmina, to Christ as well. A 12-year-old neighbor girl also made a decision, and Polidoro's father claims he is a Christian as well.

Various visitors attend the Bible studies each week. The new Christians are beginning to pray sentence prayers, and each week we are thrilled to see the changes in their lives.

Pedro and his wife Jalmina used to fight constantly until they came to Christ. He was afraid of hurting someone when he got violently angry, so he would leave and cut himself with bits of broken glass. On more than one occasion, he had threatened to take his own life. Living with his wife, daughter, and mother in a tiny, two-room shack with no sanitary installations put them under tension and frustration.

During the day, Pedro worked long hours at an electric company, and during the evenings and weekends, he worked on his house. He was very discouraged. He felt he was making little progress on his new home.

Pedro gave glory to God as he told how he and Jalmina had changed since accepting Christ. God has given them new calm and strength. He prayed and thanked God for helping him complete his home.

We, too, were amazed as we arrived at Polidoro's last Sunday to conduct the home Bible study. Pedro's wooden house was almost completed! He announced that he wants to hold a special service of gratitude to God there. Both couples are reading their New Testaments daily and having a time of prayer, something entirely new to them.



Polidoro works long hours at night as a baker and occasionally has another man fill in for him at work on Wednesday so he can bring his family to the Pantanal church. They have three little girls, all under the age of four.

How precious it is to see God working in lives and molding them to His image. We often wish we had many arms and legs as we are constantly aware of the urgent need for more planting of the seed of God's Word in hearts so that more eternal fruit might be produced for His glory. □

Mrs. Martha Nelson and her husband Ralph serve in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, as N.A.B. Conference missionaries.



For the next two hours we forgot all about cleaning windows and scrubbing floors. I shared with her the love of Jesus Christ.

Interruption in Devotions Helps One Find Christ

by Beth Rabenhorst

One Thursday morning while I was in my bedroom having my "quiet time," I heard a knock on my door. It was Jane, a Brazilian lady who comes to our house once a week to help me with the cleaning.

As I was not finished with my devotions, I almost asked her to begin her work and I would speak to her later, but the unhappy look on her face

made me change my mind. I invited her into the bedroom. For the next two hours, we forgot all about cleaning windows and scrubbing floors.

Jane shared with me the anxiety of her heart. Her husband had left her several years earlier. She was trying to support her four children by cleaning houses and apartments. They lived in a two-room house, and she had been given notice to move out but had no place to go. She was

discouraged and finding life very difficult.

I shared with her the love of Jesus Christ and how she could be part of His family and have the privilege of casting her cares on Him. What a joy it was to kneel beside the bed with her as she prayed and asked Christ to come into her life and be her Savior and Lord.

Jane has learned to take her problems to the Lord, and she's found Him

to be all-sufficient. Recently, she found a small house to rent, and she continually praises God for His provisions and, most of all, for saving her.

Pray for Jane as she grows in her Christian life and that her family will come to know the Lord. □

Beth Rabenhorst serves as an N.A.B. Conference missionary with her husband Richard in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Witnessing through Open-air Meetings

by Ralph Nelson

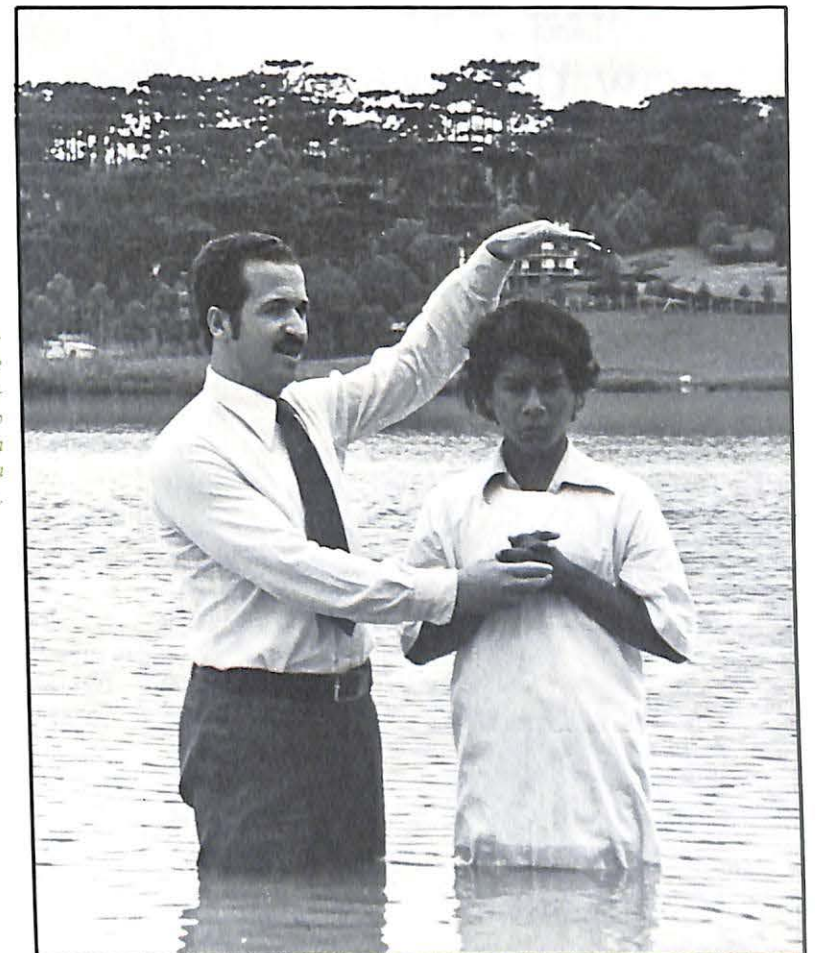
In Brazil, we use various methods to reach people for Christ. One of these is mass evangelism; our goal is to reach people who do not regularly attend church for Christ. Since people will not remain standing in the open air for long periods of time, we explain and illustrate the Gospel in the most simple terms.

One of the most recent evangelistic campaigns was conducted in the city of Fraiburgo, Santa Catarina. It started with a phone call from Pastor Nilton Antonio de Souza, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention for Santa Catarina.

"Hello, Pastor Rafael (the Brazilians use the Portuguese pronunciation of my name). Prepare your suitcase, projector, films, loudspeakers, microphones, and whatever else you need so we can leave early in the morning for Fraiburgo."

Early the next morning, we began our seven-hour trip from Florianopolis, where we live, to Fraiburgo. The trip took us over 250 miles of single-lane highway with many holes and dips. Upon arriving in Fraiburgo, the apple capital of Brazil, we looked for an empty lot where we could set up our loudspeakers and film equipment for the open-air meetings that evening. God provided us with two strategic areas for these evening meetings.

Pastor Nilton Antonio de Souza baptizing a new believer in the river in Fraiburgo, SC, Brazil.



During the four days, we reached more than 600 people.

Fraiburgo is located on a high plateau and is often subject to heavy winds. Pastor Nilton and I carefully tied the movie screen to a tree or attached a large sheet to the front of a house or storage place with small nails. As people came to see the beautiful films, they heard the Gospel message through them. As the crowd assembled, young people and others

from the Baptist church distributed Gospel tracts, which were well received by the people.

Pastor Nilton showed the crowd an attractive certificate which gives the person who takes it to the Baptist church the opportunity to receive a New Testament. Many people bring the certificates to the church where a public presentation is made, and they receive their New Testaments.

Pastor Nilton just returned from

another trip to Fraiburgo and reports that the people who trusted Christ during the open-air meetings are now attending the Baptist church there. Some have requested Bible studies in their homes.

Pray for these new believers, who often are the only Christians in their families. At times, they face opposition from relatives and friends. It is hard for many Brazilians to arrive at the church services on time as many

work until almost 7 p.m. They walk home from work, and then they walk to the meetings.

I thank the Lord for the opportunity of serving Him in the ministry of mass evangelism, which is only one facet of our ministry in Brazil. I am thankful for the excellent Gospel films which our Mission has provided for us. These films are one of the most valuable tools in mass evangelism; they function as spiritual magnets to

draw people to the meetings. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who give and pray so that Brazilians can have the opportunity to hear the saving message of Christ. □

The Rev. Ralph Nelson is an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Helping Seekers Know the Way

by Karen Kaiser

How would you answer the following questions?

"Since my husband left, things are running a lot more smoothly for me. Maybe God is answering your prayers for me. Now I've asked for a divorce, but he won't sign the papers. Do you think God will help me?"

"My wife and I are interested in Bible study, not just something superficial. We want to know what the Bible is all about, but the language sometimes is hard to understand. Can you help us?"

"I don't know what's happening between my husband and me. You know he travels a lot. But lately, when he's gone, he doesn't call or try to keep in touch. And when he's home, we hardly talk at all. He even seems to be cooling off toward God and doesn't seem to care about church at all. What do you suppose is happening?"

"I need to make an important decision, and I want to know God's will. I



Two girls seek answers from Karen Kaiser about life.

think I may have His answer, but I'm not sure. How can I be sure of God's will?"

In recent days, all of these situations have presented themselves to me. My first reaction is always a quick word of prayer for wisdom and the right words to say.

As Christians, we become known to the unbelieving world, as well as to other believers around us, as a source of aid and support. We have a personal knowledge of Christ, His Word, His power, and His love. Our lives serve as evidence to all that Christ is. Others seek us out for answers to the questions in their lives.

Just as a witness in a trial can testify to the truth because he was there when the events happened, we also need to "be there," in communion with the Lord, studying His word and seeking to know Him more each day. That way, when we are called upon to witness for Him, we know we can count on Him for the right words which will shed light in the darkness. □

Mrs. Karen Kaiser is an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving with her husband Richard in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Home Visitation Helps Grow a Church in Torres

by Jerilyn Bayer

The clock strikes 8 p.m. We check our leather bag to make sure we have everything: the Portuguese Liv-

ing Bible, pamphlets on "Who are the Baptists," the essential disposable diapers, and an assortment of toys to

try to keep our toddler out of people's cupboards. We say a prayer and lock up the house (really well!).

Soon we are settled in a comfortable kitchen around the table. Supper dishes are drip-drying, and the coffee pot is on. By this time, any apprehension we might have had visiting almost strangers is totally gone, and we feel right at home. Usually, the whole family is gathered to visit us.

Brazilians are very hospitable and friendly. They are open to our friendship and to what we have to say. The conversation is always lively and is easily turned to spiritual things. Most of the time, the ideas we hear are very warped and blinding. We are no longer surprised to learn of deep involvement in the occult. Our reading of the Bible, the explanation, testimony, and prayer are welcomed as well as an invitation to come to our services and Bible studies.



Brazilians are open to our friendship and what we have to say.

We part around 10 p.m. We are now friends, with an invitation to return—which we do! Prayer continues so that the Holy Spirit will be at work.

This is a typical evening of visitation which we do on the average of two evenings a week. Through daily contacts such as at the market and the

store, we meet people and then visit them. We have found this to be the most effective way to "grow" a church. □

Mrs. Jerilyn Bayer is an N.A.B. missionary serving with her husband Ken in Torres, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Compelled to Serve

Beautiful Beaches or Committed to Serve?

by Richard Kaiser

Imagine yourself in this setting: You're living in a modern capital city with a temperate climate. Going downtown means crossing a four-lane concrete span to an island, because you live on the Atlantic coast. Living on the mainland, right near the bay, you can imagine, in your mind's eye, the inviting sand and surf of the beaches dotting the coast on the far side of the island, just past all those tall buildings. Sounds nice, doesn't it?

Now, keep imagining: You're a missionary in southern Brazil. The city is Florianopolis, capital of the state of Santa Catarina. You and your family have learned Portuguese, and your children have adapted well to the Brazilian school and culture. You have a sense of belonging and a

Rev. Pedro Solomca, coordinator for missions and evangelism for the Greater Florianopolis Association (left), and Richard Kaiser, general coordinator for the Greater Florianopolis Association, discuss plans.



love for the Brazilians.

Your ministry is interesting and many-faceted as Field Treasurer for the Mission. "Almost a full-time job in itself," you sometimes sigh. You're chairman of the Evangelism Committee at your local church, teach Sunday school to young adults, and lead a weekly discipleship class which you really enjoy.

As General Coordinator for the Greater Florianopolis Association, an executive position with the State Bap-

tist Board, you oversee the work of eight churches and four church extension projects. This Association exists for cooperation among the churches in evangelism and missions, music, social assistance, Sunday schools, Women's Missionary Union, Men's Missionary Union, and youth work.

Your basic responsibility, as General Coordinator, is to plan, coordinate and promote these areas within and among the churches. This includes choosing leadership to fill

the seven existing departments and helping them to reach their stated objectives.

You work on developing a personal rapport with the pastors; encouraging, offering help in goal-setting and goal-reaching. You are encouraged by the good group of dedicated pastors who are committed to the

Lord and the work He has given them. The Association's bank account is your responsibility, as well, so you keep tabs on another "purse," giving regular financial reports.

You enjoy your ministry and thank God for the opportunities and blessings of this service. But what about those beautiful beaches? Where do

they fit in? Oh, that's where you go for vacation. □

The Rev. Richard Kaiser serves as Field Treasurer for our N.A.B. Mission in Brazil and is General Coordinator for the Greater Florianopolis Association.

Our Goal: A Baptist Church in Each County

by Richard Rabenhorst

We thank God for the blessings received through contacts made in the Baptist churches in Rio Grande do Sul as a result of the Church Growth Clinics. Each Clinic is an opportunity for God to speak to us and work in our hearts as individuals and as local churches.

These Church Growth Clinics, along with the other Clinics of Evangelism, Stewardship, Music, and Christian Education that the State Executive Committee conducts in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, help strengthen local churches and also establish a stronger base of operation for planting more churches.

Two specific goals of the Church Growth Clinics are multiplication of believers and multiplication of churches. Each church member is challenged and encouraged to win others to Christ who in turn become effective members in the local church. Each church is encouraged to reach out beyond itself to establish preaching points which would become church extension projects and later be organized into churches.

Three visits in each church are planned for every Church Growth Clinic. *First Visit*—Preparation: one Sunday, about a month before the Clinic. A questionnaire takes a spiritual evaluation or "check-up" of the individual members. The local pastor presents the results of this questionnaire to his church members as a part of the Clinic. This helps give direction in establishing church growth goals.

Second Visit—The actual Church Growth Clinic: one weekend (Friday night, Saturday afternoon and evening, and all day Sunday) in the church. This includes workshops, discussions, and messages from God's Word. Sunday morning is set aside for spiritual commitment and a call for Christian service, while the Sunday evening service is evangelistic. During the last nine church contacts, 39 people made decisions for Christ; four made decisions regarding Christian service; and several consecrated their lives to the Lord.

Two laymen, Evangelist Alfredo Winter and Deacon Edmundo Xavier, present messages, workshops, and music during the Clinics. Rev. Wilson Alves de Oliveira, general secretary of the Baptist work in the State, helps coordinate the Clinics. We praise God for their dedication and commitment as well as the privilege of working together in the Baptist work in

Rio Grande do Sul. The Church Growth Clinic materials have been prepared by the Brazilian Baptist Convention, through its Evangelism and Home Mission Departments.

Third Visit—Follow-up: one Sunday, one or two months after the Clinic. The purpose of this visit is to help the church as it works to achieve the goals established during the Clinic. The "Spiritual Gift" questionnaire is presented, and a meeting is held with the local church growth committee.

These three visits made in each church provide wonderful opportunities to get to know the pastor and church members. This helps greatly in the follow-up of those who made decisions for salvation, commitment, or Christian service. The visits also help in leading the church to implement the steps for the fulfillment of their goals.

Each church is unique with its own



Two laymen, Evangelist Alfredo Winter and Deacon Edmundo Xavier.

distinct personality and needs. God's wisdom and guidance is necessary. We thank you for your prayers in this ministry and ask that you continue to pray that God's will may be done, for "it is God that giveth the increase"

(1 Corinthians 3:7). Today we have 50 churches in the 244 counties in the State, but the challenge continues. Our goal is "a Baptist Church in each county in Rio Grande do Sul!" □

The Rev. Richard Rabenhorst is Field Secretary for our N.A.B. Conference mission in Brazil. He lives in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul.

Church Construction Offers Opportunities for Friendship

by Ken Bayer

The new church building in Torres, completed in February 1986, has served as a means of outreach in varied ways. During the actual construction, it identified us as a group of believers. My presence on the construction site among the workers led to moments of reflection as to who God is and what He wants of our lives.

Once, while I was shoveling sand on the road, a passerby stopped and asked me what kind of church this was and how it differed from the Catholic church. The discussion came around to the Ten Commandments which he thought were sufficient for a good life. I shared Christ with him, right there in front of the sand pile.

Often, as the construction was almost finished, neighbors would stop in to see how the church looked on the inside. Some took one look and never returned. Others now occasionally stand outside the open double front doors, watching an evangelistic film, or listening to the singing and preaching. They have been invited in repeatedly. Maybe one day they will enter and, as we

Since the building's completion, various neighborhood families have come to visit.



constantly pray, make that all-important decision for Christ.

Since the building's completion, various neighborhood families have come, some off and on, others regularly. We visit them as often as we can. We pray some of these will make their decision for Christ in the not too distant future.

We are the best of buddies with the actual construction workers. Some come to church when invited; others do not. We continue to pray for them as we visit them, also.

Best of all, the construction has opened to us the friendship of many in the city. My foreman just recently

said, "I was buying supplies at the hardware store, and they wanted to know if I still work for you. I said no, but that I had enjoyed our time together very much. They said that they like you, too." He went on to say, "Your name is very well respected in this city."

May we use the foundation provided by this construction to continue to reach out and touch this city of Torres for Christ as we serve Him. □

The Rev. Ken Bayer and his wife Jerilyn serve as N.A.B. Conference missionaries in Torres, Brazil, in church planting.

Seminary Prepares Pastors

by Niander Winter

Rio Grande do Sul Seminary reopened its doors in March 1980. During the past two years, twelve students have graduated.

Thirty-eight men and seven women

are presently enrolled in the Seminary's four-year program. The student body of 45 is composed of students from Porto Alegre as well as other parts of Rio Grande do Sul and

other States in Brazil. Most are single students between the ages of 18-25, but some are married and have families. Forty of these are Baptist and five from other evangelical

denominations.

Fifteen of these students live in the Seminary dormitories. To enroll in the Seminary, the students must have graduated from high school.

Classes are held in the evening, and all but three of the students work during the day in order to support their families and their studies. They arrive at school tired from their work, and the time available for class preparation and necessary reading is very limited.

On the weekends, all of the students are involved in church activities. Some direct small congregations; others help in religious education, music, youth ministries, and visitation. Some students travel to other areas of the State to help pastorless churches. One student has begun a church extension project in a city located 78 miles from the Seminary, and another student, who graduates at the end of the year, has just become the pastor of the church in Bento Gonçalves, 84 miles away.

Of the sixteen Seminary professors, two are pastors; two are pastors' wives; three are missionaries; one is a graduate of the Seminary; and one is the director of the Seminary.

Many of the books in our library are in English because they were donated by missionaries. Unfortunately, the majority of our students do not read English. Brazilian evangelical publishing companies have translated good books in the area of the Bible into Portuguese, but they are very expensive.

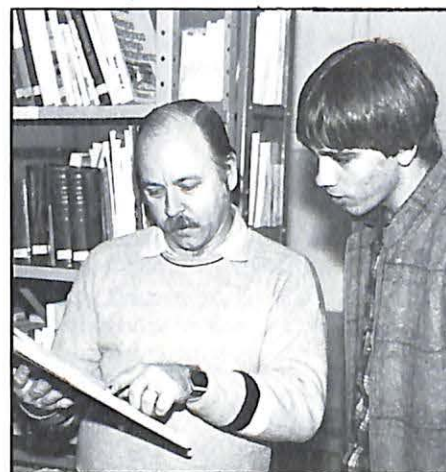


Seminary Director Niander Winter visits with Florinda, a Seminary student.

We are grateful to God for the vision of the North American Baptist Conference in helping us train workers. There are approximately 200 cities in this State of Rio Grande do Sul where there is no Baptist witness and no evangelical work. We urgently need to prepare additional workers, which also requires more resources, in order to meet these ministry opportunities. □

Rev. Niander Winter is Director of the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Researching in the library.



Commanded to Care

An Answer to Prayer Provides Opportunity for Ministry

by Beth Rabenhorst

"What's your greatest prayer concern?" many people asked us during our last furlough in 1982.

Our response was always, "A Mission House in Porto Alegre." God answered your prayers and ours!

Since June 1983, our family has been living in the house which monies mission purchased.

The house is very adequate, and the extra space permits us to share it with others. One responsibility which I really enjoy is being hostess for guests staying in the mission house. We've had guests from the United States and Canada as well as Nigeria and England. Once, 18 of us spent the night here with beds or mattresses available for all—plus lots of good fellowship! We've also provided lodging for Brazilian pastors and their families as well as for our missionary co-workers. This past Christmas, we hosted the missionary Christmas dinner for 33 people. Two days later, 31 young people from church came here for their Christmas party—wall-to-wall people, but what fun!

Our home has also been a refuge for a Brazilian friend from church whose husband walked out and left



"Many poor children go door-to-door asking for food. I give them something to eat and share the message of God's love," says Beth.



her all alone. She could not cope with the loneliness and separation, so she became our guest for six months. She has since moved back to her own apartment, but she knows our home is always available, and we're here, ready to listen and pray with her.

Many poor children spend the day in this neighborhood going door-to-door asking for food or clothing. At our house, they usually receive something to eat, but we also give

them a Gospel tract and share the message of God's love with them.

Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Caring and sharing in His name is a great privilege! □

Beth Rabenhorst is a missionary serving in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Baptist Friendship House, a Place of Outreach

by Martha Nelson

The Baptist Friendship House is a special place of social outreach and evangelistic ministry to the community of Bela Vista, suburb of Florianopolis in Santa Catarina. This ministry draws people to classes offered on a variety of subjects such as organ, accordion, guitar, voice, choir, Children's Club, applied arts, sewing and pattern making, handcrafts, typing, English, aerobics, First Aid, crocheting and knitting. At present, I teach organ to seven students.

Preschool care at the Baptist Friendship House provides care for children of working mothers.



BRAZIL

The North American Baptist Conference in partnership with the

Brazil Baptist Convention

Santa Catarina State

4 North American Baptist Conference missionaries
40 Churches and 50 preaching points with 2,000 members

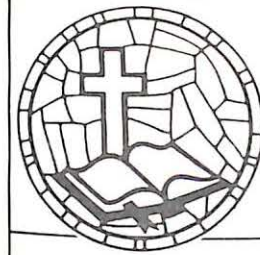
Rio Grande do Sul State

4 North American Baptist Conference missionaries
50 Churches and 60 preaching points with 4,000 members
1 Seminary



Nelson family: Mrs. Martha, Rev. Ralph.

North American Baptist Conference Missions



Botschaft und Nachrichten

3 Jahrgang Nummer 7

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ZEICHEN DER ZEIT

(Eine Meditation ueber Matthaeus 16,1-4)

von Wilhelm Wieschollek

Es wird Herbst. Das Laub beginnt sich zu verfaerben. Die Voegel sammeln sich zum Zug. Der Wind weht kaelter. Es liegt ein gewaltiger Rythmus in dem unabaenderlichen Kommen und Gehen der Jahreszeiten. Wer mit der Natur leben muss als Farmer oder Fischer oder auch, wer eine Bergwanderung unternehmen will, achtet auf die Wetterzeichen. Wettervorhersage gibt es schon, solange es Menschen gibt, die Wolken und Winde beobachtet haben. Wir haben gelernt, "des Himmels Aussehen zu beurteilen". Wie steht es mit der Grosswetterlage unserer Zeit? Das waere doch noch viel wichtiger! Verstehen wir da die Vorzeichen? Koennen wir sie deuten? Etwa am politischen Himmel, etwa am technischen und wissenschaftlichen Horizont? Wissen wir, was mit uns und unserer Welt geschieht? Wissen wir, um was es letztlich geht in all den Verirrungen, Kaempfen und Katastrophen, in denen wir weltweit mittendrin stehen?

Dies Evangelium will uns darauf hinweisen, dass wir das entscheidende Zeichen von Gott erhalten haben. Wir sollten es deuten koennen und damit unsere Zeit verstehen und das Richtige, das Gottgewollte, tun.

Das Zeichen von Gott, das wir erhalten haben, ist das Zeichen des Jona. Damit erinnert Jesus an die koestliche Geschichte von dem Propheten, der verschluckt von einem grossen Fisch, 3 Tage und 3 Naechte

in dessen Bauche zubrachte, bis er aus diesem Tode zurueckkehrend der Millionenstadt Ninive die Busse predigte, und sie erfolgreich predigte. Eine Geschichte, die im Neuen Testament oefter erwaeht wird, die auch heute wieder oft ausgelegt und meditiert wird. Jesus sah in dieser Geschichte seinen eigenen Tod und seine Auferstehung, sein Bleiben in der Welt trotz seines Kreuzes-Todes vorgebildet. Das ist das einzige entscheidende Zeichen, das der Welt gegeben wird.

**"Es steht mitten
in dieser Zeit
das Zeichen
des Kreuzes..."**

Die Pharisaeer und Sadduzaeer, also die strengen Frommen und die vornehmen Freigeister forderten von Jesus ein Zeichen vom Himmel. Aus seinen Reden und seinen Heilungen merkten sie, dass er aus einer ihnen raetselhaften Vollmacht handelte. Sollte sie wirklich von Gott kommen — woran beide zweifelten — muesste sie durch ein spektakulaeres Wunder erwiesen werden, etwa wie Mose Wasser aus dem Fels schlug, oder wie Josua die Sonne still stehen liess im Tale Ajalon oder wie Elia das Feuer von Himmel herabfallen liess auf den Berg Karmel.

Die Wunder, die sie bei Jesu erlebten, waren ihnen zu irdisch. Es waren Heilungen, Speisungen, Befreiungen, mit denen Menschen geholfen wurde. "Lahme gehen, Blinde sehen, Armen wird die frohe Botschaft gebracht". Ganz schoen und gut, aber reicht das aus, ihn als den vom Himmel Gekommenen zu legitimieren?

Jesus macht darauf aufmerksam: Jede Zeit hat ihre besonderen Zeichen, genauso wie die Wetterzeichen am Morgen und Abend verschieden sind. Eine alte Zeit, die voller Kriege und Katastrophen war, erhielt sehr starke Zeichen von Gott, Sintflut, Untergang von Sodom und Gomorrha, Zug durchs Rote Meer und andere. Gott war fern und fuhr je und dann hernieder im Gericht oder um sein Volk zu retten. Wer die Zeichen dieser Zeit pruefen will, muss erkennen, dass in Jesus Gott in die Welt gekommen ist. "Das Wort ward Fleisch und wohnte unter uns", "Die Zeit ist erfuehlt". Der Glaube erkennt das grosse Wunder Gottes nicht so sehr in den einzelnen Wundertaten und Heilungen. Das sind Begleiterscheinungen. Das grosse Wunder, das ihn immer wieder von neuem zum Staunen und zur Anbetung treibt, ist die Herablassung Gottes, seine unendliche Liebe, dass er sich meiner annimmt, dass er mir armen Suender gnaedig ist, dass er mir meine Suenden vergibt.

Um was geht es letztlich in all diesen Verwirrungen, Katastrophen und Kaempfen dieser Zeit? Es geht um Jesus Christus, der die Mitte dieser Zeit ist, es geht um die frohe

[Fortsetzung auf Seite 4]

Blick vom Missionsfeld

“Gott laesst sich nicht zwingen”

von Reimer Clausen

Ich fuhr auf meinem Motorrad und war gerade in der Naehue des Hauses der Familie Suzuki. Die alte Witwe, Frau Suzuki, wohnt da mit ihren beiden Toechtern. Ich hatte sie schon lange nicht besucht, und so schaute ich mal rein. Die aelteste Tochter Shigeko oeffnete die Tuer. Sie hatte ein verzerrtes Gesicht und sah so ganz anders aus. “Ich bin schon einige Monaten in einem Psychiatrischen Krankenhaus, und durfte fuer einen Tag nach Hause kommen. Morgen muss ich wieder dahin,” bemerkte sie.

Wie kam es, dass diese Schwester fast irrsinnig wurde. Ich dachte mehrere Jahre zurueck. Da hatte sie uns in der Gemeinde viel Schwierigkeiten gemacht. Sie behauptete, die Geistestaufe erlebt zu haben, aber in ihrem Leben war nichts vom Heiligen Geist zu spueren nur Hochmut, Widerstand und Unzufriedenheit. Ueberall kritisierte sie. Sie behauptete, auch die Gabe der Prophezeiung zu haben, aber ihre Prophezeiungen gingen nie in Erfuellung. Sie war damals schon Mitte der dreissiger Jahre und noch ledig. Sie prophezeite besonders, dass sie bald heiraten wuerde. Jeden Tag, sagte sie, sah sie ihren zukuenftigen Mann in einem Gesicht. Aber in Wirklichkeit erschien er nicht. Von uns liess sie sich nichts sagen. Sie schalt den Prediger und Missionar wegen Unglauben. Sie wuerde es uns und der ganzen Gemeinde beweisen, dass sie Gebetserhoerungen durch ihren starken Glauben von Gott erringen werde. Sie ging in eine andere Gemeinde, aber auch da hielt sie es nicht lange aus. So wanderte sie von Gemeinde zu Gemeinde, und manchmal fuhr sie sogar einige Studen mit der Bahn, weil sie meinte, endlich haette sie da die richtige Gemeinde gefunden.

Die Gebetserhoerung und der

Mann blieben leider aus. Da meinte sie, sie muesste noch mehr opfern, fasten und beten. Sie fastete tagelang, betete die Naechte durch, aber Gott schwieg. Sie muesste mehr evangelisieren meinte sie, dann wuerde Gott sicher hoeren. Als das auch nicht hinreichte, meinte sie, wenn sie ihr Gut den Armen geben wuerde, dann wuerde Gott sicher hoeren. So verteilte sie Geldscheine auf er Strasse. Aber mit dem lieben Gott kann man kein Geschaefit treiben. Schliesslich schnappte sie ganz ueber, und sie wurde ins Psychiatrische Krankenhaus gebracht.

Oeffters besuchen Prediger Hata und ich sie. Manchmal versteht sie uns und redet normal und betet sogar. Manchmal schaut sie nur stur vor sich hin und reagiert auf nichts. Das einmal bemerkte sie nur, “Ich war zu stolz.” Ob sie jemals wieder zur Vernunft kommt?

Glauben heisst nicht, unsere Wuensche von Gott erzwingen zu wollen. Glauben heisst, alles im Vertrauen von Gott annehmen. □

Reimer Clausen ist Missionar in Kyoto, Japan.

Brief aus den Phlippinen

“Des Menschen Herz erdenkt sich seinen Weg; aber der Herr allein gibt, dass er fortgehe.” Sprueche 16,9

“Wie gut dieser Vers unsere ersten zwei Monate in den Philippinen beschreibt”, berichten Lee und Jannell Bertsch, die dort die Missionsarbeit unseres Bundes beginnen. “Wir hatten unsere Plaene gemacht, aber wie froh sind wir jetzt, dass der Herr uns leitet. Das bedeutete manche Anpassung unsererseits, da wir uns in eine andere Arbeit gefuehrt sehen, als wir 1983 taten.

“Euer Gebet hat dabei mitgeholfen. Wir haben schon Stunden erlebt, in denen wir entmutigt waren und uns sogar recht verloren vorkamen in unserem Bemuehen, hier

eine Missionsarbeit von Anfang an aufzubauen. Aber schon des oeffteren tauchten unerwartet Leute auf, die uns halfen, manchmal ein anderer Missionar, manchmal voellig Fremde. Wir sehen dies als greifbaren Beweis fuer Eure Fuerbitte fuer uns, fuer die wir sehr dankbar sind.

“In der zweiten Maihaelfte beendeteten wir eine ausgedehnte Begutachtung des neuen Arbeitsfeldes, um einen bestimmten Ort auszuwaehlen. in mancher Hinsicht wurden wir an 4. Mose erinnert, wo ein Team ausgesandt wurde, das gelobte Land zu erforschen. Wir sahen auch Schoenheit und ein reiches, fruchtbares Land. Aber in geistlicher Hinsicht sahen wir auch Staedte, die gegen das Evangelium gewappnet waren und Hindernisse, die riesengross schienen. Glaeubige machen weniger als ein halbes Prozent der Bevoelkerung aus, und der Widerstand ist gross im Vergleich zu anderen Gegenden in den Philippinen. Christliche Arbeiter, die seit Jahren hier arbeiten berichten, dass in den letzten Jahren groessere Aufgeschlossenheit dem Evangelium gegenueber zu bemerken ist. Wir beten und hoffen auf eine Erntezeit.

“Der Ort an dem wir unsere Arbeit beginnen werden ist Legazpi, eine Bezirksstadt von 175,000 Menschen. Leider haben wir noch keine Wohnung gefunden. Inzwischen hat der Herr wunderbar von Woche zu Woche fuer Quartier fuer uns gesorgt, waehrend er unsere Geduld entwickelt. Wir lernen dadurch auch viele Menschen kennen, was fuer uns jetzt sehr wichtig ist.”

Neuigkeiten vom Baptistenweltbund

Baptistenbuende im Baptistenweltbund haben im vergangenen Jahr einen Zuwachs von fast einer Million verzeichnet. Die 134 Buende im BWA berichteten 33,190,977 getaufte Mitglieder in 128,289 Ortsgemeinden.

Die Statistiken von einigen Laen-

dern, in denen Baptisten sich sehr stark vermehrt haben, sind nicht im BWA Buero vor dem Stichtag am 1. Juni eingetroffen, so dass die endgueltigen Zuwachszahlen weit ueber einer Million liegen sollten.

Nordamerika ist die Region, die den hoechsten Zahlenzuwachs aufweist. 691,441 neue Gemeindeglieder bringen die Gesamtzahl der getauften Glaeubigen auf 27,840,016 in 90,061 Gemeinden. Die Zahl der Gemeinden hat sich auch um 300 erhoeht. Die nordamerikanischen Zahlen sind fuer Kanada, Mexico und 11 Baptistengruppen in den U.S.A.

Alle Statistiken zaehlen nur Mitglieder, die auf das persoelliche Zeugnis ihres Glaubens an Christus getauft wurden. Kleine Kinder und andere Familienmitglieder, die die groessere baptistische Gemeinschaft ausmachen und auch Besucher und andere Anhaenger sind nicht eingeschlossen.

Suedamerika, wo letztes Jahr 4,189 Gemeinden bestanden, berichtet jetzt 5,121 Gemeinden oder einen Zuwachs von 22 Prozent. Suedamerika hatte auch die zweitgroesste Zunahme an Mitgliedern, naemlich 127,414, die die Mitgliederzahl in 12 Laendern auf 807,159 bringen.

Europa, wo Baptisten in der letzten Zeit Mitglieder verloren hatten, hatte im vergangenen Jahr einen kleinen Zuwachs von 229 Mitgliedern, so dass die Gesamtmitgliederzahl dort jetzt 1,108,690 betraegt.

Die Gruppen und Buende mit bemerkenswertem Zuwachs sind die Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. und die Southern Baptist Convention in U.S.A.; das Council of Baptist Churches in Nordost Indien; die Baptist Convention von Haiti, und baptistische Gruppen in Paraguay, Brasilien, Equador, Jamaica, Antigua, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Okinawa, Thailand, Burma, Singapore und den Philippinen.

Fuer die Familie

“ERNST DES LEBENS”

von Eva Helwing

Diesen September faengt unser Sohn sein Studium und somit seine Berufsausbildung an. Bis jetzt hat er die Arbeitswelt nur in Halbtagsarbeiten, nach dem Schulunterricht, kennengelernt. Somit bedeutet dies eine grosse Umstellung fuer ihn.

Junge Menschen haben oft ein ideales Bild im Sinn. Sie glauben, gerade dieser Beruf, dieses Studium wuerde sie in besonderer Weise erfuellen. Dann stellt es sich heraus, dass der Beruf viel Leerlauf, viel Monotonie, oder im Gegensatz eine Ueberfuelle von Arbeit bedeutet. Nur zu leicht glaubt der junge Mensch dann, in einem anderen Beruf, in einer anderen Ausbildung sei es besser. Ich kenne junge Menschen, die mehrere Berufsausbildungen hinter sich haben. Keine hat sie befriedigt, alle Arbeiten erschienen ihnen nur als Last.

Probleme, an die sich manch Erwachsener schon gewoeht hat, empfindet der junge Mensch viel staerker. Da muss sich einer bei der Arbeit ungeheuer sachlich verhalten, was ihn sehr bedraengt. Ein anderer, als Richter oder Lehrer, will in bestimmten notvollen Situationen helfen, doch sind seine Haende durch Paragraphen gebunden. Unsere Aufgabe hier ist es, jungen Menschen klarzumachen, dass die Zufriedenheit im Berufsleben nur sehr bedingt von der Art der Arbeit abhaengt. Man kann nicht sagen, dass Berufe, bei denen man viel mit Menschen zu tun hat, mehr Erfuellung bringen als kaufmaennische oder technische Berufe.

Wir sollten jungen Menschen klar machen, dass es auch im Berufsleben, sowie im Studium, Hoehen und Tiefen gibt. Wir sollten es fuer uns selbst wissen und dem jungen Menschen verdeutlichen, dass Arbeit nicht immer befriedigt. Ich meine, dass wir eher dem jungen Menschen damit helfen, wenn wir selbst zuge-

ben, dass uns die Arbeit auch nicht immer Spass bereitet, als wenn wir moralisierend darauf pochen, dass die Arbeit einem Freude bereiten muesse, und dass man da keine Zweifel und Bedenken haben duerfe. Hier ist eine wichtige Aufgabe, dem jungen Menschen Lebenshilfe zu geben und ihm bei Problemen zu helfen, die er selbst kaum bewaeltigen kann, weil ihm die Uebersicht fehlt.

Auch sollten wir auf die Gefahr in den freien Berufen oder in fuehrenden Positionen hinweisen, wo die Arbeitszeit praktisch unbegrenzt ausgedehnt werden kann, und der Mensch leicht in den Bann der Arbeit faellt. Diese Gefahr ist auch sehr gross im Studium, besonders vor den Examen. Gott selbst ruhte am Sabbat (1. Mose 2,2). Der Sonntag ist nicht da fuer da, all das aufzuarbeiten, was in der Woche liegengeblieben ist. Das gilt beispielsweise fuer die berufstaetige Hausfrau, fuer den Lehrer, fuer den Betriebsleiter. Wo keine Zeit mehr ist fuer die Gemeinschaft mit den Menschen, denen wir Sonntags in der Gemeinde begegnen, wo keine Zeit mehr fuer die Mitarbeit im Reiche Gottes bleibt, muss das Verhaeltnis zur Arbeit revidiert werden.

Arbeit ist ein eigenartiges Gebilde: man traemt vom Nichtstun und kann doch ohne Arbeit nicht sein. Arbeit ist Gebot Gottes (1. Mose 2,15) und traegt doch zugleich in sich die Gefahr, die Verbindung zu Gott zu verlieren. Fuer den jungen Menschen ist das alles sehr, sehr kompliziert. Wir sollen ihm Hilfestellung geben, wenn er jetzt ins Arbeitsleben tritt oder mit einem Studium anfaengt, wenn jetzt also der “Ernst des Lebens” fuer ihn beginnt.

Aus Gemeinde

EUNICE, LA, Mowata Baptisten-gemeinde. Nun sind es fast zwei Jahre, dass Rev. O'Clair und seine Familie in unserer Mitte sind. Bruder Dan O'Clair ist fleissig an der Arbeit, und Gemeinde und Prediger sind in Liebe verbunden. Wir sind mit Gottes Hilfe geistlich und auch zahlenmaessig gewachsen.

Vor einiger Zeit durfte Bruder O'Clair drei Sonntagschueler taufen, und eine ganze Familie, Eltern und drei Toechter, kamen durch Ueberweisung.

Kuerzlich hatten wir wieder eine Taufe von neun Seelen, die in Jesu Tod getauft wurden, und ein junges Ehepaar kam durch Ueberweisung zu uns.

Als Gemeinde koennen wir nur loben und danken fuer alles, was der Herr fuer uns getan hat. —Emilie Loewer.

KELOWNA, BC, Grace Baptist Church. Am 22. Juni feierte die Gemeinde mit grosser Freude am Vormittag einen Taufgottesdienst unter dem Leitwort aus Math. 3,15b: "Es gebuehrt uns also alle Gerechtigkeit zu erfuellen". Eine Schwester am Abend ihres Lebens und eine in der Bluete ihrer Jahre folgten dem Vorbild Jesu als oeffentliches Zeugnis, nachdem sie ihn als Herrn ihres Lebens bekannten. Pastor Gerhard Poschwatta brachte die Botschaft und vollzog die Taufhandlung. LeRoy Moser, Pastor der English Ministries der Gemeinde beteiligte sich mit Schriftverlesung und Gebet am Gottesdienst. —Dorothea Fuhrmann.

[Fortsetzung von Seite 1]

Botschaft. Es geht um den Glauben, der sich leuchtend und klar ueber alle Wirrnisse erhebt. In diesem Glauben geschehen heute, wie zu Jesu Zeiten, dieselben Zeichen, Zeichen auf unserer Erde, nicht im Himmel: Zeichen an Hungrigen, die satt werden. Zeichen an Kranken, die geheilt werden, Zeichen an Alten, die gepflegt werden. Davon liest man kaum in den Zeitungen und hoert man nichts in den Nachrichten. Jeder kann sie zwar sehen und erleben, doch nur der Glaube weiss, dass sie in Gewissheit und Hoffnungen geschehen.

Noch einmal fragen wir — vielleicht zweifelnd und verwirrt: das alles mitten in all den Aengsten, Katastrophen und Kaempfen unserer Zeit? Wenn der Gottessohn die Mitte

ist, warum bleiben da noch Kriege, Terror, Mord, Gewalt? Damit wir wissen, um was es geht, steht mitten in dieser Zeit das Zeichen des Kreuzes, das wesentliche Zeichen unserer Zeit. Gott leidet an unserer Welt und Zeit, denn wir haben ihn, wie Dietrich Bonhoeffer einmal sagte, aus unserem Leben vertrieben, hinausgedraengt an den Rand, um zu leben, als ob wir ihn nicht brauchten. Wundern wir uns, dass alles das, was wir erleben, in einer Welt geschieht, die nichts von Gott wissen will, die ihn ans Kreuz geschlagen hat? Jesus ist nicht gekommen, um die Welt zu richten, sondern um uns aus dem Gericht zu retten. Er nimmt uns die Illusion, als koennten wir das Reich Gottes aus unserer Kraft durch staendige Fortschritte auf Erden errichten. Manches von dem, was Jesus abschiednehmend ueber die

Todesanzeigen

LYDIA PELZER, geb. Pelzer, wurde am 25. Januar 1908 in Werben, Polen, geboren. Sie wurde im jugendlichen Alter an Jesus Christus glaeubig. Ihre Taufe erfolgte Jahre spaeter durch Prediger Robert Jaster in Regina. 1928 verehelichte sie sich mit Rudolf Pelzer. Die Ehe wurde mit 4 Kindern gesegnet, von denen 2 im Kindesalter starben.

1939 wurde sie von der Ukraine nach dem Warthegau umgesiedelt. 1946 kam sie nach Schleswig-Holstein, und 1953 wanderte sie nach Kanada aus, wo sie sich in Regina niederliess. Nach einem kurzen Zwischenaufenthalt in Deutschland, kam sie 1966 nach Winnipeg und wurde Mitglied der Baptisten Missionsgemeinde. 1975 zog sie nach Chilliwack, von wo sie 1979 nach Winnipeg zurueckkam. Am 16. Juni 1986 rief der Herr sie ploetzlich heim in die himmlische Heimat. Sie hinterlaesst als trauernde Hinterbliebene ihren Gatten Rudolf, eine Tochter Hertha in Toronto, einen Sohn Herbert und seine Frau Ruth in Winnipeg, sowie zwei Enkelkinder und einen Bruder in Welland, Ontario. Die Trauerfeier am 20. Juni wurde von Prediger S. Hoppe geleitet.

Endzeit sagte, kann man heute schon abhaken. Aber weil er gekommen ist, aus solchem Gericht zu retten, heisst Busse tun heute vornehmlich: an ihn glauben, mit ganzem Herzen sich ihm zuwenden, die ganze Hoffnung auf ihn allein setzen, ihn Herr und Heiland des Lebens sein lassen. Wohl aber dem, der es im Glauben annimmt. Er hat in dem Gekreuzigten und Auferstandenen den Heiland seines Lebens gefunden.

Rev. Wilhelm Wieschollek lebt im Ruhestand in Holiday, Florida.

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Main centers

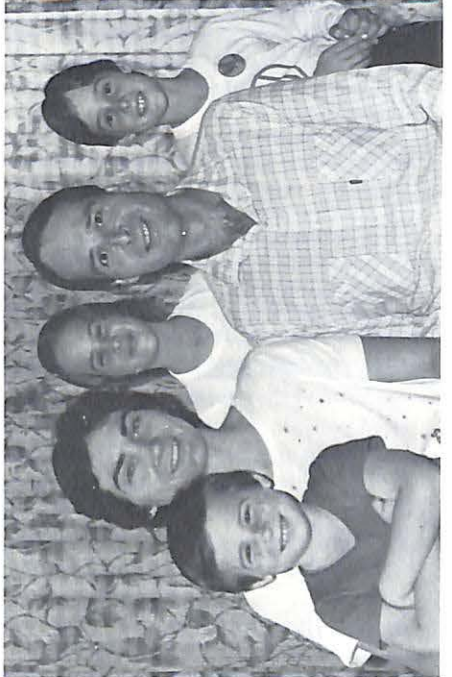
1. Florianopolis, Santa Catarina

2. Torres, Rio Grande do sul

3. Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do sul



Bayer family: Rev. Ken, Jenise, Mrs. Jerilyn.



Kaiser family: Mark, Mrs. Karen, Karina, Rev. Richard, Daniel.



Rabenhorst family: Marcus, Mrs. Beth, Rev. Richard, Murrey, Melody.

Each class period begins with prayer, and a short devotional from the Bible. This gives opportunity for a personal witness for Christ and for evangelism.

This outreach is to all ages. Preschool care provides help for working mothers. Their children spend the day at the school and are given balanced meals. I taught a class on Health, Hygiene, and Nutrition to the new cooks and teachers in the school, as well as prepared the menu for the first three weeks.

For women who have some free time and want to have social contact while their children are in school, a Mother's Club is offered.

At the close of the school year, a woman in my First Aid Class said she was really going to miss the devotions I gave each week. I asked her if she would like a Home Bible Study. She agreed, and in the middle of the course, she came to know Christ as her personal Savior.

One of my students is now the organist in the Bela Vista church and

has been a real blessing since they had no one to accompany the music previously.

Special occasions of the year are marked by special programs. During these, many of the relatives have been won to Christ. □

One of Missionary Martha Nelson's responsibilities is teaching at the Baptist Friendship House in Florianopolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Committed to Give

A Gift of an Abobrinha

by Jerilyn Bayer

As we waited for the people to arrive for our Wednesday night prayer meeting, I was practicing the organ. As I was going over an unusually tough spot, I sensed some commotion in front of me. I stopped my concentrating and looked up. There were the two happiest faces I had seen all day staring right at me. As I got up from my chair to greet them, I noted the biggest "abobrinha" (a type of pumpkin squash) I had ever seen! They stood there offering it to me!

"It's from our garden," said Adriana, the five-year-old.

"We brought it for you," said Patricia, Adriana's fourteen-year-old sister.

Jerilyn and Jenise Bayer holding their "Abobrinha."



"Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own . . . For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:2, 3, and 12 NIV).

I hugged both girls and thanked them dearly.

As I sat through the Bible study, a wave of joy and encouragement swept over me. I began to think of the meaning of such a gift, for it involved much sacrifice.

Patricia and Adriana, who faithfully attend our services, come from a very poor family, who live in a small wooden shack. Their father has been in and out of the psychiatric hospital

during the past five years. Their mother has been ill, also. The girls walked about one mile, carrying their ten pound gift for me! What an expression of love!

During our prayer time, I humbly asked God to teach me how to give. □

Mrs. Jerilyn Bayer is an N.A.B. missionary serving in Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Prayer and Praise

Our missionaries share with you their reasons for praise to God and also their prayer requests. You are invited to join in prayers of praise and intercession for the concerns they have listed.

From Richard and Beth Rabenhorst, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

Praise God

For the 20 years of ministry we've had in Brazil•For our many Brazilian friends who accept us as one of them•For good health for Beth after the surgeries on her jaw•For the interest, prayer, and financial support of our North American Baptist family.

Pray

For our family as we begin furlough in December, and the many preparations and decisions which we need to make. We plan to live in Sioux Falls, SD. Melody will be making the adjustment from Portuguese to English studies.•For Marcus as he graduates from a Brazilian High School in December 1986, and seeks employment before he begins school in the fall.•For Murrey beginning his studies at North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, in September•For Dick as he continues to conduct the Church Growth Clinics in our State of Rio Grande do Sul•For all of us, that we might be sensitive to God's leading and directing in our lives and that we might always be available as His witnesses.

From Ralph and Martha Nelson, Florianopolis, SC, Brazil

Praise God

For our dedicated staff at the N.A.B. International Office who faithfully serve and for their prayer support•For the churches who faithfully support us financially and with prayer for our physical and spiritual needs•For the harmony and good relationship we have with fellow missionaries and Brazilian co-workers•For guiding our children and the opportunities our sons have to study in the U.S.A.

Pray

For our ministries as interim pastor of the Baptist Church in Pantanal of Florianopolis•For the spiritual growth of the new converts in Pantanal•For a full-time pastor for the Pantanal church and construction of a parsonage•For those who made decisions during evangelistic crusades throughout the State in July.

From Richard and Karen Kaiser, Florianopolis, SC, Brazil

Praise God

For a new church organized on May 31 in the Greater Florianopolis Association, Jardim Atlantico. This gives a total of nine churches in our area•For growing interest in discipleship among the pastors and churches•For the joy and satisfaction of being a part of the plan and work of the Lord•For our brothers and sisters in Christ who cooperate with us in our ministry in Brazil.

Pray

For the discipleship groups formed in the Associational churches of Greater Florianopolis•For persistence in the work of integrating new converts in the work of the Lord•For those who have received and who will be receiving New Testaments, as our churches continue this distribution, that they may read God's Word and experience transformed lives.

From Ken and Jerilyn Bayer, Torres, Brazil

Praise God

For receiving our phone after a year and a half wait•For being well accepted by the people of Torres•For completion of the new church structure at little cost•For the continuing support, communication, and interest from our friends and supporting churches•For unlimited opportunities to reach out for Christ.

Pray

For health for Jerilyn and newborn baby girl.•For our permanent visas to be granted•For the Torres church to assume its own leadership•For the people of Torres to respond to the message of salvation•For the Spirit of God to refill our lives on a daily basis and sustain us through all circumstances•For us to reach out with sensitivity and understanding as we visit people for Christ•For us to be salt and light as a church in this community.



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

"What am I doing here?" Part I

by Sara Pasiciel, WMF president, Steinbach, MB

At our house, New Year's Day is the first day of school each September! This is when the family settles into a routine; the schedule at home and church becomes more predictable once again, and there is a sense of starting afresh.

This may also, however, be the time of year when we sit back and look at our situation and say, "Oh, no, here we go again . . . what am I doing here?"

Some women find themselves with a college degree and two small children and not enough time to even read a newspaper. They ask, "What am I doing here?"

Some find themselves in positions of heavy responsibility, or with an extra assignment, and they wish that *this* year they could take a rest. "What am I doing here?"

Some find themselves in positions where they feel they're not using their real gifts; or they may even be physically hundreds of kilometers from family and friends, in a place that is uncomfortable or strange to them. They ask, "What am I doing here?"

The answer to this September question may sound too simple, even glib. But what we're doing here is being women serving God.

Each of us has at some time looked at another woman and said, "That's easy for *her* to say—she has more money, or a better job description, or a more outgoing personality, or a more supportive family. My situation is different . . . I just can't get excited about what I'm doing; I can't get motivated!"

A man came to George Mueller, a

great English preacher and teacher, and said something like, "I just can't get motivated. . . . Please pray that I can get out of bed in the morning." Mueller's wise reply was, "You get one leg out—then I'll pray for the other leg!"

The initiative for our motivation to service, to Christian living, to witness in our world, must come from us. We must *will* to move toward God, to lean toward Him so that He can steer us in the right direction.

In the mid-1500s, John Calvin said, "We should not strive to know or understand ourselves in terms of building up our own worth or excellence, but rather to know ourselves in relation to God—as we are created by and therefore dependent on Him."

Then, our true motivation for Christian life and service is clearly stated in the Bible in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy. The Scripture says, Be holy because I am holy." Christianity is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. We are required to *be* holy in the place where we are as God's women.

Cameroon Experiences

by Manetta Hohn, WMF vice president, Kelowna, BC

"Please, Ma, give special greetings to our sisters in Canada and the United States!" I heard this many times as I shared with our Cameroonian women.

Visiting Cameroon was an exciting

and challenging venture for my husband and me. Seeing for ourselves what God has done through our Conference mission endeavors and our dedicated missionaries was something we had wanted to do for some time. It was an experience we will long remember.

It was my privilege to be there for six weeks (Ed spent three months). My main responsibility was to meet with 12 women's groups and share with them on "Spiritual Growth and Renewal." Some of these meetings included presentations from the 3-H Girls, Children's New Life Clubs, and choirs. 3-H Girls is equivalent to our Pioneer Girls program and the Children's New Life Clubs similar to Child Evangelism Bible Clubs. Both of these groups are taught by the women and supported by the Cameroon Women's Union.

Our Cameroon Baptist sisters have weekly meetings, usually held at the church. A *Women's Manual*, which has been prepared for the year, is used for their lesson study and other projects they undertake. Memorizing Scripture is a very important part of their program, as is the giving of offerings. At their annual conferences, awards are presented to those completing their Scripture Memory program.

Visiting the Mutengene Home Economics Center, to which our N.A.B. women contributed financially, was a special highlight. The students sang for us. It was a busy place with many activities. The second phase, a multipurpose building, was under construction.

Hearing again of the Mfumte Home

Economics Center at Luz, near the Nigerian border, was touching and challenging. Deborah, an illiterate woman, has a deep burden to see women trained in home and Christian living. Her dedication, determination, and work has resulted in the erection of a small building where she teaches women what she has learned.



At the Seminary at Ndu, I was able to have three sessions with the students' wives and also join the student body in their chapel service. Many of these future pastors' wives need much encouragement and help as they struggle to be effective pastors' wives. Some, being illiterate or semi-literate, need extra help in their training. Our missionaries and others work faithfully with these dear women. Much prayer is needed for these students.

An added experience for me was attending a "Donation Sunday" at a small country church. This congregation was in the process of erecting a new building and needed more funds. They had invited neighboring churches for an all-day, outdoor "Service of Donation." Picture with me a very hot day, hundreds of people sitting under thatched shelters of huge trees, singing, listening to God's Word and three choirs, and witnessing the enthusiastic presentation of donations, including money and food items. Joyfully, group after group, family after family, brought their gifts with their traditional dance. Food products were later sold as were food dishes which were shared with

family members for their supper meal. It was a tangible and interesting way of churches helping a sister church.

God continues to bless the efforts of our medical work. In the leprosy work at Mbingo, so much seems to be accomplished with such limited resources. It was a moving experience to see the joy people with leprosy have in the Lord despite having so little in material ways. The love our missionaries have for them is evident.

We were also able to visit the capital city of Yaounde and our medical work and church there. The dispensary is a growing work, as the love and efficient care the people receive is quickly becoming known. Trudy Schatz needs our prayers as she is the only missionary there.

The Radio Communication Ministry our mission operates out of Buea is a much-needed and effective way to spread the Gospel. Three Baptist programs are aired each week, and Peter Ngong works diligently and enthusiastically as announcer and program coordinator. He expressed gratitude for the support our N.A.B. churches have given so this ministry can go on.

The Laymen-In-Action program is an excellent source of help to our mission work. The three men from British Columbia who came with us provided much-needed help and advice at the various construction projects underway on our mission stations.

Meeting many of our fine Cameroonian women and sharing

with them was a real blessing. God is doing great things in Cameroon through these dedicated women and our missionaries who work with them. The friendliness, love, and genuine gratefulness expressed for our coming and sharing with them will long be remembered. Continual expressions of thankfulness for our N.A.B. missions and missionaries was heard many times. The Cameroonian Christians themselves have a burden for evangelism and are reaching out with the Gospel into unreached areas. The women in some fields are helping with financial support in this work.

One still sees definite needs in our mission work in Cameroon. One that became very evident was the need to strengthen our churches through helping and encouraging the pastors in their ministry; many have very little education and resource material. Prayer is needed for the student pastors as well as those serving churches that their priority will be to learn and share God's Word. Also, one becomes aware that more missionaries are definitely needed to work with the pastors and the churches. This is an area, I feel, where we need to stop "cutbacks" and provide more assistance.

I would encourage you to visit our mission fields and allow the Lord to challenge you to renewed dedication. Our lives touch many lives—lives around the world, especially through missions. May we realize anew that as we faithfully support and pray for our mission work, our lives, too, touch many lives.

Good Words

by LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director

I praise the Lord for you, the women of our churches, for your love and commitment to Christ. We will be able to complete our WMF projects because of your faithfulness.

Financially, we are behind on our yearly goal toward the \$950,000 trien-

nial goal. Pray that we will be on schedule by the end of the year.

Remember our Capital Funds Campaign project: \$50,000 toward a church facility in Edinburg, Texas. Rev. and Mrs. L. Ake are our home missions pastor and wife there.

We have had some glowing reports of the women's retreats that have taken place during the year in various areas of our Conference.

Commanded to Care

"Family Day" Held at Pilgrim Baptist Church

VANCOUVER, BC. Pilgrim Baptist Church celebrated "Family Day," a time of sharing and being together as a church family, on May 11, 1986. "Attendance was so good that extra chairs had to be set up to accomodate everyone," reports G. Kohlhas.

After the children's story, choir presentation, and message, everyone met in the lower auditorium for lunch. The men of the Church served at the tables and washed the dishes.

Trinity, Kelowna, Celebrates 25 Years

KELOWNA, BC. Trinity Baptist Church celebrated its 25th anniversary April 12-13, 1986, emphasizing the theme, "To the Glory of God." Organized in 1961 with 70 charter members, the Church now has 465 members. "We praise the Lord for His leading and guiding," says Elsie Hait.



Speakers included several former pastors: the Rev. John Wollenberg, Osoyoos, BC; the Rev. Richard Hohensee, Vancouver, BC; and the Rev. E.H. Nikkel, Saskatoon, SK; as well as Dr. Joe Sonnenberg, Leduc, AB, former area secretary.

The Rev. P. Tim Schroeder is senior pastor of the Church, and Allen Mertes is Pastor of Youth Ministries.

Compelled to Serve

Greenvine Church to Mark 125th Anniversary

BURTON, TX. Greenvine Ebenezer Baptist Church will mark its 125th anniversary, Oct. 19, 1986. The Church, founded in 1861 through the missionary efforts of Dr. Frank Kiefer, is the first German Baptist Church in Texas and the mother church of the N.A.B. Conference Southern Association.

A full day of activities is planned including an address by Dr. Gordon Harris, N.A.B. seminary; noon fellowship

meal; afternoon praise and thanksgiving service; and dedication of a state historical marker.

"An invitation to share the day is extended to everyone," states Mary Ricks Zorn, reporter. The Rev. Donald Mashburn is pastor of the Church.

Saskatchewan Baptist Association Meets

SPRINGSIDE, SK. The attendance was gratifying; the spiritual atmosphere exciting; and the enthusiasm contagious as Saskatchewan celebrated "Biblical Foundation of Hope for the People of God" at their annual Association sessions, March 20-23, 1986. The beautiful new edifice of the Springside Baptist Church and its friendly people added to the joy of the occasion.

On the opening evening, testimony by Jack and Connie Sharp made the Christian life very real and moving, notwithstanding problems and difficulties that these two encountered while seeking to serve their Lord. Rev. Willy Muller, North American Baptist College and Divinity School, spoke on the Atonement as a powerful foundation of our hope in a world of despair.

On Friday, Missionary Clemence Auch of Cameroon asked "How Are You Running?" (Hebrews 12:1-15). This prepared the way for the Church Growth Seminar, conducted by Rev. Ray Harsch, associate director of evangelism and church growth. This exciting and stimulating seminar gave many insights into church growth during a full day session.

Mrs. Marie Muller shared her experiences in Cameroon during the evening service led by the W.M.F.

Rev. Fred Folkerts, associate director of missions, in a most fitting devotional, gave additional hope in a world of despair. Hanshi Joshi, convert from Hinduism to Christ, spiritually uplifted the group as she gave her testimony during these sessions, led by moderator Richard Grabke. She is now the Sunday school superintendent of Silverwood Baptist Church in Saskatoon.

One highlight of the business sessions receiving full support was a Resolution to renew the Association's interest in native Indian work both on reservations and in our cities.

Our newest Church, Silverwood Baptist, Saskatoon, was accepted into our Association. "Silverwood Boosters" was approved requesting delegates and others to commit themselves to \$100/year for a three-year period and thus raise \$30,000. By the end of the Association Rally Sunday afternoon, 87 persons had committed themselves to this endeavor.

Another highlight of the sessions was a presentation by Connie Schroeder of Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, of a new "Discovery Club" program originated and compiled by her. It is available to churches.

Rev. Kurt Redschlag, North American Baptist College, and the Rev. Hans Serger, a ventriloquist, led the youth sessions.

The challenges presented by Rev. Willy Muller, and the prayer requests and blessings shared by the missionaries, were a most fitting climax to such an enriching Conference —Bruno Voss

Wishek Church Has Centennial Celebration

WISHEK, ND. First Baptist Church held a memorial service May 18, 1986, celebrating the beginning of its Centen-

nial Homecoming. The morning worship service included scripture reading and music in German. Memories from former churches were shared.

The Church plans to hold an outdoor baptismal service before its centennial.

"We look forward to seeing many former members and pastors back in Wishek for our 100th Homecoming celebration," says Mavis Schnabel, reporter.

24 Youth from Edmonton Serve in Mexico

EDMONTON, AB. One thousand people in San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico, responded to the Gospel message as the result of the ministry of a team of Canadian young people.

The team was composed of 24 college and career young people, primarily from Meadowlark and McKernan Baptist Churches with the churches' youth pastors, Allen Kjesbo (Meadowlark), and Bob Carroll (McKernan). The team travelled to Mexico by bus, leaving Edmonton on April 25 and returning on May 9, 1986.



The team's ministry was two-pronged. During the day, they worked at the Mexico Medical Mission Hospital, digging a new septic pit and working on the roof. During the evenings, they presented Gospel programs in nearby migrant camps, at a home, and at Iglesias Bautista, a Baptist church in San Quintin.

The evening programs included music, a puppet show in Spanish, drama with Spanish narration, and the film *Jesus*, also in Spanish. The decisions for Christ came as a result of the invitation in this film. Follow-up will be done by local Christians and missionaries. —Carol Fulmore

Great Lakes Association Focuses on Ministry

WARREN, MI. The 1986 Great Lakes Association focused on the theme, "We Have This Ministry," at its annual meeting held April 24-26 at Redeemer Baptist Church. Dr. Stuart Briscoe of Wisconsin was guest speaker.

One hundred fifty-one delegates conducted Association business, which included adoption of a \$31,700 budget; approval of a process of initiating and developing church extension projects in Florida; approval of church extension projects in Orlando and North Port, Florida; approval of a minor constitutional change; and election of officers.

Pastor Cliff Hamil, Fremont, OH, was reelected moderator.

"The Great Lakes Association consists of 32 churches and church extension projects in Michigan, Ohio and Florida," reports Rev. Darrell W. McKay. In 1985, 160 baptisms were reported; 17 churches reported membership gains and 8 churches reported losses; and there was a net gain of 103 members in reporting churches."

"Twenty-three churches were represented by 228 women at the Association Ladies' Luncheon with Mrs. Harriet Decker, Bridgman, MI, president, presiding," reports Doris Kintzer. Mildred Wolfe of Gladwin, MI, was elected president.

Fessenden Church Celebrates 90 Years of Service

FESSENDEN, ND. First Baptist Church celebrated its 90th anniversary, June 8, 1986.

During the Sunday school hour, several older Church members reported about how the Church has served the area during these years. Former Sunday school superintendents spoke on what the Sunday school did in the past and does in the present.

The Rev. Ray Hoffman, former pastor, spoke during the worship hour. Letters from former pastors and neighboring church were read.

The Rev. Dan Berger is pastor of the Church. —Regina Pepple

Watertown Church Dedicates New Facility

WATERTOWN, WI. After many years of planning, sacrificial giving, and hours of labor, members and friends of First Baptist Church dedicated their new, larger facility, June 22, 1986.

Dr. John Binder, executive director, spoke at both morning and evening services, in addition to other area clergy, former pastors, the architect, contractor, and city officials. Special music by the regular, children's, and men's choirs emphasized Christ as the Foundation and Cornerstone of the Body.

"Our Church's slogan had been 'Building Fever—Catch It.' The banner now states, 'Building Fever—We Caught It.' To God Be the Glory," reports Erma Norman.

Called to Worship

Deeper Life Meetings Held at Salem Church

KITCHENER, ON. Salem Baptist Church held a week of deeper life meetings this spring with Dr. Frank C. Peters, past president of Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON. The theme was "The Church in the End Times," a Bible study on 1 Thessalonians.

Three young people were baptized by the Rev. Herman Pohl, pastor of the Church. They and another young couple were welcomed into the Church fellowship. —Margret I. Pohl

Redeemer Church Holds Special Meetings

PARMA, OH. Redeemer Baptist Church held special

meetings May 16-18, 1986. Dr. Donald Cole, radio pastor, Moody Bible Institute, spoke on the book of Ruth. The public was invited, and many guests attended.

"During the Sunday school hour we enjoyed an 'Open Line' session with Pastor Cole, broadcast over WCRF-FM/Cleveland," reports Gerda Markowski.

The Rev. Darrell McKay is pastor of the Church.

Emery Laypersons Plan Evening Worship Services

EMERY, SD. A new ministry in worship is developing at First Baptist Church. Each adult Sunday school class plans, produces, and leads one Sunday evening worship service a year.

"This does several things," states the Rev. Elmo Herman, pastor. "It helps the teacher and class to evaluate the ministry of our Church. Then they become involved in the planning process as they take information from their evaluations and prepare a worship service. Their organizational gifts and talents are encouraged as they seek to involve everyone from the class. Leadership gifts within the body are given opportunity for expression as the Holy Spirit guides them."

"The end result is beautiful, as the Body of Christ uses the gifts and talents God has given them (Romans 12:4-6a). We praise the Lord for the new opportunities to worship our Lord together."

Latta Road Hosts Choir Fest

ROCHESTER, NY. Latta Road Baptist Church hosted a "Choir Fest '86" recently. Three other suburban Rochester churches participated with them in this musical program of worship. Approximately 75 choir members joined together for a mass choir rendition of "We Are One in the Lord."

"As Pastor Marc Muffuci closed the celebration in prayer, he noted that the words of the closing song reflected each participant's commitment," reports Hilla Metzger.

Meadowlark Women Participate in Prayer Seminar

EDMONTON, AB. A seminar on prayer held at Meadowlark Baptist Church recently attracted 20 women.

The seminar was led by a member of Meadowlark, Marg Jones, who gave challenging and thought-provoking presentations on the prayer of confession and the prayer of intercession. She also presented practical helps on these topics. —Carol Fulmore

Committed to Give

Anamoose Church Retires Debt on Parsonage

ANAMOOSE, ND. Anamoose Baptist Church held a mortgage burning ceremony for their new parsonage on May 4, 1986. Through faithful giving, the congregation retired the debt less than six years after ground breaking in 1979. —Lorraine Frank

Stewardship Challenge Given at Dickinson Church

DICKINSON, ND. Herman Kesterke presented a challenging message on stewardship at Hillside Baptist Church recently. "We have seen the results of God speaking through Herman," reports Bonnie Walther.

Commissioned to Witness

Three Baptized at St. Paul Church

ST. PAUL, MN. Three persons were baptized at Redeemer Baptist Church recently. They, with three others, were welcomed into the Church by Pastor Rubin Herrmann, June 1, 1986. —Doris L. Patet

Vancouver Churches Celebrate Togetherness, Plan Joint Action

VANCOUVER, BC. Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted members and friends from five Vancouver area N.A.B. churches in a "Celebration of Togetherness" service. This service was a sequel to the Ron Susek Crusade held in Vancouver at which time area churches committed themselves to more joint effort in evangelism and outreach.

Three pastors shared messages on preparation, participation, and commitment. Afterwards, Dr. Arthur Boymonk, pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, officiated at a combined communion service.

More joint action is planned with a discipleship training course to be held at Immanuel Baptist Church to train counselors for witnessing to Expo visitors referred through the Pavilion of Promise on the Expo site. —Irene Frers

Seven Baptized at North Freedom Church

NORTH FREEDOM, WI. Pastor Arnie Kirschner baptized three adults and four youth at North Freedom Baptist Church recently. They were then welcomed into the Church. —Louise Faivre

Two Join Golden Prairie Church

GOLDEN PRAIRIE, SK. One young lady from First Baptist Church was baptized recently. She and one other person joined the Church. —Leota Fritzke

Nine Baptized at Sumner Church

SUMNER, IA. First Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of nine young people by the Rev. Dan R. Payne, including two of his daughters, June 8, 1986. "We praise God and pray for these new members as they continue to grow in Jesus Christ," states Retha Menke.

Godly Priorities Emphasized at British Columbia Association Meetings

KELOWNA, BC. Trinity Baptist Church hosted the 37th annual meetings of the British Columbia Association, May 15-18, 1986.

Delegates and visitors from the 23 Association churches

enjoyed the Christian fellowship. They were also challenged to set godly "Priorities for our Day" by the Rev. Willy Muller.

The Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, told about his recent trip to Cameroon and the need to support the missionaries serving there.

"It was also exciting to hear about a new church beginning in Stewart, BC (a port near the Alaska border) as well as the church extension project in Langley, BC," reports the Rev. Mark Wollenberg, associate pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver.

The Association adopted a \$150,000 budget for 1987.

"We look forward to seeing the Lord work in our churches this next year as we commit ourselves to the priorities God has set for those who are a part of His family," states Rev. Wollenberg.

Six Baptized at George Church

GEORGE, IA. Pastor Byron Brodehl baptized six young adults at the evening services at First Baptist Church on June 8, 1986. They each gave their personal testimony to the congregation. —Mrs. Vera Arends

12 Baptized at Two Edmonton Churches

EDMONTON, AB. A dual baptismal service was held by Meadowlark and Westland Baptist Churches at Meadowlark recently.

Pastor Ken MacDonald of Meadowlark baptized five young people, and Pastor Merlyn Bowker of Westland baptized 7 people. —Carol Fulmore

Four Baptized at Wichita Church

WICHITA, KS. Following the reading of their personally written testimonies, the Rev. John Zuilkowski baptized four young people at Memory Lane Baptist Church recently.

Seven couples dedicated their young children to the Lord at the Church. —Christine Riffel

Three Added to Fessenden Church

FESSENDEN, ND. Two young people were baptized by Rev. Dan Berger at First Baptist Church recently. They and one adult were received as members in the Church. —Regina Pepple

Yorkton Discovery Club Reaches into Community

YORKTON, SK. Under the direction of Chief Pilot Beth Berg and Discovery Club's author, Connie Schroeder, Central Baptist Church continues to reach into the community.

The children in the mid-week Discovery Club concluded their seventh year of Bible study, games, missions, and music with a Discovery Club musical, "The Farmer in the Dell," April 27, 1986. The Rev. Del Bertsch is pastor.

Sixty percent of the clubbers come from outside the Church. Connie is willing to share the Discovery Club's materials with other churches if interested. —Hertha Rowden

Ochre River Youth Witness through Hockey

OCHRE RIVER, MB. The young people of Grace Baptist

Church have a very good young men's hockey club. "This group is a real testimony as they play weekly in the community," says Jean Roos.

Dickinson Church Grows

DICKINSON, ND. Pastor James DeBoer baptized three young people at Hillside Baptist Church recently.

The Church welcomed 16 new members into its fellowship on May 4, 1986. —Bonnie Walther

Mowata Church Begins Visitation and Discipleship Program

EUNICE, LA. "The Spirit of God is moving anew in Mowata Baptist Church," reports Rosa B. Bieber. "Under the leadership of Pastor Dan O'Clair, we have begun a visitation and discipleship program which has proven beneficial."

Nine new believers were baptized and received as members of the Church, May 11, 1986.

Salem Church Reaches Out to Community

KITCHENER, ON. Salem Baptist Church Pioneer Clubs, led by Ina Willsie, presented the musical "Agapaopolis" on three consecutive evenings, reaching into many homes within the community.

Paul Baumbach, assistant to Pastor Herman Pohl for the summer months, is in charge of the goal of reaching 100 children and youth with the Gospel.

By a united effort, the Church broadcasts the 45 minute program, "Thus It Is Written," every Sunday over CKWR 98.7 FM. —Margret I. Pohl

Ellinwood Church Holds Missions Fair

ELLINWOOD, KS. First Baptist Church transformed its fellowship hall into an exhibition center for world missions recently.

The Church Missions Committee sponsored a Missions Fair which included booths from Nigeria, Cameroon, Brazil, Japan, Philippines, Haiti, Home Missions, Local Missions, and Campus Crusade.

Laypeople who had visited the mission fields staffed many of the booths.

The library sponsored a booth for missionary biographies. A sampling of international foods was also offered. Movies from the N.A.B. mission fields were shown at various times.

"It was a successful evening of communicating the Gospel of Christ around the world," reports Pastor Randall L. Kinnison.

Two Baptized at 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."

The Rev. Helmut Poschwatta is pastor of the Church.

North American Baptist Conference Church Growth Strategy

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

Alberta Association: Meadowlark Baptist, Edmonton, AB, Ken MacDonald.

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

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

Illinois Association: Cornerstone Baptist, Carol Stream, IL, Stephen Patrick; Foster Avenue Baptist, Chicago, IL, Michael Campbell; Forest Park Baptist, IL, David Steinhart.

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

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

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

Southwestern Association: Sherwood Park Baptist, Greeley, CO, Mike Hodgins.

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

Great Lakes Association: Grosse Pointe Baptist, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, David Wick; Colonial Village Baptist, Lansing, MI, Elmo Tahrn; Ripley Boulevard Baptist, Alpena, MI, Fred Sweet; First Baptist, St. Joseph, MI, Robert McBroom; Oakridge Baptist, St. Joseph, MI, Jack Whitehead; Lakeshore Baptist, Stevensville, MI, Norbert Stubel; Parma Heights Baptist, Parma Heights, OH, John Thielenhaus; First Baptist, Auburn, MI, Rev. Dirk Spalding; Round Lake Baptist, Gladwin, MI, Rev. Robert Brown.

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

Northern Dakota Association: Grace Baptist, Grand Forks, ND, Rev. Phyllip Putz.

Central Dakota-Montana Association: Bismarck Baptist, Bismarck, ND, Rev. Manuel Wolff.

North Pointe Families Enjoy Adopt-a-Missionary Program

"Dear Mark,
What is it like to be a M.K.? Do you see elephants in Africa?"

"This could be an excerpt from a letter written by a young member of one of our Adopt-a-Missionary families at North Pointe Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan," says Virginia Thomas, pastor's wife there. "Several years ago, we sought a way to involve the entire family in missions at North Pointe, so we began our 'Adopt-a-Missionary' program."

The Church supports a number of missionary families. These missionary families are adopted by a church family for a year or sometimes longer. The missionary family is often adopted by a group in the church as well.

"For example, our Elementary Department adopted the Burgess family," says Virginia. "What excitement and satisfaction to see the Burgess' children open the Tiger shirts that the Elementary Department had saved their pennies for."

The Church uses the following guidelines for the Adopt-a-Missionary program:

- 1) Pray daily (ask for specific needs);
- 2) Write airforms (children can write to missionary kids [M.K.s]);
- 3) Send pictures;
- 4) Send tapes (talking, singing, instrumental music);
- 5) Ask for specific needs (if items are too costly, the church can help out);
- 6) Send Kilo Boxes (children can make items for M.K.s); and
- 7) Have the missionary family in your home for housing or a meal while they are on furlough.

We have found this to be an effective program," says Virginia, "and we're projecting toward enlisting church families to financially help support their A-A-M family."

The families involved in this A-A-M Family program find the missionaries enjoy this close relationship. Missionary Lois Fuchs writes; "We like the idea of being adopted by someone; it is a real encouragement."

The West Family—Kristen, Julie, Shirley, John, and Ruth—had adopted the Douglas Woyke Family of Japan as their missionary family. The Wests say, "Adopting a missionary family makes us feel close to the missionaries; gives us an opportunity to correspond firsthand; enables us to know their special prayer needs and also kilo box needs; and makes us more aware of their work on the mission field."

"We would encourage other churches to personalize their mission program in this way and incorporate your own ideas," says Virginia.

JESSIE DE BOER FREESE (85), Little Rock, IA; born July 25, 1900, to Helmer and Helen De Boer; died April 5, 1986; married Cornelius Freese, Dec. 22, 1920; member, Central Baptist Church, George, IA; survived by two daughters: Viola (Mrs. Edwin Krull), Rock Rapids, IA; and Bernice (Mrs. John Winter), Little Rock, IA; three sons: John, Milford, IA; Lawrence, Sibley, IA; and Vernon, Worthington, MN; 16 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one brother, John De Boer; and three sisters: Grace (Mrs. Reinert Henricks), Helen, and Emma (Mrs. Moffer); Rev. Harold Drenth, pastor, funeral service.

HANNAH WUBBEN HARMS (88), Steamboat Rock, IA; born July 23, 1897, to Koert and Emile Schmidt Wubben; died June 16, 1986; married Reynold C. Harm, July 2, 1924, who predeceased her; member, First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA; survived by one son, Elvin; Rev. Dennis Dewey, pastor, funeral service.

ELVIN M. KANKO (67), Butte, ND; born Jan. 16, 1918, to Mack and Eva Kankovsky, near Kief, ND; died Oct. 21, 1985; married Leah Bertha Holichenko, Sept. 28, 1941; member, Rosenfeld Baptist Church, Anamoose, ND; survived by his wife Leah; three sons: Timothy E., Watonsville, CA; Ralph E., Springfield, VA; and Mark A., LaPorte, TX; six grandchildren; one brother, Edward; the three sisters: Mrs. Ethel Zakopyko, Mrs. Helen Plesuk, and Mrs. Violet Shattun; Rev. Vernon Schneider, pastor, funeral service.

WILHELM KRUGER (91), Thorsby, AB; born Aug. 3, 1894, to Julius and Maria Kruger in Lutz, Poland; died April 17, 1986; married Amelia Nehring, April 15, 1919, who predeceased him, July 18, 1984; immigrated to Canada, 1928; member of the following Baptist Churches: Temple, Leduc, AB; Rabbit Hill, South Edmonton, AB; and First, Warburg, AB; predeceased by one daughter, Hertha, and one grandson, Ervin Forster; survived by three daughters: Mary (Hubscher), Sally (Forster), and Esther (Felske); three sons: Robert, Gustav, and Harold; 16 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and relatives in Europe; Rev. Clifford Spence, pastor, funeral service.

TJADIE LINDAMAN (78), Aplington, IA; born Jan. 14, 1908, to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lindaman, in Bristow, IA; died May 27, 1986; faithful member, Aplington (IA) Baptist Church; predeceased by two brothers: John and Bert; survived by one sister, Fannie Allan, Allison, IA; and one brother, Dan, Shell Rock, IA; and 12 neices and nephews; Rev. Donald Patet, pastor, funeral service.

CLARA A. LIPPERT (74), Parkston, SD; born Aug. 19, 1911, to Henry and Susanna (nee Fischer) Villmow near Delmont, SD; died March 2, 1986; married Harold B. Lippert, Sept. 8, 1932, who predeceased her in 1978; member, WMF member, White Cross Chairman, local church and South Dakota Association, Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD; predeceased by two sisters, one brother, and one infant grandchild; survived by three sons: LeRoy, Danville, IA; Henry, Tripp, SD; and Merlyn, Larchwood, IA; one daughter, Rose Marie (Mrs. Don Stoeber), Rapid City, SD; 12 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one brother, Henry Villmow; Rev. Richard Mayforth, pastor, funeral service.

ALBERT MANK (78), Edmonton, AB; born Dec. 18, 1907, in Alt-Walla, Polen; died June 16, 1986; married Wanda Hase in 1935; member, Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB; survived by one daughter, Erna Orlovsky; one son, Otto (Gerda); five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Amanda Koch; and one brother, Robert; Rev. Henry Goliath, pastor, funeral service.

DAVID PATZER (86), Nokomis, SK; born March 4, 1900, to Julius and Augusta Pater in Wolhynien, the Ukraine, Russia; died April 18, 1986; married Mary Schmunk in 1933; faithful member, Nokomis (SK) Baptist Church; predeceased by six brothers and two sisters; survived by his wife Mary; two daughters: Lila (Horst) Ross, and Ida (Darold) Graves; one son, Albert (Marianne); five grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; Rev. Dan Harder, pastor, funeral service.

RICHARD PUSCH (87), Ellendale, ND; born Sept. 10, 1898, in Konigsberg, Germany; died May 22, 1986; immigrated to the U.S. in 1923; married Marie Kies, Jan. 19, 1927, who predeceased him; member, deacon, trustee, Sunday school teacher, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Jersey City, and Cornerstone Baptist Church, Union City, NJ; predeceased by one brother and one sister; survived by one daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Fred Fuchs), Shattuck, OK; two grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Reverends Orville Meth and R. Cooke, pastors, memorial service.

WALTER RISKE (68), Calgary, AB; born April 25, 1918, to Rudolf and Johanna Riske in Grosendorf, Germany; died April 25, 1986; married Edith Yost in 1945; immigrated to Canada in 1953; member, Sunday school superintendent, deacon, trustee, building committee member, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB; survived by his wife Edith; one daughter, Sandra (Mrs. Phillip

David), Calgary, AB; and two grandsons; Reverends Dr. Walter Kerber, Wayne Jorstad, and C.T. Remple, pastors, funeral service.

ALBERT F. SALZMAN (85), Kankakee, IL; born June 4, 1900, to Albert E. and Amelia Witt Salzman, Sr., in Kankakee, IL; died May 23, 1986; married Faye Elam, who predeceased him in 1968; married Florence Burns, March 18, 1969; member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, building committee member, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL; predeceased by one sister, Mary Russell; survived by his wife Florence; one daughter, Clara (Mrs. Leo E. Rider), Delphi, IN; two sons: Howard L. (Theresa), Miami, FL; and Donald E. (Connie), Kankakee, IL; nine grandchildren; two brothers, Ernest and Arthur; and one sister, Ruby; Dr. Robert F. Penner, pastor, funeral service.

FERDINAND NEHRING (84), Spring-side, SK; born June 13, 1901, to August and Caroline Nehring in Lublin, Poland; died May 15, 1986; immigrated to Canada in 1907; married Minnie Kriger, April 15, 1932; member, trustee, Springside (SK) Baptist Church; predeceased by one sister, Tofilia, and three brothers: Leopold, William, and Edward; survived by his wife Minnie; one son, David (Violet), Springside, SK; two daughters: June (Mrs. Leith Pinder), Springside, SK; and Audrey, Yorkton, SK; four grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; one sister, Laura; and one brother, Frederick (Sylvia); Rev. Richard Grabke, pastor, funeral service.

Payment of \$8.00 U.S. funds must accompany the obituary submitted for publication.

anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Edward DeVries celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Aplington (IA) Baptist Church, April 27, 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Harm Sherman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 15, 1986, at Aplington (IA) Baptist Church.

what's happening

The Rev. John Reimer retired from the pastorate of Berlin Baptist Church, Fredonia, ND, on Sept. 1, 1986. He has served N.A.B. Conference churches since 1948: Grace Baptist of Gackle and Alfred, ND, 1948-50; First Baptist, George, IA, 1951-65; East Side Baptist, Chicago, IL, 1965-72; Immanuel Baptist, Woodside, NY, 1972-74; interim pastor, Missionary Baptist, Cleveland, OH, 1974-77; pastor, Berlin Baptist, Fredonia, ND, 1977-86. He plans to retire in Culver, IN.

The Rev. John Fraser has accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, effective July 28, 1986. He has served Shakopee Baptist Church, Minnesota, since 1978.

The Rev. Jes Tarp resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Buffalo Center, IA, in June to accept a call to a non-N.A.B. church. He has served this Church since 1984.

The Rev. Mark Morris resigned as pastor of Fort George Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, effective June 30, 1986. He plans to engage in further studies at North American Baptist Divinity School.

Mr. Ron Zukowski resigned as pastor of Rabbit Hill Baptist Church, South Edmonton, Alberta, where he has served since 1984. He has accepted a teaching position in Devon, Alberta.

The Rev. Milton Zeeb was reappointed South Central Area Minister for another three years by the Committee from that area composed of representatives and moderators from the Southern and Southwestern Associations.

The Rev. William Hoover, retired pastor, died on June 21, 1986. He had served some of the larger N.A.B. churches including Ridgemont Baptist, Detroit, MI; Napier Parkview Baptist, Benton Harbor, MI; and Sunkist Baptist, Anaheim, CA. He had retired in 1976.

The Rev. Billy Sherfy of Fayetteville, North Carolina, has accepted the pastorate of Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlesville, New York, effective July 15, 1986.

The Rev. David Mitchell has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Lodi, California, effective Sept. 7, 1986. He formerly served Faith Baptist Church, Corona, California, a Baptist General Conference church.

The Rev. Michael Dobbs resigned as Director of Youth at First Baptist Church, Lodi, California, effective July 27, 1986, to accept a call to a non-N.A.B. church.

Mr. Douglas R. Harsch was ordained to the Christian Ministry on July 20, 1986, at North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas. Rev. Harsch is Pastor of the church extension project in Flower Mound, Texas. His father, the Rev. Ray Harsch, acting N.A.B. church growth director, preached the ordination sermon.

The Rev. Orville Meth has resigned as the Chaplain of the Baptist Home, Bismarck, North Dakota, to retire effective October 1. A recognition reception will be held on Oct. 17, 1986, in Bismarck for Rev. Meth.

Mr. Frank Hildebrandt is the new Associate Pastor at the German Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ontario. His ministry is to the English-speaking congregation and to the youth. A service of installation was held on July 6.

The Rev. Walter Dingfield has accepted the position of Minister of Pastoral Care at Village Baptist Church, Beaverton, Oregon, effective July 1, 1986. This is a non-N.A.B. church.

Mr. Rod Poppinga was installed as pastor of Anamoose Baptist Church, North Dakota, on May 17. Area Minister Ralph Cooke and Interim Pastor Vernon Schneider participated in the installation service. Mr. Poppinga is a 1986 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Aplington Baptist Church celebrated the ministry of their pastor, the Rev. Don Patet, and his wife, Betty, who have served the Church for 30 years, on June 1.

Mr. Jim Liske became Associate Pastor of Woodland Shores Baptist Church, Bridgman, Michigan, in June. A reception was held for Jim and his wife Cathy on June 22. Jim and Cathy have BA degrees in Music; and Jim received his Master of Divinity degree from the North American Baptist Seminary in May 1986.

Mr. Wayne Jorstad was ordained to the Christian ministry by Grace Baptist Church of Calgary, Alberta, on June 1, 1986. Rev. Jorstad has served at Grace Baptist as Minister of Youth and Christian Education for the past two and

one half years. Dr. Sydney Page of the North American Baptist Divinity School gave the Ordination Address. Dr. Walter Kerber, senior pastor at Grace, led the Ordination Prayer.

Mrs. Dan (Emelia) Fuchs of Oak Park, Illinois, died on July 15, 1986. She served as pastor's wife with her husband, Dan, at the Andrews Street Baptist Church, Rochester, New York, and McDermont Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, before coming with Rev. Fuchs to the North American Baptist Conference International Office, where he was Director of Evangelism and Church Extension. Following his retirement, she served with her husband in seven interim pastorates and recently as part-time associate pastor at Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Tucker J. Gunneman was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel on May 25, 1986, by Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, Michigan. The Rev. William Taft gave the Ordination Message and the Rev. Elmo Tahrn, senior pastor, the Charge to the Church and to Mr. Gunneman. Rev. Gunneman is the Director of Church Ministries at Colonial Village Church.

Mr. Gordon Stork was ordained by First Baptist Church of George, Iowa, on June 1, 1986. He graduated from North American Baptist Seminary in May 1986 with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling. He has served First Baptist Church for three years as Youth Director and for nine months as interim pastor. Dr. Tom Johnson, Dr. Stan Grenz, and Dr. Charles Hiatt of the Seminary were speakers at the service.

The Rev. Bert E. Milner resigned as pastor of Southey Baptist Church, Southey, Saskatchewan, effective August 10, 1986, to retire. Rev. Milner is available for pulpit supply and interim pastorates in Alberta. He and his wife are residing in Edmonton. During his ministry he has served N.A.B. churches in Moosehorn, Manitoba; Springside and Ebenezer West, Saskatchewan; Prince George, British Columbia; Carbon and Edmonton (Meadowlark), Alberta; and as a missionary to Cameroon.

Dr. John Hisel was inducted as senior pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba,

on June 29, 1986. His wife and children, Tim and Tiffany, were welcomed to the Church, also. Interim Pastor Jake Schmidt conducted the installation service.

Mr. Norman Tauber was installed as Youth Pastor of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, on June 29, 1986. Mr. Tauber is a 1986 graduate of the North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta. His wife Renata was also welcomed to the church.

Mr. Myron Dudek is retiring as Administrator of the Central Baptist Home, Norridge, Illinois. Mr. Dudek will become Administrative Consultant at the home in order to provide for the continuity necessary to assure superior care at the Home. "Since July 1969, Mr. Dudek has faithfully served with loyalty, vision, and genuine concern for the well-being of the organization and its residents," states the Board of Directors. Mr. Alan E. Kegel, who has had ten years of experience as a nursing home administrator in Dayton, Ohio, has been appointed by the Board of Directors to succeed Mr. Dudek.

Mr. Phil Pucek of Kankakee, Illinois, has been appointed Assistant Director for Data Processing at the North American Baptist Conference Office effective July 1986. He is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee.

The Rev. Charles Davis resigned as pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Monclova, Ohio, effective July 31, 1986. He has served this Church since 1984. He is enrolled in studies at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Mr. Douglas Peebles resigned as Associate pastor for Discipleship at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, California, to further his studies at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this fall.

Mr. Jim Davis is the new Associate Pastor of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Richmond, British Columbia, effective June 1, 1986.

Dr. Hans Wilcke has retired from the position of Chaplain at the Baptist Manor, Portland, Oregon, as of June 30, 1986.

The Rev. Henry Barnet is the new part-time Chaplain at Baptist Manor, Portland, Oregon, effective July 1, 1986.

estate planning

The Trust—a Flexible Estate Planning Tool

A trust is a very flexible estate planning tool. It can be utilized to avoid estate taxes, to provide management for property in case of disability, to protect minor children from premature distribution of property, to avoid ancillary administration of the estate when you own property in more than one state, to distinguish separate property from community property when you move from one estate to another, and for many other purposes, including income tax planning.

A trust can be designed to be confidential, can be utilized to avoid probate, and can provide for coordination of your entire estate planning process.

A trust is easy to establish and easy to change.

When a trust is used as a key vehicle of the estate plan, it will typically be combined with a simple will, which may distribute household goods and personal effects, and will place all remaining property that you have not assigned to the trust during your lifetime into the trust instrument at death.

The trust should also be combined with a durable power of attorney. This allows the individual holding the power to place any property which has not previously been assigned to the trust into the trust at a time of incompetency.

In other words, a trust can do just about anything that you design it to do.

Types of Trusts

There are many types of trusts, all falling within two categories.

- 1) Revocable, which means that it can be changed, or
- 2) Irrevocable, meaning that it cannot be changed.

If the purpose of the trust is management, avoidance of probate, confidentiality, then the trust can be revocable.

However, to accomplish tax savings, the trust may need to be irrevocable.

The trust can be inter vivos, meaning that it is established and partially or fully funded during your lifetime, or it can be testamentary, being established through your will.

If you wish for property to avoid probate, or to be managed in case of your disability, then the trust must be established and funded during your lifetime.

However, a trust designed purely to save estate taxes or to protect minor children or other dependents, can be established through your will. □

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Ethiopia Trip Report

by Archie Goldie

Ethiopia is a land of contrast. The capital city of Addis Ababa is very modern. A few miles away, Ethiopians continue to live in small, round houses called kebeles, just as they have for centuries. Many walking trails and dirt roads, but few paved roads, crisscross the country.

Much of the high plateau of Ethiopia has eroded into many escarpments and deep valleys. Crops have been grown for centuries on the canyon floors, valleys, and steep, sloping cliff-sides as well as on the highlands and escarpments.

Some parts of Ethiopia had rains in 1985, but in many areas, the harvest is sparse. Feeding programs resumed in June. After discussing aid programs in Addis Ababa with leaders of Christian groups, we flew to Mekele, capital Eritrea. This area is often contested by rebel forces, part of the continuing 26-year-old civil war.

Eritrea was severely hit by the drought. Thousands of families trekked to Mekele to find food. Many spent months in camps surrounding the city, receiving food and medical attention from Christian organizations and others.

Baptist World Aid helped pay some of the costs of transporting food to Mekele by air. The camps are gone except for approximately 3,000 aged and infirm who remain. Another legacy of the drought is an orphanage with 1,486 children.

Eighty percent of all evangelical church buildings in Ethiopia have been closed, but the churches continue their ministry. The Gospel is being spread, and people won to Christ. In one area previously closed to evangelical witness, the people received food and medicines

from a Christian feeding station. They also heard the Gospel. Now there are more than 600 believers there.

The last two days in Ethiopia we flew by helicopter to 17 feeding centers on top of escarpments. Families receive rations there, and nurses immunize children as well as dispense medicines to the sick.

On one six-minute trip across a canyon, our helicopter carried 3,500 pounds of food. The same journey by truck would take 8 hours. In two days, a truck can deliver three and one-half tons of food, while a helicopter can land 100 to 120 tons of food!

When we landed in the small village of Chora, the helicopter was surrounded by more than 1,000 residents. They told us of the effect of their drought and their families' health needs. These people had absolutely nothing. We quickly agreed to help.

Through cooperation by the Baptist missions, Food for the Hungry and Sudan Interior Mission food has been delivered into this district. It was trucked as far as possible and then flown by helicopter the last 9 miles across impossible terrain to 9 small villages. Nurses were also flown in. Baptist World Aid has been

asked to contribute \$50,000 toward the cost of the airlifts of food.

Untold thousands of people are being helped to survive this terrible ordeal because of the feeding programs of Baptists and other Christian groups. These missionaries and volunteers have been our hands and feet, delivering what we have shared. God has blessed their efforts and Jesus Christ is being praised by many who have come to know Him through this ministry.

Plans for recovery from the drought are being expanded, with projects to provide water for people and irrigation. Replacements for the oxen which have died are needed, as are seeds, tools, and fertilizers. Farmers will also be encouraged to try other farming methods along with soil conservation and crop rotation.

Medical services will continue to be an important component of our Baptist ministry in Ethiopia. Missionary nurses and local assistants perform duties usually considered to be the responsibility of doctors in other countries.

Please continue to pray for the people of Ethiopia and for our representatives who serve our Lord so faithfully as missionaries.



BWAid Director, Dr. Archie Goldie, visits with a young mother and her severely malnourished three-year-old during his fact-finding trip to Ethiopia.

Praise God!

As of June 30, 1986, more than \$2,000,000 in cash has been received for the Conference Capital Funds Campaign, "Building on the Foundations of Faith."

"This is the most money that has ever been given to any Capital Campaign effort conducted by the Conference," says Dr. Connie Salios, director of the Campaign. "We still need to receive more than \$1,580,000 to complete the goal set to fulfill some ministries that cannot be funded by the basic mission and ministry budget."

All Departments of the North American Baptist Conference express their deep appreciation to you for your participation. Please keep up the good response in giving to help achieve the total amount needed of \$3,583,000.

Soccer Field Improvements at Bamenda School for Missionary Children

"Our team improved our soccer field. First we found some goalposts which were about five and one half feet high. Then we dug holes about six inches deep. After that we put our poles in and filled the holes with ground. It took us a long time to pack the ground so it would be hard and firm. Next we found some bamboo and made it into a crossbar, a bar that goes at the top of the goalposts. Now we have a good pair of goalposts.

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