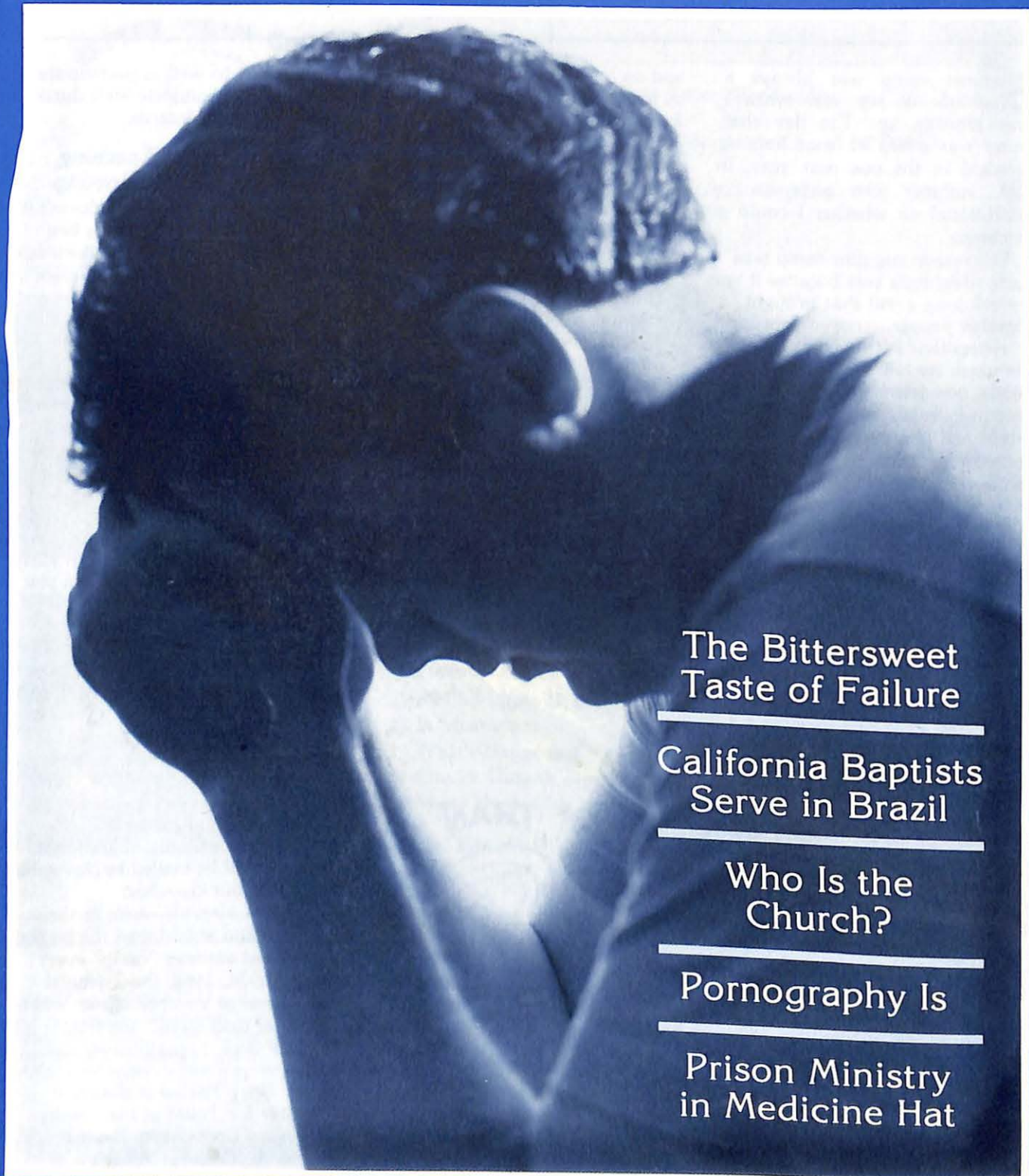


# Baptist Herald

July/August 1987



The Bittersweet  
Taste of Failure

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California Baptists  
Serve in Brazil

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Who Is the  
Church?

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Pornography Is

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Prison Ministry  
in Medicine Hat



# A Summer Camp That's Better Than Gold!

by Perry Friesen

Summer camp was always a highlight of my year when I was growing up. The day that camp was over, I'd start looking forward to the one next year. In fact, summer jobs were usually conditional on whether I could go to camp.

The reason summer camp was such a highlight was because it was a week long event that brought together people, environment, and activities that I enjoyed and valued the most: no homework, good meals, new friends to meet, time to deepen friendships through conversation and play, sports activities, nature hikes through the trees that spoke about God, opportunities to develop a relationship with the opposite sex, great times of singing and laughing, and all of this in the context of Christian teaching and worship. This met an inner longing to be close to God and aligned with God's purpose for my life. Summer camp was undoubtedly a very important time of spiritual renewal and growth in my spiritual pilgrimage. I couldn't imagine a summer without the experience of going to camp.

## Meet New People

It seems to me the Youth Program of the Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches is a type of summer camp on a massive scale. If you're looking to meet new friends, you'll have the opportunity to meet some of the 1,300 youth expected to be at the Conference. It's likely you won't know one or two of them—not to mention that half of them will be the opposite sex! If you like music, singing, and laughter, you'll love our music program: concerts by David Meece, Jerry Proppe, "New Day,"

and an N.A.B. College group, and, to top it off, an evening with Randy Stonehill and the Rockets! If you like athletics, try the wide open fields of the University of Calgary for size: Courts, gymnasiums, plus the Olympic Oval that will be used for our afternoon of Big Time Olympics.

While you are housed at the University, all your meals will be taken care of with a choice of selection no camp could attempt to offer, including a fantastic Beef B.B.Q. on rodeo day. In terms of location, the University is situated on a beautiful campus of trees, on grassy fields with a view of the mountains that will speak to you daily, or drive an hour and a half during free time and do some climbing right on the mountains—God speaks even louder when you're there. For entertainment, in addition to all that's already been mentioned, you will have the opportunity to see a live rodeo show by some of the best cowboys

anywhere, as well as participate in a rodeo fair complete with dunk tanks and dart boards.

## Hear Dynamic Teaching and Experience Worship

Sounds great so far, doesn't it? But do you know what's best about it all? All the fantastic fun and friendships will take place in a context of dynamic teaching and worship. Dewey Bertolini, a dynamic youth speaker from California, will be our youth Bible teacher every morning. He'll challenge you, and there will be discussion times to help you integrate what God is asking you to do through His Word. You won't leave Calgary without being changed; you'll have gained a greater awareness of God's purpose for your life and more than likely be closer to God than when you came.

It's all of the above, but especially the closer relationship to God, that has prompted the theme for the week: "Better Than Gold!" There's no need even to debate whether it'll be worth taking a week off work in the summer. You can rest assured it will be! Wise individuals and groups are already saving up and asking about registration details. Registration forms will be mailed in November 1987 to our churches.

Think about it—who in their right mind would miss the biggest and best summer "camp" ever? July 26-31, 1988, the Triennial Conference Youth Program will be "Better than Gold." Experience it—you'll wish it would never end. □

*Mr. Perry Friesen is Assistant Pastor for Youth at the South Calgary Community Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta.*



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Cover: *Hampel Photo*

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BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0 005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (312) 495-2000. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing offices, and registered as Second Class Mail under permit #9327 at Norwich, Ontario.

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

ADVERTISING RATE: \$8.00 per inch single column (2 1/4 inches) black and white. OBITUARIES: \$8.00 US Funds, to accompany obituary; (100 word limit).

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

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



# Who Is the Church? What Should the Church Be Doing?

by Adolph Braun

A postcard sold for \$3,586 at a London auction marking the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*. It said, "Dear Bill, Just a line to let you know we are all right up to now and having a jolly time."

When I read that, I thought how some day someone will read the history of our days, read some of the glowing reports of how many people claimed to be Christians, how much money they gathered in, how popular some religious leaders were, and how many were selling their religious stuff; yet the world grew worse.

Some are warning us that the church may be sinking into neutrality because many religious leaders desire to be accepted by the world. They have to compromise biblical principles for the world to love them (John 15:18-19).

History records that the church was strongest when it was persecuted, and it was weakest when it was popular, rich, and worldly.

Many people have been asking about the TV evangelist, Jim Bakker. The world is holding the Church responsible for his adulterous acts and his selfish money-making schemes.

Did the local churches or pastors have anything to say about his religious entertainment? Can the church be responsible for things it has no control over?

## Who Is the Church?

What does the word "church" mean? The word "church" occurs 115 times in the Bible, and it is used in four different ways, referring to an assembly of city officials (three times); to Israel—called out of Egypt and assembled in the wilderness to worship God and follow His will

(once in Acts); to the whole body of believers in heaven and on earth, the invisible and spiritual body of Christ (15 times—the first is in Matthew 16:8); and to designate a local body of visible believers in Jesus Christ who regularly assemble (96 times, see Matthew 18:17).

A true local church is a congregation of baptized believers "called out" from the world to live as Jesus Christ taught. They believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. They gather to worship, to pray, to learn from His Word, and to encourage one another to follow His teachings and govern themselves by His Word.

A church should govern itself according to the Bible and pay its own bills. Until our generation, every Christian group that wanted to be self-governing had to be self-supporting. Otherwise, they were under the leadership of the churches who were paying their bills.

Christian work is to win people to believe in Jesus Christ and to build a local body of believers where they can receive Bible teaching, fellowship, exhortation, and care.

The apostles gave qualifications for all spiritual leaders (Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3). All ordained ministers were examined for what they believed and how they lived by local church leaders (Acts 13:1-3). A person was chosen to serve only if he had a good report at home (1 Timothy 3:7, 10).

Differences of doctrine between Peter and Paul were settled by the church with pastor James announcing the decision (Acts 15:5-23). Their teaching had to be authorized by the church (v. 24). Neither Peter nor Paul went his own way to start his own independent ministry. They gave account to the church at Jerusalem. It has been suggested to me several times to "go

independent" and start my own ministry, but I have always believed in the local church.

## What Should the Church Be Doing?

Many para-church ("para" means beside or equal) organizations are competing with local churches for their wealth, their workers, and their Sunday worshipers. A clever show-person who can enlist people from churches to support his ministry outside the church can select his own board members and ask for money from any source he desires to support his program. Most people have probably never thought of what it would be like if their own pastor would go to individual church members to collect money for his ministry.

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**"Many para-church organizations are competing with local churches for their wealth, their workers, and their Sunday worshipers. A clever show-person who can enlist people from churches to support his ministry outside the church can select his own board members and ask for money from any source he desires to support his program."**

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It is surprising how many people have a double standard for Christian work—one for the local church and another for ministries outside of the church. There is no double standard in the Bible. Many well-meaning Christian leaders do not think anything wrong with circumventing the church and going directly to individual members for their money. Does the end justify the means? Our ethics certainly have deteriorated in this generation.

I have often asked myself what would happen if all the thousands of para-church people would get into local churches and commit themselves to work and witness there. The pay and the accountability would be too confining for some of them. They would not stand for that kind of accountability. Thank God some groups are helpful and support and encourage local churches.

The church should regard Christ as Head. The church's first business is to learn what Jesus Christ said in His Word and to do it. Paul said, "He is the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23).

The church should gather regularly for worship, prayer, teaching, preaching, fellowship, and business, as Christians have been doing for 2,000 years. Then Christians should go out into the world and apply God's principles to all areas of life.

Our purpose is set forth in our church constitution: "The worship of Almighty God; the aggressive preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ unto salvation of the lost; the teaching and instruction of believers and the development in them of a consistent Christian character as revealed in the Scriptures; to administer the New Testament ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and the promotion of mis-

**"Christian, get involved in your local church; care about your brothers and sisters in your own community. The church is not perfect, but we preach a perfect Lord. A strong local church makes for a strong moral community. If Christians do not clean up their own disorder, the Lord may allow the world to force us into it."**



sionary enterprises at home and abroad."

Churches should make sure that their leaders are chosen according to scriptural standards and purpose. They should require all those who minister in the name of Christ to be accountable to the church for what they teach and how they live, even as Peter and Paul were. People who do not want to limit themselves to biblical principles don't really believe that the Bible is the sole authority for what we should believe and how we should live.

Every church should trust in the Spirit of God for its power and its guidance. Jesus said that He would build His church, and the gates of Hell would have to give way (Matthew 16:18). The world, the flesh, and the Devil have been battling against the church, but Christ will continue to build it with people who humbly believe that Jesus is the Christ and are willing to die for Him. All true believers in Jesus will want to be identified with a local church on earth.

Jesus said that His house would be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13). He used the synagogue and the temple as a house for preaching and teaching God's Word (Luke 4). He promised to raise up workers for His church if Christians would pray to Him (Luke 10:2).

Every church should teach what Jesus taught. If we do not evangelize, we will fossilize. If we do not baptize, we disobey Christ. If we do not teach His Word, people will not know what Jesus taught and be open to heresy, paganism, and devilish doctrines.

The church should take care of its own problems. Jesus gave instructions for how the church should clean its own house (Matthew 18:15-20). It follows that those who could be disciplined must be members of churches somewhere. A pastor of an Assembly of God church told me that they were being criticized for disciplining Jim Bakker. Jesus said, "If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector," because he is acting like a pagan.

The last court of appeal for the Christian is the church to which he belongs. It is not a self-appointed board or a council for financial accountability. There is no organization in the New Testament commissioned to carry on Christ's work except the church.

The church should insist on Christ's commission to "obey everything I have commanded you." The plague of the church has been "other programs" which have supplanted Christ's commission.



Some religious organizations are in the business of making money and are competing with the world's business, only they have tax advantages. The world will not put up with that unfair scheme. By such abuses, evangelicals will ruin the privileges all churches have enjoyed in this country. Historically, church property used for worship and education was tax exempt. But in recent years, all types of business and recreation have gone under the name of "Christian" and "nonprofit," which, in some cases, has made some leaders rich and, in other cases, has taught heresy. The result is that all churches are blamed for corrupt teaching and a mercenary spirit.

To me, PTL appears to be in the business of entertainment and recreation. If Christians want entertainment, they should not enjoy the special protection of religious tax exemption. That sort of thing encourages the enemies of the Chris-

tian Church who are proposing that all property and income to all religious groups be taxed.

It is said that Mr. Bakker received \$1,600,000 in pay last year. I have been in some small churches where people have told me that they had a good pastor, but they were sorry that they could not pay him an adequate salary. Then as the conversation continued, they would let me know that they supported radio or TV ministries. What they were saying was that the local pastor was not as deserving as the minister who is not accountable for his work and income. It is sad that many Christians judge the success of a Christian minister by how popular he is and how big an institution he leads.

What is happening to the home is the same thing that is happening to the church. For many, it seems more exciting to fellowship with someone who does not know their faults and to whom they feel no accountability. We can only begin

to help people when we know their problems.

The Lord said to the last-day church: "So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich, I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent" (Revelation 3:16-17,19).

**How then should Christians influence the world?** Jesus gave a pithy and clear commission to the Christian Church. It would be a wonderful blessing if we could get back to His command: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). I do not believe that we can improve on His basics. People need to be born of the Spirit. Only as people are converted will the world change.

Christian, get involved in your local church; care about your brothers and sisters in your own community. The church is not perfect, but we preach a perfect Lord. A strong local church makes for a strong moral community. If Christians do not clean up their own disorder, the Lord may allow the world to force us into it.

Pray for a biblical, Spirit-filled revival which will exalt Christ, bless His church, and change the world! □

*Dr. Adolph Braun is senior pastor of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, California. The article was reprinted by permission from "The Sunkist Vision," June 1987.*

## Revival and the Expansion of God's Kingdom

by Harold Schroeder

On the overseas mission fields of the world today, there are an estimated 80,000 Protestant missionaries, more than at any other time. Evangelical missions today use more technology, including computers, helicopters, radio, video, television, films, and even satellite transmissions, to spread the gospel than ever before.

But in spite of the technology, methods, and manpower that the church has employed in fulfilling the Great Commission, we are falling behind! Over half the world's five billion people have never heard the full gospel message of Jesus Christ. And the world's population is increasing at a faster rate than the rate of those coming under the lordship of Christ. If those still living in their sins are going to hear and receive the gospel message, it will not be because of our present efforts. Fulfilling the Great Commission in our generation will require a radically different approach to mission based on a renewed understanding of the missionary endeavor and on a fresh outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the global church in revival.

### A Battle of Two Kingdoms

At the heart of the missionary endeavor is the recognition that the spread of the reign of Jesus Christ in the world involves the battle of two spiritual kingdoms. Spreading the reign of Jesus Christ requires the invasion, penetration, and pushing back of the kingdom of darkness by the kingdom of light.

The battle is gradually won as God's people enter the arena of war—the spiritual realm—in prayer for those still living in bondage to sin in that other kingdom. It is won as God's people recognize the

authority and power of Jesus Christ over all angels, authorities, and powers; go forth in His name to fight a spiritual battle; and claim the victory. It is won as sinners repent and come under the lordship of the King of kings.

### Revival Breeds Evangelism

Reaching the unreached in the world today requires more than a renewed understanding of spiritual warfare and more than an army of "prayers." The urgent need of the hour is for God's people to seek the Lord's face in humble repentance and pray for a revival in their own lives and in the church that will result in a host of Spirit-filled and Spirit-led believers being thrust out into the world to expand God's kingdom.

**"The urgent need of the hour is for God's people to seek the Lord's face in humble repentance and pray for a revival in their own lives and church that will result in Spirit-filled and led believers being thrust out into the world to expand God's Kingdom."**

Revival is not evangelism. Revival breeds evangelism. Revival is a cleansing of God's people already in the church, resulting in many being empowered for evangelism outside the church. Revival is never intended merely for the believer's personal edification, but rather that all peoples of the world should be blessed by God.

Revival carries a high price. As God reveals Himself in all His holiness to His people, it leads them

to humble confession and repentance from sin. Revival involves seeking forgiveness from and reconciliation with others. It involves change as one adopts a life-style of holy living and obedience to the standards of God's kingdom. The result is a life purified and empowered for service by the Holy Spirit. With a renewed sense of joy and the overwhelming presence of the Lord, the believer goes forth seeking the expansion of God's kingdom.

### A Call to Prayer for Revival

History teaches us that every movement of revival was first preceded by a movement of prayer among God's people. Such a movement is sweeping the world today. In North America, God's people are joining in local churches and in city-wide Concerts of Prayer to seek the Lord's face for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit. Some come together monthly, others more frequently. Some accompany their prayers with fasting. We must note this movement of God's Spirit and seek to align ourselves with His agenda for the church and the world.

If the Spirit of God is creating a thirst and a longing for revival in your heart, join the multitude of those already praying not merely for a revival touching one or two continents as in the past, but for a sweeping global revival and a subsequent harvest of billions of souls! This is the need of the hour. This is my prayer. By the grace of God, may it be yours as well. □

*The Rev. Harold Schroeder of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently completed a three year-term as an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving in Buea, Cameroon, West Africa.*

### A true local church...

**is a congregation of baptized believers "Called out" from the world to live as Jesus Christ taught...**

**governs itself according to the Bible; pays its own bills... regards Christ as the Head...**

**gathers regularly for worship, prayer, teaching, preaching, fellowship, and business...**

**chooses leaders according to scriptural standards and purpose...**

**trusts in the Spirit of God for power and guidance...**

**teaches what Jesus taught... takes care of its own problems... and obeys Christ's commission.**



# California Baptists Serve in Brazil

by Patrick Fulks

A group of 18 highly diverse individuals representing five different North American Baptist Conference churches gathered at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, California, on January 11, 1987, to prepare for a cross-cultural experience in Torres, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

The groundwork for this adventure began in July 1986, and the preparation period, which began in January, continued until "Blast Off Day," Friday, March 20, 1987. This preparation, or training period, consisted of filing for passports and visas, getting the proper immunizations, developing some skills in construction, and planning a program for child evangelism.

Perhaps more important during this 10-week preparation period was the bonding that took place between the team members. We began to feel the camaraderie and unity of purpose necessary for any successful team.

## The Team Players

Allow me to introduce to you some of the team players:

**Pat Fulks** - Director of World Outreach at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, was the primary organizer and motivator for this group. His six years in Nepal were invaluable for giving guidance to team members especially in the areas of passports and visa forms, as well as blazing trails through the concrete jungles of international airports.

**Terry Jorgensen** - A giant, soft-spoken man with a heart for God, led the team in the area of construction and building skills.

**Lura Caswell** - Headed up the women's Child Evangelism Program with the strong support from the four other women on the Brazil '87 team.

## Major Team Tasks

The three major tasks of this team were to build the parsonage for the

national pastor who would be heading up the ministry at Torres; to give children a first time opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Child Evangelism Program headed up by the women; and to grow in Christ through this cross-cultural experience.

The building of the parsonage behind the existing Baptist Church in Torres was necessary in order to make it economically feasible for a national pastor, fresh out of seminary, to lead the small flock of existing believers. This project is the last major step in Missionaries Ken and Jerilyn Bayer's four-year term in Torres that ends in November of this year. Their objective was to plant a church in Torres during this their first term there; this they did.

The Brazil team was blessed with the opportunity of working with four nationals, skilled in the area of masonry. The nationals, originally wary of the multi-diverse, semi-talented group of North Americans, eyed suspiciously the methods employed by our laborers and desperately tried to give us insight in-



Leroy Caswell and Dale Cundall make progress on the parsonage wall.

to their profession. Unfortunately, Portuguese was foreign to our ears. However, our hearts were in tune. Through pointing, shaking, and nodding, we made progress in communication and steps toward friendship. By the end of the three weeks, we had bonded into mutual respect and admiration for one another. We truly believe they saw a common loving spirit within us, in spite of our differences in years, talents, and interests.

The actual construction of the parsonage, consisting of three bedrooms, one bath, living room, kitchen, and washroom, was nearly all completed by our departure date. Walls were constructed, and all electrical and plumbing work was completed. The rafters were built, and the roof intact. The windows, doors, and plastering were in progress when we left.

The child outreach and evangelism program consisted of two meetings per day for five consecutive days. The meetings were held at the church in Torres in the afternoons. This was followed by evening meetings in the village, five miles to the west. An average of 60 children per day attended the afternoon meetings, followed by an average of 45 children in the villages. The women prepared a different craft for each day, spiritual songs, and Bible stories with a strong Gospel emphasis for each of the five meetings.

Lura Caswell, the women's group organizer, delegated the responsibility of crafts to Tammy Provost who created crafts with a biblical emphasis. This was a highlight for many of the children, especially the village children who are poorer than those in Torres and who had little exposure to the simple pleasures of creating with bright new materials.

On the first day of crafts, the children made large paper crowns, which by the end of the week were decorated with multicolored stars for their faithfulness in attendance, bringing friends, and memorizing Scrip-

ture. Some of the other craft projects included making the "Wordless Book" along with the story of the Gospel that goes along with the "Wordless Book." They also created puzzles out of popsicle sticks and made "God's eyes" out of yarn. The children were enthralled by these simple projects.

Songs were led by Missionary Jerilyn Bayer with accompaniment on the guitar by Jona Eve, a young Brazilian Christian girl. The children's voices echoed the praises of God with enthusiasm, loudly proclaiming His mighty works. As the children sang in Portuguese, it was evident to all that God was honored, and the children truly enjoyed themselves. Bible story time was led by Loreen Sandford in Torres and by Kathy Jantz in the village. The children sat spellbound, many hearing these stories for the first time.

The American Team, as we called ourselves, struggled the first week primarily with our new surroundings and culture. The sounds, sight, and foods, all new and unfamiliar, had a way of wearying and unnerving us.

The second week, we struggled primarily with one another, trying to find our niche within this team of 18 people. Melancholics and choleric clashed in their temperamental differences, while phlegmatics spurred by sanguines resolved their differences with a shrug and a smile. Bonding in Christian love often is preceded by a period of strife, confession, and humbling.

By the third week, we were feeling more at home in Brazil and with each other. Our influence upon the town of Torres was very positive. During this third week, we threw a party for all of those in Torres who were very helpful to us. Our hotel staff, Argentine vacationers, construction workers, church members, business clerks, and personnel all showed up for tea and sweets. Cal Erickson, our electrician, gave his testimony, which was followed by a time of fellowship



Construction leader Terry Jorgensen (standing) and electrician Cal Erickson begin placing the rafters on the parsonage.

that lasted for over one hour.

The good-byes were bittersweet, and the impact we left upon them we feel was honoring to God. Only He knows for sure the lasting results. The impact the Brazilians left upon us was life-changing. We, the Brazil Team of '87, are indebted to those of you who made it possible for us to experience these three weeks with new people in a fascinating land. Thank you for the honor of representing Christ on your behalf and for the opportunity to grow. □



Marcus Rabenhorst gives the team a quick lesson in Portuguese at Los Angeles Airport. Marcus, as a missionary kid who has lived his life in Brazil, was excited to have this opportunity to accompany the team.



# The Bittersweet Taste of Failure

by Jake Leverette



Failure is defined by Webster, among other things, as "lack of success, failure to perform, falling short, deficiency." None of us wants to experience failure, but occasionally we do. Then we begin to question, probe, search, and seek for answers.

"Is this failure my fault? Didn't I work hard enough? Maybe I didn't pray enough. It must be my fault; no one else is responsible." Such doubts and fears become a daily exercise. Self-justification becomes important. What are others going to think? To say?

Sixteen months ago, my wife and I moved to Orlando, Florida, to continue the work started by Bernard Fritzsche, to plant a church in this community. We began the work with confidence that this was the will of God. He had opened the door and given us indication of His leading. I came with assurance that a church could be planted. Piece of cake! After all, Orlando is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.S.A. If a man couldn't begin a work in Orlando, he was lazy, inept, not called of God. (I had secretly thought that of other men in similar situations who did not experience success. If I were there....!) I was called of God; I wasn't lazy; and I did not feel inept. This work would go.

Others added their voices of confidence. "Jake will make it go." "If anybody can build a church in Orlando, Jake can." I had to prove they were right; so with a vengeance, I began. Hundreds and hundreds of doors were knocked on; hundreds of follow-up calls were made; hundreds of phone calls were made; and letters mailed. (There I go, justifying myself.)

Many people said, "We are going to come. You will see us." Each Sunday came with a new anticipa-

tion of visitors. After all, they said they were coming! Each Sunday ended with a sinking feeling of failure.

One Sunday as I drove home following a service, I was feeling very low. "Lord, there were only 17 in church today, only 17 to minister to." It was as if God said to me, "Quit your complaining, I spent three years with only 12." Lord, forgive me!

Week by week, I agonized over a sense of failure. I prayed and wept before God. I ached and hurt. I was letting the Conference down; I was letting those who believed in me and prayed for me down. More than all of that, I must be letting the Lord down. Lord, help me!

And He did. The bitterness of failure become sweet in a new sense of fellowship with the Lord. It was not easy. "Lord, forgive me for pride, a critical spirit, an unloving and unsupportive attitude. Lord, forgive me where I have been secretly critical of my brethren when they did not succeed."

God, in His loving mercy, undergirded me and strengthened me. I came to a new place of com-

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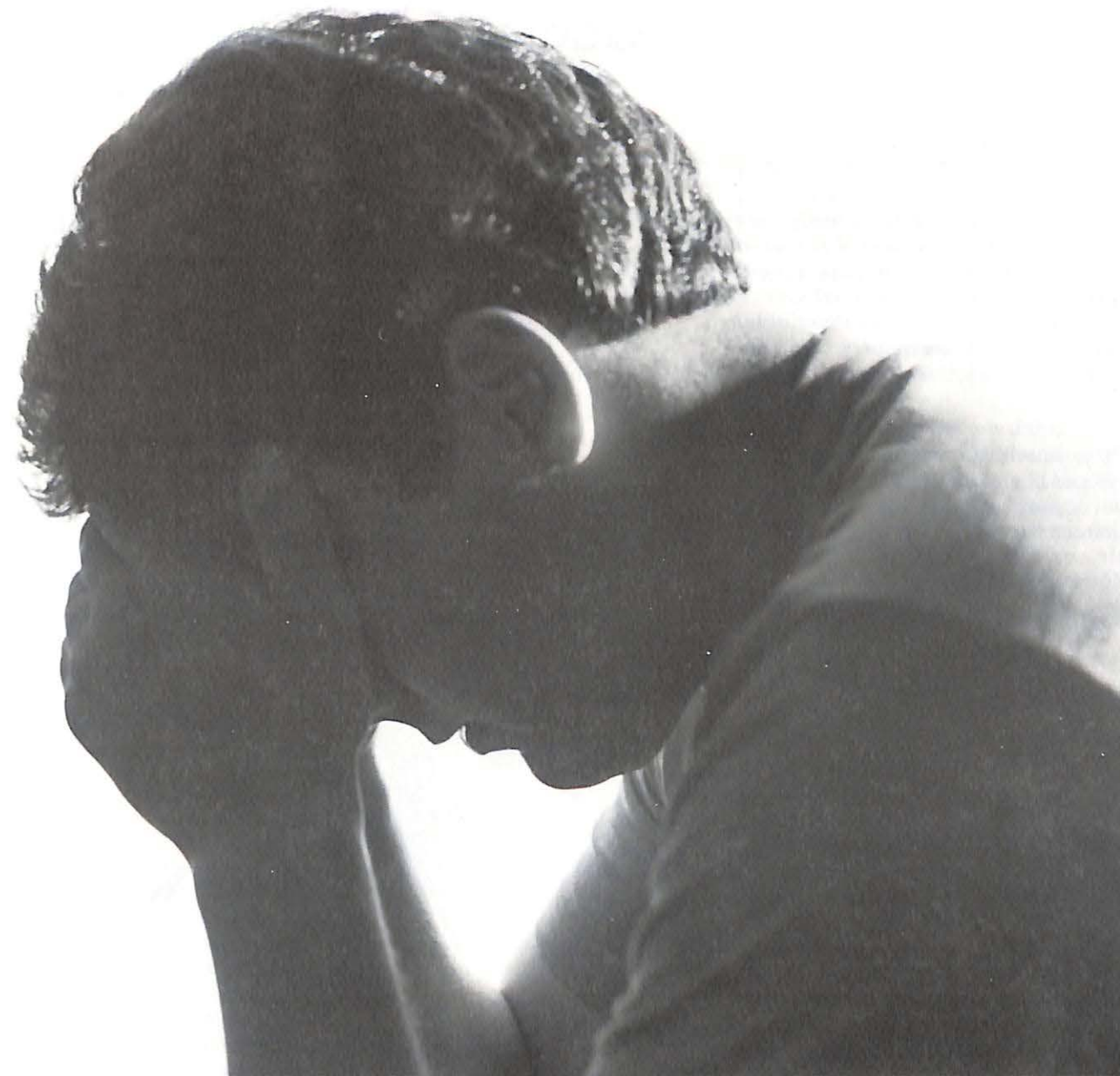
**"Week by week, I agonized over a sense of failure. I prayed and wept before God. I ached and hurt. I was letting the Conference down; I was letting those who believed in me and prayed for me down. More than all of that, I must be letting the Lord down. Lord, help me!"**

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passion for others and love for my Lord. The bitter turned sweet.

So, after 16 months of work by Bernard and Lorraine Fritzsche and 16 months of work by Peggy and me, the decision has been made to close the work in Orlando. Has this effort been a total failure? If judged solely by normal standards of success and failure, yes. But is that true? No! Several people have accepted Christ as their Saviour. One man, a new convert, has grown spiritually by leaps and bounds. Our Conference has a new understanding of the ministry in Florida. We have been able to determine that certain areas, though growing rapidly, may not be open to us because of many circumstances. Beyond all of that, Peggy and I have grown spiritually, have a new sense of commitment, new desires, as well as a new appreciation of each other and others. God gave many of you an opportunity to care for us, support us, and love us. Some of you have been great spiritual friends and lovingly admonished. What a sweet experience.

Now Peggy and I will move to Boca Raton, Florida, to pastor Evangel Baptist Church. I will also continue working for the Conference as advisor to our Florida pastors and churches. I am grateful for the ministry. It has been a blessing. It is with joyful expectation of the Lord's blessing that we again move. We believe God is leading, and our earnest desire is to glorify Him. This bittersweet experience has been difficult but a blessing at the same time. Please continue to pray for us and the ministry of the North American Baptist Conference in Florida. Remember also the promise of God to all of us in I Thessalonians 5:24, "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."



Hampel Photo

## Postscript:

In May, the congregation was informed that our work in Orlando was closing.

Many times in the past months I have asked, why here, Lord? Yesterday, God answered that question. One woman said to me, as the tears flowed down her cheeks, "I know why God sent you here. He sent you to save my marriage." Both she and her husband accepted Christ, but there were drug and alcohol problems

and a very shaky marriage. Through prayer, counseling, and encouragement by both pastor and people, the marriage has become stabilized.

After the business meeting was closed, one of the men prayed, "Thank you, Lord, for this ministry where we have seen the strength and grace of God evident, where in difficulty there has been joy, where what has been preached has been lived, where I have been able to say to my children, 'you have seen people of

God. Follow their example."

There were tears of sorrow that this particular work would be no more, but there was also commitment to continue serving the Lord. There is a chorus which says, "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me." That truth is real today. Thank you Lord for this bittersweet experience and for the encouragement to my life out of it. —Jake Leverette



# Pornography Is... Dangerous to Our Society's Health

by Rubin Herrmann

The current U.S. constitutionally permissible definition of obscenity has been adopted in 1973 as a result of the Miller vs. California case. Material is obscene if all three of the following conditions are met:

- 1) The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest (in sex); and
- 2) The work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state (or federal) law; and
- 3) The work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Those who favor greater leniency and liberal interpretations toward pornographic distribution often characterize Christians as being anti-life or killjoys in our society. However, the opposite holds true.

## Pornography is...

**Anti-Life.** To reject pornography is not to be negative toward life. Pornography is nihilistic, reductionist, and destructive. Since pornography is a negative influence in society and in personal lives, then actively countering such a force is positive. One need not apologize for being against pornography. We proclaim love not lust; we reject anything less than life, and the best for men and women made in God's image.

**Anti-Family.** Marriage is ridiculed, promiscuity promoted, homosexual relationships glamorized, and group sex and even torture and bestiality endorsed or made to appear acceptable or normal. All through its obsession with sexual function, pornography carefully avoids any recognition of the true value of family relationships.

**Anti-Human.** By its preoccupation with organs and functions, pornography departs from the representation of real people. Stories lack plots with character; pictures portray anatomy often without the face whereby a human being might be identified. Thus, a subhuman or dehumanization of persons is portrayed through pornography. In some instances, pornography



presents sexual acts with animals as if they could be simply another variety of human experience. In Leviticus 18:23, such acts are condemned as "perversion."

**Anti-Woman.** The outright degradation and humiliation of women are the central themes of pornographic stories and pictures. Women are often victimized and treated as sex objects, disposable creatures, used, then abused, and then discarded in favor of another. Jesus was very explicit in Matthew 5:28 about lustful thought. One needs to alert people to the dangers of promiscuity expressed in fantasy, as well as in behavior, which strikes at the core of pornography.

**Anti-Children.** Pornography tends to create an environment which is inimical to the psychological and moral development of children. It promotes a sexualization of all relationships, so that it has virtually become almost impossible for adults to meet, hitchhikers to ride, or women to be out alone without the situation being construed as an opportunity for physical sex. Thus, children are developing the wrong view of sex and of proper human relationship by cheapening it through misconceptions about sex. Many children are bombarded with adult sexual images long before they are emotionally prepared. Even worse, a sizeable number are more grossly exploited as models and prostitutes, as victims of incest and child

molesters. Of the pornographic magazines published monthly in the United States, 275 deal with child pornography.

A Committee in New York which investigated the effects of TV on children found that in the last three years since TV has taken over, crime among children has increased 400 percent. One million children age 16 years to less than 6 months are filmed or photographed while being raped.

**Anti-Sex.** To reject pornography is to take a stand for sex as a special way of expressing and deepening interpersonal commitment in marriage. Pornography fails to understand sex as a sacred gift intended for joy, intimacy, and deep fulfillment in a loving, lasting marriage relationship. Instead, it makes a public spectacle of what should be intimate, private acts. It takes what should be deeply personal and exploits it commercially, thereby denying the dignity and spirituality of sex.

**Anti-Social.** Defenders of pornography will argue that the decision to read or see it is a private matter, of no concern to anyone else. Yet all the indications are that use of pornography has social repercussions. Evidence is accumulating about individuals whose anti-social behavior (including sex crimes and crimes of violence) has been triggered by pornography. The result is tragic not only for the victims but also for all of society. Availability of pornography is strongly implicated as one of the factors in the corruption of society.

**Anti-Environment.** It is paradoxical and illogical to become angry at pollution of the natural environment and remain unmoved at the tawdry, garish, obscene, and embarrassing display of pornography not only on newsstands but also now infiltrating our homes through TV and computer games, which affects our minds and condemns our souls.

Long before the evidence demonstrates all the ill effects of pornography in our society, we may respond sensitively to the creeping pornographic pollution which threatens to stifle conscience and corrupt

behavior. A study released by the University of New Hampshire in 1983 showed that the states with the highest readership of pornographic magazines—i.e. *Playboy*, *Hustler*, etc., also have the highest rape rate.

**Anti-Community.** A whole new multi-billion dollar industry has developed to supply the ever-increasing demand for pornography. Because it panders to human weakness, exploiting authors, models, publishers, retailers, and customers alike, it has largely fallen into the hands of syndicated crime. Through close association with drugs and prostitution, a whole criminal subculture has begun to flourish. Inevitably, bribery of law enforcement officers, corruption in high places, and violence against those who speak out have become commonplace where pornography prevails. This writer interviewed Sister Gabriel living in the Midway area of St. Paul, Minnesota. She related several instances where she ministered to prostitutes who readily admit that there is a direct relation between pornography and drugs. She likewise pointed out that wherever X-rated theatres or adult bookstores were located, the crime rate rose remarkably, and the real estate fell appreciably. This simply means that pornography is a detriment to any community.

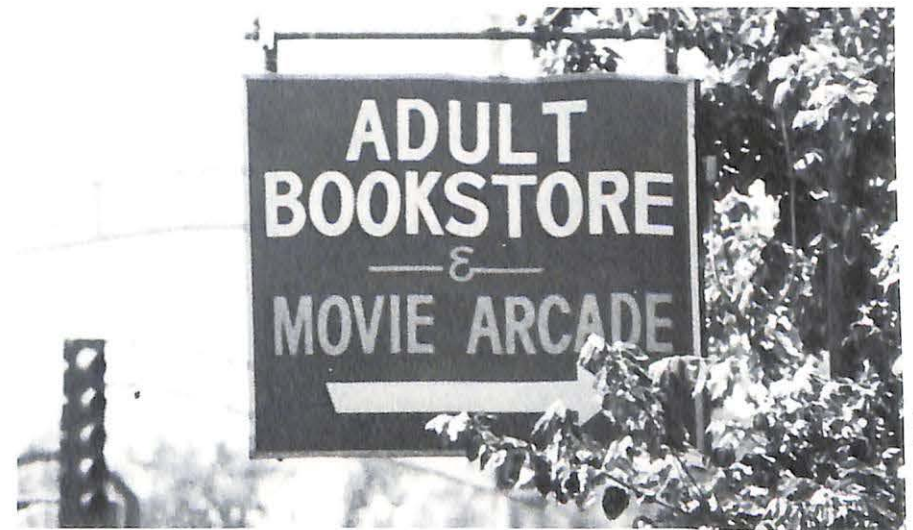
**Anti-Culture.** Much debate has arisen over the assertion, made by its

defenders, that pornography deserves the same protection as fine art and literature. One of the hallmarks of art is that it ennobles and enriches; whereas pornography typically degrades and destroys basic human values.

One of the strongest objections to pornography is that it not only presents a distorted and false view of the world but also of man's basic behavior. Over the past two decades, the pornography industry has aggressively marketed four messages, which have been cloned and marketed even more aggressively by motion picture producers, TV programmers and advertising executives: 1) that sexual repression is unhealthy; 2) that regressive fantasy and promiscuity is healthy; 3) that sexual deviance, including homosexuality, is not deviant; and 4) that mature love is not sophisticated.

Promiscuity, homosexuality, drug-enhanced sadomasochism, and sex with children are frequently advanced by those who market sexual deviance as being more spiritually enlightened and fulfilling types of relationships than heterosexuality in the context of marriage. Unchallenged, these messages have snowballed. They have been accepted, often uncritically, by a wide audience of young and old alike. Certainly these false views come from the father of lies himself, and we are obligated to expose them as such.

(Continued on next page.)



"Wherever X-rated theaters or adult book stores were located, the crime rate rose remarkably and the real estate fell appreciably."

Hampel Photo



**Anti-Conscience.** It is by conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, that we become aware of the moral law of God and distinguish good from evil and right from wrong. Just as through constant exposure to violence in the media, people lose sensitivity to real violence, so too, our conscience can be blunted by pervasive pornography. We soon begin to accept the idea that people may be used as objects and that sex may be used indiscriminately. When we cease to care about the abuse of sexuality, we soon cease to care about other social problems as well, such as injustice and poverty. Not only does pornography blunt the conscience of those who read or observe the materials and make them more violent and brazen, but also those who produce the pornography do it primarily for the large sums of money it brings them, even at the cost of destroying human lives.

**Anti-God.** Pornography is completely opposed to the teachings of the Bible and what Jesus taught about purity and love. He taught that if a person looked upon a person to lust that it was equivalent to the act itself (Matthew 5:28). Purity of thought in which we honor and respect the Lord and revere Him is so basic in Scripture. Some pornography has actually desecrated the person of Jesus Himself—desecrating by obscenity and blasphemy with the purpose of ridiculing Christian beliefs. The hate and anger directed against women and children in so much pornography is also vented against God Himself.

### The Effects of Pornography on Behavior

Victor Cline, a clinical psychologist and professor of psychology at the University of Utah, furnished two lines of research and evidence which clearly suggest personal and psychological harm when individuals immerse themselves in pornography.

First, a great deal of research has been conducted in the last seven years studying the effects of exposure to "aggressive" pornography, that is the mission of sex and violence. This type of pornography is seen most often in the R-rated "slasher" films, primarily



showing females being attacked, raped, knifed, and sexually brutalized by male assailants. It has been found that men, in particular, who consume this material (in movie houses, on cable TV, or on video-cassettes) are 1) aroused sexually and aggressively; 2) tend to increase their aggressive attitudes and behavior; 3) have an increased production of aggressive rape fantasies; 4) are more accepting of such rape myths as "women ask for it"; 5) have a lessened sensitivity about rape and an increased callousness toward women; 6) admit an increased possibility of themselves raping someone, especially if they think they can get away with it.

The other line of evidence deals with "non-aggressive" pornography—that which excludes rape and violence but graphically depicts all other forms of sex. Massive exposure to this kind of pornography was found to 1) desensitize the viewers to the material's breaking of sexual taboos, causing the viewers to become more accepting of it and much less concerned about its negative effects; 2) cause the viewers to regard rape as a more trivial offense, with men particularly showing major increases of sexual callousness toward women; 3) increase the viewer's loss of compassion for women as rape victims. In a sense, then, this kind of pornography as male entertainment promotes the victimization of women. Pornography nearly always disturbs the individual's marriage or psychological equilibrium. F.B.I. statistics reveal that 70 percent of recreational killers feed on pornography.

Pornography has become a public

safety issue. One needs but to look at sexually transmitted diseases that are rampant in North America today. AIDS is a central concern when one realizes that there were only nine cases in 1979, but by 1984 there were 14,000 victims and 7,157 deaths, and at present, it is doubling every six months according to *Time* magazine's October 28, 1985, issue. Medical specialists claim that if no cure is found and measures are not taken to halt its spread, by 1990 the number of victims will equal to one 747 plane load crashing every day. By 1996 one-half of our population would be infected.

Corrie ten Boom has an intriguing illustration. She says if she were to straighten the pictures on the walls of your home, she is committing no sin. But suppose that your house were afire, and she still went calmly about straightening pictures, what would you say? Would you think her merely stupid or very wicked? The world is on fire with pornographic materials. What are we doing to extinguish the fire?

Christians need to be adamantly marshalled against the current mistaken perception that the product of the producers of pornography represents tolerable and acceptable norms for our society or that it is victimless or harmless. If people really believe that children should not be bought and sold, used, abused, and then discarded, they should see that the laws are enforceable and enforced. Moral outrage isn't enough. Something must be done to put out the fire that is consuming us as a nation.

Pray earnestly as Jesus taught in Matthew 5:44, "for those who despitefully use you;" become alert and informed; speak up; use your influence; and write letters to your government officials—local, state, national—as well as to editors of local papers. The battle against smut can be won if God's people will unitedly stand against this evil and take appropriate action.

The Rev. Rubin Herrmann is senior pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.



## General Council Meets, Adopts 1988 Budget

The General Council meeting June 4 and 5 in Rosemont, Illinois, to conduct the business of the North American Baptist Conference, expressed concern over the increase in giving to the Growth Budget, (formerly known as special projects) over against the lack of increase in giving for the Basic Mission and Ministries Budget that funds the major mission and ministries which our churches do together as a Conference.

In addressing the General Council, Milton Hildebrandt, treasurer of the Conference, stated: "Our people continue to be really committed to Conference ministries." Hildebrandt noted that in 1986, we reached 98.6 percent of the Basic Mission and Ministry Budget. He commended the Department Directors for exercising cost control so that expenses were held to \$47,000 below the adjusted budget goal in 1986. This was done through reducing some planned programs and deferring others.

"1986 was the year of the Growth Budget," said Hildebrandt, "as this had the largest giving to special projects in the history of the Conference, with a 62 percent increase. Giving to special projects has doubled over the past three years. This represents a fundamental change in our philosophy. On the positive side, this budget gives people opportunities to give toward a project of special interest to them. On the other hand, how will this affect the giving to the Basic Budget in the future? We have met the Basic Budget in only four out of thirteen years."

In his report to the General Council, Executive Director John Binder said: "I rejoice that total giving for various Conference ministries increased by eight percent; even though basic budget giving increased by only one and one-half percent. My major concern is the lack of growth in the Conference membership for two years in a row. It should be obvious that we, as individuals, need a renew-

ed commitment to reach the lost, discover more effective methods or approaches of evangelism through our churches and make planting more new churches a much higher priority in our Conference. At the same time, I also hope we will gain a renewed global vision to do our part in reaching the 17,000 unreached peoples around the world. There are some who believe this is a possibility by the year 2000. That could be an exciting adventure."

**"Our people continue to be really committed to Conference ministries"**

—Milton Hildebrandt, treasurer

The General Council's responsibility is to act between Triennial Conference sessions by making appointments of some directors and committees and approving and setting goals and budget.

### Council Makes Appointments

The General Council made the following appointments:

**Church Growth Director:** The Rev. David Samf, effective October 1, 1987, to fill the unexpired term for this position, subject to election for a three-year term at the Triennial Conference in Calgary in 1988.

**Committee on Constitutional Changes (1988):** Stanley Johnson, chair; Douglas Bleeker, Peter Fehr, Barbara Fiegas, Al Peter, and Ernie Radke.

**Triennial Conference Resolutions Committee (1988):** Gordon Unger,

chair; Douglas Bittle; Fred Jantz; Jackie Loewer; Phyllip Putz; and Marilyn Schaer.

**Pension Task Force:** David Dykstra to replace DeForest Bullock.

**Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs:** Dr. Marvin Faust, Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, and Dr. Willis Potratz. (Dr. Stan Grenz and Dr. John Binder are presently serving.)

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Richard Russell and Mr. Al Friesen replacing Mr. Kurt Frers and Mr. Ed Streuber.

**North American Baptist Seminary Board:** Rev. Ron Norman to fill out the unexpired term (until the Triennial Conference) of the Rev. Phil Yntema, who resigned from the Board.

The Council reappointed Dr. Willis Potratz as Area Ministries Director/Associate Executive Director to June 30, 1989, and Mr. Robert Mayforth as Financial Services Director to August 31, 1990.

### Council Approves Goal of \$4,900,000 for 1988

The goal of \$4,900,000 was adopted by the General Council for the 1988 Basic Mission and Ministry Budget with an operating budget of \$4,775,000. This includes \$1,972,591 for missions, \$1,175,315 for church growth, \$913,800 for education, and \$539,532 for Conference services. Included also in this budget is \$173,162 for interest and exchange.

It was pointed out that the bulk of the Basic Mission and Ministry Budget contains dollars for ministries, not heat, light, and buildings.

"We need a lot of money to fund the 1988 Budgets. Therefore, we need your help," Finance Committee Chairman Ed Sardachuk of Calgary told the Council members. "If we could convince our people (churches) to give monthly to the Basic Budget, we would not have to end up in a panic at the end of the year."



## New Churches Fund Proposal Adopted

In speaking in favor of the New Churches Fund Proposal, Associate Director Bernard Fritzsche emphasized, "This is a big, bold step forward. The United States and Canada are the world's fourth largest mission field with 70 percent of people in the U.S.A. not attending any kind of worship service anywhere and in Canada, it is 57 percent. Church planting is an effective means of evangelism."

The Council adopted the New Churches Fund Proposal designed to double our Conference church planting efforts in Canada and the U.S.A. The giving for this Fund would be over and above the monies given to plant churches through the basic budget. Funds will be expended only after they are received. The churches planted through the New Churches Fund will be based on a new model and approach in church planting; these will be planted in fast-growing communities and will be expected to become self-supporting in one to three years. The Task Force for the New Churches Fund included in their report to the Council how planters would be selected and funds raised. The concept of this new way to start new churches was approved by the delegates at the 41st Triennial Conference meeting in Anaheim, California, in 1985.

## Highest Growth Budget Goal Adopted

Although several members of the Council raised the question of prioritizing the items in the growth budget (formerly special projects) over and above the basic missions and ministries budget in light of the fact that it is growing steadily, the Council, when it came time to vote, adopted the goal of \$2,478,478 without any changes.

Rev. Fred Merke of Toronto asked, "What do we do when we are



*"While serving the Lord and our denomination this past year, I have acquired a greater sense of appreciation for each and every one of our people and the role they play in the ministry God has entrusted to us." —Moderator Ernie Radke*

asked to support a missionary through the growth budget, and our church says, 'Let's reduce our giving to the basic budget to give to this special project?'"

"On the other hand, our people respond to other appeals coming daily through the mail that are from organizations not connected with our Conference missions or ministries, so we give these people opportunities to choose projects from the Growth Budget," stated Dr. John Binder.

The Growth Budget includes \$867,000 for missions, \$316,478 for church growth; \$325,000 for the College and Divinity School; \$530,000 for the Seminary; \$75,000 for General Council; and \$365,000 for Area Ministries.

In the missions section of this growth budget is a new short-term youth-in-mission program to be started in 1988. This program will provide training and outreach opportunities for the youth of our Conference for ministry at home and overseas.

It is to be noted that the amount for the College, the Divinity School, and the Seminary in the Growth Budget are the school's annual fund goals, which they set themselves and which they raise to supplement the funds received through the Con-

ference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget.

## Decision Regarding Baptist in Church Name

The General Council approved a recommendation by the Church Growth Board concerning the use of the word "Baptist" in the name of new churches. This Board had appointed a task force in 1986 to study the question raised by some new churches as to whether or not a new church could omit the word "Baptist" in their name if the area in which they were located did not have a positive view toward Baptists because of past circumstances. The recommendation approved was "that a new church planted by the Association Church Extension Committee and the Conference Church Growth Department would continue to have the word "Baptist" in the name of the church.



*Dr. John Binder congratulates President J. Walter Goltz, (right), during the program at the General Council dinner for earning a Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta. His thesis dealt with the factors related to marital commitment. Dr. Goltz is President of the North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta. He will be providing articles on marriage and family life beginning with the January/February issue of the Baptist Herald.*

"In projects where there is a desire to leave the word 'Baptist' out of a church name, the local project is expected to make the case to the Association Church Extension Committee and to the Association Executive Committee. The Association, in concurrence with the staff of the Church Growth Department, is authorized to act regarding exceptions.

"When exceptions are made, it must be with the following requirements: (1) That the following historic Baptist distinctives be affirmed by the church: (a) God's Word - sole authority for faith and practice; (b) Soul liberty; (c) Priesthood of believers; (d) Believers baptism by immersion; (e) Two ordinances - Lord's Supper and baptism; (f) Autonomy and interdependence of local church; and (g) Congregational form of government. (2) That there be a clear identification of affiliation with the North American Baptist Conference stated in their constitution and Articles of Incorporation. (3) That there be a clear identification of affiliation with the North American Baptist Conference in public communication and an affirmation of the Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference. (4) That the Church Growth Department staff monitor new projects and conduct a long-term study to determine any positive or negative trends that may emerge from the decision to include or not include the name Baptist in the church name.

"It is intended that this data be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this procedure."

## Other Business

In other business, the General Council approved the 1988 Objectives and Standard Operating Procedures of the departments in principle.



*The General Council studies the 1988 Basic Mission and Ministry Budget.*

*Helwig Photo*

- Approved that steps be taken to initiate membership with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. This hinges on all Canadian Associations voting positively at their annual meetings to join. If the actions are positive, the decision will be reviewed in two years subject to reports by the representatives and the five Associations.

- Granted permission to the North American Baptist College and the North American Baptist Divinity School to become a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

- Gave approval to the North American Baptist Seminary to conduct a feasibility study for a Seminary Major Fund Drive with the assumption that before it is fully launched the report will be brought before the Executive Committee in February 1988 for further input.

- Approved the recommendation that the Growth Budget contributions be assessed a charge of 18.1 percent for Cooperative Ministries (Basic Mis-

sion and Ministry Budget) effective January 1, 1988.

- Approved a new format for the North American Baptist Seminary Board of Trustees consisting of eight elected clergy, eight elected laypersons, and eight persons-at-large appointed by the General Council. This has been referred to the Constitutional Change Committee.

- Approved that the North American Baptist Conference constitution include a statement regarding the composition and election of the Church Growth Board as currently stated in the Policies and Procedures document of the Church Growth Department.

- Approved that a change be made in the North American Baptist Conference constitution whereby the Church Growth Board would recommend a nominee to be appointed by the General Council as Director of Church Growth subject to ratification by the delegates to the Triennial Conference. This was referred to the Constitutional Change Committee. □



# Prison Ministry— “The Medicine Hat Support Group”

by Vi Tilleman

**“I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to see Me” (Matthew 25:31).**

A desire and burden to fulfill the commission of Christ and much prayer led Barb Salvatore, now Executive Director of our local John Howard Society, and me to begin an inter-church group to visit prison inmates and be in contact with their families. This vision became reality in September 1983, when a self-supporting group of people known as the “Medicine Hat Support Group” began to visit the Lethbridge Correctional Centre, 100 miles from Medicine Hat. Although we visit every week, we are divided into two groups so that each group visits on alternate weeks.

We just want to be a friend and a support to these inmates. During our visits, sometimes we are asked, “What are Christians? Tell me something about Christians.” This gives an opening for witnessing. Although we are not allowed to bring anything in with us, Bibles are available in the chapel for the inmates use as well as ours. We also leave books such as *Twice Pardoned*, *Woman on Death Row*, and Colson’s books at the desk when we enter. Inmates can pick them up there. Through the grapevine, the people in the correctional institution know we are Christians.

Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., we leave from Temple Baptist Church, visit at the institution from 7 to 9 p.m., and arrive home at 11 p.m. Our visits are announced over the intercom. Any inmate on minimum or medium security is allowed to visit with us in the chapel.

Although we are a Christian group, we do not go there to preach. We are there to build a bridge of friendship.

By building this bridge, the topic of Christianity generally comes up.

We work in cooperation with the John Howard Society and the Probation Department. We also make referrals to groups, such as the A.A.D.A.C. and A.A., through the John Howard Society when required.

Recently, we began visiting at the Lakeside Correctional Centre, a halfway house beside the Lethbridge Correctional Centre, and in August will begin to visit a new Remand Centre in Medicine Hat. The Remand Centre is a place where people are held until their court cases are heard or for short-term confinement. We are also involved in setting up a group, similar to ours, in the city of Lethbridge.

Endeavoring to fulfill Christ’s commission in Matthew 25, we are finding this ministry to be very rewarding and an excellent form of outreach to inmates and families. We are thankful to our Lord and Saviour for this opportunity of service. To God be the glory. Lives have been touched, and lives have been changed.



Left to right, sitting: Brian, Dana, Drew, and Janice Dmytro; Standing, left to right: Virginia and Stuart Battye

## Excerpts of Letters from Inmates and Ex-inmates Touched by Ministry

“It is two years since I had the privilege of meeting you at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre. We first met in the visitors’ lounge. That was the beginning of my new life. Although you are members of a Christian group, not once did I hear you preach religion or talk same unless that person with whom you were talking to desired to do so. That is the main reason we had and have the trust and confidence in you and your group.

“I remember that evening shortly before my release when you asked me where I was going, and I said I did not know. You gave me your phone number and said that if I ever got to Medicine Hat, to get in touch. In late June 1985, I came to Medicine Hat and contacted you. As I had no place to go, no plans made, you arranged for me to meet with Wynn and Al Wilson. For a time, I lived with them. I also met Roy and Gloria Weiss, who gave me accommodations for several months. All have become special friends.

“Because of you..., I met and married a beautiful young lady, Virginia.

“I have never been a religious person; yet today, I, as does Virginia, look forward to going to Temple Baptist Church every Sunday to share with you, our friends, in the true meaning of God’s love. God loves everyone; there are no exceptions. This to me, proves that the Medicine Hat Support Group is a very vital link in helping others who have been in my position to have hope and to live an honest and better life. Each one of you proves it time after time, in your everyday way of living—quietly, gently, and without seeking self reward. You give in every way possible to others unselfishly. We can only pray and trust that you will be

allowed to continue your good work for a great many years to come.

“From the bottom of my heart, I can only say thank you; everything you have done for me and Virginia will always be deeply appreciated by us.” —Stuart and Virginia Battye

“Two years ago today, my prison sentence was over. I was angry, lonely, and bitter. At 24, my life could have been over because of my attitude and outlook.

“But instead of being over, my life took on a new dimension. The Medicine Hat Support Group was instrumental in my success at changing my life. The group continued to minister to my needs upon my release. They housed me, fed me, and met my physical needs in every way, plus they encouraged, supported, accepted, and loved me. They also awakened a spiritual awareness in me because of how they treated me, not what they said, but what they did.

“On July 19, 1984, I asked Jesus into my life as my personal Saviour, and my life changed. Through the continual love of the Medicine Hat Support Group, I am now an active member of a church, and best of all, a husband and a father of a Christian family. The group has been a total loving and committed asset to my success at discontinuing and not wanting to engage in criminal activity, but in sharing a new life as a respectable member of the community.

“I am now part of the Medicine Hat Support Group, and I offer the inmates what I was offered, unconditional friendship. A lot of the inmates have been able to unload a lot of anger and frustration. This enables them to go back to their cells able to face their role in the prison system. I feel that the Medicine Hat Support Group is an integral part of any inmate’s successful release into the community.” —Brian Dmytro

“I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Medicine Hat Support Group for their support while I was incarcerated.

“It is through their help, love, and understanding that my outlook on life changed; thereby creating a new person in me.

“It goes without saying that this group reaches and uplifts souls; a service of this magnitude is greatly appreciated, and I hope and pray that their work in this field of rehabilitation is continued for many years to come.” —Phil Saint-Cyr

“From personal experience, I realize how valuable this group is. When my husband was an inmate of Lethbridge Correctional Centre, the support group visited both him and me several times. Vi Tilleman also travelled with me to Lethbridge to help me arrange visits with him. The group also took Ron out on his T.A.s when I was unable to do so. In Medicine Hat, they helped me with the storage of his vehicles when I had no place to put them and helped me find a small house to rent.

“These people have a true Christian calling for their ministry. They are a positive step in the re-socialization and rehabilitation of the Lethbridge inmates. The caring and support does not end with the Wednesday night visits but includes T.A.s and after release. These inmates can always count on the group trying to help them turn their lives around if they so desire. Temporary accommodations, a good meal, a pair of jeans, or a shoulder to cry on are all there for the guys and gals. And there are always success stories of men and women turning their lives around and accepting Jesus as their Saviour. Each one of these successes is a reason for the

existence of the group.

“Today, I remain friends with members of the Medicine Hat Support Group.” —Colleen Daley

Vi Tilleman is a member of Temple Baptist Church in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and was the recipient of “Volunteer of the Year Award” at the Lethbridge Correctional Centre in April 1986. Her husband Howard Tilleman as well as Roy and Elroy Weiss are also members of this group. Rev. Wilfred Weick, associate pastor at Temple Baptist Church, is advisor of the group, as well as chairman of the screening committee for the group.

## Tillemans and Weiss Receive Recognition

Howard and Vi Tilleman and Roy Weiss received a plaque for outstanding volunteer service from the Solicitor General of Alberta Correctional Services at a banquet at the Correctional Centre on May 21, 1987. The presentations were made by Jack Davis, assistant deputy minister, Edmonton, and Dennis Dixon, regional director of community corrections.



Part of the Medicine Hat support group: (left to right) Brian Dmytro, Brian Lutz, Rob Kirchner, Vi Tilleman, Howard Tilleman, Ernie Murshcel, Roy Weiss, Ron Richard, Associate Pastor Wilfred Weick, and Win Wilson



**Japanese Woman Finds Christ Through Witness of Christian Couple**

JAPAN. Often Jehovah Witnesses would come to the door of Mrs. Sugino, who lives in a high-rise apartment building with her husband and two young children. Mrs. Sugino was impressed with the eagerness of these people and their aggressiveness. At the same time, she felt a void because she did not have anything to believe in. She almost joined their Bible study, but after seeing the effect it had upon her friend who joined and her friend's attitude, she decided not to join. She felt her friend had become very legalistic, condemning, and argumentative.

During this time, she met a young Christian couple in the same apartment building. They were not selling their faith as aggressively, but she was impressed by their sincerity. One night this young couple, Mrs. Sugino, and her friend sat up all night talking about religion. During this discussion, she realized the difference between salvation by works and salvation by grace.

"As a result," says Missionary Reimer Clausen, "she came seeking to our Baptist Church and found Christ as Savior. At first, her husband was opposed to her going to church. So for a while, she did not attend, but she did attend one of our home Bible studies during the week. Later on, her husband finally consented to her attending church. He realized that she had become a better wife through the grace and forgiveness that she had received from Jesus Christ. Now Mrs. Sugino is working hard to influence her friend away from the Jehovah Witnesses, and her friend has come to church with her several times already. Praise God!"



Pray for the salvation of this woman and for the home Bible studies, which quite a few non-Christians attend. The Higashi Muko Church has about eight or nine going at this time. "We could have more if we had time," says Reimer. "Pray that the non-Christians will be saved."

**Christians Observe Easter in Cameroon**

CAMEROON. On Easter Sunday, Missionaries Pat and Oryn Meinerts joined Christians from the Mbingo First Baptist Church at 4:45 a.m. as they climbed to a hilltop overlooking Mbingo and Belo valleys. After a time of drumming, dancing, and singing, the sky became light.

"In the distance, we could hear the drums from other hilltops where other groups were also celebrating the resurrection of our Lord," say the Meinerts. "After a short service, we all picked lovely wildflowers and came down the mountain. How wonderful it is to rejoice with people around the world that Jesus is risen! Thank you so much for your part in reaching the people of this land with the Good News."



*Benches for School Children*

*In support of the Mambilla Baptist Theological Seminary project that Missionaries Ruth and Elmer Strauss promoted, they had 40 benches like these pictured made for the children of Bible School families. "Our neighbor children in Jos tried them out before they were sent to Mambilla," say Ruth and Elmer.*

**Man Comes to Know Christ Through Bible Found in Trash Can**

BRAZIL. One Wednesday evening, a man named Valter came to the Pantanal church, where Missionaries Ralph (pictured) and Martha Nelson are involved. "I discovered that Valter had received Christ as Savior recently through a Bible, which he took out of a refuse can in the street," says Ralph.

Valter has come to every Wednesday night service since that time. Each Saturday, he takes his car with Valdir, another man from the church, to distribute tracts house-to-house. They have given out 26,000 tracts already this year and are distributing New Testaments in Campeche.

Pray that others may come to know Christ through this tract and Bible distribution.

**Youth Respond to Christ as a Result of Youth Team Ministry**

CAMEROON. In Cameroon, now, the church is fairly well established, and the climate is generally favourable to preaching. However, with about half of the population 15 years old or younger, and some towns as yet unreached, there is still much to do. In the past few months, Missionaries Oryn and Pat Meinerts joined the local Youth Gospel Team on some evangelistic outreach programs. Decisions for Christ were made, and the young people on the Team were inspired.

"We are thankful for the ministry of the local youth leader," say the Meinerts. "He holds training courses and travels to remote areas to teach and encourage young people there. Your funds support some of this work."



Praise God for the active Gospel Team and youth leader in Bamedanda Field.

**Maertins Finds Youth Responding to Christ in Cameroon**

CAMEROON. Since becoming Youth Advisor of the Ndu area in January, short-term Missionary Karin Maertins' heart has become more and more burdened for the many youth around her who have not yet experienced Jesus as Lord and Savior in their lives. In January, when Karin was elected, she says that she was very reluctant to accept this challenge because she didn't feel she understood the culture well enough to deal with the youth, nor did she feel she had the time or the energy because of her other commitments and responsibilities as the school teacher for missionary children in Cameroon.

"I felt, though, that with the Lord's strength and wisdom I would at least try," says Karin. "As I started attending the youth meetings, I became more and more burdened for the great spiritual needs among the youth. Two youth leaders and I began to pray specifically for the need for Bible studies among the youth and for spiritual revival. The Lord has been faithful and has been answering our prayers. During the final meeting of Youth Week in February, 35 youth committed or rededicated their lives to Christ. I had the privilege of counselling 13 of the girls, listening to their struggles and problems, and guiding them to Scripture that would help them. During the Spiritual Emphasis Days in April, 67 more youth made commitments to the Lord or rededicated their lives to Him."



Karin challenged the students at Joseph Merrick Baptist College during their morning devotions on "The Importance of Studying God's Word." "Sixty-seven students responded when we invited students to sign up for small group Bible studies," says Karin. "We have had approximately 120 students attending our Bible studies. The Lord has provided 15 dedicated leaders, 11 of whom are Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary students. It has been exciting to see God working through these Bible studies. Two leaders led two girls to Christ. Every week new students have been joining the studies. Now 110 youth are involved in Bible studies.

"The Lord has answered our prayers. The young people are responding and are spiritually hungry. It's been exciting to be involved in this ministry and to see God working in these young lives."

Praise God for the 15 individuals who volunteered to disciple these youth through an eight-week Bible study. Pray that the youth will continue to grow in their Christian lives as a result of these Bible studies.

**Youth Discipleship School Held in Nigeria**

NIGERIA. "The Youth Discipleship School which we conducted in April was a high point of our missionary work so far," say Missionaries Allan and Karen Effa. "We really sensed the backing of your prayers." Each of the six students was eager to learn and to be changed. The Effas taught most of the sessions while the remainder was done by video tape. Special times involved worship and intercession, consisting of spontaneous prayers of praise, psalms, and singing focusing on the greatness of God. Allan accompanied the songs with a small electronic organ.

"Our times of intercession usually lasted one hour, part of which was spent in silence, listening to God, and allowing the Spirit to share His burdens with us that we might pray according to God's will," say the Effas. "Several youth became heavily burdened for the sins in their home churches; others felt led to pray for specific nations or other concerns. On the last day, we took time to gather around each other and pray for each. Please pray for these key youth leaders, that they might be strong towers of righteousness in the midst of spiritually dead churches. Pray especially for the Convention's new youth director, Abel Nkalip, as he guides the youth program and shares the truths he has learned in the discipleship school."

**COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

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*Our Mission in Nigeria* featuring all of our missionaries and their work in Nigeria

\*\*\*\*\*

*"The Christian and the Workplace"* by Sydney Page

\*\*\*\*\*

More news on the *Triennial Conference*





# WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

## Women in Ministry—

by Carol Potratz,  
Bismarck, ND

The song, "Through It All," by Andre Crouch speaks about tears and sorrows, questions for tomorrow, and sometimes not knowing right from wrong. It goes on to tell of God's consolation in every situation, turning trials into strength-building experiences. When I first heard this song in 1971, I knew Andre Crouch had written it for me! (I just couldn't figure out how he knew me so well.) This song gives me strength; each verse tells a bit more about my faith journey.

I have often been asked questions about how-I-got-where-I'm-at-in-ministry, such as: Why would a graphic artist go into teaching? Why would a high school teacher (from Iowa) leave her job for a short-term mission stint in Japan? Why did a short-term missionary give up the security of a teaching position for the uncertainty of seminary, coupled with the loneliness of being a single woman in ministry? Why would a woman want to be in ministry anyway? These are tough questions.

Tough questions cannot be given easy answers. I have gone through each of these phases of my life with much searching and seeking the will of God...through my own times of prayer as well as the wise counsel and prayers of mature Christians. The beauty of each of these phases is the peace that accompanied every transition. I can

honestly say that I am who and where I am today because of Christ and His working in me and my family.

As a ten-year-old child, I first learned that God is a personal God who deals with us individually (for He intervened in our family by healing my mom's cancer). I learned to trust Him by watching my parents continually turn to Him—in both small and large affairs. Our family was drawn to Him during several tragedies: farm accidents, the death of my aunt, my grandmother, brother, uncles, sister, mother, and father. These traumatic experiences helped me to see how faith in God *does make you strong!*

Unfortunately, I also discovered that not everyone had the ability to connect mountains with valleys, faith with strength, Christ with peace. Seeing Christians in the church who were not finding answers there or, worse yet, not wanting to be there, prompted me to get training and help them see that "through it all" you can trust in Jesus, God, and His word. I know, because it has worked for me!

I wish I could say that I have really worked out a terrific balance between my work, my personal life, and my church activities, but that is not true. Unfortunately, these three things are one and the same for me. (I'm not saying this is good, just stating a fact.) I am the type of person who will always see work to be done and people to be ministered to; therefore, I work at my job 24-hours a day. A line in

the song says that I have questions and do not always know right from wrong. That is an area of my life I am still working on...and do I ever enjoy working on it! I truly love my job and feel extremely honored to be called by God into this type of ministry for Him! □

(Carol Potratz serves as Education and Youth Director at Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, North Dakota.)

## Our Responsibilities in the Philippines

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,  
women's work director

As North American Baptists, we prayed for God's leading and direction as we sought a new field of outreach. God led to the Philippines, and we praise Him for this opportunity of outreach. The reports received from Lee and Jennell Bertsch, our first missionaries in the Philippines, are encouraging. There has already been a baptismal service.

Our responsibility is to be supportive in prayer, in financial giving, and in encouraging the Bertsches in their commitment to bring the good news of salvation to as many people in the Philippines as possible.

As women, we have a financial commitment to this ministry. We have adopted a \$50,000 Capital Funds support project for the Philippine mission outreach. This

project is included in our \$950,000 W.M.F. triennial goal, which we must complete by December 31, 1987.

May God grant each of you joy as you serve Him through your local church, your association, and your Conference. □

## "The Earth Is the Lord's . . . Enter"

This is the theme of the eighth assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union which will meet at Niagara Falls, NY, from October 1-4, 1987.

Inspirational speaker will be Rebecca Manly Pippert. She is Inter-Varsity's evangelism consultant, has trained congregations as well as college students and women's groups, addressed conventions and numerous Christian organizations, making a strong case for life-style evangelism. She is the author of the book, *Out of the Saltshaker*.



Oct. 1-4, 1987  
Niagara Falls,  
New York & Canada  
Circle the date!

## "The Earth Is the Lord's...Enter"

This is the theme of the eighth assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union, which will meet at Niagara Falls, New York, from October 1-4, 1987.

Adoration and wonder-struck contemplation of the physical world are perhaps the oldest kinds of meditation practiced by mankind. Today, God invites us also to taste His goodness in the same way.

It's for this purpose that we will meet this October in one of God's choice spots—Niagara. Come, join women from Canada, the Caribbean Islands and the U.S.A. as we meet to seek God, hear inspiring

speakers and musicians, share with friends old and new, and, of course, attend to business!

In addition to guest speaker Becky Pippert, you will hear Melody Morris, Christian dramatist; Catherine Fitch, Canadian soprano, recently returned from a year of study in London, England; Yamina Apolinaris, director of Urban Strategy Development, American Baptist Churches USA; Mary Fall, associate professor of music at Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota, who will direct a Volunteer Assembly Choir; and the A.D. Players who will welcome you to the unique world of Christian theater. □

## President's Corner

### From My Journal

By Sara  
Pasciel,  
Steinbach,  
Manitoba



**Monday:** I have just finished a hectic school year of teaching, directing a drama, writing, WMF-ing, as well as mothering and wife-ing! The Lord has been good and given us all strength beyond what we ourselves would be capable of. I still ask the question, should I be doing so much? And, as always, the answer is, God has brought me here and has given me this place and these responsibilities. When I feel my life and my thoughts flying in separate directions, when I feel

like three people in one body, trying to make sense out of my compartmentalized existence, I come back to a very special verse of Scripture: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17, NAS).

**Friday:** I don't know whether it's my age or hearing about older friends who are ill, but I am very conscious of my health and the wonders of creation within us. As I backed out of a parking space the other day, I found myself saying, "Thank you, Lord, for peripheral vision." And that's just one of the intricate functions of my body that I take for granted. I wonder...have I instilled a sense of wonder in my own children? □



## Compelled to Serve

### Alberta Association Welcomes New Church

EDMONTON, AB. "The Alberta Baptist Association meetings were marked by both the celebration of what God is doing among our Alberta churches and also the challenges of what God desires to do in and through us in the days to come," reports Lynette Goltz.

The Association held its 88th session, March 26-29, 1987, at McKernan Baptist Church in Edmonton. More than 400 pastors, delegates, and visitors attended.

This year's theme was "Our Imperatives: Worship, Witness, Care, Give, Serve." Five Alberta pastors, the Reverends Harvey R. Wilkie, Douglas L. Bittle, Willy R. Muller, Dennis R. Liesch, and Sieg Koslowski, spoke on one of these biblical imperatives. The Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, gave the closing message, "Three Commitments That Will Give Your Life Focus."

Other highlights of the weekend included the men's and ladies' luncheons, with guest speakers Robert Mayforth, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, and Dottie Paetzel, Edmonton, respectively, and an N.A.B.C./D.S. Alumni and Friends Luncheon. "The entire weekend was seasoned with many selections of special music, wonderful testimonies, and two exciting events for the youth," says Lynette.

Business items included recognizing and accepting Whitecourt Baptist Church into the Association; forgiving a \$12,000 loan to the Brooks Baptist Church by the Association; deciding to join the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada contingent upon the decisions of the other Canadian Associations to do likewise; and embarking on an expansion program for Camp Caroline.

The next Association meeting will be held March 24-27, 1988, at Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta.

### Marion Church Breaks Ground for Addition

MARION, KS. The bitter cold wind of the day did not deter the groundbreaking ceremony for an addition to the Emmanuel Baptist Church. Pastor James Harris put his hand to an antique walking plow to break ground. Members of the church joined in taking hold of a rope to pull pastor and plow across the frozen ground. Plans are for a \$80,000 facility to house classrooms, fellowship hall, pastor's study, and new kitchen. —Louis Janzen

### Saskatchewan Association Adopts Record Budget

REGINA, KS. The Saskatchewan Baptist Association held its conference at Calvary Baptist Church, March 26-29, 1987, with the theme, "Sharing Our Hope" (1 Peter 3:15). Guest speakers included Herman and Ardath Effa, Betty Mantay, Harold Schroeder, and Lou Sawchenko. Sig Schuster, Gordon Freiter, Eldon Arndt, and Hans Serger conducted workshops. Jeff de Parsia was the banquet speaker.

In the business meetings led by the Rev. Richard Grabke, moderator, the Association adopted a record budget of \$103,829 for 1987. "The Church Extension reports were cause for much rejoicing," state Edna E. Kramer and the Rev. Hans Serger, reporters. "We are encouraging outreach as well as preparing for a new church extension project. We encourage church growth."

Other business items included authorizing significant camp improvements and voting to have membership with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada through North American Baptists of Canada, Inc. The W.M.F. adopted a budget of \$4,500 and elected Evelyn Bertsch of Yorkton as president.

Rev. Bruno Voss, pastor, and Calvary Baptist Church graciously hosted the Association.

### Houston Woman Receives Recognition for Work at Space Center

HOUSTON, TX. Doris J. Roberts, secretary to the Deputy Director, Mission Support Directorate, was recognized for her exceptional contributions to the effective operation of the Johnson Space Center through professional competence and personal dedication in March 1987. "She performs tasks and assumes responsibilities beyond the scope of her assigned duties with only conceptual and policy direction. Her patience and diligence have resulted in an increased quality of projects leaving the Directorate." She received a plaque and \$500.



Roberts is a member of the Anderson Road Baptist Church, where she serves as a part-time volunteer secretary to the pastor, Rev. Jakob Klingenberg. She is also the secretary-treasurer of the Southern Association Women's Missionary Fellowship and serves on the Church Ministry Committee of the Southern Association.

"Doris Roberts is a North American Baptist who is doing a good job and who is being a good testimony for our Lord. We are proud of her," says Pastor Klingenberg.

### Regina Church Commissions Couple

REGINA, SK. Faith Baptist Church held a commissioning service for Leo and Donna Jansen, May 17, 1987. He previously served the Church as pastoral intern and has now accepted a call to pastor an Evangelical Free Church in Winnipeg. —Vera Rosom

### Marion Church Sends Missionary to Cameroon

MARION, KS. A special prayer chain "send off" for Janet Hett climaxed the morning service at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Feb. 8, 1987. "All the congregation formed a huge circle and joined hands to pledge prayer support for Janet as she left for Mbem, Cameroon, to spend six months assisting Missionary Daphne Dunger," reports Lois Janzen.

Miss Barbara Kieper, missionary to Nigeria, was special speaker at several meetings at Emmanuel Baptist Church before returning to Nigeria.

## Committed to Give

### Immanuel Church Is Mission-Minded

BROOKFIELD, WI. "The congregation of Immanuel Baptist Church has demonstrated great interest in supporting the mission of the Church 'beyond our four walls' throughout the years," reports the Church Mission Committee. "They still are."

This year, the Church's mission dollars, including undesignated denominational mission support, designated institutions, and special offering, approaches 40 percent of the entire Church budget. This does not include 12 "Food for Families" Sundays, five "Fifth Thursday" meal programs at St. Benedict's, the Crop Walk, or private gifts and acts.

The Rev. Scott Weisser is pastor of the Church.

### Herreid Church Raises Funds for Piano

HERREID, SD. Herreid Baptist Church held a special service to raise funds to purchase a new piano, March 29, 1987. Following the church musical, the W.M.F. sponsored a chili dinner with all proceeds going to the piano fund. —Dianna Quaschnick

## Commissioned to Witness

### One Baptized at Shattuck Church

SHATTUCK, OK. The Rev. Fred Fuchs baptized one person and welcomed him into the membership at Ebenezer Baptist Church recently.

The Church held a week of revival meetings and Gospel singing in February with the Rev. Ron Danzelle as speaker. —Lola Kretz

### Eleven Welcomed into Sunkist, Anaheim

ANAHEIM, CA. Dr. Adolph Braun, pastor, baptized two young people at Sunkist Baptist Church recently. They and nine others later joined the Church. "We thank God for these new people," states Carol Justus.

Director of Christian Education Rainer Kunz organized an AWANA program at the Church. In four months, attendance rose from 37 children to 106, with 35 workers helping with the children. "We are encouraged by the excellent support from our church and the neighboring area," reports Carol Justus.

### Nine Baptized at Marion Church

MARION, KS. "A fitting climax to Easter Sunday was the baptism of nine young people in the evening service at Emmanuel Baptist Church," reports Lois Janzen. The Rev. James Harris is pastor of the Church.

### Four Baptized at Oakbank Church

OAKBANK, MB. The baptism of four persons highlighted the Easter morning service at Oakbank Baptist Church. The Rev. Don Harder is pastor of the Church.

In the evening, all community churches participated in a Community Easter Service, with many who do not attend any church in attendance. —Audrey Sonnenberg

### Sixteen Join Oakridge Church

ST. JOSEPH, MI. Since January 1, 1987, Oakridge Baptist Church has received 16 new members, ten by baptism. "God is moving through his servant, Pastor Jack Whitehead, to bring many souls to himself," reports Helen L. Murphy.

Win Arn's church growth film series, shown during the adult Sunday school hour, also has challenged the Church.

### Five Baptized at Herreid Church

HERREID, SD. Five individuals were baptized and received into membership at Herreid Baptist Church, May 7, 1987.

The Rev. Harry Johnson is pastor of the Church. —Diana Quaschnick

### Twelve Join New Leipzig Church

NEW LEIPZIG, ND. The Rev. Roger Frelander baptized 12 people at New Leipzig Baptist Church since 1986. "It is always a pleasure to have new members added to the church family," reports Rose Iblings.

### Seven Join Redeemer, St. Paul, Church

ST. PAUL, MN. Pastor Rubin Herrmann baptized four persons at Redeemer Baptist Church, April 26, 1987. In addition, one person joined the Church by confession of faith and two others joined by letter. —Doris L. Patet

### Three Baptized at Meadowlark

EDMONTON, AB. Three adults were baptized by Pastor Ken MacDonald at Meadowlark Baptist Church, May 24, 1987. "The congregation was blessed as they listened to the candidates testify to their desire to obey the Lord in baptism," reports Carol Fulmore.

## Commanded to Care

### Greenvine Church Sponsors Food Drive

BURTON, TX. Greenvine Baptist Church sponsors an ongoing food drive, with food and household paper goods taken periodically to the Faith Mission and Help Center in Brenham. Members of the congregation regularly place non-perishable foods and paper goods in a box located in the Church foyer.



## Called to Worship

### Susek Speaks at Renewal Meetings in Arnprior

ARNPRIOR, ON. First Baptist Church held a series of renewal meetings, April 12-17, 1987, with the Rev. Ron Susek, evangelist. Nightly attendance averaged 150.

"In response to the many challenges given, more than 30 specific commitments were made," reports Dorian Getz. "Also, half the church family committed themselves to be strengthened in prayer. Some new families are in the Church as a result of this outreach. Among our people, there is an earnest desire to be God's church, working out His will for our fellowship."

The Rev. Phil Zylla is pastor of the Church.

### To the Readers

With this issue, a new typesetter, keyliner and layout person begins her work on the BAPTIST HERALD. We welcome Tamra Worley of Dickinson Press to this important ministry.

For the past three years, we have appreciated the ministry of Kris Boomsma who has done the typesetting, keylining, and layout for the BAPTIST HERALD. Kris leaves Dickinson Press to have her first child, due in August. We wish her well in this new stage in her life. Kris has written the following letter to be shared with you:

"I take this time to bid a fond farewell to the North American Baptist Conference staff after three years of service to them through the art department of Dickinson Press, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"Obviously, working from two different states, corresponding only through telephone and mail, caused some unforeseen problems, and having never met face to face, Barbara and I have worked our way through many designing problems, which would have seemed insurmountable were it not for her patience and dedication to the North American Baptist Conference and the BAPTIST HERALD itself.

Although I am not of the Baptist faith, I was open to many of the issues and articles which passed through my fingers onto the keyboard of the typesetter and pages of the BAPTIST HERALD. I have learned many interesting facets of the Baptist faith and the North

American Baptist Conference as a whole.

"I wish to again express my appreciation to Barbara and to the entire staff for making my job a very pleasant and informative one. Until we meet again!"

—Kristin L. Boomsma, artist, Dickinson Press, Inc.

### College President

The Board of Directors invites applications for the position of President of Tabor College, commencing July 1, 1988.

Tabor College is an accredited four-year liberal arts college that is owned and operated by the Mennonite Brethren church. The Bachelor's and Associate of Arts degrees are offered in some 20 areas of study. Current enrollment is 400 students.

**Qualifications sought.** The successful candidate will have the following:

- Earned doctorate or its equivalent
- Demonstrated commitment to, and experience within, Christian higher education
- Evidence of successful management and fund-raising experience
- A significant and proven role as a church person

**Search procedure.** Interested persons should submit a comprehensive resume and appropriate supporting materials to the Search Committee. This should include a brief statement of educational philosophy. The search will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Address all inquiries and materials to:

Dr. Vernon L. Kliever, Chair  
Presidential Search Committee  
Tabor College  
Hillsboro, KS 67063

## QUESTIONS?

Do you acknowledge God's ownership of all things? When God calls you home, will He say to you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21)?

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If you would like help in becoming a better steward, contact us today for a complimentary copy of a brand-new North American Baptist Conference publication, "A Guide to Your Last Will and Testimony," with accompanying "Facts for Your Attorney."

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## in memoriam

CLARA GIESE (74), Bismarck, ND; born June 26, 1912, to Henry and Katherine Grossman at Dodge, ND; died April 24, 1987; married Sam Giese in 1934; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by her husband Sam; three daughters: Shirley Klein, Walla Walla, WA; Betty (Mrs. Jim Linabltz), Mandan, ND; and Gladys (Mrs. Bob Savageau), Bismarck, ND; two sisters: Hilda Synnes and Frieda Langord; and two brothers: Oscar Grossman and Ernest Grossman; Rev. M.D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

CLARA LECHNER (67), Garden Grove, CA; born March 20, 1919, to Michael and Lucia (Goodman) Tietz; died Feb. 20, 1987; married Ernest Lechner, March 31, 1938; member, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA; predeceased by one brother and one sister; survived by her husband Ernest; three sons: Bernie (Nancy); Larry (Elaine); and Rodney, all of Orange, CA; one daughter, Donna (Mrs. Richard White), Palatine, IL; and six grandchildren; Dr. Adolph Braun, pastor, memorial service.

LILLIAN LEHMAN (90), Elgin, IA; born May 7, 1896, to Christian and Rose Freiburghaus in Elgin, IA; died April 22, 1987; married Max Lehman, March 27, 1918, who predeceased her; lifetime member, organist, Sunday School teacher, Tabitha Society member, First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA; predeceased by three sisters and one brother; survived by two daughters: Marion (Mrs. G. H. Senkler), Cape Coral, FL; and Maxine (Mrs. William Leake), Chicago, IL; one son, Leo, Elgin, IA; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two sisters; Reverends Norm Miller and David Hackmann, pastors, funeral service.

WILMA SIELER (56), Bismarck, ND; born Nov. 3, 1930, to John and Kathryn (Krein) Sprenger at Bismarck, ND; died April 12, 1987; married Ronald Sieler in 1951 in Billings, MT; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by her husband Ronald; one son, Steven, Kramer, ND; one daughter, Sharon (Mrs. Robert Pfenning), Bismarck; three grandchildren; and three sisters: Mrs. Albert (Esther) Woehl, Mrs. Emanuel Rieger, and Margaret Herr; Rev. M. D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

## anniversaries

Christian and Christine Hufnagel celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 27, 1987. They have been members of Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, since 1965.

Reinhardt and Hannah Steinle celebrated 68 years of marriage on Feb. 23, 1987. They are members of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Marion, Kansas.

## congratulations

Congratulations to the following churches for renewing through the Church Family Subscription Plan to the Baptist Herald.

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

Southey Baptist Church, Southey, SK; Mrs. Grace Lang, agent.

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

First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND; Rev. Gordon C. Huisinga, pastor; Mrs. Clifford Schnabel, agent.

Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, BC; Dr. Arthur Brust, pastor; Mrs. Esther Harris, agent.

Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; Rev. Timothy P. Schroeder, pastor; Mrs. Elsie Hait, agent.

First Baptist Church, George, IA; Rev. Byron Brodehl, pastor; Mr. John Winter, agent.

Hartland Baptist Church, Prince George, BC; Rev. Clifford Pederson, pastor; Mr. Henry Jansen, agent.

First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA; Mrs. Jeanette Folkerts, agent.

Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB; Rev. Art Freitag, pastor; Mrs. Albert Onderst, agent.

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

Shady Grove Baptist Church, Gaithersburg, MD; Rev. Jim Arends, pastor and agent.

Grant Park Baptist, Winnipeg, MB; Ed Hughes, pastor; Mrs. Milton Kelm, agent.

Rosenfeld Baptist Church, Drake ND; Rev. Vernon Schneider, pastor; Mrs. Bennie Martin, agent.

Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB; Dr. Walter A. Kerber, pastor; Mrs. Esther Reschke, agent.

Latta Road Baptist Church,

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

First Baptist Church, Watertown, WI; Rev. Allan Kranz, pastor; Mrs. Russell Miller, agent.

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer, SK; Mr. Gordon Freiter, pastor; Mrs. Martha Dreger, agent.

Hilda Baptist Church, Hilda, SK; Rev. Herbert Bachler, pastor; Mr. Lester Zeller, agent.

Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB; Rev. Loren Weber, pastor; Mrs. Marion Lark, agent.

Community Baptist Church, Beaver-creek, OH; Rev. Richard Hardy, pastor; Mrs. Elwood Reeves, agent.

First Baptist Church, Leola, SD; Rev. Arnold Frieze, pastor and agent.

Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin, MI; Rev. Robert Brown, pastor; Miss Mildred Wolfe, agent.

Salt Creek Baptist Church, Dallas, OR; Rev. Perry Kallis, pastor; Mrs. Eugene Villwock, agent.

First Baptist Church, Corona, SD; Rev. George Jankovsky, pastor; Mrs. Sherry DeBoer, agent.

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

Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA; Rev. Fred Jantz, pastor; Mrs. L. Estes, agent.

Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX; Rev. Winston Smith, pastor; Mr. Laurence Schmeltekopf, agent.

Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND; Rev. Lynn Heinle, pastor; Mrs. Doris Lindteigen, agent.

## NEEDED: PEOPLE TO HELP PLANT A CHURCH!

Do you know of people who live in Austin, Texas, who would be interested in attending one of our North American Baptist Conference churches?

If so, please send their names and addresses to:

Gordon and Diane Stork  
2915 Aftonshire Way, Apt. 1106  
Austin, TX 78748  
or call (512) 282-0409

Help Plant a Church!



## Hiatt Speaks at Council Dinner

Dr. Charles Hiatt, president of the North American Baptist Seminary, brought a challenging message on "Is Our 'NAB'erhood Changing?" following the General Council dinner on June 5. He pointed out that, as a Conference, we are on a quest, and we need to determine the nature of our quest.

"How is our 'NAB'erhood changing?" asked Hiatt. "One apparent change is the multiple-option society in which we are living: people no longer have a single focus, 'dyed in the wool,' loyalty to anything. It used to be that when a North American Baptist Conference member moved to another city, he would either find or start an N.A.B. Conference church. That is no longer true. Something must be done to make our churches attractive and alive to people. This takes energy and discipline."

Hiatt believes a second change is the multiple demographics faced in our associations: Multi-racial, urban-ethnic, farm crisis (causing people to move from rural to urban areas); others are the down and out and the up and out. "These people need the Lord as well as the bored veteran Christians who sit in our pews," said Hiatt. "We must develop multiple-focused ministries to meet people's needs."

"A third change is the multi-colored hair in our 'NAB'erhood," pointed out Hiatt. "It may be all the way from punk orange to silver. I've noticed in Association meetings a definite graying of North American Baptists. We have youth involved by the thousands at the Triennial Conference. We have young families, those in mid-life crisis, and senior citizens in our churches. All have great needs. How will we minister to them?"

As a multi-national denomination, Hiatt challenged the group with the question: "What do we do with people from two countries (United States and Canada) and from our mission fields around the world? We have people from many

different nationalities in our Conference. Do we make them all alike? We must say no to melting everyone into one mold. We must weave a mosaic. A mosaic is our 'NAB'erhood, and our 'NAB'erhood needs to constantly remember we are Christians first."

One last change in the neighborhood is that of people abusing the use of dollars. This has been in the news recently. Hiatt said he has been embarrassed and angered as a preacher and as a fundraiser by people who have small morals and huge salaries. Hiatt challenged the audience to reaffirm faithfulness to their spouses and families and to keep doing this. He emphasized the need to stand tall in the use of and the accountability of our finances.

Hiatt asked the question: "Why would anyone give to a TV ministry? Am I meddling yet? People will give to a distant TV preacher because the impression they give is that the preacher cares. He pointed out that the lonely, the widows, respond to pleas from TV preachers because, as if person to person, they say, "I care about you; I will pray for you." But in reality, they do not have a caring ministry. We, in our churches, should be the caring ones. "No, our 'NAB'erhood is not changing fast enough for a personal, caring ministry," Hiatt challenged; "We need to focus on a person-centered ministry growing out of a God-centered worship. People want to be touched by God's Spirit and other human beings."

Hiatt pointed out that there needs to be variety, vitality, and a vision of God in worship. "Here are some things I learned as a pew sitter," said Hiatt. "Worship is better if I have prayed for the pastor before the service, and if I work at worship; nothing is automatic. It takes discipline, concentration, and the right attitude. I need to focus on God rather than the many distractions in the sanctuary. We need also to learn that the pastor does not



have to preach two or three times a week. There should be some variety of worship forms."

People desire a person-centered ministry. They want to be part of the body, part of the action, welcomed, and called by name in order to draw people into the body. He urged that visitors to the worship service be invited to members' homes for dinner following the service, so that visitors know the church really cares and wants to get to know them.

People desire to be used according to their gifts - to be involved. "We all should be doing exactly what we want to do in God's will."

"We are God's leaders," stressed Hiatt. "What strategic plans are best for our changing quest? Our quest is to stimulate creative growth in our churches. That happens when we feed God's people what they need."

Hiatt suggested a new, personalized menu: "We need to look around at our people who are in our churches as well as visiting our churches to see what our people need from God today. We need to put it together in a way that attracts them, nourishes them, and that draws them into the fellowship we call our 'NAB'erhood."

The people who worship in our churches need to stimulate those who visit to experience God as well as to touch them person-to-person with "I care." "We need to find the people in our churches who have a desire to move and create until the right things exist to cause God's people, our churches, and our Conference to jump to life—active, alive, and attractive." □

Charles (Chuck) Feeney was installed as Minister of Christian Education on May 3, 1987, at Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, Oregon. He also graduated from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary that day. Area Minister LeRoy Schauer brought the installation charge, and Dr. J. C. Gunst, the prayer of dedication. Pastor Feeney has been the part-time youth pastor at the church for the two years while attending Seminary. His full-time, expanded duties include youth work and Christian Education.

John Laeger began his ministry as youth pastor at Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, Michigan, on June 1, 1987.

Mr. John Duba is Director of Youth at First Baptist Church in Ellinwood, Kansas. He is a 1986 graduate of Denver Seminary.

The Rev. James Reidling and his family were welcomed at an informal reception and dinner as pastor and family to the Temple Baptist Church, Cheektowaga, New York, on March 22. Enthusiastic testimonies of thankfulness and cooperation were spoken according to Mrs. George Hartman, reporter.

The Rev. John Kuehn of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, died May 16, 1987. He served North American Baptist Conference churches in Forestburg, Alberta; Lambert, Montana; Ebenezer West and Springside Baptist Churches in Saskatchewan; Hilda, Gnadensfeld, Burstal, Friedensfeld and Schuler, Alberta and Saskatchewan; Lyndock and Sebastatopol, Ontario; Whitemouth and Beausejour, Manitoba; Prince Rupert, British Columbia; and Jansen, Saskatchewan.

The Rev. Alan Johnson died suddenly while jogging on June 12, 1987. He had recently resigned as interim pastor of Raymore and Nokomis Baptist Churches in Saskatchewan. He served as the first pastor of Tri-Community Baptist Church, Beiseker, Alberta.

Mrs. Maurice Korb of Boca Raton, Florida, and Winburne, Pennsylvania, died suddenly while visiting her son, Rev. David Korb, and his family in Illinois Memorial Day weekend. She served with her husband at Forest Baptist Church in Winburne before their retirement.

The Rev. Edward Kopf and his wife were honored at a special service recognizing their 35 years in the

ministry. Their ministry has included churches in Appleton, MN; Odessa, WA; Plevna, MT; Herreid, SD; and Okeene, OK. His present pastorate, Napoleon (North Dakota) Baptist Church, hosted the event.

### Alberta Tourist Information Available to Conference Attendees

In addition to the normal distribution of Triennial Conference registration information through the local churches and the *Baptist Herald* in November and December 1987, the Alberta Government Department of Tourism is prepared to mail tourist information to people who do not reside in Alberta and who request it. If you would like to be included in the mailing, send your name and address to Mrs. Joyce Falkenberg, registrar, Box 28, Site 19, SS-1, Calgary, Alberta T2M 4N3, by September 15, 1987. The mailing will go out in November 1987.

The Rev. Daryl Dachtler is now pastor of Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, North Dakota. He had been Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries there.

The Rev. Loren Franchuk has accepted the call to become pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, North Dakota.

The Rev. Hero Ulrichs has accepted the pastorate of Mayfair Park Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill, effective July 15. He has been serving as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Missoula, Montana.

The Rev. Klaus Hildebrandt resigned as pastor of Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, Ontario, effective the end of June. He is awaiting the Lord's leading to another church.

The Rev. Fritz Goliath resigned as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, St. Catharines, Ontario, effective the end of August 1987. He is awaiting the Lord's guidance to another pastorate.

Mr. Michael LeRud accepted the call to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, Iowa, effective July 1987. He is a 1987 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Rev. Rudy Lemke accepted a call to a Mennonite Brethren Church.

Mr. Robert Burkle of Plevna, Montana, accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, Oklahoma, effective July 1, 1987. He is a 1987 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His wife Peggy and children,

## what's happening

Jeff and Brian, join him.

The Rev. William Jeschke resigned as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, to retire in Portland. From June 13 to August 20, he is on a nine-week mission with the English Language Institute in Anhui, China. Rev. Jeschke served the following North American Baptist Conference churches during his ministry: Grace, Chicago, Illinois, 1945-48; First, Sumner, Iowa, 1948-51; Redeemer, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1952-60; Immanuel, Portland, Oregon, 1960-68; Forest Park, Illinois, 1975-78; Calvary, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1979-83; and Immanuel, Portland, Oregon, 1983-87.

The Rev. Heinz Schoenhoff resigned as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, to accept ministry outside the N.A.B. Conference. He had served the Temple Church since 1981.

Mr. Jim Milligan became Minister of Youth at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, California, effective July 1, 1981.

Chaplain David Rapske has been promoted to the rank of MAJOR, United States Army. Simultaneously, Chaplain Rapske is integrated into the Regular Army from Army Reserve. Effective July 1, 1987, Chaplain Rapske and family will reside in Pusan, Republic of Korea. This assignment is as the 34th Support Group Chaplain with additional responsibilities as post Chaplain, Camp Hialeah.

The Rev. J. Kevin Butcher became the senior pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, on July 1, 1987.

The Rev. Roger Freeland completed his ministry at New Leipzig Baptist Church in North Dakota on May 31, 1987, and is involved in secular work for one year in Florida.

Earle Unger is serving as pastor of the Whitemouth Baptist Church in Manitoba on a part-time basis, while he is a student at Winnipeg Theological Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Fink accepted the position of supervisors of buildings and grounds at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They served as missionaries at the European Bible College in France for 10 years.

Mr. Craig Penna, a college student, is serving Mowata Baptist Church, Eunice, Louisiana.



## Your Will . . . Your Testimony

Because your will is the only instrument that can speak for you with authority after your death, it may be more than appropriate to include your personal testimony.

*Realizing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord and that those who are outside of Christ will never see me again.*

Example: "Realizing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord and that those who are outside of Christ will never see me again, but all believers will, I do hereby make, publish, and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament . . ."

Recognizing God's ownership of all things as His stewards, we are responsible to Him for all that comes into our hands.

\*Do you have a will?

\*Does it include your testimony?

\*Does it provide for the ongoing work of your Lord?

If you answer no to any of the above and want help in putting your affairs right . . . contact

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Walter Swanson  
North American Baptist Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., P.O. Box 159  
Oakbrook, Terrace, IL 60181  
(312) 495-2000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Reader's Response

We'd like to hear from you. How would you rate the following articles or columns in regard to interest or helpfulness? Let us hear from you. Rate articles from one to five with one being the least helpful or interesting and five the most.



"California Baptists Serve in Brazil"	1	2	3	4	5
"Revival and the Expansion of God's Kingdom"	1	2	3	4	5
"The Bittersweet Taste of Failure"	1	2	3	4	5
"Prison Ministry—the Medicine Hat Support Group"	1	2	3	4	5
What's Happening	1	2	3	4	5
Biblical Imperatives in Action	1	2	3	4	5
In Memoriam	1	2	3	4	5
Women of Hope Reaching Our World	1	2	3	4	5
Church Growth Tips	1	2	3	4	5
"Pornography Is...?"	1	2	3	4	5
"General Council Meets"	1	2	3	4	5
"Hiatt Speaks at Council Dinner"	1	2	3	4	5

Please answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Mail to Baptist Herald, 1 South 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Thank you for your help!

What subjects would you like to see addressed in the *Baptist Herald*?

What action has your church taken in regard to pornography?

Has revival occurred in the lives of the people of your church? If so, what are the results in the life of your church and its relationship to your community?

Age \_\_\_\_\_ M or F \_\_\_\_\_ State or Province \_\_\_\_\_

church  
growth tips



### Best Kept Secrets in Town

Over the years, I have had several opportunities to visit in the cities and towns where we have North American Baptist Conference churches.

I have come to the conclusion that some of our churches are the best kept secrets in town. How would your church measure up to the following questions?

•Can people find your church by following the directional signs you have located in your church's ministry area?

•Can people locate your church by reading your ad and seeing your map in the local newspaper?

•Can people find you in the yellow pages of your phone book?

•Does your outdoor sign give the image of excellence and contain clear, pertinent information about the times of your services?

•Is the building and landscape attractive and inviting to new people?

*This Week:* Pretend you are a visitor who is lost and looking for your church. Do the retail establishments (fast food stores, convenience centers, gas stations) know where you are?

*Try this:* Stop and ask directions to your church and see where you end up.

*Ray Harsch*

—Ray Harsch  
Acting Church Growth Director

Jesus began  
his full-time  
ministry at  
age 30 . . .

we think it's  
not too late  
for you either.

second career students

enhance their adult life in  
ministry careers at

**North American Baptist Seminary**

contact:  
North American Baptist Seminary  
1321 West 22nd St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605/336-6588



## Music Needed for 1988 Triennial Conference

Music, always an important part of Triennial Conferences of North American Baptist Churches, will be a highlighted feature of the 42nd Triennial Conference meeting in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988.

The Triennial Conference Music Committee is looking for individuals and groups who are interested in ministering in music (vocal or instrumental) during the Conference. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in this opportunity, please write Mr. Horst Laser, chairman of the Triennial Conference Music Committee.

Please include the following information: 1) Name of person or group, 2) Address of individual or group leader, 3) Phone number of individual or group leader, 4) Name of home church and pastor, 5) Title of music selection, 6) Statement of Christian experience, and 7) A written recommendation from your pastor or music director.

In addition, please submit a cassette recording of the individual's or group's performance of the musical selection that they would present at the Triennial Conference. Please note that cassettes will not be returned. Confirmations will be mailed in April 1988. All entries should be postmarked no later than January 31, 1988. Send entries to: Mr. Horst Laser, chairman, Triennial Conference Music Committee, 140 Rundleridge Place Northeast, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T1Y 2L3.



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## COMMITTED TO GIVE

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

**1987 North American Baptist Conference  
Basic Mission and Ministry Commitments \$4,665,000**

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*These funds translate into*

### **Overseas Missions**

Cameroon  
Nigeria  
Brazil  
Japan  
Philippines

### **Publications**

*Baptist Herald*  
*Moments with God*  
*"Missions Update"*  
*"N.A.B. News"*  
*"Stimulus"*

### **Women's Missionary Fellowship**

### **Home Missions**

Colorado  
Texas

### **Church Planting**

New churches through-  
out U.S.A. and Canada

*"New Day"*

*Will Seminars*

*Co-operative Projects*

*Estate Planning Seminars*

*Triennial Conference*

### **Area Ministries**

11 ministers  
serving 21  
Associations

### **Church Growth Seminars**

North American  
Baptist College

North American Baptist  
Divinity School

North American Baptist  
Seminary

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*In addition to the above basic commitments, we, as a Conference, have made over and above commitments for special projects (Growth Goal) totaling almost \$2,000,000 (includes \$750,000 for Capital Funds).*

*As we seek to put God first in all areas of our lives, let us truly put forth our utmost for His highest, and together, we will successfully continue in our mandate to reconcile the world through Christ.*