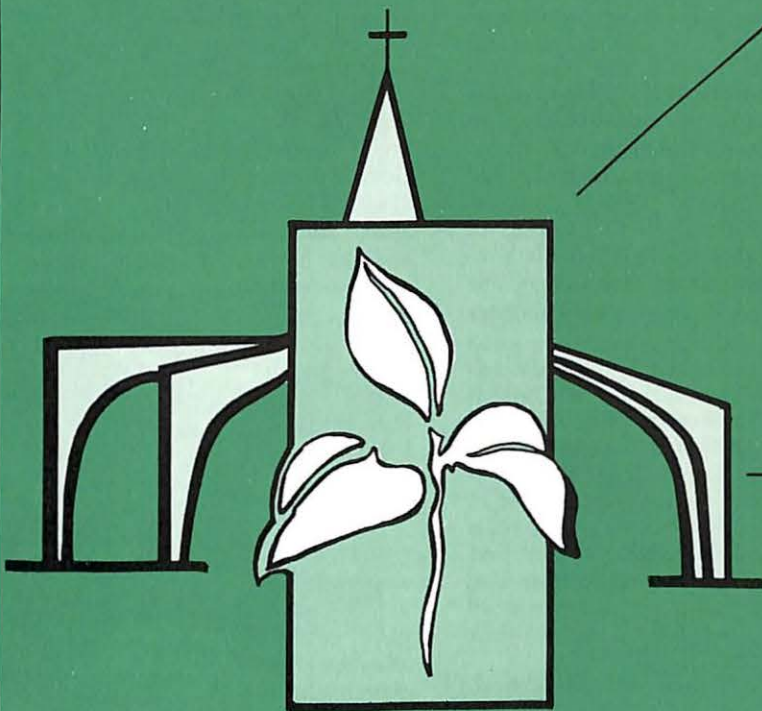


Baptist Herald

May 1987



Planting
and
Growing
Churches

Church Growth Board Meets

Eleven members of the Church Growth Board met April 9 and 10 at the North American Baptist International Office to conduct the business of the Church Growth Department of the Conference. This included planning for future expansion of ministries through a New Churches Fund.

In his report to the Board, Acting Director Ray Harsch noted that the churches who grew 26 percent or more in our Conference ranked personal witnessing and outreach as their number one priority. Second came nurture and establishment in the faith and doctrine. In these growing churches, the attendance at the worship services is higher than the membership of the church. The average age of the growing churches is 24 years, with the average membership being 76. Eighty-seven percent of these churches had set goals.

In the churches that grew 16 to 20 percent, Harsch reported that 100 percent had set goals with a high priority placed on increased membership and attendance.

The declining churches reported that their number one priority was nurture; second, to be a friendly church, and third, to train for leadership and outreach, which they did not actually become involved in after training. They were also weak in assimilating new members into the church. The average age of these churches is 66 years with a membership average of 178. Twenty-eight of these churches had goals.

"I don't think we really sense the urgent need for church planting," said Bernard Fritzsche, associate director for church planting. "We cannot continue to fund overseas missions without planting new churches at home to help meet overseas missions needs. According to Church Growth statistics, we should plant 11 to 14 new churches a year to break even," continued Fritzsche. "We now average 5.3 churches a year. We have planted 178 churches since 1952, of these, 28 no longer exist. Fifty-one of the churches established before 1952 deceased over these years, so to fulfill the command of Jesus Christ, we must plant more churches!" Thirty-seven percent of our Conference membership is reflected in the 178 churches planted since 1952.

Some members of the Church Growth Board suggested an emphasis of printing prayer cards for church planters and asking them to do deputation as overseas missionaries do, so that our people in North America will view the church planter as a missionary to the lost in North America and feel the need to support them to the same degree.

Home missionaries Lindberg and Maria Ake of Texas told of the thousands of Latin Americans coming into the U.S.A. and Canada, and the need to reach them for Christ. Because of their presently overcrowded building, they are eagerly anticipating the building of their new church in Edinburg funded by Capital Funds and other funds. During this time, they have started a Bible study group on the east edge of town because of the need of churches in Edinburg.

Loren Kopf, director, emphasized that "New Day's" 1986-87 tour included ministering in 42 churches to more than 21,638 people in public concerts. Loren related that it was one woman's first experience with door-to-door visitation as she accompanied some team members. At the first home they visited, the man received Christ as Savior. "This woman was so excited, she could hardly keep her feet on the ground," said Loren. "We plan to continue our ministry with one team of 11 members, with members of the team involved in helping to raise their part of the Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget. We encourage all churches to put 'New Day' into their church budget."

A revised Church Planting Manual, almost ready for publication, was presented at the Board sessions by Rev. Fritzsche.

The Special Church Planting Fund with a goal of \$100,000 in 1987 will help start two new churches this year. A church planter, Gordon Stork, has been placed in Austin, Texas, as a result of giving to this fund. A second project area has been selected, and the work will begin when funds are available.

The Urban Task Force—David Wick, chairman; Jim Correnti, Heinz Rossel, Mark Wollenberg, Harry Lehotsky, George Lang, Bernard Fritzsche, Ray Harsch, David Steinhart, and

Fred Jantz—was reappointed. It was agreed to add Ernie Pasiciel to the committee and to seek additional members representative of minority groups. Wick emphasized urban/ethnic ministries on the Association level.

After hearing a presentation by Chip Arn of the Institute for American Church Growth, the Board voted to work with the Institute to develop "The Great Commission Church Planting Kit." This material is designed to aid the established local churches of our Conference to plant churches.

In other business, Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff was reappointed to continue serving as Assistant Director of Women's Work through July 31, 1988. She emphasized the importance of women's ministries in the local church.

The 1987 budget of \$963,270 for Church Growth was reviewed, and the Board agreed to recommend to the General Council in June a budget of \$1,038,436 for 1988.

Dr. Ken Fischer, Rev. Fred Jantz, and Lee Negri of California encouraged and motivated the Board and visitors through their presentation of the many opportunities for church planting in Northern California.

A visitor to the Board, the Rev. Dan Nguyen, pastor to Vietnamese at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, challenged the group with his devotional and brief testimony.

Procedures for implementing a New Churches Fund to plant more churches were presented and adopted. Included in it was a plan to challenge God's people to go the extra mile in giving over and above their giving to the local church and to the basic mission and ministries of our Conference.

The Church Growth Strategy, a six-year program of seminars begun in 1985, will continue throughout the Conference, according to Ray Harsch. In a recent Basic Church Growth Seminar, almost all of the people in the church were over 65. As a result of this seminar, people started looking at their neighbors in a different way and invited them to church. The next Sunday there were visitors in the church.



Articles

4 Churches on the Grow

- 4 Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin MI—Robert F. Brown
- 5 Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN—Rubin Herrmann
- 6 Bethany Baptist Church, Hutchinson, MN—Harold E. Kelm

7 Planting Churches in 1987

- 7 A New Church in Austin, Texas—Gordon Stork
- 8 A New Church for Puyallup, WA—Gordon Bauslaugh
- 9 Hope Fellowship Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO—Dennis Dewey

9 Churches Started in 1986 Help People Find Christ

- 10 Faith Baptist Fellowship, Medicine Hat, AB—Allen Unger
- 10 Tri-Valley Faith Church, Pleasanton, CA—John Emmons
- 11 Coppell Fellowship Church, Coppell, TX—Dan Heringer

12 What's Happening in Our New Churches?

- 12 Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, CA—Greg Myers
- 13 Gettysburg Baptist Church, in Gettysburg, PA—William G. Mummert
- 13 Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA—Kent Carlson
- 14 Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carol Stream, IL—Stephen Patrick
- 15 Flower Mound Baptist Church, Flower Mound, TX—Doug Harsch
- 16 Westview Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB—James P. Erb
- 16 Community and Sunrise of Red Deer, AB, Join—Douglas Bittle
- 17 Faith Community Baptist Church, Airdrie, AB—Harold E. Weiss
- 18 Tri-Community Baptist Church, Beiseker, AB—Robert Hoffman

18 Churches Become Self-supporting in 1986

- 19 Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, WA—Larry Neufeld
- 19 North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, TX—Robert Walther
- 20 Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, CO—Earl Ahrens
- 21 Appreciation to Earl and Lois Ahrens—Ray Harsch
- 22 New Life Ministries, Winnipeg, MB—Harry Lehotsky
- 23 Del Norte and Center, CO—Calvin Kroeker
- 23 "New Day"—Marj Hadlington

Departments

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Church Growth Board Meets | 30 Baptist World Aid |
| 24 Women of Hope | 31 Capital Funds |
| Reaching Our World | 31 What's Happening |
| 26 Biblical Imperatives in Action | 31 Letter to the Editor |
| 28 In Memoriam | 32 Church Growth Tips |

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Churches on the Grow

Faced with the fact that churches within the North American Baptist Conference had not experienced significant growth over the past several years, Rev. Ron Norman, at the time church growth director for the Conference, and Rev. Ray Harsch, associate director, sought a way to help churches that wanted to grow. In 1984, they took advantage of the opportunity offered by the Institute for American Church Growth in Pasadena, California, to be trained as Church Growth Associates, which allowed these men to teach their seminars.

In the spring of 1985, these men began leading Phase I Basic Seminars in our churches. Ron left in early 1986 to pastor a local church, and Ray continued on with the assistance of three area ministers.

As of April 1987, 21 Phase I Basic Church Growth Seminars have been conducted for pastors throughout our Conference, 55 Phase II Seminars

for pastors and lay people, and 42 of our churches are in Phase III of the Church Growth Strategy. This phase gives an indepth analysis of the church and its community which helps determine the strengths and weaknesses of the local church in relation to its community.

Ray Harsch then offers recommendations to each church having completed the diagnostic survey in Phase III. The church prioritizes these recommendations with a timetable as to when they hope to accomplish the goals. They then work on these recommendations for growth. The nine churches that have completed Phase III are Redeemer, St. Paul, Minnesota; Brook Park, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota; Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan; Round Lake, Gladwin, Michigan; Community, Beaver Creek, Ohio; Bethany, Hutchinson, Minnesota; Parma Heights, Parma, Ohio; Colonial Village, Lansing, Michigan; and First, Paul, Idaho.

Three of these churches share with you what has happened thus far as a result of their commitment to growth.

Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin, Michigan

by Robert F. Brown

We're a country church. Besides that, we were founded in 1904. Country churches more than 50 years old just don't grow, do they? Not if they don't want to, but our people were ready for a challenge.

First, we encouraged ourselves by having 15 percent of our membership (30 people) attend the Church Growth Seminar, led by Ray Harsch, which we hosted in April of 1986. The positive attitude that growth is possible has been caught by our people.

"Church growth eyes" keep us looking for new opportunities of outreach as well as being friendly and accepting of visitors. A "calling corp" has been organized to make personal follow-up visits to newcomers to our church.

The love and care of our congregation has been evidenced in several "body life" services where forgiveness has been sought; thanksgiving has been expressed; and burdens have been prayed over.

Our morning worship average attendance went from 188 in April to 230 in May. We instituted two morning services in July and August. We thought attendance might slack off in the fall, but our September-December average was 232 compared to 167 just a year ago. The first Sunday in September was designated as "no excuse Sunday," and we experienced our highest Sunday school attendance ever of 206 (our 1985 Sunday school average was 124).

Two new Sunday school classes were begun in the fall, one for new Christians and the other for college-career singles. A children's choir, the "King's Kids," was formed, and 28 children are participating in it.

In October, a big step forward was taken as the church called its first full-time youth pastor, Mr. Pat Clarey. Our youth ministry, greatly strengthened, has brought in new families that are concerned about a peer group for their teenagers.

In 1986, we had eighteen baptisms and received forty-one new members while losing nine. Already in 1987, we have baptized eight and received nineteen new members. This spring we are showing Dobson's new film series on con-



Pastor Robert Brown (left) and some members of the Church Growth Task Force at Round Lake Baptist Church are excited about the results of the growth emphasis at their church.

Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

by Rubin Herrmann

The Church Growth Opportunity Checkup Evaluation provided an excellent opportunity for Redeemer Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, to consider growth seriously. The evaluation asks hard questions as to real blockages that prevent our growth and faces the necessity of deliberately raising the level of realistic expectations. For example, the Sunday morning in which two hours were spent touring the new neighborhoods around the church brought a new sense of excitement and enthusiasm as we saw our community with "church growth eyes."

With so many new homes of young married families in our neighborhood, the Growth Task Force (which has been active the past 16 months) decided to target them for growth by investigating possibilities such as child care and aerobics. Furthermore, John Nelsen, a seminary student brought on staff last September as Director of Children's and Youth Ministries, has committed himself to work with us for a minimum of two years. By September 1987, leaders will be recruited and trained to begin a weekly children's club.

To show the younger generation that the church is committed to growth, we converted the church loft into a youth activity room and dedicated it on March 1. This provides an office for the Youth Director to study and meet with the youth.

Prior to that, the church renovated a suitable area for the church secretary. A newly installed

secutive Friday nights in the Intermediate School as an outreach to our community. We are considering having a booth at our county fair this summer. A building committee has been appointed to lead the church into its next step of expansion.

God has done great things! Our unity, love, and caring keeps us going forward.



The Rev. Robert Brown became pastor of Round Lake Baptist Church located six miles outside of Gladwin, Michigan, in 1980.

telephone communication system helps to reach people throughout the facility. A newly built kiosk placed inside the church entrance helps direct newcomers to pertinent activities in various parts of the building.

One Growth Task Force member sees changes in attitude; he says, "Our people used to ask, 'Why should we?' and now they ask, 'How will we do it?'"

The congregation has already put some of the recommendations that came to us from the N.A.B. Conference International Office through Rev. Ray Harsch, acting church growth director, into place. For example, in order to discover their spiritual gifts, two adult Sunday school classes studied the gifts for a quarter. Then for two Sunday evenings, Growth Task Force members assigned to seven homes discussed church growth, and people were asked to complete Dr. Richard Hout's (N.A.B. Seminary) questionnaire on spiritual gifts. In this way, each member identifies their three highest rated gifts, and this becomes part of the church records. While some resisted completing the questionnaire, others felt affirmed and encouraged in knowing their gifts and are anxious to use them in the Body. This, in itself, should make this church more effective and raise the quality of ministry.

During the five Sunday evenings of Lent, we again formulated small groups in homes to study how to best utilize our gifts for church growth. The purpose is to build a sense of belonging and meaningful participation and a sense of optimistic usefulness within the fellowship.



"One Sunday morning, we toured the new neighborhoods around our church and saw them with 'church growth eyes,'" says Pastor Herrmann (at left). Eight of the thirteen members of the church growth task force are pictured.

This church desires to carry out Christ's commission not by human ingenious abilities and skills but "by my Spirit says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). The Growth Task Force is attempting to put pieces together under the Lord's direction in order to turn possibilities into realities.



The Rev. Ruben Herrmann is pastor of Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, a church founded in 1873. This church is in Phase III of the Church Growth Strategy.

Bethany Baptist Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota

by Harold E. Kelm

As church leaders, we had hoped that someone could approach us with a foolproof, money-back, guaranteed package loaded with resources and options that we, as a church, could simply plug into and experience fantastic growth both spiritually and numerically. This concept, we discovered, was far too simplistic and unrealistic.

True church growth cannot be packaged or put into a two step formula that spells instant success.



Church growth has meant for Bethany Baptist Church getting to know new people and finding new directions in ministry. Shown are some young couples during a fellowship time using the new Bethany Church van.

Church growth, rather than a formula, is a perspective or orientation in which we examine the unique factors that make up our church.

For us, it involved evaluation and introspection as we examined where we had come from and where we were presently. It also involved looking into the future, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, deciding where we were to be headed. In the past, the focus of the ministry of our church had often occurred in a reactionary way instead of an intentional, growth-orientated way.

"Church growth involves looking into the future, under the Holy Spirit's direction, deciding where we are to be headed."

The Growth Task Force process forced us to take a good hard look at ourselves. We found this beneficial as we were made aware of the strengths of our church as well as our inadequacies and deficiencies.

As a congregation, we have committed ourselves to move intentionally in a number of different areas, including the need to integrate new people into the mainstream of our church life by establishing small group fellowship times and entry level service opportunities. We have also committed ourselves to the development of active and growing ministries for children and youth. Our desire is to minister to families on each end of the spectrum: Young people and young families as well as older adults and their special needs.

Another significant area of change is the use of a goal setting process. This process helps our church boards maintain an intentional focus in our decision making.

As a church and as church leaders, we are also discovering that we need to affirm with the apostle Paul, "So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything but God who causes the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:7). In church growth, there are many factors, the planting, the watering, but God causes the growth. We, as ser-

vants of God, must be willing to be responsive and obedient tools as God causes this growth.



The Rev. Harold Kelm became pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Hutchinson, Minnesota, in 1984. This church, founded in 1899, is located in a town with a population of about 9,250.

Planting Churches in 1987

"Church planting needs to be a priority concern for our Conference," says Rev. Bernard Fritzke, associate director of church planting. As one studies denominational statistics, according to Lyle Schaller, church growth consultant and researcher, it becomes evident that every denomination that reported an increase in the number of members also reported an increase in the number of congregations.

It has been reported that the North American Continent is the fourth largest mission field in the world behind China, India, and the Soviet Union. Although 60 percent of the people in the United States profess to belong to some form of organized religion, one half of that number never attend church. Add 30 percent to the 40 percent who

have no church connection, and we have 70 percent of the population unreached. In Canada, only 25 percent claim some connection with an organized religion, and a much smaller percentage attends.

The Church Growth Department acting upon recommendations by various associations is projecting that seven new churches be planted in 1987. Five of these would be planted through the Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget and two through the Special Church Planting Fund.

Four of these new churches began the first four months of 1987. Three are supported through the Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget and one through the Special Church Planting Fund. These three new church planting projects are introduced to you by their pastors. The newest in Tracy, CA, Dennis Dearmin, pastor, began in April.

A New Church in Austin, Texas

by Gordon Stork

What leads a couple to accept a call to be a church extension pastor and wife? Why would a couple wait eight months for their immigration papers to go through to begin a ministry half way across the country from their homes? We asked ourselves these questions and many others as we waited for our immigration paperwork to be processed. The answers were not always clear.

The memories of the beautiful city of Austin, Texas, began to fade as time passed. But one element did not fade, and that was the vision of planting churches that we "caught" last summer.

God had given us that vision, and even though the storms of life tried to erase it, God was faithful in keeping it clearly defined.

This vision of planting a church, by reaching out to those in need of Christ, was affirmed even as we arrived with our moving truck in Austin. Within the first 24 hours of our arrival, we met several people who overtly stated, "I need a church that will meet my needs," and "You know, this neighborhood could use a church."

In the days that have followed, we continued to meet people who haven't always pledged their allegiance to our young project but have shared their need for help with us—the kind of help that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

We are excited to be in Austin! We expect God



"Whether one, ten, 100, or 1,000 people come to know the Lord through this project, it will be worth that eight month wait we endured," says Gordon Stork.

to do great things through us here. Whether one, ten, 100, or 1,000 people come to know the Lord through this project, it will be worth that eight month wait we endured, for we know God has called us to Austin for a purpose. The vision shines brightly in the state capital of Texas. (This new church began home Bible studies in mid-April 1987.)



The Rev. Gordon Stork began planting a church in Austin, Texas, in February 1987.

A New Church for Puyallup, Washington

by Gordon Bauslaugh

When asked why I accepted the call to pastor a new church extension project in Puyallup, Washington, I answer:

For a decade now, I have ministered in church staff positions. I have often compared my call to Joshua's, serving under Moses. Joshua was called to serve in a helping

capacity. It must have been interesting to watch Joshua as the Lord was gradually preparing and then directly calling him to "fill Moses' sandals." I, too, have come to that place. God's timing is always important.

I have watched, as God has been gradually "fine tuning" the tools and gifts He has given me. When you come to a point in your ministry such as this, . . . and when you are introduced to a nucleus of believers who are interested in outreach and building Christ's Church in a new community, such as we have in Puyallup, Washington, . . . and when you put the barriers (questions) up that God just simply knocks over, one by one (answers to each question), . . . inner peace and joy come rushing in, and you just can't miss God's call! You go, as Joshua did!



The nucleus of the new church to be planted in Puyallup looks over the lease for the new and first meeting place, which is also where the picture is taken.



Accepting the call of the Pacific Northwest Association, the Rev. Gordon Bauslaugh began his ministry of planting a church in Puyallup, Washington, on March 1, 1987.

Hope Fellowship Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri

by Dennis Dewey

During part of February and March, people from Hope Fellowship "reached out to touch" several thousand homes in northwest Kansas City. Through the use of a phone survey, we identified individuals who do not have a church home and who were willing to have us send them a brochure about our church. These people have been invited to a special "Celebration

Sunday" on April 5 to become acquainted with our church. From this prospect list, we hope to reach many people for Christ.

We are discovering that many people in this area are unchurched. The need for a church here is a result of rapid growth in the past couple of years and more growth anticipated in this area for the future. A recent report indicated that 4,300 homes and apartments are projected to be built in our school district during the next three years. That will mean even more people who need to hear the message of Christ. Very simply, that is why my wife and I felt led to become involved in church extension work—because people need the Lord, and there are lots of people here.

The committed families that helped form this project have the same desire to reach out and minister to this community. We are excited to see what God, in His great power, will do as we work together for Him!

(Out of 6,154 dial-ups, 3,337 people answered. Of these, the callers found 535 families without a church home in the church area.)



Chuck Fay, Jim Bales, and Pastor Dennis Dewey (left to right) make preparations to store information gathered from the phone survey on the computer. Seventy-three attended the Easter service.



The Rev. Dennis Dewey became pastor of Hope Fellowship Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, in January 1987. He is also chairman of the Conference Church Growth Board.

Churches Started in 1986 Help People Find Christ

From the eastern coast of North America in New Jersey to the western coast in California, and from the north in Alberta to the south in Texas, five church extension projects, started in 1986, minister to people needing new life through Jesus Christ.

These churches are planted in communities where an evangelical witness is needed, and they provide opportunities for Christians to grow as they care, witness, give, serve, and worship.

These new churches were planted in Orlando,

Florida, with the Rev. Jake Leverette as pastor; in Pleasanton, California, with Mr. John Emmons as pastor; West New York, New Jersey, with Mr. Jaime Maldonado as pastor; Medicine Hat, Alberta, with the Rev. Allen Unger as pastor; and Coppell, Texas, with the Rev. Dan Heringer as pastor.

"Church planting is not an option for evangelicals today," says Pastor John Emmons. "It is a necessity to fulfill the Great Commission of spreading the gospel to all the world."

Three of these pastors relate to you how God is working in their churches.

Faith Baptist Fellowship, Medicine Hat, Alberta

by Allen Unger

God is doing great things in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Thanksgiving of 1984 saw the beginning of a Church Extension Project in Medicine Hat, Alberta. A small group of families, numbering about half a dozen, felt the need to plant a new church in the Ross Glen area of Medicine Hat. This is an area of about 1,800 homes with more being built. About 6,000 people make Ross Glen their home.



Faith Baptist recently moved into the Medicine Hat Christian School; this provides for adequate space.

This new church, Faith Baptist Fellowship, seeks to reach this community for Jesus Christ. Two events in the last few months have aided the success that our church is enjoying at this time.

One event was the week of calling that "New Day" did for us in November 1986. Every home in Ross Glen was contacted, and families responded to a religious survey. If no one was home, the team members left a pamphlet about the church.

The other event which helped the church was the move to the Medicine Hat Christian School. The space is more adequate, and the rental fee is about half of what was paid before. About ten families have visited the church since the move, and about four or five have been back for a second or third time. We have visited in their homes, and our group is growing. We have had 57 in attendance the first two Sundays of March.

Please continue to pray as we work for God in Medicine Hat.



The Rev. Allen Unger became pastor of Faith Baptist Fellowship in Medicine Hat, Alberta, in 1986.

Tri-Valley Faith Church, Pleasanton, California

by John Emmons

In doing the demographic work to determine where I would start a new church, I had the mistaken notion that I could find the best location. I thought there was one city in Northern California that stood out above all other cities in terms of its needs for a new church plant.

The first city, which I visited, left me with the impression that the needs there were tremendous and that was where I would go. The second city generated even stronger feelings of needs and even a greater desire to start a congregation there. As I continued the demographic search to the third, fourth, fifth, and eventually up to the thirteenth city, I came to the realization there was

no "perfect" city that stood out above all the others in terms of needs. The fields are indeed ripe with harvest, and the need for church planting has never been greater. All 13 cities I visited require new congregations that have the desire to reach the non-churched.

Picking Pleasanton, or the Tri-Valley area, was not the easiest task. Pleasanton has grown over 15 percent in the last five years, and many of the cities around it have experienced equal increases in population.

We moved into town on March 1, 1986. Tri-Valley Faith Church began its first Sunday worship service on June 8 with a group of people who did not know each other. Starting a church from



"I see God working," says Pastor Emmons. "Now there is a congregation where there was none before. People are coming to know the Lord, and others are rededicating their lives to God."

scratch, knocking on doors, and sending out mass mailings has enabled us to see God perform some of the greatest miracles I have ever experienced in my life.

Seven months after opening the church's "doors," I see God working in some phenomenal

ways. Now there is a congregation, which averages 53, where there was not one before. The miracle of spiritual birth is tremendous: People coming to know the Lord Jesus personally, individuals rededicating their lives to God, and many families returning to regular church attendance after years of absence.

We have experienced God working in our personal lives as well. What remains the most exciting aspect of this ministry is that God has only begun. Having God use us, despite our weaknesses, can do nothing but give us an enthusiasm for life and a greater expectation for the future.



Pastor John Emmons became the church planter pastor of Tri-Valley Faith Church, Pleasanton, California, in May 1986.

Coppell Fellowship Church, Coppell, Texas

by Dan Heringer

Change! That is what church extension is all about. Each Saturday night, we go to prepare the day care center we use for worship each Sunday as Coppell Fellowship Church. We find the day care center cluttered and full of toys, shelves, and activity centers. When we leave, it is clean, neat, set up for a great time of worship on Sunday. The change that takes place is dramatic.

What makes church extension ministry worthwhile in Coppell, Texas, and any other place is not the dramatic change in a building's use, but the wonderful change Christ brings to individuals. Take, for example, two young people who grew

up in the church, went off to college, received degrees, married, found good jobs, but somehow never found a church. A new church comes into their community, and God uses this new church to make a change in their lives. They are once again active and growing in their relationship with the Lord.

Penny is a wonderful person. Penny's first contact with Coppell Fellowship Church was through one of our ladies who is a home care nurse. Penny has had three major operations in a short period of time, was always in pain, and experienced many other difficulties. Because of the genuine love expressed by the home care nurse, Penny became a Christian. During the weeks that followed, the change in Penny is nothing less than a miracle. She is freed from the pain and able to walk without her cane, but more importantly, you can see that her heart is freed from the pain of being alienated from God. Her testimony is a witness to the fact that in Christ we are a "new creation."

Changing people! That is what church extension is doing in Coppell.



"What makes church extension ministry in Coppell worthwhile is the wonderful change Christ brings to people's lives," says Pastor Dan Heringer (center).



The Rev. Dan Heringer became pastor of Coppell Fellowship Church, Coppell, Texas, in May 1986.

What's Happening in Our New Churches?

"Planting new churches in our Conference is fulfilling the Great Commission by touching and changing lives. Winning and discipling people for Christ in fulfillment of the Great Commission is best done through church settings," says Rev. Bernard Fritzke, associate director for church planting for the Conference. With so many people moving from one area of the continent to another, with people being separated from their roots, away from a caring support group, with people struggling with family and marital problems, job loss, or serious physical illness, with people seeking meaning to life, the opportunities to meet people's spiritual needs and

to provide caring communities are abundant. We asked several of the pastors of churches planted from 1981 through 1985 to share how God has touched lives in these communities as well as what have been the most meaningful happenings in these churches in the last six to nine months. Praise God for changed lives, for committed pastors, and for the Associations, the parent churches, and the individuals who had the vision to see these churches planted in their various communities. Then consider your part in meeting needs of people through church planting. It is said that in the United States 70 percent of the population does not attend any church services. In Canada, it is even lower with 75 percent of the population having no church affiliation whatsoever!

Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, California

by Greg Myers

Statistics are one way of measuring growth. Jesus counted the people He fed, the widow's offering, and the lepers He cleansed. Our counting in 1986 revealed that the Lord had brought an average of 130 people per Sunday—up 49 percent over 1985! We also had our first two baptismal services and baptized nine people.

God also brought in a harvest of giving! Total contributions exceeded \$100,000 not counting N.A.B. Conference and Northern California



In 1986 we averaged 130 people per Sunday—a 49% increase over 1985.

Association support. Of that total, we gave more than \$11,000 to N.A.B. Conference missions and the Northern California Association. In view of God's blessings, it seemed appropriate to request a 50 percent reduction in support on September 1, 1986, and we hope to be off support completely by June 1, 1987.

Behind the statistics are real people! One couple came to the church in the depths of despair. Their relationship with God had grown cold, but through the ministry of God's Spirit and His people, they began to repent and are now looking to the Lord with renewed hope.

About midyear, a lady in the church requested the prayer of the elders (James 5:14). She had two lab tests that showed a non-functioning thyroid gland. We prayed and then she went to a specialist. He examined her tests and her. He said she couldn't be as healthy as she was if the tests were true, so he ordered a third set of tests. They came back normal. The doctor couldn't figure that out, even after she explained about the prayer.

God also used our fellowship groups to reach people for Christ and to restore broken Christians. One lady had been married to a man who was involved in immorality. The church where they had been attending shunned and condemned her because of her husband's sin. After that, she never attended worship on a regular basis again. One day, a friend invited her to one of our fellowship groups. She was so warmly received that in time

she "risked" a visit to Twin Oaks. She has been coming ever since and joined the church last December.

As God multiplied His blessings, we sensed a growing need for another staff member. After many weeks of prayer, we called Pastor Frank Baresel, who joined us in mid-January.

God moved among us in a powerful yet gentle way in 1986. He stretched our faith and convicted us of sin. Little by little, He has been making us "A

planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor"! To God be the glory!



The Rev. Greg Myers has been pastor of Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, California, since its beginning in 1985.

Gettysburg Baptist Church, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

by William G. Mummert

Gettysburg is best remembered as the site of the great Civil War battle that became the turning point of that war and also the site of President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

The present town of Gettysburg is unique in that it is almost totally surrounded by a 3,500 acre National Military Park. This has created a problem for us at Gettysburg Baptist Church. There is almost no land in the area for sale, and when it is, the price is highly inflated because everyone wants the land or building for business in the tourist trade. One and one-half to two million people visit this area each year.

After four years of searching, we finally have a contract on the last available lot of any size in Gettysburg. It is a one and one-quarter acre plot across the street from Bonanza Restaurant. There is a 35' by 40' white brick building on the land. We are currently working closely with the North American Baptist Conference International Office and the Atlantic Association Church Extension

Committee as we pursue closing on this property. We are also very excited about lives that have been changed by the power of the Gospel. During the past six months, we have seen six college students, a professor's son, a Jewish lady, and several others accept Christ as Savior. We have also found a few sidetracked believers who have been put back on the right track and are now growing.

Many new people are calling and visiting in response to our mass mailing of 8,000 church brochures and our radio advertisements. We praise God who has done so much for us. Please pray for us as we seek to be a turning point for many in Gettysburg.



The Rev. William G. Mummert is pastor of the church extension project in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, begun in 1983.

Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, California

by Kent Carlson

"Did you say a bar?" asked the surprised caller, asking for information about our church. "Yes," I assured him. "We are located in a shopping center behind a Mexican restaurant and between a laundromat and a bar."

For over two years, that unlikely location has been the home of Oak Hills Baptist Church. God has used that space to grow our church from an at-

tendance of 17 in November 1984 to our present attendance of more than 150 in February 1987. With this good growth, those facilities quickly became too small.

On the first Sunday of February 1987, we began worshipping in the cafeteria of Folsom High School. These facilities give us an almost unlimited potential for growth. We are looking forward to what God will do in our young church in the months ahead.

Folsom continues to be one of California's

fastest growing cities. There are new families moving into our community every day, and almost all of them are without a church home. Many of them will be in a situation where they will be open to the Gospel for the first time in their lives.

Our young church is basically a family-oriented church, overflowing with babies and little children. Naturally, we gear our programs around caring for families and the distinct needs that young couples with young children have.



Folsom continues to be one of California's fastest growing cities. New families move into the community everyday; almost all do not have a church home.

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carol Stream, Illinois

by Stephen Patrick

The people of Cornerstone Baptist Church praise and thank God for His goodness and faithfulness to us!

We praise Him for His strength and care during times of struggle. There have been days of discouragement in our efforts to reach new people in our community. There have also been times of discouragement in our efforts to raise funds for the purchase of land in Carol Stream. But, in the midst of that discouragement, God has shown us His love and has taught us valuable lessons. We have learned to trust Him more and to grow in our own faithfulness to Him.

We praise God for His power which has been

At the same time, we realize that Folsom has virtually no outreach to high school youth, so we are targeting that age group for ministry. We anticipate that a fruitful ministry to high school youth will allow us also to reach older families in our community.

One of the highlights of our church's ministry is our Home Fellowship Groups. We presently have four groups meeting weekly, and plans are in the making to add more in the next month or so. Our desire is to have the average person who joins our church become a part of one of these Home Fellowship Groups where they can have their needs met, care for others, learn God's Word, and be challenged for outreach.

In spite of all our inadequacies, there is a new church here in Folsom, and for that, we thank God. Our appreciation also goes to the North American Baptist Conference and the Northern California Association for their constant support and encouragement.

Please pray for us. Pray for me as the pastor that I will be God's man. Pray for our spiritual health and for an aggressive and fruitful outreach. Pray also for our search for land. And don't forget to join with us in thanking God for building His church here in Folsom.



The Rev. Kent Carlson began his ministry as the founding pastor of Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, California, in 1984.

seen in the many victories won. We have seen a number of children and youth respond to Jesus as Savior in recent months. A number of these came forward during morning worship services. We have seen two new people come to the church recently. We have experienced a renewal within our people (a growing spirit of unity and purpose) which is still going on.

For our struggles and our victories, we praise God! We continue to commit ourselves to the task of establishing a solid, evangelical witness in this growing community. We recognize that we cannot do this alone. We need the power of God and the prayers of His people.

A new and exciting project which we are undertaking to help us raise funds for land purchase is



Cornerstone has seen two new people come to the church recently and has experienced a renewal within its people.

called "STEPPING STONES for CORNERSTONE." The goal of this project is to raise \$100,000 from individuals and churches willing to purchase a "stepping stone" ranging in price from \$50 to \$5,000. Contributions are made over a two year period or in lump-sum gifts. To date, we have commitments totalling \$20,225. We thank God for these gifts! And we thank God for all of your prayers!



The Rev. Stephen Patrick became pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carol Stream, Illinois, in 1985. The group had begun meeting as a home Bible study group several years before.

Flower Mound Baptist Church, Flower Mound, Texas

by Doug Harsch

A

s a young church, we are still in the childlike stage of ministry. This brings many challenges; yet with childlike faith life is so exciting. In our church, as I'm sure in yours, it is hard to zero in on just a few of the exciting times. I'd like to

share with you about the salvation of Karen and Tom and also about the land we bought.

Karen and Tom are cousins and entered our lives at two different times. Both of them had been trying everything possible to find joy, peace, and purpose in life. They both shared that on their first visit to Flower Mound Baptist Church they felt God's love and were drawn back over and over again by the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit,



Flower Mound Baptist has a goal to reach two new families a month, and God has blessed this ministry.

they saw the truth and accepted Jesus Christ. Praise God! The newness of their faith was challenging to us all. They thanked God for the simplest of things while we looked for major miracles. A childlike faith is definitely more exciting, because there are always small things to be thankful for. Pray that Karen and Tom grow in Christ and bring their friends to Jesus as well.

Secondly, we are now the enthusiastic owners of three acres of land. This is important and exciting to us to see God establish us in Flower Mound. We want to be a joyful, loving, caring church in which Jesus is seen by our entire community.

Flower Mound was established in the 1800s by settlers with a strong faith in God. We want to be rooted and established in Flower Mound, so we can bring Christ to many more hurting people like Karen and Tom.

The financial burden is great, but we know through plans, your continued prayers, and support, we will see God meeting all of our needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.



The Rev. Doug Harsch is the church planter of Flower Mound Baptist Church. He began this ministry in 1984.

Westview Baptist Church, Lethbridge, Alberta

by James P. Erb

On the cover of our annual report in January, I put a picture of an elaborate European cathedral. During our business meeting, I commented, "Now that we have our land, we need to begin to think what type of building we want," as I pointed to the very ornate cathedral.

Obviously, not many of our North American Baptist Conference church buildings are in the



Pastor James Erb and Lawrence Brown of Westview Baptist Church, Lethbridge, AB, in Bible study.

cathedral category. We, as a congregation, certainly are not praying for an elaborate building, but we are praying for a building.

God has been very gracious to us this past year. We were able to purchase, with the help of the Alberta Association, one and one-quarter acres of land. We have been quickly filling up our present worship space with many new families who are attending on a regular basis. Our average attendance has increased from 75 in January of 1986 to 110 in January of 1987. The room in which we meet can accommodate approximately 150. We are confident that God will help us solve our space problem (which is a good problem to have) at the right time.

Pray that we, as a congregation, might be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we make decisions regarding our future building program.



The Rev. James Erb has been pastor of this Church since its beginning in 1982. This Church is the result of the vision of Park Meadows Baptist Church in Lethbridge.

Community and Sunrise of Red Deer, Alberta, Join

by Douglas Bittle

The Lord's way of doing things is truly amazing! Had anyone suggested at the outset of 1986 that a merger would take place between the two N.A.B. Conference churches in Red Deer, Alberta, there would doubtless have been adamant resistance on the part of both congregations. Yet that is what has taken place: Sunrise Baptist Church and Community Baptist Church are now meeting as one body called Unity Baptist Church.

This is a reminder of the words of God Himself when He stated: "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9, NIV). The Lord often has plans for us that are not at first apparent.

It had been a real privilege to be called to Red Deer to start a second church extension work in late 1981. The Lord had blessed us with slow but steady growth and with a body of believers that worked and prayed together well. 1986 was the year that land was to become available on which to build a church, but then the Alberta Baptist Association approached us to consider amalgamation with our sister church, Community Baptist, recognized by the Association as a church in 1980. Understandably, therefore, the initial reaction was, at best, a subdued one, and in some cases, a

somewhat negative one. In both churches, numerous special board and congregational meetings were called, open dialogue sessions held, and several votes taken—all of which served to



"God has provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate to our city what Christian brotherhood and witness is all about!" —Douglas Bittle

test our patience, love, and commitment to one another. A final vote on December 28, 1986, revealed overwhelming support for the proposed amalgamation.

February 1, 1987, was designated the "Come Together" Sunday. Much preparation was undertaken throughout the month of January so that when we came together on that eventful day, a beautiful spirit was evident, and God began a work of uniting two previously separate bodies of believers.

Two distinct streams of existence have come together. As in a marriage, there now needs to come a "working out of differences," a learning how to "pull together," a becoming "one flesh." Pray with us to this end. We are excited about the challenges of ministry ahead. God has placed us in a unique position, providing us with the opportunity to demonstrate to our city what Christian brotherhood and witness is all about!



The Rev. Douglas Bittle became founding pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Red Deer, Alberta, in late 1981.

Faith Community Baptist Church, Airdrie, Alberta

by Harold E. Weiss

Church planting has to be one of the most exciting and most rewarding ministries in all the world, not without weariness and tears, but with joys and victories that rejoice the heart and soul for a lifetime and for eternity. When God uses frail instruments to draw Christians together from all

walks of life to build a local church to present Jesus Christ as the only answer to life's problems, amazing things happen that lead His redeemed children to sing and praise the Lord (Romans 15:1-11).

This has been our experience here at Faith Community Baptist in Airdrie:

An alcoholic husband and his wife responded by faith when our Evangelism Explosion team presented the Gospel a year ago. He responded emphatically, "Thank you for coming to share Jesus Christ with us; otherwise I might have wasted another 20 years without Christ." Today, he is deeply involved as an excited and enthusiastic leader in our church.

The building of a practical multipurpose facility that seats 250, under the direction of a deeply united and committed Building Committee and congregation, has brought a song and rejoicing to the hearts of many in our community.

After much prayer and planning, God gave us enough willing and dedicated workers to begin an exciting AWANA Club Program for our growing number of precious children. Many visiting children are also now enrolled. We pray many will



Many visiting children are now enrolled in Faith Community Baptist's children's club.

find Christ as Savior.

We are agreed at Faith Community Baptist that Church Extension does pay and causes rejoicing.



The Rev. Harold E. Weiss is the pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church, Airdrie, Alberta, since 1981. This Church was recognized as a church by the Alberta Association in 1985.

Tri-Community Baptist Church, Beiseker, Alberta

by Robert Hoffman

The people had a mind to work . . ." (Nehemiah 4:6), best describes what happened at Tri-Community Baptist Church in 1986. At a time of tremendous restraint, we all agreed to proceed to build our new church building. Our mother church, Carbon Baptist, which donated land some years ago, also encouraged us, as did the Church Extension Council for central Alberta.



People are coming to know Christ as Savior and joining the church.

So with \$62,000 on hand and a commitment to raise another \$10,000 among us, and with the goal of holding our Easter service in the new building, we began a "Do-It-Yourself" building project. God blessed us with volunteer help and careful buying of materials, so that now we have a 48 by 70 foot building erected and are in the finishing process, for a total of about \$80,000. We will be able to seat near-

ly 200 in this attractive, functional building.

Tri-Community Baptist Church is the focus of a wide area that goes beyond Irricana, Beiseker, and Acme, the immediate three communities we are working in directly. Attendance even before moving into the building testifies to that fact. A baptismal class of five, possibly seven, is preparing for a baptismal service in the new building.

The joy of it all is that we have no debt or payments. Except for a little contracted work such as electrical and gyproc, the work was done by volunteers. "To God be the glory," for He has helped us and is working through us. It is a joy to keep on reaching out to people in this area.



The Rev. Robert Hoffman became pastor of Tri-Community Baptist in Beiseker, Alberta, in 1985. This church extension project was received into the Alberta Association as a recognized church in 1983.

Churches Become Self-supporting in 1986

Five church extension churches—North Carrollton Baptist in Carrollton, TX, Rev. Robert Walther, pastor; Timberline Baptist in Lacey, WA, Rev. Larry Neufeld, pastor; Middle Island Baptist in Middle Island, NY, Rev. Henry Wilk, pastor; Gillette Baptist in Gillette, WY, Rev. Craig Holmes, pastor; and Gold Country Baptist

in Shingle Springs, CA, Rev. Dale Cundall, pastor—became self-supporting in 1986.

These churches had received support for their pastors during the past seven years. They also have received support from their local Associations. Beginning with churches planted in 1987, churches are encouraged to become self-supporting within five years so that more churches can be planted in new areas to fulfill the Great Commission.

Pastors of two of these churches that became self-supporting last year reflect on their church's ministries.

Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, Washington

by Larry Neufeld

Several years ago, I had an area minister tell me "that after seven years, a church extension church becomes a church." In his mind, a church lost something when it became self-supporting. Indeed, a new church begins with a great deal of excitement and anticipation. Outreach is essential for survival, and a close bond quickly forms between members of the group. A self-supporting church can survive for a while without outreach and can easily lose its sense of excitement.



Sunday school is a vital part of the Christian Education of children through adults.

My greatest joy as I look back over the seven-year history of Timberline Baptist Church in Lacey, Washington, is to know that we have the joy of being "a church," yet we still have some characteristics of a new church. We are larger and, of necessity, more organized, and I suspect that we do the kinds of things that most churches do.

What is exciting is that we are still trying to be what God wants us to be. We are a people who care about those in our community. Nearly every week someone has a story to tell of someone they shared with, and often that person shows up in church.

We still come to worship with a sense of anticipation to see what God is going to do in our lives. We still come with the conviction that coming to church ought to be fun (though at times we have hard things to deal with). We still come with a desire to be a caring community.

Yes, we are "a church," with all of its property to maintain and its organizations to run and all of its blemishes and faults. But we hope that we continue to work at being the people God wants us to be.



The Rev. Larry Neufeld became pastor of Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, Washington, in 1982, succeeding founding pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Goodman.

North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas

by Robert Walther

In our Sunday worship service, during praise and prayer time, it is not unusual for someone to say how grateful they are for North Carrollton Baptist Church, because here they found Christ as Savior, or they were baptized, or came back to the church. This brings a warm feeling to me and reminds me how grateful I am for those in the Southern Association and the North American Baptist Conference who had the vision to start this new church.

That vision boomed into reality as this year was

the end of our church extension support. The financial help has been a blessing, but even more than that has been the special tie between North Carrollton Baptist and our Conference.

About one and one-half years ago, we asked ourselves what our greatest opportunities are in this community. We came to the conclusion: "young families with lots of children." From that conclusion, we began an AWANA program which has reached many children for Christ, has brought many families into our church, and has given us phenomenal visibility in a growing community.



The children's club has been so successful that now North Carrollton Baptist is developing "Growth Groups" for parents, members, and friends from the church. Pastor Robert Walther is at right.

AWANA has given us the opportunity to get many new people to attend our church and provides an immediate avenue of service as a listener or a leader.

AWANA has been so successful for the kids that now we are developing "Growth Groups" for all the parents, members, and friends from our church. The opportunities we have as we enter a new era in our church life (self-support) are limitless.

Thank you for the heritage you have given us, and pray for us in this new "era" of our church.

The Rev. Robert Walther became the founding pastor of North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas, in 1980. After seven years of Conference support, the Church became self-supporting in 1986.

Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, Colorado

by Earl Ahrens

In August 1944, Lois and I were commissioned by the North American Baptist Conference as missionaries to the Cameroons of West Africa. Eighteen years later, we left Africa to serve on our home mission field to Spanish-surnamed people in Colorado.

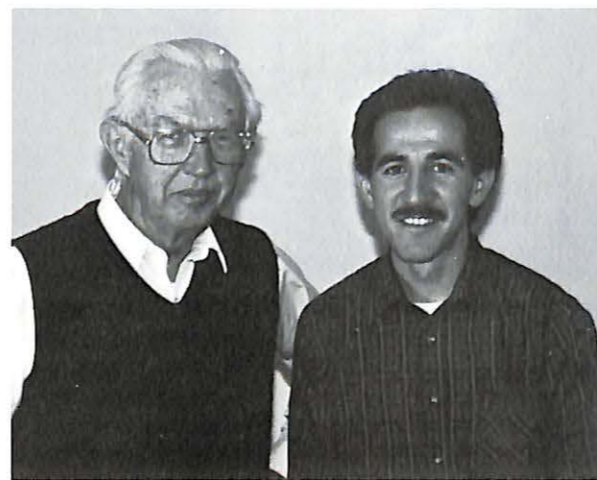
On May 31, 1987, our formal ministry as North American Baptist Conference home missionaries will terminate. That magic number "65" has come for me.

The past 43 years have passed quickly. The last few years of our missionary service in Colorado have been quietly thrilling. Most of the goals of our church and missionary life are all of a sudden beginning to be seen.

Committed leadership has emerged so that the Ahrens are no longer doing everything. What a joy to sit back and let your spiritual children take over. When men begin to lead in the church that means a great church goal has been reached. Grace Baptist Church men are asserting themselves.

Sunday worship services, study, and the fellowship at the Lord's Table have become so meaningful with a sense of God's holy presence.

What is obviously true in the life of every church is that while certain individuals grow and mature, others fall by the wayside. The pressures and demands of the Christian life-style for some are too great to follow.



A young Spanish-surnamed pastor, Michael Mirelez, (right), is stepping into home missions pastor, Earl Ahrens', (left), place.

Transitions are always difficult. Our leaving Africa was heart- and body-wrenching. African missionaries do not rid themselves of the "spirit of Africa" easily.

The transition here will not be as drastic. It will be our great privilege to hand this work over to "a faithful man who will be able to teach others also" (1 Timothy 2:2).

A young, Spanish-surnamed pastor, Michael Mirelez, will step into my place. It was our

privilege to be an influence in his life and call to the ministry over the past five to seven years. Though not in direct contact all the time, communication and study were carried on via mail and telephone. He has proven himself worthy. He was examined and called to be the next pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Monte Vista, Colorado, both by the local church, the Home Mission Committee and the Church Growth Department.



New areas of ministry were developed over the past years such as a training program, low-income housing, a food distribution center, and a thrift shop.



Dr. Earl Ahrens and his wife Lois have ministered at Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, Colorado, since 1963.

Appreciation to Earl and Lois Ahrens for Faithful Service

by Ray Harsch

On May 31, 1987, Earl and Lois Ahrens retire from active service after serving faithfully as missionaries and pastor and pastor's wife for 43 years.

Both of these servants of the Lord very effectively used their training and talents to minister to people. Their great desire was to see others come to know Christ.

In 1963, after 18 years of service in Cameroon, West Africa, Earl and Lois volunteered for missionary service to the Spanish-surnamed people in Colorado, where they have continued to serve until now.

Much of their Cameroonian experience proved invaluable to them for ministry in Colorado. In Monte Vista, Colorado, they developed new areas of ministry: a training

program for retired, semi-literate men in areas of Bible knowledge, soul-winning, and church leadership; a housing improvement program; a halfway house for alcoholics; a food distribution center; and a thrift shop. Together with others, they organized camping activities and the Baptist Health Center.

Their two children, William (married) and Corrine (a member of 1986-87 "New Day" team) find much joy in serving the Lord.

The people of the North American Baptist Conference, the Church Growth Department, and the people of Cameroon and of Colorado, together say a hearty "THANK YOU" for 43 years of faithful service. We are confident that whatever doors of service God opens in these coming years will provide years of blessing for you.

THANK YOU—GOD BLESS!

New Life Ministries, Winnipeg, Manitoba

by Harry Lehotsky

"Go ahead and cut it; I don't care. I'm a junkie, my girlfriend left me, and I've screwed my life up anyway. You'd probably be helping me."

As I sat with the back of a kitchen knife held tightly to his throat, I told him I had no desire to hurt him, but I just wanted to keep him there until the police arrived. I shared the testimony of God's power and changing grace in my life, and told him that whatever happens, I'll be willing to help him if he is serious about changing.

One of the things I have come to believe is that ministry is much more than shielding a person from the consequences of their actions, sometimes even calling us to use those consequences to motivate change and create a deeper awareness of the need for Jesus.

The variety of situations, phone calls, and visitors we get make this work a challenge, as we share the gospel on a sinner-to-sinner basis. Yet this work is joyous work, and I am grateful for the members of our group here at New Life Ministries. There is excitement and interest as we study and

worship together, anticipation as we are discovering the spiritual gifts with which the Lord has blessed our group, and compassion as we share with others what God is doing in our lives.

Last year I was approached by a couple, both of whom had been diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenics, who asked if I would start a home Bible study with them and some of their friends with similar problems. I nervously agreed. I have found that in my preparation and in our times together thus far the Lord has blessed abundantly, and He has also been ministering to me through my new friends. Some with occult involvement have tried to disrupt some of the meetings and distract some of the members of our group; yet even here we praise God as He is teaching us the reality of His power in dealing with Satan and his children.

Recently, we rented a building for worship and Bible studies and find that to be a good step forward for our group.

Following the birth of our twin boys in February, there was an outpouring of help and care, which, in my mind, was just another evidence of the deep love and closeness found in our Christian family.

There are many pressures, much work, and difficult decisions to be made, but the love of this church family is what has made this a very worthwhile experience for my wife Virginia and me. I am very grateful for the work of God in our lives, for a very supportive and loving relationship with the Manitoba Baptist Association, and especially for a church family which makes it a joy to serve the Lord where He has called!



The Rev. Harry Lehotsky is the founding pastor of the urban ministry, New Life Ministries, begun in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1984.



New Life Ministries recently rented a building for worship and Bible studies.

Del Norte and Center, Colorado

by Cal Kroeker

Recently, home missions pastors David Keiry and Cal Kroeker, some laymen from Grace Baptist Church in Del Norte, and another pastor started a ministry to prisoners in the county jail. "We have had good response from the men there as we go Sunday afternoons with singing and sharing from the

Word," says Pastor Kroeker. "These men are both Anglo and Hispanic, so we sing and preach in both English and Spanish. We believe maybe two of these prisoners have made decisions for Christ."

Pastor Keiry and Pastor Kroeker have been taking three of these prisoners through discipleship Bible studies. On January 28, the Sheriff allowed Pastor Keiry to bring a tank into the jail and baptize two of these prisoners. The Sheriff said that Rev. Keiry should be the Sheriff's Department Chaplain.

"We rejoice over these open doors of opportunity," says Rev. Kroeker.

"We are facing tremendous opportunities in reaching people for Christ on the continent of North America. The four common denominators in growing churches are faith, vision, enthusiasm, and willingness to risk. To be willing to risk shows that you are open to change. In plateauing and declining churches, this denominator is rated very low," says Ray Harsch.



The Rev. Cal Kroeker became pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Del Norte, in 1985.

new day

A Note from "Mom"

As I wander through the echoing hallway, turning off lights, closing doors, the solitude of the church overwhelms me! It is 7 a.m., and I've just waved goodbye to a sleepy-eyed but enthusiastic group of young people that just spent seven days warming our hearts and ministering to our spirits at Parkland Baptist Church in Spruce Grove, Alberta—"New Day."

The church is never so empty as when, after a week of "New Day's" brand of infectious love and countless blessings, with equipment packed and hugs exchanged,

their vehicle departs for another two years absence. This must be what "empty nest syndrome" feels like!

As church secretary, my job holds many blessings but none so endearing as the visits by each "New Day" team. How quickly they work their way into your heart. How proudly you watch, with "maternal" enthusiasm, as they sing, dramatize, share, and minister to various individual and group needs in both church and community. These are "OUR KIDS." Wow! Aren't they special! What blessing our Lord has granted us in the N.A.B. Conference!

I can't help but reflect on their real moms throughout the Conference as they wonder how things

are going for their offspring: Are they eating right, sleeping enough, traveling safely? . . . (I don't care how old you are, guys; we moms *always* think that way!) Then I watch as our local ladies try extra hard to make this stopover special. Finally, I realized that by the year's end, these kids probably have in excess of 30 "moms" praying for them, thinking of them, and loving them into the future.

As you move on through your tour, team, we miss you—but, oh how proud we are to claim you as our own, N.A.B.'s "New Day!"

Love,
"Mom"

Marj Hadlington,
Parkland Baptist Church,
Spruce Grove, Alberta



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

A Wife of Noble Character

A paraphrase of Proverbs 31
by Gayle Hustad, Dickinson, ND

(10) A wife of noble character is rare. She is worth more than the most costly jewels at Rustands or Zales.

(11-12) Her husband trusts her completely. Because of her, his life is richer, fuller, and blessed. Each day of her life, she wishes him well. She accepts him as he is and is interested in every part of his life and well-being.

(13) She goes to Joann Fabrics and selects attractive fabrics to sew. If she is not "sew-minded," she can select clothes wisely from Penneys or Herbergers or Brauns or K-Mart. She knows quality and value, and her family is always dressed attractively.

(14) She tries new recipes and is willing to learn new cooking skills. It is not unusual for her to try Chinese or Italian or Mexican dishes. Her food is carefully prepared and attractively served.

(15) She does what is necessary to keep her family well-fed . . . even if she must rise early. All who enter her household are treated with hospitality.

(16) She is creative in helping to supplement the household income. She saves a portion of her money and wisely invests it so that its worth increases.

(17) She has learned how to work and organizes her time to be most effective. She takes care of herself by eating right and exercising. This gives her physical strength to work energetically.

(18) She is a wise spender. She

watches for sales. She uses coupons. She is willing to wait, if necessary, for a good buy. She makes sure the utility bills are paid.

(19) She enjoys knitting or weaving or crocheting or needle point or tole or cross-stitch or quilting or painting.

(20) She is filled with compassion for those in need. She takes from her own pantry to meet their needs. She will bake or clean or sew or listen or pray for those who need her caring.

(21) She is always telling her husband and children, "Wear your boots! Button your coat! Put on a hat!" She shops for the warmest clothing for her family and helps find the missing boot and locate the other mitten.

(22) She realizes that her home is an expression of herself. She chooses her household decorations carefully and with love. She takes care of her appearance and chooses clothing that is flattering and attractive.

(23) Her husband is proud to be seen with her everywhere they go. She treats him with respect and encourages his leadership in their home and community.

(24) She makes extra money by selling her crafts at craft fairs or as a seamstress or by babysitting or by cleaning houses.

(25) She has strong moral convictions. She can stand alone against those who would pressure her to go their way. She knows she is of great worth, and this gives her dignity. She is not afraid of death because her hope is in Christ. Because of this, growing old holds no fear for her.

(26) Because she spends time in God's Word, she can speak with wisdom. She is faithful to teach and instruct God's ways at every opportunity.

(27) She keeps a calendar and marks important functions for her family. She knows where her children are at all times. She alerts her husband to important appointments. She does not permit herself to be a time waster.

(28-29) Her children say, "Great dinner, Mom!" "Thanks, Mom!" "I love you, Mom!" Her husband also praises her by saying, "There's no woman in the world I'd rather be married to than you! Thanks for marrying me!"

(30) She knows that passing a charm course or taking a Dale Carnegie course or dressing for success won't bring her happiness. Nor does she rely on beauty. The woman who puts the Lord first in her life and reverences Him is the one who finds lasting joy and peace. Because she serves the Lord, she will receive honor and praise from Him.

(31) Her good works will bring her praise in this life, and someday the Lord will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Enjoy an International Experience

by Dorene Walth,
Citrus Heights, CA

Why is it important for women to attend a continental meeting such as the Eighth Assembly of the

North American Baptist Women's Union at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, October 1-4, 1987?

Because here women share their joys, heart cries, and personal needs in life and ministry. They are inspired by stories of women from other Baptist groups throughout North America and surrounding island countries.

They find unity, love, and new ideas. They are motivated to participate with millions of others in the Baptist World Day of Prayer. They return with a greater vision of our Lord's work on a larger scale than their own women's group.

Top speakers, skilled musicians, dramatic monologues, and the famous A.D. Players from Houston, Texas, are a few of the exciting and inspirational program highlights. Everyone will enjoy a President's reception, a Sunday morning breakfast, the NABWU market, the Book Room, Prayer

Room, and the assembly choir. A men's program is also planned for husbands who wish to attend. Register now!

Women of Hope Reaching Out

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

Our theme, "Women of Hope Reaching Our World," has challenged many of our groups as they have planned their programs for the year. Early this year, we received annual reports, sent in by our local church women's groups, telling us of the year's activities. We sense each group's joy in involvement in various areas of service.

I think of 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 which speaks of the body and the functions of the body. God has given to each of us special tasks to perform and unitedly we accomplish that which God has for us.

We continue to praise the Lord for you, our women, and for your dedication and commitment to serve the Lord through your local church, your Association, and the Conference.

Remember our Mother's Day Offering in May which we suggest go toward the support of the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary which provides education for pastors and pastors' wives.

President's Corner

by Sara Pasiciel,
WMF president,
Steinbach, MB

From my journal . . .

TUESDAY: I had an interesting conversation with another over-40 friend today. Even in "middle age," it astonishes us that we continue to grow. Though others perceive us as women who "have it all together," inside we, too, are reacting and reaching . . . to the pull of our children as they grow away into adulthood, to the pull of parents who have given so much yet who now seem so separate from us and our lives.

We do change. We hope our reactions are more mature, but they are still reactions—to changing circumstances, ways of seeing, even goals for the future. What must it be like, we said to each other, not to have Christ to hold all things together, to be the Center of our past, our present, and our future.

FRIDAY: I heard from one of the women of our Conference, a leader in her Association. They're having trouble finding a women's coordinator in one or two of their churches. So many women are returning to work or to school and find they no longer have time to commit themselves to a definite responsibility in the church.

I can appreciate their frustration and their wanting to be careful not to do too much. But I must also look at my own busy life, and my concern then is, am I open to what God chooses for me, even if that choice is one time-consuming responsibility? And if I respond to that choice, will the church let me do that one thing well, or will they expect more and more? I guess I need to pray, continually, not for more time but for the wisdom to use it wisely and well—and I need to say that prayer every time my priorities become an issue!

8th Assembly North American Baptist Women's Union

Niagara Falls, New York & Canada
October 1-4, 1987



Circle the date! Enter!

in memoriam

THEODORE "TED" HAAS (91), Mandan, ND; born Oct. 4, 1895, to Adam F. and Katharina (Strobel) Haas at Ventura, ND; died Jan. 13, 1987; married Bertha Braun, Jan. 16, 1921; member, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; mayor, Turtle Lake, ND; one daughter, Edith Mae (Mrs. Richard Brochat), Williston, ND; 7 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; one brother, Bert; and two sisters: Mathilda and Lydia.

ANNA E. (nee HANSON) PATET (99), St. Paul, MN; born Oct. 13, 1897, in St. Paul, MN; died Dec. 20, 1986; married Albert Patet who predeceased her in November 1963; member, Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN; survived by one son, Richard, and one daughter, Marlys, both of St. Paul; 6 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mabel Kaemer; Rev. Ruben Herrman, pastor, funeral service.

HELENE JANZEN (87), Vancouver, BC; born May 19, 1899, to Johann and Katharina Enns in Nikopol, Ukraine; died Jan. 22, 1987; married Franz Janzen in 1926, who predeceased her during World War II; immigrated to Canada in 1948; faithful member, Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; survived by two sons: Franz, Winnipeg, MB; and Erwin, Vancouver, BC; four daughters: Anna Niedens, Russia; Betty Pickett, Richmond, BC; Kaethe, and Martha, both of Vancouver, BC; seven grandchildren; two sisters; two brothers; and many nieces and nephews; Rev. Richard Hohensee, pastor, funeral service.

GORDON H. SCHROEDER, (72), of Brighton, MI; born May 9, 1914 to George and Frances Schroeder in Lorraine, KS; died Oct. 10, 1986; editor, Baptist New Yorker newspaper; served American Baptist Churches, including pastor, First, Lincoln, NE, 10 years; Redford, Detroit, MI, 19 years, retiring in 1977; interim pastorates; author, including *The New Life*, which sold more than a half-million copies in 12 languages and is used in church membership classes; survivors include his wife, Ruth; a son, Kenneth, Tempe, AZ; a daughter, Judith Kontz; a brother, Victor, and a sister, Thelea (Delmar) Wesseler; and three granddaughters.

JOHN SUCKERT (81), McClusky, ND; born Feb. 25, 1905, to Jacob and Mary Suckert in Romania; died Jan. 3, 1987; immigrated with his parents to Kief, ND, in 1907; married Anna Dieterle, Feb. 25, 1931; accepted Christ as his Savior three years ago; predeceased by one son, Roland; survived by his wife Anna; one son, Leland, Minot, ND; one daughter, Arlis (Mrs. Cecil Goff), Maitland, FL; four grandchildren;

and two great-grandchildren; Rev. Oscar Fritzke, pastor, funeral service.

HENRY WEIDMAN (89), Olds, AB; born Jan. 14, 1897, at Leduc, AB; died Nov. 2, 1986; married Helen Kern in 1920; member, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, deacon for over 50 years, East Olds Baptist Church, Olds, AB; predeceased by four brothers and two sisters; survived by his wife Helen; four sons: Vernon (Doris), Edmonton, AB; Melvin (Gladys), Calgary, AB; Gordon (Leona), Calgary, AB; and Dennis (Arlene), Richmond, BC; two daughters: Rosemary (Mrs. Gordon Kary), Olds, AB; and Deloris (Mrs. Richard Harsch), Carbon, AB; 20 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two sisters; and many nieces and nephews; Reverends Ritchie White and Don Matchullis, pastors, funeral service.



Flowers are beautiful—but they fade so quickly.

Consider giving a gift to our North American Baptist Conference Mission and Outreach Ministries in memory or honor of a special loved one. Receive double benefits through your gift: You honor that special someone, and you help reach lost people for Christ.

- Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____
- In memory of _____
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Mail above information and gift to:
Walter Swanson, development director
North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., P.O. Box 159
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Brentview Baptist Church Calgary, Alberta June 19-21, 1987

We invite all former members and friends to take part in these celebrations

Inquiries or greetings contact:
Betty Lang

3512 Charleswood Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, T2L 2C3
Rev. Ron Kernohan, pastor

75th Anniversary Celebration of the Zion Baptist Church Okeene, Oklahoma August 7-9, 1987

We invite all former members and friends to take part in these celebrations.

Inquiries or greetings contact:
Zion Baptist Church
Box 357

Okeene, Oklahoma 73763
Rev. Elton Kirstein, pastor

750th Anniversary of Berlin

Come to meet us in Old Germany for the 750th year anniversary of Berlin in 1987.

If you visit West Berlin, don't miss the opportunity to participate in our Sunday service at the Baptist Church in Berlin—Steglitz.

We would be very pleased to welcome our brothers and sisters from North America in our church and worship together with you. We are looking forward to having fellowship with you.

Evangelisch-Freikirchliche
Gemeinde
(Berlin Baptist Church)
1000 Berlin 41

Rothenburgstrasse 12a - 13
Sunday 10 a.m. German service
11:30 a.m. English service

Rev. Peter Muskolus-Tel: 791-2340
Rev. James E. Foster-Tel: 815-7754

FACULTY POSITION OPEN
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Applications are available from
Dr. Richard Paetzel, academic vice
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Canadian Immigration laws, pref-
erence will be given to Canadian
citizens.

60th Anniversary Celebration of the Leduc Temple Baptist Church July 3-5, 1987

Inquiries or greetings contact
Temple Baptist Church
Box 839
Leduc, Alberta, T9E 2Y7
Pastor Frank Schmidt

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

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

Bethany Baptist Church,
Vancouver, British Columbia,
will celebrate its
50th Anniversary
June 25-28, 1987.

All former members and friends
are invited to attend and share in
this time of remembrance.

For further details, write to
Bethany Baptist Church
115 East 50th Avenue
Vancouver, BC, V5X 1A4
Dr. Rick Laser, pastor

An Expression of Thanks

Betty and I express our thanks to the
North American Baptist International
Office staff, churches, women's
groups, and individuals throughout
the Conference who remembered us
during the time of Betty's recovery
from her accident last July. The
response was overwhelming as her
need was conveyed via the W.M.F.
prayer chain.

Betty's second cast was removed
January 20. Since that time she has
had a great deal of therapy on her left
leg, and both legs are bending. She
is back in her usual wheelchair and
is getting out on a limited basis. We
are grateful to God for such good
healing.

Donald and Betty Patet, Aplington,

What do I get that special
someone on the occasion of
his or her anniversary, birth-
day, or other special event?



Consider a gift that both honors
them and the Lord, a gift to N.A.B.
Conference outreach ministries in
recognition of that person and the
special event.

Through this recognition gift, you
will be reaching people for Christ
and letting that person know how
special he or she is with one gift.

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In recognition of _____

_____ (event)

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Mail to: Mr. Walter Swanson, develop-
ment director, North American Baptist
International Office, 1 South 210 Sum-
mit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
Phone: 1-312-495-2000

Called to Worship

Eastern Association Youth Meet

ARNPRIOR, ON. The Eastern Association Winter Youth Retreat held Feb. 20-22, 1987, in Muskoka, Ontario, featured guest speaker Tom Sparling. "He was greatly used by God in his music and speaking ministries," reports Dorian Getz. He spoke about "Spectator Christianity," suggesting there are three types of Christians: curious, convinced, and committed. All are curious; many are convinced; few are committed.

Participants enjoyed winter olympics as well as the traditional Saturday evening talent show. The musical theme throughout the weekend was "Praise."

"God spoke to many young people as well as youth sponsors," states Dorian Getz. "It's always hard to leave the 'mountain top' experience at a retreat, but we left more deeply committed to the Lord."

Compelled to Serve

Cambodian Pastor Speaks at Meadowlark Church

EDMONTON, AB. A chance to hear the Gospel in their own language came to the Cambodian people attending Meadowlark Baptist Church, March 8, 1987, as Dara-Pen ministered to them in the Khmer language. His audience of 35 also included Cambodians from Calgary and Red Deer.

The Cambodian also spoke to the adult Sunday school classes in both morning services at the Church. In the evening service, he showed slides of Cambodia and of the refugee camps in Thailand. Khmer words mingled with English words as the hymns were sung during the service.

Dara-Pen came to the United States from Cambodia 20 years ago and took Bible training there. In the early 80s, he returned to Thailand to minister to Cambodians in refugee camps. He started the Emmanuel Bible College in one camp. Among his students was Sophon Diep, one of the Cambodians now attending Meadowlark. It was this contact that brought Dara-Pen to the Church. Currently, he is engaged in helping to start churches among Cambodians in the Long Beach, California, area.

In addition to ministering to the refugee group, Dara-Pen gave information to Meadowlark leaders about starting a church among Cambodians.

"The tragedy that hit the Cambodian people was brought home to the participants in the Sunday evening service in a new way," reports Carol Fulmore. "As Dara-Pen showed slides from his days of working in a church in Cambodia 20 years ago, he repeatedly identified the people in the photos as dead or as scattered across the face of the western world."

Bethlehem Youth Host Monthly Film Fest

BETHLEHEM, PA. "Youth Encounter" of Calvary Baptist Church began the "Lehigh Valley Fabulous Films

Festival" recently. On the second Friday evening of each month, youth in grades 7-12 meet for fun, films, food, and fellowship in the Church gym. Youth from all denominations are invited to attend. Admission is free.

In March, the film, "Troubled Waters," tracing the experiences of a young man rafting down swift-flowing canyon rivers, was shown. Pizza and soda were also provided.

Arnprior Church Holds Leadership Enrichment Conference

ARNPRIOR, ON. First Baptist Church held a dual-track Enrichment Weekend, Feb. 27-28, 1987, to strengthen believers for effective service to the Lord.

The Leadership Enrichment Conference was for all lay workers in the church. The sessions included a leadership styles inventory and information about biblical principles for time management, establishing priorities, goal-setting, and planning.

The Marriage Enrichment Seminar helped couples strengthen their marriage and so grow in mutual support and love. The sessions included a temperament analysis and information on conflict resolution, communication, family devotion, finances, and love.

The facilitators of the Enrichment Seminar were Ron and Mary-Ellen Kuehl and Dave and Deanna Neely. Both couples have expertise in Christian education and counseling. "The seminars were well received," states Pastor Phil Zylla, "and have resulted in much enthusiasm for a more effective approach to carrying out the will of God." —Dorian Getz

Correnti Presents Piano Concert at Bethlehem Church

BETHLEHEM, PA. The Rev. James Correnti, pastor of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, presented a piano concert at Calvary Baptist Church, March 8, 1987. Pastor Correnti has studied piano since the age of seven and graduated from Juilliard School of Music. He has been soloist with the Plainfield Symphony and Garden State Philharmonic Orchestras, as well as played for Christian conferences at Keswick, Pinebrook, Sandy Cove, and Harvey Cedars. He has been teaching piano since the age of 13 and has held numerous workshops and given lectures.

Commanded to Care

Ministering to Ill and Grief-stricken Topic of McClusky Seminar

MC CLUSKY, ND. Rev. Alvin Harsch, chaplain, Medical Center Rehabilitation Hospital, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, led a seminar on ministering at McClusky Baptist Church, Feb. 20-21, 1987. "In an eight-hour seminar, Dr. Harsch shared enlightening insights and practical suggestions for ministering in times of illness and grief," reports Irene A. Froehlich. "The response to the seminar was most enthusiastic."

Dr. Harsch also spoke to the adult classes during the Sun-

day school hour on February 22 and brought a sermon, "How to Overcome Discouragement," at the morning worship service. The Rev. Oscar Fritzke is pastor of the Church.

Four Start Mall Ministry in Burlington

BURLINGTON, IA. Talking about their families led four people, including three clerks, to form the "Mall Ministry." They meet at 9 a.m. once a week in the "Food Court" of the mall. Their meeting place stimulated more interest, and people learned they were there to support one another, so the group has grown to nine.

"They stress the meeting is not because they are good people, but because they are Christians," reports Floraine Miller. "They request no one mention their church or dominate the conversation. The question, 'What does God really mean to you?' whetted their appetites. The Bible is their source; closing prayer includes special needs of support."

Several of the group now form a nucleus of a new Sunday school class at Oak Street Baptist Church where the Rev. Gregg Donaldson is pastor.

Vancouver Church Recognizes Two Members

VANCOUVER, BC. Immanuel Baptist Church celebrated the 90th birthday of two members, Mrs. Aguste Behnke and Mrs. Lydia Schmidt, in January by praising God for His care and leading in their lives. "Both ladies are faithful members and an encouragement to us at Immanuel," reports Gerhilde Bublitz.

Commissioned to Witness

Hebron Teachers Have Workshop

HEBRON, ND. Teachers of Hebron Baptist Church were challenged to live a Christ-centered life despite pressure from a sin-filled world, thus being a teacher in deed as well as in word, at their annual Sunday School Workshop, Feb. 26, 1987. Carol Potratz, Christian education director, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church, spoke on "Peer Pressure" and "Innovative Sunday School Teaching and Openings." —Shari Krein

Seven Baptized at Alpena Church

ALPENA, MI. New Year's Eve 1986 was a highlight of the year at Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church as Pastor Fred Sweet baptized seven adults and two teenagers during a candlelight service. "As each candidate was baptized, a sponsor read his or her favorite Bible verse and prayed," reports Doris Turnbull. Following the ceremony, the congregation gathered in a large circle in the sanctuary, each holding a lighted candle, singing praises to God.

Six Baptized at McDermot

WINNIPEG, MB. Six new believers joined McDermot Avenue Baptist Church after baptismal services on Nov. 16, 1986, and Jan. 25, 1987. Each one was paired with a

spiritual partner to help and encourage him or her in their new walk with Christ. Dr. John Hisel is pastor of the Church. —Maria Rogalski

Missionaries Featured Speakers at Winnipeg Brunch

WINNIPEG, MB. During the Manitoba Association's Bi-annual Missions Conference, Oct. 28-Nov. 2, 1986, McDermot Baptist Church hosted a Ladies' Missions brunch attended by 140 ladies. Missionaries Barbara Kieper, Nigeria; Annemarie Hattenhauer and Pat Lenz, Cameroon; Joan Stoller (in absentia), Japan; and Virginia Lehotsky from our own inner-city mission, New Life Ministries, shared interview-style. "Their answers to the pertinent questions gave all present a good insight into their particular fields of service, their specific needs, and their aspirations," reports Maria Rogalski.

The offering of \$1,500 was earmarked for a special project of Home Economics equipment, such as refrigerators, stoves, and sewing machines, for the Education Board of Cameroon.

Consider an Investment with Eternal Dividends!

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:19-20).

I am interested in the following investment opportunities which will help provide a blessing to others as well as myself.

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Development Director
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(312) 495-2000

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Family changes, inflation, changes in tax and probate laws, as well as changes in your desires . . . all require periodic review of your will.

If you have not reviewed your will recently, let me encourage you to do so.

To assist you in your review, I would like to send you a free copy of our "Will and Trust Planning Guide." It will be a valuable source of information as you begin your review.

Please return the response coupon to order your free copy today, to:

Dr. Connie Salios,
North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., P.O. Box
159, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Dear Connie:

I'm in the process of developing my estate plan. Please send me more information as indicated below:

- "Will and Trust Planning Guide"
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 More information on _____

- I have met with my attorney and finalized my estate documents.
 I have made a bequest to the Conference.
 I would like to discuss my situation with a North American Baptist Conference representative.

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Birth Date _____ Spouse's _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Code _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Business Phone (____) _____

Church _____

baptist world aid

Baptist Hospital in Haiti Seeks Assistance

The Good Samaritan Hospital in the Limbe Valley in Haiti has maintained a constant ministry to the people in this area throughout the turmoil and recent changes in the country. The hospital's outpatient clinic dispenses medical advice, treatment, and drugs to hundreds of people each week. More than 100 patients are housed in the strained facilities of this center of hope and health.

To keep pace with the growing demands in the area, the hospital has embarked on modest programs of enlargement of its facilities. These include a new nursery to alleviate overcrowding and to provide for greater comfort and care for babies and their mothers during their hospitalization.

In addition to the Gospel ministry and medical services offered by the hospital, unique projects help to improve the lot of people in the area. The hospital water supply is made available to homes and institutions in the valley within the scope of the present water system. Numbers of homes have now been provided with pure water outlets, and this has proved to be a great blessing. Dr. Hodges, the hospital's director, reports an improvement of the general health in the valley because of the provision of pure water.

A tree nursery is also part of this busy hospital's ministry. It is now possible, with expanded facilities, for this nursery to provide 265,000 seedlings. Reforestation is one of the great needs in Haiti. This ministry, combined with a companion operation in the Centre Agricole, offers hope to people of Haiti in helping to replace trees that have been cut down and to stabilize the land which has suffered so much soil erosion.

The Good Samaritan Hospital has requested a grant in the amount of \$10,000 in support of its projects, the extension of the

nursery, the relocation of the water foundations and assistance for the growth and distribution of seedling trees.

You may be a part of this ministry by making a contribution. Make your check out to North American Baptist Conference, designated for "Good Samaritan Hospital, Haiti." Address the envelope to: North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Box 159, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.



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Mail to: Mr. Walter Swanson, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

capital funds

Local Church Finds Capital Funds Campaign a Meaningful Experience

Churches, like the Conference, often find themselves in need of doing capital projects, such as building new buildings or remodeling buildings. These are projects that cannot be covered by their current operating budgets. As a result, churches oftentimes need to go into capital campaigns for themselves.

One of the side benefits of the "Building on the Foundations of Faith" Capital Funds campaign conducted by the Conference was that it gave churches and associations opportunities to fund some projects for themselves as well as for the Conference.

Pastor Delvin Bertsch, Central Baptist Church, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, wrote ". . . the Capital Funds Campaign was a meaningful experience for us as a church. It gave us an opportunity to review our giving, to set practical goals, and to boost our own building fund drive locally. I believe the 'Building on the Foundations of Faith' campaign challenged us and gave us a larger outlook and vision."

Thank you to all individuals and churches who have participated in and continue to support the Capital Funds campaign. Our goal is to receive \$3,598,000 to complete all of the projects that were deemed urgent so that the commitments that we have as a North American Baptist Conference to proclaim the Gospel can be more adequately fulfilled.

what's happening

The Rev. Art Pearce resigned as Director of Central Baptist Camp, Lansing, Iowa, effective April 15, 1987. He became director of a camp in Tennessee. He served as Director of the

Lansing Camp since 1981.

The New Life Center Baptist Church is the name of the urban/ethnic ministry in West New York, New Jersey, where Mr. Jaime Maldonado is pastor.

Dr. L. Dale Potratz is the interim pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church of Lenexa, Kansas, since January 1, 1987.

The Rev. D. Lee Grace resigned as pastor of the Creston Baptist Church, Creston, Nebraska, to retire at the age of 87. He had been serving this church since 1977.

Mrs. Ruthie Welwood is the Ladies' Time Out Coordinator, and Mrs. Shirley Campbell-Pearse is the administrative assistant at Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Rev. Paul Galambos of Waukesha, Wisconsin, died March 26, 1987. He had pastored churches in Hungary and Germany before coming to North America where he pastored North American Baptist Conference churches in Washburn (1949-51); Streeter and Medina, North Dakota, (1951-56); Yorkton, Saskatchewan, (1956-60); and Buffalo, New York (1961-70), before retiring to Wisconsin in 1970.

The Rev. Timothy M. Powell began his ministry as Director of Christian Education at Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, Alpena, Michigan, on March 28, 1987. Tim is a 1985 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and was ordained at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan. He and his wife Traci have two sons, Joshua and Michael.

The Rev. Edward Kary of Sonora, California, died Feb. 4, 1987. During his ministry, he served First Baptist Church, Durham, Kansas, 1936-41; Napoleon (North Dakota) Baptist Church, 1942-45; Bismarck (North Dakota) Baptist Church, 1945-54; and Hillcrest Baptist Church, (Cleveland, Ohio). He was chaplain of the House and Senate of the North Dakota Legislature for about 10 years and served on the Roger Williams Press Publications Board for the North American Baptist Conference. He graduated from North American Seminary in 1936. He and his wife Ethel had retired to Sonora, California, in 1970.

The Rev. Jim Browning became pastor of Parkdale Baptist Church, Drumheller, Alberta, in December 1986.

The Rev. Allan Strohschein resigned

as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, effective December 1986. He served as pastor there since 1985.

The Rev. Jay Vincent became pastor of Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church, Rocklin, California, effective March 1, 1986.

Dr. Harold Tuttle resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, LaSalle, Colorado, effective Nov. 30, 1986, to retire due to health reasons.

The Rev. Alan Williams became pastor of First Baptist Church, La Salle, Colorado, effective Dec. 7, 1986.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We have just been blessed, as always, by the current team of "New Day" voyagers. I want to express to them and to our people what a joy there is in being able to participate in this valuable ministry.

It breaks my heart to know that this ministry, as with so many of our Conference ministries, faces financial distress. I sincerely pray that we do not find ourselves in the position of having to cut back further! Dollars to souls: what an uneven equation.

In the past two years, since the last team visit, our young adults have experienced a revival that, of course, is being felt throughout our congregation. One of the two catalysts responsible was the "New Day" ministry of 1985. I realize that churches are tempted to count only financial cost when considering whether to bring the next team to their church and fail to recognize the effectiveness of this type of ministry in terms of hearts touched and tired souls rejuvenated. This years' team revitalized this wilted soul, and once again, the harvest included young people from our community who responded to the love of Christ, sparked by their young friends from our church, but set afire by "New Day!"

In Christ,
(Mrs.) Marj Hadlington

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church
growth tips



Characteristics of Growing Churches

by Ray Harsch

In growing churches, one sees a number of characteristics that are reasons why these churches are experiencing growth. As you read these characteristics, see how your church rates in these areas and where you can improve.

1) Sixty out of every one hundred people are involved with a task/role (a volunteer position requiring commitment) within the church.

a) When that ratio drops to 40 out of every 100 people, the

church will plateau. When involvement drops to less than 30 out of 100, the church will experience decline.

b) One hundred percent involvement in a task/role does not guarantee growth if the tasks are not such that will produce growth. What you will have, however, is a church full of tired people which will result in one of two kinds of responses: "drop-out" or "burn-out."

2) In church growth thinking, all tasks/roles will fit into one of two categories: Class I or Class II.

a) Class I type of tasks are those which minister to the body of believers, the church. Included in this are boards and committees, choir, Bible study group leaders, Sunday school, and the like.

b) Class II type of tasks are those which reach outside of the

body of believers with outreach as their intent. Included are all ministries that reach out to new people and evangelize.

c) In growing churches, approximately 45 of the 60 tasks/roles are Class I, and 15 are in the Class II category.

Are your people involved in tasks/roles which are meeting needs of people in your community?

Have a good look at the task/role opportunities in your church. Is there a healthy church growth ratio between Class I and Class II tasks?

Ray Harsch
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Church Growth for
the North
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Conference.