

Baptist Herald

October 1987

GIVE THANKS TO
THE *LORD*,
CALL ON
HIS NAME;



MAKE KNOWN
AMONG THE NATIONS
WHAT *HE* HAS DONE.

Psalm 105:1 NIV

Brazil Student Attending N.A.B. Seminary

Gerson Garros of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, is in the United States to study toward a Master of Divinity degree at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is the recipient of a scholarship provided by the Missions Department of the North American Baptist Conference and the North American Baptist Seminary. Gerson arrived in the United States on July 23 and stayed with an aunt and uncle in the Chicago area, while he brushed up on Greek. With a chuckle, he says, "Greek is even a more difficult language than Portuguese." From Chicago, he went to Sioux Falls on September 7 to take the Greek exam.

Gerson completed the theological course at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre and received the Bachelor of Theology degree in 1985. He has a Bachelor's degree in Social

Communications with a major in journalism from a University there.

When asked why he has come to study at the North American Baptist Seminary, Gerson said, "My first purpose is to know more about God and to be able to teach this to others in Brazil. I have made a commitment to teach at the Baptist Seminary in Rio Grande do Sul, after I have completed my Master of Divinity degree at the North American Baptist Seminary."

During the 1986-87 school year, Gerson taught Hermeneutics at the Rio Grande do Sul Seminary. "It was a great experience," he says. "I liked teaching and am grateful that God gave me this great experience. If God gave me this opportunity, He must have some special plans for me. I have found this to be my calling in life. I have come to the United States to improve this gift."



Samf Begins as Church Growth Director

The Rev. David Samf assumed the position of Church Growth Director for the North American Baptist Conference on October 1, 1987. Upon recommendation of the Church Growth Board, the General Council appointed him to a three-year term in this position.

Samf comes to this position with a strong Christ-centered ministry as an Air Force chaplain. During his 20 years of ministry, he served on bases in the United States (Arkansas, Texas, North Dakota, and Illinois), Japan, Korea, and Germany, as well as in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains in Washington, DC.

Samf brings with him a strong emphasis on the worship of God and Who He is. Wherever Samf has served, attendance has increased in the worship services. He has a strong emphasis on personal devotional worship as well as focusing on God in worship as the body of believers meets. Wherever he has served, he has stressed the importance of Christian education, especially



through the Sunday school, and developed family life programs. One of his associates has said of him, "He is the best chaplain I have seen in my 30 years of service."

Samf's strong administrative and relational skills have been evidenced in his responsibility in placement of chaplains as Personnel Actions Officer, Office of the Chief of Chaplains. Samf also brings to this position experience in public rela-

tions, teaching, and administrative planning and strategizing, as well as strength in interpersonal skills. He is known as a person who encourages others to develop their gifts for ministry.

Samf holds the Bachelor of Divinity degree (1967) and the Master of Divinity degree (1974) from the North American Baptist Seminary and has taken graduate studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He was ordained by a North American Baptist Church, Snowview Baptist, Parma, Ohio, in 1967.

"It is with joy and excitement that I accept the call from the General Council and the Church Growth Board to be Church Growth Director," says Samf. "I am grateful for this opportunity to serve God and the North American Baptist Conference. I come with confidence that God will be honored as we seek to lead our Conference in spiritual and numerical growth."

Samf and his wife Carolyn have four children.

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Mambilla Women—Generous Givers: An Interview with Barbara Kieper

In addition to her ministry of conducting primary health care clinics in 20 villages on the Mambilla Plateau, Missionary Barbara Kieper is field missionary for the Mayo Ndaga Field, which has 20 churches. Barbara has been personally inspired by the sacrificial giving of the Baptist women there. We interviewed her so we could share with you their commitment to Christ and to the knowledge of God's Word.

Working the church farm to raise money to provide scholarships for young men at the theological school and money to build medical dispensaries.



Kieper photo

We've heard that the women in the Mambilla Baptist Convention churches on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria are generous, sacrificial givers for the cause of Christ.

Barbara Kieper: Mambilla Baptist Convention women are unique. Being very generous and active in their churches, as well as in their women's meetings, they have taught me many, many lessons on sacrificial giving. These women, if asked to do a project or if they see a need to be met in our Baptist work on the Plateau, will do it or meet the need.

What are some special projects these women helped provide?

Kieper: Some of the special projects they have funded include building a dormitory for single students and a classroom at the Mambilla Baptist Theological School as well as kitchens for the wives of the married students. Each student and his family are provided a house consisting of two rooms plus a one-room kitchen in which to do their cooking.

The women sent the money to Mambilla Baptist Theological School where it was used to pay the students who made mud blocks for construction of buildings for the school. This also helped the students have income to pay for their school fees of about \$100 a year.

What is another result of the women's sacrificial giving?

Kieper: They provide scholarships for students from a formerly unreached area—the Bali Field. The Mambilla Baptist Convention sent one of their own as a missionary to this area. The women are very helpful to these students. One of these students is Bulus, the Hausa name for Paul. Bulus, the first product of the missionary work in the Bali area, has come to the Mambilla Baptist Theological School to train for the ministry. The women paid his school fees and helped him with transportation to and from his village for the holidays. Since he was single, the women also gave him extra money for food, other essentials, and for clothing.

Tell us about the Bali mission field.

Kieper: This is an outreach to a pagan people in a previously unreached area. About seven or eight years ago, the Mambilla Baptist Convention considered the Bali Field a missionary outreach and began a ministry there.

Why did the women choose to support a young man from that new area to train for the ministry at the Mambilla Baptist Theological School?

Kieper: The people of the Bali Field trust their own people more than they do strangers. Some tribes are very leery of strangers, so it's important to train people from these groups as pastors to go back to minister to their own people.

What are other projects or ministries the women support?

Kieper: Another goal the women have is to build a medical dispensary in each of the five fields of the Mambilla Baptist Convention. That means five dispensaries will eventually be built. One dispensary has been built, and physical and spiritual needs of the people in that area are being met. The women plan to raise funds to build one dispensary a year until all five are completed by 1990.

Also, the women actively support pastors in new outreach areas. They pay a pastor's salary as he goes into a new area as an evangelist to start a new church. The Gembu Field women have done this to help start a number of churches.



Kieper photo

Prayer is very important in these women's lives. Most of them attend morning prayers at 5:30 or 6 a.m. in their local churches.

Tell me about the life of the women. Where do they get their income to support these projects?

Kieper: Each woman is responsible to raise enough produce to feed her own family. Examples of the produce are corn, sweet potatoes, yams, and vegetables—everything except the meat. Over and above her personal work, she joins with other members of the women's missionary society of her church to plant a farm, called a church farm or women's farm. The women sell the produce from these farms to support their projects.

Where is this church farm located?

Kieper: Just below the church. Each church has its own plot or church farm, located wherever the chief has given them a piece of land for the church.

When do the women work the farm?

Kieper: The women usually set aside a specific day. They announce in church that on Wednesday or Thursday, "We will work the women's farm."

It's like women in North America setting aside a day to do White Cross work, only the women on the Mambilla Plateau work all day on the church farm. They work the land, which probably takes a couple of days; then they come back another day to plant. If the crop is corn, they mulch it and later harvest it.

Tell us about the Mambilla Baptist women's meetings.

Kieper: The Mambilla Baptist women's meetings consist of Bible studies, singing, and prayer time. There is also a social time. If the women are lazy and don't attend the local meetings, they may go on church discipline; that means that their name is removed from the church roll. They meet once a week, usually in the morning. Then they work the farm in the afternoon.

I understand the women are very active in memorizing Scripture.

Kieper: A number of women in my area for four years in a row have learned 30 verses a year. Missionary Minnie Kuhn has rewarded them by presenting them with a *Good News Bible* and other Christian books. The women feel that Scripture memorization is very essential in their Christian lives.

Do most of these women read?

Kieper: No, most of them don't. They are illiterate women, so they have their children who go to school read the verses to them so they can learn them in the evening. One of the women in my village who is illiterate and doesn't speak English had her children teach the Scripture verses to her in Fulfulde. They translated for her, and she recited them in Fulfulde.

To whom do the women recite the verses?

Kieper: The women stand up and recite all 30 verses, one at a time, in front of the whole women's field conference. It takes quite a while, but they do it, and they recite the verses very, very well. I would have a difficult time standing in front of a group of women reciting 30 verses like they do, but they do very, very well. It's most rewarding.



A number of women in Barbara Kieper's area have learned 30 scripture verses a year for four years in a row.

Kieper photo



Bringing her daughter Victoria along with her, Hannah, even though illiterate, serves as Association chairwoman.

Kieper photo



Women often trek many hours to attend their Baptist women's conference. Resting upon her arrival at the conference, this woman, carrying her child, trekked for six hours.

Kieper photo



The Mambillas are very generous people—it's part of their culture. They've also been carefully taught and disciplined in the scriptural basis of tithing and giving.

Kieper Photo

What else tells you about their Christian commitment?

Kieper: Prayer is very important in their lives. Most of the churches have morning prayers at 5:30 or 6 a.m., and the women attend these services.

Tell us about the giving for Thanksgiving Offerings.

Kieper: In my field, there are 20 churches of 1,000 members that

gave a total of more than 10,000 francs as a Thanksgiving Offering. The 142 churches of the Mambilla Baptist Convention gave \$33,500 to the Convention for its ministries and missions. The rest of the money stays in their fields (associations) for their field operating budgets.

The Theological School gets one lump sum (\$15,000) from this Thanksgiving Offering from the

churches on which to operate the Bible school. From this, they pay four male tutors and four women tutors, run a generator, and fund many, many other things needed to operate a theological school.

Why, do you think, are these women so committed to tithing and generous giving?

Kieper: The Mambilla Christians have had very, very good training from the first missionaries who went there. The missionaries were very careful in teaching and discipling them in the scriptural basis of tithing and giving, and this has stuck with them.

This is also part of their culture; they are a very generous, giving people. If you go to their homes as a visitor or as a stranger, they will feed you, even if their children have to go hungry. They are very, very generous, especially to strangers or whoever comes into their compound. If I went to someone's home, unexpected, and they had prepared food for the whole family, they would take part of the children's portion of food and give to me. That is part of their culture, but they also very firmly believe in the scriptural basis of giving.

Why do they say they give?

Kieper: I have heard the Mambilla Baptist women say over and over again that God has been very good to them. They say that God has blessed them with crops, because they hear of other countries in Africa where there is famine.

They are also grateful for the medical facilities and medicines that we have available through the village health workers. When I go on clinics, the women say that God has really blessed them. They also appreciate having religious freedom in their country and that they can worship God freely.

We can learn much from these women concerning gratitude and the joy of giving to the Lord for His work. □

If ever the stage were set for a great ingathering into the church, it is now.

An Evangelistic Church on the Cutting Edge

by Ron Susek

The Church committed for evangelism is one that is on the cutting edge of our times. If ever the stage were set for a great ingathering into the church, it is now. To understand the input of this statement, we must look at the flow of recent history.

In 1959, the Reformed theologian Bavinck wrote a book in which he predicted we were on the verge of a spiritual revival. He based this on the fact that the egoism of humanity was shaken by World War II and the Korean War.

When the 1960s came, we did not experience a spiritual revival. In fact, we experienced, in my opinion, a mega-step backward. Why did this happen?

The church did not recognize the depth of spiritual erosion that had taken place. The idea of evolution had progressed from an unfounded idea to a conviction. This provided a base for man's egoism to inflate since he is supposedly here as the highest result of natural causes. It also provided a base for selfishism to replace divine authority systems since a basic doctrine of evolution is the "survival of the fittest"—the strong dominates the weak.

When the 1960s came, Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse told a friend he believed Satan was going to release a demonic assault on North America like we have never seen before. We must assess the *real* reason for the burning of cities, birthing of drugs, and brandishing of free love. While some would assess it psychologically, sociologically or politically, I believe it is time to evaluate it spiritually. The real issue was the one being fought in the heavenly realms by the power of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

Satan Committed to Destruction of Authority

It is my conviction that Satan was committed to the destruction of one word through the blinding events of

the sixties and that was the word "authority." The reason is simple. No one can stop Satan except a believer who knows how to submit to and exercise spiritual authority on all levels of life—government, church, and home.

From the sixties to the present, the word authority is hated as meaning manipulative, abusive, and oppressive. It is hated with a passion. During the sixties, Satan was able to point to great abuses of authority on every level of society. The abuses were made to appear as resulting from biblical concepts, not evolutionary concepts. The fact, however, is that evolution concepts project the stronger dominating the weaker while the Bible projects a Jesus (the highest of all authority) on His knees with a towel washing feet.

Millions Bowed to Authority of Selfism

History shows that the sixties were not years of revival toward the Lord but revolt away from the Lord. A new authority was on the throne—the authority of selfism. As millions bowed to the new age god of selfism, we saw its doctrines flourish in every area of society. We sang, "I Did It My Way." We wrote, "Look Out for Number One." We counseled, "Love yourself." We replaced the cornerstone of "thus saith the Lord" with "if it feels good, do it."

With barriers reduced by drugs and minds numbed by rock, we plunged into 25 years of absorption with self.

Today we are entering the payday of such an era. The wages of sin is always death.

The selfish love that would not endure marital conflicts sent divorce skyrocketing. Today, after a ten year study, we know that divorce is never a short-term crisis for the children. It is always long-term and, at times, life-long.

The pen of human degradation

wrote a new moral code. Homosexuals flagrantly danced in the streets while partaking of Holy Communion. The innocent are dying with the guilty as the killer disease, AIDS, infects people around the world.

The abuse of materialism has caused the balance of power to leave our continent and flow to the Arab countries. It now is shifting beyond to the Pacific rim.

North America on Edge of a Living Nightmare

The point I am building toward is this: North America is on the verge of one to two decades of a living nightmare as the sin of the past 25 years runs its course. This means that people are in pain. Emotional, mental, physical, and relational pain levels are sky high.

For the Church, This Is the Hour

In light of this, if ever the church had an hour for its message of salvation through Christ to be heard and responded to, it is now. People in pain always listen more deeply than people in ease.

The evangelistic church is on the cutting edge of the greatest need and opportunity of this hour. It must be prepared, however, to apply the Gospel of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to every imaginable level of need. People need to be saved from hell. People need to be delivered from demons. People need to be healed of shattered relationships. Our people have been laid bare by the horrible fallout of selfism.

The time has come for the church to stop being a referral center and become a healing center. When it is discovered that the church can do more than put band-aids on people who need surgery, the crowds will regather around our Lord. □

The Rev. Ron Susek is an evangelist with Continental Christian Crusades, Inc., with offices in Gettysburg, PA, and Winnipeg, MB.

Introducing "New Day" 1987-88

by Loren Kopf

"New Day" is a team of 14 young people sponsored by the North American Baptist Conference, committed to evangelism and church growth by helping the church in a variety of ministries, including music, drama, and discipleship.

The purpose of "New Day" is to act as a catalyst in the church to reach people with Christ and to help them grow in their relationship with Him and others. Our goal is to motivate individuals to their responsibility of being a witness to those in their community.

"New Day" desires to assist in the exciting process of renewal and recommitment of sharing Christ and spiritual growth that is already happening within the churches of our Conference.

The "New Day" team serves for nine months—

October through May—ministering to over 30 churches in eastern Canada and the United States, with crusades varying from one to six days during the 1987-88 tour year.

"New Day" will be available for many ministries with the church, including full evening programs, Sunday school classes, men's and women's groups, club programs, youth groups and retreats, nursing homes, service clubs, and school ministries.

I introduce you to this year's "New Day" team with the hope that this information will help you effectively pray for the team as they minister throughout our Conference. Their ministry can only be as effective as you are faithful in praying for them.

Directors



Loren Kopf

Director of Youth and "New Day" for the North American Baptist Conference for the second year

Youth Pastor in Medicine Hat, Alberta, from 1979-86

Graduated with a Masters of Arts in Religious Studies degree from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Enjoys traveling, reading, photography, and letterwriting

Member of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



John Kiemele

Assistant Director of "New Day"

Member of Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, North Dakota

Receives a Bachelor of Science degree in Christian Education from Northwestern College, Roseville, Minnesota, completing studies in December 1987

Member of "New Day" for four years

Served in a number of North American Baptist Conference Churches in both voluntary and part-time staff positions

Interests include writing, drama, music, other creative arts, and people-oriented activities

Team



Michele Adam

Member of Onoway Baptist Church, Onoway, Alberta

Attended North American Baptist College in Edmonton, Alberta, where she earned a Certificate in Bible Studies and received a Diploma in Music

Sings soprano and plays piano

Birthdate: September 10



Roxane Korporal

Member of First Baptist Church, Sumner, Iowa

Attended Northwestern College, Roseville, Minnesota, and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Office Administration; also attended Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

Has been involved in Baptist Youth Fellowship, pianist, choir member, song leader, Sunday school teacher, vacation Bible school teacher

Sings alto and plays piano

Birthdate: February 27

**Lynn Graf**

Member of Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon

Graduate of Good Samaritan School of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing

Has been involved in choir, taught vacation Bible school, and Sunday school classes, and served as a retreat counselor

Sings soprano and alto
Birthdate: June 15

**Sandra Strobel**

Member of First Baptist Church of Dickinson County, Hope, Kansas

Has studied Occupational Therapy at Central College, McPherson, Kansas

Has been involved in Baptist Youth Fellowship and as church pianist

Sings soprano, alto, and tenor
Plays piano, trumpet, and clarinet

Birthdate: November 12

**Deborah Hollands**

Member of Fort George Baptist Church, Prince George, British Columbia

Has been Pioneer Girls Guide and choir member

Sings soprano and plays piano

Birthdate: December 14

**Sara Schulz**

Member of Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta

Attended Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta

Has been involved as church pianist and in band

Sings second soprano and alto

Plays piano and flute
Birthdate: November 15

Laurie Kiemele

Member of Olympic View Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington

Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree from



Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Has been involved in youth group, Sunday school, children's church, camp counseling, and vacation Bible school

Plays flute and piano
Birthdate: July 10

**Scott Fossell**

Member of Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, North Dakota

Studied Religion and Music at Jamestown College, Jamestown, North Dakota

Has been involved as church choir director and director of music, Sunday school teacher, and youth worker

Sings second baritone and first tenor

Plays piano, violin, and viola

Birthdate: March 29

**Calvin Hohn**

Member of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia

Received Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree from North American Baptist College, Edmonton, Alberta

Has been involved as youth executive committee member, Sunday school teacher, and in choir

Sings tenor and plays piano

Birthdate: June 16

**Wes Irwin**

Member of Bethel Baptist Church, High Prairie, Alberta

Has attended Prairie Bible Institute, Three Hills, Alberta; Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie, Alberta, and University of Alberta, Edmonton, where he was a biology major

Sings baritone and plays piano and guitar

Birthdate: July 30

**Douglas Meyers**

Member of Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta

Received Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree and a diploma in DBS from North American Baptist College, Edmonton, Alberta

Sings bass

Birthdate: July 23

**Daniel Schuster**

Member of Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Has a certificate from North American Baptist College in Edmonton and attended the University of Manitoba

Has been involved in church choir, Christian Service Brigade leader, Sunday school teacher, and representative to the Manitoba Baptist Youth Association

Sings tenor and plays guitar

Birthdate: September 7

Commissioned to Witness

Inner-City Church Holds Street Meeting on "Cocaine Corner"

by Jim Correnti

In July, Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, an inner-city church located in the "cocaine area" of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, concluded their summer street meetings. The June issue of the Baptist Herald featured this Church in its war on drugs. The prayer letter from this Church gives us a follow-up on their summer ministry.

This year, we chose the three locations near our church building where the cocaine selling is heaviest, including the infamous 8th and Butler corner. Knowing that we were heading into the middle of Satan's territory, we made careful spiritual preparations. Beginning in April, we had special prayer meetings every other Saturday morning, where we pleaded with the Lord to grant us His protection and come in His power.

At the same time, we began to send out teams of two several times a week to witness and give out literature in all the areas of hottest activity. By the time we were scheduled to start the street meetings, we were already praying for a dozen of the pushers by name and had even been invited by several to their homes for prayer and counsel.

As always, there were a number of Sunday nights set aside for training sessions for the congregation in June. The final piece of our preparation was a day of prayer and fasting which the elders called for the entire congregation one Sunday in June.

Would it seem strange to say that even if we had never gotten

to the street meetings, we had already seen the blessing of God and the display of His power? Surely our Father delights in having His children seek Him and obey Him!

During this time, the Lord led some new families to us, including several with drug-related problems, and there have been some very encouraging conversions. One member who had fallen away was restored. The preaching, times of prayer, and intensified ministry have brought a greater sight of Christ and unity in the faith.

The ministry was carried on largely by our own members, and it was done with a new boldness and joy. This was notably true of some of the recent converts, who were testifying in the streets for the first time, sometimes meeting friends they knew back in school, even returning to the very sites where they had once bought and sold drugs themselves.

There were thousands of tracts given out and dozens of good conversations. Please pray for those who heard the Word, especially those who gave us their names so that we could visit and begin Bible studies. We truly believe that God is going to glorify Himself through this witness. □

The Rev. Jim Correnti is pastor of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, the oldest church in the North American Baptist Conference. This Church and its pastor were mentioned in an article, "Seeds That Grow Hope," in the March 1987 issue of the Reader's Digest.

Should We Amputate?

BANSO, CAMEROON. Four days of treatment at the local hospital without a doctor has not brought any improvement to one of your eight-month-old twin sons. His arm and leg are swollen and blue. One of the nurses suggests that you take the child to another area to Banso Baptist Hospital for treatment.

After surgery at Banso to try to allow circulation to continue to the right hand and left foot, your son fights for his life for more than a week. Gangrene develops in both areas, and amputation becomes necessary. You have difficult decisions to make. Your husband went on his annual leave before the child got sick. He has not been able to be contacted. Because of cultural traditions, you are reluctant to agree to the amputations without consulting with your husband and other family members. Past experience suggests that traditional healers must be consulted

before consent is given for surgery. You are weary from lack of sleep and the constant struggle to keep the children clean and fed. Having the help and encouragement of the staff and hospital chaplain at Banso Baptist Hospital gives you courage to remain at the hospital for further treatment.

The day amputation surgery is scheduled, your husband arrives and supports you in the decision you have made. The rehabilitation process for the child will be long, but the support of the hospital staff will help make it possible.

During her child's hospital stay, this mother said, "I didn't know there was a hospital like this where people really care about patients." Others have expressed the same sentiments. "Patients come to Banso every day with serious, life threatening conditions," says Kathy Kroll,



missionary nurse/midwife. "Thank God that because of His life-giving, life-changing love, there are places where people can go to receive spiritual and physical care."

"For more than two months, I was privileged to be able to encourage, support, and pray with and for the mother of the sick child," reports Kathy. "Recently, the father was here with another patient and reported the child is doing well at home. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry to which God has called me. I am able to minister personally to patients, as well as to teach nationals to be caregivers in hospitals, health centers, and dispensary settings around the country. Your prayers, gifts, and letters are greatly appreciated."

Student Drops Out of School: Lack of Funds

NDU, CAMEROON. One of the students at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary had to drop out of school last December, reports Missionary Gilbert Gordon, vice principal and tutor there. The student hopes to return for this school year.

"How he will raise money for fees is unknown," says Gilbert. "He has been working for several small churches in Kumba, but even if they were willing to pay him something, it can be only a little. He could be



here alone with less money, but his wife is not really able to manage by herself. This last time she was alone, their youngest child died.

"I wonder if people are praying for the students? 'Lord, we pray for the missionaries and the

nationals.' There needs to be more sincere, specific prayer.

"Jesus told the story of the man who came to his neighbour at night and by persistence finally got some bread. I am being persistent in asking you to be persistent. This is your mission—the missionaries are merely your agents. Training pastors to start a self-supporting church is one of the main aspects of our mission. A bare start has been made, but it needs to be finished. Be persistent in prayer that financial and personal needs might be met so students like this one can be trained for ministry."

Missionary's Rent Increases 154%

PORTO ALEGRE, RS, BRAZIL. "The holidays were preceded by an unexpected crisis," reports Deborah Penner, short-term missionary serving in



Brazil. "Our apartment rent went up 154 percent! Several days of phone calls, meetings with the property manager, and trips to various crowded government agencies proved fruitless. Like thousands of other discouraged tenants, we would have to accept this legal inflation adjustment. Unlike other Brazilian renters, I earn foreign currency.

"Upon my return from Parana, I learned that the landlord might demand a smaller increase. Hallelujah! God is so good. His care is tangible. He is teaching me to acknowledge the economic burdens crushing upon Brazilians. He is reminding me to work soberly.

"Thank you for your prayers and gifts. The Lord honors them. May you be faithful workers there, too, singing as you serve (2 Chronicles 29: 25-29)."

Tent Used at New Preaching Point in Brazil

BRAZIL. "Weekly home Bible studies have been an excellent outreach to neighbors of church members. People find it difficult to enter a Baptist church, but they will go to someone's home for Bible study," says Missionary Karen Kaiser,



Karen and Richard Kaiser

serving in Florianopolis, SC, Brazil. "Our church is renting a large lot (in the Kobrasol neighborhood) for the purpose of starting an outreach to the community. We've cleared the land, set up the evan-

gelism tent purchased by North American Baptists, and put up a brick wall to protect the tent from vandals."

Plans are for a multi-ministry: Bible studies, counseling, recreational activities, social assistance, and courses in handicrafts to be used as an open door to evangelism. "We believe the Lord will do a great work in this neighborhood," says Karen, "and we know He is already preparing many hearts to accept his message."

"Alvarao, one of those baptized in June, has been a real source of inspiration as he took every spare moment to help us with the wall," says Richard Kaiser. "One Saturday, he worked all day until 10:30 p.m. We are counting on him for leadership in this new work."

"Pray for this new preaching point at Kobrasol. Pray that God would open hearts to receive His message. Pray, too, for a means to purchase land. Thank God for those who gave, so this tent could become a reality. Pray also for protection of the tent."



July 1989 is the 100th anniversary of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, and we extend a special welcome to all friends of our congregation to attend our centennial celebration. If you are interested in attending, please complete the portion below and return to:

McDermot Avenue Baptist Church
821 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0T8
Attention: Centennial Committee

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____

I am interested in attending: Yes _____ No _____

Please send me further information: Yes _____ No _____

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Project Review Capital Funds Campaign



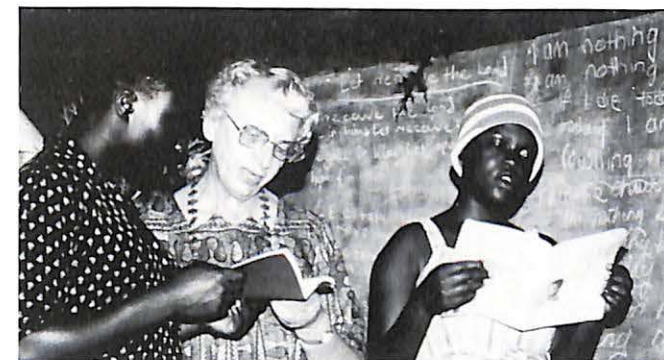
MISSIONS . . . \$525,000

The "Great Commission" has not been cancelled! We must maintain our outreach responsibilities in Japan, Cameroon, Nigeria and Brazil. Mission costs have steadily increased until meeting the annual missions budget has become a major concern. We have overcome several awesome financial obstacles. God's blessing on our missions ministries is evident. Now is the time to extend Christ's Kingdom through global evangelism ministries.

The Capital Funds Campaign will provide the funds for new projects and ministries on the four fields presently served and will make possible the opening of a new field by 1985. This is not a maintenance program, it is a new thrust in reaching out with Christ's Good News to persons around the world.

CAMEROON \$ 175,000

NIGERIA \$ 90,000



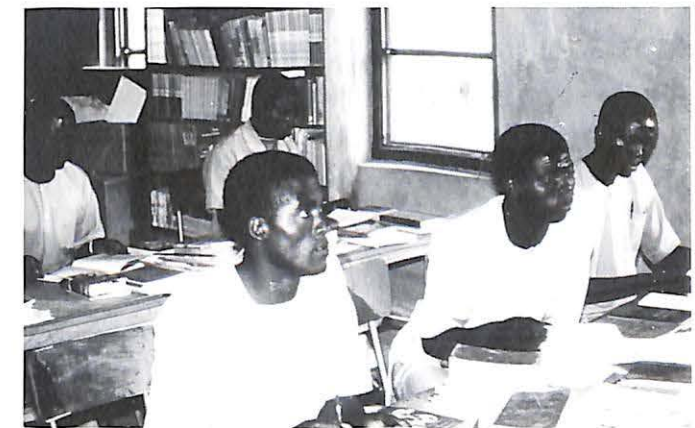
The Cameroon Baptist Theological College at Ndu needs two duplexes for four African tutors who should live on the College compound \$ 50,000

Church Extension Projects will serve rapidly growing urban areas, Yaounde and Baffousam, \$ 25,000
Douala \$ 25,000

Kom Baptist Technical College at Belo needs a dormitory for girls in domestic science and clerical courses \$ 25,000

A Radio Evangelism Studio is essential for the use of free broadcast time on two government-operated radio stations \$ 20,000

Immigration and travel complications have prompted the need for a Missionary Children's Hostel and Classrooms in Cameroon. For many years, missionary children traveled to Jos, Nigeria to attend school \$ 30,000



* Mambilla Baptist Theological School needs a Principal's House on campus for the Principal who is on twenty-four hour call. The Convention provided classrooms, dormitories and tutors' housing, and deserves assistance on this project \$ 30,000

Mambilla Baptist Theological School presently uses a large classroom for a Library and Assembly Hall. Quality instruction and proper organization of the Library calls for a separate Library Assembly Hall and increased enrollment will eliminate the use of the classroom as a library \$ 30,000

Mambilla Baptist Theological School must provide a home for a third missionary teacher by 1984. This teacher, with full seminary qualifications, will improve the level of instruction for pastors in training \$ 30,000

*Adjustment:

By request of Field Boards and Committees, \$25,000 of the \$30,000 designated to the Mambilla Baptist Theological School Principal's House was applied to the purchase of a much needed Land Rover. The remaining \$5,000 was applied to the construction of a principal's house.

CHURCH EXTENSION/ CHURCH GROWTH . . . \$500,000

The present has been described as the time of greatest opportunity for the church in this century. The idea is to bring people into the Kingdom. We believe that God wants people in His church. He wants them to grow. He wants progress—both quantitative and qualitative. We believe that we now have an unprecedented opportunity for the church to grow.

These proposals which cover the spectrum of ministry on the North American Continent—Church Extension, Urban/Multi-Cultural Ministry, Established Churches and Home Missions—are not just for the sake of the church, but for people who desperately need Christ.

JAPAN \$ 90,000



Land cost makes Church Extension almost impossible for the seven churches of the Japan Baptist Conference. Another new church is needed in this nation with a population 99% non-Christian \$ 30,000

The Christian Education Center at Tsu, a joint project of the North American Baptist Mission in Japan and the Japan Baptist Conference, provides facilities for English Bible Studies, an English Institute, student dormitory rooms, a missionary apartment, and the Mission and Conference headquarters. A missionary housing fund provided funds for the purchase and must be repaid \$ 40,000

A revolving Construction Loan Fund is needed for newly formed churches in the Japan Baptist Conference, and will be used perpetually for church extension in Japan \$ 20,000

BRAZIL \$ 60,000



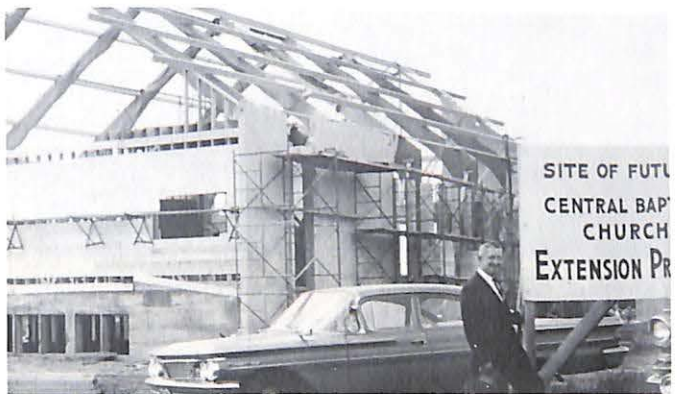
A Three-Bedroom Missionary Residence will provide one of three additional missionary dwellings needed by 1985 \$ 40,000

Sixteen Church Extension Projects have been started in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina by the Brazil Baptist Convention within the past three years, and others are projected. Our plan is to help support two of the new projects \$ 20,000

NEW MISSION FIELD \$ 110,000

The Baptist General Conference and the Baptist Convention of the Philippines have invited our Board of Missions to work as partners with them to reach people in the smaller, more remote islands. A final decision is to be made on the place of the new field with a goal to send at least one missionary couple by 1985 \$ 110,000

Judean Project Development will provide new opportunities to purchase property for the planting of new churches in



growing areas of our Conference where we do not currently have a strong cluster of established N.A.B. congregations \$ 250,000

Urban/Multi-Cultural Ministry Development will provide funds for proposals to be made to the Triennial Conference in Anaheim, California in 1985 for urban/multi-cultural ministry in the N.A.B. Conference. It fulfills the directive of a resolution adopted at the Niagara Falls Triennial Conference in 1982. This fund would help individual associations and



churches get started in a ministry that will meet the need of their urban and/or multi-cultural environments \$ 100,000

Strategy Assistance for Declining Congregations will aid churches that are weak or in decline by helping them to



evaluate and identify specific ways to promote growth with possible follow-up assistance \$ 100,000

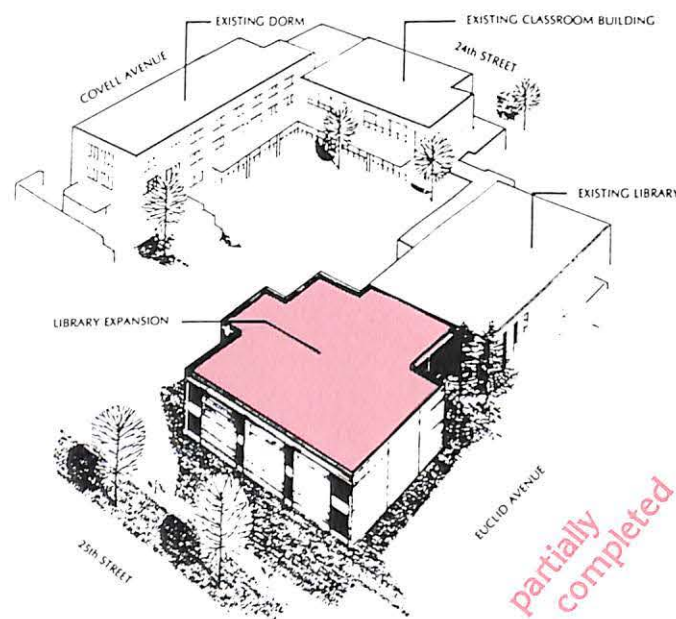
Home Missions will assist our congregations in Edinburg and Rio Grande City in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Both



are growing and need building and other capital assistance \$ 50,000

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY... \$400,000

The enrollment at North American Baptist Seminary has tripled during the last 20 years, creating some critical needs. The library building expansion is our top priority. Five specific goals have been developed for library expansion.



1. Double the size of the building to almost 16,000 square feet, providing a book shelving capacity of 85,000 volumes.



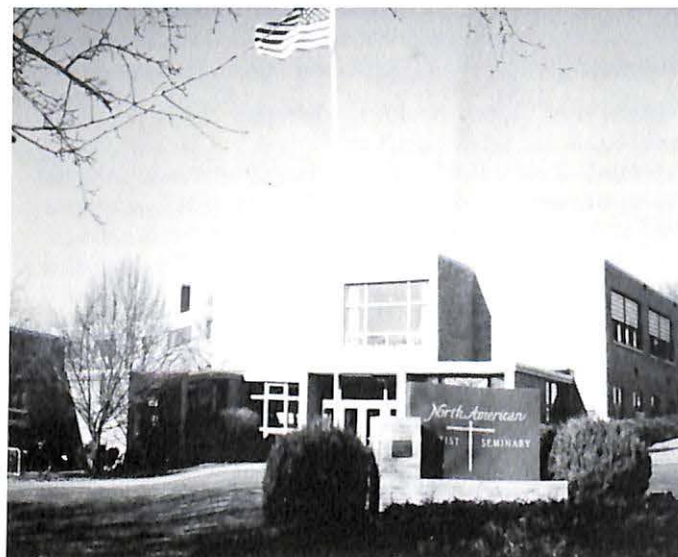
2. Provide 70 reader stations.

3. Increase the space for reference materials by 50%.



4. Provide an AV viewing area of 150 square feet and audio-visual equipment storage area.

5. Provide space for the Conference and seminary archives.



The library, with increased book and periodical holdings, is very important in maintaining accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools and the North Central Association.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE AND DIVINITY SCHOOL... \$350,000

North American Baptists have engaged in an educational ministry through the North American Baptist College and Divinity School for more than forty years. Each decade has seen significant growth and development. Most recently a functional library and comfortable dormitory were built. Both facilities need special funding to liquidate the construction and furnishings debts.

Schalm Memorial Library, with space for 100,000 volumes, was completed in 1980 at a cost of \$885,500.



The balance remaining to be raised is\$ 150,000

A Dormitory Project includes reducing the debt on the most recently constructed dormitory and securing a



down-payment to begin construction of an additional dormitory\$ 200,000

N.A.B. GENERAL COUNCIL EXPENSES

GENERAL COUNCIL\$400,000

This will help build a 90-day operating reserve to avoid borrowing costs during low cash flow periods.

DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT\$ 10,000

Audiovisual and communications support equipment.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT\$115,000

Word processing equipment\$ 50,000
Computer equipment\$ 65,000

Church Growth

Budgets, Finances, and Stewardship

by Lyle E. Schaller

What is the *primary* responsibility of the finance committee in your congregation?

Is the *primary* responsibility to prepare a budget for the next year? Or to make sure the contributions of the members are sufficient to cover all necessary expenditures? Or to oversee the financial scene so expenditures do not exceed receipts? Or to determine the order of priorities in ministry for the next year? Or to model and teach Christian stewardship? Or to encourage all members to tithe? Or to oversee this congregation's investment portfolio? Or to conduct an annual financial campaign? Or to encourage members to remember this church in their will? Or to look ahead and plan for the financial undergirding of the ministry of this congregation three years down the road? Or to reduce to a reasonable figure the requests from various committees and departments for funds for next year? Or to concentrate on how to expand the financial base of this congregation and encourage a broader base of financial support from among the members?

If your answer is, "All of the above," you missed the key word in the question! It is somewhere between unreasonable and irresponsible to expect any one committee to carry more than one (or possibly two) *primary* responsibilities. This observer's experiences suggest the vast majority of Protestant congregations on this continent project unrealistic and contradictory expectations of their finance committee.

The most common expectation is that this one committee will (a) model and teach stewardship, (b) prepare a budget that will undergird an expansion of the ministry of that congregation, (c) reduce expenditures to match anticipated receipts, and (d) make sure the budget is fully funded. When contradictory or

incompatible expectations are placed on an individual, or on a committee, the predictable responses usually include (a) a feeling of frustration, (b) a positive response to one expectation and (c) an effort to rationalize disobeying or ignoring or neglecting other expectations



that are not consistent with the course of action that has been chosen.

The conflicts in role that often are created by placing excessive and contradictory expectations on the finance committee can be illustrated by two examples.

The first conflict occurs before the beginning of the new fiscal year when many finance committees have the re-

sponsibility for (a) setting priorities in expenditures, (b) preparing the final budget for the coming year, and (c) conducting the every member visitation program or whatever system will be used to secure commitments of anticipated contributions from the members.

In preparing the budget for the coming year, the finance committee acts as a priority-setting group in deciding what should be the highest priorities in undergirding, reinforcing, and expanding the ministry and outreach of that congregation. Naturally, that will make them function as advocates of an expanded budget. At the same time, they also are responsible for making sure anticipated expenditures will not exceed the projected income. That makes the finance committee an advocate for a very thrifty set of expenditures. Which role should dominate the thinking of the members of the finance committee? Expanding ministry? Or minimizing expenditures?

If the *primary* basis for the evaluation of their work is the numerical growth of the congregation, they may place a higher priority on a sharp increase in expenditures in order to fund new ministries. If, however, the primary basis for evaluating their work is that expenditures do not exceed receipts, they may be more concerned with minimizing expenditures. (The basic generalization in our society is that anyone charged with the responsibility for paying the bills naturally will favor minimizing expenditures.)

A second example often comes up at the September meeting of the governing board when the treasurer reports that contributions for the first eight months came to only 59 percent of the anticipated goal for the year, but expenditures have been 71 percent of the amount budgeted for the year. What will be the response of the finance committee to that report? Will they favor a special fundraising program to

make up the difference? Or will they favor cutting back on expenditures for the rest of the year? The members of the finance committee probably will choose the alternative which (a) matches their greatest competence, (b) appears to be the easier course of action, and (c) fits the role in which they feel most comfortable and have the most practice.

What Are the Alternatives?

One alternative is to continue to place excessive expectations on the finance committee and recognize that the limitations of financial resources will be a powerful force in determining priorities. Another alternative is to divide these responsibilities among three different committees.

The *Stewardship Committee* is perhaps the easiest one to describe, since it already exists in many congregations. Typically this committee has three overlapping responsibilities, (1) stewardship education, (2) enlisting a cadre of tithers, and (3) encouraging people to include this church in their will. Normally, it has neither the authority nor responsibility for the allocation of current income.

The *Budget Committee* has the basic responsibility for preparing a comprehensive budget for the coming year. Sometimes this is done as part of a three or four or five year financial plan for that congregation. Ideally, the three criteria that dominate the decision-making processes of this committee will be (1) obedience to what the members believe the Lord is calling this congregation to be and to do, (2) matching the priorities in the allocation of funds with the mission statement or the priorities in ministry of that congregation, and (3) making sure the funds allocated to "housekeeping" and care of the members are not excessive when compared to the funds designated for outreach and missions. No higher than fourth on that list of criteria will be the goal of keeping expenditures to a minimum.

In this organizational structure, the *Finance Committee* normally has one primary responsibility. That is to make sure the money received is at least equal to the anticipated expenditures. Perhaps the clearest way of stating that is to state the opposite. The Finance Committee does NOT have the responsibility to make sure the budget does not exceed anticipated receipts! The Budget Committee has the sole authority over expenditures—subject in most congregations to the oversight of the governing board. In this system, the

budget preparation committee is concerned only with the income side of the ledger. Ministry and outreach, not minimizing expenditures, is the dominant force.

What Happens Next?

As many readers already have guessed, the experience with this system produces at least a fifty-fifty probability that the budget committee will approve expenditures in excess of what the finance committee views as realistic in terms of anticipated income. This can be expected to produce two or three or four financial crises in the typical year as contributions fall behind expenditures.

At this point, the system tends to enable the call to ministry to overcome prudence. First, in what some identify as a series of minor miracles, the money is forthcoming. Instead of responding to normal institutional pressures to cut back on expenditures, this system usually places a higher priority on raising more money, frequently by special appeals.

Second, and far more significant, contrary to all concepts of prudent fiscal management, the most vital congregations tend to resolve one fiscal crisis only to be confronted by a new one a few months later. By contrast, those congregations in which the month's receipts nearly always exceed the expenditures frequently display many signs of passivity, complacency, and a strong orientation to the status quo or to the past.

Among the reasons for what appears to be a paradox is that the congregations which prepare the budget based on obedience to the Lord, a call to ministry, and a desire to expand the outreach of that church, rather than on the basis of cautiously projected income, also tend to be venturesome, risktaking, future-oriented, and confident congregations convinced that if the Lord calls, the Lord also will provide. In simple terms these congregations display a deeply rooted hope in tomorrow and are not restricted by yesterday's financial experiences or traditions. (CAUTION: extravagant financial projections usually will not by themselves create this venture-some, hope-filled, future-oriented, and confident spirit within a congregation! The optimistic financial projections are a product, not a cause of this type of congregational attitudes.)

That Fourth Committee

In considering this organizational structure, it would be unwise to neglect

the power of (1) the sinful nature of human beings, (2) institutional pressures, (3) tradition, and (4) the feelings of those who are convinced the churches should minimize expenditures of money.

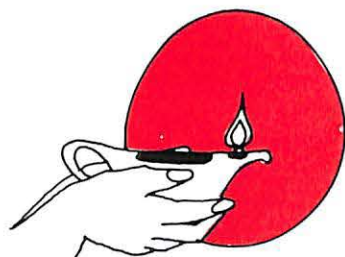
Therefore, it may be wise to look at a fourth group for this system of independent and non-overlapping committees. This is the audit committee that functions in a watchdog capacity similar to the General Accounting Office of the United States government. This committee might have as many as six mutually compatible responsibilities, (1) the annual financial audit to insure the integrity of the financial administration of that congregation, (2) an annual audit to determine the compatibility between the actual expenditures and mission statement or the programmatic goals, (3) an occasional audit of a particular program to determine whether that program is compatible with and supportive of congregation-wide goals, and (4) an occasional audit of the expenditure of the time of each paid staff member to determine whether the actual expenditure of time is consistent with the expectations placed on the person holding that position. Each audit report could be accompanied by suggestions for improvement and/or recommendations in regard to specific goals and policies. In addition, this committee might review the stewardship of time and energy of the governing board and/or the stewardship in the utilization of the real estate.

Why Not One Large Committee?

Dozens of congregations have attempted to implement a variation of this basic system by creating two or three subcommittees within the finance committee. Too often the result is (1) one or more responsibilities (usually stewardship education and the audits) continue to be neglected and/or (2) the dominant institutional pressures continue to be the goal of keeping expenditures within receipts rather than expanding the financial base and/or (3) prudence overwhelms venturesomeness and hope. The creation of separate and independent committees may be the most effective means of reducing the excessive, and often incompatible, expectations placed on one committee.

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WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

Women in Ministry at Any Age

by Maria Rogalski,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

"You are a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

I am thankful that I am a small part of God's possession, privileged to show the love of God in my life by the way I live from day to day. That is my ministry. That is the ministry of each one of us who has tasted the goodness of the Lord and has been brought out of darkness into God's light.

Over the years, the Lord has taught me that ministry is not only the act of ministering (serving, aiding, instrumentality, as Webster defines it). Ministry is an attitude of the heart and will which seeks practical expression wherever it can. It is a natural outgrowth of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

When Paul told the Corinthian Christians about the liberality of the Macedonians in giving support to the saints, he said, "...but they first gave themselves to the Lord..." (2 Corinthians 8:5). That is the root and secret of ministry.

When is the right time for ministry in a woman's life? I often asked myself that question when, as a young Christian, mother of little ones, I joined the Women's Missionary Fellowship of our

church. Is it when our children are small, when I can have some time for myself while they still have naps and early bedtimes? Or is it better to wait until they are a little older...in their teens, perhaps? But that did not seem to be a good time either, for I found myself busy chauffeuring them constantly to dentist appointments and music lessons, attending countless parent-teacher



meetings (at four different schools for a while), and waiting up for their return from social functions at church and school. Is that the right time for service and ministry? Retired people tell me they are busy and also short of time. "If you want to do something, do it now," they say. "If you don't do it now, you will not do it when you are retired either."

For me, ministry at any age is only possible when, with conscious determination and in complete dependence on the Lord, I say with Joshua, "...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

(Joshua 24:15). And as for when, the Bible clearly says, "...Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

When a mother of small children chooses to stay home with them, foregoing for a time the pursuit of her own career or personal goals, she performs a very significant ministry to her family.

Once we adopt the heart attitude of ministry, I have found that the Lord honors our desire to serve Him and, when we look, we will see that He sends many opportunities for service our way.

Even when the children are small, and we cannot get away often, we can support the Women's Missionary Fellowship of our church by attending the monthly meetings. We can carry on a ministry of encouragement and affirmation from our home by telephoning people and writing notes. We can bake cookies for the new neighbor or the mother of the new baby down the street. We can take a casserole to a bereaved family or to those going through a crisis. We can take our preschooler along when visiting the sick or shut-in.

Practicing hospitality by inviting visitors for a meal or offering rides to church to those who need them are all ministries and ways we can serve one another in the love of Christ. Attending a ladies' Bible study, or opening our home for one, is a ministry as well as an opportunity to grow and stretch in our walk with the Lord.

Over the years, I have found it exciting to see how the Lord would maximize my time when I was

President's Corner

by Sara Pasiciel,
WMF president,
Steinbach,
Manitoba



From My Journal...

THURSDAY: I've taken up a new fad...walking! Mind you, I enjoyed walking even before they made eighty dollar shoes and told me how to move my arms. I like to walk in the early morning when it's quiet and fresh. It's an excellent time to praise God, to remember Bible verses I have memorized, to think about good times with my family and

friends—a good time to count my blessings!

SUNDAY: We set Sunday aside for our family, and one of our activities today was looking through a photo album my husband put together and surprised us with. We smiled over pictures of the two of us before we were married; we chuckled at images of our two children as babies and toddlers; we reminisced about times and places we lived and grew as a family. We spent a wonderful hour exclaiming over snapshots that reminded us of precious times together, reinforcing the sense of continuity through change that cements us together as a family.

serious about my active support of His work or a caring ministry to others.

I remember, particularly, the time I thought I could not possibly attend the World Day of Prayer when my children were small. It was always on a Friday, a most unsuitable day for me. As I organized my time and made slight changes in my routine, the Lord helped me to accomplish my tasks and still have time to go. He did this on many other occasions, and I always praise Him for it. A good byproduct was that I learned to discipline myself in time management by organizing and prioritizing my daily duties and activities.

Now that our children are grown and gone, the Lord is opening new avenues of service and ministry. I pray that He will help me to discern His will and give me the necessary joy and strength to faithfully serve Him in any ministry He chooses for me to do. As God's Word challenges us in 1 Peter 4:11, "...whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

WMF News

by LaVerna Mehlhaff,
women's work director

1988 Program Packets. Both the 1988 German and the English program packets are now available. The material is excellent; there is enough in each packet to help you plan effective meetings for your groups for the entire year. Order forms have been sent to each WMF president. Write or call the WMF Office at the North American Baptist Conference International Office (1-312-495-2000) for additional order forms. Special thanks go to Mrs. Thelma Fischer who edited the English packet and Mrs. Christa Eckert who edited the German packet and to all the women who prepared the materials included in these new packets.

WMF Financial Goal. We thank all of our women for their faithful financial support of projects adopted for this triennium. At present, we need about \$240,000 by December 31, 1987, to reach the goal of \$950,000 which we adopted at the last Triennial Conference. Pray that we will be able to reach the goal.

World Day of Prayer. A very important day for Baptist women is the Women's Baptist World Day of Prayer on November 3, 1987. Mark that date on your calendar today. Join women around the world to pray for local and worldwide needs.

Commissioned to Witness

Three Join Fort George Church

PRINCE GEORGE, BC. "We at Fort George Baptist Church were pleased to witness the baptism of two persons recently," reports the Rev. Neil Strohschein, pastor. These two and one other person were received as members of the Church. "We praise God for His goodness to these people," states Pastor Strohschein. "They have shown significant spiritual growth in the time I have known them."

Six Baptized at East Olds Church; Nine Join Church

OLDS, AB. Rev. John Wollenberg baptized six young people at East Olds Baptist Church, June 14, 1987. "Each candidate had a friend or relative light a candle indicating their commitment and obedience to Christ," reports Trudie Schroeder. "One candle was left unlit, representing those still in need of the Savior."

On July 5, 1987, at the communion service, five baptismal candidates and four others joined the Church.

Club Reaches Neighborhood Children

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. During the school year, Wednesday is Awana Night at Faith Baptist Church. "Last school year, 125 children and young people, ages 3 through grade 9, participated," reports Anne Kruegel. "Many of them are from the neighborhood. On one Wednesday evening, they held an 'Awana Fair' on the parking lot, followed by a 'New Day' concert."

Nine Join Hudson Bay Park Church

SASKATOON, SK. Recently, nine new members joined Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church, two by baptism and seven by letter of transfer and testimony.

At the beginning of the year, the deacons started care groups. "It's exciting to see God's Spirit at work in people's lives," says Pastor Walter Foth.

Spruce Grove Church Initiates County-Wide Crusade

SPRUCE GROVE, AB. Five years ago, Pastor Lyle Richards of Parkland Baptist Church had a vision for revival involving a town-wide crusade with a renowned evangelist. Correspondence with Dr. Billy Graham's staff resulted in a planned county-wide crusade with Dr. Ralph Bell, associate of Dr. Graham, Sept. 12-16, 1987.

Begun as a single church effort, the crusade gained the cooperation of several area churches. Pastor Richard's vision for revival has been supported by his fellow area pastors and gathered momentum among the believers. Crusade coordinator, Rev. John McGregor of Dr. Graham's staff, expressed delighted surprise when final registrations for the Christian Life and Witness classes,

in preparation for crusade counseling, exceeded all statistical expectations. Additional materials had to be rushed to Spruce Grove from Minneapolis.—*Marj Hadlington*

LaSalle Church Bells Signal Welcome to Community

LA SALLE, CO. Once again the witness of the Good News of the Gospel is ringing forth from the new bell tower of First Baptist Church. Old bells purchased in 1920 are in a new tower, ringing out a witness and a welcome from Pastor Allan Williams and the growing membership, echoing the news of the newly baptized, of an energetic youth program, the Bible Study group, and the Women's Missionary Fellowship, with the choir blending their voices in joyous praise to Him.—*Kerrie Discoe*

Four Join Leduc Church

LEDUC, AB. Recently, three young people who accepted the Lord as their Savior were baptized by Pastor Frank Schmidt at Temple Baptist Church. The hand of fellowship was extended to them and another young woman who joined the Church by testimony.—*Vi Fleck*

Compelled to Serve

Randolph Church Dedicates Building

RANDOLPH, MN. Members and friends celebrated the dedication of Randolph Baptist Church's new 5,200 square foot one-level brick building on May 29-31, 1987.

Events of the weekend included a Friday evening community concert featuring special music from individuals and groups of the community and congregation, a Saturday afternoon worship service and fellowship time with Minnesota/LaCrosse Association churches, and a Sunday morning service with former pastor, Bert Itterman, bringing the message. Preceding the laying of the cornerstone, members of the Church read words of personal dedication while holding onto a rope which was used in pulling the walking plow at the groundbreaking service. To celebrate the 111 years of ministry of the Church, 111 balloons were released.

In the meditation at the Sunday afternoon dedication service, Pastor Danny Van Gerpen reminded the congregation that "We've only just begun. The project is complete, and we have a very useful tool through which we can minister to our community. The challenge is to

diligently carry on the vision of ministry established over 111 years ago by our forefathers."

Various representatives of the Church and community also spoke.

The building fund was established in 1964, and ground was broken in September 1986.—*Betty Lee*

Leduc Church Celebrates 60 Years

LEDUC, AB. "In everything give thanks" was the theme for Temple Baptist Church's celebration of their 60th Anniversary. In 1927, the Temple Baptist Church was organized with 20 charter members as a North American Baptist Conference Church with Rev. Phil Daum as pastor.

Mr. Herman Bohlman organized a Sunday school in 1918, which later became the Second German Baptist Church of Leduc. "At age 93, he is our only surviving charter member," says Vi Fleck.

Of the 11 pastors who have served Temple Church, the following joined in the celebration: Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Thole (1929-33); Rev. and Mrs. Adam Huber (1941-48); Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Krieser (1963-77); Rev. and Mrs. John Martens (1977-81); and present pastor, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Schmidt. Rev. Ray Harsch, who served from 1958-63, was unable to be present.

Special events included a slide presentation of the history of Temple Church: pastors' wives' reminiscences of times when they were at Temple; a picnic with Rev. Huber giving the devotional; a banquet with Rev. Marvin Rust, former member, as guest speaker; and a children's program during Sunday School with Pastor Lloyd Martens giving a challenging message. Pastor Lloyd Krieser emphasized "It Is Time to Give Thanks" in the morning message.

A mass choir of present and former members sang during the afternoon service, with nearby churches and friends bringing greetings. Rev. Charles Littman, area minister, was speaker.

"Our missions project of \$3,000 for Life Abundant Program in Cameroon was surpassed," reports Vi Fleck. "We praise the Lord for all He has done for us and the many blessings."

Spruce Grove Church Celebrates Dominion Day

SPRUCE GROVE, AB. "In celebration of Dominion Day, July 1, Parkland Baptist Church preceded their worship service on June 28 with a special time affirming our Christian responsibility to pray for our country and those in authority over us," reports Marj Hadlington. "R.C.M.P. Officers from within the congregation, resplendent in their red serge dress uniforms, served as color guard and Bible escort."

The Bible, placed at the altar by Constable Dave Ingram, was carried into the sanctuary by youth worker, Kevin Lefort. The Canadian flag, escorted by Sargent Bob Little, was carried by Chris Hadlington, high point earner for the Christian Service Brigade. The Alberta flag, escorted by Constable Doug McGimpsey, was carried by Randa Beckwith, high point earner for Pioneer Girls Club.

Representing the civic government was Spruce Grove Mayor, Parkland Baptist Church's own, George Cuff and family. Representing the provincial government was the member of the Legislative Assembly for County Parkland, Jim Heron and family.

Pastor Lyle Richards asked the Lord's blessing and protection on our peace officers and government representatives and shared a message from God's Word reminding us of our Christian obligations as responsible citizens.

During the worship service that followed, we celebrated the observance of four baptisms and received them into membership. One was a fruit of "New Day's" ministry.

"We praise God for this time to reflect upon the many blessings He has bestowed upon Canada, Alberta, our one-year-old 'city' of Spruce Grove, and Parkland Baptist Church," says Marj.

Dakota-Montana Women Meet

FARGO, ND. The Central Dakota-Montana Women's Missionary Fellowship met for their annual meetings during the Association meetings, June 19-21, 1987. The Association theme, "Ye Are My Witnesses," was based on Acts 1:8 with Mrs. Ardath Effa, former missionary to Brazil, as guest speaker at the Prayer and Praise Breakfast.

During the luncheon, "Mrs. Beck Smith of the Billy Graham Crusade Women's Prayer Group, challenged us to be witnesses for our Lord wherever we are and at all times," reports Dorothy Friez. George Beverly Shea and Tedd Smith provided special music. (Association attendees participated in the Billy Graham Crusade held in Fargo at the same time.)

Women from the Northern Dakota Association participated in the breakfast and luncheon as they were also meeting in Fargo for their Association sessions. The business meetings were conducted separately.

Grosse Pointe Baptist Celebrates 90th Anniversary

GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI. "Hot weather wasn't the only visitor to Grosse Pointe Woods on the weekend of July 10-12, 1987," reports the Rev. David H. Wick, pastor. "Former members and friends of Grosse Pointe

biblical imperatives in action

Baptist Church came from all over the United States and Canada to celebrate the Church's 90th anniversary."

The theme of the anniversary was "Rooted, Grounded, and Growing." The celebration opened with a singsgiving Friday evening led by a former associate pastor, the Rev. Arthur Thom. Former pastor Dr. Dale Ihrie brought greetings at this service.

On Saturday afternoon, many members took a special tour of the old Burns Avenue Baptist building, the former location of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church. A banquet Saturday evening was followed by a humorous dramatic presentation, "A Dickens of an Anniversary." The evening ended with the opening of the Burns Avenue cornerstone, which was found to contain a German Bible, German Sunday school literature, and information on Conference activities, dating from 1915.

On Sunday morning, the Rev. Herman Effa, associate director of missions, represented the Conference and brought a challenging message. The festivities ended Sunday afternoon with a musical program presented by current and former Church members and staff. Mr. Rich Hartsoe, former choir director, was master of ceremonies. The Rev. Bill Taft, area minister, gave a brief message.

"In spite of temperatures that soared into the 90s with high humidity, the special services averaged about 400 in attendance," says Pastor Wick. "Many members reported a deeper sense of gratitude to God for what He has accomplished in the life of the Church over the decades, and a new sense of hope for the Church's mission in the future."

Teen from Olds Helps in Building Project in Germany

OLDS, AB. Koby Dalgetty, a teenager from East Olds Baptist Church, left for Germany the end of June, to be involved in building a classroom for Faith Academy through Missions Outreach, Inc.—T. Schroeder

Vancouver Church Celebrates 50 Years

VANCOUVER, BC. On June 19, 1937, 45 people came together to organize the Second German Baptist Church. The weekend of June 25-28, 1987, saw the 50th anniversary celebration of this Church, now called Bethany.

This group of 45 founders was represented at the celebration by eight surviving members and has grown through the years to Bethany's present membership of 445. The Church itself also branched off in the 1950s due to its size to start Immanuel Baptist Church.

Weekend activities included special music by an anniversary male choir, a banquet including a slide presentation of the years gone by, and a closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

Various pastors from the past spoke on the anniversary theme, "His Banner over Us Is Love" (Psalm 36:5-9). "The overall message came through—under His banner we must carry on with Christ's mandate to seek and save the lost," reports Trina St. Eloi. "Fifty years is not the end; rather, it is more of a beginning. The Church must never lose sight of its purpose, or it will become a social club with a social gospel. Although it may not have been verbal, there was a wholehearted 'amen' in the air."

Committed to Give

Alberta Women Give \$8,000 for Missions

BANFF, AB. The 500 ladies attending the Alberta Baptist Women's 31st Annual Retreat gave an offering of \$8,000 towards the Brazil, Japan, Cameroon, and Nigeria mission field work, and for the North American Baptist College, Divinity School, and Seminary.

Barbara Johnson spoke on the retreat theme, "Encourage Me, Please." Frances Jones, missionary from Cameroon along with her doctor husband, Ken, shared about their work among the leprosy patients at the leprosy hospital, where her husband was the first doctor.

Sara Pasiciel, W.M.F. president, brought greetings and reminded the ladies that their goals are never out of date. Alberta W.M.F. president Elsie Kerber, who led the retreat, implemented a prayer room, and had women available in the room to pray with those who wanted prayer.—Linda Halisky

Called to Worship

German Faith Conference Held in Edmonton

EDMONTON, AB. The 20th Deutsche Glaubenskonferenz, hosted by the Zion Baptist Community Church and their pastor, the Rev. Heinrich Goliath, met May 22-24, 1987, and heard Dr. Frank C. Peters of Kitchener, Ontario, as guest speaker. Dr. Peters spoke on the theme: "The Joys and Sorrows in the Life of the Pilgrim." In his sermons, he discussed the pilgrim's living hope, his joy of salvation, his life-style of holiness, his exemplary suffering and his sober watchfulness as well as the divine wisdom of the church.

Pastor Lee Reimer reported on the German Bible Retreat held at Camp Caroline in September. Area Minister Charles Littman brought highlights concerning the ministries and mission work of the North American Baptist Conference; Prof. Peter Ristau brought the group up-to-date on happenings at the North American Baptist College and the North American Baptist Divinity School. Rev. Dieter Reda requested prayer for the Olympic games to be held in Calgary in 1988 and for plans to do evangelistic work among the athletes.

Special music included a choir, brass bands, and special numbers.

The 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches will be held in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988, and there will be a German worship service on Sunday morning with Dr. Reinhold Kerstan, Baptist World Alliance, as speaker.

"Good food, good fellowship, and good hosts contributed to the enjoyment of the attendees of the Conference," reports Karin Ristau, secretary.

in memoriam

JOHN KUEHN (85), Yorkton, SK; born Jan. 27, 1902, to Jacob and Susanna (nee Midelstedt) Kuehn, at Dobre, Poland; died May 16, 1987; immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1928; attended the Lutheran college, Camrose, AB, 1932-33; graduated from North American Baptist Seminary, Rochester, NY, in 1937; student pastor, Forestburg, AB, 1934, and Labert, MT, 1935 and 1936; ordained at Ebenezer East Church, Ebenezer, SK, July 10, 1937, and served as pastor at Ebenezer West and Springside Baptist Churches; married Salma Lange, May 2, 1938; served as pastor at the following Baptist churches: Hilda, Gnadenfeld, Burstal, Friedensfeld and Schuler, AB and SK (1940-43); Lyndock and Sebastopol, ON (1943-52); Whitemouth and Beausejour, MB (1952-58); Prince Rupert, BC (1958-60); Jansen, SK (1960-63); interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK (1966-67); predeceased by three brothers: Jacob, Leopold, and Christopher; survived by his wife Salma; Reverends Del Bertsch, Lawrence Daykin, and Richard Grabke, pastors, funeral service.

ALFRED CARL STAHNKE (89); born May 30, 1898, to Michael and Barbara Stahnke at Bald Eagle, MN; died July 6, 1987; baptized and joined Dayton's Bluff Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN; July 1913; married Emma Gutsche, March 29, 1933; survived by one son, David, Denver, CO, area; and two grandchildren; Reverends Rubin Herrmann and Leo Reck, pastors, funeral service, Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN.

RUDOLF (RUDY) BATKE (44), Edmonton, AB; born Aug. 1, 1943, in Helldorf, Poland; died July 18, 1987; married Rita Gerke, Aug. 11, 1973; member, Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB; survived by his wife, Rita; twin daughters: Sharon and Charlene; his parents, Lydia and Henry Batke, Edmonton, AB; four brothers, Dan, Ben, Adolf, and Paul; and one sister, Mrs. Tabea Schulz; Reverends H. Goliath and Loren Stark, pastors, funeral service.

CHARLES ENGLER (62), Randolph, MN; born Dec. 25, 1924, in Randolph, MN; died July 1, 1987, Burlington, VT; married Arlene Mae White, June 4, 1955; member, Randolph (MN) Baptist Church; survived by his wife Arlene; five sons: Alvin (Diane), Minneapolis, MN; Larry, Cannon Falls, MN; Vernon, San Diego, CA; Mark, Randolph, MN; and Andy, Minneapolis, MN; two daughters: Pam (Mrs. Alan Tetreault), Plattsburgh, NY; and Ann, St. Paul, MN; and four grandchildren; Pastor Danny Van Gerpen, pastor, funeral service.

ALAN JOHNSON (39), Regina, SK, died June 12, 1987; B.Th., Prairie Bible Institute; M.A. in Religion, Winnipeg Theological Seminary; assistant pastor, Carbon (AB) Baptist Church; founding church extension pastor, Beiseker, AB; licensed by Carbon (AB) Baptist Church; ordained to the Christian ministry by Carbon (AB) Baptist Church, June 20, 1982; founder and principal, Day Care School, Millwoods area, Edmonton, AB; pulpit supply, Baptist churches, Morris and Beausejour, MB; interim pastor, Raymore and Nokomis (SK) Baptist Churches; survivors include his wife Joyce; and four children: David, Steven, Nola, and Sarah; Reverends Richard Grabke, Springside, SK; Ed Vanderbaaren, Carbon, AB; and Delvin Bertsch, Yorkton, SK, officiating pastors, funeral service.

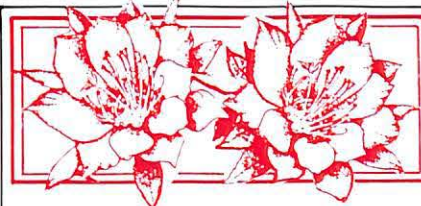
ALMA B. KREMER (81), Bismarck, ND; born Aug. 5, 1906, to William and Adolphina (Schulz) Bechtle, near Linton, ND; died July 5, 1987; married Gottlieb Kremer; teacher; held Emmons County offices; member, Sunday school teacher, choir director, pianist, youth director, and W.M.U. president, First Baptist Church, Linton, ND; member since her retirement, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by her husband, Gottlieb; Rev. M. D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

PAUL MULLER (81), Minitonas, MB; born Dec. 5, 1905, to Leopold and Natalie Muller in Miroslavka, Poland; died June 8, 1987; married Bertha Sibentaler, June 13, 1935, in Kamina-Werke, Poland; immigrated to Canada in 1939; member, deacon, church secretary, German Sunday school class teacher, First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB; predeceased by one sister, Frieda; survived by his wife, Bertha; two sons: William, Edmonton, AB; and Helmuth (Ida), Minitonas, MB; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three brothers: Emil, Arnold, and Helmuth; and one sister, Wanda (Mrs. Emil Kuss); Rev. Ronald Kelway, pastor, funeral service.

JOHANNA SCHULZ (90), Colorado Springs, CO; born Jan. 12, 1897, to Daniel and Elizabeth (Koenig) Schulz in Scotland, SD; died July 3, 1987; moved to Washburn, ND, in 1902, lived in Billings, MT, Indian Head, MY, and Long Beach, CA; member, First Baptist Church, Colorado Springs; survived by a sister, Mrs. Ruth Rees, Colorado Springs, CO; six nieces and six nephews; Rev. M. D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

BWA to Give 100,000 Russian Bibles

WASHINGTON, DC. (BWA)—The Baptist World Alliance will make the largest gift ever of Russian-language Bibles to Christians in the Soviet Union. This gift would coincide with the thousandth anniversary of organized Christianity in the U.S.S.R. The Bibles will be distributed to all Christian groups. This gives Baptists the opportunity to have a part in a project which would benefit all U.S.S.R. believers. The action follows by only a few weeks the granting of a permit to import 75,000 volumes of a Russian-language translation of the "William Barclay Commentary on the New Testament." The translation is a joint project of BWA's division of Baptist World Aid and the Mennonite Central Committee.



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what's happening

First Baptist Church of Corona, South Dakota, and First Baptist Church, Milbank, South Dakota, voted to merge to become one church. First of Corona is a North American Baptist Conference church, and First of Milbank was a Baptist General Conference church. They, as a merged church, have voted to be a North American Baptist Conference church. Their first service as the new church was held September 6, 1987, in Milbank.

Mrs. Jean (David) Ewing of Bismarck, North Dakota, was elected president of the North American Baptist Conference Ministers' Wives' Fellowship at its triennial business meeting held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, during the Ministers' Family Conference in August. Mrs. Rita (Dan) Edzards of Harvey, North Dakota, was elected secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Rita (Greg) Donaldson of Burlington, Iowa, continues as vice-president.

Rev. Perry Schnabel becomes pastor of First Baptist Church, Eureka, South Dakota, on October 1, 1987. He previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mercer, North Dakota.

The Rev. Eldon Janzen has resigned as administrator of the Baptist Residence for Women in New York. The building has been sold to the Samaritan Foundation, which intends to establish a halfway house for substance abuse people in the building. The current residents have been guaranteed continued residence in the building, also. The Board of Directors of the Baptist Residence for Women gave a \$400,000 contribution from the proceeds of the sale for the Conference Capital Funds campaign. The Board of Directors of the Home along with Atlantic Association and North American Baptist Conference personnel are exploring new ministries to be accomplished as the result of funds received from the sale of the building.

Dwight Jacobson, Jr., is the new youth pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, Illinois, as of August 15, 1987.

The Rev. David B. Motte is the pastor of the Bloomingdale Baptist Church, Bloomingdale, Illinois, as of June 1. He previously served as in-

terim pastor at the Church, while attending Wheaton College.

Mrs. Denise (Allen) Kjesbo has accepted the position of Instructor of Christian Education at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, effective with the fall term. She was formerly the Director of Christian Education at Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Allen Kjesbo resigned as Youth Director at Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, and is the Youth Director at Faith Baptist Church (BGC), Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Rudy Bauder, Jr., was ordained to the Christian ministry by First Baptist Church, Colfax, Washington, in July 1987. He is Director of Church Ministries at First Baptist.

Mr. Bert Lindout resigned as pastor of Rosswood Bible Chapel, Rosswood, British Columbia, effective July 31, 1987, to return to secular employment.

Chaplain Capt. R. Lee Boleyn has been reassigned from Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire to Lincoln, Nebraska, to attend the University of Nebraska as a graduate student in "Family Life Education" for one year.

Lori Teske is the new program director at Green Bay Bible Camp, Westbank, British Columbia.

Rev. Warren Hoffman became Associate Pastor in Music at Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 15, after completing his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

Neil Griffin has joined the church staff at TriValley Faith Baptist Church, Pleasanton, California.

Mr. Jon Cooke assumed youth pastoral ministry responsibilities at Olympic View Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington, in January 1987. He is a December 1986 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Rev. Wilfred Weick became the pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, Alberta, effective the end of July. He formerly served as associate pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Chaplain Cpt. Gregg Lee Drew received an Army Commendation Medal First Oak Leaf Cluster for

serving as Brigade Chaplain for meritorious achievement, March through May 1987, at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The Rev. Harvey Motis accepted the pastorate of New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, North Dakota, effective September 20, 1987. He formerly served as pastor of Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane, Washington.

The Rev. Ed Rafferty became pastor of Cedarloo Baptist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa, effective September 6, 1987.

Mr. David Snyder became pastor of Dorchester Drive Baptist Church, Erie, Pennsylvania, on August 16, 1987.

The Rev. Ervin B. Strauss has accepted the senior pastor position at Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia, and was installed as pastor, Sept. 20, 1987. He has served as pastor of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Richmond, British Columbia, since its founding in 1962.

Dr. Stanley Grenz, professor, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is studying in the Protestant Theological Department of the University of Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, during his sabbatical leave.

The Rev. Norman Vernon concluded his ministry as interim pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, effective the end of June.

Tom Jackson became Youth Director at Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church, Rocklin, California, on June 1.

The Rev. Ace Edwards became Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, California, June 1, 1987.

The Rev. Randy Bowman became pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, California, on July 15, 1987.

The Rev. Steve Moore became Minister of Christian Education and Visitation Evangelism at Gold Country Baptist Church, Shingle Springs, California, on July 1, 1987.

The Rev. Richard Hardy became director of Central Baptist Camp, Lansing, Iowa, on September 1, 1987. He formerly served as pastor of Community Baptist Church, Beavercreek, Ohio.

The Rev. Robert Walther became pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, South Dakota,

news

North American Baptist Leader Attends American Bible Society National Conference



NEW YORK, NY (ABS)—Dr. John Binder, executive director, North American Baptist Conference, compares notes with Miss Alice E. Ball, general secretary, American Bible Society, following the final session of the Society's 1987 National Advisory Council.

Sponsored by the American Bible Society, the National Advisory Council is comprised of leaders of many denominations who provide guidance to the Society in its contin-

uing work of providing the Word of God without doctrinal note or comment to people everywhere, at affordable prices in languages and formats that best meet their needs.

During this year's conference, leaders of 32 church denominations and agencies heard, among other developments, details of the ABS' major new Scripture-sharing program for youth, called "Act Now—Go with the Word."

effective August 30, 1987. He formerly served as founding pastor of North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, Texas.

The Rev. Daniel Berger resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Fessenden, North Dakota, effective August 16, 1987, to continue his studies.

The Rev. Daniel Kiblin became chaplain at the Central Baptist Home, Norridge, Illinois, on August 1, 1987.

Mr. Darold Sauer of Regina, Saskatchewan, is serving as part-time interim pastor at Southey Baptist Church, Southey, Saskatchewan.

The Rev. C. Reay Zoellner became the Minister of Evangelism and Discipleship at Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, on September 15, 1987.

baptist world aid



Floods in Bangladesh

Severe flooding occurred in Bangladesh during the last week of July and continued into August. The flooding, which killed more than 400 people, destroyed more than one million tons of rice and left more than a million people homeless, officials said.

The situation is very grave now, according to a report from the Baptist World Aid Division of the Baptist World Alliance. Twenty-five churches of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship are affected, and many people are suffering severe hardships.

The Rev. Sushil C. Bose, general secretary of the Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship, adds the following in a letter dated August 17, 1987: "As soon as flooding started, we started relief operations, and we tried to face the situation with our own relief funds. We have spent about \$4,000 in the last two weeks. But as the flooding is still continuing, and the situation has not improved, we are very worried, because we have run out of money. We need money especially for a post-flood rehabilitation relief program. As soon as the flood water recedes, we will need money for seeds and reseedling. As water stood for at least three weeks in the field, our people lost all paddies and vegetables. No work can be done there. Almost all mud houses were destroyed in the water and need to be rebuilt. Usually after the flood, epidemics come. Pray that we can save our people with our medical program and mother/child care program."

Baptist World Aid has responded with an initial grant. Your help is urgently needed. If you wish to help meet this need, make your check out to North American Baptist Conference and send your contributions designated for **Relief for Victims of Flooding in Bangladesh**, Baptist World Aid, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.



Honor Youth Choir to be Featured at 42nd Triennial Conference

One of the new features of the 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches meeting in Calgary, Alberta, July

26-31, 1988, will be a Conference-wide honor youth choir. Directed by Dr. Brian Trevor, the '88 Conference Youth Chorale will be a special opportunity for North American Baptist Conference youth, aged 16 to 24, with considerable music experience to join with others of similar interests in praising God through Christian music. Dr. Trevor is a member of Brentview Baptist Church and a professor of music at Mount Royal College, and noted Director of the Calgary Chamber Choir and Festival Chorus.

Practice for the Honor Youth Chorale will be held on the weekend prior to the Conference, Friday evening to Tuesday noon, July 22-26, 1988. Lodging will be provided at the University of Calgary,

and rehearsals will take place at Mount Royal College. In addition to the thrill of singing at the Triennial Conference, a highlight will perhaps be a performance in the Great Hall of the Banff Springs Hotel, known as "the castle of the Rockies."

A flyer including application information will be distributed to your church describing the '88 Conference Youth Chorale. A maximum of 80 youth will be selected, and the application deadline is January 15, 1988. Encourage your youth who are especially musically gifted to apply to be part of this unique experience.

Contact your pastor for a brochure and application form, if you are interested. □

So You Want To Be Tax-Exempt? Look Before You Leap: Churches and the IRS

by Oliver Thomas

Are all U.S. churches automatically tax-exempt? Must a church file complicated forms with the Internal Revenue Service to qualify for tax exemption?

Section 508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code provides that "churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches" are exempt from the law requiring non-profit organizations to apply for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)3. The practical effect of this exemption is that churches are presumed to be tax-exempt without their having to file an application (Form 1023) with the Internal Revenue Service.

Unfortunately, some churches are not aware that they are excused from applying for tax-exempt status, and they have filed a 1023 by mistake. These churches are likely to become involved in a complicated and burdensome administrative process that requires them to furnish extensive information concerning their religious history, practices, property use, staff salaries, etc.

Having jumped on this administrative merry-go-round, it may be difficult to get off. The IRS may presume that the

applicant which fails to complete the filing process is not organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and is therefore not entitled to the benefits of Section 501(c)3.

There may be reasons why a church wishes to apply for and obtain a form letter of exemption from the IRS, but in light of the potential problems associated with filing for tax-exempt status, churches and their related organizations should seek the advice of an attorney before applying.

In a recent meeting with the IRS, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs requested that the agency send a form letter to churches that file a Form 1023 advising them that they are under no obligation to apply for tax-exempt status and allowing them to withdraw their applications if they choose. Hopefully, the IRS will draft such a letter, but in the meantime, churches should be wary of this potential administrative pitfall.

Oliver Thomas is general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.



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triennial conference news

Expect Great Viewing on Your Way to or from the Triennial Conference

by Peter Gazard

Expect great viewing on your way to or from the 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches to be held in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1987. You not only can expect great viewing but also participate in various activities as well as experience times of relaxation.

A trip to Calgary, Alberta, without seeing the majestic Rockies, Lake Louise, Banff, Jasper, or even the Badlands of Drumheller is not complete. East of Calgary lie the great plains and on the West, the Ranching Country of the Foothills, then the Rockies towering some 12,000 feet above sea level.

The Local Arrangements Committee is arranging pre and post conference tours for you. Plan now on booking for one or more of the several tours being offered.

Just to give you further insight into what may be in store for you, we'll highlight the tours being planned prior to or following the Triennial Conference.

Pre-Conference Tours

Drumheller and Tyrrell Museum. This will be a day trip on July 25 to the world class Museum of Paleontology where you will be able to view and touch dinosaur skeletons, fossils, and geological displays. Hike along trails where today fossils are being discovered. View the hills, which have eroded over the years, that now show unusual formations.

Edmonton. A day and a half tour on July 24-25 will give you an opportunity to view our North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School as well as the world famous enclosed West Edmonton Mall, covering many acres and including a recreational park and hundreds of stores. To sleep in the College dormitory and receive a guided tour of the facilities alone would be well worth the trip.



Other Tours and Activities

To round out our pre-conference tour packages, we have planned a city tour on July 26 to view the facilities used to host the 1988 Winter Olympics—the luge, ski jumps, speed skating oval plus other sites. This will give you a greater appreciation of those facilities you will have viewed on TV during the 1988 Olympics.

If you wish some activity and, at the same time, enjoy beautiful scenery, then register for the Golf Event scheduled for July 25, which will take place in the heart of the Rockies. Each turn in the fairway offers a new, impressive view. This activity won't interfere with Conference events yet gives you time to rest up for the Conference beginning the evening of July 26. Perhaps your spouse may wish to hike in the area and join you for dinner—if your spouse does not golf.

All of these events are especially designed for our Conference attendees. Plan on registering for one or more of these events as soon as the forms become available. Don't be one of those missing out and regretting it at a later date.

Watch for further information regarding these events. Tour information will be mailed directly to you and also be available from your local church. The golf tournament forms and brochure will only be available from your church.

See you in 1988 enjoying the beauty of Alberta and the spiritual highlights of the 42nd Triennial Conference. It's for all family members.

Mr. Peter Gazard of Calgary, Alberta, is a member of Brentview Baptist Church, a member of the Communications Division of the University of Alberta in Calgary, and is chairman of the Local Arrangements Communications Committee.

Banff. If you haven't had the opportunity to view Banff and Lake Louise firsthand, you now have that chance. This day and a half tour on July 24-25 will take you to the spots that have made this area known worldwide: Ride the Sulphur Mountain Gondola Lift, swim in the Sulphur Mountain Hot Springs, view Lake Louise, see wild animals, and, of course, view the spectacular Rockies towering high above you.

Post Conference Tours

Banff, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields. This three day post-conference tour (July 31-August 2) takes you to the same areas as described above and also includes a tour of the Columbia Icefields by a "Sno Coach" specifically designed to take you across the giant glacier. The views on the Banff-Jasper highway are second to none.

Banff, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields, Jasper, Edmonton. For four days (July 31 to August 3), let yourself unwind as you view the Rockies and breathe all that good fresh air. In addition to the areas to be toured as described in the previous two tours, we also travel to Jasper where we will take the Jasper Tramway to the top of the mountains and cruise Maligne Lake. Then off to the world famous West Edmonton Shopping Mall, and finally, lodge at and view our own North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School.

Baptist Herald

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Celebration Of GRATITUDE OFFERING

Praise, Prayer, and Proclamation

team up in Psalm 105:1 to make an emphatic statement about gratitude:

*"Give thanks to the Lord,
Call on His name;
Make known among the nations
what He has done."*

Genuine gratitude generates **praise** as we reflect on God's goodness. From Him come our bountiful blessings, which include our daily provisions of food, shelter, and security plus freedom to worship and fellowship in the church of our choice. Sincere gratitude is also expressed through **prayer** as we tell God specifically for what we are grateful. With a heart full of gratitude, we are enabled to announce to people near and far what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

The Celebration of Gratitude Offering gives us the opportunity together to offer our praise, prayer, and thanksgiving to God as well as to share our blessings with others around the world.

Your gift designated for the Celebration of Thanksgiving Offering will be used to proclaim God's mercy and the message of salvation in Jesus Christ in two countries in North America and in five countries around the globe.

A gift of \$250, \$100, \$50, or whatever amount you can give will help start new churches at home and overseas...heal the sick through medical ministries...and train future pastors and lay leaders through the mission and ministry outreach of the North American Baptist Conference.

Today, more than ever before, it is vitally important that the Gospel is proclaimed ...everywhere! Remember the Lord's goodness and faithfulness to you in past years. Then let your thanksgiving offering be over and above your regular giving and be a blessing to others round the world.

Give through your local church designated for the Celebration of Gratitude Offering for North American Baptist Conference Missions and Ministries or send your offering of thanks to Celebration of Gratitude Offering, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181.



THE GOAL \$325,000