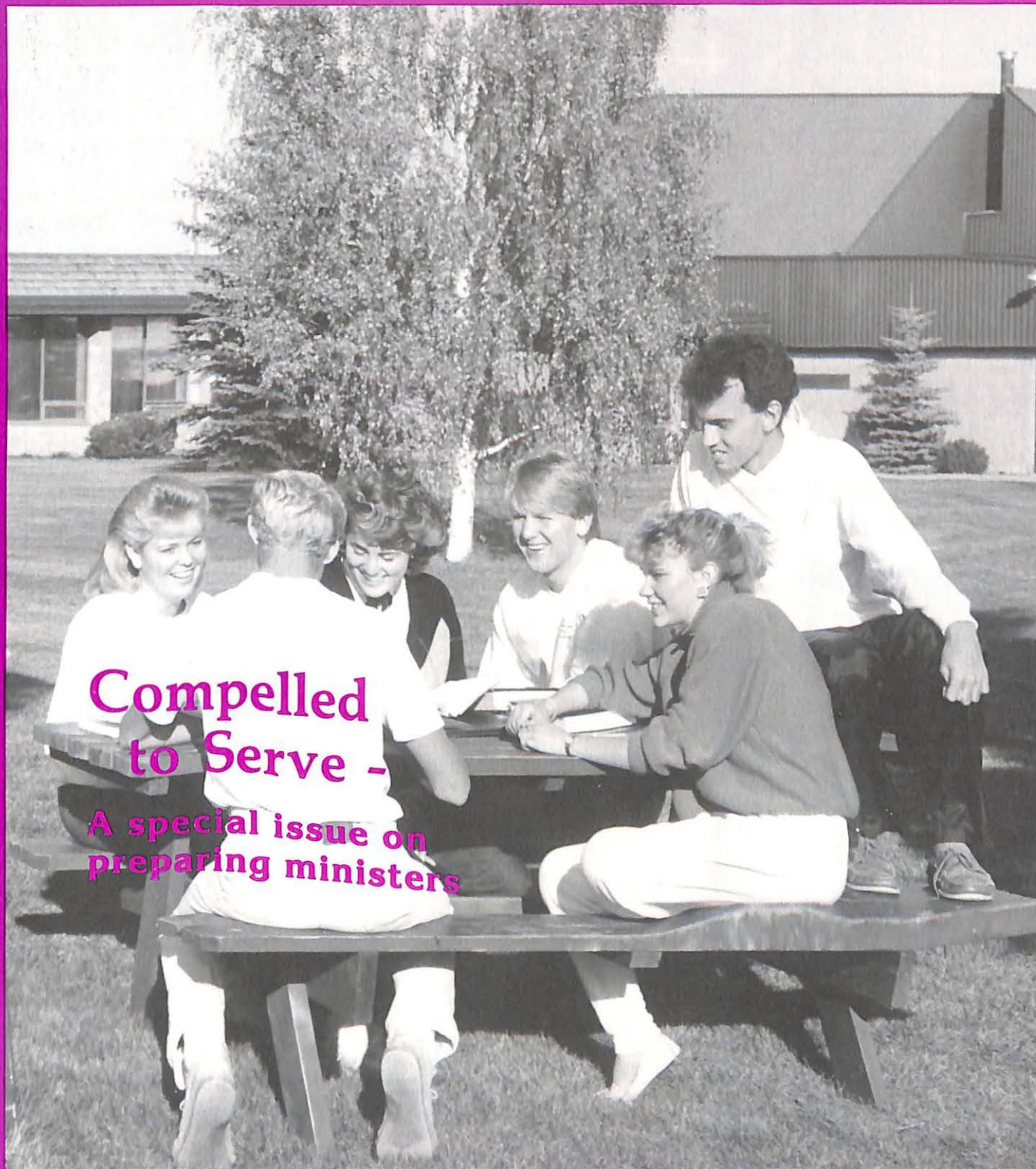


Baptist Herald

January/February 1988



**Compelled
to Serve -**

**A special issue on
preparing ministers**

DISCOVERY DAYS '88

March 3-6, 1988

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

Edmonton • Alberta



Four exciting days for high school students to discover what N.A.B. College is all about. . .

- Meet many new friends from across Canada and the United States
- Discover God's direction for your life
- Be spiritually challenged by our guest speaker, Dr. Steve Vandergriff, director, Edmonton Youth for Christ; former youth pastor, First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, CA
- Participate in many special activities
- Meet our profs and sit in on some of their classes
- Total cost is only \$35 (Canadian) and \$25 (U.S.)
- Only 200 registrations will be accepted, so register early!

Posters, descriptive brochures, and application forms have been sent to your church. Please register individually.

For full details, write:
N.A.B.C. DISCOVERY DAYS '88
11525 - 23 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6J 4T3



14



20



28

Articles

- 4 A Compassion for Ministry
Daniel Leininger
- 6 Divinity School Alumni Look Back
An Interview with Ken Bayer and Tim Schroeder
- 8 North American Baptist Seminary Faculty Speak on the Values of a North American Baptist Seminary Education
Gordon Harris, Ted Faszler, Richard Houts, Ron Carlson
- 10 Spiritual Values Are Taught and Caught at N.A.B. College
Richard Paetzel
- 11 How Is N.A.B. College Changing the Lives of Its Students?
Christine Goltz, Kris Walker, Jonathan Grenz
- 12 The Cry of the Blessing
Denise Muir Kjesbo
- 14 Introducing the 1987-88 Graduates of the North American Baptist Divinity School
- 16 Introducing the 1988 Graduates of the North American Baptist Seminary

Departments

- 13 Forging Family Intimacy Marital Quality and Stability
J. Walter Goltz
- 18 News from our Missionaries
David Burgess, Kathy Kroll, Bill and Luci Lengefeld, Martha Nelson
- 20 Church Growth Issuing Invitations or Seeking Commitment?
Lyle E. Schaller
- 22 Women of Hope Reaching Our World Reflections, *Dorene Walth, Nancy Lennick, Thelma F. Fischer; President's Corner, Sara Pasiciel*
- 24 Biblical Imperatives in Action
- 27 In Memoriam
- 28 Capital Funds Report Building on Foundations of Faith
J. Walter Goltz
- 29 What's Happening Baptist World Aid Polish Baptists to Build New Center

Barbara J. Binder, editor
Marilyn Schneider, editor's assistant
Phyllis Hill, subscriptions fulfillment
Nancy Lennick, contributing editor,
"Women of Hope"

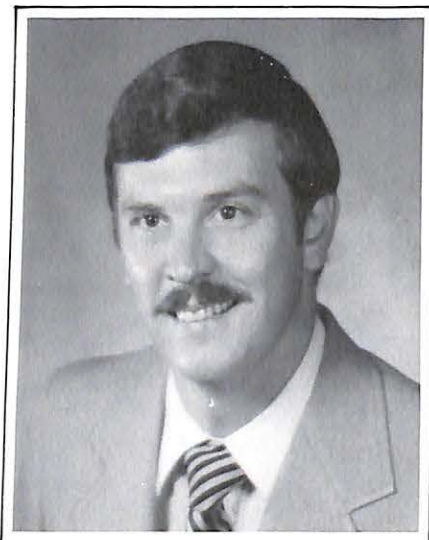
BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0 005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (312) 495-2000.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

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

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

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

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



A Compassion for Ministry

by Daniel Leininger

The Compassion of Jesus

The gospel narratives help supply the missing ingredient. In the life of Jesus Christ, we find a continual action of God's love. Whenever He happened upon human need, His response was dependable.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things" (Mark 6:34).

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).

"Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' (Mark 1:41).

"Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately, they received their sight and followed him" (Matthew 20:34).

Faced with human need, the divine response is "compassion," which moves into appropriate action. Unlike the cartoon character, this was obviously not a part that our Lord hated. Far more than an idea in the head, "compassion" denotes a response from the depths of one's inner parts or heart. "When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her, and he said, 'Don't cry'" (Luke 7:13).

The synoptic gospels use this term of compassion to refer exclusively to Jesus. Theologically, He is described as the Messiah in whom the divine mercy is present. Rather than merely depicting an emotion, "compassion" portrays a Messianic characteristic of Jesus. This Jesus of compassion is one with the Lord of steadfast love and mercy who revealed Himself to Israel in the Old Testament (Exodus 34:6-7; Psalms 103:8-10; Jonah 4:2; Amos 7:1-6; Hosea 11:1-9).

Only three times in the New Testament is this term for "compassion" or "pity" applied to human behaviors. Each of these instances occur in parables of Jesus: the wicked servant whose debt is forgiven, the Good Samaritan, and the Prodigal Son.

"The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go" (Matthew 18:27).

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity upon him" (Luke 10:33).

"So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

These teachings of Jesus show "compassion" to be the fundamentally decisive emotion in faithful actions. It provides the necessary linkage between ideas and actions of love.

The Call to Compassion

"Go and do likewise" is the injunction that Jesus uses to end the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan was a neighbor because he showed mercy. In the imagery of the parable, Jesus issues a call to compassion. Has the church felt that call? Have we, as Christians, "clothed ourselves with compassion"? (Colossians 3:12).

Several years ago, I listened as a recently divorced Christian was pouring out his sense of having lost his marriage, his family, and his church. "The church," he said, "is the only army I know that routinely shoots its wounded soldiers."

Consider another equally harsh appraisal. "There is more compassion between vagrants on the street corner than between clergy and Christians in general." What are we to do with such searing comments? Can we simply dismiss them as outbursts born of anger? If we tune them out, can we still hear our Master's quiet call to compassion? When you see human need, what is it that you feel?

The Power of Compassion

In a world where brute strength is idolized, it may seem naive to speak of compassion as powerful. Yet like the flowing stream, which in time wears out the rock over which it passes, so, too, compassion changes the course of lives.

Beginning counselors and people who are good listeners often ask me the question, "What do I do next?" One such incident happened recently as I met with a group of counseling students.

One youth worker began describing his conversation with a troubled

adolescent. The youth started pouring out his life story of one abuse and rejection after another.

"What should I do next?" the counselor asked. "I listened, but I don't think I helped him," he added.

I then led the group in thinking through this incident. "What might this boy be feeling?" I inquired.

As the group gained understanding of this youth's life, I asked, "What is a common thread of feeling which is woven into every fabric of this boy's life?"

"He is overwhelmed!" the group said.

"Compassion is the first essential emotion of ministry. Without it, ideas of love never grow into actions of love."

Then I turned back to the counselor and asked, "What were you feeling as you heard the bombardment of this adolescent's life story?" Soon the counselor unfolded his own sense of also feeling "overwhelmed" by all that this teenager had to bear in his life.

What happens when a distressed person and a caring listener get together, and they soon begin feeling the same thing? Psychologists call it "empathy." We might call it "understanding." The scriptures call it many things: gentleness, goodness, mercy, patience, pity, humility. The list goes on. In describing that part of God's character most like this, the scriptures use the idea of compassion.

But what about my student's original question, "What should I do next?" The first thing that we suggested for him to do was to trust his feelings of being "overwhelmed." Talk with the boy about how "overwhelmed" he must feel at times, about how lonely and angry such

treatment must make him feel. Here was an adolescent who repeatedly went to his parents "to ask for a bread and received a snake" (Matthew 7:9-10). In some way, the student believed that an awareness of such feelings was his enemy in ministry. If he didn't feel this way, perhaps he could think of what to do.

We suggested that the opposite is true. This young teenager came to the youth worker asking for bread and what he received was not a stone. Rather, it was real bread, the kind that satisfies, the bread of a heavenly compassion. It was the bread of the Christ, the leaven of which fills every loaf of Christian compassion upon whatever everyday altar it may be broken and shared (John 7:32-35; Matthew 13:33).

What my counselor friend was feeling was "compassion." At times, compassion can be like the enemy. Far from being the enemy, it is our greatest ally. It is an emotion to be trusted and an awareness to be acted upon. Jesus repeatedly looked upon the multitudes of human needs and felt compassion. And when He felt compassion, He acted. He taught. He touched. He healed. He gave Himself.

Compassion is the first essential emotion of ministry. Without it, ideas of love never grow into actions of love. Without it, the compassion of the Christ in us is not revealed to the world. Far from it being the enemy or a helpless reed blowing in the wind, compassion is one with the power which unites all creation. Compassion is never wasted. It is of the essence of things eternal in the everyday moments of human life. □

Dr. Daniel Leininger is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

DIVINITY SCHOOL ALUMNI LOOK BACK

Pastors and missionaries for the North American Baptist Conference have been trained in Edmonton, Alberta, since 1958, when the Christian Training Institute was authorized to grant degrees in theology and religious education. These programs continued to occupy an important place in the institution when it relocated to the present campus and changed its name to North American Baptist College in 1968. A major change took place in 1973 when the General Council of the Conference approved a recommendation to establish a graduate division of the College. This was followed by the introduction of an Inter-Campus Master of Divinity program. This cooperative program enabled students to take the first two years of Master of Divinity studies in Edmonton and to transfer to the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for their final year.

In the fall of 1980, North American Baptist Divinity School came into existence, and for the first time, a full M.Div. program became available on the Edmonton campus. Although N.A.B.D.S. is still a young institution, its alumni have already assumed positions of leadership in the N.A.B. Conference and beyond. Two of these reflect upon their experience at N.A.B.D.S. and its impact upon their ministries. Rev. Tim Schroeder, who was in the first class of N.A.B.D.S. graduates in 1981, is now the senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia. Rev. Ken Bayer completed the M.Div. program at N.A.B.D.S. in 1983 and is now serving as an N.A.B. Conference missionary in Brazil.

How well did the Divinity School prepare you for your present ministry?

Tim Schroeder: One of the most positive factors for me was the fact that N.A.B.D.S. is located in the midst of a high concentration of N.A.B. Conference churches. Consequently, from the early years when I would do pulpit supply, to the later years when I was a full-time pastor, I had opportunity to gain pastoral experience and seek counsel from the faculty at the same time. That combination was the best possible.

Ken Bayer: Little did I know that I would be involved in the construction of the building in which the Torres church meets and the parsonage as well. N.A.B.D.S. did not prepare me for that! Neither carpentry courses nor training in electrical and masonry work are part of any seminary curriculum!

The preparation which I appreciated the most was in the area of field education and placement in youth ministries while studying. The practical experience showed me that I had to prepare myself and be equipped for circumstances that academic education does not tackle. The two together, field education and classroom education, are a must.



As a missionary, Ken Bayer states that "The classes relating to cross-cultural situations, anthropology, and missions helped me the most. What I learned about the discipline of study has also helped tremendously. Being alone in the ministry of starting a church (in Brazil), . . . I have had to exercise considerable self-discipline."

Tim, can you tell us a little more about the experiences you had in ministry while you were a student?

Tim: While at N.A.B.D.S., I provided pulpit supply to almost every N.A.B. Conference church in the Edmonton area. I also served as a student pastor for a summer at First Baptist Church in Minitonas, Manitoba. During my final two years of study, I served full-time as pastor of Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton.

Ken, you are engaged in cross-cultural ministry. What aspects of your training at N.A.B.D.S. have been most helpful to you in this regard?

Ken: The classes relating to cross-cultural situations, anthropology, and missions, helped the most. What I learned about the discipline of study has also helped tremendously. Being alone in the ministry of starting a church in Brazil, without a support team in the immediate area to stimulate and encourage me on a daily basis, I have had to exercise considerable self-discipline. Thanks to the habits developed at N.A.B.D.S., I have managed to prepare for sermons, Bible studies, and devotionals in the Portuguese language with less frustration than I thought possible.

Ken, spiritual formation is a vital aspect of a well-rounded theological education. How did your experience first at N.A.B. College and later at N.A.B.D.S. influence your spiritual life?

Ken: My eyes were opened already at N.A.B.C. as to how much more I needed to know God and His Word. My days of study, when I had the open Bible constantly in front of me as the most basic textbook, showed me how much more I needed to know God, and how much more I needed to study the Scripture so that I would have an answer "both in season and out of season" for those who would be searching. But what really developed was the desire to see people saved. I saw the needs of those without Christ and, in my hand each day, I had the answer to an untold number of situations. This awareness and desire based on a personal devotional life was at its infancy at N.A.B.C., grew more at N.A.B.D.S., and really has sprouted now that I am in an area where society is racked by grief and despair without Christ.

Tim, you were at N.A.B.D.S., when it began. Are you pleased with the training you received at that time?

Tim: Yes, very much so. I have found from a practical perspective that most ministry demands were covered to some extent in my training. I have also found through additional studies that the academic foundation I received is solid.

Ken, could you indicate one or two ways in which your thinking was influenced by your studies at N.A.B.D.S.?

Ken: The desire to be genuine, to live genuinely, and to have the reason for all that I did at hand caused me to be an analytical student. I wanted to find a Scriptural position or stance with which I could live and work. So my thinking was influenced to find a biblical value system. My thinking was influenced in other areas as well, for example, to be open-minded,

to see where others were coming from, what lay behind their conclusions and remarks. In other words, N.A.B.D.S. helped me to be less ethnocentric.

Finally, could each of you tell us what you consider to be the greatest strengths of North American Baptist Divinity School?

Tim: First, a healthy balance between academic and practical application. Academic study is not glossed over, but it is generally approached from the perspective of how it applies in ministry. Second, N.A.B.D.S. has a learning philosophy which focuses on one's ability to think about and integrate material, rather than simply memorize it.

Ken: When I was studying at N.A.B.D.S., I felt that its size allowed all the students to receive and benefit from the personal attention given by professors. I also feel that their personal attention was motivated by genuine interest. Relating on a personal basis, as we did, the professors soon knew our strengths and weaknesses. Not only did we have good times together, but also they could encourage and counsel in matters such as ministerial skills and opportunities.



"I consider the greatest strengths of the N.A.B. Divinity School to be a healthy balance between academic and practical application. It also has a learning philosophy which focuses on one's ability to think about and integrate material, rather than to simply memorize it," says Tim Schroeder, pastor in Kelowna, British Columbia.

North American Baptist Seminary Faculty Speak on the Values of a North American Baptist Seminary Education

A North American Baptist Seminary education strongly enhances ministering in a North American Baptist Conference church. An education tailored to the needs of North American Baptist Conference churches can be the best investment for future ministry.

Your ministry and the Conference benefit from choosing to study in a North American Baptist Conference school. Relationships with fellow students and Conference personnel foster a strong support network throughout the Conference. As Dr. J. Gordon Harris, vice president for academic affairs at the Seminary says, "We need these binding ties between church pastors and the Conference. These relationships must be carefully built in a denomination as dispersed as is the North American Baptist Conference."

Denominational loyalty also increases as you receive a grounding in Baptist church polity and beliefs. "You need a firm foundation in the Baptist heritage to better serve in a North American Baptist Conference ministry," says Harris. "It's crucial that our leaders are well grounded and comfortable with Baptist beliefs." Could there possibly be a better opportunity to gain this knowledge than at a North American Baptist Conference school?

Close relationships among North American Baptist Conference church pastors provide another aspect of strong, binding ties. The best time to begin these supportive relationships is during seminary at a North American Baptist Conference school.



Gordon Harris

"You need a firm foundation in the Baptist heritage to better serve in a North American Baptist Conference ministry," says Gordon Harris. "It's crucial that our leaders are well grounded and comfortable with Baptist beliefs."

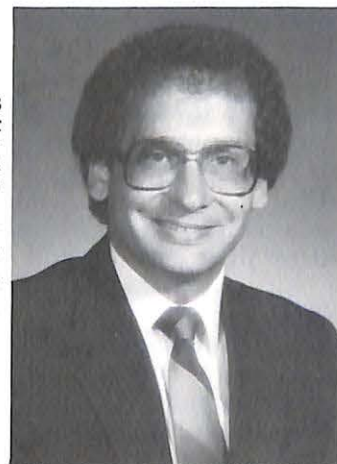
"Along with a seminary education at North American Baptist Seminary, students develop close friendships, support groups and prayer partnerships for a lifetime of ministry," says Harris. "These relationships are vital. They will carry leaders through their whole ministry."

Classmates in a North American Baptist Seminary classroom will be the strong lifelines of support in the North American Baptist Conference. Nothing can compare with bonds built among seminary students during the rigors of seminary education.

Strong bonding between North American Baptist Conference pastors and their denomination occurs naturally during a seminary education. Dr. Ted Faszer, professor of Christian Education and Church Music at N.A.B. Seminary, comments, "The seminary experience is the time to become a part of the denominational family in a thorough and complete way."

Ted Faszer

"The seminary experience is the time to become a part of the denominational family in a thorough and complete way," says Ted Faszer. "N.A.B. Seminary is the place to become acquainted with the needs, opportunities, and N.A.B. conference church ministries during one's seminary education."



Wayne Eisbrenner, middler student from Edmonton, Alberta, comments, "A major plus for an education from a North American Baptist Conference school is related to the interaction between the various area ministers, N.A.B. Conference pastors, N.A.B. Conference personnel, and the staff of the three North American Baptist Conference schools."

This rich exposure to the North American Baptist Conference is one of the most valuable aspects of a seminary education at North American Baptist Conference schools. Faszer remarks, "North American

Baptist Seminary is the place to become acquainted with the needs, opportunities, and North American Baptist Conference church ministries during seminary education." Placement after graduation will be enhanced by this process.

The key to placement is directly connected to suitable positions and suitable people. "It is necessary to place the right person in the right place," says Gordon Harris. "In a large sense, the seminary faculty is the best source for information on a current student or graduate."



Richard Houts

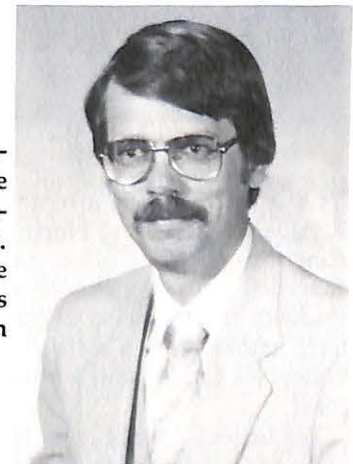
In assisting churches in calling graduates as pastors, "the Seminary faculty is the best source for information on a current student or graduate," says Richard Houts. "Our N.A.B. Seminary can be a 'broker' in the process as we, at the Seminary, know our churches better than non-N.A.B. seminaries."

Dr. Richard Houts, professor of church administration and director of doctoral studies at North American Baptist Seminary, advocates that, "This right person in the right place indicates the need for a meshing or matching process where a preliminary candidating process happens before the official public candidating weekend with the entire congregation. Behind the scene, face-to-face encounters with the search committee, boards, other pastors, and key co-implementer lay leaders determine whether there is an adequate matching. Is there compatibility in essentials of theology and operating philosophy? Is there a complement where diversity of personalities, gifts, and competencies exists? Our North American Baptist Seminary can be a 'broker' in the process and know our churches better than non-N.A.B. Conference seminaries."

For people who will serve in a North American Baptist Conference context (churches, church exten-

Ron Carlson

"We're tailoring our education method and content to the needs of the N.A.B. Conference," says Ron Carlson. "Our major goal is to serve the needs of the existing churches and new church extension ministries."



sion, or missions), there is every reason to study in a North American Baptist Conference school. Dr. Ron Carlson, assistant professor of evangelism and church development at North American Baptist Seminary, comments, "We're tailoring our education method and content to the needs of the North American Baptist Conference. Our major goal is to serve the needs of existing churches and new extension church ministries."

There are existing ministries in mind when course content is being planned. "Students who study at North American Baptist Seminary will be suitably equipped for ministry in the North American Baptist Conference context," says Carlson. "The teaching in our classrooms has a ripple effect reaching into the North American Baptist Conference ministries."

North American Baptist Seminary is most concerned with bringing the right kind of informed leaders into Conference ministries. Tanell Gerloff, former short-term missionary to Japan and senior Master of Divinity student at N.A.B.S., remarks, "The N.A.B. Seminary has a leading influence in the Conference in terms of informing us (students) of Conference ministry needs. We are being educated for anticipated needs in our churches."

Students being educated and prepared according to existing North American Baptist Conference church needs are the best investment North American Baptist Seminary can make in the future of the North American Baptist Conference. □



Spiritual Values Are Taught and Caught at N.A.B. College

by Richard Paetzel

It is a warm Friday afternoon in Alberta. Classes at North American Baptist College have been cancelled following chapel, and students and members of the faculty have gathered for a softball game, volleyball games, and a wiener roast.

We believe college is more than a place for academic development. It is a place where values are forged, and life is lived in its fullest. Much of a student's time is spent in classes, writing assignments in the library, or studying for exams, but this is only one dimension of college life.

Students sometimes view college, especially the first year, as an extension of summer camp. It is a place where young people live together in dorms, eat together in the cafeteria, and share in social activities and sports. Often, a rude awakening takes place within the first month of school when assignments are due, and the disciplines for study have not yet been applied.

There must be a balance between academics and social opportunities. It is within the college setting that one learns to establish priorities. For some, this arranging of time comes easier than it does for others. N.A.B. College provides an atmosphere where serious academic studies may be pursued, and where, at the same time, young people can interact socially in a wholesome way.

Another dimension which underlies all that we seek to do at N.A.B. College is the spiritual life and growth of the student. One would expect that a Bible college, such as N.A.B. College, would stress the spiritual dimension. It must, however, be noted that spiritual life cannot be legislated. Christian values are more often caught than taught. It is the modeling by faculty members and the encouragement of fellow students that contributes most significantly toward the development of one's personal Christian values.

"We believe college is more than a place for academic development. It is a place where values are forged, and life is lived in its fullest," says Dr. Richard Paetzel.

Spiritual life must be developed within the context of normal living. It involves a Christian attitude when an opponent sticks out his elbow on the hockey rink or on the basketball court. It involves assessment of priorities and loyalties when a developing relationship becomes marred by misunderstanding. It involves a desire to do one's best for Christ when notified by the Academic Committee that a student is restricted from participation in sports due to academic probation.

N.A.B. College is a place where Christian values and commitment are evaluated and encouraged. Bible classes, chapel services, spiritual emphasis days, prayer groups, and service opportunities all contribute toward the development of spiritual life on campus. The values of a Christ-centered life must ultimately affect all areas of one's life.

Not only are 70 students involved in college sports teams, and over 100 students involved in the music programs of the college, but also many of these same students are also involved in off-campus ministries. Every Friday afternoon or evening, groups of students are seen leaving the campus for ministries at Salem Manor Nursing Home, children's homes, and hospitals, or sharing their faith in Christ at West Edmonton Mall or on the University of Alberta campus.

N.A.B. College is a unique place for young people to become grounded in their faith, to search out answers for their own personal meaning for life, and to develop skills that relate the Christian faith to contemporary life. There are struggles and failures, but there is also forgiveness and renewal. Lives are changed for the glory of God. That's what N.A.B. College is all about!

Dr. Richard Paetzel is Academic Vice President of North American Baptist College, Edmonton, Alberta.

How Is N.A.B. College Changing the Lives of Its Students?

Three present North American Baptist College students tell how attending the College is changing their outlook on life, broadening their knowledge of the Bible and the world around them, and helping them develop deep friendships.



When I graduated from high school, my decision to come to N.A.B. College was still uncertain. I had many questions and fears. Would it be a good experience? Would I make friends and fit in? What would God want to teach me? At the time, a year of Bible college seemed like a big investment, but God had many things in store for me. When I look back at the person I was when I came to N.A.B.C., and who I am today, I realize how many things God has taught me, and how those things have helped me grow. My year at N.A.B. College was such a positive experience that I've returned for a second year.

As I spend time in classes, I realize that even having gone to church all my life, I still knew so little about the Bible. My professors have taught me about its beginnings, insights into its content, and its importance to me. I've learned what it means to have a closer relationship with God. I've gained new insights into His loving character. I've begun to grasp the importance of being a light in the dark world and how to practically share my faith. My life's purpose is to serve God, to continually seek Him, and to grow in my knowledge of Him. I've become more aware of how meaningful the body of Christ is, as I have developed special lasting friendships with people here. All of these are important aspects of a Christian's life that I had never realized before. I will always be thankful for God's guiding hand that lead me to N.A.B. College.

—Christine Goltz, Edmonton, Alberta.

Life is a battle, and N.A.B. College provides me with the basic training essential for facing the enemies of my life. As I reflect on the two years I have attended N.A.B.C., I am overwhelmed by God's work in my life thus far. Through mistakes, friends, and trials, I have learned many things, but most of my growth has sprung from in-depth study of the Bible. N.A.B. College sets a standard for Christian living, one that I want to carry out in my own life.

The school's atmosphere and teaching give me direction in my walk with Christ. My faith is solidified to the point where I can hardly wait to finish my education so I can begin full-time ministry. The college opens doors to ways I can serve and provides many opportunities for practical application of my studies. My time at N.A.B. College is invaluable, and I thank God for bringing me here to mold me into the mature Christian He can use.

"Hold on to instruction; do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life" (Proverbs 4:13). —Kris Walker, Tacoma, Washington

(continued on page 28)



THE CRY OF THE BLESSING

by Denise Muir Kjesbo

As a new faculty member at North American Baptist Seminary, I have been grappling with the questions, "What is the role of seminary education?" "What are its essential components?" and "How does that impact my ministry at the seminary?" As at least a partial answer to that question, let me share some reflections with you.

Last spring I was introduced to a dynamic book entitled *The Blessing* (Gary Smalley and John Trent). As I reflected upon its application to seminary education, I became excited about its potential use as a foundation for my teaching ministry. Walk with me through the concepts of "the blessing," and let us together discover its application to theological education and church life.

The authors use the biblical story of Jacob and Rebekah's cunning trickery which denied Esau of his long-awaited blessing. Upon discovery of the plot, Esau cried out with a great and bitter cry, "Bless me, even me also, oh my father" (Genesis 27:34). I believe this same cry rings in our homes, our schools, our prisons, and our churches.

The essence of this plea is the desire to feel that someone values, respects, and accepts us as we are

and has a vision of what God desires for us to become. It is our responsibility as brothers and sisters in Christ to bestow the blessing on one another. It is important to note that the blessing must be balanced with caring confrontation if one looks at the total picture of seminary training and church life. However, one aspect of the mission of the seminary is to prepare men and women who can recognize this cry and respond by equipping God's people as "blessing givers."

Trent and Smalley highlight five aspects of the blessing:

- 1) Meaningful Touch
- 2) Spoken Words
- 3) Expressing High Value
- 4) Picturing a Special Future
- 5) Active Commitment

Let me explore several of these briefly with an eye toward application.

Meaningful touch is critical as a means for expressing affirmation and respect. Discretion regarding appropriateness is always needful; however, we must not flee from any kind of touch due to fear. At times, a student needs a touch on the arm or shoulder which demonstrates concern. As appropriate touch is modeled in seminary training, ministers will be able to move into churches equipping others to use touch as a component of giving the blessing.

The *spoken word* of blessing has ramifications for seminary training as well. As faculty and students, we must strive to affirm, encourage, and support one another via verbal messages. This training at a

seminary level will allow pastors to convey the power of spoken word to congregations who, in turn, can be turned loose upon society as "blessing givers."

A cry rings out: Help me feel someone values, respects, and accepts me as I am — someone who has a vision of what God desires me to become.

Expressing high value centers around the concept of word pictures that convey "the blessing." Word pictures are able to move past the defensive walls we erect around ourselves and speak in a visual way to the heart and mind of an individual. Creativity is an important factor in this component. Seminary can provide a place for development of this tool for church leaders, who can, in turn, share it with God's people.

Becoming all that God intended when He created us is the essence of picturing a special future. We need one another in this process of refining, clarifying, and sharpening the image of God within us. Seminary is a special place of preparing and praying regarding future ministry goals while being involved in ministry in the here and now. Ministers of the gospel must bring the good news of hope to a world which envisions tomorrow as a continuation of the struggles of (continued on page 28)

MARITAL QUALITY AND STABILITY

by J. Walter Goltz



Upon reading his obituary notice in the paper, Mark Twain responded the next day: "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." In like manner, many experts have been forecasting the death of marriage and the family. In 1927, projecting from then current trends, John Watson, the founder of modern behavioral psychology, concluded that in 50 years marriage would no longer exist.

Human history, according to the Bible, began with the family in crisis. In response to his disobedience to God, Adam readily sought to place the responsibility for his actions on Eve, and Eve, just as quickly, placed the finger of blame on the serpent. This crisis of the family can be called eternal. There has probably never been a generation from Adam's to the present that did not, in some way, feel that the family, as an institution, was breaking down, and that the good old customs were being drowned in laxity and permissiveness. Many voices today are loudly predicting the death of the family. Let it suffice to say that the family is far more resilient than most people assume.

There is no doubt that family changes are taking place far more rapidly today than in any other generation. Toffler argues that such rapid changes are contributing to culture shock. Lacy Hall cites eleven different forces that have changed American families, including urbanization, mobility, working wives, family size, sexual promiscuity, early marriage, divorce, schooling, senior citizens, leisure, and changing roles.

As we seek to assess the health of the family today, we need to evaluate the twin factors of stability and quality. With respect to stability, there is a widely circulated idea in the United States and Canada that one out of two marriages is destined to end in divorce. This idea is wrong by a wide margin. A Lou Harris poll released in June 1987 indicates that government figures, as well as his own survey, show that only one out of eight marriages (12.5%) will end in divorce. Similarly, in the Edmonton, Alberta, sample used in my own research, over 80% of the persons in the sample were still in their first marriage. Norton and Moorman of the U.S. Census Bureau claim in a recent article that current data indicate the beginning of an overall stabilization, if not a decrease, in the rate of divorce for women currently in their 20s (among whom the highest divorce rate is usually found).

While these data are encouraging, they do not tell the whole story. Because we believe that marriage is instituted by God, and that divorce represents a failure of God's purpose, we are quick to assume that marital stability is our major concern. A more critical question is related to marital quality. Because a marriage is stable (has not been broken by a divorce), does not mean that it is happy or demonstrates high quality. In fact, there are a great many marriages where divorce would not even be considered, but in which the partners continue to inflict intense pain and suffering on each other, and in which little

communication and happiness are experienced. Such marriages have at least experienced an emotional divorce, in which the partners are living lives of quiet desperation with no apparent solution. This is not an uncommon experience among Christians. Is it possible that we have emphasized marital *stability* so much that we have forgotten the importance of marital *quality*? Is it not also possible that if we really emphasized the development of marital *quality*, the matter of *stability* would look after itself? In other words, if our marriages demonstrated loving, caring relationships in which there is room for mutual growth and development, marital partners would *want* to remain in their relationships, rather than being kept there merely by external barriers.

In your own marriage, is the focus on maintaining stability, or is it on developing a rich, satisfying relationship in which other alternatives will not need to be considered?

Dr. J. Walter Goltz is President of North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He recently received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Alberta with special emphasis on research on factors relating to marriage commitment.

Introducing the 1987-88 Graduates of the North American Baptist Divinity School

In order to help you get to know this year's graduates of North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, we asked them to select a biblical character who exhibits qualities that they would like to emulate in their ministries.



11525 - 23 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 4T3
(403) 437-1960



I see and admire the boldness and drive of Paul; the powerful preaching and healing ministry of Peter and John; the deep and personal relationship with God in Ezekiel; the penitence and honesty of David; and the righteousness of Noah. But my primary desire is to see the world through the compassionate, loving eyes of Christ.

Ed Adam is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. Ed is from Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, British Columbia.



The biblical character that I would select is Jeremiah. It seems that ministry in our 20th century world is becoming more demanding, often with less response. Jeremiah knew what it was to minister in a difficult time; yet he was faithful to carry out God's call on his life. He was also honest with God and others about his human frailties.

Ken Bender is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Ele. Ken is from Lakeview Heights Baptist Church in Kelowna, British Columbia, and lists his home as Edmonton, Alberta.



Michael Blackmer of Edmonton, Alberta, is a senior in the Bachelor of Theology program. He is married to Lori. He attends the Newton Church of God.



Nehemiah for me is a striking biblical example of effective leadership. His ministry flowed from a heart that had been cultivated to beat with God's heart. As a result, he was used by God to motivate others in rebuilding the walls of his day. My desire is to motivate God's people to reconstruct the broken walls of our generation.

Karl Buchholz is from Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, British Columbia. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity program.



Like Dorcas, I believe ministry extends beyond the confines of the church. My joy comes in working with handicapped children, teaching illiterate adults to read, and making a home for my husband. Together, Peter and I are seeking to establish a prayer ministry in our church and to counsel young couples.

Val Dickau is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies degree program. She is a member of the Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton, Alberta, and is married to Peter Dickau.



Margaret Daly is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program and is member of Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.



Thomas! Although some look at Thomas in a negative light, I appreciate the fact that he was not willing to believe in something blindly. Instead, he weighed the evidence and, in being convinced, uttered, "My Lord and my God," recognizing Christ's deity. We, today, are to evangelize and convince the lost of the reality of Christ.

Larry Dye is a senior in the Bachelor of Theology program. He is married to Marlene. He is from Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.



My namesake, Stephen, is the man that I desire to model my life after. Stephen's faith and commitment to Christ are a constant encouragement to me. (Ephesians 4:11-13 describes my ministry ideal.) I trust that by His grace God will use me to build His Church, especially in the discipling area.

Stephen Han is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies program. He is from the Korean Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. His wife's name is Ruth.



Nehemiah is a model of faith in action. In my ministry, I desire to be such a model of discipleship. I believe that discipleship must include an emphasis not only on the study of spiritual matters but also from the beginning must include consistent involvement in a life-style of evangelism and ministry.

Dale Hufnagel is from Westland Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Marcy.



David Milley is from Newfoundland, where he is a member of a Pentecostal Church. His wife's name is Elaine. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity program.



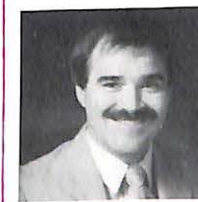
I would like to pattern my ministry after the apostle Andrew. He is best known for bringing Simon Peter to Jesus. I hope that, like Andrew, I will be able to equip others to serve the Lord.

Randy Radke is from Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. His wife's name is Joylynn. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity program.



I see the church as a compassionate, care-giving, and working body, and the pastor as a player-coach. I understand the apostle Peter this way. My task, as a pastor, will be to work side-by-side with others in ministry and nurture us to maximize our giftedness and achieve mutual goals.

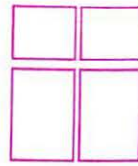
Richard Rockwood is a senior in the Master of Divinity program. He is from Edmonton, Alberta, and is a member of McLaurin Baptist Church. His wife's name is Karen.



The disciple John is the biblical character I would like to pattern my life after. He allowed God to change him from one known as a son of thunder to one later known as the apostle of love. Even at a ripe old age, he was used by God to pen a letter to encourage many Christians down through the ages.

Robert Stewart is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Edmonton, Alberta, where he is a member of the Evangelical Pentecostal Church. His wife's name is Glenda.

Introducing the 1988 Graduates of the North American Baptist Seminary



God has given me the gifts of preaching and teaching. I intend to use these gifts to share the gospel in such a way that it meets the needs of the people in our society.

Ron Bartlett is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from First Baptist Church, Elgin, Iowa. He is married to Carol.



Our world has changed drastically from the world we read of in the New Testament; yet I believe our message must remain the same; namely that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world to save sinners and to give them abundant life. This truth needs to be proclaimed vigorously; however, in order for this to be accomplished, the church must discard the notion that the pastor is the only one who does the work of ministry. Rather, the church must recognize the biblical mandate for the priesthood of all believers. When this truth is taken at face value, the church will discover that ministry can and will happen beyond our wildest dreams.

Steve Baetz is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his wife's name is Sandy.

No Photo Available

"God is love." I desire to grow in that love, to give it out freely as it has been given to me, and to help facilitate its growth in others. This is because it is only God and God's love that can heal and bring joy to the world.

Dan Derman is a senior in the Master of Arts in Religious Studies degree program. His home church is Grace Baptist in Grand Forks, North Dakota.



David R. Doerr's home church is First Baptist in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program.



My priorities are to equip, enable, and lead the congregation to which I am called to a holistic ministry; a ministry of evangelism (Matthew 28:19-20), social responsibility (Matthew 25:35-40), and personal spiritual growth (John 21:16-17).

Timothy A. Fugman is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Aberdeen, South Dakota. His wife's name is Donanne.



I am an individual sharing God's love with others. This includes family, friends, and others, Christian and non-Christian. My ministry is always present, not future, and my life, my actions, must validate my beliefs. I am committed to a ministry of action, living out my faith in daily life.

Walt Geiszler is from First United Methodist Church in Lehr, North Dakota. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Jeanette.



My past cross-cultural experience enables me to look at North America as a missionary environment. Identifying and meeting people's needs by way of Christ's Gospel are priorities for me. Listening to people and knowing what resources are available in the church and community are vital in meeting needs. Believing the Gospel message will improve existing structures and create new ones is my vision and strength.

Tannell Gerloff is from Little Rock, Iowa, and a member of Brook Park Baptist Church, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. She is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program.



In serving our Lord, we must see the various ministries of the church not as isolated entities, but as interrelated parts of the whole. If we lack coordination between the ministries of the church, we won't be serving our Lord in the most effective way possible. As Christians, we are called to make disciples; this must be done in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Bill Gould is from First Baptist Church, Spencer, Iowa. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree program. His wife's name is Beth.



I am convinced the church must nurture a passion for fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. Fulfilling this call requires a growing discipleship and opportunities for training and service. My desire for ministry focuses upon the building up of the body through the equipping of believers for their spiritual work of service.



Ministry involves educating others about a personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Education continues in training the people to do the work of the church. Meeting the people's needs is just as important as leadership and organization. Christian education is an important ministry for all ages in the church.

Cindy Schwerdtfeger is from Westminister Presbyterian Church, Hiawatha, Iowa. Her husband's name is Dave. Cindy is in the Master of Arts degree program focusing on Christian Education.



I believe that the strongest desire and belief that I carry into ministry is the belief that "God does love you, and me, no matter what, or how we are." I see myself as a "wounded healer" willing to work with those who do not seem to fit into what is considered the mainstream of society to help them become whole people through the love of Christ.

Charles Shipley is from Highland Park Church, Casper, Wyoming. He is in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program.



After 20 years as a railroad conductor, I've learned to deal with people as an administrator and friend. People are very important to me. People need to reach out in Jesus' name to each other and to the lost. I want to encourage them and to work with them.

Glenn Thomas is from Olympic View Baptist Church in Tacoma, Washington. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Shirley.



Daryl Engelbrecht



Cindy Hodgen



Morris Nelson



After graduation, I would like to work in a church setting where I would be involved in pastoral care and individual counseling. I would not be confined to an office but would have an active outreach emphasizing spiritual and personal growth. In addition to formal counseling, I would be available to teach minicourses, visit people in hospitals and other shut-ins, and to talk informally with persons as well as to be a resource person in many different settings.

Vivian Van Essen is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. She is a member of Beresford Zion United Methodist Church, Beresford, South Dakota. Her husband's name is Bert.



My vision is to help people experience the relevant and vital role that the Word of God plays in every age. This contact with God's Word, enlivened by the Spirit of God, is central in the life of the Church and the individual believer. I have a love and respect for the Word of God and a desire to help others experience the life of God through meaningful contact with God's Word.

Dave Waldowski is from Evangelical Congregational Church, Webster, South Dakota. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Nancy.



Jesus said to those who would follow Him: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . ." The song writer caught the essence of this command in penning the words to the song, "A Passion for Souls." Christians, now more than ever, must be concerned for the eternal destiny of countless thousands living around the world. I believe God is asking me to manifest my passion for souls by planting a new church which will evangelize its community and where the preaching and the teaching of the Word of God for application in the Christian's life is central.

David Wesner is from Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington. He is married to Claudia and graduated from the Seminary in December 1987 with a Master of Divinity degree.

18 Preparing to Graduate from Cameroon Seminary in 1988

NDU, CAMEROON. "It's exciting to be at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary this year," says Missionary David Burgess, "as we make preparations for graduating our first class of students with the Bachelor of Theology degree (18 candidates), plus approximately 30 other graduates in June. Pray that they quickly find places of service."

Rev. Burgess, who was acting principal, librarian, and tutor at the Seminary, suffered a heart-related illness (not a heart attack as was previously thought) in October. He is back at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary on a restricted work load working in administration.

Lengefelds Report Four Special Happenings in Japan

TSU, JAPAN. "We've experienced some very exciting weeks in Tsu," say Bill and Luci Lengefeld, missionaries involved in teaching English as a Second Language at the Tsu Christian Center.

"Special Happening #1: A student and long-time friend, Mrs. Hori, made a decision for Christ! Her family operates a well-known florist business in Tsu. A year ago, she accepted an invitation to special evangelistic meetings at our church. Since then, her faith has grown by leaps and bounds.

Special Answer to Prayer for First Child

BANSO, CAMEROON. "We experienced a special answer to prayer last month," says Missionary Kathy Kroll. "Sam, one of my students, and his wife, Bridget, a secretary at Banso Baptist Hospital, had a healthy little boy."

Last year, this couple had had their first child, who died shortly after birth. "There was family pressure with this pregnancy to perform traditional customs to ensure the child's safety," says Kathy. "Sam and Bridget committed the child to God and rejected the wishes of their family. The strength of their faith has been an encouragement to others facing similar situations." □

200 Attend 3-H Bonfire Conference

BANSO, CAMEROON. Recently, Missionary Kathy Kroll participated in a 3-H Bonfire Conference at Ngipang in Noni Field with 200 3-H and Boys Brigade youth in attendance.

"Since it was a rural area with few roads and extremely limited transportation, most of the youth had to walk from one to three hours to reach the village," reports Kathy. "In the rains of October, that is what I call dedication. There is great potential for the Church in these young people. Pray that God will provide additional leadership to help them mature in their spiritual lives." □

Many of you have been praying for her! Please don't stop now! Her husband is quite opposed to the idea of her being baptized. Pray that God will soften his heart and that Mrs. Hori will have wisdom in sharing her newly-found faith with her family and friends.

"Special Happening #2: Special meetings were held at the Tsu Christian Church on November 14 and 15. The Church was packed to capacity for each of the three meetings. A number of our English students attended; hearts were really touched; and decisions were made.

"Special Happening #3: A total of 15 students showed up for two new English Bible classes which Luci began on November 17 and

18. The Bible study titled, 'Who is God?' begins with the story of the Creation in Genesis. Pray for these ladies and for Luci as she prepares and leads these classes.

"Special Happening #4: The new church building in Ise (ee-say) was dedicated on Sunday, November 22, 1987. Veteran missionary Florence Miller brought the message; this was the city where she planted the first of our Japanese churches. We are also excited about the plans for building a new church in Tsu, which should be finished by Christmas of 1988.

"Thanks for your support, especially during these times when the dollar is so weak. We trust that God will richly bless you for your faithfulness." □



Women Have Annual Convention and Retreat in Brazil

FLORIANOPOLIS, SC, BRAZIL. Total commitment to Christ was the emphasis of the Annual Women's Missionary Fellowship Convention and Retreat held at the Baptist State Camp near Florianopolis in November 1987. Approximately 100 women heard lectures by a psychologist; courses on esthetics and a course on how to start a children's ministry in the Church were also features.

The women were divided into six teams, each with a different color of flowers made from foam rubber, and they competed in several contests of creativity. The women "Molded Messages" of clay and sewed twine to illustrate other Bible passages and created songs based on the camp theme, which served as another part of team competition.

On Saturday night, a special dinner was held with each team choosing a member to compete in the "Miss Elegant" contest. The winner received points for her team. A treasure hunt and a fun night were also part of the program.

"The camp was a blessing and inspiration to all who attended the retreat, and the women are already eagerly awaiting next year's retreat," says Missionary Martha Nelson.



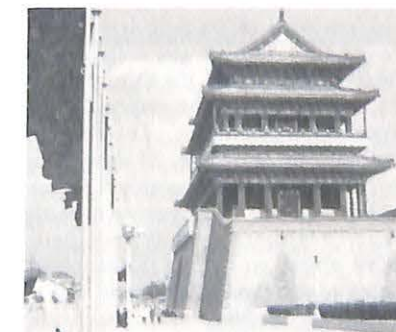
One group of women created a Bible of clay and made the word, "Love," out of twine. During their presentation, they gave a meditation on I Corinthians 13.

A 17-Day CHINA ADVENTURE TOUR

June 15-July 6, 1988

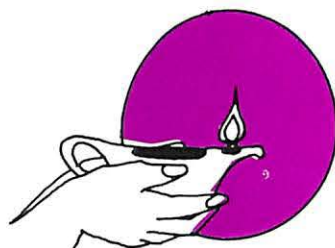
hosted by Arthur G. Patzia

See the great cities and country of China, plus Hong Kong (US\$2,899 west coast departure). A 5-day optional tour to Japan is available for only \$550/person.



For more information and brochures:

Dr. Arthur G. Patzia
1111 University Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(415) 321-7444



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

Reflections

The following brief articles are the thoughts and reactions of N.A.B. Conference women who attended the North American Baptist Women's Union Assembly held in Niagara Falls, NY, October 1-4, 1987. At this meeting, one of our N.A.B. Conference women, Mrs. Dorene Walth, was appointed as vice president of the N.A.B.W.U.



After the N.A.B.W.U. Assembly was over, a note from an attendee from one of our churches stated, "The

theme, 'The Earth is the Lord's. . . Enter,' was absolutely great. It lifted our eyes and hearts to our great God. It was thrilling and so coordinated. It was a glorious experience for me, and my heart was stirred, changed, and challenged anew!"

May I express my gratitude to my N.A.B. Conference sisters for personal encouragement and prayer support in my role as program chairman. I learned so much and met many wonderful people. I saw God at work in bringing specific details together in such a way that His supernatural power was plainly evident in changing lives. Prejudicial barriers were broken through fellowship and messages, and unique blessings were experienced through the ministry of beautiful Christian artists.

After I hesitated, God showed me that I should accept the five-year appointment of N.A.B.W.U.

vice president because of all He has done for me through women's ministries at all levels, but especially because it will give me further opportunity to represent our beloved N.A.B. Conference women in this greater fellowship.

Please pray that I will do justice to the responsibility and that God will get the glory for efforts made in His name.

—Dorene Walth, N.A.B.W.U. vice president, Citrus Heights, CA

That inspiring song, "How Great Thou Art," reechos over and over in my mind as I reflect on the privilege of attending this conference with women from no less than 19 different Baptist women's organizations including the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Bahamas, and Guyana.

Becky Pippert, with InterVarsity International, challenged each of us to help evangelize the world. Patricia Russell McCloud, an attorney from Atlanta, GA, emphasized a challenge to each of us to go out into the world and "let our lights shine." I came away with a greater awareness of my responsibility to share Christ with those around me; to be more aware of those who are hurting all around me, whether here at home, or in the wider spectrum of our world. I thank the Lord for this privilege.

—Thelma F. Fischer, W.M.F. English program packet editor, Lodi, CA

I sat in awe at one of the sessions of the N.A.B.W.U. as I listened to the voices of 1,500 women blend together in beautiful harmony as they sang the words, "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord. . ." After hearing speakers Becky Pippert, Patricia Russell McCloud, Edna Lee de Gutierrez, and Yamina Apolonaris, truly I knew with my whole being that my Lord was indeed in that beautiful Niagara Falls Convention Center during those days of spiritual growth and enrichment. I found it exciting to see how our 19 different Baptist women's organizations are each serving in their respective areas and how, regardless of race, cultural background or personal circumstance, we can worship together in a beautiful spirit and with a bond of love and joy.

—Nancy Lennick, Baptist Herald "Women of Hope" pages editor, Dickinson, ND

This is the year of our Triennial Conference in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31. Please pray regularly for this Conference. Pray especially for the women's activities and those planning them. Make plans now to attend.

1988 Is WMF Election Year

WMF executive officers for the 1988-91 Triennium will be elected at the Women's Luncheon at the Triennial Conference to be held in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988. Mrs. Dar Weeldreyer, Emery, SD, has been appointed Nominating Committee Chairman.

It would have been easy to say no to the chairmanship of the W.M.F. nominating committee. However, as I considered it, I recalled an incident that happened when I was in first grade. I had turned down a chance to be in a play and have never forgotten my mother's disappointment. She was sure I had passed up a great opportunity. Maybe this job was another such opportunity.

My reward for saying yes was a trip to Oakbrook Terrace for the W.M.F. executive board meeting. What a treat to meet and fellowship with these warm, encouraging, real women! The work of finding candidates for office lies ahead, but I am confident that God is already working in women's lives, preparing them for their opportunities to serve him.

—Dar Weeldreyer, W.M.F. nominating committee chairman, Emery, SD

WMF NOTES

by LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director

The "1988 WMF Program Packets" are still available from the Conference WMF office. They are available in either the German or English language. If you do not have one, order one soon.

Set aside the date of March 4 for participation in World Day of Prayer services. The program, entitled "Open Doors," was written by Mrs. Janelle Hiatt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

WMF Executive Board Meets



The WMF Executive Board held its annual meeting on September 28, 29, and 30. Pictured from left to right are Mrs. Nancy Lennick, Baptist Herald "Women of Hope" pages editor; Mrs. Dar Weeldreyer, chairman, WMF nominating committee; Mrs. Manetta Hohn, vice president; Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director; Mrs. Christa Eckert, WMF German program packet editor; Mrs. Thelma Fischer, WMF English program packet editor; Mrs. Peg Helland, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Eva Helwing, ex officio; Mrs. Phyllis Buyer, coordinator of women's activities, Triennial Conference, Calgary, AB, 1988; Mrs. Sara Pasiciel, president.

President's Corner



by Sara Pasiciel, W.M.F. president, Steinbach, Manitoba

conference, a very special group because of what we have in common. But then, we all, as Christian women, as Baptists, have in common a concern for our countries and our world and our communities based on solid biblical principles and on Christ's commands to love and to go. That's what makes this a unique, a significant experience.

FRIDAY, October 1, 1987: I sit in the Convention Center at Niagara Falls, the same location as our 41st Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches in 1982, and look around at women from 19 different Baptist denominations. I see different colors, hear of different countries, tastes and backgrounds. We had a picture taken of our N.A.B. Conference women who attended this

SUNDAY, October 4, 1987: Flying home to see my family after a week of meetings and reports, I sense God's presence and His control in my life. He is my center; He allows me the comforting and upholding strength of a family and of a church which prays and encourages; and from this base, He graciously encourages ministry and outreach, sometimes leading, sometimes pushing! It's great to be a woman in God's kingdom.

Issuing Invitations or Seeking Commitment?

by Lyle E. Schaller

"I simply cannot understand why we don't have at least three times this many people here this afternoon," complained Paul Schroeder as he looked out over the crowd of less than a hundred people gathered for the Sunday afternoon Advent workshop. Scattered around the fellowship hall at the 940-member Trinity Church were approximately sixty children, a dozen teenagers, and perhaps two dozen adults. Some were creating wreaths out of evergreen branches; others were making decorations for that church's Christmas tree; and four or five tables were surrounded by children expressing their creative skills through their hands in a less structured manner. In the kitchen, five men and two women were very busy baking cookies for the hungry crowd.

"Yes, it seems to me we should have had at least two or three hundred people here this afternoon," agreed Sue Harrison, another longtime member. "At the second service this morning, we had a dozen adults in the handbell choir, close to twenty-five in the youth choir, and at least forty in the chancel choir. That's close to eighty people who showed up just for choirs, and they each had to spend time rehearsing. If we can get eighty youth and adults out for choirs, we should be able to get at least a hundred children and another sixty to one hundred youth and adults for something as much fun as this."

That conversation ended when the person in charge of the afternoon asked those present to begin to gather to sing some hymns. This was followed by a twenty-five minute Advent devotion period and a light meal with the promise that everyone could be on their way home by 6:30 p.m.

A few months earlier, at another church in another state, a group of five men and four women were engaged in a variety of chores one Saturday. For the previous five years, the third Saturday in

September had been designated as the "Fall Clean-Up and Fix-Up Day" when volunteers gathered for the day to scrub, clean, repair, and paint. The idea had originated with a 39-year-old mother who had organized the entire effort for the first three years. The second year, produced a crowd of 69 volunteers compared to 58

year it gets harder to recruit volunteers for a work project, agreed a second volunteer.

"Maybe the time has arrived for this church to look for a full-time custodian."

"I think it's a matter of commitment," declared the minister. "Our members simply aren't as committed as they should be. We should have at least 40 or 50 people here today!"

"We're lucky if we get 40 people for our annual meeting," complained the minister of the Westminster Church, "and I'm told that the Central Church never has fewer than 200 attend their annual meeting; yet we're a larger congregation than they are."

"Maybe you should announce it every Sunday from the pulpit," advised one of the deacons. "If you announced it every Sunday for several weeks in advance of the meeting, we might get a larger crowd."

"Oh, our people know about it," replied the minister, "they're just not sufficiently interested to make the effort to come."

What Is the Issue?

A common thread runs through all three of these incidents. It is not, as may appear at first glance, an absence of commitment by members. It is not a difference in denominational affiliation or the relative sizes of the congregations. It is not that ringing a handbell has greater appeal than wielding a paint brush.

The central factor in each case is the difference between issuing invitations and seeking commitments. This can be illustrated by examining each of these three brief case studies.

In the first example, a general invitation was issued to the members to attend the Sunday afternoon Advent workshop. Who responded by coming? Sixty children either attended with their parents or were dropped off by parents who did

not attend. Seven of the twelve teenagers came because they had made a specific commitment to be present to help in various ways. Three other teenagers came because a close friend had made such a commitment and urged, "Why don't you come with me Sunday afternoon, and we can work together. It'll be fun." The other two teenagers came as part of family groups with parents and younger siblings. Each of these two teenagers is the eldest child and readily accepts the responsibilities of a surrogate parent.

While no one counted them, 94 of the 106 members of Trinity Church, age 13-19, stayed away that Sunday afternoon. They had been invited, but they had not been asked to make a commitment to be present.

By contrast, all three of those choirs at Trinity ask the members to make a commitment to attend weekly rehearsals and to be present on that particular Sunday. Twenty-five of the twenty-seven members of the youth choir had fulfilled that commitment that morning.

When that 39-year-old mother of three organized that first September workday at the second church, she did more than suggest an idea and invite people to respond. That first year, in addition to the invitation to all members to come and help, she had secured commitments from three different members to head up painting crews. Four individuals had committed themselves to come early and organize window washing, floor scrubbing, wall cleaning, and bathroom cleaning crews. Each of these four had promised to recruit five workers for his or her team who would promise to be present. Two people had promised to come to work and also to prepare the mid-morning refreshment break. Four others had promised to come and to bring their ladders. A volunteer electrician had promised to come with a helper. Five people were committed to come, prepare, and serve a lunch and to remain to help give the kitchen a badly needed cleaning. Six volunteer painters had promised they would come with paint brushes, drop cloths, and other tools. A carpenter had promised he would bring all the appropriate equipment plus four helpers for some necessary repairs. The result was that counting herself and her husband, her work crew consisted of fifty people who had made a commitment to be present, plus eight who came in response to that general invitation. (Considerable evidence can be found to support the contention that mothers of adolescents understand

the distinction between invitations and commitments more clearly than any other segment of the population.)

The momentum of the organizational efforts produced twenty-two people the first year after her departure, but two years later the predictable result of that general invitation was the predictable single digit number: five from the committee plus two spouses of committee members plus two genuinely self-motivated volunteers.

In the third example, Westminster Church invites and urges all of its 373 members to attend the January annual meeting. By contrast, Central Church begins that Tuesday evening gathering with a meal that requires advance reservations and costs \$4.50 per plate. In addition, one volunteer is recruited for each of the 35 place tables to serve everyone at that table the beverage of his or her choice; another 30 commit themselves to accept the responsibility for going to a central table and bringing back the dessert for the people at that table; while a third group of 30 are committed to be present and clear the tables immediately after everyone has finished eating so the meeting can begin without delay. Those 90 individuals guarantee a good crowd, and it is reasonable to expect that at least 60 of them will be accompanied by one or more family members, friends, or neighbors who are responding to the general invitation.

An ad hoc men's chorus guarantees an additional 20 attenders including their spouses. Fourteen different elders have clearly defined responsibilities, which they have committed themselves to fulfill during the course of the meeting. After allowing for the overlap in which one person may accept two different responsibilities, plus those who will bring someone with them, Central Church can count on a minimum of 165 to 180 of its 319 members being present for that annual meeting.

In its efforts to make sure everyone in attendance will leave feeling glad they came and looking forward to coming back for next January's annual meeting, the five member ad hoc planning committee at Central Church affirms

a) the value of people eating together at the beginning of the event,
b) the merits of laughter in large gatherings (at least a half-dozen times during the evening the proceedings are interrupted because the room is overflowing with laughter),

c) the power of music,
d) the critical significance of a carefully planned and fast-paced agenda for the "business session" that never exceeds 55 minutes,

e) the benefits to be derived as people enjoy learning something new, so a special effort is made to announce some truly new news that has yet to be fed into the congregational grapevine (one year it was news of a bequest; another year of the impending birth of the minister's first child; a third year it was the announcement of a memorial gift of a set of handbells),

f) the importance of good news is making people feel good about their church. The evening includes lifting up and giving thanks for the highlights of the past year as well as emphasizing strengths, assets, and resources, and

g) the advantages of visual communication over verbal communication, so each January meeting includes 30 minutes of color slides that recapture important events and celebrations of the previous 12 months.

This same emphasis on advance commitments, rather than relying on the responses to a general invitation, is followed in many other ways. These include the monthly board meeting at which a dozen different members have made an advance commitment to make reports to the board, the \$25 advance registration required for workshops, and the teachers who have made a commitment to be in the Sunday school for 60 to 90 minutes every Sunday.

This same distinction also can be seen in the attendance-to-membership ratios of the small rural congregation and the large church. On one Sunday, for example, in a 42-member open country church, 39 people had an active part in the service including the four teenagers who took up the offering, the two men who were ushers, the eleven adults in the choir, the lay worship leader, and six youngsters in the children's choir plus their parents.

That same Sunday 87 of the 265 people present for worship in a 700-member suburban congregation would have been missed if they had not been present to fulfill an advance commitment they had made to be present that Sunday.

Do you expect your members will respond to general invitations? Or do you seek advance commitments? □

Copyright © 1987 by Lyle E. Schaller, 530 North Brainard St., Naperville, IL 60540.

Invitations or Commitment?



Just hoping someone
will show-up
is never enough!

—FRIAR TUCK—

the first year and 51 the third year. When she moved away, the responsibility was given to a committee. The fourth year brought out 22 people, 15 showed up the next year, and this time only 9 responded.

"I guess after many years a new idea no longer has the appeal it once had, and we've about worn out this approach to the annual cleanup," reflected one of the volunteers during the lunch break.

"There's no question about it, every

Commissioned to Witness

Four Welcomed into Cedar Falls Church

CEDAR FALLS, IA. Four people, one through baptism and three through Christian experience, were welcomed into the membership of the Cedarloo Baptist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa, according to Pastor Ed Rafferty. New families are also becoming involved in the church.

Evangelistic Crusade Held in Spruce Grove

SPRUCE GROVE, AB. As reported in the October issue of the *Baptist Herald*, Parkland Baptist Church, led by the Rev. Lyle Richards, responded to the call to be a witness in their "Jerusalem." A crusade, featuring Dr. Ralph Bell, Billy Graham associate evangelist, was held in Spruce Grove, Sept. 6-13, 1987.

During the crusade, which was attended by 6,992 people, 228 individuals, 49 percent of them in their teens, responded to the call and came forward for counsel. Statistics also indicated that 41 percent of respondents made first-time decisions for Christ; 42 percent were rededications to Christ; and 17 percent asked for assurance of their salvation.

"The after-effects are still being felt among those who volunteered to work at the many tasks involved in holding the crusade, as well as among those who responded to the invitation, the participating churches, and, we pray, throughout the community," reports Marj Hadlington. "The enemy has not been pleased, and evidence of his counter-attack is noticeable. Pray with us for the new believers, their families, and our workers. Pray that Satan will not have his way in their lives and that they all may continue to grow in grace."

Follow Up of Youth Being Done by Beiseker Church

BEISEKER, AB. Tri-Community Baptist Church is giving attention to following up new families made known to them as a result of a "Platform Bible School" held at the end of the summer. Of the 86 boys and girls registered, 38 made decisions for Christ. "The vast majority were first-time decisions, and many new families were found in the three areas in which we work," says Pastor Bob Hoffman. The Rev. David Harrison was guest speaker.

Three Baptized at Kansas Church

HUNTER, KS. Pastor Tony Dickerson baptized three young people at Bethany Baptist Church, Sept. 20, 1987. —Katherine Loofbourrow

Missionaries Speak at Ebenezer Church

EBENEZER, SK. Several missionaries spoke at Ebenezer Baptist Church recently. Betty Mantay, missionary to Cameroon, presented the work there and gave the congregation insight into her future on the field for their support and prayers.

On another occasion, the Rev. Ken Priebe, also a missionary to Cameroon, spoke during the Sunday school hour and worship service. In the evening, he spoke and gave a slide presentation at the W.M.F.'s annual program. An offering was received for the work in Cameroon.

The Rev. Gordon Freiter is pastor of the Church. —Mrs. Martha Dreger

Milwaukee Church Celebrates 100 Years

MILWAUKEE, WI. Temple Baptist Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church, Oct. 2-4, 1987. Former pastors and friends were guests. The congregation prays for God's leading in the future.

The Rev. Henry Ramus is pastor of the Church.

Fourteen Welcomed as Members of Emery Church

EMERY, SD. Pastor Charles P. Davis baptized seven young people, including two of his sons, at the evening services at First Baptist Church, Oct. 25, 1987. Seven other persons were also received as members of the Church. —Mrs. Margie Fluth

Palmer Speaks at Harvest-Mission Fest at Hunter Church

HUNTER, KS. Bethany Baptist Church held their Harvest Mission Sunday, Nov. 11, 1987, with Dr. Dennis Palmer, missionary doctor to Cameroon, as guest speaker. The Rev. Tony Dickerson is pastor of the Church. —Katherine Loofbourrow

Zeeb Speaks at Bison Mission Fest

BISON, KS. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, was mission guest speaker at First Baptist Church on Nov. 9, 1987. He spoke on "View of God's Harvest" and "Do Not Lose Heart" and also showed Conference slides in the afternoon. Events included a noon fellowship dinner and special music. A missionary offering was taken.

The Rev. William Effa is pastor of the Church. —Clara L. Niedenthal

St. Paul Church Studies Need for Additional Facilities

ST. PAUL, MN. A Feasibility Committee is studying the Redeemer Baptist Church's need for a multi-purpose building as well as locating the parsonage in the vicinity of the Church. The community surrounding the Church continues to see construction of new homes, offering an optimistic outlook for church growth, according to Pam Stewart, church secretary.

"Since summer, a male quartet has been singing each month to the delight of the congregation," says Pam.

Nine Received into Membership of Kankakee Church

KANKAKEE, IL. A baptismal service was held in Immanuel Baptist Church, Sunday evening, Oct. 18, 1987. On Nov. 1, nine new members were received into the Church, four by baptism. Dr. Robert F. Penner is pastor of the Church.

"On the first Sunday of every month except during the summer, we have a Koinonia Time," reports Alice M. Luhrs. "This is an informal evening service with refreshments."

The Rev. Raleigh Huls, who has a ministry, called "Highway Melodies, Inc.," to truckers and at rest stops, presented his program to the Church Sunday evening.

Central Pacific Association Marks 100 Sessions, 92 Years

PORTLAND, OR. The 100th Anniversary Session of the Central Pacific Association convened at Bethany Baptist Church, Nov. 6, 1987. "Our theme, 'Lord, Grant Us More,' was a reflection of what the Lord has granted us in the last 100 years as well as a look at the future," reports Kathy Fornshell, association secretary. The Rev. Fred Jantz, pastor, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, gave a series of messages centered around the theme.

As a special feature on Friday evening, Dr. Donald Richter and Mr. Don Nelson gave a multi-media presentation scanning the last 100 years, beginning in Switzerland and the immigration of a few folks under the guiding hand of the Rev. John Graf. These people settled in the Bethany area, and as a result of that settling, came the 13 churches of the Central Pacific Association.

Business sessions convened Friday afternoon and concluded with a closing rally Sunday afternoon. "Along with reports and budget items, the re-formation of F.O.I.B.Y. to the 'Cen-Pac Youth' and the adoption of their constitution was encouraging to all," states Kathy. Constitution revisions were made in the area of church extension to include ethnic ministries and other outreach ministries.

The men and women held separate luncheons on Saturday with special speakers, Dr. Ken Jones and Ruthie Clark. Following the luncheons, Dr. Connie Salios led a session on Estate Planning, and the Rev. LeRoy Schauer led a discussion on "Where Do We Go from Here?"

A celebration of the 100th anniversary included a salmon B.B.Q. dinner with Rev. Fred Jantz speaking on "The Great Commission," followed by singing choruses by the light of 100 glowing candles atop a unique patchquilt cake.

Ninety-two years have passed and one hundred sessions of the Association. The 101st session will be held at Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA, in 1988.

Hunter Church Combines Study with Worship on Sunday Evenings

HUNTER, KS. The Sunday evening program at Bethany Baptist Church includes adult scripture memory, children's scripture memory, BYF, and a short worship time with Pastor Tony Dickerson. —Katherine Loofbourrow

Carrington Church Has Fanny Crosby Program

CARRINGTON, ND. On Sunday evening, October 25, a special program focused on the life, songs and poems of Fanny Crosby was presented by two ladies circles of Calvary Baptist Church. An offering was received for missions. The Rev. Loren Franchuk is pastor of the Church.

Jaspers Speaks at Renewal Services in Napoleon

NAPOLEON, ND. Napoleon Baptist Church held its annual Harvest Mission Fest, Oct. 4, 1987, with the Rev. Randy Jaspers, Linton, ND, as speaker. Rev. Jaspers also led special Spiritual Renewal meetings from Sunday night to Wednesday evening. —Claudia Schulz

Ebenezer Church Celebrates 60th Anniversary

VANCOUVER, BC. Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrated its 60th anniversary on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct. 12, 1987. Founded Aug. 25, 1927, under the name of "Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde," the Church changed its name in 1939 to Ebenezer Baptist, based on 1 Samuel 7:12 (NIV): "He named it Ebenezer, saying 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.'"

"With heartfelt gratitude to God, the congregation looked back on the past 60 years in an extended morning worship service and an afternoon and evening fellowship," reports Barbara Loveys. "Led by the Rev. Rubin Kern, former pastor (1946-51), we looked at Christ's words, 'I will build my church,' (Matthew 16:18), with a sense of expectancy for the future." Rev. Arthur Boymook is the present pastor.

Baptism and Revival Services Held at Mercer Church

MERCER, ND. The Rev. Perry Schnabel baptized one 14-year-old girl before leaving the pastorate of Mercer Baptist Church to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Eureka, South Dakota.

"Four days of revival meetings with Mike Kopp of Mandan, North Dakota, left our Mercer Church rejoicing and inspired," says Mary Fiedler, reporter.

Two Baptized at Underwood Church

UNDERWOOD, ND. Pastor Wesley Gerber baptized two young men at Underwood Baptist Church, Nov. 15, 1987. "We welcome them into our fellowship," states Gretchen Schafer.

Four Baptized at Ridgewood Baptist

BROOKFIELD, WI. On Nov. 8, 1987, after Pastor David Masterson delivered the morning message at Ridgewood Baptist Church, he baptized four people in a combined service. Following this, they were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church. All observed the Lord's Supper together with Pastor Masterson and Pastor Babbel officiating. —*Louise Erbach*

Child Dedication Held at Calvary Baptist

CARRINGTON, ND. Five babies were dedicated to the Lord by their parents at Calvary Baptist Church, Oct. 25, 1987. The Rev. Loren Franchuk is pastor of the Church. —*Lillian Fuhrman*

Alpena Youth Attend Convention

ALPENA, MI. Traveling by church bus to Grand Rapids, MI, 32 junior and senior high youth from Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church plus their leaders and sponsors attended the International Sunday School Convention, Oct. 16-17, 1987. They joined some 4,000 others for a Spirit-filled weekend of Christian fellowship, fun, getting acquainted, sharing, and pizza. Featured speaker, Pat Hurley, a TV personality from Chicago, IL, spoke on the topic, "Celebrate Youth." Michael W. Smith, Christian contemporary singer, highlighted the weekend. The Rev. Fred Sweet is pastor. —*Doris Turnbull*

Arnprior Church Celebrates 119 Years

ARNPRIOR, ON. "Recently, First Baptist Church chose a unique way of celebrating their 119th Anniversary, using a heritage theme that included music, drama, and a church family dinner, all in the style of bygone days," reports Dorian Getz. "Displays were set up of period furniture, costumes, photos, and historical records. Three skits were based on actual happenings of years ago with lots of humor."

Arnprior Church Hosts Missions Conference

ARNPRIOR, ON. First Baptist Church hosted a missions conference, Nov. 1-3, 1987, with members of Calvary and First Baptist Churches of Killaloe and Nepean Baptist Church of Ottawa in attendance. Using the words of the theme, "I Am Responsible," the Rev. Herman Effa, associate missions director, challenged all to be willing to be motivated by God to be global in sharing the Good News. The Rev. Art Helwig, associate director of communications, gave an overview report and an audio visual presentation of the work of the Conference.

"Ladies from area Baptist churches joined with us for the celebration of the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer service, as Mrs. Ardath Effa ministered to us in both word and song," reports Dorian Getz.

After an intergenerational family dinner, Jacob and Lorie Koch, newly appointed missionaries, told about their call to Cameroon and showed a film on this mission field. Offerings given over the weekend went toward support for the Kochs.

"We pray that in this time of renewal and dedication there will be further evidence that we, as individuals, are ready to accept responsibility and commit ourselves to share the Good News on a global scale," states Dorian Getz.

The Rev. Phil Zylla is pastor of First Baptist Church.

Alpena Church Has Leadership Retreat

ALPENA, MI. Sylvan Resort in Gaylord was the meeting place for Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church's leadership workshop, Nov. 6-7, 1987, with the theme, "Building."

Speaker Marvin Walz, Church Growth Services, gave a detailed report of his staff's four-month study of the Church, analyzing its resources and growth potential for the purpose of reaching and discipling individuals for Christ.

"Following a workshop study, with leaders appointed and a topic for discussion by each group, they united under the direction of Pastor Fred Sweet to present their ideas and conclusions," reports Doris Turnbull.

Some of the short and long-term goals were (1) to establish a building fund and consider building a new structure instead of renovating; (2) to have a city-wide youth crusade; (3) to conduct a ministry for singles; (4) to institute a Sunday school teachers' training program; (5) to set up a visitation program for newcomers and past attenders; and (6) to plan a junior high camping program.

McDermot Avenue Church Commissions New Day

WINNIPEG, MB. The 1987-88 New Day team, led by Loren Kopf, ministered to the young people at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church and to the Church as a whole during a special Youth Emphasis Week, Oct. 2-7, 1987. Sports activities, a youth banquet, and two Sunday services provided many opportunities for interaction and sharing with team members, resulting in decisions and commitments.

"Since McDermot was the first stop on New Day's extensive schedule, a special prayer and praise commissioning service was held Wednesday night," reports Maria Rogalski. "After delighting us with their beautiful singing, the whole audience broke up into little prayer groups all around the Church for praise and petition regarding the team's health and safety on the road and their ministry to the people of our Conference. The evening closed with Pastor John Hisel leading in a commissioning prayer for the New Day team."

(continued on page 31.)

In Memoriam

STANLEY E. BACKHAUS (30), Bismarck, ND; born May 26, 1959, to Earl and Edna (Zimmerman) Backhaus, at Ft. Belvoir, VA; died May 26, 1987; attended N.A.B. College, Edmonton, AB, and Columbia Bible College, Columbia, SC; married Connie Zelmer, Sept. 21, 1979; served as a Chaplain's Assistant in the U.S. Navy, 1980-82; survived by his wife, Connie; one son, Anthony; one daughter, Stephanie; his parents, Earl and Edna Backhaus, Bismarck, ND; one brother, Myron; and five sisters: Nancy (Mrs. Curt Blumhagen), Patty (Mrs. Charles Veith), Dorinda, Jennifer, and Marla; Reverends M. D. Wolff and Ed Bartel, pastors, funeral service.

HENRY LUDWIG BIEBER (58), Branch, LA; born Jan. 11, 1929, to Edgar Conrad Bieber and Ruth Marie Casselmann Bieber in Branch, LA; died Aug. 31, 1987; married Evelyn Vanarah Welch, Sept. 14, 1952; member, Sunday school superintendent, Mowata (LA) Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Evelyn; two sons: Henry and Horace; two daughters: Constance and Stephanie; one brother, Karl; and two sisters: Marlene (Mrs. Clarence Englebrecht) and Rosalie (Mrs. Richard Jones).

THOMAS DERMAN (96), Minneapolis, MN; born March 7, 1891, to Daniel and Mary Kalk Derman in Edgewood, SK; died Oct. 7, 1987; married Carolina Kandt in 1915, who predeceased him in 1966; married Eva Michelson in 1968, who predeceased him in 1984; member, First Baptist Church, Medina, ND; survived by two sons: Gilbert, River Falls, WI, and Milton, Grand Forks, ND; two daughters: Adalene Dockter, Brooklyn Center, MN, and Millicent Deans, Wyoming, MN; two stepsons: Ervin Schmidt, Geneseo, IL, and C. Lee Schmidt, Canyon Lake, TX; four step-daughters: Eleanor Dering, Deer Park, NY; Arlene Weber, Whitehall, MT; Joyce Eckart, Martin, ND; and Mavis Schmidt, Bismarck, ND; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; Reverends Ray Hoffman and Art Fischer, pastors, funeral service.

WALTER L. GEIS (61), Crystal Beach, TX; born Dec. 23, 1925, to Jake and Bertha Laubach Geis; died Oct. 13, 1987; member, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK; predeceased by his father, Jake Geis; survived by his mother, Bertha Geis; one brother, Victor, Okeene, OK; and two sisters: Norma Luce, Mission Viejo, CA, and Oleeta Wilson, Kennewick, WA; Rev. Elton O. Kirstein, pastor, funeral service.

GEORGE HOLZAEFEL (85), Kitchener, ON; born June 3, 1902, in Ebhausen, West Germany; died Sept. 21, 1987; married Eugenie Boetcher, June 25,

1932; immigrated to Saskatchewan in 1923; moved to Kitchener in 1927; founder, first elder, faithful member, Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON; survived by his wife Eugenie; one daughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. Peter Stevens), Kitchener, ON; and three grandchildren; Rev. Fred Kahler, pastor, funeral service.

ADAM HUBER (76), Portland, OR; born Dec. 25, 1910, in Serath, SK; died Sept. 3, 1987; graduated from N.A.B. Seminary, Rochester, NY, in 1941; ordained, Temple Baptist, Leduc, AB, July 12, 1941; married Violet Delk, June 8, 1941; served in the ministry for 42 years: pastor of N.A.B. Conference churches: Temple, Leduc, and Rabbit Hill, Edmonton, AB, 1941-48; First, Linton, ND, 1948-52; Faith, Minneapolis, MN, 1952-59; Brook Park, Brooklyn Center, MN, 1959-64; Southwood Park, Tigard, OR, 1964-72; interim pastor, Faith, Hillsboro, OR, and chaplain, Baptist Manor, Portland OR, (6½ years); member, Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR; a faithful servant and follower of the Lord, as an under-shepherd, who served with a humble spirit, was a friend and encourager, and loyal and consistent in his commitments; survived by his wife Violet; three sons: Douglas, New Orleans, LA; Wallace, Vancouver, BC; and Jay, Hutchinson, KS; one daughter-in-law, Lois; two grandsons; and one sister, Anna Orthner.

GEORGINE (DUDGEON) IBSEN (60), Bismarck, ND; born Feb. 14, 1927, to George and Ida Christian Besser, in Ogilvie, MN; died May 21, 1987; married Wilbur Dudgeon in 1950, who predeceased her in 1979; member, financial secretary, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; married Clifford Ibsen in 1981; survived by her husband Clifford; one son, Mark Dudgeon, Bismarck, ND; two daughters: Suann (Mrs. Tracy Schmitz), Lisbon, ND, and LuAnn (Mrs. Alan Houn), Mandan, ND; two step-daughters: Connie Birkes, Stewart, NB, and Diane Pride, McPherson, KS; four grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Margaret Baker; and two brothers: Howard Bradford and her twin, George Besser, Jr.; Rev. Ed Bartel, pastor, funeral service.

MAIME PRIEBE (88), Okeene, OK; born Dec. 29, 1898, to Theodor and Fredricka Kramp; died Oct. 1, 1987; charter member, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK; predeceased by her husband Alexander, son Leslie, and daughter-in-law Catherine; survived by one son, Larry, Oklahoma City, OK; one daughter, Jean Holt, Oklahoma City, OK; 9 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Raymond and Harry; and one sister, Mrs. D. J. Copeland; Rev. Elton O. Kirstein, pastor, funeral service.

Nigeria

Brazil

North America

Philippines

Japan

Cameroon

A

GIFT

THAT PAYS

DOUBLE

Income to you for life
up to 14%

Income (support funds)
for mission and outreach
efforts around the world

☐ I would like more information on the N.A.B. Conference Gift Annuity Program.

☐ I wish to secure a gift annuity. My check or money order in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

St./Prov. _____ Code _____

Date of birth _____

Date of birth _____

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



Before coming to N.A.B. College, I knew that God was calling me into full-time Christian ministry and that He was leading me to N.A.B.C. for my education. Currently, I'm in my second year of the Bachelor of Arts in Religion program, hoping to complete it in one more year. During my time at the college, I have learned many valuable things from both my classes and from other students.

In the two years at N.A.B.C., I have taken many different courses, ranging from Old Testament Theology and New Testament Greek to Social Psychology and English. Although the materials we study in class are good and important, I feel that I've learned more from the insights of the professors. One thing that I appreciate about them is their willingness to help us grow spiritually, not just grow in our knowledge of the Bible.

Another thing that I really enjoy about N.A.B. College is the people. All of us are different, and we come from different backgrounds, so our ideas and opinions are different. When we have discussions in class or out of class, I always feel challenged to really think about what I believe, to examine my faith.

So far, the time I've spent at N.A.B.C. has been great! The things that I have learned have really helped me draw closer to God. I have also found that what I've learned has helped me in my ministry with a church youth group. I thank God for the time that I've been able to spend at N.A.B. College. —Jonathan Grenz, Burlington, Ontario.

today. We must come with a beam of hope which can pierce the darkness of an individual's deflated dreams.

Finally, an *active commitment* is needful if we wish to be used by God as "blessing givers." This aspect encompasses a commitment to God and His working in our lives, as well as to the individuals whom He brings into our lives with whom we are to be bestowers of "the blessing." This necessitates becoming a student of those we wish to bless. Hence, an interactive model of education is the key in which the roles of professor and student are fluid. As we make application in the church setting, the pastor must be able to be a student of the congregation. The strict lines of clergy versus laity must be relaxed as we learn from one another how to best minister to the world and one another for the cause of Christ.

As I grapple with the crucial questions of seminary training and church application, I envision a seminary community of people who experience encouragement and affirmation of the blessing. And I hear the desperate cry of "Bless me, even me also" beginning to be answered as we send out those who can model being a channel of God's blessing in our world. □

Denise Kjesbo is Instructor of Christian Education at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Building on Foundations of Faith



by J. Walter Goltz

After a great deal of reflection and searching, the writer of Ecclesiastes warns: "But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). There are times in the life of every student when this verse could well become their theme verse. At the opposite extreme, we catch the feeling of excitement and of awe in the words of the Apostle John: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written" (John 21:25).

The library stands at the heart of every educational institution, and the heart of every library is books. But there are books, and then there are books. Many books indeed create a weariness of the flesh, a dulling of the mind, and a dissipation of energy. On the other hand, the wisdom of the ages is contained in books. Above all, God's revelation of Himself is contained in a book — the Bible. The purpose of all of our study, including our study of the Bible, is to bring us into closer fellowship with our Lord. On one occasion Jesus said, "You study the scriptures diligently, supposing that in having them you have eternal life; yet, although their testimony points to me, you refuse to come to me for that life" (John 5:39, 40 NEB). The entire purpose of NABC/DS is to bring persons into a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, and to train them for more effective service.

Your contributions to the Capital Funds drive helped to pay for the library which houses the books which will mould students' lives into the image of Christ. It also provides the atmosphere where they can study and reflect upon God's truth, in order to apply it in their daily walk and service. Thank you for your contribution to that end. □

Mr. Marlin Mohrman was installed as pastor of Creston Baptist Church, Creston, Nebraska, on Oct. 18, 1987. He had served as interim pastor of this church since June. The Rev. Clyde Zimbelman of Shell Creek Baptist Church of Columbus gave the installation challenge.

John Nelson was licensed into the Gospel ministry on Oct. 29, 1987, by Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. After having served on a part-time basis since 1986, Mr. Nelson is now serving full-time as Director of Youth and Children. Under his leadership, a successful children's Discovery Club has been started with 30 children enrolled.

The Rev. Lyle A. Richards, formerly pastor of Parkland Baptist Church, Spruce Grove, Alberta, accepted the call to serve as pastor of College Heights Baptist Church, Prince George, British Columbia, effective January 1, 1988. Rev. Richards had also been serving as chairman of the Northern Alberta Church Extension Council.

Mr. Gordon Freiter was ordained by Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer, Saskatchewan, on Nov. 22, 1987. Dr. Ralph Powell of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, delivered the ordination sermon using the life of Daniel as an example of the need for the ministry of prophet in the Church today. Area Minister Sig Schuster welcomed Rev. Freiter into the ministry. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Delvin Bertsch, Richard Grabke, Lewis Petrie, and Darryl Dachtler.

Mr. Ronald J. Doerksen has been ordained by Northgate Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, where he serves as Associate Pastor. The Charge to the Candidate was given by Rev. Charles Littman, area minister; the Charge to the Congregation by Mr. Ernie McCormack, diaconate chairman; a message of challenge by Rev. Carl Willcox; ordination sermon by Rev. Marvin Rust, senior pastor of the Church; and the ordination prayer by Reverends Carl Willcox and Charles Littman.

The Rev. Ralph Chandler was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sumner, Iowa, on Nov. 15, 1987. The Rev. Jacob Ehman, area minister, delivered the installation sermon. "Rev. Chandler had served the church as pastor from 1976 to 1980," says Retha Menke.

Mr. Donald Schmid was installed as pastor of Mercer Baptist Church, Mercer, North Dakota, on Nov. 11, 1987. He is a graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary. The Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister, gave the installation sermon. The Rev. Lynn Heinle and the Rev. James Porterfield as well as church leaders participated in the service.

The Rev. C. David Snyder was installed as pastor of Dorchester Drive Baptist Church, Erie, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 11, 1987. The Rev. John Zeigler presided at the installation service. Rev. Snyder is from Erie, where he served as associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church from 1979-1986.

The Rev. Hans J. Beulshausen is the new pastor at Bethel Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Rev. Edwin Voigt has accepted a position as caseworker for the Social Services Department of South Dakota. He and his family live in Martin, South Dakota.

The Rev. Harold Huege is the new pastor of Elim Baptist Church, Beausejour, Manitoba, as of November 1987.

Andrew Owzarek was installed as a church staff member at Apple Valley Baptist Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota, on Nov. 1, 1987.

Mr. Ed. Cunningham has resigned from the position of youth minister at Fountain Valley Baptist Church, Fountain Valley, California, to concentrate on his studies in his final semester at Talbott Seminary.

Associate Pastor Frank Barasel resigned from this position at Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Stockton, California, to become Director of Evangelism at a Southern California Christian Church.

The Rev. Jeff Patet was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church, Trenton, IL, on May 17, 1987. The Rev. Donald Patet, father of the pastor, brought the message, and Chaplain David Samf led the Charges to the Minister and to the Congregation. Mr. Lester Ranz, moderator of the Church led the service. Mrs. David Samf, pianist, provided sacred music at the reception.



Polish Baptists to Build New Center

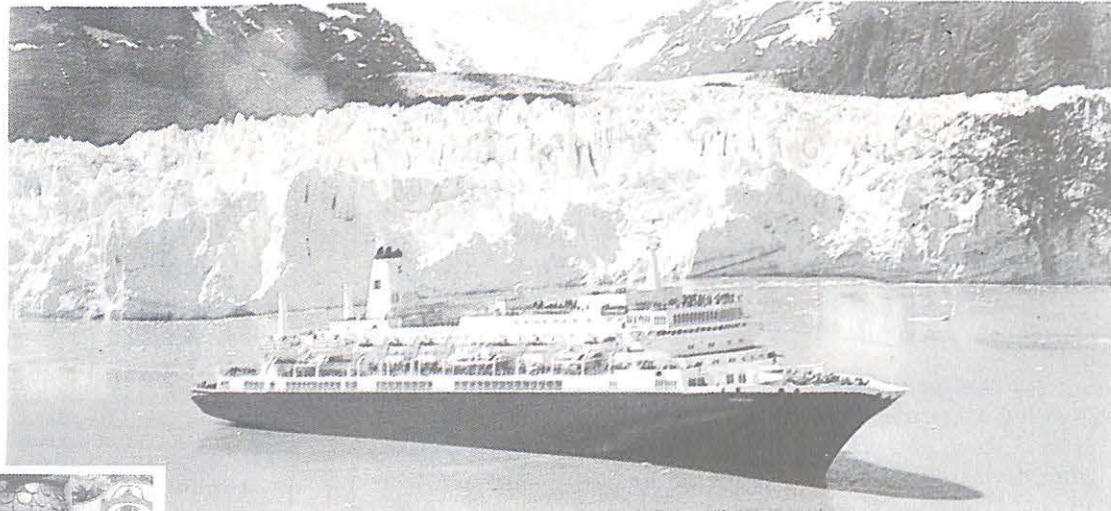
Before the Second World War, the Baptists in Poland befriended a man who later emigrated to the United States. It so happened that he was Jewish. He made available to the Polish Baptist Union a property in Radosze. It was his wish that the Baptist Union of Poland should become the owner of this property. His children concurred in this decision and, following his death, attempts were made to transfer title of the property to the Polish Baptist Union. Finally, after long negotiations with the government, the title has been registered in the name of the Baptist Union.

The property has been used as a Baptist Camp, and now plans have been developed to create a new education center to house the Theological Seminary, a chapel, and living quarters for students. The facilities will also serve as a retreat and conference center for Baptists from all over Poland. Each year, a very active summer camping program is conducted for children and young people from our Baptist churches in Poland. In the future, many of these gatherings will be held in the new center.

The Polish Baptist Union sees this project as one of its very high priorities in this current period and earnestly seeks the support of the Baptist World Alliance in completing the erection of the buildings for this seminary and retreat center.

Baptists are urged to contribute to this project and to send funds to Baptist World Aid, North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for Building a Seminary and Retreat Center in Poland.

ALASKA



A MOST BEAUTIFUL ALASKA CRUISE AND LAND TOUR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR N.A.B. TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN CALGARY, CANADA IN JULY, 1988.

The Luxury Cruise Ship S.S. ROTTERDAM sails from Vancouver on July 14, 1988 northbound to ALASKA. We sail the famous INSIDE PASSAGE with its fabulous sights.

- **KETCHIKAN** — Outstanding in very colorful and authentic totem art. A very picturesque port of call. Once, the salmon capital of the world.
- **GLACIER BAY** — Awesome sight of the glacier's huge ice falls crashing into the sea.
- **JUNEAU** — Capital city of Alaska — View Mendenhall Glacier in all its grandeur. From here, we fly to Anchorage to begin our fabulous land tour.
- **ANCHORAGE** — The famous Matanuska Valley, 70 lb. cabbages grow here. This is the largest city in Alaska — many very interesting sights. A boat ride on Williams Sound — see the massive Columbia Glacier.
- **VALDEZ** — Alaska's very quaint LITTLE SWITZERLAND.
- **DENALI** — We board the McKinley Explorer, the Vista Dome train, View Mt. McKinley, the highest mountain in North America. A wild life tour — take great pictures.
- **FAIRBANKS** — Our sight seeing tour includes a riverboat ride on the last remaining Alaska Sternwheeler — view the famous Trans-Alaska Pipeline and many other fascinating sights.

We fly back to Seattle on July 23, 1988 in plenty of time to make our N.A.B. Triennial Conference in Calgary on July 26. We can make arrangements for you to Calgary. Also a tour of Vancouver and Victoria.

Our number of cabins on the S.S. Rotterdam is limited. Therefore, this must be a first come first served basis.

Prices range from \$2495 to \$2595 per person — inside cabins and \$2695 to \$2795 outside cabins. All double occupancy.

Immediate deposit of \$200 per person is required to guarantee ship cabins. All hotel rooms on the land tour are deluxe.

Call or write for reservations and brochure.

Al Bolden & Co. Travel, Inc.,

21300 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. 48236 (313) 882-4575

A CHRISTIAN TRAVEL AGENCY—WORKING AMONG OUR N.A.B. PEOPLE SINCE 1977



McKinley Explorer Vista Dome Train

President Wanted

North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, invites applications for the position of president. A deep commitment to Christian higher education and sympathy with the evangelical theological position of the North American Baptist Conference are required, as well as good communication skills and administrative ability. Possession of an earned doctorate is highly desirable.

Inquiries and resume should be sent to: The Presidential Search Committee, North American Baptist College and Divinity School, 11525 - 23rd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 4T3.

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Biblical Imperatives (continued from page 26)

Arnprior Church Breaks Ground for Addition

ARNPRIOR, ON. The Thanksgiving Service of First Baptist Church, held Oct. 11, 1987, was followed by a groundbreaking ceremony for the Church Expansion Project. Pastor Phil Zylla, the Mayor, the architect, and committee chairmen participated. Estimated completion time for the project is four months. —Dorian Getz

Edmonton Church Surpasses Mission Goal

EDMONTON, AB. "Last year, we at Central Baptist Church exceeded the goal for our Thanksgiving offering," reports Kurt Remus. "So this year, the goal was raised to \$50,000. As a sign of their gratitude to Him, God's people again gave faithfully. \$69,000 was collected, most of which was designated for the work of missions."

The Rev. Terrence Fossen is senior pastor of the Church.

North American Baptist College and Divinity School Campus Open to 42nd Triennial Con- ference Visitors

Planning to attend the 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches in Calgary in 1988? If so, why not use the occasion to visit Edmonton, Alberta, with its many sights and attractions either before or after the Conference?

To assist you with your stay in Edmonton, we will be opening our residence halls to Conference visitors for two weeks prior to the Conference and for two weeks after the Conference.

The cost will be \$5.00 per person (based on double occupancy) and \$7.50 for a single room. This price includes linens. There will be no charge for children staying in their parent's room, but they must supply their own bedding, such as a sleeping bag.

We will also be able to provide parking for trailers/campers for \$5.00 per day. This includes power and use of washrooms.

Requests for accommodations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, and must be accompanied by full payment.

For further details, including a registration form, please contact:

Teresa Alm

North American Baptist College and Divinity School

11525 - 23 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3

Phone: (403) 437-1960



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 _____

Baptist Herald

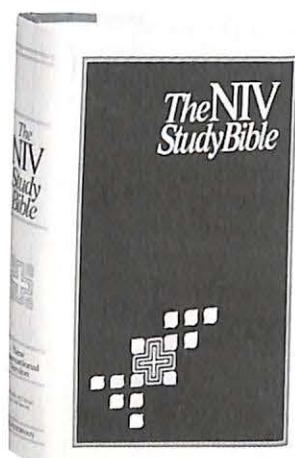
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
(312) 495-2000

Non-profit organization
Second class postage
paid at Villa Park, Illinois 60181
and at additional mailing offices

Registered as Second Class Mail
under permit #9327 at Norwich, Ontario.
Return postage guaranteed.

"Gifts That Minister"

Give a gift that will enhance the spiritual walk of the recipient and know that the profits from the sale of these gifts will help underwrite your N.A.B. conference worldwide mission and ministry commitments.



BEST SELLER

NIV STUDY BIBLE

- Introductions and outline for every book.
 - Extensive study aids including maps, diagrams, charts, NIV cornerstone time lines, parallel passages.
 - Supplementary notes.
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Black bonded leather
Catalog No. 002ZD | \$59.95 |
| Burgundy bonded leather
Catalog No. 001ZD | \$59.95 |
| Hardcover Edition
Catalog No. 003ZD | \$34.95 |

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE! MAJESTIC 'CAPTIVATING' INTRIGUING

Jose Barbera and William Hanna—recognized leaders in children's cartoons for 50 years—have developed a series of children's videos based upon THE GREATEST ADVENTURE: STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.

Recognizing that nothing is as compelling as the truth, Hanna Barbera has faithfully repeated biblical events in cartoon form to provide countless hours of entertainment and education for your children.

They are biblically sound, and they will use the medium which your children love most to reinforce godly concepts of faith, hope and adventure.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| NOAH'S ARK
Catalog No. 002CD | \$19.95 |
| MOSES
Catalog No. 003CD | \$19.95 |
| JOSHUA/BATTLE OF JERICO
Catalog No. 004CD | \$19.95 |
| SAMSON AND DELILAH
Catalog No. 005CD | \$19.95 |
| DAVID AND GOLIATH
Catalog No. 006CD | \$19.95 |
| DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN
Catalog No. 007CD | \$19.95 |



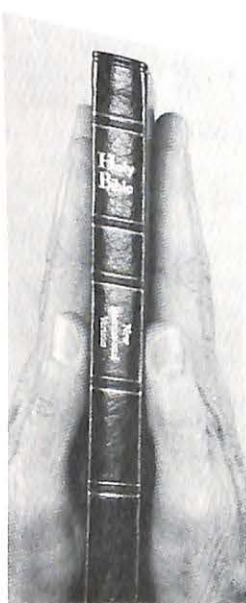
THE THINNEST BIBLE YOU'LL EVER WANT

Not only is it thin— $\frac{5}{8}$ inch—it's easy to read. The NIV Ultrathin Reference Bible is the Bible to carry with you. The center column references, concordance, and maps provide an abundance of study resources.

Besides the Ultrathin light weight and size, the Bible opens to reveal clear, readable print. What's more the New International Version is a popular Bible text that's easier to understand.

A readable, thin Bible with references—it's the thinnest Bible you'll ever want (or need).
Burgundy, bonded leather
Catalog No. 001HD

\$32.95



Note: All prices are in U.S. currency.

Please find order form with enclosed envelope attached at pages 16 and 17.