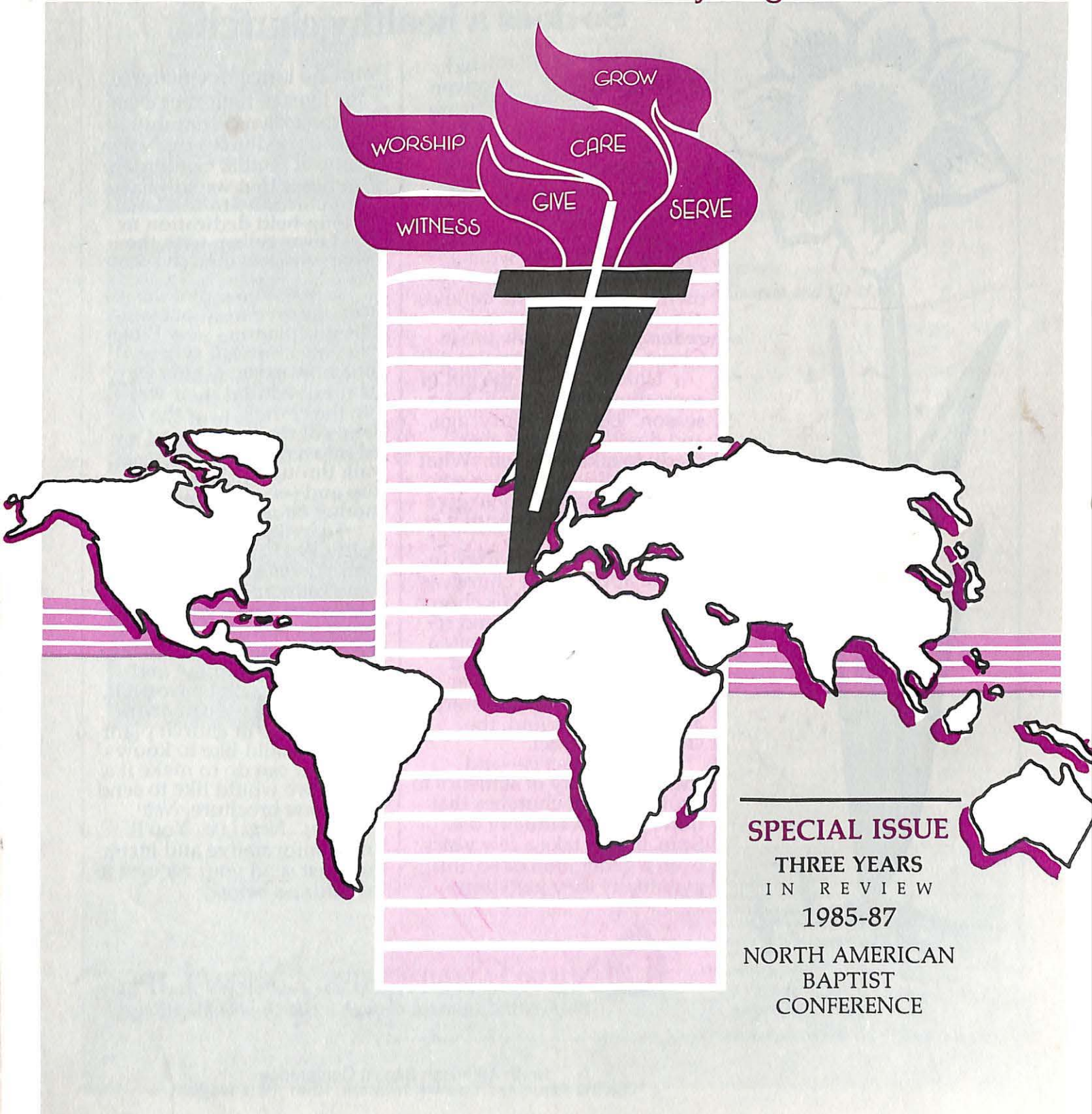


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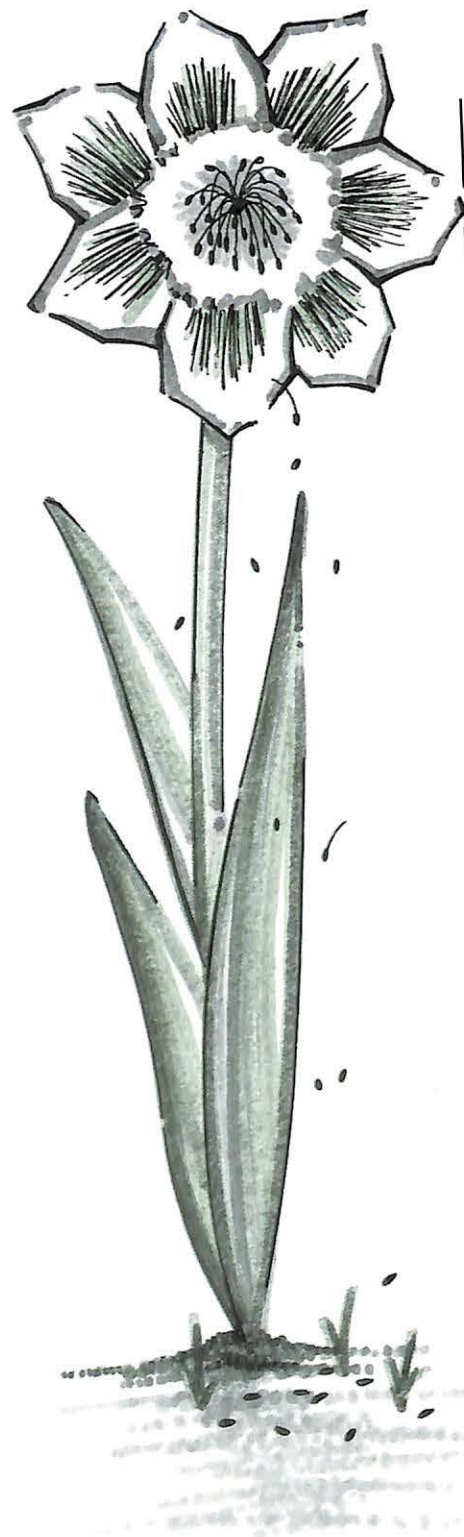


SPECIAL ISSUE

THREE YEARS
IN REVIEW
1985-87

NORTH AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CONFERENCE

S H A R I N G T H E V I S I O N



A healthy plant reproduces itself. So does a healthy church.

Every living plant and organism has the God-given ability to reproduce. We are reminded of this miraculous gift each spring as fields and gardens burst into new life and the farmers' stalls are crowded with nursing calves, lambs, and piglets.

We also are reminded of this wonderful gift when precious children come into our own families and the families of our children. Beyond redemption and new life in Christ, there is no greater gift.

Unfortunately, the gift of reproduction lasts only for a season. Disease, injury, age, and death, itself, are ever ready to take their toll. What heartbreak awaits those who have the opportunity to give life but fail to do so until it is too late!

The principles we see in nature apply to the church as well. God expects His church to mature, bear fruit, and reproduce itself. But too often the church seems satisfied with the status quo. Even though there is opportunity and need all around, the church fails to act.

The sad fact is—and there are plenty of statistics to prove it—that churches that don't grow eventually die. Sure, it may take a few years, even a generation or so, but eventually they just disap-

pear—no longer a vital force in the lives of their members or in their own communities.

The good news for North American Baptist Conference churches is that we still have the opportunity to combine our long-held dedication to world evangelism with the effectiveness of church planting.

Studies show that the most effective form of evangelism is planting new Bible-believing churches where none now exist. In this way, the unsaved find their way into the church, hear the claims of the gospel, and are led into a mature Christian walk through regular fellowship and service. And soon another church is flourishing.

To make this concept a reality, we have developed a comprehensive plan. It is going to require the support of every N.A.B. Conference church in North America. It is going to require leadership, ideas, special training and effort. But it will be worth it.

If you get excited about the challenge of church planting and would like to know what you can do to make it a reality, we would like to send you a new brochure, *New Churches...New Life*. You'll find it informative and inspiring. Just send your request to the address below.

 **NEW CHURCHES...NEW LIFE**
Evangelistic outreach through a church-planting strategy

North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 1-312-495-2000

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by Larry Burd

Sharing the Vision in an Established Church

I have had many joys in my life. I've had the joy of being raised in a Christian home; I've had the joy of graduating from high school, college, and seminary; I have had the joy of being married to the world's most beautiful girl; I have had the joy of being in a delivery room four times as my wife gave birth; and I've had many, many joys in ministry. But the greatest joy I have ever experienced in my whole life is the joy of knowing Jesus Christ personally.

As Paul said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain. That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."

The second greatest joy I have ever experienced is being used of God to bring someone to a personal knowledge of faith in Jesus Christ. I've had this joy in pastoring; I've had this joy in speaking in our North American Baptist Conference churches in evangelistic crusades; I've had the joy of leading people to Christ through personal contacts.

If there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10), then surely there is joy in our hearts, too, when people repent of sin and come to Christ. Recently in our church, Calvary Baptist, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, I've had the great joy of seeing people win others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Last year, we saw so few people come to know Christ as Savior that this year in January, we decided to begin something new in our Sunday morning worship services.

To the left of our pulpit, we placed a small stand with a candle on it. Whenever someone comes to

know Christ as Savior, we let that person or the person who led him or her to Christ share a brief testimony—just the facts. The person may have come to know Christ through the ministry of the Gospel in our services or Sunday School or Pioneer Girls or Boys Brigade or youth meetings. It may be a testimony of a person in our congregation who led someone to Christ at work or home.

We call this the "Let Your Light Shine Candle." This moment in worship is noted at a specific place in the Sunday worship bulletin. One or more people may come forward at this time. One lights the candle. Each person tells in about three or four minutes how this person came to know Christ.



It has been exciting week after week to have people from our congregation share how they have led people to Christ. People of all ages, even children, have shared how God opened the doors to share and lead others to Christ. Recently, after hearing that his mother had led his grandmother to Christ, a 10-year-old boy from our basketball team became excited

and shared Christ with two of his friends, and they came to know Christ. Just two or three weeks ago, two fourth grade girls in our church led one of their schoolmates to Christ.

Recently, a lady in our church led someone to Christ at McDonald's where she works. As "New Day" ministered in our church during the winter, we saw 11 students come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior at the Christian school which is part of our church.

It has been encouraging week after week, as we pray and watch the person light the candle that says "Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.'" There have been a few weeks when the candle remains unlit. We remind the people to let their light so shine before men that they may see their good works and glorify our Father in heaven, that He may have the glory, and that we may have the joy of seeing others come to know Christ.

Recently, I had lunch with a man who is a manager of a local car dealership in our area. As we sat across from each other, he told me of his joy in hearing these testimonies and seeing that candle lit time and again. He said, "Pastor, with all my heart, I want to light that candle." I'm waiting for this man to tell me that some of the men in his dealership have come to Christ. Some day he will also stand and tell that others have come to know Christ. Let's all let our light shine and give God the glory. □

The Rev. Larry Burd, senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA, shared this testimony with the General Council at its annual session in June 1988.

by Kathy Kwast

Sharing Christ Overseas

■ *Drip down, O heavens, from above, And let the clouds pour down righteousness; Let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit ... (Isaiah 45:8).*



I love this verse because it uses a beautiful metaphor from nature to illustrate how God's salvation bears fruit. The fertile ground of Tsu, Japan, has been and is being watered by God's Word and Spirit, by faithful witnesses, and your prayers. Let me tell you how "the earth is opening up" and how God's salvation is bearing fruit.

There are at least three kinds of fruit that I believe are unique to Japan: *Nashi*, *Makan*, and *Kaki*. Many of you have never even heard of these fruits, much less tasted them. But the fruit I want to talk about is the kind that is growing worldwide — the fruit of God's salvation.

Many of you have been praying for four Japanese ladies. Kayoko Okura, one of the single ladies, became a Christian in December. I praise God and thank you for your prayers.

Last October, a frightening situation came into Kayoko's life that made her realize her need for Christ. She promised God that if He would work in her situation, she would make a commitment to

follow Christ. God worked in a positive way, and Kayoko made a confession of faith and was baptized on December 20. How wonderfully her life has changed.

Earlier she would not accept Christ because she feared giving up her old life. Now that she has embraced Christ, she has become bold in speaking of her new faith, and she is faithful in Church. Her face has taken on a new brightness, which tells everyone who sees her that she gained far more than she ever gave up.

Kayoko has asked me to say "thank you" to all of you who were praying for her salvation. Please continue to pray, because living the Christian life in Japan can be tough business.

In recent months, several others have come to know Christ and were also baptized on December 20. Among them was Mrs. Hork, my flower arrangement teacher. She has had contact with Christians for ten years. She had so many questions, but the Holy Spirit finally won out, and she has made her decision with solid cer-

tainty. She, too, has experienced a complete change from a sad and fearful lady to a confident and joyful woman. Pray for her as she must deal with many family problems now.

Since December, five other people have made a decision for Christ and plan to be baptized on Easter Sunday. During my 22-month stay in Japan, I have seen about 35 people come to know Christ, be baptized and join the church—just in the Tsu Church alone. God's salvation is indeed bearing fruit in Japan! He has allowed me to be here during these years of reaping.

All this is causing "good problems" for the small Tsu Church (which is usually packed well over what it should hold). A new building is needed desperately to accommodate all the people and to provide facilities and vision for future growth. Recently the plans for a new church building were approved, and the building should be completed sometime in September. Please pray that the budget will be met.

It is exciting to see God's salvation bearing fruit among young and old alike at the Tsu Church. Eight junior highers were baptized within one year, and about that many were more than 70 years old. Some were so frail that they had to be baptized in their own bathtub! So many elderly people have joined the church that the church is thinking of building a home for the aged on the new church land.

Please continue to pray for the salvation of the Japanese people. God has chosen to use prayer as a powerful tool to accomplish His purpose to bring fruit to this field of His Salvation. □

Kathy Kwast of California has concluded her term as a short-term missionary teacher to missionary children at Tsu Christian School.

by Dennis Dewey

Sharing the Vision through a New Church

Recently I told our congregation, "There's nothing I would rather be doing than helping start a new church in Kansas City." I meant it, but not because everything is going great or because church planting is so simple. It's not. The fact is there are lots of ups and downs. But I am glad we are in Kansas City because I know this is where God wants us to be and because it is work that is making a difference for eternity. It's exciting, and it's challenging.

Being a church planter, I've had to make new friends. When we came to Kansas City, we left a church I had served for more than 10 years; we left many, many good friends. Since we knew almost no one in Kansas City, it meant making new friends. That's not always easy. There was no ready made support group and pool of friends like you would find in an established congregation. Most people we met had very busy lives, and many of them already had their set of friends. Besides, who wants to be friends with a pastor! We are thankful that God is bringing some very special people into our lives, and friendships are growing.

Being a church planter, I've had to change my teaching and preaching.

The message of the gospel and the need for Christ-like living has not changed, but my way of explaining it has. Most of those attending our new church know very little about the Bible. That has made me get back to the basics of the Christian faith. What is important? Why is it important? What difference will it make? How can I explain it in a way that people with little church background can understand?

Being a church planter, I have had to do the work of missions. I'm learning firsthand what I already knew in an abstract way—North



Keith & Julie Koehn;
Sandra Lawson

America is a mission field! There are lots and lots of people who don't know Christ. I've also learned that this kind of mission work is hard work. Many people aren't interested in spiritual matters. Many don't recognize their spiritual need or don't want to acknowledge it. But, there are some who do respond, and it is exciting to see how God has worked in their lives.

For instance, there's Sandra, a woman in her mid-40s who began to attend our group. Although she had almost no church background, the Lord was at work creating a spiritual interest within her. Once she began attending, she missed only one worship service the first year, and she was out of state that Sunday. Five months after she began attending our church, she accepted Christ as her Saviour. She has now been baptized and is one of our charter members.

There's Cecil, a man in his 70s. He has belonged to Catholic, Presbyterian, and Southern Baptist churches. But while visiting with

him after he had completed our Membership Classes, I learned that he lacked assurance of his own salvation. During our conversation, he said, "I hope I'm a Christian; I hope I will go to heaven." I began to explain to him from the Scriptures how he could know for sure. I encouraged him to make sure of his salvation, to remove all doubt, by praying a prayer of commitment to Christ. He did that day.

There's Julie, a young woman in her early 20s, who is from a Catholic background. She and her husband began attending our church about a year ago. In December, she talked with me and began explaining that as she was growing up she felt she could never please her father. "No matter what I did, it was never good enough," she said. "We have really enjoyed getting involved in the church, but now those feelings are coming back. Only this time they are directed toward God. It seems like no matter how much I do within the church, I can't please Him." That evening I explained to her how none of us can please God through our own good works. I explained in detail the plan of salvation and God's love and grace to us. Before she left, she gave her life to Christ and received His free gift of eternal life.

I could tell you of others, and I know there will be more in the future who will respond to the message of Christ. That's why I'm glad we are in Kansas City; that's why I ask you to pray for us. □



The Rev. Dennis Dewey is pastor of Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, Missouri.

Church planting takes root when everyone digs a little deeper.

There is little question that winning and discipling people for Christ in fulfillment of the Great Commission is best done through the church. Carl F. George of the Charles E. Fuller Institute for Evangelism and Church Growth says, "Nothing is as effective in reaching people for Christ as new believers gathered in new churches."

Yet in the United States, about 70% of the population is unchurched. In Canada the total is 75%. Behind Russia, China, and India, we represent the world's fourth largest mission field. Once there were 27 churches for every 10,000 people; today that number has dropped drastically to 12. What a vast mission field North America has become! What an outstanding opportunity for evangelism it presents!

These statistics not only present an opportunity; they also present a great challenge. To address this need, we must have vision, we must have a strategy, and we must have seed money. No longer can we take the casual approach of "church extension."

N.A.B. Conference experience shows that it takes a three-year subsidy totaling about \$120,000 to initiate and stabilize a new church. About 50% of the investment

is required in the first year, about 30% the second, and 20% the third. This investment covers costs for personnel, program, materials, and in some cases, initial grants for land purchases.

Research also shows that a church organization such as the North American Baptist Conference must plant new churches at an annual rate of 3%-4% of its present number just to stay even. And if we are to have any real impact on the spiritual awakening of our nation, we need to do more than stay even.

That's why we have committed ourselves to a vigorous new strategy of church planting. Our goal is to see 30 new churches in place by the end of 1990. To reach that goal, we are going to need gifts—over and above those designated for missions and regular church support—totaling nearly \$2 million.

But God never calls us to a task for which He does not supply the need, and N.A.B. Conference church members have a long history of sacrificial giving when the spiritual mandate is clear. All we need to do is dig a little deeper.

For information on the plan and how you can help, send for our booklet, *New Churches...New Life*, at the address below.



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New Day

You've heard it said, "Things are constantly changing." Towns change, schools change, churches change, and people change. We often notice changes in other people, but rarely do we stop to consider how we ourselves have changed. The 1987-88 members of New Day were asked to answer one of three questions about change.



In what way has your viewpoint of Christian ministry changed since the start of this tour year?

John Kiemele (*Assistant Director*): To me, Christian ministry involves a desire to see men take on Christ's likeness, not to force men through a certain process. All we can do is provide opportunity and encouragement.

Doug Meyers: Christian ministry takes many forms. I realize it is not limited to a church building but is also effective and challenging to people in their surroundings outside the church.

Debbie Hollands: I've learned that ministry is people—both working with them and working for them.



Roxy Korporal: Ministry is not taking a year out of my life to serve God; ministry is a life-style. No matter what facet of life, I want to make an impact on my world for Christ.

Michele Adam: I have encountered various needs within the church. I want to be more involved and more supportive of people in church ministry.

Laurie Kiemele: A consistent, Christ-like life-style speaks with greater impact than any sermon, sketch, song, or testimony. Ministry is a matter of proper focus and attitude, rather than a talent or an occupation.

In what way has your spiritual life changed since the start of this tour year?

Loren Kopf (*Director*): The busier I get in ministry, the more important it becomes to spend time with God. Ministry-oriented busyness does not substitute for quality and quantity time alone with God.

Dan Schuster: Christ has taught me that He is the largest source of power. I should continually tap that power and not try to live the Christian life on my own.

Sandy Strobel: Jesus Christ is not a part of my life, He *is* my life. I am trusting Him and am willing to do whatever He wants me to do.

Cal Hohn: I am realizing that Christian joy is not dependent on feelings and circumstances.

Scott Fossell: The Lord has been pruning my life in the areas of love, self-control, and contentment. I thank the Lord for His patience.

Lynn Graf: I have found a contentment in the presence of Christ, being alone with Him to gain inner strength and to grow in a desire to serve Him wholly and glorify His name.

In what way has your life goal changed since the start of this tour year?

Wes Irwin: An increased appreciation for the local church has caused me to consider some sort of full or part-time church ministry.

Sara Schulz: My desire was to establish a prosperous career and lead a "successful" life. The Lord has revealed His desire for me to minister to those involved in the area of the cults and the occult.

We, as New Day members, have experienced many changes since we started our tour in September. Sometimes changes are easy, and sometimes changes are difficult. Take a minute to ask yourself the above three questions about the last year. If you are happy with what you find, then give praise to the Lord. If you are not happy with what you find, then you, like us, must endeavor to allow more Christ-influenced change. □



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Three Years in Review

During the last three years, 1985-87, the good news of Jesus Christ has been lived and proclaimed in many places and to many people. This review focuses on the highlights of what has happened.

God has taken our investments of energy, time, talents, and resources, and multiplied them for the expansion of His kingdom. I marvel at all that has been accomplished through the cooperative efforts of our churches.

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve in partnership with pastors, the laity, and Conference personnel. The quality, talent, and commitment of our people to the Lord has been outstanding.

I am most pleased and grateful for the excellent record of increased giving to the local churches and to the Conference missions and ministries. It is evident that North American Baptists are a very generous people. Several churches have given outstanding support, such as Faith, Minneapolis, MN; Brentview, Calgary, AB; Central, Edmonton, AB; McDermot, Winnipeg, MB; Ridgemont, Detroit, MI; Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; and Bethany, Vancouver, BC.

I am very pleased with the good growth of churches on each of our mission fields. Total membership has increased; many new churches have been planted; and new people groups are being reached with the gospel.

I am disappointed with our lack of growth in church membership in Canada and the U.S.A. Hopefully, through the concentrated efforts of the church growth seminars, this trend will be reversed in due time. One very encouraging sign is an eight percent increase in attendance at worship services in our churches. Dr. Lyle Schaller, church growth consultant, indicates that today the trend in attendance at worship services is more important to track

than church membership.

I am also very much encouraged by the growth experienced in some of our largest churches. We have several that are in the "mega church" category. These large churches are able to do things for the cause of Christ that smaller ones cannot. For example, Sunrise Baptist, Fair Oaks, CA, will conduct a Church Ministries Conference in January 1989, to which they are inviting leadership from all of our churches. They will focus on the six Biblical Imperatives and provide seminars for a host of specialized ministries in churches.

I do not wish to be misunderstood by those who are serving in smaller churches; they also have a vital ministry. About 80 percent of our churches are under 200 members, and that is true in most other denominations as well. God has done His work through the centuries primarily through small churches, and He will probably continue to do it that way. I applaud their accomplishments and ministries.

We have a commendable record in planting new churches, also. Sixteen new churches were started during the last three years, and most of them are vitally alive and growing. I

am very excited about the new plan being designed to start 156 churches by the year 2000.

Each of us needs to review the commitments we made three years ago. Have we honestly sought to fulfill those commitments by God's grace? What are the new commitments we need to make for the future? Vision 2000 focuses on six Biblical Imperatives to promote unified direction and growth to local churches and leadership of the North American Baptist Conference. I believe this is the most challenging, far-reaching program we have ever tackled. You will be hearing much more about this new opportunity to join together to fulfill God's purpose.

John Binder

John Binder
executive director

Dr. John Binder, executive director (from left to right); department directors: Rev. David Samf, church growth; Walter Swanson, development; Robert Mayforth, financial services; Ronald Salzman, missions; and Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries.

A. Helwig photo



Sharing the Vision through Area Ministries

- Ten Area Ministers served as a team along with their Director.
- Area Ministers saw the need for and supported giving both to the Basic Missions and Ministries Budget and the Growth Budget programs of the Conference during the past three years. They also presented the Association financial needs.
- In unity, Area Ministers fulfilled their objectives of being a "pastor to pastors."

"Pastors who have previously served in non-denominational churches often are the first to express appreciation for the Area Minister's presence and support," says Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director.

- During these past three years, Association Executive Committees worked more closely with their Area Ministers, providing direction and assisting them to be more productive.

"The Area Minister is both a Conference representative in his area and a representative of his area at the decision-making meetings of the Conference," says Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director. "The Area Ministries team has modeled the biblical ideal and spiritual mark of unity amid diversity. In the midst of some nationalism and growing regionalism, these men, diversely gifted by God, unitedly and wholeheartedly support the Conference's values and objectives."

- Area Ministers served on Association, Camp, and Home Boards.
- In each Association, the Area Minister was the key mentor for church planting projects.
- Supporting our Conference church growth emphasis, most Area Ministers led and/or participated in the "Basic Growth" and "A Shepherd's Guide to Caring and Keeping" seminars.
- Area Ministers worked with the churches continuing with Phases III and IV of the Church Growth Strategy program.

"Area Ministers are grateful for the role and opportunities to serve God and the people of our North American Baptist Conference," states Dr. Willis Potratz, director. "They will continue to build unity amid our expanding diversities."



Area Ministers (1987): (front row, left to right) LeRoy Schauer, Northwest Area; Sig Schuster, Manitoba/Saskatchewan Area (until July 31, 1988, to be replaced by Jake Leverette); John Zeigler, Eastern Area; Ed Hohn, British Columbia Area; Ken Fischer, California Area; and Jacob Ehman, Upper Midwest Area; (second row) John Binder, executive director; Bill Taft, Great Lakes Area; Charles Littman, Alberta Area; Willis Potratz, Area Ministries Director and Illinois; Milton Zeeb, South Central Area; and Ralph Cooke, North Central Area.



Missions Highlights

"... The goal should be that by all available means and at the earliest possible time every person will have the opportunity to hear, understand, and receive the Good News." This vision for world evangelization, as stated in the Board of Missions' Philosophy of Missions, has energized the mission work of the North American Baptist Conference in five overseas countries during these past three years," says Ron Salzman, missions director.



■ **New field opened.** Our newest mission field opened in Legazpi in the Bicol Region of southern Luzon, Philippines, in 1986. Lee and Jennell Bertsch are planting our first church there. Gregg and Maria Evans join them as our second missionary couple in September 1988.

■ **Growth of Baptist Conventions.** We rejoice in the growth of the overseas Baptist conventions with which we work: the Cameroon Baptist Convention, the Brazil Baptist Convention, the Japan Baptist Conference, and the Mambilla Baptist Convention.

■ **Pastors prepared.** With a firm commitment to preparing church leaders, we helped educate future national pastors in Brazil, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

One example of the importance of our support for seminary education is that of Mr. Paul Kinding from one of our churches in Nigeria. He received his Bachelor of Theology Degree at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary and



The Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church, a young, growing congregation located in the capital city of Cameroon, is committed to starting new churches and an association of churches.

Membership of Baptist Conventions Overseas

	Number of Churches			Number of Members		
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
Brazil	85	90	94	6,160	6,058	6,493
Cameroon	489	493	560	38,016	38,046	39,842
Japan	7	7	7	319	337	365
Nigeria	142	142	144	12,200	12,306	14,230
Totals	723	732	805	56,695	56,747	60,930

Number of Pastors Educated Overseas

	1985	1986	1987
Enrollment at Rio Grande do Sul Seminary in Brazil	45	45	55
Enrollment at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Cameroon	101	97	100
Enrollment at Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Nigeria	83	77	80
Totals	229	219	235

has returned to Nigeria. Mr. Kinding will be the first degree-holding B.Th. Nigerian tutor at Mambilla Baptist Theological School. Mr. Kinding's education was funded through the Gary Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund.

■ **God's servants.** God continues to call dedicated men and women from our churches to overseas missions. In spite of fluctuating currency, the North American Baptist Conference has done well in maintaining the support of our missionary force.

Number of Missionaries

	1985	1986	1987
Brazil	8	9	9
Cameroon	35	33	33
Japan	17	18	18
Nigeria	7	10	11
Philippines	2	2	3
Totals	69	72	74



Miss Eleanor Weisenburger has probably delivered more Cameroonian babies through her midwifery students than any other missionary in Cameroon. Honored by the people as a "Yah," and decorated with the "Officer of the National Order of Valour" by the Head of State of the Cameroon Government, she now retires after 36 years of missionary service.



One of God's servants, Miss Minnie Kuhn, a career missionary, is called "the Mother of the Mambilla Baptist Convention" because her influence, love, and sacrifice have provided the necessary leadership to help the Mambilla Baptist Convention grow and develop. She retires this year after 40 years of service.

■ **Capital Funds.** The Capital Funds Campaign provided funds for the Missions Department to make some giant strides forward. To name some, in Cameroon, we built the Christian Academy Ndu (a missionary children's school), built housing for teachers at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, and funded addi-



tional radio evangelism programs. Land was purchased in Brazil for church planting projects. A much needed Land Rover was purchased for our Mission in Nigeria. In Japan, we bought a new missionary residence and added funds to the Chapel Loan Fund.

■ **World relief.** In this triennium, our churches gave \$347,260 for world relief and development projects.

■ **The Baptist World Alliance** helped us channel these relief funds to more than 20 countries.

■ **Through White Cross donations,** our WMF groups contributed more than 45,000 pounds of medical supplies to our African medical work.

■ **A vision for the future.** The Board of Missions is planning for increased ministry in the next decade. Some of the goals are to

- Research, plan, and initiate church planting ministries in 12 new unreached people groups in Brazil, Cameroon, Japan, Nigeria, and Philippines.
- Establish a new mission field.
- Participate in evangelism thrusts that will result in 50,000 recorded decisions for Christ leading to baptism and membership in a local church.
- Assist the overseas national conventions in increasing the number of churches by 30 percent.
- Assist in the training of 1,000 national pastors.
- Promote and facilitate home and overseas mission experiences for 5,000 youth, laity, and clergy.



Church Growth Highlights

"Sensitizing our pastors and churches to the need for reaching out to new fields of service to win people for Christ has been the focus of the Church Growth Department during the past three years. Through Church Growth Strategy seminars, new church plants, outreach emphasis by W.M.F. and New Day, as well as continuing involvement with Urban/Ethnic Ministries, we are seeking to fulfill the Great Commission in North America," says David Samf, church growth director.

■ **New Churches.** The Conference assisted 19 new church planting projects during the past three years, averaging 6.33 projects a year.

■ Six new churches are already being planted in 1988. Associations have targeted six additional needy areas for new churches, but unless more funding is received, they must wait until 1989.

"Church Growth Statistics in North America indicate that new churches are more efficient in evangelism," says Bernard Fritzke, associate director for church planting.

■ **Church growth strategy.** To encourage every church in our

Conference to focus on church growth, the Church Growth Department launched an ambitious Church Growth Strategy.

■ In all 20 Associations, pastors met together during seven-hour church growth seminars.

■ Approximately 95 percent of the pastors and staff of our Conference churches received instruction in church growth principles and strategies.

■ Interest in the next phase of the Church Growth Strategy was evidenced by the high attendance at the 75 more detailed ten-hour Basic Growth Seminars. Whether held in churches regionally or in individual churches, enthusiasm was high.

■ Analyses of statistics, graphs, and charts, as well as a review of the ministries of local churches in light of growth principles helped many churches make effective changes for outreach.

■ Seventeen of the 54 churches in Phase III have already completed their evaluations. The next three years will show the impact of this program on the numerical growth of our churches.

"While change comes slowly to some churches, whether in suburban or rural areas, others are making marked progress," reports Ray Harsch, associate director for evangelism and church growth. *"Churches like Round Lake, Gladwin, MI; Redeemer, St. Paul, MN; Meadowlark, Edmonton, AB; First, Paul, ID; and others have taken church growth principles seriously and experienced growth."*

■ **Membership growth.** During the past ten years, the North American Baptist Conference experienced a 4.1 percent increase in membership.

■ In 1987, 165 churches reported a net growth. 146 churches had a net loss, and 53 churches showed no change in membership.

■ 24 new churches are preparing to be received into Associations as recognized churches over the next several years.

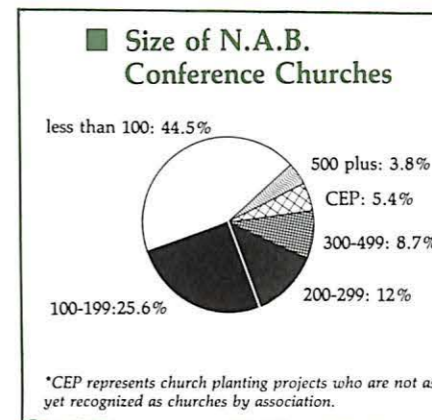
A new, rapidly growing church, Twin Oaks Baptist, Stockton, California, began in May 1985 with 66 people. Pastor Greg Meyers reports that this church met its goal of becoming self-supporting by May 1987. Average attendance grew to 164 by that date.



■ **Worship attendance.** During the past three years, worship attendance increased 6.5 percent.

■ **Sunday school.** Attendance in Sunday school increased 6.9 percent over three years.

■ **Baptisms.** 4,880 were baptized—one for every twelve members.



Conference Statistics	1985	1986	1987
Morning worship service attendance	48,855	52,692	52,820
Total church membership	60,266	59,385	59,465
Number of churches	372	365	365
Baptisms	1,703	1,528	1,649
Churches started	4	5	7
Church planters	37	32	37
Churches recognized by Association	1	2	3
Churches deleted by Association	2	9	3
Churches net gain or loss	-1	-7	0

"Our Urban/Ethnic ministry continues to capture our imagination and enthusiasm with the possibilities of ministering to and with peoples of various races, cultures, and languages," says David Samf.

■ **Diverse congregations.** Some of our churches have special ministries for Hispanic, Romanian, Korean, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Hmong, Chinese, German, Black, and Jewish people as well as Anglos.

■ **Church membership 1987.** Total gain in church membership: 4,594. Total loss in church membership: 4,495, leaving a net gain of 99.

■ **New Day.** This evangelistic, drama, music team continues to minister across the U.S.A. and Canada giving concerts in

churches, nursing homes, schools, at men's and women's coffees, conducting seminars, and making personal outreach calls.

■ Responses from churches hosting New Day, a team of 13 young people, have been extremely positive.

■ Loren Kopf replaced Warren Hoffman as New Day Director in August 1986; John Kiemele is assistant director.

■ **Women's Missionary Fellowship.** Women filled quotas for White Cross by sending about 18,000 pounds to Cameroon each year.

■ The women gave \$814,464 toward their adopted three-year financial goal of \$950,000 to

support missions at home and overseas.

■ The women emphasize prayer support and sending encouragement to our missionaries through letter writing, cards, and kilo packages. Audio-visual material and publications keep women informed about mission field happenings.

"Women pray, serve, and accept the challenges within the local church to meet the needs of today's women," says LaVerna Mehlhaff, women's work director. *"Changes in programming show results. Younger women are taking positions of leadership in our Conference's women's work."*

■ **Administrative changes.** Ron Norman resigned as Church Growth Director effective January 1986; Ray Harsch served as Acting Director until October 1987, when David Samf was appointed Director. Bernard Fritzke succeeded Donald Ganstrom as Associate Director for Church Planting in January 1986.

The first Women's Work Director for the Conference, LaVerna Mehlhaff, appointed in 1974, retires July 31, 1988. Linda Ebel becomes Director August 1.

"Dr. Carl F. George of Charles E. Fuller Institute for Evangelism and Church Growth states: 'Church planting is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven.' Would you join us; experience God's involvement in your life as we together see people won to Christ, build churches, win people to Christ and repeat the cycle," challenges David Samf.

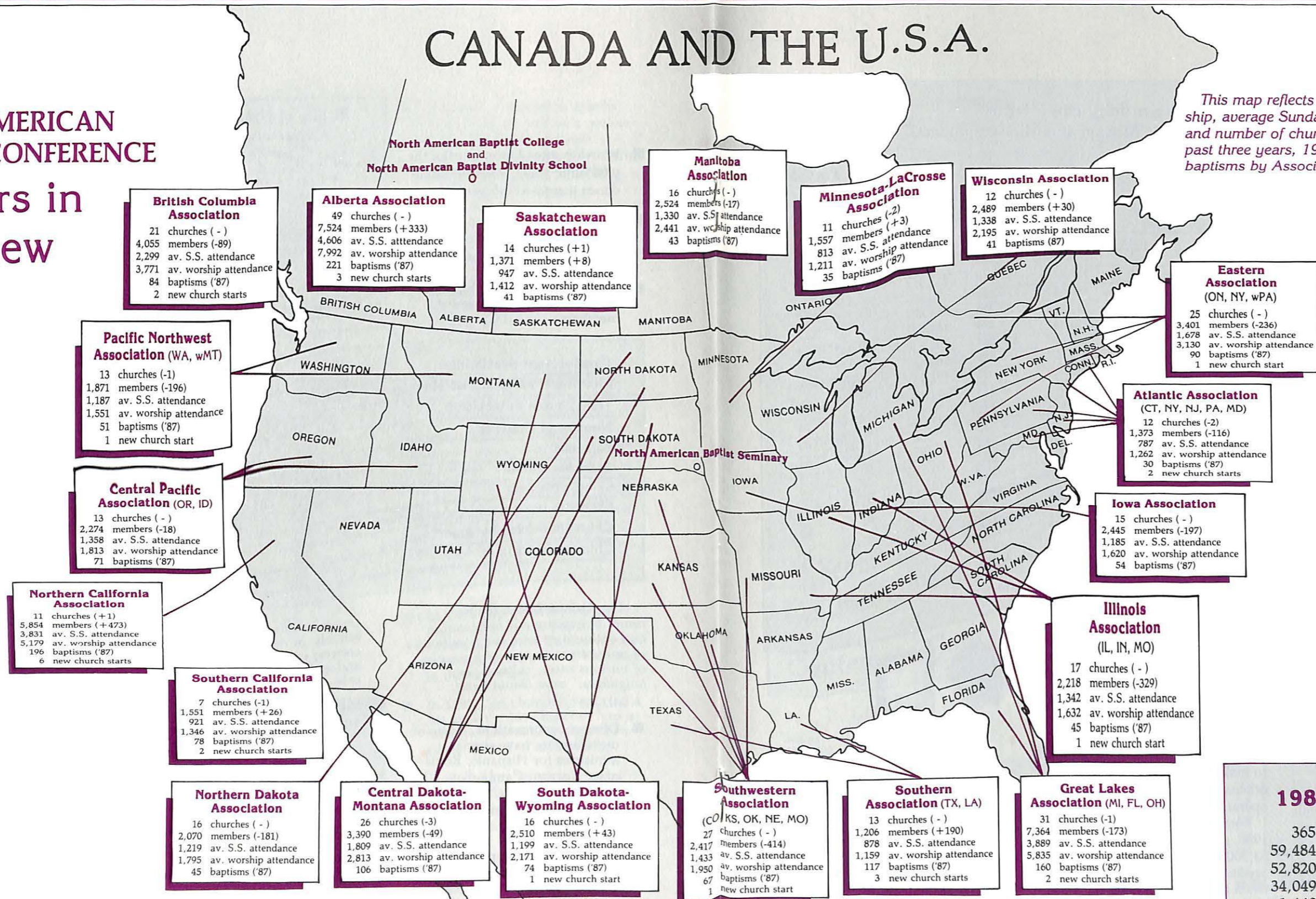


CANADA AND THE U.S.A.

This map reflects the number of churches, membership, average Sunday school and worship attendance, and number of church starts in each Association over the past three years, 1985-87. It also includes the number of baptisms by Association in 1987.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

3 years in review



1987 Statistics Totals

365 Churches (-8)*
 59,484 Members (-909)
 52,820 Av. worship attendance
 34,049 Av. S.S. attendance
 1,649 Baptisms
 25 New Church Starts
 (1/1/85 - 6/1/88)

* 3 Year: increase + or decrease -



- God has generously met our ministry needs through His people.
- Total giving for Conference ministries by N.A.B. Conference churches and individuals grew from \$5,782,219 in 1984 to \$6,583,310 in 1987, an increase of \$801,091.
- Giving to the Basic Mission and Ministry Budget has increased very slightly during the past three years.
- Undesignated giving to the Basic Budget increased slightly.
- Giving to the Growth Budget (specials) has nearly doubled in three years.
- The increased Growth Budget now includes not only such things as refrigerators and vehicles but also people and their ministry funds, as some career missionaries and some new church starts raise their own support.
- Even though Basic Mission and Ministry Budget goals were not achieved, expenditures were controlled; Department Directors adhered to the Conference mandate: no deficit spending.

Where the money came from
(for the Basic Mission and Ministry Budget)

Association	1984	1985	1986	1987	Per Capita '87
Alberta	\$665,786	\$712,005	\$690,400	\$677,448	\$90
Great Lakes	462,504	492,534	499,460	503,956	68
British Columbia	356,660	358,975	397,720	366,474	90
Manitoba	309,639	307,496	286,083	291,842	116
Eastern	200,299	218,748	233,600	244,820	72
Northern California	159,214	199,018	215,964	195,442	33
Central Dakota-Montana	172,713	175,601	183,306	194,748	57
South Dakota-Wyoming	147,597	153,276	151,447	180,345	72
Minnesota-LaCrosse	139,587	159,126	157,793	178,463	113
Southwestern	223,685	213,951	200,839	170,167	70
Illinois	172,771	166,289	165,181	170,017	77
Iowa	162,903	151,652	174,404	165,073	68
Northern Dakota	168,575	148,213	144,173	152,186	74
Central Pacific	131,691	142,566	143,542	140,854	62
Wisconsin	103,933	109,303	110,041	133,570	54
Saskatchewan	109,498	121,023	106,223	99,559	73
Pacific Northwest	94,077	92,876	103,258	96,209	51
Southern California	73,485	86,834	116,121	91,909	59
Atlantic	84,437	91,008	86,253	81,476	59
Southern	44,056	45,268	39,175	44,796	37
Inter Association	20,111	41,116	46,551	43,047	
Total	\$4,003,220	\$4,186,878	\$4,251,534	\$4,222,399	\$71

*This is a mixture of U.S. and Canadian funds.

Capital Funds

The "Building on the Foundations of Faith" Capital Funds Campaign, launched in the fall of 1983, has provided funds to enable our Conference and several Associations to make strategic advances not otherwise possible on annual operating budget funds.

Total contributions as of May 5, 1988, are \$3,036,076 toward the \$3,300,000 goal. About \$200,000 is needed before December 31, 1988, when the campaign officially concludes.



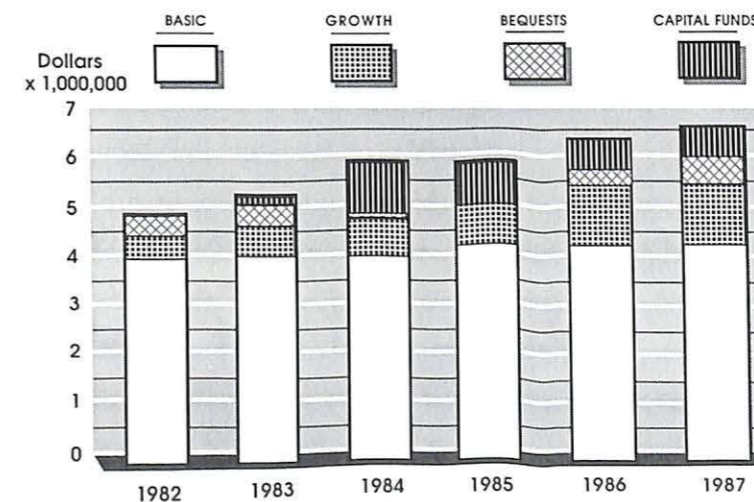
(For more financial information, write Financial Services Director, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.)

How the money was used

Basic Budget	1985	1986	1987
Missions	\$1,629,493	\$1,631,525	\$1,629,173
Church Growth	864,307	901,881	955,675
College/Divinity School	308,784	319,021	364,603
Seminary	370,442	365,851	364,603
General Council	174,731	158,378	173,084
Development	409,905	397,150	425,002
Area Ministries	253,139	249,739	238,553
Interest/exchange	215,381	181,118	95,174
Total Expense	\$4,226,181	4,204,662	4,245,866
Growth Budget			
Church Growth	76,440	75,730	96,903
Overseas Missions	391,713	813,951*	803,929
Conference Services	307,674	367,828	413,464
Total Growth Budget	775,826	1,257,509	1,314,295
Variance Income/Expense	(39,305)	46,872	(23,468)
Basic & Growth Expense	4,962,704	5,509,043	5,536,695
Bequest Income			
	37,089	146,371	437,239
Capital Funds			
	797,121	605,291	609,376
Total	\$5,796,914	\$6,260,706	\$6,583,310

*Includes Cameroon Relief Disaster \$200,000

Six Year Total Conference Contribution Income

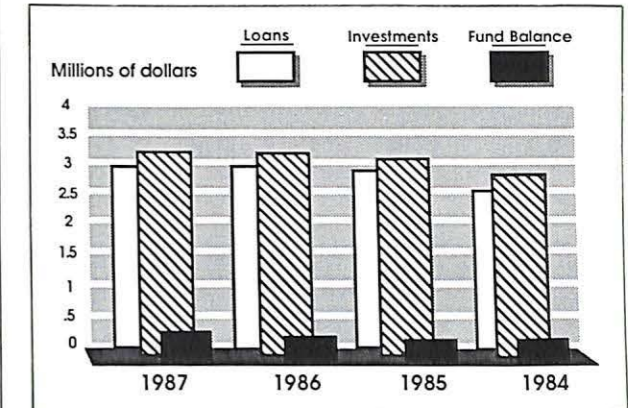


*N.A.B. dollars are a mixture of Canadian and U.S. dollars.

Church Extension Investors Fund

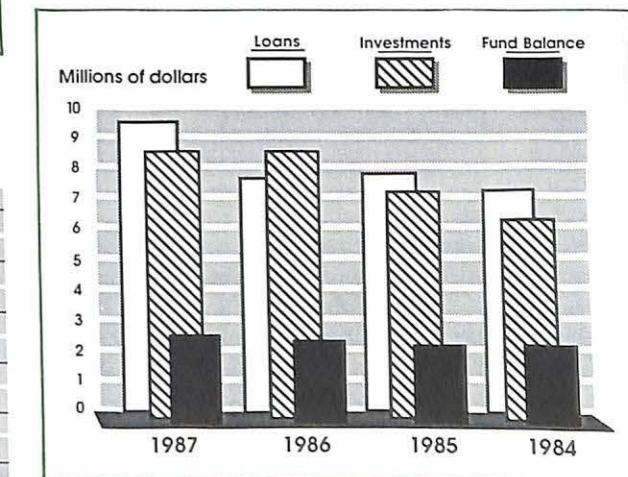
Over the past three years, Church Extension Investors Fund (C.E.I.F.) loaned more than \$5.3 million to 27 North American Baptist Conference churches to finance their building construction or land purchase.

Growth of the Canadian Fund



Loan Growth: more than \$2,982,000*, Investment Growth: more than \$3,275,000*, and Fund Balance Growth: increased 49% to more than \$253,000.

Growth of the U.S. Fund



Loan Growth: increased 32% to more than \$9 million*, Investment Growth: now more than \$8.4 million*, and Fund Balance Growth: the equity has expanded by 4.6% to almost \$2.5 million.



North American Baptist College and Divinity School

"The church is always only one generation away from extinction." The realization of this fact provides strong impetus for the provision of educational opportunities in a denominational context for the future leaders of our churches," says President J. Walter Goltz. "The existence of strong, dynamic, growing churches is dependent on lay leadership who are biblically literate and spiritually committed."

What has happened at the College and Divinity School over the past three years?



The College

Biblical training and spiritual formation are at the heart of the training program at the North American Baptist College and Divinity School. This program continues to provide vibrant, committed Christians who are willing to make an impact for Christ through direct outreach. This spring the Good News Ambassadors, a team of five students accompanied by Dr. W. R. Muller, spent six weeks in missionary outreach in Cameroon. Three students, fully supported financially

by the student body, spent a month this summer on our mission field in Colorado. Over a half dozen students are spending the entire summer in missionary service in various other countries of the world.

Important financial advances have also taken place during the past three years. The beautiful Schalm Memorial Library is completely debt-free, and the student dormitory will be virtually debt-free by the end of 1988. We are deeply grateful for the contributions to the Conference Capital Funds Campaign.

"Significant developments are taking place with broad implications for the future training of our young people for service in our churches," states President Goltz. In the College, the most significant development is the prospective affiliation with the University of Alberta, which is expected to be approved by the time of the Triennial Conference in July. Lay leadership training has always been an important emphasis at North American Baptist College. With as many as 75 percent of our young people going on to four, or even seven, years of post-high school training, the option of receiving the first two years of such education in a Christian environment become increasingly attractive. The rapid growth of the university transfer program is a strong affirmation of this development.

The Divinity School

The provision of theological education in a Canadian context receives strong support in the continued growth of the Divinity School. The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools is recommending that North American Baptist Divinity School be approved for Associate membership. This is the first step; the continued development of the Divinity School hinges on the ultimate achievement of full accreditation. A separate Divinity School building is projected for the near future, if approved.

"The building of God's kingdom is totally dependent on the existence of strong churches," says Dr. Goltz. The building of the church is an important function of the training of our educational institutions."



Education Statistics

	1985		1986		1987	
Enrollment	*f-t	p-t	f-t	p-t	f-t	p-t
N.A.B. College and Divinity School	180	54	179	91	224	104
N.A.B. Seminary	139		133		128	
Graduates entering						
N.A.B. Conference Ministries						
N.A.B. College and Divinity School	7		3		4	
N.A.B. Seminary	13		12		14	
Non-N.A.B. Conference-trained ministers entering service in N.A.B. Conference churches	26		30		35	

*f-t: full-time; p-t: part-time

North American Baptist Seminary

"The theme, 'A People of Hope for a World in Despair,' from the 41st Triennial Conference in 1985 has become a 'lens' through which I view the importance of ministry in a hurting world," states President Charles Hiatt. "As the president of North American Baptist Seminary, I have strong convictions about the important role N.A.B. Seminary fulfills in the process of preparing people for ministry. As a seminary, we are committed to the theme of Matthew 9:35-38, Christ's call to prepare workers for the harvest."

"Following the Triennial Conference, I was motivated by the urgency of Christ's call in Matthew chapter nine," recalls Dr. Hiatt. "I sensed an urgency to examine the North American Baptist Seminary's effectiveness in preparing people for a variety of Christian ministries. A passing remark about the age of ministers within another denomination prompted me to study our N.A.B. Conference age statistics."

"I was shocked as I reviewed the

age profile of our ministers listed in the N.A.B. Conference Association Reports. Many of our ministers are serving their last years of active ministry before retirement!

Available data revealed 180 (34 percent) of our ministers are currently age 55 or above. More than ever, a bold strategic plan became a wise next step.

"Jesus challenged His disciples to pray the Lord of the Harvest that workers might be sent forth. Since 1985, I have asked thousands of persons in churches and at North American Baptist Seminary Friends' Banquets to join me in prayer for this great need. Many have responded in faithful support. Thank you!



Others have been skeptical about my statistics. One minister did his own 'study' and discovered precisely the same critical dilemma. We need a large N.A.B. Conference work force for the kingdom of God!

"At your Seminary, we have launched an intensive recruitment effort to help meet the need for 193 workers in the North American Baptist Conference before 1993. As current ministers retire, people for ministry are needed now! In each of our churches, we must pray and challenge people to consider ministry or missions. 'The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few' (Matthew 9:38 NIV).

"The corporate world has discovered that their investment in college and university education yields quality people for their companies. This principle has a direct application to the needs of existing and new churches in our North American Baptist Conference. Unless we place a priority on the education of new leaders, we will face a crisis shortfall of ministers and church planters. We want to fulfill our role in providing ministers for the scores of new churches planned in the next three years.

"We come together in Calgary, Alberta, to join in our shared vision of reaching a lost world, a world of despair. North American Baptist Seminary is committed to prepare and educate people for this work! The Seminary is a place for growth, nurture, and spiritual development of people sent to us from your churches. Our growth, as a Conference, is directly related to a shared vision for education of God-called people for ministry.

"As I look into the future, I look through 'another lens' that reveals a lost world being ministered to by spiritually mature leaders open to God's clear vision in their lives and in our churches. Look through this 'lens' with us. Where do you fit in this picture?"



Planting churches may get your hands a little dirty.

Research and experience have well established that planting new churches is the most effective method under heaven for reaching people for Christ. It was true in the days of the Apostle Paul, and it's true today.

Those of us who attend church regularly take it for granted. And rarely do we think to invite anyone new to go with us. Which is why most established churches enjoy nearly zero growth in membership. Yet 70% of all Americans (75% in Canada) don't attend any church at all.

To be sure, there are certain communities that are "overchurched." But in many areas of the country one has to look long and far to find any kind of Bible-teaching witness. At the turn of the century, there were 27 churches for every 10,000 of U.S. population. Today, that ratio has dropped to 12.

This crisis calls us to action. It demands a new strategy for effective evangelism. It also has created an excellent opportunity for growth for the North American Baptist Conference. Our goal is to see at least 30 new churches in place by the end of 1990.

But this will not be easy. It will require vision, money, and hard work. Some of us

may even have to get our hands a little dirty in the process.

We've studied the population shifts taking place in North America. Warm weather states like Florida, Texas, and California are growing beyond belief. Similar growth is occurring in areas like Greater Vancouver and Toronto. This means we need new churches in areas where few N.A.B. Conference churches exist now.

This, in turn, means we will be asked to give money to help plant churches in areas where some of us have never been before. Others of us will be asked to help get new ministries started with ethnic groups we've never talked to before. Some of us will be asked to contribute our labor or time to help struggling churches get off the ground. In the final analysis, all of us will have to do *something*.

But what an exciting challenge! If you would like to know more about this new effort, we would like to send you a new brochure titled, *New Churches...New Life*. It will outline the task in more detail and suggest the ways in which every member can be part of this great challenge. To get your copy, please write to the address below.



 **NEW CHURCHES...NEW LIFE**
Evangelistic outreach through a church-planting strategy

North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 1-312-495-2000



Hosting you at the 42nd Triennial Conference are seven Calgary area churches along with the rest of the Alberta Baptist Association. The vision of the people who founded Grace Baptist Church in Calgary has become reality and blossomed from one church into seven ministering to their communities.

On Sunday morning, July 31, these host churches will join Conference delegates and visitors in worship at the Olympic Saddledome.

Grace Baptist Church

Against great odds, a group of 30 people founded Grace Baptist Church on June 30, 1912. These early members had a vision to meet the spiritual needs of their flock and evangelize their community. From its inception, the church, known as the German Baptist Church, ministered in the German language.

In 1941, the church voted to change its name to Riverside Baptist Church and subsequently to Bridgeland Baptist Church. In 1965, it became known as Grace Baptist Church.

During these years, the church went through four building programs. The first, known as the Applebox, was located on 655 Marsh

Road N.E. A second building, erected on 8th Street in 1940, and a third building seating about 400 people in 1952, housed a growing congregation. A significant increase came in 1950 when an influx of German immigrants moved to Calgary.

In 1975, the church relocated to its present location, 4030 Maryvale Dr. N.E. Since relocating, consistent and exciting growth has taken place, so much so that the present facilities are inadequate. The church is now planning new facilities at another location in order to minister effectively to the multitudes. The new church will be built in two phases—the first phase seating 1,000 and the second 1,700.



Grace Baptist Church is the mother church of all N.A.B. Conference congregations in Calgary and gave of its members and resources to establish Temple Baptist in 1958, Brentview Baptist in 1961, and Airdrie Baptist in 1981.

Our church theme for 1988 is "Sharing the Vision" taken from Proverbs 28:18. It has led the pastors and leadership of the church to work out a new Purpose Statement, reminding the members of the great task of evangelism and Christian growth.

Our newest ministry at Grace is "Church Dynamics," a program of study preparing leaders through one-on-one discipleship. It stresses evangelism, visitation, and the assimilation of new members into the congregation. Each member is encouraged to have a prayer partner and spend one half hour a week in prayer with each other. The result is a vibrant, visionary, evangelistic thrust in the church that affects the whole community.

Other effective ministries of the church are Precept Bible Studies, Youth, Senior Citizens, Boys and Girls clubs, Ladies', Men's, and Music ministries, just to mention a few.

It is exciting to be a part of the North American Baptist Conference fellowship. Our people have been deeply involved in preparations for the Triennial Conference which will take place July 26-31.

On July 24, our services are 9:45 and 11 a.m. - Worship Services and Sunday school; 6 p.m. - Evening Service. Our services on Conference Sunday are 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service at the Saddledome; 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship service at Grace Baptist.

A hearty welcome to you all.



Dr. Walter Kerber is senior pastor of the Church. Pastor Herb Radke is Minister of Music and Discipleship.

Thornhill Baptist Church



Situated in the northern sector of Calgary is Thornhill Baptist Church. This fellowship was founded in 1953 to serve the postwar German Baptist immigrants in their mother tongue and gave opportunity for the members to express their unique cultural traditions.

Though established on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, the early years were characterized by numerous seismic disturbances. These intramural conflicts profoundly tested the calibre of the commitment of Thornhill's members. Those who stayed developed a stamina which is still evident in their persistent dedication to God's work. These convictions have formed a stable substrata, supporting a fertile ecology of faith in which succeeding generations have grown and prospered.

Conscious of its mandate to minister to the community, Thornhill has gradually acclimatized itself to its host culture so that now the English ministries predominate. A Chinese service is held to minister to

as well as to reach the many Orientals in the district.

Thornhill Baptist, enriched by diversity, appreciates the distinct contributions made by our Jamaican, Filipino, East Indian, Japanese, and Chinese members. We encompass a broad spectrum of

spiritual experiences and emphases, including a sizeable charismatic community, which we consider one of our biggest assets. These members have animated our sense of worship considerably. Another healthy, vital sign is the harmony and mutual respect that exists between our pastors.

A recent highlight has been our involvement in an Olympic Outreach program. Exploiting the Olympic theme, we contacted 2,000 homes in our community, asking people to consider the criteria God will use to judge their performances in eternity.

We look forward to extending a warm welcome to you at the Calgary Triennial Conference. Our services on July 24 are Morning Service at 11 a.m.; Evening Service at 6:30 p.m. On the 31st, we will have Evening Service at 6:30 p.m. Let's get together and share the vision.



Rev. Siegfried Koslowski, senior pastor



Rev. Dieter Reda, associate pastor

New York City is

filled with people in need...



The NAB Women of Greater New York are launching a new ministry to meet some of these needs.

If you are interested in a challenging position on the cutting edge of Christianity...

You need to join our staff.

Call us, send a resume and we'll set up an interview at the Triennial in Calgary.

Baptist Residence for Women
68-31st Ave, Woodside, NY 11377

Mrs. Sally Prast
(201) 869-1321
after 4pm EST

Ms. Barbara E. Fiegas
(516) 593-1195 (office)
(516) 887-1764 after 7pm



Temple Baptist Church

Temple Baptist Church, organized in 1958 with 163 members, was parented by the former Bridgeland Baptist Church (now Grace Baptist). With pledges, sacrificial giving, and thousands of donated hours of labour and a few loans, the sanctuary and, a year later, the parsonage were built.

The Rev. R. Milbrandt was the founding pastor. Through the years, the Reverends C. T. Remple, R. Kanwischer, F. Schmidt, and H. Schoenhoff shepherded the congregation.

The church's membership reached an all-time high of 307 in 1968. A three-story educational unit was added in 1966 to accommodate the Sunday school growth. Later, another house was purchased to be the second parsonage. At present, our membership stands at 260.

With 22 children in the nursery department and three mothers expecting, our nursery facilities are inadequate. Presently, we are adding to our sanctuary a larger entrance

with a larger nursery, a library, a church office, and new pastors' offices.

Highlights of the recent past were the evangelism seminar with Larry Janz and the ordination of our newly appointed North American Baptist Conference missionary appointee to Brazil, Keith Bienert.

As to the future, we are preparing for a church growth program by Campus Crusade, "Church Dynamics," and also a children's midweek program.

We invite you to let us welcome you to the Triennial Conference. Temple Baptist's services on July 24 are German Service at 9:45 a.m., English Service at 11:00 a.m. On the 31st, there will be no services at our church, as we will be worshipping God with Conference delegates and friends at the Olympic Saddledome.

Temple Baptist is located near the intersection of highways #1 and #2 in N.E. Calgary, only 20 minutes from the International Airport.



Rev. Gerhard Poschwatta, senior pastor



Rev. Marlo Fritzke, assistant pastor

The Rev. Gerhard Poschwatta is senior pastor, and the Rev. Marlo Fritzke is assistant pastor of the Temple Church.

Chaplain Wanted for

Haven, Sunnyside,
and Garden Homes

N.A.B. Conference affiliated
retirement and nursing homes

The present chaplain, the Rev. Walter Hoffman, will be retiring mid December 1988. Resume and application can be made to

Board of Directors,
Haven, Sunnyside,
and Garden Homes,
1720 Bell St. SW,
Medicine Hat, AB, T1A G51.

WHEN THE HEDGES ARE DOWN,
Linda Rempel Zimmerman with Betty Mae Dyck
(Introduction by Joni Eareckson Tada)
Welch Publishing Company Limited.
Price: \$9.95

The author, Linda Rempel Zimmerman, grew up in a rugged pioneer area of eastern Manitoba, Canada. "At the age of twelve, this childhood friend of mine became a victim of polio with medical help sixty miles away," says Betty Beutler of California. "Due to delayed medical treatment, complete paralysis had set in, and restorative therapy was a daily excruciating ordeal. Her trust in God, her will to live, and her courageous, cheerful spirit, challenged my teenage heart to a complete surrender of my life to God. All this along with the support of her loving family, made her an overcomer."

Despite her severe handicap, Linda became a pianist, singer, professional music instructor, playwright, and director of youth. She writes, "At age 40, my 50-year-old Prince Charming—Oscar—brought a sparkle to my eyes, that matched the sparkler on my left hand!" For over 30 years they have weathered storms, fire, illness, and tragedy.

"I believe that for today's troubled youth, her story is an open display of what God accomplishes in and through a life yielded to His power and tender love," says Betty Beutler.

Brentview Baptist Church

Brentview Baptist Church, originally planned as a relocation project of Bridgeland Baptist Church, (now known as Grace Baptist) continues to minister in full view of the beautiful Rockies in the university area of Calgary. When a Sunday school canvass of the Bridgeland area in 1960 resulted in only a few new children, a decision was made to seriously look at newer areas of the city.

The university area was chosen, land purchased, and construction started in 1962. By this time, further consideration and meetings had led to the decision that there should be two churches. Bridgeland, therefore, remained in its location, and 59 members went to the North West and organized Brentview Baptist Church.

Four senior pastors and many more assistants and workers have helped Brentview grow to its present group of more than 600. In addition, Hawkwood Baptist Fellowship has been planted and organized; it now ministers to more than 100 people in the North West quadrant.

Ministries at Brentview are based on needs. Children's work was seen as important, so the gym was built first. Vacation Bible School, Children's Choir, and Children's Church continue to function. Children do grow; therefore an active program for all ages of youth has been developed.

Many singles live and work in cities. Brentview singles carry on a program called "Solo Flight." Seniors, also, have something to offer and look for things to do. Times of recreation, fellowship, and devotion are provided.

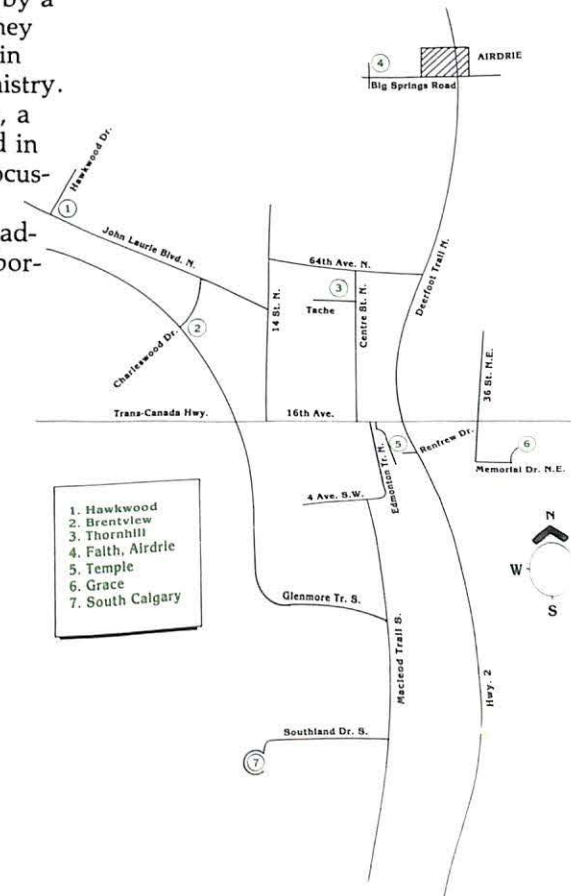
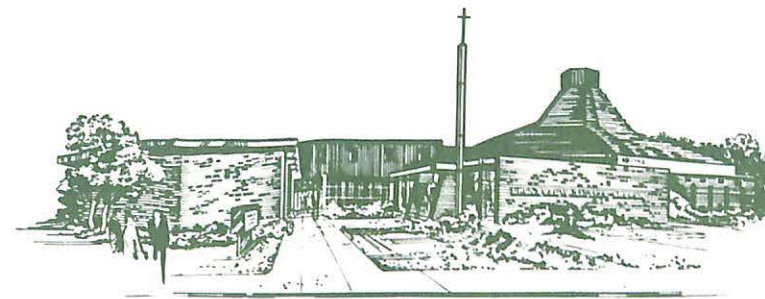
The church is presently committed to a program of acquiring adjacent properties for parking and future expansion. In the meantime, a house, already purchased, is occupied by a young couple of the church. They sublet to foreign students, and in this way carry on a special ministry.

At the beginning of this year, a series of ten lectures, conducted in the Sunday evening services, focused on current issues facing all churches. Experts in their field addressed issues such as AIDS, abor-

tion, divorce, and New Age Movement.

While Brentview will have no services on July 31, we do invite people to come for some of the pre-conference activities that are offered and attend our services on July 24. An outdoor breakfast is planned for 8:30 a.m., followed by the regular 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. Sunday school sessions are conducted simultaneously with both services. SEE YOU IN CALGARY!

The Rev. Ron Kernohan is senior pastor; the Rev. Paul Wilson, youth minister of Brentview Baptist Church.





South Calgary Community Church

Teddy Roosevelt was honest enough to say about himself, "I am only an average man, but I work harder at it than the average man." I want to be that honest about South Calgary Community Church—we're average, but we have always asked God to do better than average things in our ministry.

That attitude was born in the heart of the founding pastor, Dr. Frank Berg. As a young North American Baptist Seminary graduate in the early seventies, he came to Calgary as one of the early church planters in our present era of church extension. Out of a core group of four adults and six Christians, South Calgary Community Church has become a congregation of 400, the majority of whom are first generation Christians.

It is out of that sincere persistence to ask God for something better than average that South Calgary Community Church has uniquely experienced God's blessing. Recently, in a time of facing some par-

ticularly difficult issues, Pastor Steven Berg sensed that God was calling us to prayer, as we had not prayed before. Finding agreement among the elders, he stood before the people with this challenge: "For 21 days, we must wait on God in prayer and fasting, and He will answer us. Each morning at 6 a.m.,

we will meet here to pray. Our part is to bring before God not less than 40 people."

That following morning, a group of nearly 60 people waited on God. Many days there were more than 100; never were there less than 50. More significantly, however, the Spirit of God was powerfully present. Since then, almost nothing has remained the same.

That is an example of who we are here at S.C.C.C.—average people who ask God to do better than the average things.

As you visit Calgary this month for the 42nd Triennial Conference, we would be delighted to welcome you on July 24 at 9 a.m. to Sunday school and ACTS classes, at 10:30 a.m. to worship, and at 6 p.m. to praise and ministry service.

On July 31, we join Conference delegates and visitors at the Saddle-dome for worship.



Rev. Steven Berg,
senior pastor



Rev. Perry Friesen,
assistant pastor

Faith Community Baptist Church, Airdrie

Faith Community Baptist Church of Airdrie began in 1981 as the result of the vision and concern of Grace Baptist, its parent Church in Calgary. A Bible study group, meeting regularly, formed the nucleus for this Church. Rev. Harold and Ruth Weiss came in October of that year, and under Rev.

Weiss' leadership, the Church was organized and programs started to seek to meet the needs of the growing congregation and also to effectively reach out into the rapidly growing community.

With the regular program underway, including Sunday school, ladies meetings, and adult

fellowship, the need to organize an evangelistic outreach ministry became evident. As a result, Evangelism Explosion training was conducted in our Church. This outreach program has been very effective in following up Church contacts and door-to-door calling. Many Evangelism Explosion converts have then come to the Church for fellowship, and spiritual nurturing, been baptized, and become active in the Church. Some of them in return, have taken the EE training and become most effective in this ministry.

Another very successful program is the AWANA club begun in January 1987. Over half of the children coming to AWANA are from outside the Church family. Some of the children now attend Sunday school and youth activities as well. Parents are very supportive of the club program. This was evident in the extremely successful Grand Prix night in March when around 200 people, the majority of whom were from outside the Church, attended.

Being involved in a Church with many young Christians in the congregation is exciting and, at the same time, a real challenge to make sure they become strong in the faith. We invite visitors coming to Calgary for the Triennial Conference to visit Faith Community Baptist in Airdrie. Sunday services on July 24 are as follows: Sunday school 9:45 a.m., family worship, 10:55 a.m., and family praise, 6 p.m. Take Hwy. #2 north from Calgary to Airdrie, take the Big Springs Road exit, and go west approximately 2 miles. □

Since April 15, the church is without a pastor, when the Rev. Harold Weiss became chaplain at Evergreen Baptist Home, White Rock, BC.



Wiener roast at Faith Community Baptist Church, Airdrie - a Sunday evening service of fellowship and sharing (side view of church).



June 29-July 2, 1989, will be the 100th Anniversary of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. We extend a special welcome to all friends of our congregation to attend our anniversary celebration. If you are interested in attending please complete the portion below and return to:

McDermot Avenue Baptist Church
821 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
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 _____



Hawkwood Baptist Fellowship

Hawkwood Baptist Fellowship began in 1982 as a church extension project parented by Brentview Baptist Church in Calgary. It is located in the very northwest part of Calgary. For more than five years, the people of Hawkwood Baptist met in St. Rita Elementary School.

About 1985, the congregation decided it was time to get serious about building their own facilities. The building fund grew steadily until it was possible to start Phase I of our building program in July 1987.

The fact that a building now stands at 20 Hawkwood Drive NW in Calgary is a miracle. The hard numbers say that this could not have happened. But faith is stronger

than doubt, and the people of Hawkwood believed that they could do it. In addition to the sacrificial giving of its people, the parent church, Brentview Baptist, and the Alberta Baptist Association gave generous support.

Still, this building could not have become a reality without the volunteer help of our church members and friends. They put in more than 4,000 hours of volunteer labor—some of it skilled, but mostly, people were willing to be shown the right way to do something and then do their best. The results speak for themselves. We have a first-class facility that shows no signs of

volunteer labor (unless you look at the size of the mortgage).

We held our first service in our new building on January 24, 1988. The service dedicating the building to the Lord was held March 6.

Since then, the Lord continues His work in other ways. Eight people were baptized on April 17, and 10 more are indicating an interest in church membership.

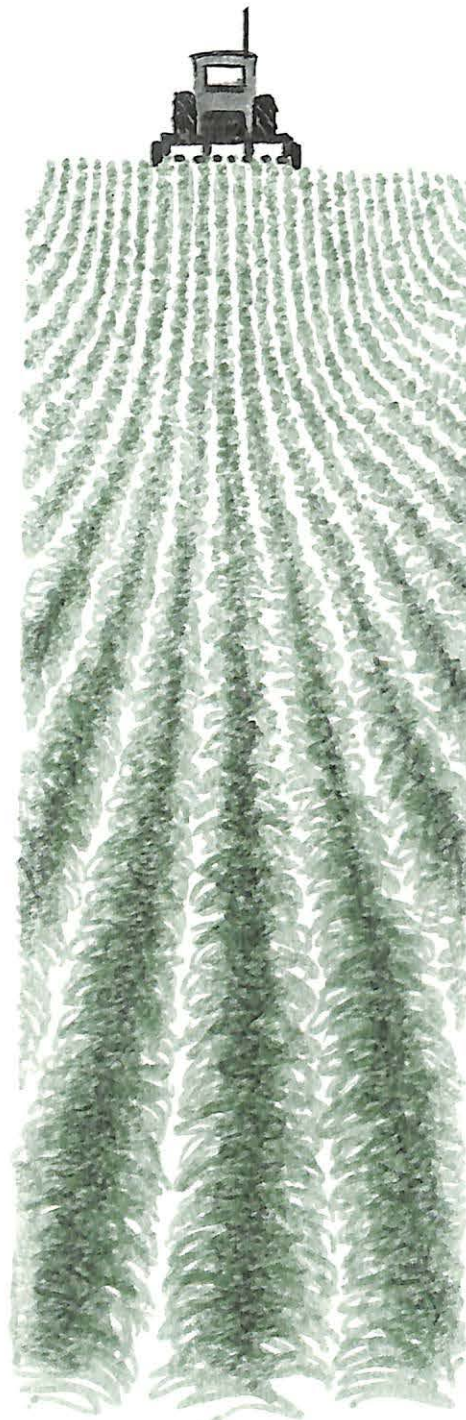
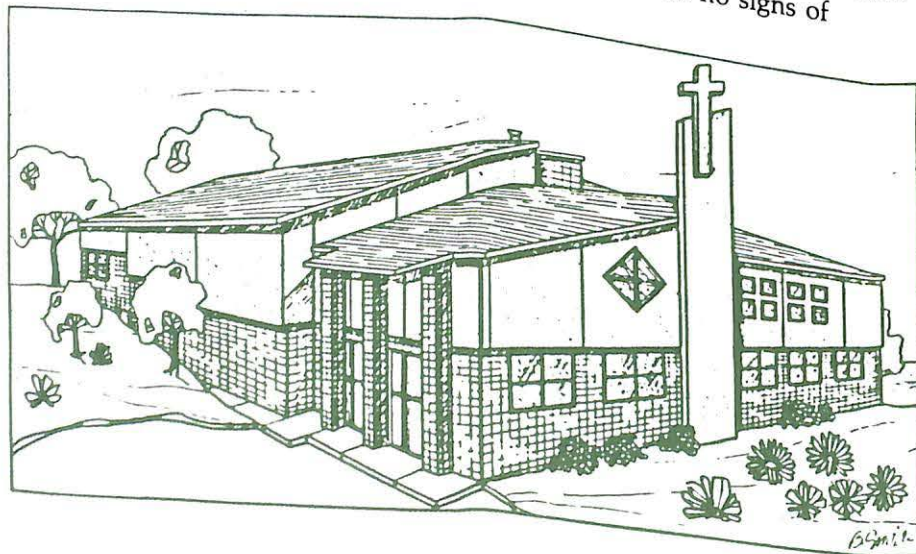
Perhaps the most significant event from a spiritual standpoint in the young life of this church occurred on April 29. The people brought their "pre-Christian" friends to a "Friendship BBQ." "In fact, we would not allow our own people to attend unless they brought a friend," says Pastor George Redington. "We invited evangelist Terry Winter to be our speaker. The results? Ten people indicated that they had prayed to invite Jesus to be their Savior.

Isn't that what a church is for? We praise God that He is allowing our church to be a "Gospel Lighthouse in Hawkwood" as our area minister, the Rev. Charles Littman, challenged us to be.

We now look forward to being a part of the Triennial Conference in July. Our services on July 24 are Sunday school - 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

Our people have worked hard to help make this a significant week in the history of the North American Baptist Conference. We look forward to seeing you then. □

The Rev. George Redington is pastor at Hawkwood Baptist Church.



In farming, timing is everything. Ditto for church planting.

Farmers can't afford to mess around. They know there is an optimum time to get seed in the ground. They can't be fooling with equipment repairs or cleaning their fields when soil conditions are perfect for planting. They know they'll realize extra bushels at harvest if they "get while the gettin' is good."

The same is true of church planting. Never in our history have conditions been riper for evangelism. And never before has it been so apparent that new Bible-believing churches are the key to effective evangelism.

Recent statistics show that about 7 out of every 10 North Americans never attend church. The reasons are many. Let's face it. Many churches don't have much to offer.

Yet churches like those in the N.A.B. Conference—where God's Word is proclaimed clearly and faithfully—have what the world is searching for. But not until people have an opportunity to observe and see a church at work in their own neighborhood, will they have much chance to meet the Savior.

That's why church planting has become a priority. Not for tomorrow. Not for the next generation. But for us, today!

Of course, you don't just start a church without some planning. It takes people. It takes training. It takes work, prayer, and money. Our current plan calls for starting 30 new churches before the end of 1990. This means we must get moving.

Based on our experience, it takes an average of \$120,000 to launch a new church. These funds help with wages, materials, rent, and other start-up costs for the first three years. Based on our goal, you can see that we have our work cut out for us.

But the timing is most critical. There are hundreds of thousands of our own countrymen still without Christ. And we have the opportunity to reach them through this ministry. Can we afford to ignore this need? Can we afford to let cults and dead religions try to fill the void? Can we just continue to comfortably meet in our own churches without doing something about it?

If you share our vision, we'd like to send you our new brochure titled *New Churches...New Life*. It will outline the need in full detail and will show you what each of us can do to help seize this opportunity for the glory of God. Please write for a copy today.

 **NEW CHURCHES...NEW LIFE**
Evangelistic outreach through a church-planting strategy

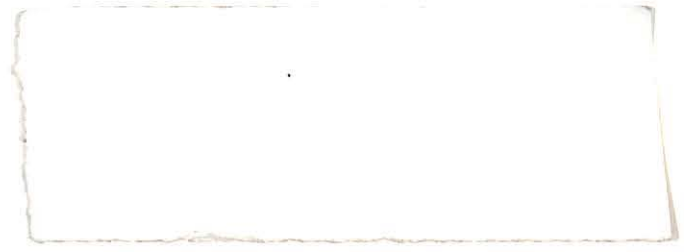
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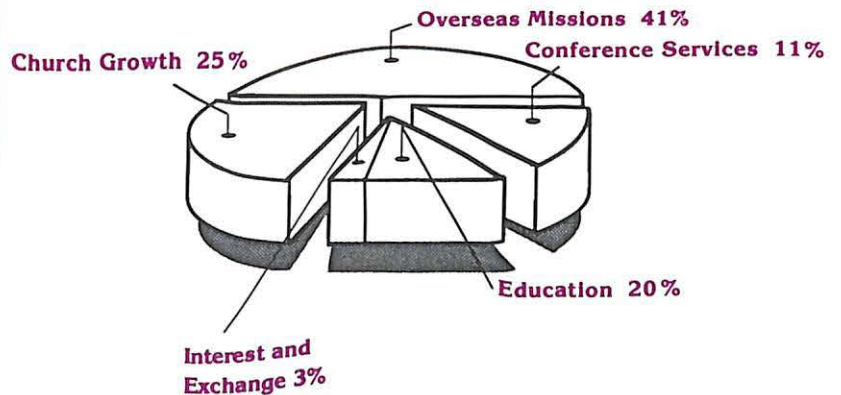
SHARE THE VISION THROUGH GIVING

As we recognize God's ownership of all resources of the world and our stewardship of what He has entrusted to us, let us prayerfully do our part in providing for the support of missionaries, church planters, theological school and college professors, Conference staff, and the ministries they provide.

Our Basic Commitments

1988 North American Baptist Conference Basic Mission and Ministry Budget

Church Growth	\$1,122,076
Overseas Missions	1,832,491
Education	906,800
Conference Services	506,932
Total	\$4,368,299
Interest and Exchange	121,701
Total	\$4,490,000



As of June 30, we have given \$1,516,162 toward the \$4,490,000 Basic Mission and Ministry Goal. Giving toward our Basic Commitments is running 0.6% behind last year—a year when we did not reach the goal. Please make this a matter of prayer.

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