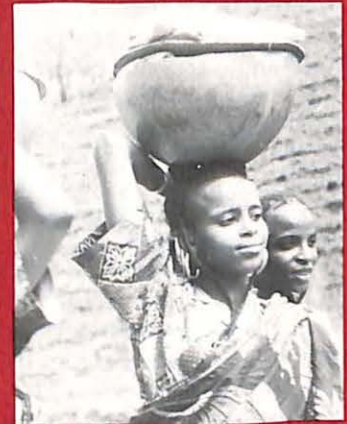
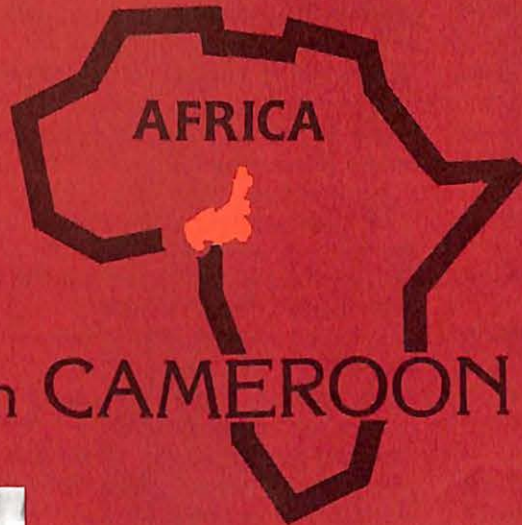
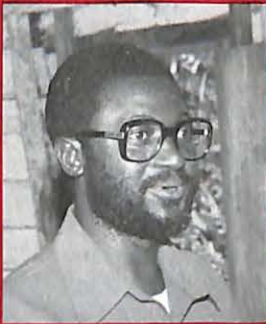


Baptist Herald

March 1988



Our Mission in CAMEROON



from the missions director

"A Son Is Never Old for the Mother."

by Ron Salzman

The ministries of North American Baptist Conference in Cameroon are demonstrated continually through the service of our missionaries. Some of these missionaries are featured in this issue as representative of our missionary force serving in Cameroon.

As the N.A.B. Conference, we minister in a myriad of ways in Cameroon through our missionaries. Missionary Dr. Helen Schmidt removes a huge goiter from the neck of a woman, who can then return to her family without deformity. Under the direction of Julie Cowie, short-term missionary, thousands hear the gospel witness over the government radio station. The gospel and basic health education impact a whole village as Missionary Daphne Dunger visits a remote village with primary health care principles.

A pastor-in-training learns how to study God's Word under the teaching of Missionary David Burgess at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. Field Secretary Dr. Oryn Meinerts assists the Cameroon Baptist Convention to steer a course consistent with its goals and objectives and also offers leadership. Missionary Wilma Binder, vice president of Saker Baptist College, trains high school girls for a productive Christian life.

At the core of our work in Cameroon is the training of future pastors and their wives at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary at Ndu. Here students learn to study the Bible, to preach, to administer a church, and to lead others to Christ. Missionary teachers serve as role models and educate future leaders in Christian

ministry for the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

Although the Medical Board of the Cameroon Baptist Convention is successfully Cameroonizing the medical staff, the need for medical missionaries who have specialized training is still great. Through quality medical care, North American Baptist Conference missionaries bring the love of Christ to people as they treat physical needs.

Christians have a new vision to present the gospel to Muslims, and we are uniquely positioned in Cameroon to minister to the Fulani people, Muslim cattle herders. The Board of Missions has set a goal to send a missionary couple to start this ministry in 1988.

People migrating at high rates to the large cities of Yaounde and Douala offer another new focus for our mission. These cities are targeted as important new ministry outreaches.

As with most developing countries of the world, Cameroon is a nation of young people. They are entering a technological, fast-paced world that even a decade ago was not deemed possible. New methods and more resources will be needed to reach the young people of Cameroon.

Media is exploding in Cameroon. Ghetto-blasters are everywhere. Television, the new medium, offers few local programs. Video rental often brings in the worst of life from other countries. But these same media offer increased opportunities for the nation to hear about Jesus Christ.

When Cameroonian leader, Rev. John Nfor, studied at North American Baptist Seminary, he en-

couraged the continued close relationship between North American Baptist Conference and Cameroon Baptist Convention. Citing an African proverb, "A son is never old for the mother," Rev. Nfor explained that in African tradition, the relationship between a mother and her son remains strong, viable, and protective even when the son is an adult. Likewise, North American Baptist Conference has given birth to and helped nurture its child, the Cameroon Baptist Convention. This strong, viable, adult organization values the continued support, respect, and working relationship with "the mother," North American Baptist Conference.

I believe that North American Baptist Conference mission work in Cameroon is poised at a unique point in history for developing Christ's kingdom in Africa. Cameroon is strong, developing, looking for its place on the world scene, positioned strategically on the line between Christian and Muslim population centers. The Convention with which we work desires to do more for Christ in Cameroon. Pray for renewed vision and fervor as the Cameroon Baptist Convention seeks to reach people for Christ. May God grant us the wisdom to work with our "son" in new and creative ways in the future. □



Mr. Ron Salzman is missions director for the North American Baptist Conference.

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Cover Photos: Rev. Philip Manjgong, Mbem CBC Church; Rev. Isaac Kome, CBTS, Ndu, and Rev. Peter Evande, acting evangelism secretary (top left), conducting pastors leadership seminars; Mr. William Tayui (top right), president of 40,000-member Cameroon Baptist Convention and principal, Saker Baptist College; Abel Kaah (lower left); medical ministry (lower right); and Fulani woman (right center).

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Relationships as Important as Jobs

"Missionaries Build Bridges in Cameroon"

by Oryn G. Meinerts



Samson Khama, CBC executive secretary; Peter Evande, CBC assistant evangelism secretary, Ken Priebe, CBC evangelism secretary, and Oryn Meinerts, CBC field secretary, ready to deliver relief supplies to Lake Nyos disaster survivors.

The Gospel has been proclaimed in Cameroon, West Africa, for more than 100 years. Many of our 40,000 Cameroon Baptist Convention Christians have grandparents who were Christians. Many other grandchildren of early Christians are not in the church. How can we reach them as well as the thousands who have no Christian background?

How do we, as missionaries, who are categorized as "medical," "educational," "administrative," or "evangelists," reach out to those around us? We have found that relationships are just as important as the job tasks we do. So, we build "bridges," bridges as numerous as our number and as diverse as our personalities. Consider the following:

Bee Westerman, treasurer at Baptist Centre (Cameroon Baptist Convention headquarters), has an active role in the monthly meeting of former Saker Baptist College students. She leads a Bible study with these professors, lawyers, nurses, and teachers, and encourages them to continue with the teaching they have had.

Some "bridges" Bee uses to bring women into the group are flower growing and arranging, how to make Christmas decorations, and straight, old-fashioned advice from concerned Ma Westerman. One of

Bee's aims, as she gets to understand the gals and their problems, is to help heal relationships.

Kathy Kroll, director of the Private School of Nursing and Midwifery at Bansa Hospital, uses her home as a "bridge." She invites Cameroonian families to join her for a meal on a regular basis, and she visits them. Demonstrating her concern opens doors for Kathy to share her faith and to minister to the needs of others.

On Sunday afternoons, Kathy often has staff children up to her house. She teaches games; they read and discuss Bible stories; and she has had several opportunities to answer some deep spiritual questions.

Eric Spletzer, assisting in the Evangelism Department, says he uses the "bridge" of a smile and a simple greeting. People leave, knowing that someone cares, and that they have value.

Marla Garbat, homemaker and teacher of her three children, has used her cookery skills as "bridges" to know, understand, and communicate with the Cameroonian women. She has taught some of them how to bake, and she has learned Cameroonian cooking from them.

One morning, she joined a church member at her stall in the market. A special joy has been a Bible study class she has with two other ladies.

Roy and Gloria Weiss, who arrived at Bansa Baptist Hospital in October, are "bridge-building" by attending gatherings of the people. The recent Harvest Thanksgiving festivals at the Bansa Baptist Church and Bamkikai Baptist Church were outstanding experiences for Roy and Gloria, who found the enthusiasm, joy, and gratitude of the people to be contagious.

Roy and Gloria feel privileged that they could attend the Bansa Field Bible Conference and share about our North American Baptist Conference supporters and how you have been interested over the years in the growing church of Cameroon. They presented "Certificates of Merit" to six of the senior staff at Bansa Baptist Hospital.

Daphne Dunger, who was born in Cameroon, finds that many acquaintances from her childhood years in Cameroon provide "bridges" for relationships and opportunities for sharing, challenging, counselling, and loving in Jesus' name. At present, Daphne, who is Director of the Life Abundant Program, is praying that her friendship, help, and love will speak to the

heart of a Hausa (Muslim) chief who knew her and her family when she was a child.

David Burgess, principal of the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, has many unique contacts through the animal farm (cows and chickens), which he has helped develop at the Seminary. Better nutrition for Seminary students, future farmer/pastors in the ministry, and multifaceted relationships are side effects of his love in action.

One of my own "bridges" at this time seems to be my skill as a driver and a pocket full of gas money. We have a very active youth president in Bamenda Field. He has called on us to help train his youth, and frequently asks me to chauffeur a busload of youth to various churches where they witness to the community and present programs. As a willing chauffeur, I have a good opportunity to give input to this youth Gospel ministry team's thinking and to encourage them in their Christian service.

In addition to these "extracurricular bridges," we, like Helen Marie Schmidt, surgeon at Bansa Baptist Hospital, try to use our specialized skills to open people up to the Gospel of Christ. A smile and concern for the patient who comes



Missionary Patricia Meinerts greets Rev. S. N. Ngum, executive secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

in the middle of the night and interest in the ongoing welfare of the person in the midst of hundreds of people are a vivid testimony of God's love.

To become acquainted, to demonstrate Christ's love in action, and to stimulate those around us to know and love Jesus and walk with Him, are our aims. We try to accomplish these aims through many other ways. Please join us in prayer that in all we do, we may give praise to God the Father through Jesus Christ. □

Dr. Oryn Meinerts serves as field secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

Ministry to Unreached People

"Unreached People Groups Exist in Cameroon."

by Ken Jones

"World evangelism requires the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole world" (*Philosophy of Missions*, N.A.B. Conference Missions Department, page 7). As this is the heart of missions, so the lifeblood of missions is pioneer missions.

Today's priority must be to plant the Church of Jesus Christ among those people groups that have no church of their own, groups in which the Gospel cannot flow from believers to nonbelievers, because there are no active believers in that group. Of the some 16,000 such groups yet unreached, about 5,000 are tribal peoples.

A number of these unreached people groups exist in Nigeria and Cameroon, especially in the remote border areas between the two countries. Seventeen villages in one of these areas were penetrated by a Baptist pastor about two years ago. Some knowledge of the Gospel was in a few of these villages decades ago, but like seed falling on rocky ground, it soon died out except for a vestige in a few border towns. This confirms the need for discipling new Christians.

Now, twelve of these villages in the Furu-awa district have been evangelized, and disciples have been made. These have been baptized and enlisted to form local churches. The most difficult task has been edifying them—building them up as Children of Light who can stand against temptation and be obedient to their

new Lord in spreading the Good News.

These new Christians have many questions as they turn from idols to serve the true and living God. "What shall we do with our shrines? These are in respect to our fathers and their traditions." "How shall we find leaders for our church? Most of our responsible men already have more than one wife." "What shall we do when our children get sick? How can we know how to treat our sickness if we do not go to the sorcerer for divination to find the cause?" "Why do our ancestors, at times, cause us to become sick or give us ill fortune?" "Why does God allow us to have trouble now that we have received Jesus as our Savior?"

In addition, these people have no scripture in their own language, and most are illiterate. The scarce English Bibles do them little good. Pastor Kindong, who ministers to these people, can concentrate on only a small part of the Furu-awa district. He walks up to eight hours to get from one village to another. Now, he has a helper, Pastor Fointama, who serves on the opposite side of the district, but this faithful pastor wonders how long he can carry on. He faces long separation from his wife and children, and his meager salary makes it difficult to care for them and pay school fees.

Helicopters are enabling medical-evangelistic teams to enter the villages quickly, but cost and

weather often limit this. Students from Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary and a few pastors have volunteered to spend summer and Christmas holidays with the Furu-awa Christians. In 1986, a team of young people from England was flown in, but they had to make the arduous trek out over the jungle and mountain trails when the helicopter went out of service. It crashed carrying loads into the government center.

Another Youth With a Mission team returned in 1987 and moved about singing and witnessing in village homes and leading Bible studies. The encouragement was effective. Christians began to remove shrines and idols, but these new converts often asked a pastor to assist them in this scary and unprecedented behaviour.

Next, Cameroonian young people led by a worker from Mbingo Baptist Hospital spent their holidays, franks, and sweat building a sturdy aluminum-roofed adobe meeting house for one of the congregations. We look forward to similar teams of North American Baptist Conference youth assisting in this kind of evangelistic and discipling ministry through the new Youth in Missions program.

The Life Abundant Program (LAP), currently under the supervision of Missionary Nurse Daphne Dunger, has completed a survey and plans for a first ever health post in the Furu-awa district. Two individuals, chosen by the village and

Pastor Kindong presents Bible stories and the message of salvation to children in the Furu-awa District.



church leaders, are receiving ten weeks of training in primary health care. A medical kit will then enable them to treat common ailments such as malaria, parasites, and diarrhea. They will also encourage sanitation and healthful living.

Mbingo Hospital nurses and doctors have volunteered to provide backup and a vaccination clinic four times a year. The helicopter is essential for this. With it, the staff can accomplish in eight hours what would otherwise take them away from the hospital for a week. And during the overland trek, vaccines would spoil.

In some people groups, such as those in Furu-awa, there are many who are receptive to the Gospel, and it is relatively acceptable to become a Christian. In other groups, particularly Muslim or Islamic groups, social and family pressure make it exceedingly difficult and often outright dangerous to profess faith in Jesus Christ and be baptized. Muslims make up 20 to 25 percent of the population in Cameroon. These 1.5 to 2 million people have yet to be effectively reached. They are a gracious and hospitable people—and good neighbors to us at Mbingo—but fierce with any of their fellow Muslims who defect.

Muslim theologians theoretically accept the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God. But although they respect Jesus and acknowledge

even His virgin birth and miracles, they do not accept His divinity or His atonement. Muslim scholars claim that the Bible, as we know it, has been corrupted. They debunk the Bible on many of the same grounds as Western skeptics and Modernists, pointing to the various versions, discrepancies in translations, and the supposed contradictions. From their perspective, the story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 bears this out. Surely Jesus, the Messiah, the Prophet of God, would not call any people dogs. Or, if the story is true, it shows that Jesus was only a prophet for the Jews whereas Muhammed was for all people. They even go so far as to say that the Counsellor who Jesus promised would come after He went away refers to Muhammed!

A few, very few individual Muslims have professed faith in Jesus. These are mostly in the north where the Lutherans have been at work.

Three pastors in the Cameroon Baptist Convention have been sent north to Ngoundere' for training in Muslim evangelism. Scott and Ruth Clark from Cascade Park Baptist Church in Vancouver, Washington, spent six months at Belo, near Mbingo, in 1986-87, making friendships with Fulanis and learning their culture.

Much wisdom and planning must go into this work in a difficult and resistant field. New approaches and

forms may need developing so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not needlessly encumbered with cultural baggage foreign to the Muslims. For example: Should hat or shoes be removed as a sign of respect? Should one kneel or sit to pray?

The Cameroonian pastors are presently working in their local churches. Some means of supporting them to enter into full-time evangelistic work among the Fulanis must be worked out. Above all, we must pray both for receptive hearts and minds in Muslim people and also for a receptive environment or community in which they can survive as Christians. □



Dr. Ken Jones is an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving as leprosy doctor at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

“God’s Power Overcomes Witchcraft”

by Daphne Dunger

It seems that the three or four of us on the LAP (Life Abundant Program) central staff find ourselves forever loading (or unloading) and packing (or unpacking), and so it was not unusual that one day we jokingly surmised that LAP stands for Load And Pack. But, we also find ourselves spending much of our time Loving And Praying...and it is largely through these two crucial avenues of work and ministry that LAP is helping people spiritually and physically.

Let me tell you about Prisca†, a woman in her early 30s who in her few young years of life has already experienced more than her share of trial and suffering. Only one of her four children was still living, and that daughter, now five years old, had been delivered by an emergency Cesarean section after being “rushed” out to Bansa Baptist Hospital, a trip of three hours over ruggedly rough road.

Prisca had nearly lost her husband in an automobile accident due to his efforts to prevent further disaster and injury to the passengers in a “taxi-van.” He, instead, lost his leg and, now five years later, still manages daily on crutches because there is no money for such a luxury.

While we were on one of our quarterly LAP Post Support visits in her village, Prisca suffered another agonizing experience. She had been blessed with a fifth child, a boy, now about 16 months old.

On the afternoon of our arrival, unknown to us, her little boy

developed a fever (common here) which quickly became very high, resulting in the child’s death in the early evening. Not until 10 p.m. did we know that this had happened.

After having wearily climbed under our mosquito nets and into our cots, we heard an urgent request

“Her family and friends were accusing her of being a witch and sacrificing her children.”

at our door to come up to Prisca’s house (a mile’s walk up a hill), because *she* was almost dead. The report was given that “only because she was still breathing, *small*” did they know that she was alive. Apparently, on her way to their privy, in her emotional state, she had either fallen or thrown herself (in a frenzy) down onto the ground, and then never moved from there.

About 30 minutes later, after examining her by kerosene lantern light, with many anxious family and friends surrounding us, we could come up with no reasonable diagnosis other than acute, severe hysteria, resulting in a grossly depressed physiological, psychological, and emotional state. No apparent stroke, heart attack, concussion, or other life-threatening condition seemed to exist. While examining Prisca, I had been talking to her, because I sensed that she not only heard but also was understanding, in part, what she was hearing.

We were friends, and I felt that what she needed more than anything

was loving, caring, and God’s healing touch on the snapped, overstretched “strings” of her heart. I knew that no medications we had available would be of any help to her at that point. I requested that all non-Christians step out of the room. We then held her and prayed for her as Pastor Nformi of our LAP team, Pastor Ndikwy of the local church, and I led in prayer, asking God to do His work of healing in her life. Prisca was then carried to a nearer house to rest quietly.

In the early morning, I went to see her and found that there was little, if any, improvement. I prayed aloud again, as I held her hand, and later in our morning Team devotions, we continued to pray for her.

Mid-morning during our clinic work, someone came in and reported that Prisca had awakened and had, with help, managed to come up to the LAP Post. It was wonderful to see her awake and rationally, though groggily, responding. We gave her some vitamins and malaria treatment and sent her back with instructions to others that she be provided undisturbed rest.

In the evening, the Pastor and I again went down to see Prisca. We found her “warming fire” with other women in front of the house in a courtyard area. She was almost her usual self, and quickly expressed concern to me about her one living child, Evelyn, asking me to help give some medication for her scabies rash and also for malaria. She obviously was worried that even Evelyn would be “snatched” out from her by sickness and death. I

assured her of help and again advised the others how to care for her.

As the Pastor and I walked back up to the church and LAP Post, we passed a small grove with Ju-ju fetishes placed in the middle (several bamboo “spears” thrust into the ground around a small black clay pot and stones and some bird feathers hanging on one or two of the spears.) The pastor shared with me that Prisca’s family and relatives were accusing her of being a witch

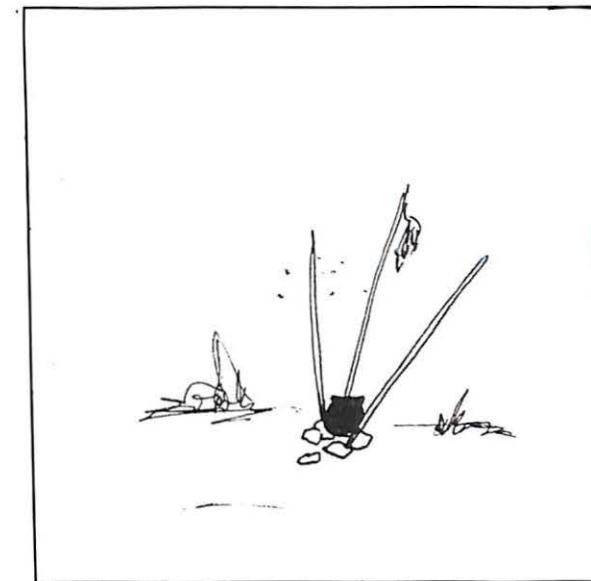


and sacrificing her children. The Ju-ju fetishes were part of the defense to prevent further actions by the witch, and placed there to harm the witch.

As the Pastor talked, my heart ached. Spiritual sickness. The work of Satan, holding and trapping people in darkness and agony in their blind efforts to explain life and death. The Pastor said he had not really believed that Prisca would live or recover.

The next morning dawned bright, but not for Prisca. She again was found in her “unconscious”

“We organized prayer teams of Christians to ‘serve’ her prayer ‘medicine’ T.i.d. for three or four days.”



state. We went to see her and again the Pastor reported that more Ju-ju had been “made” in the night against Prisca’s supposed witchery.

As I sat down next to Prisca’s limp form on the bamboo bed and again quietly talked to her, encouraging her to rest and pray and to trust herself into Jesus’ hands, I was inwardly sad and angry. . . and praying in the Spirit. Then I realized how we were going to *visibly* fight the spiritual warfare.

We organized prayer teams of three or four Christians to come T.i.d. (three times a day) and “serve” her prayer “medicine” for three to four days as needed. Those talking about witchcraft and making Ju-ju would see Christian action and God’s superseding power at work. And they did. His power enabled Prisca to “wake up.” The powers of darkness were broken up and pushed back for her.

Even though we, as a LAP team, left the next morning to go to our next LAP Post, we, together

with the local Christians, continued to pray for Prisca. What a joy it was to hear that she was fine.

What a joy it was three months later, on our next visit, to hug and rejoice with a smiling, alive Prisca. We continue to pray for Prisca and others like her, that a growing personal knowledge of *how to daily* fight the spiritual warfare may be a reality for them and that their lives may become brilliant witnesses to the resurrection power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

†The names of some have been changed to protect their identity. □

Miss Daphne Dunger is the Director of the Life Abundant Programme of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, and an N.A.B. Conference missionary nurse.

Banso Baptist Hospital's Ministries

"Banso Staff Recognizes that Healing and Spiritual Ministry Must Go Together."

by Kathy Kroll



The Hospital staff provides training for medical and nursing personnel.

On any given Sunday, the only non-clinic day at Banso Baptist Hospital, many of the Banso Baptist Hospital staff can be found involved in ministries outside the hospital. The Hospital Gospel team recently traveled to Ndu for spiritual emphasis days with the students at Joseph Merrick Baptist College.

The team also ministered to displaced persons from the Lake Nyos tragedy several months ago. (Lake Nyos is the volcanic lake that killed hundreds of people.) On the anniversary of the disaster, the people in the camps invited the Gospel team to return, because of the positive witness

they had made at the earlier visit.

The team members meet weekly for Bible study and for learning to share their faith. On weekends, they regularly go to churches in outlying areas to help present the claims of Christ to the people in the community and to help strengthen the local church.

Saturday evenings, students and staff relieve the chaplain by conducting evening devotions on the wards. Pastor Jonah Nfonkwa does a two-person job ministering to the spiritual needs of the many patients who come to Banso Baptist Hospital. Underlying fears often slow the healing process. Pastor Jonah shares Christ's

claims of salvation and power greater than the powers of the world to help provide spiritual as well as physical healing.

Banso Baptist Hospital is a referral hospital for a large geographical area. Several health centers, an urban dispensary, and many village health posts send patients for acute medical care and surgery. The hospital administrative staff oversee the administration and maintenance of three health centers and an urban dispensary. Each weekend, a doctor goes to a health center to see referral patients.

Urbanization and development have brought changes in lifestyle. Improved medical care has helped people to live longer. Some chronic diseases are being diagnosed more frequently. Specialty clinics have been developed at Banso Baptist Hospital for persons with diabetes and sickle cell disease. The clinics are an attempt to maintain optimal health for people within the limitations of their chronic conditions.

There are few facilities for patients with eye problems in Cameroon. Having a place to be fitted with eyeglasses and treated for chronic eye disease and eye trauma at Banso Baptist Hospital has improved or saved the eyesight of many Cameroonians.

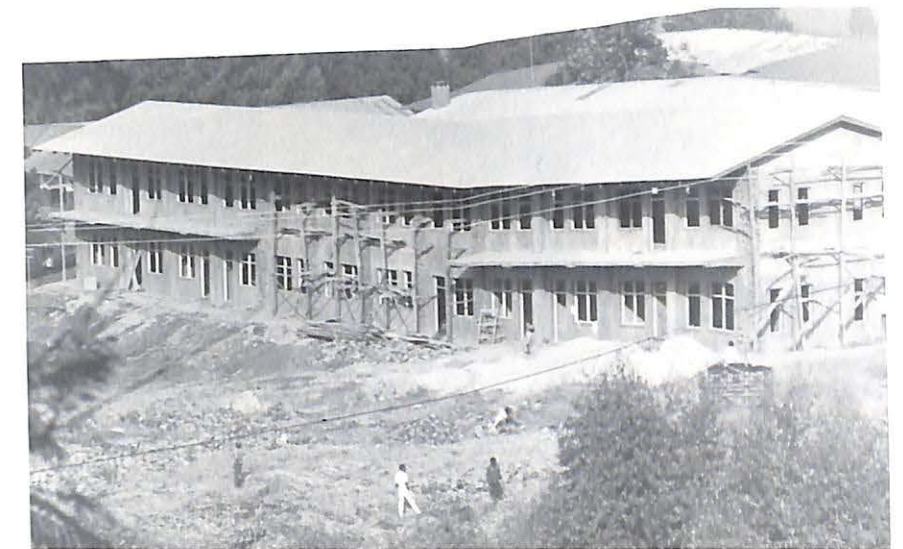
Trauma centers, intensive care units, or cardiac care units are not readily available in Cameroon. When missionaries get sick or are involved in accidents,

they come to Banso for care. A very important ongoing ministry of Banso Baptist Hospital is the provision of medical care and hospitalization for missionary personnel.

A much needed service that the Hospital provides is training for medical and nursing personnel through a cooperative program with the national medical school in Yaounde. Medical students come throughout the year for four month internships. Medical students from Europe and North America also come to learn tropical medicine and diagnostic skills without highly technological diagnostic equipment.

At the Cameroon Baptist Convention Private School of Nursing and Midwifery, nursing staff are prepared to work as nurse aides, nurses, and nurse-midwives. They work in Baptist, Presbyterian, and private hospitals and clinics. Some work in health centers and dispensaries. Others work in the area community health programme as supervisors in primary health care at the village level.

North Americans have had an active role in the ministry of Banso Baptist Hospital by providing financial support for medical and teaching personnel. They have provided shelves of Christian literature for the hospital wards. Many comments of appreciation have come from patients and carers for that ser-



Through funding from various organizations and personal gifts, a new eye ward, surgical ward, eye clinic, and laboratory facilities are being constructed at Banso Baptist Hospital.

vice. White Cross bandages and supplies are an integral part of care giving in both ward and outpatient settings. Used eyeglasses provide improved vision for those with limited resources who could not afford to go to the big cities to purchase glasses.

Through funding from German and Canadian organizations and several generous personal gifts, a new eye ward, surgical ward, eye clinic, and improved laboratory facilities are being constructed. The assistance of Layman-in-Action Al Stober (Kelowna, BC), his family and friends, is bringing that project to completion. The new facility will provide beds for the patients who now receive care on mattresses on the floor.

Recognizing that healing and spiritual ministry must go together in the pattern Jesus

demonstrated, Banso staff and administration continue to search for new areas of ministry. A seminary student on his holiday serves in the chaplaincy program to reach out to the Muslim people who attend the hospital. The employment of a second chaplain is anticipated. Join with us in praying that God will direct us in using our resources in ways that will bring the greatest glory to Himself. □



Miss Kathy Kroll is the Director of Nursing Education at the Cameroon Baptist Convention's Private School of Nursing and Midwifery at Banso.

Baptist Church in Capital City

"The Temporary Chapel Accommodates at Least 500 Worshipers."

By Peter Mabu



In the early sixties, a few years after independence and the re-unification of Cameroon, Christians who came from the former British Southern Cameroons, which later was known as West Cameroon, did not find it easy to worship in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. The problem was not only that of language but also that of maintaining their own traditions.

Language Problems

Baptists, like Catholic and Presbyterian Christians, were forced to start thinking of English language worship services and eventually independent churches in which they could worship their Lord with no linguistic frustrations. In the face of these constraints, Baptist Christians, who like their Catholic and Presbyterian compatriots had organized separate worship hours in the existing congregations, decided to intensify their efforts to have separate English language congregations.

Peter Mabu is an elder in the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church, Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, and Editor-in-Chief of the national paper, English Language Edition Cameroon Tribune.

For Baptists, the answer to their prayers came on May 8, 1973. After a fact-finding and sensitization mission, Cameroon Baptist Convention elders led by the Executive Secretary arrived from Bamenda and set up a church executive committee. This committee was charged with mobilizing Baptist Christians in Yaounde, evangelizing, and searching for land on which a C.B.C. church could eventually be built.

Mobile Congregation

The executive committee, headed by Brother Johnson Gabuin who later became the first chairman of the first Yaounde C.B.C. Church, used members' homes for worship on Sundays. This roving or mobile congregation grew so fast that within a year it became necessary to look for a classroom in which the Christians could worship on Sundays as well as hold other Christian meetings.

Fortunately, a place was granted the group at the Yaounde Government Bilingual Secondary School. This is where the group worshipped until 1982 when God showed them the land on which the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church is today situated.

Take Off

Ministry on that land began with a tent and an evangelism crusade organized by the then Evangelism Secretary, Missionary Ray Hoffman, and the group. The Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church worked so hard that at the time the "New Life for All" Yaounde headquarters pulled down the borrowed tent, there was already a temporary chapel partially completed for use. This served the congregation while it raised money to build the pastor's house and complete the temporary chapel.

Exalting Tasks

Today, the pastor's house is completed; a Health Centre is functional; and the temporary chapel has been extended to accommodate at least 500 worshippers.

Within the church, the various wings, especially those of the youth and the women, are leaving no stone unturned as far as sensitization and evangelization are concerned. Bible classes, established in the

(continued on next page)

"Baptist Dispensary Provides Care in Cameroon's Capital City"

by Betty Mantay

September 23, 1985, was the date that the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Dispensary opened its doors to provide care and healing for the people of Etoug-Ebe and the surrounding areas in Yaounde. This came about in response to the numerous requests for such a facility from the Baptist Christians in Yaounde. But, you may be saying, surely Yaounde has many health care facilities available to the population. Yes, it is true that there are a good number, but they are not adequate to serve the population of Yaounde, a city of around 300,000 people.

Right from the Dispensary's beginning, it was the aim of the staff to provide exemplary and compassionate care, thus showing the love of Christ to the many who come for consultation. Each morning, the waiting room is filled with patients eagerly seeking help for themselves or their loved ones. Many of them come as a result of a



Dorothy Killah (right) in consultation with one of the patients at the Etoug-Ebe Baptist Dispensary.

(continued from page 12)

neighborhoods of Yaounde, are keeping the Christians alive to their obligations. Close cooperation with the churches in Mbam Division, some 120 miles from Yaounde, is yielding fruit. The Etoug-Ebe church assists the itinerant evangelist's work in that area.

The tasks are indeed many and exalting, but we need prayers and courage to face them. One task we consider very crucial is the construction of the permanent Yaounde Baptist Chapel, an important undertaking which we believe can materialize if fellow Christians support us in prayers and material.

The Etoug-Ebe Baptist Church is hopeful that through God's will it will attain its objectives. Please pray for us.

good recommendation from someone who had come to us for treatment.

It is a devoted staff who work together to provide that care which is required. Even with our limited facilities, we care for seriously ill patients.

Tracts and Christian literature are available to the patients. Devotions are conducted daily with the staff as well as with the outpatients. The spiritual needs of the patients are many. We thank the Lord for opportunities that we have to speak for Him. Pray with us for discernment that we would be available to those whom the Lord would have us reach each day.

The biggest immediate need for the dispensary is the full-time employment of a seminary graduate to serve as

teacher/pastor/counsellor. Pray that this may become a reality in the near future.

Please pray for the physical and spiritual strength of the staff. Pray, too, for the remaining construction that needs to be done in order to provide housing for the staff. May we join hands and together thank the Lord for the opportunity that we have to shine as a light for Him in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, through our medical work. □



Miss Betty Mantay is Chief of Post, Etoug-Ebe Baptist Dispensary.



Teaching at a Baptist School

"Thou Shalt Be Obedient!" - A Positive Outlook

by Murray Decker



Baptist students march and sing to the glory of God.

I've never enjoyed the sound of the word "obedience" nor the people who tended to use it. "Thou shalt be obedient - now eat your liver and spinach!" See what I mean? Since coming to Cameroon, God has been realigning my attitude on the idea of obedience - a new, more positive outlook.

As Chaplain at Baptist Comprehensive College in Belo, my duties include teaching English, History, and Bible. At this secondary school sponsored by the Cameroon Baptist Convention, I also organize the various spiritual life activities, chapel services, choirs, and Christian clubs on campus.

I've been kept busy here, but I'm learning that busyness is a far cry from obedience. ("Get out of the kitchen, Martha; there's something more important for you to be doing.") I'm finding that obedience is a willingness to plug the hole that

God most needs you to fill. I've been called into situations for which I have felt completely unprepared. Yet I know that by offering what I could, I was being obedient.

Two months ago, on the spur of a moment, I was called upon to preach. Since this happens frequently, I am always prepared with a sermon outline in the back of my Bible. Only this time, I was to preach in the middle of the market for the church's Sunday market witnessing service. I swallowed hard and said, "Yes, I'll speak. If you need me to plug this hole, I'll be obedient."

Belo market day comes up every eight days. When market day falls on a Sunday, it's a huge event. I stood on a rickety old table in the middle of the Sunday crowd and let fly with my best John Wesley imitation. God was faithful to bless my message; afterwards I had opportunity to answer several men's questions.

Moses found out that his staff could be a powerful tool to do the work of God—if he was willing to use it. The same goes for any one of us as Christians. When we are willing to fill the holes God opens for us, we will be used in special ways.

It's a great feeling to be used by God. So if I'm teaching 1 Corinthians to my Class 5 students, or organizing transportation for a choir that's going to a contest, or preparing notes on Henry VIII for my Class 2 history kids, I've got my eyes and ears open, looking for an opportunity to be obedient to the simple commands of Christ.

Any old stick will do if it's an obedient stick. This twig is learning that serving God is more than being busy for God; it is being willing to go out on a limb to be used in special ways to meet the needs God needs me to meet.

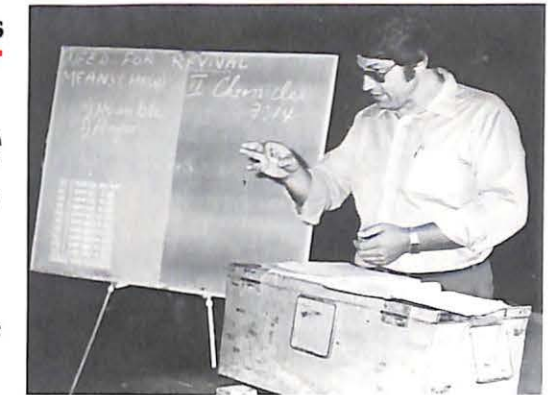
Pray for my work with the students here. Pray also, in a serious way, for the educational ministries of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Finally, pray that God would raise up young men and women from across the North American Baptist Conference to respond in obedience to the call of missions. □

Murray Decker is a short-term missionary serving as chaplain and teacher at the Baptist Comprehensive College in Belo.

Leadership Seminars

"My Pastor Is on Fire for the Lord."

By Ken Priebe



Missionary Ken Priebe teaches about the means for revival at Nkambe, Bethel Field.

"I don't know what was studied during the Deeper Life Seminar, but my pastor is now preaching the Word and is on fire for the Lord. He is a changed person, and so is our church," a church member reported.

Another pastor, who attended a similar seminar, said he is now committed to abstain from alcohol. Realizing what the Bible says about alcohol and the leadership of the church plus what it is doing to the people of Cameroon, he has taken a stand which is a witness to many.

These and many more testimonies have been the driving force behind the continuation of our leadership training courses and seminars in Cameroon. Every year, new commitments are being made to service, to the study of God's Word, to prayer, to witness, to evangelize, and to live the Christian life in an exemplary way. God has been actively at work: pruning, cutting, and molding all of our lives through these concentrated times of study and fellowship.

At these Leadership Training Seminars, conducted every year in each field of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, participants come together for three to five days of morning to evening study. Occasionally, there will be films or evangelistic services for the public in the evenings.

Every two years, we alternate the Seminars between the Pastors/Field Pastors and the Deacons/Chairmen and Deaconesses/Chairwomen of all our churches. Attendance is excellent, ranging from 20 to 130 participants per field. After each seminar is finished, we send follow-up notes to participants in order to review all that was taught. Some of the topics addressed are "The Work and Duty of Deacons," "Interpersonal Relationships between Deacons and Goal Setting," "The Importance of Planning and Goal Setting," "The Need for Revival," "The Means for Revival," "The Results of Revival," "Characteristics of a Servant," "Our Fight Against Satan and Sin," "How to Use the Thompson Chain Reference Bible," "Bible Study Methods," and "Ministries and Goals of the Cameroon Baptist Convention." Many participants took the seminar materials to teach in their own churches.

Those from Cameroon and our North American

Baptist Conference who have helped to lead and conduct these seminars are Rev. Philip Mamngong, Mbem C.B.C. Church; Rev. Ilijah Jam, Ndu C.B.C. Church; Rev. Isaac Kome, Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary; Rev. Peter Evande, acting evangelism secretary; Rev. Willy Muller, N.A.B. College and Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta; and Rev. Edmond Hohn, British Columbia area minister. This year Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, will be joining Rev. Evande in meeting with all pastors and field pastors on the field level. For the past four years, groups from outside Cameroon came to minister to the leaders of our fields and churches.

Our Evangelistic Campaign Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds! Before long, by faith, we believe that there will be a full-time Cameroonian manning that outreach ministry. We have most of the equipment needed to function.

Each of our fields holds one campaign per year. Some, like the Soppo Field, conduct two or three a year with hundreds making decisions to follow Jesus Christ and live for Him. This exciting ministry deserves our prayers not only for those making new decisions concerning Christ but also for effective follow-up by our pastors.

We are also attempting to conduct evangelistic campaigns among many of the unreached people of Cameroon: the Esimbi people, the people around Furu-awa, and also the thousands of Fulbe (Fulani). Much more needs to be done among unreached peoples; however, when God does provide a full-time crusade campaign coordinator, this will be possible.

The many areas of and avenues for ministry in Cameroon provide opportunities for church renewal, growth, and outreach. We praise God for the freedom and open doors extended to us. We need to seize every open and available opportunity now!

The Rev. Ken Priebe is our N.A.B. Conference missionary serving as the Evangelism Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. He is presently in the United States on furlough and a study leave of absence.

Former Missionaries Return to Mbingo Baptist Hospital

“We Found Change and Growth at Mbingo.”

By Jerry Fluth

Jerry Fluth, a medical doctor, and his wife Monie served as missionaries at Mbingo Baptist Hospital from 1961 to 1982. From January to June 1987, they and their son Kevin returned to Cameroon to serve as volunteer laypersons-in-action.

What a difference five or six years can make! The new freeway in from the Douala airport was strange, almost unwelcome. Familiar landmarks were now obscured by urban sprawl. Bamenda streets, clogged with rush hour traffic and blacktopped Mbingo Hill (where we'd been stuck so often), gave me a Rip van Winkle feeling as we approached Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Yet, once we unpacked our old stuff and moved in, we had to look twice at the calendar and the size of our son Kevin (born at Mbingo in 1974) to convince ourselves we had been gone at all. When Kevin immediately ran off to play with the friends he well remembered, we all knew we were home again.

Both happy and sad to recognize many leprosy patients, I saw my old friends still struggling with complications and resistant forms of the disease. Greater availability of new drugs from American Leprosy Missions is again offering hope of a brighter future. Prevention and management of deformity continue to be major challenges for Mbingo and Cameroon. My old notes needed updating, but I really enjoyed again teaching student nurses that leprosy is curable and preventable and that patients deserve our help and advocacy, rather than mere sympathy.

The big two-story, outpatient department and office block, which didn't even have a roof when we left in 1981, now appeared crowded. Patients from nearby villages and cities a hundred miles away came expecting the personal and compassionate care for which Mbingo Baptist Hospital is widely known.

To us, a major joy upon returning was seeing Cameroonian staff still faithfully serving in Christ's name. Some have risen to well deserved positions of leadership and are doing an excellent job. Both Mr. Moses Tawah, administrator, and Mr. Joseph Ngam, director of nursing services, are com-

petently filling positions held by missionaries only a few years ago.

Mr. George Nsah has been the shopkeeper at the provisions store for more than 30 years. He and his wife Elizabeth have always been an encouragement to us, and their desire to have a Christian home has been obvious. One Sunday, their family presented a special thanksgiving offering in church and invited the entire congregation over for dinner—just to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness. What a testimony!

The enthusiastic chaplain, Rev. Elias Mbieng, delightfully sincere and candid in his witness among patients and staff, also leads the hospital's Gospel Team in an outreach ministry. Sunday evening chapel services are always packed out. Pastors' Book Club, still going strong, meets monthly to share insights gained and encourage one another. TEE (Theological Education by Extension) continues to provide structured Bible study to hospital staff. Patients hear daily devotionals and personal witness. The Word is getting out at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in many ways.

Monie was especially thrilled with the spiritual growth some of her friends evidenced. Once little 3H girls were now leading groups of their own and practicing those lessons of Christian homemaking.

God's Volunteers teams are still a part of Belo (Mbingo area) Field's youth program, so Monie was especially glad to have a part in team training sessions again. The God-given idea, put into practice years ago, lives on in annual treks to inspire youth in other areas to share the Gospel.

Another of Monie's old jobs was waiting: embroidery work with leprosy patients. The beautiful work by diligent and often deformed hands is an opportunity to develop self-respect as well as earn a little money. They could surely teach us a lot about "godliness with contentment."

We found change and growth at Mbingo yet a wonderful sameness and familiarity. Thank you, Lord, for letting us experience Mbingo again. □

Jerry Fluth is a medical doctor in the St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota, area and is a member of Faith Baptist Church.



The Pastors' Book Club, which meets monthly, encourages reading good Christian books and study helps and gives brief reports of books read (top left). Teaching the blind to farm is a relatively new ministry at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. The blind become excellent and self-sufficient gardeners (right). Kevin Fluth, son of Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Fluth, enjoyed school with teacher, Missionary Nancy Grover (center). Peter Kum, 9-years-old, is on Multidrug Therapy. Because of early diagnosis, he will be free from permanent nerve damage. While at Mbingo Hospital, Peter attends school, plays soccer, and sings in the choir (bottom left).

world aid

American Leprosy Missions Help Mbingo Hospital Ministry

The North American Baptist Conference has a partner in its work at Mbingo Baptist Hospital: American Leprosy Missions. This 82-year-old, non-denominational mission works to eradicate leprosy, and care for victims of the disease in three nations, and collaborates with a host of other anti-leprosy organizations, governments, and mission agencies in the rest of the world.

In 1987, American Leprosy Missions (ALM) sent \$48,500 for the work of Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Most of the ALM funds helped

provide Multidrug Therapy, a combination of drugs administered orally to arrest the disease. The emphasis is always upon early diagnosis at Mbingo, since Multidrug Therapy received in beginning stages of the disease acts with sufficient speed to prevent nerve and muscle paralysis that can lead to almost irreversible injury to hands and feet.

These funds also help provide partial support for the services of missionary doctors, doctors, village health care workers, and hospital staff use these funds to

help provide healing for victims of leprosy. Cameroonians cured of leprosy return to their home villages with a dual message as a result of Mbingo's outreach: a message, still surprising to many, that leprosy can be cured and that new life is possible in Christ.

To help this ministry continue in Cameroon, please send contributions designated for leprosy work with your check made out to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Electronic Evangelism

"Baptists Are Adjusting Broadcasting Signal."

by Julie Cowie



Abel Kaah records a program for Sunday morning Baptist meditations, which is aired on three provincial radio stations. He also directs the cassette ministry making inspirational tapes for public distribution.

Young women warn bachelors to secure the three "v's"—voiture (car), villa (house), and video (television and VCR)—before even thinking of popping the question.

"Rambo" was Douala's hottest film in 1987.

Cameroon's urban centers boast many "discoteques," which assemble the buyer's favorite dancing tunes onto cassette, but no public libraries.

The Southwest Province has more varieties of Michael Jackson T-shirts than all of Motown.

As Africa plugs into the electronic age, the Cameroon Baptist Convention is adjusting its broadcast signal—and we're waiting for the reception reports.

The Communication Ministry of the CBC uses audiocassettes, radio, and even video to touch people's lives with the truth of Jesus Christ. To quote Emmanuel S. A. Ayee, publications secretary for a major evangelical organization in Africa, "The media is to enable the church to make its faith audible, visible, and meaningful to the world." We have the tools for the audible and visible task. Our challenge in the fast-changing Cameroon of more than 200 cultures is

Miss Julie Cowie from Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI, is serving in her second year as a short-term missionary in the CBC Communications Ministry.

to make sure the Good News is meaningful to a large variety of listeners and viewers. Our approach?

Audible Faith

The Baptist Radio Ministry, close to 20 years old in Cameroon, has two studios, one in Buea, serving the Southwest Province, and one at the CBC headquarters in Bamenda, supplying programs to the Northwest and West Provincial radio stations.

This ministry produces "Baptist Meditation," a weekly 30-minute program, featuring choirs of the CBC plus a sermon preached by a CBC pastor or convention leader. It also produces "Baptist Voice," a 15-minute program of news and activities within the Cameroon Baptist Convention. As there is no daily newspaper nor extensive phone service, "Baptist Voice" is a significant communication tool for Baptist Christians. Each studio produces a third weekly program.

The government-controlled radio, with one station in each of Cameroon's ten provinces, provides free air time to the Baptists, Catholics, and Presbyterians. On every religious holiday, the government provides an additional 30 minutes to each major denomination to encourage all listeners to spiritual reflection.

Visible Faith

Cameroon television, which began broadcasting two years ago, is only on three nights a week plus all day Sunday. Much programming is in French and imported. Thus, most TV owners buy VCRs, too, to fill up the empty evening and broaden the viewing choices. Many of the videotapes available from urban clubs come from France or Nigeria, with program content far below G or PG.

Our Cameroon Baptist Convention video ministry includes a rental library to provide families with a wholesome option to the local video clubs. We also use these Christian titles, Billy Graham crusades, "Jesus of Nazareth," and other educational videos on witnessing and Christian growth, in our CBC schools, hospitals, and seminary. Many tapes contain discus-

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Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary

"All Male Students Are Required to Do Evangelism."

by Alfred Bumuh



The Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary of Ndu is the only institution of the Cameroon Baptist Convention where men and women are prepared for the Gospel ministry in Convention churches," says Alfred Bumuh, former acting principal of Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. Ninety-eight students are enrolled in the Seminary for the 1987-88 academic year.

During the first semester of the school year, one week is declared as evangelism week. "All male students are required to go out into the Cameroon Baptist Convention churches to do evangelism," says Bumuh. A helicopter is rented to get the students to their various destinations. Otherwise, in some cases, it would take students several days by public transport or on foot to reach their designated work areas.

Several reasons compel the Seminary to engage in this project. Bumuh says, "First, the Seminary is committed to evangelism. This is the lifeblood of the churches, and our pastors need help with this work. Second, evangelism week provides training through practical participation. By doing evangelism, the students experience the thrill of leading souls to Christ."

Preparation for evangelism week begins early. "About six months before going out, we contact the

churches and make arrangements for the student's work, housing, and feeding," Bumuh continues. "In addition, great care is taken to team up the experienced students with the inexperienced. This allows for a discipling process during the week."

During this week of evangelism, students engage in a variety of projects such as in evangelistic crusades

"The Seminary is committed to evangelism," says Alfred Bumuh. "This is the lifeblood of our churches, and our pastors need help with this work."

and extensive visitation. Some students are taken to areas where the Gospel has never reached to reach unevangelized villages. "When one hears the report of the students upon their return, one can only thank God for our faithful Christians who provide funds for this project," rejoices Bumuh.

Alfred Bumuh is presently in Canada studying at North American Baptist College and Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta.

(Broadcasting from page 18)

sion materials for Christian leaders to use in home study groups.

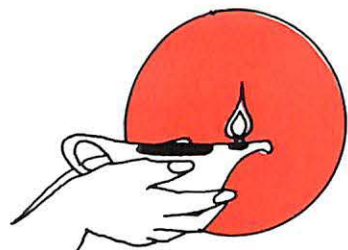
Television is a magnet. The average group of six adults watching in someone's parlor does not include the 20 kids watching through the window from outside.

Meaningful to the World

We use our own video camera to shoot Cameroon Baptist Convention productions: informative programs about medical or educational ministries; Christian seminars; special worship celebrations; choir con-

certs; and even dramatic productions that prompt discussion about Christian principles.

We want to set a standard for good video. We want to make it possible for families to watch quality programs together. We want to make sure Christianity is still relevant to that bachelor who is following the material trends of this world. High speed cassette duplication and multi-system VCRs are as much a fact of life here as delicious bananas and mosquito bites. The CBC Communication Ministry seeks to be culturally relevant to this new "people group" who are plugging in to the commercial lies of the western values of me-ism. □



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

Women in Ministry Around the World



Beatrice Nokuri
—Our President

Pat Meinerts, missionary in Cameroon, interviews Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri, who was elected to the position of president of the Baptist Women's Union of Africa in August 1987. Beatrice has been president of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Women since 1977.

She has been described as one of our Lord's great ladies. In addition to her service with Baptist women in Cameroon and Africa, Beatrice is a home economics teacher, wife of a District Officer (mayor), active church worker, and mother of eight children, three of whom are studying in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Pat Meinerts: Beatrice, what influenced you to become the active Christian leader you are today?

Beatrice Nokuri: Much of it was the close association I had with missionaries because of my father. When he went to study at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary at Ogbomosho, our family went along. I was very shy and was never one who would stand up in front of a group, but in Nigeria, I found that I had a facili-

ty for languages. I knew English and quickly learned Yoruba. We were close to the missionaries, and I would go out witnessing with them and do the translation. When we returned to Cameroon, I went to a Catholic secondary school where I joined the Legion of Mary. That was also a witnessing group. Later, in a Baptist Teachers' Training College, I joined a group that went witnessing every Sunday afternoon.

Pat: As a mother of eight children, how do you try to help your children grow in Christ?

Beatrice: We are all active in the local church, and we meet every evening at 8 p.m. in the house for devotions. I tell the children that 8 o'clock is a special time for us. After family devotions, we have a time for questions and time to give advice. We always ask them about their problems and tell them they should feel free to talk to us. There is a lot of communication between the children and us.

Pat: I understand that you are not attending the Baptist church near you, but you have helped start a new one down the road.

Beatrice: Yes, we helped start this one about a year ago. Many times, in the past ten years, I drove through the village of Bakundu Banga and only saw one church there. I asked if there was a Baptist church there but was always told that the natives were very superstitious and had many idols.

Then we were transferred to Muyuka, near this town. I learned that there was no Baptist church, but there were many pagan worshipers and some Baptists who were not attending church. My husband and I prayed over this.

I found one man who was a Baptist. We started door-to-door visitation. Our number increased every week. Since then, we have had two baptisms, and we have an untrained church helper who leads our group.

Pat: What is your role in the church?

Beatrice: I have always loved to teach Sunday school. No matter how busy I am, I must teach Sunday school. I am also the treasurer of the church and a deaconess. I try to give them a lot of encouragement. I want them to take over so I advise them on what to do.

Pat: How do you manage your time as wife, mother, teacher, local church worker, and national and international president?

Beatrice: It's not easy! I try to budget my time, and if it is the time for school work, I do it. If it is for cooking, I do it. If it is for Baptist Women of Africa correspondence, I do that.

My husband and I have often said that God has blessed us with servants paid by the government. Because of my husband's job, we have a free cook, steward, and yardsman.

I must also give credit to the "manpower" of the Women's Union. When I am pressed, others help me. The prophet Isaiah said that God will give us strength like the eagle's, and I trust him for that. For every responsibility, God gives the ability.

Pat: You also keep time for your personal devotions?

Beatrice: Yes, I have my Bible study time and days of prayer and fasting.

Pat: I noticed you using a notebook during the Women's Union General Council meeting.

Beatrice: Yes, I have three or four notebooks I use—one for Baptist Women's Union of Africa, one for FEMEC (an interdenominational Christian group), a personal one, and one for the Cameroon Baptist Convention. I tick things when done. I got this from a book Eunice Kern loaned me, *Disciplines of a Beautiful Woman*, by Anne Ortlund. That book has helped me a lot.

Pat: How does your family feel

about all of your activities?

Beatrice: They feel fine and give me strong prayer support. My husband helps with financial and moral support all the time. He considers the work a blessing from God.

Pat: In the Cameroon Women's Union, what are some of the areas where you have seen the most progress in the past ten years?

Beatrice: We now have more capable and better educated leaders. This is seen in that we have fewer missionaries in our Executive, (there are two, Pat Meinerts, advisor, and Annemarie Hattenhauer, Children's New Life Club director). Giving has also improved, and we have our own Home Economics Centre, which the women wanted.

Pat: What does being president

of the Baptist Women's Union of Africa involve?

Beatrice: It means visiting each Women's Union once in the five-year term. I plan to tour Africa in 1989. I want to encourage the women to keep to our purpose of fellowship and deeper sympathy and to support the Day of Prayer. I will also need to preside over the three Executive Council meetings and the General Council, and to attend the Baptist World Alliance meeting in 1990 in Korea.

Pat: What are some of your personal goals for the next year?

Beatrice: I would like to grow closer and closer to God through Bible study and prayer, both personal and in groups. For the Women's Union, my goal is from 2 Timothy 4:2: To train more and more who will train others.

Pat: Do you have special prayer

requests to give the women in North America?

Beatrice: For me and my family, I would appreciate prayer that we grow more and more united and deeper in our spiritual growth. For the CBC Women's Union, please pray that more women might be able to assume positions of responsibility. For Africa, we need prayer for peace in war-torn areas and for God's message to reach all parts of Africa. Where there is no peace, it is difficult for many people to mature in their Christian lives.

Pat: Is there anything else you would like to tell the women?

Beatrice: I want to thank them for their support of the projects and of our work here. They have been a great inspiration to me. I also want to thank the missionaries. I have learned so much from them. In whatever we do, may God's name be praised!

Triennial Conference Highlights

by Phyllis Buyer, Calgary, AB

As the Alberta Baptist women plan the women's activities, we pray for all of you who are preparing to come. As mothers, many of you are the key to your family's attending the Conference. It is important for you to encourage your whole family to take advantage of the well-planned programs for all ages. Here is an opportunity for both learning more about God and having fun in a Christian environment. As Christian mothers, we know how important this is for our children.

Pick up one of the registration forms which were sent to your church and plan a vacation around the Triennial Conference at Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988. You won't be sorry you did.

President's Corner

By Sara Pasiciel,
WMF president,
Steinbach, MB



MONDAY: This past weekend, the women of one of our Winnipeg churches asked me to speak about "People Who Have Influenced My Life." What a great experience it was to prepare this message! It helped me to remember men and women from my own past who, for various reasons, determined the way in which I would later go. . . friends of my mother, praying church members, college and seminary professors, missionaries who visited in our home, even authors of books I read. We are all very much a result of our backgrounds, and the people who have influenced us become a part

of the process God uses to blend characteristics, experiences, people, and gifts into instruments He can use in His service.

But another benefit of all this reminiscing was to have the humbling and even disquieting reminder that we *all* have an influence on someone else. All my life I've looked up to the older women in my life. Now I'm the older woman Paul spoke about in Titus, and I must be aware that everything I do or say—uncomfortable thought!—has some potential influence on someone else's life, either positive or negative. Which leads me back to a special verse, Colossians 3:17: "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

More than one half of North American Baptist Conference worshippers attend large churches.

Where Do People Go to Church?

by Lyle E. Schaller

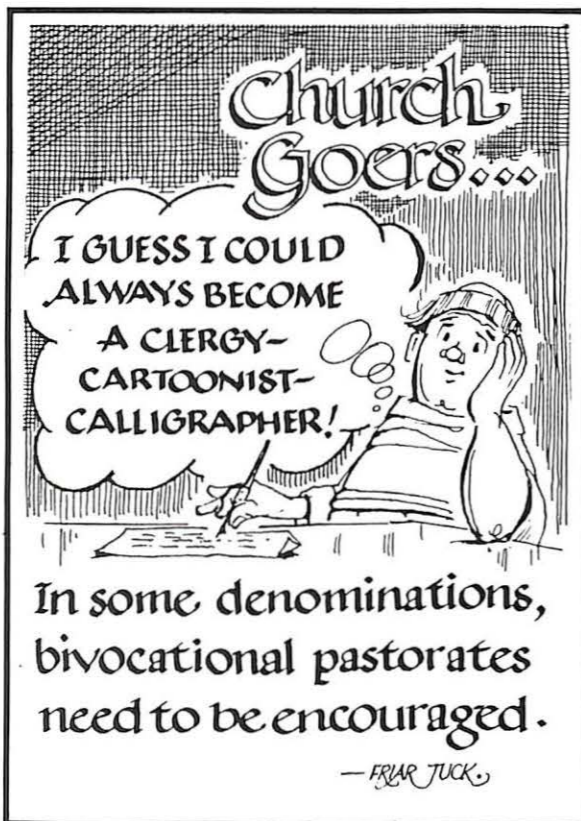
"What's the biggest change you've seen in the churches during your 35 years in the pastoral ministry?" inquired a longtime friend of a 61-year-old pastor.

"That's easy," was the instant response. "The biggest change I've seen during the past 35 years has been the comparative decline, as a proportion of the total churchgoing population, of the oldline Protestant denominations and the rapid increase in the number of people going to churches not affiliated with one of those oldline denominations. What's the biggest change you've seen?"

"The most significant change I've seen during the past 40 years has been the emergence of thousands of very large Protestant churches," commented the friend. "When I was young, most of the big churches were either Catholic or Lutheran with a scattering of big Methodist, Southern Baptist, or Presbyterian congregations, but today there are thousands of huge congregations, many of them without any denominational affiliation. I saw a report the other day that stated there are nearly 200 Southern Baptist congregations that average more than a thousand in Sunday school."

This brief conversation does identify two of the most significant changes in American Protestantism during the past 40 years. As recently as 1948, the predecessors of what are now six oldline Protestant denominations accounted for approximately 40 percent of all religious congregations in the United States. Today, fewer than 20 percent of all churches in the United States are affiliated with one of these six denominations (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), The United Methodist Church, and the United Church of Christ.) That is a big change in only four decades!

Likewise, the emergence of literally thousands of Protestant churches that attract huge numbers on the typical Sunday morning is a completely new trend in American church history. In 1948, several hundred Protestant congregations averaged more than 700 people in attendance on Sunday morning. Today, that number is approaching 5,000 and may be closer to 7,000, depending on how broadly one defines the word "Protestant."



The People's Choice

Behind these two trends lie two other less visible, but even more significant changes that have taken place over the past four decades. The first is that a growing proportion of all Protestant churchgoers are choosing big churches today.

Although precise figures covering all Protestant churches are not available, projections from available data suggest that well over 40 percent of all people worshipping with a Protestant congregation on an average Sunday morning are attending a church that averaged 200 or more at Sunday morning worship, despite the fact these churches account for only 15 percent of all American Protestant congregations.

The second, and overlapping trend, is that a disproportionately large number of people born before 1930 can be found in smaller congregations, while a disproportionately large number of churchgoers born after 1940 are choosing to be part of a very large congregation.

This pattern helps to explain why those denominations that encourage the emergence of very large congregations are (a) attracting large numbers of people born after the end of World War II and (b) experiencing numerical growth. The Evangelical Free Church, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Southern Baptist Convention are three examples of that trend. Even more highly visible are the large number of relatively new, very large, and rapidly growing congregations that do not display any denominational affiliation.

These generational differences provide one clue to help explain why some of the oldline Protestant denominations, which are heavily oriented toward small congregations, are experiencing (a) an aging membership and (b) a numerical decline in membership. Examples include the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The United Methodist Church, and the United Church of Christ. While the Church of the Nazarene does include a larger than average number of small congregations, in recent years it has (a) doubled the number of large congregations and (b) sharply increased the total number of new congregations. Those two factors help to explain its recent growth in membership.

Another way of looking at this basic pattern of church attendance is by comparing the two vertical columns A and B in

Table I. Column A refers to the proportion of congregations in that denomination that average 200 or more at worship on Sunday morning. Column B refers to the proportion of churchgoers in that denomination who, on an average Sunday, can be found in congregations averaging 200 or more at worship. The obvious pattern is that the larger the proportion of congregations in that denomination that average 200 or more at worship, the higher the proportion of worshippers who will be found in the big churches.

Table II at the bottom of this page, offers a more extensive tabulation. Those denominations with a strong orientation toward large congregations are shown at the top of that table and the denominations with a strong small church orientation are at the bottom of Table II. Thus, for example, this table reveals that only six percent of all congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri average fewer than 35 at worship. Only 37 percent of all Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations average under 100 at worship compared to 70 percent for both the Church of the Nazarene and The United Methodist Church.

While it would be foolish to suggest a single factor analysis, these two tables suggest that those denominations seeking to (a) reach a larger number of people born after 1945 and/or (b) increase the number of members may want to consider encouraging the emergence of more large churches and facilitate their numerical growth.

If small churches are defined as those congregations averaging fewer than 100 at worship, and large is defined to include those congregations averaging 200 or more at worship, it is possible to classify these twelve denominations. The United Methodists and the Nazarenes clearly are predominantly small church denominations. The United Church of Christ, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The American Baptist Churches, and The Lutheran Church in America could be described as middle-sized church denominations. On an average Sunday morning, the majority of worshippers in the other six denominations attend large churches. These six are large church denominations. It is not a coincidence that the denominations with a comparatively young membership are at

Table I
LARGE CHURCHES AND WORSHIPPERS
(Large = 200 or more average attendance)

Denomination	A Churches	B Worshippers
Ch. of Nazarene	9%	33%
U. Methodist Ch.	11%	38%
Disciples	12%	34%
Am. Bapt. Ch.	14%	44%
Bapt. Genl. Conf.	20%	52%
U.C.C.	22%	36%
L.C.A.	22%	47%
N. Amer. Bapt.	22%	52%
Evan. Free	23%	58%
Wisc. Ev. Luth.	26%	59%
Amer. Luth.	28%	59%
Luth. Ch.-Mo. Synod	29%	59%

the top of Table II while four of the bottom six have a comparatively old membership.

What Are the Implications?

While limitations of space prohibit a complete discussion of the implications, five points stand out. If you are a member of a denomination in which more than one-half of the worshippers are in churches averaging 200 or more at worship (see Table I), a high priority should be given to the need for specialized program staff members in the churches.

In contrast, if more than 50 percent of the congregations in your denomination average fewer than 100 at worship (see Table II), perhaps the concept of bivocational pastors should be encouraged. These are ministers who serve one congregation on a part-time basis and also are engaged in secular employment.

If you are a member of a congregation that averages between 100 and 130 or 140 at Sunday morning worship, you may want to consider seeking a part-time staff member who will carry only one responsibility—that of enlisting new members. If you are a member of a congregation that has been growing older and smaller, you may want to examine the changes that will be necessary to reverse that trend.

Finally, if you are a member of a congregation averaging over 200 at worship, but without any program staff other than the pastor, you may want to consider adding specialized program staff to expand the program to enable your congregation to reach and serve more people. □

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Table II
DISTRIBUTION OF CHURCHES BY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Denomination	Average under 35	Average under 100	Average under 150	Average under 200
Luth. Ch.-Mo. Synod	6%	37%	57%	71%
Am. Lutheran Church	8%	42%	60%	72%
Evangelical Free Church	7%	44%	64%	77%
Wisc. Ev. Lutheran Ch.	10%	49%	63%	74%
Luth. Ch. in America	7%	44%	65%	78%
North Amer. Bapt. Ch.	9%	48%	71%	78%
Baptist Gen'l Conf.	12%	50%	66%	80%
Amer. Baptist Church	16%	60%	77%	86%
United Ch. of Christ	12%	56%	76%	87%
Disciples of Christ	15%	60%	79%	88%
United Methodist Ch.	27%	70%	82%	89%
Ch. of the Nazarene	22%	70%	84%	91%

Commissioned to Witness

Ladies' Time Out Held at Rowandale Church

WINNIPEG, MB. Enthusiasm, excitement, and curiosity were evident as 25 ladies registered for Ladies' Time Out at Rowandale Baptist Church. The ladies met for eight Wednesday mornings, spending the first hour learning from professionals in a variety of fields. Following a coffee break, they then viewed videos of various Christian speakers.

A Ladies' Time Out committee member states, "Time Out is a relaxed, informal morning. Ladies are encouraged to invite unsaved friends and neighbours. Together we want to grow and become the women God intends for us to be and to reach out in love to those around us."

The Rev. Harold Schroeder is interim pastor of Rowandale Baptist Church.—*H. Kahler*

Praise God for Churches Growing Through Baptisms and New Members

WINNIPEG, MB. Eight new members joined the fellowship of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, two who were baptized by Pastor John Hisel in the morning worship service, and six by letter of transfer and on confession of faith.—*Maria Rogalski*

VANCOUVER, BC. Pastor Garry Dirk baptized six persons at Pilgrim Baptist Church. "We are thankful for how the Lord has been working," states Dawn Dirk. "We anticipate the Lord working abundantly in our midst in the future. Praise the Lord for He is good!"

SIOUX FALLS, SD. Trinity Baptist Church welcomed the new year with a special Sunday evening service that included a baptismal and communion service. Following a "Gift of Scripture" read by a friend of the candidate, Pastor Eric Coulon baptized four young people.—*John Richter*

PARKERSBURG, IA. Recently, four people have been baptized, and seven accepted into the membership of Parkersburg Baptist Church. The Rev. Howard Anderson is pastor.

ROCHESTER, NY. The family of the Latta Road Baptist Church welcomed eight new members (five by baptism) into their fellowship. Pastor Marc Maffuci states, "We are thrilled to see what the Lord is doing in the lives of so many. I praise the Lord for these folks and this Church."—*Hilla Metzger*

AVON, SD. One adult and two children followed the Lord in baptism at Danzig Baptist Church. They were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church at the communion service.

The Rev. Jason Haas is pastor of the Church.—*Ruth Buchholz*

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE. "There is rejoicing in heaven and in our hearts as well, as 15 new members have been added to our church family at Anchor Baptist Church," states Phyllis Fowler. At a special morning baptismal service, Oct. 25, 1987, 12 people were baptized and accepted into the church's fellowship, and three others became members through personal testimony.

"Our Church, under the leadership of Pastor Ted Keck, stresses outreach with genuine love and concern," reports Phyllis. "Such phrases as, 'I didn't understand before I came here'; 'No one had explained it to me before'; and 'I was filled with this hate that I had to get rid of....' were expressed during a personal sharing service."

The last Sunday of each month is designated "Visitor's Sunday." "Most of our Church family feels comfortable with extending an invitation to a friend, neighbor, relative, or coworker to be 'their visitor' for Visitor's Sunday," Phyllis reports. The worship service is followed by a pot-luck dinner and a get-acquainted time.

"We are thankful for the prayers and words of encouragement of those throughout the N.A.B. Conference," states Phyllis, "And we are especially appreciative of the continued financial support of the Iowa Association."

DICKINSON, ND. Pastor Daryl Dachtler baptized one person at Hillside Baptist Church since June 1987. Fifteen members were received into the fellowship of the Church on Dec. 6, 1987.

Along with the regular youth programs for junior and senior youth students, Junior Jubilee, a program designed for elementary pupils, meets every Wednesday afternoon. Those interested in music then stay for children's choir.

EDMONTON, AB. Five people, including a young man from Cambodia, were baptized at Meadowlark Baptist Church, Dec. 6, 1987.

"All five gave moving testimonies before the baptisms," reports Carol Fulmore. "The Cambodian fellow recounted how he and his family had fled for their lives from their Cambodian village. Later, they escaped serious disease in one of the refugee camps. He heard the Gospel in another camp and became a Christian, but after a while, he ceased attending church services. After coming to Edmonton, he met one of the Cambodians who attend Meadowlark Baptist Church, and he began coming to church, too. His baptism was an affirmation of his faith."

"A young woman told how she had terminated a relationship with a fellow whose life-style she didn't like because she was searching for something better. Later, she met another fellow who led her to Christ. This man was also among those being baptized, and he told how he had left his early faith and had become an alcoholic before returning to Christ."

"The two children who were baptized gave testimonies of their simple faith in Christ and of their desire to obey Him in baptism."

Called to Worship

New York Churches Have Song Fest

VALLEY STREAM, NY. Five N.A.B. Conference churches from the New York metropolitan area gathered at Valley Stream Baptist Church to spend the evening in a Thanksgiving Song Festival. Members from Immanuel, Middle Island, New Life Center, Valley Stream, and Walnut Street Baptist Churches met together to share in song and music to honor and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each church provided their own expression of praise in voice, instrument, and verse. A joint choir from all the churches provided an unrehearsed finale to the program. "We hope that this type of fellowship can be repeated in the future," reports Ralph Gurge.

Compelled to Serve

Winnipeg Church Receives Heritage Award

WINNIPEG, MB. McDermot Avenue Baptist Church was one of the winners of the 1987 Heritage Preservation Award presented by Heritage Winnipeg.

One of six winners, the McDermot Church received the Architectural Conservation Award for Excellence for the sensitive renovation of the church building. Dieter Hettig, chairman of the Building Committee, accepted the award on behalf of the committee.

Extensive renovations of the church, over a period of seven years, at a total cost of \$375,000, were completed in the fall of 1986.

The 79-year-old brick and Tyndall stone gothic structure, home for the congregation of 500, was built by a small, newly formed congregation of German immigrants in 1907 in what was then known as "a part of the city considered uninhabited prairie."

Due to deterioration of the brick, mortar, and wood over the years, the congregation was faced with the decision to renovate or sell and relocate. The unanimous vote was to stay and repair.

A stained glass window, which would cost upward of half a million dollars to replace, was cleaned, reframed, and rereaded at a cost of \$69,000, which is almost three times the original cost of constructing the church edifice. Thousands of man hours, evenings and Saturdays, were donated by individual church members in their field of expertise, e.g. masonry, woodworking, and electrical, resulting in a substantial overall cost savings to the Church. The Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 1, 1989.—*Maria Rogalski*

Siemens Recognized for 38 Years of Service

CORN, OK. Martha Siemens, who retired as Director of the Wednesday evening Scripture Memory Program in the children's department of Calvary Baptist Church, was recognized for her faithful service for the past 30 years. Joe Stewart and Angie Powers, Grand Award winners, also received recognition for memorizing scripture.

The church has started the Discovery Club Program, developed by Connie Schroeder of Yorkton, SK, with Peggy Burkle as director.

The Rev. Bob Burkle is pastor.—*Mary Leppke*

Church Holds Retreat at Lake Metigoshe

MINOT, ND. First Baptist Church held its annual all-church retreat over a holiday weekend at Lake Metigoshe State Park. People of all ages played games, fished, golfed, and went boating. The Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister, led Bible study sessions, with discussions reinforcing the truths. A fun night and a campfire with singing and sharing were part of the weekend's program.—*Inez Rhone*

Parma Men Host Veterans

PARMA, OH. The Men's Fellowship of Parma Heights Baptist Church hosted the Fifth Annual Veterans Appreciation Night with 120 veterans from Brecksville VAMC and 12 residential care homes from the vicinity as guests. The Church's "Puppet Gang" presented the Gospel and one of the women of the Church gave her testimony, glorifying God who through persecution and famine brought her to the U.S.A.

The men of the Church prepared the meal with women of the Church serving. "Long after the event, both men of the Church and the Veterans recall the 'good times' together," reports Chaplain Erhard Knoll.

The men's group had their annual men's fall retreat at Skyview Ranch. This group meets monthly for fellowship, meditation, and prayer.

Oakbank Church Dedicates Building

OAKBANK, MB. A month of celebrations? Impossible? Not in Oakbank. After months of hard work, the new church building for Oakbank Baptist Church was completed. The congregation felt this was worthy of celebrations to reach a growing community with the Gospel.

The month of celebrations, with the theme, "The Joy of the Lord," included special evening services; a drama evening presented by Winnipeg Bible College students led by Mrs. Sara Pasiciel; a film; and an open house. These events were designed to involve the community.

The Rev. Sieg Schuster, area minister, spoke at the Saturday night banquet. With 400 people attending the Sunday dedication service, Dr. John Binder, executive director, encouraged the members to let the joy of the Lord so radiate that a watching community would see and be brought to the Lord.

The Rev. Donald Harder is pastor of the Church.

biblical imperatives in action



Peoria Church Celebrates 135 Years

PEORIA, IL. A unique feature of the 135th anniversary services of North Sheridan Baptist Church was the use of items used years ago. Usher Larry Schultz accepts an offering from Pastor Rick Foster using an oblong, wooden collection box fastened to a long pole. Displayed on the communion table in the foreground are communion utensils—the serving pitcher and the two cups from which communicants partook as they were passed along the pews until all worshippers were served. Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director (seated in the background), gave the anniversary message, "And Today."—*Walter Kohrs (Gene Happe photo)*

Fort Richmond Church Commemorates 15 Years

WINNIPEG, MB. Under the theme, "I will build my church," Fort Richmond Baptist Church commemorated 15 years of service, Oct. 10-11, 1987. The burning of the Church mortgage was another highlight of the weekend. Participants included Rev. S. Schuster, area minister; Ryan Asham, trustee; George Giesbrecht, chairman, deacon board; and Ed Kehler, Church board chairman.

Dr. John Binder, executive director, spoke at the Sunday morning worship service. The Rev. C. I. Wiebe, founding pastor of the Church, spoke at the Saturday evening banquet and the Sunday afternoon mortgage burning service.—*Milton C. Hart*

Olds Women Have Ministry for Women of Community

OLDS, AB. Mrs. Irene Wollenberg and Mrs. Sandi Hazel of East Olds Baptist Church have envisioned the need for women of the community to meet Jesus through Bible study, craft, and fellowship. "Using a book by Jill Briscoe as a study guide, 'Ladies Morning Break' has touched many women already as they meet weekly," reports Trudie Schroeder.

Unger Travels with Singing Group

OLDS, AB. Marla Unger, daughter of Harry and Verna Unger of East Olds Baptist Church, has been serving in the U.S.A., Australia, and New Zealand, with the "Continen-

tal Singers." "Many lives are being won for Christ through the singing and witnessing done by these dedicated young people," reports Trudie Schroeder.

Commanded to Care

McDermot Church Board Treats Seniors with Dinner

WINNIPEG, MB. All senior members and friends of McDermot Avenue Baptist Church were treated to a Christmas dinner served by the Church Board members and their spouses. The program included a presentation by nursery Sunday school children and music by the Church choir.—*Maria Rogalsi*

Latta Road Church Provides Food for Needy Families

ROCHESTER, NY. "Latta Road Baptist Church rejoices in the series of the second annual 'Caring Through Sharing' project," reports Hilla Metzger. This is a food donation program whereby a church family provides Christmas dinner for a needy family in the community.

The food is purchased and delivered by the church family along with a gift Bible, Christmas greetings from the pastor, and some small gifts. "We are thrilled that we have been able to give directly to 59 needy people in our town this Christmas and last," states Pastor Marc Maffucci.

Hilda Church Has Ministry of Encouragement

HILDA, AB. "As a ministry of encouragement to two Southern Alberta Church Extension projects, several couples from Hilda Baptist Church have taken a program of special music, testimonies, and children's stories to Faith Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, and Crowsnest Community Baptist Church, Blairmore," reports Linda Anderst. "It has been a blessing to worship with these growing churches and share what the Lord is doing in both old and new churches." The Rev. Herbert Bachler is pastor.

Atlantic Association Women Meet and Send Letters of Encouragement

NEW JERSEY. Eighty-three women of the Atlantic Association gathered at America's Keswick Conference Grounds in New Jersey for their annual fall retreat, Nov. 13-14, 1987. A group project for the weekend was to send written greetings to several missionaries and Conference leaders as an expression of encouragement and love. Mrs. Peg Rankin, noted Bible teacher, spoke on the theme, "In and Out of the House. . . On the King's Business." —*Pam Arends*.

life-style giving

The Importance of Systematic Giving

by Connie Salios

Today many organizations ask you to give to their cause, and many are worthy to receive your gift. However, there is much abuse by various organizations in seeking gifts. These abuses occur in the propagation of crises and the use of gimmicks to attract your gift.

Sometimes, there are true crises. In fact, we have experienced shortages of cash needed to do what we believe God has called us to do. During these times, we have appreciated the extra gifts churches and individuals have sent to help us, as a Conference, to carry that financial burden.

Systematic giving is part of God's plan. Month by month, our cost of operating continues. That's why I encourage churches and individuals who are committed to the North American Baptist Conference mission and ministry work to give on a monthly basis. This lets us know that you want to help ensure the financial security of the work of the Conference.

We believe that if churches and individuals would give on a systematic basis that crises appeals, and maybe even crises, would almost disappear.

Because we, as a North American Baptist Conference, endeavor to operate on a sound financial basis and have proper budgets, your monthly gifts will enable us to meet the mission and ministry needs of the work we do together as a Conference of churches and individuals.

I believe that God will be glorified when we are able to meet our commitments on a current basis and carry out the mission that He has called us to do together.

Please consider sending your financial support monthly. □

Dr. Connie Salios serves as Associate Director for Estate Planning for the North American Baptist Conference.

In Memoriam

SOPHIA BERTSCH (85), Bismarck, ND; born Feb. 10, 1902, to John and Margaret (Fuhrman) Feoick, near Eureka, SD; died Dec. 21, 1987; married Jacob A. Bertsch in 1924, who predeceased her in 1973; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by three daughters: Iola (Mrs. John Awald), Denver, CO; Mercedes (Mrs. Lester Hash), San Antonio, TX; and Betty (Mrs. Denny McCall), Great Falls, MT; two sons: Reno, Omaha, NE, and James, Springfield, MO; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three sisters: Emma Hoffman, Emilia Bertsch, and Johanna Nies; and one brother, John J. Feoick; Rev. M. D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

ADELIA SARAH EDINGER (77), Morris, MB; born May 16, 1910, to Julius and Emilie Edel in Colosna, Wolynia, Russia; died Nov. 17, 1987; married Alfred Edinger, Feb. 17, 1927, who predeceased her in 1978; member, Sunday school teacher, choir member, faithful prayer warrior, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB; survived by two daughters: Agnes (Mrs. Reinhold Walters), Morris, MB, and Evelyn (Mrs. Jim Haas), San Jose, CA; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three brothers: Albert, Arthur, and Richard; Rev. S. H. Schuster, pastor, funeral service.

LYDIA GOHRING (97), Salem, OR; born Dec. 12, 1889, to George and Rosena Rott near Fredonia, ND; died Nov. 24, 1987; married Karl Gohring, June 20, 1908, who predeceased her in 1963; member, choir and women's missionary society, worshipper, Bethel Baptist and Riviera Baptist Churches, Salem, OR; predeceased by one daughter, Bertha, in 1970, and one son, John, in 1973; survived by one daughter, Lena Isaak; one son, Wilbert, Salem, OR; and one brother, Henry Rott; Rev. Wally Kroguletz, pastor, funeral service.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of
HEBRON,
NORTH DAKOTA
will celebrate its centennial
anniversary
July 1-3, 1988.

Friends and former members
of the Church are invited.

KENNETH EARL IRESTONE (60), St. Paul, MN; born Feb. 4, 1927, to Arthur G. and Martha (nee Patet) Irestone in St. Paul, MN; died Nov. 26, 1987; married Dorothy Hueser, July 15, 1950; member, Dayton's Bluff Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN; predeceased by one son, Richard, March 4, 1979; survived by his wife Dorothy; one son, Robert; one sister, Audrey Eiyunik; and one brother, Arthur, all of St. Paul, MN; Rev. R. Herrmann, pastor, funeral service.

LESTER KUEHL (82), Medicine Hat, AB; born Jan. 20, 1905, to Herman and Mary Kuehl, in Brudnell, ON; died Nov. 26, 1987; married Flora Paul, Jan. 20, 1928; charter member, Grace Baptist Church, Davin, SK; member for 21 years, Faith Baptist Church, Regina, SK; faithful member, Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB; survived by his wife Flora; one daughter, Eileen (Chalmers) Wirth, Edmonton, AB; three grandchildren; and two sisters: Viola Getz and Gertrude Zummach; Reverends Irwin Kujat and Loren Weber, pastors, funeral service.

ALEXANDER LAUBSTEIN (82), Kitchener, ON; born Oct. 16, 1905, in Poland; died Nov. 30, 1987; lived in East Prussia (Germany), 1907-39, Belgium, 1945-52, immigrated to Kitchener, ON, in 1952; married Antonia Heyrich, 1927; member for 27 years, Salem Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON; predeceased by son Horst, daughter Edith, and grandchild Ellen; survived by his wife Antonia; one daughter, Irmgard (Mrs. Kurt Gottwald); four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, all in Kitchener/Waterloo, ON, area; Reverends J. Reese and Herman Pohl, pastors, funeral service.

IRMA AGNES NELNER (66), Calgary, AB; born April 30, 1921, in Edmonton AB; died Aug. 30, 1987; charter and active member, Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB; predeceased by her mother in 1978; survived by her father Theo, of Calgary, AB; three brothers: Ed (Ann), Kalispell, MT; George (Harriet), Calgary, AB; and Stan (Jean), Calgary, AB; two sisters: Ileen (Mrs. Bill Konnert), Vancouver, and Doris (Mrs. Don Comfort), Calgary, AB; 12 nieces and nephews; and eight grandnieces and nephews.

In Appreciation

Thank you for your prayers for me. God has wonderfully answered, and I feel so much better. I really do appreciate our N.A.B. Conference family. —*Anita Taubensee, Westbank, BC*

Note: Mrs. Taubensee underwent heart valve replacement surgery Nov. 25, 1987.



"Is Your Marriage 'Until Death Do Us Part'?"

by J. Walter Goltz

The familiar marriage vow, "until death do us part," suggests that marriage is intended to be for life. Most couples standing at the marriage altar expect their marriage to last. In the last fifty years, however, an increasing proportion of marriages have failed.

Marital Quality Impacts Stability

Two factors affect marital stability. The primary determinant of marital stability is the subjective experience of marital satisfaction, happiness, or adjustment. It is easy to understand that couples who are happy with their marriage and who are adjusted to each other will be more successful in keeping their marriage together. In other words, the quality of the marital relationship has an important impact on marital stability.

Why is it, however, that some marriages which seem to have all of the ingredients of success are not able to make it to the finish line? We have all known couples whose divorce came as a complete surprise, because they appeared to be so well-matched and happy. Why do other marriages, which are plagued by multiple problems and pressures, continue to demonstrate growth, development and stability?

Is It a Personal Commitment?

At least one of the reasons is commitment, which also has an important impact on marital stability. There are two kinds of

commitment which operate in somewhat different ways.

Most people think of commitment in terms of personal commitment. It can be defined as an inner determination or strong personal dedication to make my marriage successful, despite adversity or temptations to deviate. This inner determination is closely related to satisfaction and attraction in the relationship. A distinction needs to be made, however, between attraction to one's spouse and attraction to the relationship. One may experience a high level of attraction to one's partner, for example, yet be deeply dissatisfied with the relationship, as in many abusive or alcoholic relationships.

In contrast, one may be committed to maintaining the marital relationship; even though the practical expressions of love have long since died. This inner determination may also represent a moral obligation reflecting religious values. ("What God hath joined together let no man put asunder.")

We need to recognize that there are some marriages in which the quality has significantly deteriorated, and in which there is no more personal desire to make the marriage work, but the marriage is maintained because of external barriers to marital breakup. This can be defined as external or structural commitment.

Is It a Structural Commitment?

Structural commitment can be defined as those events or condi-

tions which constrain a couple to remain married regardless of their personal commitment. The high cost of divorce, both financially and emotionally, may encourage some couples to remain married, despite unhappy relationships. Social pressures, such as the reaction of family members and close friends, or the possible response of our church, may encourage spouses to maintain their marriage, despite a high level of disagreement and personal trauma. Other couples remain together, despite the lack of close relationships, because of their conviction that divorce would have negative consequences for their children.

What about Your Marriage?

As you examine your own marriage, how do you account for its "success"? Is it the quality of the relationship, which provides richness and satisfaction? Is it the high level of personal commitment to make the marriage work despite disappointment or difficult circumstances? If your marriage is "succeeding" only because of the external barriers preventing breakup, perhaps you need to consider alternatives that will help you enrich your relationship so the barriers will no longer be necessary. □

Dr. J. Walter Goltz is President of N.A.B. College and N.A.B. Divinity School, Edmonton, AB.

what's happening

The Rev. Ernie Rogalski became associate pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, California, effective Feb. 15, 1988. He had served as Associate Pastor at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, since 1972.

The Rev. Delvin Bertsch was welcomed to the pastorate of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB., in February 1988. He succeeds the Rev. Morley Schultz who served for nine years as pastor at Emmanuel. Rev. Schultz is now pastor of Central Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

George Pontius has been serving as interim pastor at Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane, Washington.

The Rev. John Terveen became pastor of Hollyview Baptist Church, Boring, Oregon, effective February 1, after serving as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, since 1983.

The Rev. and Mrs. Mark Morris and family were welcomed by Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB, at an Induction Service on Dec. 6, 1987. The Rev. Charles Littmann, area minister, challenged the congregation with his sermon, "The Church That Is Designed to Grow."

Pastor Graham Kern, his wife Miriam, and two children were welcomed by Raymore Baptist Church, Saskatchewan, on September 13, where he serves as pastor. He also serves Nokomis Baptist Church.

Dr. Stanley Grenz, professor of systematic theology and Christian ethics, North American Baptist Seminary, received a Fulbright Grant to the Federal Republic of Germany. Grenz is studying Wofhart Pannenberg, world-renowned Lutheran theologian. Grenz has also been invited to join a scholarly five-member panel of the Christianity Today Institute dealing with the subject: "Reclaiming a Christian Sexual Ethic." Dr. Grenz is the current president of the Upper Midwest American Academy of Religion (AAR).

Dr. J. Gordon Harris, academic vice president and professor of Old Testament, North American Baptist Seminary, celebrates the publication of his book, *Biblical Perspectives on Aging: God and the Elderly*, published by Fortress Press in September 1987. Harris recently was promoted to major in the United States Army Reserve.

Dr. Daniel Leininger, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling

and director of counseling practice, North American Baptist Seminary, has received the Air Force Commendation Medal for research and writing in conjunction with the Air Force Chief of Chaplains theme kit for 1986.

Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, professor of counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, has been active the past two years establishing a South Dakota chapter of Morality in Media. He was voted "Man of the Month" by the national organization for October 1987. He is presently on sabbatical teaching in Cameroon and Nigeria.

The Rev. and Mrs. Milton Falkenberg left Gackle (North Dakota) Baptist Church to enter semi-retirement in Arizona effective Dec. 1, 1987. He has served there as pastor since 1977.

The Rev. Allan Strohschein became the pastor of First Baptist Church, Colfax, WA, on January 1. He had been serving as interim pastor there.

The Rev. Morris Vellacott is the interim pastor of Balgonie (Saskatchewan) Baptist Church.

The Rev. Craig Holmes has resigned as pastor of Gillette (Wyoming) Baptist Church. He has accepted secular employment.

The Rev. Harold Anton resigned as assistant pastor at Humbervale Park Baptist Church, Toronto, ON, effective February 29, 1988. He has served this Church since 1981.

Mr. Joey Link becomes Minister of Family Life at Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, after having served as youth pastor since 1983 at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA. His resignation is effective Jan. 10, 1988.

Mr. Jerry Winkley has resigned as youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Lorraine, Kansas, and now resides in Wichita.

Mr. Terry Harsch became the pastor of Rabbit Hill Baptist Church, South Edmonton, AB, effective February. He has been serving as Minister of Christian Education and Youth at Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton.

Mr. Randy Radke was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church, Leduc, AB, on January 17. He is a graduate of the North American Baptist Divinity School.

The Rev. Dennis Thum is serving as interim pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. He is chaplain at South Dakota State Penitentiary.

The Rev. Clem Auch is interim

pastor at Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND.

The Rev. Eberhard Hees became one of the pastors of Mission Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, effective Jan. 15, 1988.

Chaplain MAJ William Byron Banks has received endorsement as a North American Baptist Conference chaplain and is serving with the California Army National Guard at Fort Mac, California.

Petrie Appointed Associate in Development



The Rev. Lewis Petrie assumed the responsibilities of the Associate Director for Development for the North American Baptist Conference effective Jan. 11, 1988. Appointed by the

Executive Committee of the Conference to focus on stewardship, specifically developing programs and resources to aid churches and associations in stewardship education, Petrie will be working closely with pastors and lay leaders.

Petrie, who has served as pastor of Melville Baptist Church in Saskatchewan since 1983, brings to this position a demonstration of good stewardship development in this Church. He is a graduate of Wilfred Laurier University in 1980 (B.A. in Economics) and Canadian Theological Seminary in 1984 (M.Div. in Missions) and is working toward his Doctor of Ministry degree. Petrie served in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Vegreville, AB, from 1977 to 1979.

His wife Linda and three daughters, Erin, Amy, and Lindsay, join him in his new ministry with the Conference.

Petrie fills a position that has been vacant since Mr. Steve Pace resigned in 1986.

NOTICE

The Baptist Home Inc. and the Baptist Apartment Inc. Annual Meeting will be held on April 19, 1988, at 10 a.m. at the Baptist Home, 1100 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND. There will be a revision of the Constitution submitted to the delegates.



A trip back to yesterday is in store for the children, including a trip on a 1903 train.

The Children's Committee has prayed and accepted by faith that our Lord Jesus will come and personally touch each child at the Triennial Conference in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988. It is our prayer and goal that the children will come away from the Conference with a real sense of "family." We are pursuing the sense of family at four different levels: home family, church family, Conference family, and missionary family. We want our N.A.B. Conference children to know they are not alone and that they are a very special and important members of God's family.

Our decorating theme will evolve around bears, and our Bible verse to be used and developed in all our family levels is, "Love BEARS all things." The Children's Committee is very busy organizing special projects that will encourage the children to develop new friendships and continue them long after the Conference is over. A pen-pal system has already been established.

During our four morning sessions, the children will be delighted by the music of Lee and Sandy Paley, who are well known and

What's for Children at the Triennial Conference?

by Marg Cumberlin

loved in churches and schools throughout Alberta. Plans are also underway to bring a member of the Olympic Torch Relay Team and a Christian cowboy to the children's meetings. Some of our own N.A.B. Conference missionaries will be home on furlough during the Conference, and we are really looking forward to their helping us deepen our sense of our missionary family. In addition to these plans, we are arranging for an indoor gymnasium to complement the morning activities.

In order to house all the children and equipment, we certainly needed the Lord to bless us with a large facility — and He did! God is good! We have booked the "Round Up Centre," part of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, which is used for large trade shows. The building is self-contained and physically linked to the Saddledome where the main activities of Triennial Conference will take place. Parents can drop their children off and continue upstairs to the Saddledome for the day's program. We will be in radio communication with the Saddledome to provide fast and efficient contact between the two facilities.

During the Saturday adult luncheons, we will take the children to Calgary's Heritage Park. A trip back to yesterday is in store for us including a trip on a 1903 train, some time on an old-fashioned midway, and a pioneer meal. Another field trip will take us to roam the pastures and explore the barns of Butterfield Farms. This will be a hands-on experience for our children; they will learn such things as weaving, milking, and shearing. The City of Calgary has



Children will visit Calgary's Heritage Park as well as Butterfield Farms and the Calgary Planetarium.

extended a warm welcome to us at the zoo and also the Calgary Planetarium. We feel these trips will provide lasting memories of the Triennial Conference for the children.

We could not think of a better conclusion to a week of developing new friendships with Christ and His family than an all-family worship service. The Sunday morning time of praise at the Saddledome will allow the children to be with their own families and their church and missionary families as well.

The Children's Committee is prayerfully preparing a program that will honour Christ and provide a time of fun and spiritual growth for our children. Please come and grow with us! □

Marg Cumberlin of Calgary, Alberta, is chairperson of the Children's Committee for the 42nd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches.

Almost Three Million Dollars Raised through Capital Funds

We thank you and praise the Lord for the \$2,999,965 that has been contributed for the Conference Capital Funds Campaign, "Building on the Foundations of Faith," through Dec. 31, 1987. This is a record! Through your contributions, you are making possible 14 projects overseas and 10 projects in North America.

When you translate the dollars received into ministries performed, this is a part of the picture:

1) A Church Growth Strategy assisting scores of churches to

catch a new vision to reach people for Christ;
 2) Land purchased for some church extension churches;
 3) A new library addition at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD;
 4) Debt liquidated on Bernard Schalm Memorial Library, North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB;
 5) Vehicles and facilities for overseas missions: Land Rover in Nigeria; missionary children's school in Cameroon; housing for tutors in Cameroon; land for church extension projects in Japan; facilities for church extension in Brazil; and support for radio evangelism ministry in Cameroon;

6) Building assistance for home mission church in Edinburg, TX;
 7) Assistance to help start an urban ethnic ministry in West New York, NJ, with Jamie Maldonado as pastor;
 8) Van for *New Day* youth music-drama evangelism ministry;
 9) Computer and word processing equipment at the N.A.B. Conference International Office; and
 10) Church extension and camp ministries strengthened within several associations.

About \$500,000 is still needed to make certain that all of the projects will be totally funded. "Both your financial and prayer support are needed so that we can finish the job," says Dr. Connie Salios, campaign director.

Resolutions Sought for Triennial Conference



The 42nd Triennial Conference sessions meeting in Calgary, Alberta, July 26-31, 1988, are almost upon us. This Conference promises to be an unforgettable

week of fun and fellowship combined with an inspiring array of special speakers.

A Triennial Conference is also a time for all of us, as a North American Baptist Conference, to express our thoughts collectively in the form of resolutions. Your Triennial Conference Resolutions Committee has begun to consider what the North American Baptist Conference may wish to affirm, what we may resolve to proclaim at this gathering. We invite you and your people to forward to us your suggestions.

The earlier we receive your proposals, the more time we will have to organize our collective thoughts in the most appropriate form. We would like to receive your ideas by mid-April 1988.

Please forward all ideas for resolutions to me, Gordon Unger, convener, Resolutions Committee, 24 Larose Drive, St. Albert, Alberta, T8W 1S6.

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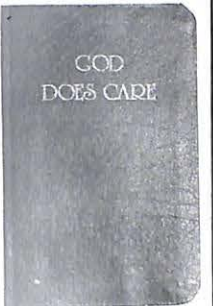
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