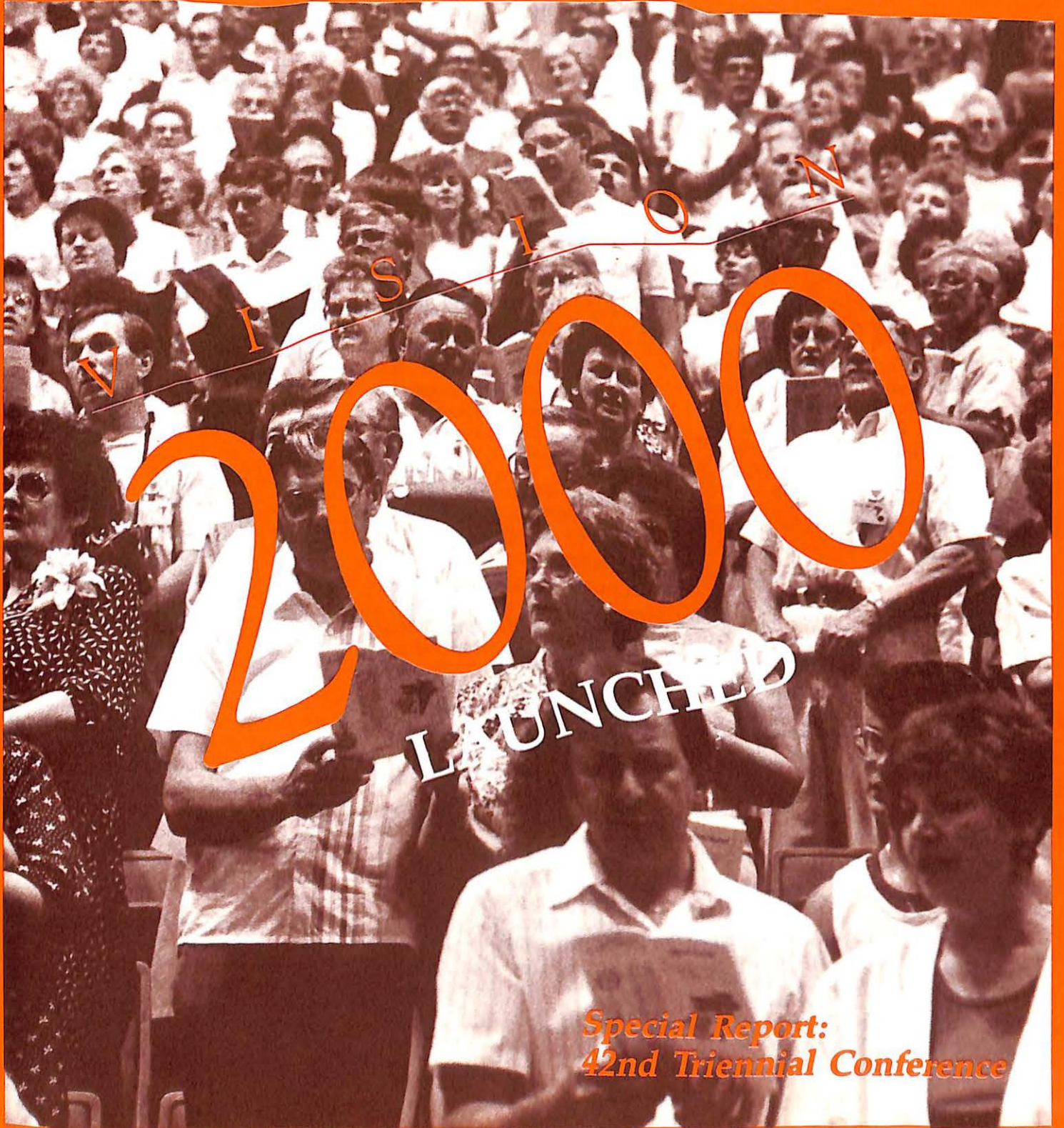


Baptist Herald

November 1988



LAUNCHED

Special Report:
42nd Triennial Conference

Readers Respond

Calgarians Commended for Hospitality

I want (the Calgarians) to know how much I enjoyed the hospitality at the Calgary Conference. I have never before encountered such a friendly atmosphere at a large gathering like the 1988 Triennial Conference was, and I feel that Calgarians need to be specially commended for all their hard work and efforts.

Gary Peckham, the hospitality night chair, must have done an outstanding pre-conference job, and all the others with their happy dispositions made us all feel so welcome and 'at home.' If there were some way I could thank them all personally, I surely would do so. — *Leona Meisch, Jamestown, ND*

Calgary — An "Architectural" Experience

As the airport bus wound its way into downtown Calgary, the architecture immediately caught my attention. We drove through a literal canyon of brick, steel, glass, and concrete that was an architect's dream. Towering new buildings in various shapes and designs against the old, amazed me.

... I arrived... in time for an excellent barbecue beef dinner and a full scale indoor rodeo. The hospitality of the City of Calgary was already matching its architecture.

As I made my way back to the hotel, I reflected on the joy of being in Calgary as a part of the

42nd Triennial Conference. In one short evening, I had met friends I hadn't seen for years. I had been to a rodeo. I had supper with a friend from my own church. Already, the trip to the Conference was a blessing for me.

The next day, another type of architecture was apparent. The perfect fit of all the pieces of the program was as inspiring as the view from the Calgary Tower. The morning Bible study speaker opened God's Word, and God spoke through him. The several thousand people singing together was simply beautiful. The business sessions, all planned, were carefully and skillfully moderated by Ernie Radke. The Church Ministries Fair was inspiring; even the smaller churches were pleased to share the various ministries God had given to them. The workshops were places of instruction, blessing, and uplift.

Conference architects on the scene skillfully moved an army of local arrangements committees and people into place, and they functioned with great hospitality and grace. Dr. Harry Hiller's genuine greetings, warm smile, and efficient handling of his tasks were a reflection of his love for his Savior, his Conference, and his work.

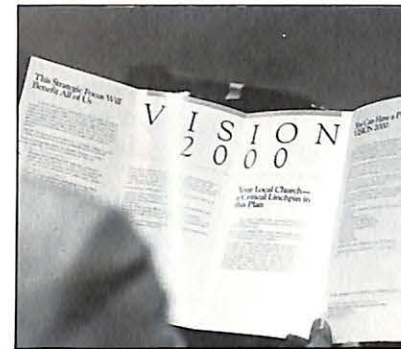
Another master architect was also found, at the foot of the steps to the platform. Dr. Connie Salios had the schedule in hand, guiding the program efficiently yet gracefully through each particular aspect. Sessions opened and closed on time, and for that, thousands of people were grateful.

But no architect could plan or perform one aspect of this Conference. The fellowship was a blessing of singular proportion. I walked back downtown with a former associate in the ministry and his wife, and heard how God was blessing a new ministry in his life. I found reason to rejoice with some, to pray with others, to encourage some, and to be encouraged and counseled by some. The fellowship was the crown jewel of the architecture of the Conference. The planners knew it would be there, but they could not have designed it! It was a gift from God Himself.

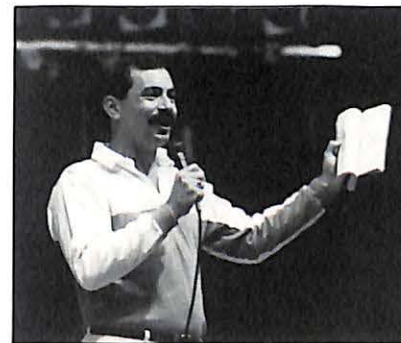
The Conference is over. The red-vested hosts bid us good-bye on the Saddledome concourse. The architects' design is complete, but the results will go on for years. The business will impact our local churches. The refreshment of the Bible teaching and preaching, the workshops, and inspirational services will be felt in renewed worship and service. And the fellowship will be remembered with joy in the days ahead.

And yes, God's building is now further along, because of the 42nd Triennial Conference. The greatest architect—the Creator of all things—must be pleased, as souls were won to Jesus, God's servants were encouraged, and the Conference was challenged to move ahead for Jesus.

I am blessed, encouraged, and rejoicing because of this Conference. Thanks to the architects, for their work will endure. Their plans were wholly complete. Their efforts were a success. — *Jim Green, Hillsboro, OR*



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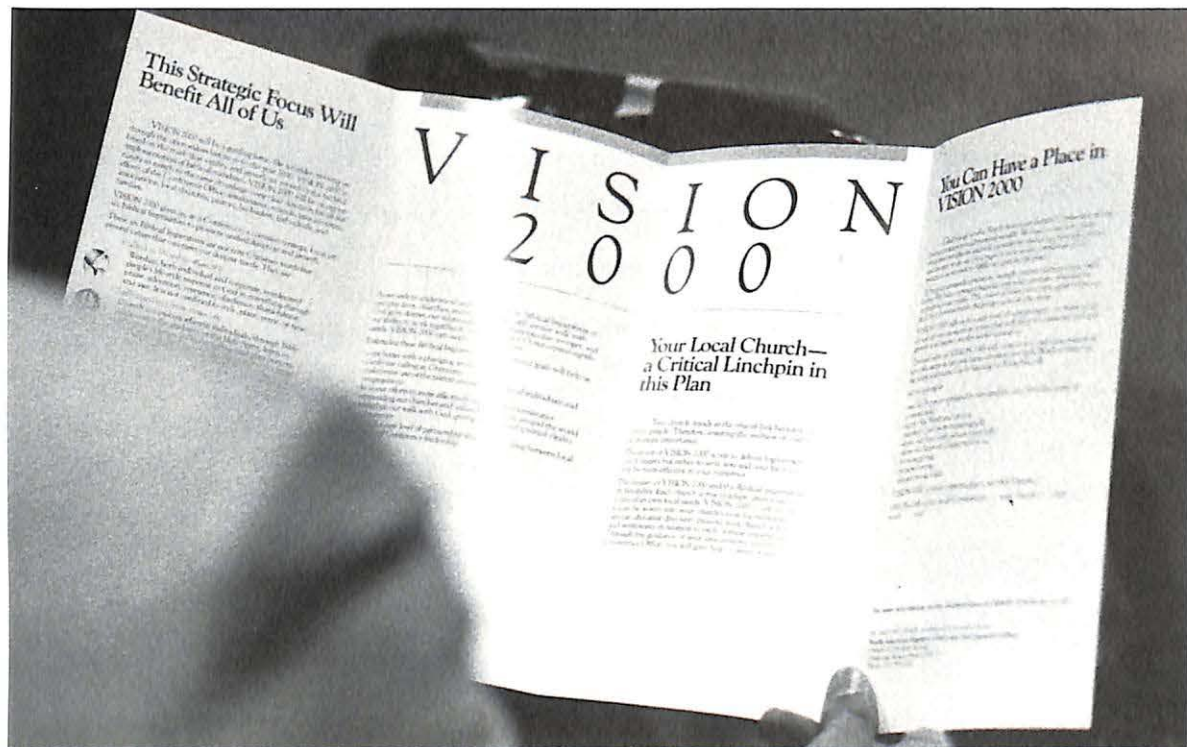
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Vision 2000 Calls You to Action



by Dr. John Binder



"I am grateful to God and all of you for the privilege you have given me to serve as executive director during the past nine years," stated Dr. John Binder, executive director, as he presented **Vision 2000** to Conference delegates. "Even though the task of doing what is right before God seems more difficult than ever, the opportunities are also unprecedented. I am exhilarated because God's church is vitally alive and so is the North American Baptist Conference. I am thrilled that about ten percent of our church membership is here (at the Triennial Conference) to celebrate our unity in Christ and consider some challenges for the future."

Binder referred to a favorite Scripture passage, 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. Paul, who had just experienced some difficult times, needed a new perspective on the work of spreading the Gospel. "All of us need to be reminded, at such times," stated Binder, "that God is still in control. He has a plan." Through it all, God is leading day and night without interruption, in all circumstances, because He cares.

We Are in a Triumphant Procession

"We are in a large, triumphant procession," said Binder, "a procession much greater than any parade. It includes followers of Christ from every generation and from almost every nation and tongue. We may be defeated at many turns in life, but in this procession, we are all winners."

"We are given the awesome task to spread the fragrance of the Gospel of Christ everywhere," said Binder, "as Paul says, 'like the aroma of fresh flowers' in a parade. We are to exemplify the

Vision 2000

based on
Six Biblical Imperatives

- Called to Worship
- Challenged to Grow
- Commanded to Care
- Committed to Give
- Compelled to Serve
- Commissioned to Witness

very character — the transforming power of Christ — to draw people to Him."

The paradox is that to some we are the aroma of new life in Christ while to others, we are the smell of death. "This is painful," Binder recognized. "While it is true that we are on the winning side, we will not win all. Some will reject the Gospel. It hurts most when these are our own family members, loved ones, or friends."

We Face Obstacles

"Today, we face many obstacles," stated Binder, "among them consumerism, materialism, the moral crisis, and the 'Van-natization' of North America. The very notion of morality is losing its meaning for an increasing number of people. The 'Vanna factor' decrees that everything be simple and entertaining, making it very difficult to communicate basic values and concerns."

Binder pointed to Paul's rhetorical question: "Who is equal to such a task?" The answer, of course, is no one. But by God's grace, God takes what we offer to Him and uses it to fulfill His purpose.

"We need a sense of being commissioned by God," stated Binder. "Like Isaiah of old, we need a fresh vision of the majesty of a holy God. We need to hear His voice commanding us to go. We need to respond by saying, 'Lord, here am I, send me.'"

"Therefore, we must ask ourselves some tough questions. How effective are we as the fragrance of Christ in this troubled world? Are we following God? Are we marching to the same drumbeat, moving in the same direction? Do we have a motivating vision? These concerns moved us to develop **Vision 2000**.

"During the past year, various task forces composed of pastors and lay people from our churches were asked: What is needed to become more effective in worshiping, growing, witnessing, serving, giving, and caring? What do you want your church and the North American Baptist Conference to look like by the year 2000?"

Vision 2000 Defined

"These factors with much prayer and searching have shaped **Vision 2000**. It is our strategic focus on six Biblical Imperatives to enhance the ministries in local churches, accelerate the planting of churches, train more top quality leadership (pastors and church staff), promote unified direction, and help evangelize the world by the year 2000."

"We cannot stop with only a vision; it must be translated into action. **Vision 2000** combines local church goals and action steps with Conference-level goals and plans."

"**Vision 2000** strongly affirms the local church and its leadership. It says, 'Nothing can replace the local church in God's plan for Christian development and evangelizing the world for Christ.' That is why there is a much higher commitment to plant more churches in North America and around the world. Our Conference has a goal to plant 156 new churches by the year 2000. We have 60,000 people; it will take 384 people to plant a church."

"**Vision 2000** is clearly and directly based on the Word of God, which has always been our concern. We have selected six Biblical Imperatives — to worship, witness, serve, care, give, and grow — as our primary strategic focus for all goals and action steps. Everybody needs a place to stand if there is to be any meaning and coherence to life. We have chosen to stand firmly on the Word of God."

Vision 2000

Vision 2000 is our strategic focus on six Biblical Imperatives to enhance the ministries of the local church, accelerate the planting of churches, train more top quality leadership (pastors and church staff), promote unified direction, and help evangelize the world by the year 2000.

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

Vision 2000 — Its Benefits and Values

"**Vision 2000** will help us cope better with a changing world."

"**Vision 2000** will be a guiding force, like a rudder, steering us through the open waters before us to the year 2000."

"**Vision 2000** will give us an opportunity to march to the same drumbeat — one clear, unified direction for all the efforts of the Conference International Office, missionaries, schools, area ministers, associations, local churches, pastors, lay leaders, individuals, and families."

"**Vision 2000** will help us clarify our calling as Christians."

"**Vision 2000** will give us opportunity to make better use of the talents and spiritual gifts of individuals and congregations."

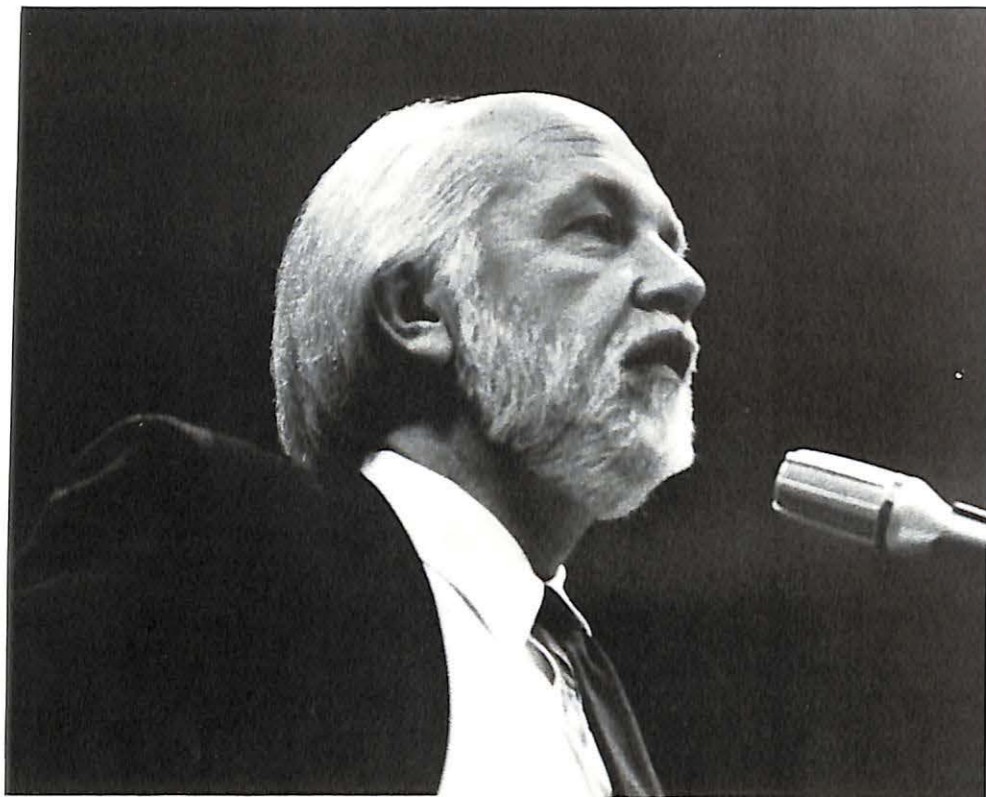
"**Vision 2000** will focus our efforts to more effectively reach both the communities surrounding our churches and unreached peoples around the world."

"**Vision 2000** will strengthen our personal walk with God, giving us increased spiritual vitality and maturity."

"**Vision 2000** will establish a new level of partnership and team building between local church and Conference leadership because it can be applied by church leaders, participants in a local church, and Conference staff."

"All of this will mean nothing unless each of us makes a personal commitment to **Vision 2000**. I am making personal and local church commitments. Will you? You can have a part in **Vision 2000**. □"

*Dr. John Binder is Executive Director of the North American Baptist Conference. This is a condensation of his Wednesday morning address introducing **Vision 2000** to Triennial Conference delegates.*



Brown Speaks on Worship, Servanthood, Faithfulness, and Love

The Rev. Stephen Brown, morning Bible study speaker, discussed the essential topics of worship and celebration, servanthood, faithfulness, and love during the Triennial Conference morning sessions.

On Worship

"The grand farce of the triumphal entry has something to say about worship," stated the Rev. Stephen Brown, Bible study speaker.

"People often say 'Do great things for God,' but I also suggest doing some little things for God—a smile, an act of compassion—sometimes the little acts are more important." He referred to the man who gladly gave his donkey for Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

"You would think this a tremendous, magnificent worship service if you had not read the preceding or succeeding passages." The group shouts hallelujah on Sunday, "then hangs Jesus spread-eagle on the cross on Friday. The worship service was a farce," declared Brown.

"Why did Jesus and the disciples allow this celebration—this worship? How can we worship when things are so bad?" Brown questioned.

Brown referred to Matthew 21:4-5 for the answers: **the Truth cannot be hidden.** "Truth cannot be ignored," said Brown, "Once you see Truth, you cannot unsee Truth. We worship because the Truth has grabbed us."

Even in the dark, **belief cannot be denied**, Brown stated. "I can't show people rationally that the Christian faith is true, but the truth is that I believe because I believe." We worship because the gift of belief has been given to us.

Brown continued, "We worship because in the dark **joy cannot be suppressed.**" Some religious leaders try to control joy; joy cannot be controlled: that's worship. "If Jesus were to come today, we would first fall on our knees in worship and then laugh with joy," Brown asserted.

"**Hope cannot be vanquished,**" Brown assured his listeners. "We have eternity in our heart. When it's a bad day, remember that Jesus is coming back — there is HOPE!"

On Serving

If people in my church are driving me up a wall, what should I do? "When this happened to me,

I decided to be a servant — to serve them — for three months," said Brown. "I learned and grew during that time."

According to John 13, "We are to serve one another," Brown pointed out. He then explained servanthood.

"The **content** of true servanthood is **love**," declared Brown. Notice that "Jesus loved them to the end. If you serve without love, it's martyrdom not servanthood." He advised, "After your conversion, make sure you stay around Jesus long enough — until you get love. Sit around Him, be still, and get love."

"You can't love until you've been loved, and then only to the degree to which you've been loved," declared Brown.

Based on John 13, Brown said that Christians are called to serve in the **context** of power as God's children. "You are a child of the God of the universe, one of God's elite," he told his listeners.

Servanthood is the result of obedience, Brown pointed out. "What bothered Peter? He couldn't deal with the **contrast** of servanthood: The fact that the Son of God would wash Peter's feet."

In referring to the characteristic of the **cleanness** of the servant, Brown said, "I won't manipulate the people I serve. When I found Christ, I didn't need to feel guilty anymore." A guilty person makes others feel guilty. "We need to serve with the freedom of forgiveness."

When speaking of the **conformity** of servanthood, Brown said, "Christ served us that we might serve the world. We are to be His illustration."

Out of servanthood comes tremendous power, a **compulsion** to serve. "If you've been trying to achieve authority in a church, you must be a servant." He challenged the audience, "If the North American Baptist Conference decides to be a servant church, you will touch the world in a powerful way."

Brown concluded with a verse

Speaking on Philippians 2, Brown noted that Christians are to shine as lights in the world. The Bible instructs us to do all without murmuring... that you may shine as lights in the world. "The principle," he said, "is that when it gets dark enough, even a little light will do."

Brown pointed out that our **faithfulness**, a gift to us, is to be a **contrast** to the evil in the world. We have a tremendous obligation to hold forth the Word of Life. The finest **reward of faithfulness** comes as we go to bed at night feeling God is pleased with us. "I did what God told me to do today!"

Brown referred to the Apostle Paul in jail: "I'm in jail, and I could die doing this." He pointed out that "the **sacrifice of more faithfulness is more sacrifice** — until you get home."

son whom you have helped is still walking faithfully.

"Ten years from now, will I still be walking faithfully? If the answer is yes, rejoice, because that's my gift to you."

On Love

"The basis of all witness and service is love," Brown summed up in the final morning Bible study. Focusing on Hosea who suffered when the woman God had told him to marry returned to her former life as a prostitute, Brown stated, "Every time you speak to ten people, seven will have a broken heart."

Love's choice is evidenced through God's love reaching out to you. "We need to listen not only with the mind but also with the heart," said Brown. God always elects and chooses out of love. When we understand the pattern in God's love, that He brought us back from our slavery to sin, we have reason to love, serve, and witness."

"Whatever you think God is doing in your life now, He probably isn't," Brown maintained when speaking of **love's instruction**, "for God's way is circuitous. He is drawing us to the point where we say, 'I don't care where I go as long as it's with You.' Remember all things that happen to you first pass through His nail-scarred hand."

Brown urged his listeners, "Don't miss **God's harshness.** If you've never stood before God and been afraid, you have never stood before God. He cares; He loves; but He is a consuming fire." God's love is always balanced. "When you get out of His will, God chastens."

There is a cross in the heart of the universe for the lost. "That's **love's hurt.**"

Brown reminded his listeners that when God loves, He loves forever; that's **love's future.** "You get home because His love never stops. Someday Jesus will return to clean up the mess, but now you have all the room in the world to love, witness, worship, and serve." □

"You can't love until you've been loved, and then only to the degree to which you've been loved," declared Brown.

from Matthew 25. If we have truly been servants, Christ will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."

On Faithfulness

"If ever people needed to be encouraged to be faithful, it is today," said Stephen Brown on Friday morning. "We live in a fallen world, and none of us is perfectible," so people need to encourage and support each other. "Christians are always tired, because they are trying to be perfect."

Challenging the audience to get rid of the theology of prosperity, Brown said, "This is a rotten world. Every time a pagan gets cancer or a hurt, a Christian gets the same thing, so the world can see the difference in our suffering and sacrifice." He urged his listeners to be lights in a fallen world. "We'll be home someday, and it won't make any difference."

"Two things are wonderful about the **pleasure of faithfulness**," Brown said. The rewards come as we take responsibility for our own faithfulness: We've been faithful, and we've inspired someone else to be faithful. The reward comes down the road if the per-

Evening Speakers Challenge Audience to Act on Vision 2000



we can 'Come Together and Share Our Vision.' Are you ready to witness, serve, give, share and return back to God that His work might be done?"



"Look Beyond Vision 2000," Says Susek

S tating that Vision 2000 is "one step toward eternity," Evangelist Ron Susek challenged his listeners Wednesday evening to look beyond Vision 2000 into eternity: "In that day when Jesus hands His Father His heavenly kingdom, how many people will be there because of you? How many will not be there because of you?"

Fully aware of the sovereignty of God, Susek said, "God has chosen that His work be done through people." He declared, "Jesus Christ has won every spiritual battle through 2,000 years, and He can handle every personal problem you have. He's the One who says, 'Build My Kingdom in my power and authority.'"

"There's no reason not to plant 200 churches by the year 2000 and see more than 20,000 people come into God's family through this Conference, because tonight we said, 'yes, we will obey,'" Susek asserted. He related his experiences in the start of a new church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. "There's only one way to build a church: Live in the heavenly realms in prayer, lay hold of Jesus

world beyond." He declared, "Jesus gives us a sense of direction. Once the issue of our destiny with Him is settled, God can deal with us daily, even if we don't understand it all. Only when we understand our direction can we rise above our difficulties."

Semaan said that people touch others' lives as they develop the skill of communication. "We take the building blocks of life and become bridge builders rather than wall builders," he explained. "We don't do this alone," Semaan stressed. "We have great vision, but we don't accomplish it alone. When we build a strong, verbal relationship with God, then we can come together and share the vision."

Telling of his own search for inner motivation, Semaan stated, "God motivates me, for He is the substance of life." Thirty years ago, his high school sweetheart told him about Jesus Christ. He made fun of her, but he eventually received Jesus Christ as Savior.

Relating these three keys to Vision 2000, Semaan asked his listeners if they were ready to share their faith, give of their substance, and care for others. "Everybody wears a big sign saying 'Love me,'" he explained. "We owe them a debt—the love of Jesus. As Christ motivates us,



Semaan Tells Three Keys to Success

I n his message at the Tuesday session of the evening opening Triennial Conference, Mr. Dick Semaan named three ingredients as keys to success in all areas of life: a sense of direction, skill of communication, and a source of motivation. "These are God's keys to success in our lives," Semaan, motivational speaker from Texas, stated.

"Do we know where we are going?" Semaan asked. "Many people have no inkling of their destiny, of what awaits them in the

and His resurrection power, and the impossible can happen. I can say this because it's in the Bible, and I've seen it happen the past five years in Gettysburg where people's lives have been changed."

Susek urged his listeners to spend one to three hours each day in God's Word and prayer. "There is only one way to build a church—through prayer, prayer, prayer."

Susek challenged the audience to "make a commitment to God that one person will be in heaven because of you in the next year and to fast and pray that this will happen." Through 10,000 N.A.B. Conference people's commitment to Christ, there will be 30,000 new believers between now and the next Triennial Conference, he calculated. "Turn your emotion into willful commitment," he implored. "Dare we commit to anything less as we commit to Vision 2000 that's only one step away from eternity?"



We're On the Edge of a New Venture," States Samf

"W e are on the edge of an ambitious, exciting, challenging venture—'New Churches...New Life,'" stated Church Growth Director David Samf. This is an intensive effort to plant new churches in strategic areas in the mission field of North America. It

is designed to reach a changing world with the unchanging Word of God, thereby changing thousands of lives and freshening the N.A.B. Conference.

"Will you help us? To raise \$1.8 million as a Conference would cost about one can of soda pop per month per person. Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic tool we have to win people for Christ."



Fritzke Expresses Elation over Church Planting

"I am elated because of what God is allowing us to do," stated Rev. Bernard Fritzke, associate director of church planting. "On July 1, eight church extension churches graduated to self-support." Twenty-five churches are still being supported through contributions to the North American Baptist Conference.

"On the other hand, my spirit is also devastated," shared Fritzke. "On my desk are requests for 11 more church starts in 1988-89." He pointed out that until more contributions are made for church planting, these new churches cannot be started.

"I am elated that people's lives are being changed: 37 percent of the Conference membership is the result of new church starts since 1952."



"W e have the opportunity to reach the world for Christ right on our doorstep." — Ray Harsch, associate director for evangelism and church growth.



"Dream, Plan, Pray, and Obey," Challenges Palau

B ased on John 14, international-ly known evangelist Luis Palau encouraged his listeners on Friday evening to "dream great dreams, plan great plans, pray great prayers, and obey Christ's great commands" in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"The world today has more opportunities for missionary work than ever before," Palau declared. Relating many personal experiences from around the world, Palau told how the Lord is working behind the scenes in countries often considered closed to the

Gospel. "There is a hunger for the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

"No matter where you are, if you allow the Lord to expand your vision, He will open up opportunities," Palau encouraged his listeners. "China opened up not only because the Lord wanted it to, but because the people prayed. You can never go wrong praying for the evangelization of nations and individuals. The people the Lord is using around the world are not special, but ordinary," Palau asserted.

Encouraging his listeners to obey Jesus' commands no matter what their age, Palau stated, "Some of us spend our whole life dreaming, daydreaming, and wishing, but that's not enough. You don't have to be a missionary to evangelize, and age is no deciding factor in doing something for Jesus."

"Ask the Lord what you can do by the year 2000," Palau urged. "Let each of us make the decision to dream great dreams, pray great prayers, and obey His commands. It is really possible that every person in the world could hear the Gospel by the year 2000!"



"Women need to serve God meaningfully not only in established churches but also in our newly planted churches as well."—Sara Pasiciel, president, W.M.F. 1986-88.



"Love Is the Answer," States Campolo

"Love is the answer to 'Living Together in a World that's Falling Apart,'" declared Tony Campolo, on Saturday evening, "but the world doesn't understand love."

Speaking to 8,000 to 10,000 people including about 1,200 enthusiastic youth seated together on the Olympic Saddledome's main floor, Campolo clarified what love is. "Many confuse love with romance," he said, so they fail miserably in their relationships.

"If you don't love yourself, you can't love others," asserted Campolo, citing Jesus' command: "Love others as you love yourself." Explaining that on Calvary Jesus absorbed all the sin and guilt that makes a person unlovable, Campolo said, "This same Jesus imputes His righteousness to you. Once you see how valuable you are, it becomes easier to love yourself. Then you will treat others as He treats you."

Love is primarily what a person does, according to the Bible, while society believes it is primarily something a person feels, Campolo stated. In contrast to popular opinion, he defined love as "something you are commanded to do even when you don't feel like it." He asserted, "You can make yourself love someone you think you cannot or someone you don't love anymore. Love is doing what Jesus would do if He were in our place."

Campolo asked the youth:

"How many of you are ready to do what Jesus wants you to do with your life?" Noting that sometimes parents question their children's decision to follow Jesus as missionaries, he asserted, "You can't commit your life to Jesus and waste it — it's impossible!"

Campolo challenged the audience: "Why should some hear the Gospel over and over when some have never heard?" Considering the affluent life-style pursued by many to be boring, Campolo urged, "Go into the world, raise the lame, heal the sick, and help the downtrodden."

Campolo pointed out that while "born again" appears once in the Bible, Jesus said "follow Me" 88 times. "I'm tired of a church that calls itself born again but doesn't follow Jesus!" he declared.

"Go and do something magnificent with your life," Campolo challenged the youth. "You have the vision. You can do something awesome. Don't just believe in Jesus but present your bodies as living sacrifices to God and follow Him."

Campolo called on the retired adults to sacrifice themselves as well. "How many of you received Christ as Savior because an older adult told you about Him?" he asked. "The laity are the vital ministers of evangelism, because people become artificial around ministers," he stated. Campolo suggested that retirees could pay their own way to the mission fields to serve there.

"We can alter the course of the world," Campolo declared. "You say you love God—love is more than words; it's a commitment to live out the dream and vision God has given you."

In a rousing chant which the audience shouted back in response, Campolo assured his listeners: "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!" He asserted, "When we love, serve, go, and give as Jesus called us to do, then the darkness of the world will be driven back." □

Moyes Urges: "Complete the Unfinished Task"



"Members of the North American Baptist Conference are a pilgrim people who are marching into the twenty-first century with a vision," asserted Dr. Gordon Moyes, superintendent, Wesley Central Mission, Sydney, Australia, in the closing worship service of the 42nd Triennial Conference on Sunday morning.

Noting that the North American Baptist Conference assembled in Calgary with the theme, "Come Together—Share the Vision," Moyes declared, "Marching into a new triennium, people who know where they are going surely will not get lost. Now we must finish the task." Unlike mainline denominations that have declined in significance and numbers in the past three decades, the North American Baptist Conference is alive, because it has kept its purposes and grown by adapting to society's changing needs, Moyes said.

Moyes drew a parallel between the Jews who saw themselves as a pilgrim people and the North American Baptists who immigrated to North America. Referring to Frank Woyke's and William Sturhahn's books, he urged, "Read your history; discover your roots!" He traced the pilgrim theme from the early Christians through the Puritans to the nineteenth century German Christian immigrants: "They were pilgrims on the way to heaven by way of God's own country! Here they found religious freedom, and they became determined to serve the Lord."

Moyes senses that the North American Baptist Conference is still a pilgrim people, seeing the future in Vision 2000. "Pilgrims remember their heritage of faith,"

he stated. Reminding his listeners of how the German Baptist church grew by conversions, he observed, "Today that faith is spread by missionary concern in Cameroon, Brazil, Nigeria, Japan, the Philippines, and among many ethnic groups in North America. "Pilgrims meet in thanksgiving to God," Moyes pointed out, "just as you of the North American Baptist Conference have come to this Triennial Conference to offer thanks."

"Pilgrims practice their faith," Moyes asserted. As he studied the North American Baptist Conference, he was impressed that from the very beginning they expressed their faith in practical deeds of Christian compassion. "They had a powerful determination to see slavery removed from America," he noted. They also emphasized that all should experience religious freedom and social justice. "Social justice must go hand in hand with evangelical proclamation; otherwise it's irrelevant," he declared.

Another characteristic of pilgrims is that they hold biblical

imperatives, Moyes said. "You are to be congratulated upon the directions you have set yourself in your six Biblical Imperatives guiding your ministry," he felt.

"Your traditional emphasis upon believers' baptism by immersion has now become the centre of worldwide theological interest," Moyes informed his listeners. "Don't let go of this doctrine," he urged. "You now have an opportunity as never before to give theological import to the meaning of believers' baptism."

Pilgrims know their destiny, Moyes pointed out. "You, too, have a vision and know your destiny," he declared. "The Lord gave us the Great Commission to go into all the world to disciple all nations: to preach, baptize, and teach. We now must finish the task!"

In a riveting conclusion, Moyes urged his listeners to go forward to complete the task as a pilgrim people who will not get lost, "with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Great I Am, who alone is necessary, who alone is enough." □

Delegates Adopt Vision 2000; Resolutions on Ministry, Renewal, Pornography and Abortion

1,322 delegates representing the local churches of the North American Baptist Conference conducted the business of the Conference during daytime sessions of the Triennial Conference. Moderator Ernie Radke of Calgary, AB, led the sessions with Stanley Johnson of Tacoma, WA, and the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Minneapolis, MN, as parliamentarians. Mehlhaff served also as vice moderator of the Conference.

Vision 2000

Following Dr. John Binder's presentation of the recommendation concerning **Vision 2000**, the delegates adopted **Vision 2000**. The proposal included a condensation of the 68 goals and several hundred action steps generated by about 90 people in five regional task forces, one Conference-level task force, and some Conference Boards focusing on six Biblical Imperatives: to worship, grow, witness, serve, care, and give. *(The total document is being made available to churches and Conference leadership this fall. Brochures are available for distribution.)*

"**Vision 2000** is flexible and creative. Each church is free to adopt, improvise, or modify it in terms of its own local needs," stated Dr. Binder. "It may be woven into each congregation's existing program. This should be implemented in a spirit of celebration."

Resolutions

Resolutions Committee Chair Gordon Unger of Edmonton, AB, presented four resolutions approved by the General Council for recommendation to the Triennial

Conference delegates. They are printed here as adopted.

Resolution on a Call to Renewal

As members of the North American Baptist Conference assembled together,

Recognizing our need to renew our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and in dependence upon the Holy Spirit who empowers our lives,

We call ourselves to a fresh understanding and commitment to Jesus' command in Matthew 22: 37-39 (NIV):

" 'Love the Lord with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Resolution on the Ministry of the Congregation

As members of the North American Baptist Conference assembled together,

We express our appreciation and affirm our support for men and women whom God has called to serve in our congregations and our Conference.

In commending those whom God has called to these offices, we also acknowledge our individual responsibilities as the called ones of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ, to identify our spiritual gifts, and to assume our roles in ministry as those roles are determined in the teachings of Scripture.

We affirm the priesthood of the believer, men and women, in accordance with the standards of New Testament teaching.

We acknowledge our corporate responsibility to develop our gifts in service, always bearing in mind the servant qualities Jesus exemplified in John 13, working to eliminate artificial distinctions between clergy and laity.

We commit ourselves to assume our individual roles in fulfilling Christ's commission through our local congregations.

Resolution on Human Life

As members of the North American Baptist Conference assembled together, we endorse the following declaration:

We believe that this is a moment in history when we, as a people, must challenge current practices concerning human life. We must affirm the rights of the unborn, convince others of the sanctity of life, and seek to eliminate the tragedy of abortion.

We recognize that we have permitted abortion to be carried out in our countries with too little effort on our part both to convince others of its immorality and to provide alternatives to people facing the prospects of supporting an unexpected child.

We believe the Spirit of God is calling those who follow Jesus Christ to accept personal and corporate responsibility to convince our fellow citizens, to encourage the medical profession, and to press legislators to accept our common task of assisting in-

dividuals, raising our collective morality, and saving lives.

Our Biblical View

Recognizing that life is a gift from God, we affirm the inherent worth of human life beginning with conception. Human beings are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 5:1-3; 9:6; Psalm 8:4-8; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Colossians 3:10; James 3:9). Human life came from God as a special act of creation (Genesis 1:26). Men and women bear a unique likeness to God in the totality of their being. Humankind acts as God's representative upon earth, responsible for all other earthly creatures (Genesis 1:28). Even though the first human pair, Adam and Eve, marred the divine image by disobedience, that image was not destroyed. Humankind's unique worth to God continues (Genesis 9; Psalm 8). All humans possess a dignity that must not be violated.

The biblical command to love God and your neighbour as yourself is the core of our concern for one another (Leviticus 19:18; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9). Christian morality is grounded in this belief. Likewise, Micah's call for justice and mercy (Micah 6:8) stems from the belief that because all people bear the divine image, the dignity of the least advantaged must be respected.

The value of human life cannot be measured simply by its usefulness or its capacity to enjoy life. Hence, we affirm our responsibility to fight injustice, to alleviate human suffering, to uphold the right to life, and to provide for the security of the unborn child, the severely handicapped, and the disabled against all forms of technological and social dehumanization.

The Constitution

The Constitutions of both our nations recognize the uniqueness of each individual, along with certain rights and protections afforded thereto. Because God has conferred this unique significance upon each human life, our political and judicial procedures ought to reflect this inherent value and safeguard the integrity of all people regardless of their weakness, incapacity, or dependence.

Medicine

Fetiology recognizes the unborn child as a patient along with the mother. Diagnosis and treatment are now available to both parties. We believe, therefore, that both patients have legal rights. The denial of the rights of either mother or child is without medical warrant. An unborn child may receive the benefits of medical monitoring in the womb to save its life. When a medical institution wantonly attacks the unborn in the womb with the single purpose of destroying it, that institution is in violation of the medical principle of preserving human life.

Such abortion treats the unborn child as a commodity, subject to competing concerns such as economic circumstances, career planning, and personal convenience. We believe that this violates the rights of the unborn child and contravenes the law of the living God. The unborn child should not be required to prove his or her right to life or desirability against the competing interest of parents or society.

Society

In our age of moral and social turmoil, many lives of unborn children are ended to accommodate social convenience. These acts have helped to weaken the social fabric of our society by confusing and distorting the obligation of the medical profession to care for all human life. Our society becomes conditioned to accept death as a way of solving social and economic problems, thus making way for the acceptance of euthanasia for deformed babies, for the physically or mentally disadvantaged, and the elderly.

Conclusion

We are called to oppose the destruction of human life, to seek a biblically just social policy, and to be servants in loving, Christian action. We are committed to a comprehensive Christian ministry that speaks to all of life including exploitation, unemployment, the breakdown of the family, child abuse, pornography, racism, and idolatrous materialism.

While firmly opposed to abortion, we recognize that those

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Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

whose views are contrary to ours should be treated with respect and dignity and that God's forgiveness is offered to all.

We call the Church to express the compassion of Christ in supporting mothers in their decision to carry a child to birth and in providing a community in which every child can expect to be reared in a climate of hope. We also urge continuing active support for those involved in parenting and in the adoption and fostering of children.

The Church must renew its commitment to teaching a biblical view of sexuality, including marriage, wholesome relationships, and the affirmation that sex is a physical endowment, a source of joy, and a sacred trust. The Church must also affirm single people in their singleness. We call men and women to value the role of motherhood and fatherhood and to develop nurturing attitudes toward children.

All this we hold by faith in Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Saviour, who entered this world through the process of natural birth and who revealed to humankind the undamaged image of God. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and the living example for our lives today.

(Adapted from an original formulated by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, October 1, 1987.)

Resolution on Human Sexuality and Pornography

As members of the North American Baptist Conference assembled together, we endorse the following declaration:

(Continued on page 14)

As Christians, we celebrate our human sexuality in all its complexity and beauty.

We affirm our commitment to practice and to teach a biblical view of sexuality, of permanent commitment to and respect for marriage, and of sex within marriage, one man united in marriage to one woman. We affirm our support of single people in their singleness.

We believe men and women were created with a gender distinction that is foundational to the survival and well-being of society (Genesis 1:27, 28). Sexuality in the context of self-giving (agape) love creates the basis for the marriage bond (Ephesians 5:21-33; John 13:1-17; Genesis 2:24). The partnership in the sexual relationship enhances the foundation of unity in which parents may raise children in accordance with spiritual guidelines (Deuteronomy 6:2, 4-9; Malachi 4:6). Sexuality reaches its highest purpose and its fullest expression in the marriage relationship. Sexual expression and activity in contradiction to this purpose are condemned in biblical authority.

We oppose the practices in society that glamorize and trivialize sex and debase sexuality.

We oppose practices, life-styles, and models in our communities that contradict biblical values: the display of the human body solely for the purpose of sexual stimulation; the reduction of sex merely to its physical component, demeaning and trivializing sexuality of meaning and purpose; the widespread acceptance of homosexual, premarital, and extramarital relationships.

We oppose the exploitation of sex and sexuality in the pornography industry. The degradation of women and men, the arousal of attitudes of exploitation, violence and abuse, the negative influences on moral values and decency in society and on marriage and family relationships, are all consequences of pornography.

We oppose the exploitation of children as objects of sexual perversion and violence in pornography.

We define pornography as the literary or visual depiction of sexual immorality which may include the

portrayal of other types of immoral and socially destructive behavior.

The biblical attitude toward sex within its proper context is good, ordained by God for the blessing and propagation of the human race (Genesis 1:28; 2:24-25; 4:1).

For obscene material to be found illegal in the U.S.A. today, it must meet three tests. A person applying contemporary community standards would have to find that the material, as a whole, appeals to prurient interests; the material must depict sexual conduct in an offensive way; and it must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. Similar tests apply in Canada, although the legislative context is presently undergoing redefinition.

As Christians, we recognize that the problem of pornography is becoming an increasingly destructive force in our society and in our congregations; it cries out for regulation and action. When individual actions bring harm to others, public limits are in order.

Pornography is an industry which creates and exploits a lie. In pornography, there is no celebration of a love commitment. Sexuality is degraded to a self-serving physical sensation; men and women are defined only as sex objects.

In pornography, there are frequently developed the themes of forced sexual submission, of the violence of rape, and/or of the suggestion that children are legitimate objects of adult sexual activity.

There is evidence that pornography is often linked to sexual violence. Some studies by social scientists have demonstrated that pornography is not only harmful to participants and consumers but also has far-reaching consequences for societal values and institutions.

We urge our congregations to develop an awareness of the implications of pornography, to support those who act to enforce laws against obscenity and indecency, and to oppose those who contribute to the dissemination of pornography, such opposition being within lawful boundaries acting in a fashion to attract people to Christ rather than to further alienate them. □



Parliamentarian and Program Chair, Harvey Mehlhaff of Minneapolis explains the rules. He is the newly elected moderator.

We urge our congregations and our people to minister to those who have been victimized by pornography and its effects and in compassion to those who victimize, affirming at all times the love of God and the new life in Jesus Christ.

Changes Bring Departments and Cooperating Organizations into Constitution

Stanley Johnson, chair of the Committee, pointed out that the Constitutional Change Committee applied three basic principles to its recommendations: to make the document simple and easy to understand, to bring the departments and cooperating organizations into the Constitution, and to make it gender neutral. Delegates approved these changes.

Delegates voted to add "and university level educational opportunities" to Section F, North American Baptist College.

Delegates also voted that at least one lay person and one pastor shall be from Canada on the North American Baptist Seminary Board (South Dakota).

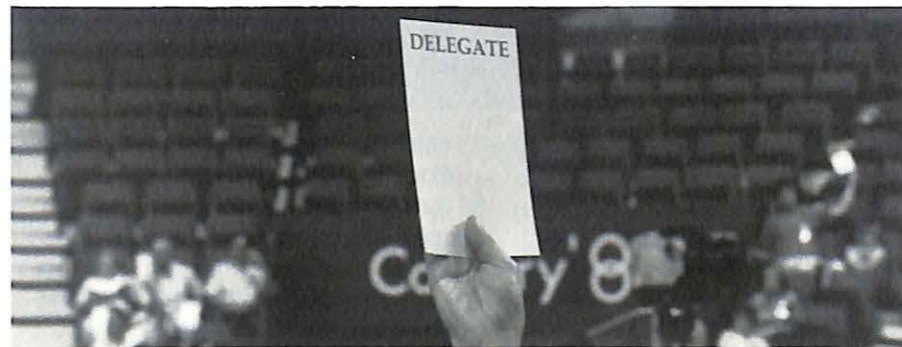
An amendment offered by a woman from the floor to remove the age restriction of being less than 65 years of age at time of election for the Executive Director or a Department Director was defeated. (A copy of the newly revised Constitution of the North American Baptist Conference is available by writing to the North American Baptist International Office.) □



Stan Johnson explains the Constitutional changes.



"I've worked on many committees during my life, but I've never felt the excitement that I've had serving on this Resolutions Committee," said Gordon Unger, resolutions committee chair.



Votes "Yes" for Vision 2000



Dr. John Binder (right) presents Ernie Radke (left) a plaque in recognition of his three years of service as Conference moderator.



"Babies are not the only victims of abortion, so are the women who have the abortion," emphasizes Dr. Lois McLatchie.



"Now about this Constitutional Change ... regarding accountability," asks Cleo Enockson Hagan



"We need to love and support the unwed mothers... take them into our homes... have churches organize adoption agencies," says Dr. Willi Gutowski.



Tellers Committee Chair Bob Walther (left) reports election results to Moderator Radke.

Better than Gold — An Awesome Youth Program

Great music, relevant Bible teaching, exciting contemporary Christian concerts, rousing "attitude checks," cafeteria food, lots of fun, not much sleep, lively discussions, good times with friends, many LRT rides—the Triennial Conference Youth Program consisted of these and much more for about 1,200 senior high and college age youth.

Following the opening session of the Conference on Tuesday evening, Jerry Proppe, professional Christian musician from Calgary, gave a concert at the Saddledome. With a repertoire of fun and serious songs, Proppe set the focus for the week, challenging the 1,100 youth attending to reach for that which is "Better Than Gold"—God's love.

Dewey Bertolini, youth program Bible teacher, confronted the basic question, "What is truth?" in the opening session at the Convention Centre Wednesday morning. Sharing how he tried to commit suicide and then studied many different religions, Bertolini told what he discovered about the Bible that was not true of other religious books. He surveyed the unity of the Bible, and cited evidence of the Bible's historical, scientific, and the prophetic accuracy.

"Aren't you glad," he asked the youth, "that you hold in your hand the only source of truth, the Bible?"

David Meece, popular Christian contemporary musician, performed before 1,500 appreciative youth and adults Wednesday evening. In his two-hour concert, Meece displayed great gifts in composition, piano playing, and vocal range.

The audience enjoyed Meece's sense of humor as well as his deep commitment to ministry. Many were ministered to by his popular song, "We Are the Reason," in which Meece tells how the cross shows the incredible worth of each person: "We are the reason that He gave His life."

Bertolini changed his topic on Thursday morning when he saw the number of hands raised in

response to his question, "How many of you have come in contact with someone who has attempted suicide?" Bertolini exposed four misconceptions about suicide: Christians can't commit suicide; suicide is illogical; the only type of suicide is physical; and suicide is always immediate.

Defining suicide as any willful act of self-destruction, Bertolini examined physical, mental, moral, and spiritual suicide.

Bertolini explained that the subconscious part of the brain, the body's most influential organ, has perfect, subphotographic memory but cannot discern between right and wrong. "Therefore," he declared, "whatever you put in your brain will determine the choices you make."

On Thursday afternoon, the youth raised more than \$2,000 for missions at a Rodeo Fair at Stampede Park. Almost 200 youth raced in the Western Grand Prix on special cars developed for this event. "It was a blast," said one youth.

Newly appointed missionaries to the Philippines, Greg and Maria Evans, presented a skit about missions during the Friday morning session.

Admitting, "Sometimes I wonder, am I missing it?" Bertolini addressed the topic of envying the wicked based on Proverbs 23 and Psalm 73. He cited several reasons to feel this way: sin is fun; the young lack perspective; Satan is a liar; and some Christians are hypocrites. He countered with his reasons not to give in to temptation: "I would be letting you down; I would set myself on a

Ron Rogalski, youth program music leader, spoke of "singing as the thermometer of God's Spirit within us," to the 1,100 senior high and college age youth meeting in the Convention Centre. "For when God is overflowing from within, we can't help but sing," he told them. Ron, who led the youth in enthusiastic singing every morning, composed the youth theme song, "Better than Gold."



"Aren't you glad," Bertolini asked the youth, "that you hold in your hand the only source of truth, the Bible?"

course of swift, certain destruction; I would be acting in ignorance; and I would violate my most important relationship — with God."

Acknowledging that sometimes the youth felt cynical as he did, Bertolini asserted: "Following Christ is the wisest decision anyone can ever make. I'm offering you the only cause that is real." Eight youth decided to accept Christ as Savior after a call from Bertolini.

Randy Stonehill and the Rockets, a contemporary Christian

music group, gave an energetic, upbeat concert Friday night at the Convention Centre. Many stood and clapped to the music throughout the program.

During the final session on Saturday, Bertolini, who had won the love and attention of the youth during the week, spoke on the vital importance of integrity. Believing that the universal cry of young people today is for someone to look up to, he asked, "Are you a hypocrite? Are you living a double life?"

"Never forget to set your goal

on becoming a man or woman of complete integrity," Bertolini urged. Referring to Achan who disobeyed the Lord and took war booty, Bertolini delineated the anatomy of sin: "I saw it, I wanted it, and I took it." To illustrate the anatomy of integrity, he used the story of Joseph who said to Potiphar's wife, "My master has entrusted everything to me except you. How can I do this thing? How can I do this evil thing and sin against God?"

The session ended emotionally with a confession time. Bertolini

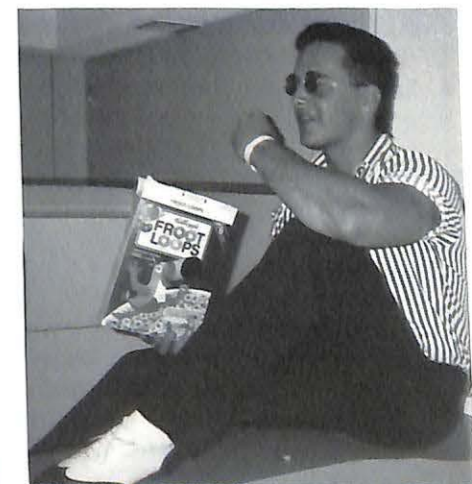
asked the youth to write on note-cards those things about which they felt convicted and anything they felt had negatively affected their integrity. They then placed these on the platform and the youth pastors laid hands on the 1,100 cards, praying for restored integrity.

Tears of grief, guilt, relief, and joy flowed as youth examined themselves and recognized that Christ can turn their lives around. "At this time we realized that Christ is 'Better than Gold,'" stated Brian of Illinois. "This ending rally really set our hearts on 'Sharing the Vision.'" □

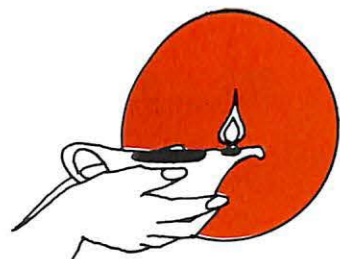
— Perry Friesen, Lisa Schneider, and Brian Binder, reporters.



BETTER THAN GOLD



Life at the University of Calgary dorms where the youth stayed.



WOMEN of HOPE

reaching our world

Over 1500 Attend Women's Luncheon at Triennial Conference

Macleod Hall at the Calgary Convention Centre provided an attractive and comfortable setting for the W.M.F. Luncheon at the 42nd Triennial Conference held in Calgary, AB. Mrs. Phyllis Buyer, chair of women's events, and her committee, did an excellent job in making arrangements for a most enjoyable luncheon.

Mrs. Sara Pasiciel, W.M.F. president, presided over the luncheon filled with highlights.

Pleasurable music was provided by Mary Smith at the piano, Marg Daly playing flute, vocals by Patty Trevor and trio numbers by Freda Kanwischer, Caroline Zeitner, and Helen Griscowsky.



Probably the biggest highlight was the tribute to LaVerna Mehlhaff who served as women's work director for the past 14 years. LaVerna was presented with a gold watch, designed especially for her, in appreciation for her faithful, dedicated service. Mary June Burgess also presented a gift to LaVerna, a lovely tablecloth, on behalf of the women of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

A total surprise to LaVerna was a tribute to her, telling of her life and service to the Lord over the years. LaVerna's sister, Violet, was present for the luncheon and the tribute. Her presence, too, was a surprise for LaVerna.



Guest speaker, Mrs. Dorothy Sample, president of the N.A.B.W.U., challenged the audience to look out, look within, and look up: look out to those who need Christ and need help in our home, church, community, nation, and the ends of the earth; look within to discover our gifts which God wants to use; look up to Christ for the resources to use our gifts.

LaVerna's response was one of gratitude to God for His daily faithfulness and appreciation to the women who had undergirded her with prayer and whose work had made the women's ministries in the local church and, thus, the Conference successful.

Interviews with five missionaries provided interesting insights into a missionary woman's life. Interviewed were Maria Evans (appointed to the Philippines), Minnie Kuhn (Nigeria), Nobuko Clausen (Japan), Mary June Burgess (Cameroon), and Jerilyn Bayer (Brazil).

One of Minnie's joys was to see a baby she had delivered, Kathy Wanmi, grow up. Kathy was the only child in the family; eight other babies were stillborn. Minnie also encouraged us to remember that "missionaries are human beings; halos pinch." Nobuko wished we could have all been in Japan to experience the miracle the Lord worked in getting their church building up. Mary June finds joy in being part of the training process of young Cameroonian husbands and wives. Jerilyn urged the women to continue to pray for the missionaries. "You have no idea what your prayers mean to us missionaries." □



Retiring missionaries, Miss Eleanor Weisenberger and Miss Minnie Kuhn, were honored for their many years of faithful, productive work for the Lord. Minnie has served in both Cameroon and Nigeria since 1952, a total of 36 years, and Eleanor has served in Cameroon since 1948, a total of 40 years.



Newly elected W.M.F. officers to serve 1989-91 (left to right) Mrs. Nancy Lennick, Dickinson, ND, vice president; Mrs. Manetta Hohn, Kelowna, BC, president; Mrs. Yvonne Fischer, Parkston, SD, secretary-treasurer.



Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, retiring director of women's work, introduces and "passes the ball" to newly appointed Director of Women's Ministries, Miss Linda Ebel.

Glimpses of the Conference



"We have well over 6,000 registered — the largest N.A.B. Triennial Conference as well as the largest Convention ever held in Calgary," said Harry Hiller, local arrangements chair (at right). "We've exceeded previous conferences by about 2,000 registrants. No labor was too demanding; no labor was too grandiose for the 25 committees, 250 committee members, and hundreds of volunteers who worked to make this Conference possible." Carl Lang (at left) served as vice chair.



A parade of flags from the five provinces of Canada and some of the states in the U.S.A. as well as the seven countries in which there is North American Baptist Conference mission work opened the Conference. A 150-voice choir from Calgary and Alberta Association churches accompanied by a 30-piece orchestra presented the premier performance of "A Joyful Celebration," composed by Horst Laser, member of Thornhill Baptist Church. A choir of 70 children, ages 8 to 13, were part of this celebration.



National representatives from overseas brought greetings and reports: Rev. Peter Jumvu, treasurer of Mambilla Baptist Convention, and Mr. and Mrs. Zebulon Wanmi, medical work, of Nigeria; Rev. Samuel Ngum, executive secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention, Cameroon. Students from Cameroon studying at our schools were also introduced: Rev. Alfred Bumuh, NABC, and Rev. Elias Bongmba, NABS, and his family.



Joy and praise to God filled the Saddle-dome as Larry Roberts, Fair Oaks, CA, led the congregation in singing.



Rev. Ron Berg of Edmonton, AB, challenged the audience each evening to give for the mission and ministry work of the Conference. By the end of the week, as people worshipped God through their tithes and offerings, the total came to \$218,117.76, the largest Conference offering in history. (In 1985, the total was \$95,031; 1982 - \$110,194; and in 1979 - \$76,367.)



Reporting on Baptist World Alliance ministries, Dr. Reinhold Kerstan said that during 1988-89, 50,000 Bibles will be sent to Cuba. "The emphasis of BWA around the world is in humanitarian aid, help in racial integration, and support of evangelical Christianity in oppressed countries." Baptist groups from 144 countries are members of the BWA. In 1987-88, Christian outreach in Ethiopia advanced 47 percent even in the presence of famine." Dr. Kerstan also brought the message during a special Sunday morning German worship service.



Glimpses of the Conference



Dr. James Dunn, executive director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, pointed out that this year Baptists in America are celebrating their 350th anniversary. "From their beginnings, they have emphasized religious liberty for all."



Mayor Ralph Klein welcomes the Conference to Calgary and presents a hat to Executive Director John Binder.



Gold medalist in flute, Margaret Daly, who is part-time instructor in music at N.A.B. College, provided a worship experience, as she played "He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd."



Young teens focusing on the theme, "Out of the Chutes," thought their speaker, Allen Kjesbo, did a great job. Moving more than 200 young teens by C-train on afternoon trips proved to be a positive witness by these youth. Youth leaders were complimented by the management of the wave pool as well as the C-train for the teens' excellent conduct. We're proud of you!



Sixty-three youth from across Canada and the U.S.A. met in Calgary the weekend preceding the Conference to form an honor youth choir that sang at Banff, Lake Louise, and at the Triennial Conference. The choir's program ranged from music by Bach to "Dry Bones." "The uniqueness of this group," said Brian Trevor, director from Calgary, "was their shared bond of music and their love for Christ. This was a sharp group of youth. We'd like to tour next summer."

He announced that as of June 19, the Divinity School has been accepted as an Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools. "This affirms the quality of our school," he stated.

The Rev. Gordon Stork, church planting pastor in South Austin, TX, told 335 men and women at the North American Baptist Seminary Breakfast, "We need to celebrate planting churches." He pointed out that ministry is not numbers but it is meeting the needs of people.

When Stork left British Columbia to plant a church in Texas, his parents told him: "Be faithful and leave the results up to God."

Referring to his experience as church planting pastor and what has been most helpful to him, Stork used the word support as an acrostic to show Jesus' example: S - stand by the person; U - uphold that person in fervent prayer; P - give positive input; P - give your presence, over lunch or through phone calls and letters; O - provide an open, listening ear; R - respond when called on; and T - give tender, loving care. Stork concluded: "Let's encourage each other; unite together; let's have victory; let's be a people of integrity."



education. Now they want a university education. As a result, the College now offers a two year Associate of Arts degree transferrable to the University of Alberta. "In addition, N.A.B. College continues to give students a sound biblical foundation," stated Paetzel. He also announced that 1989-90 will be celebrated as the jubilee year of the College.

North American Baptist Divinity School Academic Vice President Syd Page reminded the group that pastoral training began in 1958 at the school.



On behalf of the North American Baptist Seminary alumni, the Rev. Harry Haas, Chancellor, SD alumni president, presented a certificate of recognition to the Rev. Alfred Weisser, Sioux Falls, SD, for his dedicated service in various ministries.



Moyes Talks to Pastors About Burn Out

Gordon Moyes in speaking to 318 ministers at their luncheon stated that ministry is a health hazard. He pointed to pastors in the Bible who had suffered burnout. Some burn out, Moyes feels, because they are not suited to the rugged individualism needed for the ministry; others' ideals are not appreciated; some have money problems; some ministers' wives are forced to work due to the minister's insufficient salary; some older ministers are not receiving calls from churches they are prepared for.

Moyes pointed out that Paul knew the costs of caring. "What enabled Paul to burn without being consumed?" he asked. Moyes answered by saying that Paul believed the work he was doing was of eternal significance; he was committed completely to the life of the Gospel; he disciplined his desires; he was enthusiastic about sharing the Gospel; he fashioned a bond of caring with his people; he had convincing commitment to the Scriptures; and he had a remarkable prayer life for the people to whom he ministered. "If God has called you," Moyes concluded, "you can burn without being consumed."

The Church Is a Priority, Collings Tells Men

Charles Collings, businessman from Elk Grove, CA, told 770 men at their luncheon that he has a strong belief in the local church. "I attend to show my neighbors and community that church is a priority in my life. When I introduce someone to Christ, I lead that person into the local church, also." Collings also believes in a strong prayer life and maintains a prayer list. "It's also important to demonstrate support financially for the local church," stressed Collings. "We learn from experience the faithfulness of God. My wife and I have practiced tithing to the local church for 41 years." Beyond their tithes and offerings to the local church, they give to Christian organizations that evidence accountability and a ministry that builds the body of Christ and not an individual.

Collings challenged the men to reflect on their commitment to God and the local church. "Are you will-



About 3,500 people enjoyed a chuckwagon breakfast on the grounds of Stampede Park on Wednesday morning. The Christian Cowboys of Calgary provided background music.

The signs, smells, and sounds of the Conference barbecue and rodeo reflected the western flavor of Calgary.



A Tribute to Nursery and Children's Program Chairs, Committees, and Volunteers

"Learning, Laughing, Loved — and We Thank You"

Calgary '88 for a mom meant —
Hearing about snack times
Hearing about panda videos
Hearing about new friends
Hearing about Bible stories
Hearing about living in N.A.B. Bear Country
Hearing the songs of Sandy and Lee Paley
Hearing about nap times
Hearing about the P.O.W.E.R. Company puppets
Hearing about the zoo, planetarium, Butterfield Farm, Heritage Park

194 children, ages six months to five years, were in the nursery program, and 340 children, grades 1-6, were in the children's program.

With our children, we will relive Conference days for many months to come. We want you to know how thankful we are for being involved in our children's lives through the Triennial Conference week. God bless each of you who gave of your time so wonderfully. In '91 our kids will be three years older. We hope to see you again.

A Mom



Commissioned to Witness

Baptism and new members show growth in our churches. Praise God for these people.

■ ALPENA, MI. "You're Part of the Family" was the theme at Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church's evening service when 21 people joined the Church, Sept. 11, 1988. Two infants were also dedicated at this service.

Testimonies given by Alden Kirschner and Ann Glawe told of their faith in God and what the Church family meant to them during their critical illnesses and surgery. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor of the Church. —Doris Turnbull

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. Recently, four young people gave testimony of their conversion experiences, were baptized by the Rev. Harry Haas, and joined the membership of First Baptist Church. —Ray DeNeui

■ GREELEY, CO. Sherwood Park Baptist Church has had seven baptisms in 1988. "We started out with 21 members, and now have 89," reports Lynda Whaley, historian, noting that the Church celebrated its 25th anniversary in July 1988. "We have come a long way with God's help."

■ MERCER, ND. Pastor Don Schmid baptized

one 12-year-old boy and his great-grandfather (86) at Mercer Baptist Church.

At a summer youth retreat, 26 teenagers stepped forward to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Three couples dedicated their babies to the Lord as Pastor Schmid led the service. —Mary Fiedler

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. Pastor Leigh Harrison baptized one adult at Hillcrest Baptist Church, since his installation as pastor in June. She and five others were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church.

"We also rejoice that Cindy Cummins, a member of our Church, serves on the New Day team," reports Louise Westerman.

■ LEDUC, AB. Pastor Randy Radke baptized five persons at First Baptist Church recently. Five babies were also dedicated to the Lord. —Margaret Kern

■ TRENTON, IL. Pastor Jeff Patet baptized three young people, and four others joined First Baptist Church through transfer of membership.

Three new ministries have begun at the

Church: "Kids of the Kingdom," ministry to the elderly at three area nursing homes, and a Men's Prayer Breakfast. —Gene Luginbuhl

Minot Church Celebrates "A Century of God's Grace"

■ MINOT, ND. "A spirit of love and cooperating effort has been displayed as 'A Century of God's Grace' is being celebrated this year at First Baptist Church," reports Inez Rhone.

Special events throughout the year have included a Friendship Banquet in February with Lt. Gov. Lloyd Omdahl, speaker; a "Retire the Mortgage" banquet in April, Dr. Paul Siewert, speaker; and a Wayne Watson concert sponsored by the youth of the Church as a community outreach.

A highlight of the three-day "Main Event" in July was the Church's float entered in the State Fair Parade. Missionaries rode on the float which displayed the theme, "Celebrating a Century of God's Grace." A concert and viewing a video of past church life were part of these days.

Other events included a banquet with Rev. Ralph Cooke, speaking, and a communion service led by Pastor Keith Heyn and

former Pastor Eric Coulon. "A praise and testimony service reminded us of how many people have been nurtured at the Church and sent out into other parts of the world," states Inez.

Former pastor Robert Bear challenged all to go forward in service at the Sunday worship service. Byron Brodehl, former youth pastor, ministered in music. Former pastor, R.F. McNay, attended the celebration, also.

A catered picnic at a local park ended this event of praising God as in the Church's theme verse: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).

Alpena Youth Attend "Youth Fest '88"

■ ALPENA, MI. Some 200 junior and senior high school students from Michigan, including 11 from Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, attended a September "Youth Fest '88" in northern Michigan. The purpose was to encourage these students to take a stand for Christ in school this year. Tim and Traci Powell were sponsors for these eleven youth.

—Doris Turnbull

Sioux Falls Church Celebrates Its First Service

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. After many hours of hard work and planning, bathed in much prayer, 150 people attended the Sunday morning inaugural service for Oak Hills Baptist Church. The service was held at the Prince of Peace Retirement Center in Southeast Sioux Falls.

"Of that number, 54 were first-time attenders who had been contacted through our outreach efforts which included a phonathon, direct mail invitations, and advertising in the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader*," reports Pastor Art Bollaert. "Others came as a result of personal invitation by those who had attended previous evening services."

Following the service, more than 100 persons attended a free Bar-B-Q which was held at the YMCA day camp. "Friends from West Center Street Baptist Church in Madison served this luncheon for us," says Bollaert. "This allowed the Oak Hills people to visit with our first-time attenders."

With such numbers, the church needed to find a new location for morning worship services. They moved to

Robert Frost Elementary School on the first Sunday of October.

N.A.B. College Youth Give Concert in Martin

■ MARTIN, ND. "On Track," a musical team from N.A.B. College, Edmonton, AB, gave a concert at Martin Baptist Church, June 22, 1988.

"This group of committed and talented young people glorify their Lord through the gift of music. He has given them," reports Delma Kost.

The Rev. Bill Keple is pastor of the Church.

Potratz Speaks at Columbus Church

■ COLUMBUS, NE. Shell Creek Baptist Church held a week of Deeper Life Meetings with Dr. L. Dale Potratz as speaker recently.

Raymore Men Meet Monthly to Pray and Witness

■ RAYMORE, SK. "One of my goals when I came to Raymore Baptist

Called to Worship

Church was to have men meet together for prayer and fellowship," says Pastor Graham Kern. "We have a group of young men who are excited for the Lord. I began to share my dream with some of them. Immediately, men volunteered to cook and make the arrangements for a breakfast. They personally invited all the men in the Church to the breakfast. In turn, some who were asked invited others to come. These included non-Christians and men who had not been in church for quite some time.

"At first I thought this should be a time when the men of the church could fellowship and pray together. But as they started to ask their non-Christian friends, we thought a different format would be better. After prayer and some thought, we decided to eat breakfast, sing together, have someone share his testimony, close in prayer, and leave time to interact one-on-one. This format has proved to meet the need and allow the non-Christian to feel very comfortable and want to come back.

"The men are encouraged to pray for and then ask one non-Christian friend to come.

Some come; some don't, but the men are excited about the opportunity to ask and see their non-Christian friends come.

"At our first breakfast in February 1988, we had about 17 men. We were excited. Some of them were from a Pentecostal church in a neighboring town (Semans). We had decided to have one breakfast each month.

"In planning for March, the men from the Pentecostal church suggested we combine our efforts and meet together. We did and met in Semans for our next breakfast. Praise the Lord! Twenty-four men came to fellowship together. Some were Lutheran, others were United, Baptist, and Pentecostal. We were one in Christ.

"Now we meet once a month and alternate between churches. We average 25 men each month. I think the key to its success is that someone shares a personal testimony of what God has done in his life. When these men hear how God works in the lives of farmers, teachers, accountants, electricians, or whomever, this spurs them on to live for the Lord in their daily walk." —Graham Kern

Challenged to Grow

Greeley Church Hosts Southwestern Association

■ GREELEY, CO. Sherwood Park Baptist Church hosted the Southwestern Association meetings, July 15-17, 1988, with the theme, "Moving on to Maturity" (Hebrews 6:1). The Rev. Ray Harsch, associate director for evangelism and church growth, and Dr. Charles Hiatt, president, N.A.B. Seminary, spoke.

The Association received Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, MO, as a member of the Association. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, welcomed the new pastors and families into the Association.

Events included special music by the First Baptist

Church, LaSalle, CO, choir, a W.M.F. breakfast business meeting; and an evening banquet celebrating Sherwood Park Baptist Church's 25th anniversary

—Ruth Marie Fuchs

Michigan Girls Make Commitment to Bible Study and Prayer

■ ALPENA, MI. Recently, 11 senior high girls from Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church spent a weekend in Petoskey, Michigan, accompanied by two adults from the Church. Their emphasis centered on the themes, "Jesus Is My Personal Friend," and "Growing as a Christian." "Results were 11 renewed com-

mitments for daily Bible study and prayer," reports Doris Turnbull.

Alpena Youth Go Backpacking in Michigan Wilderness

■ ALPENA, MI. A dozen noisy, excited teenagers from Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church boarded the Church van and a truck for a weekend of backpacking in the wilderness of Porcupine mountains, Upper Peninsula, Michigan. Accompanied by Youth Director Tim Pollard and two other adults, their purpose was to strengthen their faith and walk with Christ.

—Doris Turnbull

Alpena Church Plans for Growth

■ ALPENA, MI. "Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church took another step into the future when the congregation voted to enter Phase II of the Church Growth Plan," reports Doris Turnbull. This phase includes preliminary architecture and a "Stewardship of Life" campaign from Church Growth Services.

The Church has purchased 17.6 acres on Thunder Bay River, the first stage of a 25-year growth plan.

"The ultimate goal for the present and future is to draw the Church together and to win lost souls for Jesus Christ," states Mrs. Turnbull.

Kyle Church Supports Student in Call to Ministry

■ KYLE, TX. Immanuel Baptist Church sponsored a John Cox Family Day recently. After attending the Decision Conference at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, John felt

called of God to go into fulltime ministry. He was licensed to preach at this special service.

During the potluck dinner served to 100 people, a love offering was taken to help defray his moving expenses. He and his wife Connie and two boys moved to Sioux

Committed to Give

Falls where he is attending Sioux Falls College prior to attending the Seminary.

Folsom Church Reaches Self-support in Four Years

■ FOLSOM, CA. Oak Hills Baptist Church

became self-supporting on June 1, 1988. This four-year-old church, pastored by the Rev. Kent Carlson, is now renting another church's facilities and holding afternoon services since they could no longer rent public school facilities.

Compelled to Serve

Terrace, IL 60181. Candidate applications are due by Jan. 31, 1989.

Organist Honored at Lorraine Church

■ LORRAINE, KS. On Aug. 7, Mrs. Ruth Staeber (85) was honored by a capacity crowd for having served First Baptist Church as organist for more than 67 years. Many former organ students of hers presented a musical program.

"Over the years, she and her husband Edward have fed and bedded 36

school teachers and five summer student pastors," reports the Rev. Aaron Buhler, interim pastor. "She also taught music in area public schools." About 12 of her former students are church organists.

"I know whatever talent I possess was given me by the Creator; therefore, every chance I get to serve, if humanly possible, I do it," says Mrs. Staeber.

Delmar Wesseler, deacon chairman, presented a gold watch from the Church to Mrs. Staeber.



Commanded to Care

Bethel, Anaheim, Shares Facilities with Romanian Baptists

■ ANAHEIM, CA. Bethel Baptist Church and its sister church, the Romanian Baptist Church, have agreed to jointly use the facilities of Bethel Baptist Church for services in the English and Romanian languages.

Bethel Baptist, established about 1902 as a German language church,

is seeing the return of a language ministry. Both congregations operate independently, but co-exist in the same buildings.

Pastor Lawrence Wilkes of the Bethel congregation says, "It is a real joy to our people to have a sister church of our N.A.B. Conference work join us in ministry. They have already been a real blessing to us."

Daniel Branzai, pastor of the Romanian con-

gregation, reports that his people are delighted with the arrangement.

Northern Dakota Association Calls for Boycott of Holiday Inns

■ TURTLE LAKE, ND. The Northern Dakota Association drew up and accepted a resolution on pornography during its annual meeting, June

11-12, 1988, at Turtle Lake Baptist Church. The resolution called on the management of Holiday Inn to remove in-room pornographic movies. It urged concerned individuals, churches, and businesses to boycott Holiday Inn motels providing these movies as well as to write or call Holiday Inn and complain about these movies.

—Linda Berreth

Central's Missions Team Serves in Asia

■ EDMONTON, AB. During May, the Central Baptist Mission Bridge team served with N.A.B. Conference Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch in the Philippines. Team members lived with Filipino families and worked closely with the Bertsches' church and its existing ministries.

In June, the team travelled to China, taking in Christian literature for distribution. Contacts were made with Christians in China, and literature was strategically distributed among Chinese minority groups.

The group of five young adults had met together since October 1987 in Intensive Evangelism Training once a week for seven months to train and prepare for

this cross-cultural evangelism ministry in the Philippines and China.

The team members returned from the outreach excited and eager to mobilize others into world evangelism. The second Intensive Evangelism Training team began meeting together in October to prepare for another outreach in the spring of 1989.

—Annette Konrad

Applications Being Accepted for New Day 1989-90

■ New Day is presently receiving candidate applications and church applications for the 1989-90 tour year. Anyone interested in receiving more information for either of these two applications may send their request to Loren Kopf, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook

Delegates Elect Officers and Board Members

Delegates elected Conference officers, two department directors, and Board members for the next triennium.

Elected as Department Directors were Ron Salzman, missions director, and Rev. David Samf, church growth ministries director.

North American Baptist College and Divinity School Board members are Rev. Tim Schroeder, Vic Stobee, Rev. Fred Kahler, Dr. Jerry Hirsch, Rudy Spiess, Carol Potratz, Rev. Ervin Gerlitz, and Mrs. Ellen Brietrkuez.



Conference Officers: Dr. John Binder, executive director; Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, moderator; and Milton Hildebrandt, treasurer. (Richard Russell, vice moderator, not pictured.)



The Ministers' Fellowship elected officers at their luncheon: Harvey Wilkie, president (right); Anthony Salazar, secretary-treasurer; and (not pictured) Gary Vossler, vice president.



Board of Missions: Harold Lang (chair), Milton Hildebrandt, Ron Salzman, Jerry Fluth, Ron Hiller, Walter Kerber, John Binder; (not pictured: Wayne Bibelheimer, Darrell Schuh, Maria Rogalski).

Church Growth Ministries Board: Ernie Rogalski, Irwin Kujat, James Correnti, David Samf, Sally Prast, Bill Kauffeldt, and John Binder; (not pictured: Lee Negri and Jackie Paul Loewer).



North American Baptist Seminary Board: (left to right) Peter Fehr, Phyl Putz, Jerry Edinger, Curtis Radke, Randy Kinnison, Robert Klein, Barbara Fiegas, Earl Backhaus, and Wendell Hoffman, (not pictured: Charles Hiatt and John Binder).



Newly elected **North American Baptist Seminary Alumni** officers are the Rev. Harry Haas, president; Rev. Richard Mayforth, vice president; and the Reverends Eric Coulon and Oliver Bender, members-at-large.

in memoriam

FRED FOWLER, SR. (76), Jamesburg, NJ; died Aug. 30, 1988; member, past trustee and superintendent of grounds, First Baptist Church, Jamesburg, NJ; survived by his wife Rose Stewart Fowler; two sons: Rev. Fred, Jamesburg, NJ, and Tom, North Brunswick, NJ; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one sister, Alice Devlin; Reverends Laurence R. Prast and Herbert J. Freeman, pastors, memorial service.

PAMELA GAUSE (35), Jamestown, ND; born March 29, 1953, to Russell and Caroline (Haux) Kronberg in Monango, ND; died July 23, 1988, after a long fight with cancer; married Joseph Gause, Feb. 8, 1975; member, choir member, soloist, teacher, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; survived by her husband Joe; one son, Matthew; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kronberg, Selfridge, ND; grandfather Gottlieb Haux, Leola, SD; three brothers: Keith, Carl, and Joseph; and two sisters: Carol (Mrs. Craig Keison) and Beth; Rev. Ray Hoffman, pastor, funeral service.

FRED G. HELM (87), Carrington, ND; born Oct. 30, 1900; died July 29, 1988; married Lydia Reddig, Nov. 12, 1924; member, Sunday school teacher, deacon, Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND; predeceased by two grandchildren, three sisters and five brothers; survived by his wife Lydia; one son, Marvin, Cathay, ND; two daughters: Verna Berndt, Pierre, SD; and Doris Broschat, Sitka, AK; ten grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren; Rev. Loren Franchuk, pastor, funeral service.

WILLIE KESTERKE (60), Minitonas, MB; born Aug. 12, 1927, to Emanuel and Hulda (Lausman) Kesterke in Stanislawce, Poland; immigrated to Canada in 1928; married Helena Gust, Oct. 25, 1945; member, trustee, usher, First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB; predeceased by his mother, Hulda, and four infant brothers and two infant sisters; survived by his wife Helena; five children: Herman (Marilyn), Bismarck, ND; Anitta, Edmonton, AB; Marilyn (Henry) Natyna, Lorette, MB; Myrna Petterson, Edmonton, AB; and Orville (Sandra), Edmonton, AB; ten grandchildren; his father, Emanuel, Swan River, MB; and adopted brother, Lawrence (Betty); Reverends Ron Kelway and Herman Kesterke, pastors, memorial service.

FLOYD LANG (65), Bismarck, ND; born Jan. 20, 1923, to Benjamin and Selma (Bauer) Lang at McClusky, ND; died July 31, 1988; married DeLores Haux, July 16, 1944; member, Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church; survived by his wife DeLores; two sons: Gerald and Douglas; six daughters: Phyllis Wetzell, Marlys Oliver, Anne Schmitz, Florence, and Pam; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; Rev. M. D. Wolff, pastor, funeral service.

JOHN H. LOSING (88), Baker, MT; born April 24, 1900, to Henry and Elizabeth (Heperle) Losing in Krappfudder, Russia; died Sept. 6, 1988; married Pauline Bechtold, Dec. 14, 1922, who predeceased him in 1982; member, First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT; predeceased by two brothers and five sisters; survived by one daughter, Jeanette (Mrs. Edward Burkle), Plevna, MT; three sons: Albert, Paul, and Ivan, all of Baker, MT; 13 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews; Rev. Herbert Vetter, pastor, funeral service.

CLARA MILLER (89), Benton Harbor, MI; born Feb. 5, 1899, to Albert and Pauline Zoschke in Benton Harbor, MI; died June 10, 1988; married August Miller on June 9, 1920, who predeceased her in 1973; charter member, Sunday school teacher, L.M.S. member, Napier Parkview Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, MI; predeceased by three sisters: Emma Bauske, Elizabeth Grieser, and Ida Miller; five brothers: Louie, Arthur, Harold, Leo, and Rev. Paul Zoschke; survived by five children: Evelyn Chaddock, Carol Stream, IL; Rev. Edwin (Mary), Wilmington, DE; Lillian (Edgar) Wesner, Tacoma, WA; Florence, Osaka, Japan; and Sherrill (Paul) Wesner, St. Joseph, MI; 18 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and two sisters: Ella Perrault and Helen Jenkins; Reverends John Kaufield, Herman Effa, Edgar Wesner, Edwin Miller, and Jonathan Miller, pastors, funeral service.

ESTHER SCHOENHALS (79), Shattuck, OK; born Dec. 3, 1903, to John and Eva (Hefley) Schoenhals near Shattuck, OK; died June 21, 1988; member, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck, OK; predeceased by three brothers: Henry, Fred, and Bennie; and two nephews: Donald Lee Kelln and Billy Gene Schaefer; survived by four brothers: William (Marie), John (Martha), Reuben (Elma), and Alvin (Eva), all of Shattuck, OK; and three sisters: Victoria (Phillip) Schaefer, Hulda (Fritz) Kelln, and Minnie, all of Shattuck, OK; Rev. Fred Fuchs, pastor, funeral service.

HABLE SIELER (68), Plevna, MT; born Oct. 22, 1919, to Edward and Rosina (Huber) Sieler, in Plevna, MT; died Aug. 22, 1988; married Ida Graf, Nov. 20, 1952; member, First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT; predeceased by five brothers; survived by his wife Ida; two sons: Daniel, Baker, MT; and Fred, Plevna, MT; three daughters: Darlene (Mrs. Jerry Becker), Beulah, ND; Irene (Mrs. Tim Bechtold), Baker, MT; and Betty (Mrs. Gerald Hanson), Rhame, ND; 11 grandchildren; two sisters: Hulda (Mrs. George Huether), and Ruth Sieler; and five brothers: Arthur, Emil, Simonn, Benjamin, and David; Rev. Herbert Vetter, pastor, funeral service.

OLGA (FIKS) WILKIE (66), Vancouver, BC; born Feb. 9, 1922, in Poland; died July 6, 1988; immigrated to Minitonas, MB, Canada, in 1927; married Alfred Wilkie, Oct.

16, 1941; member, choir member, welcoming committee, deaconess, LMS president, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; predeceased by her parents, brother Ray, and sister Hilda; survived by her husband Alfred; one son, Rev. Harvey (Sandy), Edmonton, AB; two grandchildren; and one brother Leon (Lorraine); Dr. Arthur Boymook, pastor, funeral service.

ALVIN F. ZECKER (84), Woodbine, KS; born March 30, 1904, to Otto and Theda (Brenner) Zecker in Wabaunse Co., KS; died June 5, 1988; married Alvina Zernickow, April 28, 1937; member, Sunday school teacher, superintendent, BYF, deacon, clerk, sexton, (Mt. Zion Baptist) Highland Baptist Church, Junction City, KS; survived by his wife Alvina; one adopted daughter, Martha Oberkfell, Alton, IL; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and one brother Arnold; Larry Kelley, pastor, funeral service.



— but they fade so quickly ...

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

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

In memory of _____

In recognition of _____

Send acknowledgement to _____

Send receipt to _____

Mail above information and gift to:

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

How to Maximize Your Year-end Giving

Those who desire to give realize that it takes more than desire; it also takes planning. An ideal time to plan is year-end. This planning is not only for how you can maximize your gifts this year but also to determine a giving program for next year.

Let's look at some of the strategies for making year-end gifts.

In Giving Appreciated Property. If you have appreciated property that you plan to sell in the future, you might consider giving the property, either as an outright gift or in a special charitable trust, to avoid the capital gain tax that will be payable when you sell the property.

Example: You own securities valued at \$5,000; you originally paid \$2,000. If you sell the securities, you will have a \$3,000 capital gain, resulting in a maximum tax of \$900, in a 30 percent tax bracket.

If instead of selling the securities, you use them to fulfill your charitable giving desires, you not only avoid the \$900 capital gain tax, but also you can take a charitable deduction for the full \$5,000. In a maximum tax bracket, this will save you \$1,500 in income taxes.

Sell Securities That Have Decreased in Value. If you own securities worth less now than what you paid for them, you should sell the securities and give the proceeds. This will allow you to take a capital loss on your income tax return, which you would forfeit if you gave the securities. You still receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full value of your gift.

If Your Tax Bracket Will Be Lower Next Year. If you will be in a higher tax bracket this year than next, because you are expecting a reduction in income next year, there are two additional strategies which you should consider.

Prepay Contributions. You may wish to prepay contributions planned for 1989 to take advantage of a greater tax savings. Or you may simply wish to increase your 1988 giving.

If you have made pledges that are payable over several years, you may wish to fully pay those pledges in 1988.

Specially Designed Trusts. It is possible for you to take an income tax deduction this year for gifts that you will make in future years. This can be done through specially designed trusts.

You place money in a trust designed to pay income to a charitable organization. You determine the amount of income you desire for the charity to receive and the number of years. At the end of the trust period, the principal of the trust is returned to you.

If the trust is properly designed, you can take an income tax charitable deduction this year for the current value of your future gifts to the charitable organization.

Example: If you placed \$50,000 into a charitable trust designed to pay income of \$4,000 a year to a charitable organization for the next five years, you could take an income tax charitable deduction of \$15,721 this year. At the end of five years, the property will be returned to you.

However, the trust must be properly designed so that the payments made to the charitable organization in future years will not be taxable to you.

Guaranteeing Future Gifts. Another way to create a tax deduction this year for gifts that are actually made at some time in the future is to guarantee that gift by transferring the property to a charitable organization, retaining the benefit of the property for your lifetime or for a period of years.

If you guarantee today that the charitable organization will receive property at some time in the future, the government will provide an income tax shelter in the form of a charitable deduction this year.

Your gift can be made with a personal residence in which you con-

tinue to live, or stocks, bonds, or mutual funds from which you continue to receive income.

In fact, it may be possible to increase your income, if the property that you transfer is either highly appreciated or produces a very low income. Because of special advantages available to the trust, it can sell the property, avoiding capital gain tax, and invest in a higher income-producing investment. This can result in a considerable benefit to you.

Example: You purchased securities for \$40,000, but they have appreciated to a current value of \$100,000. Your securities are currently paying a three percent dividend. If you sold the securities, you would pay a tax

(Continued on page 29.)

I have taken inventory of my giving in 1988.

Enclosed is my year-end gift of \$_____ to help support the missions and ministries of the North American Baptist Conference.

I would like to receive additional information to help me in my year-end giving. Please send me information on:

Gifts of appreciated property
How to take a deduction for future gifts
Gifts with retained benefits

I have the following property that I would like to consider giving this year. Please calculate the best possible way for me to do so.

Type of property: _____
The property is now worth \$_____. My cost basis is \$_____. My top income tax bracket this year is estimated to be _____%.

Name _____
Address _____

City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Birthdate _____
Spouse's Birthdate _____

what's happening

■ **The Rev. Glenn Norris** is pastor of Elm Creek Baptist Church, Seguin, Texas.

■ **Mr. Walter Swanson** resigned as Development Director for the North American Baptist Conference, July 31, 1988.

■ **Chaplain Ray Hinsch** has been appointed Senior Protestant Chaplain at Grand Forks, North Dakota, Air Base and has joined Grace Baptist Church.

■ **Mr. Lamont Loudenslager** was ordained by Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, on June 12, 1988. The Rev. Ralph Cooke brought the Ordination Message; the Rev. Ed Bartel, the Ordination Prayer; the Rev. Terry Stoltenow, the Charge to the Church; Mr. Herman Kesterke, the Charge to the Candidate; the Rev. Orville Meth, the Welcome to the Ministry; Al Haas and Ed Breckel presented the Ordination Certificate. The Rev. Manny Wolff led the service.

■ **The Rev. Harold Schroeder** has concluded his interim pastorate at Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

■ **The Rev. R. I. Thompson** concluded his interim pastoral ministry at Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD, on September 30, 1988.

■ **Mr. Todd Capen** began his ministry with youth on July 1 at First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA. He formerly served at Temple Baptist, Lodi, CA.

■ **Craig Pierson** is the new youth minister at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, and **Susan Schmidt**, the part-time Director of Children's Activities.

■ **Roger Monson** of Jamestown, ND, became pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND, on July 24.

■ **The Rev. Albert Fadenrecht** is serving as interim pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS.

■ **The Rev. Robert Lowden** has resigned as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS.

■ **Dale Dreger** resigned as pastor of Crowsnest Pass Community Baptist Church, Blairmore, AB, effective September 19.

■ **The Rev. Loren Weber** accepted the pastorate of Brooks Baptist Church, Brooks, AB, effective November 1.

■ **The Rev. Milton Zeeb**, South Central Area Minister, has moved to Coppell, TX, from Kansas City.

■ **The Rev. Robert McBroom** resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, effective October 20.

■ **Foster Avenue Baptist Church and Mayfair Park Baptist Church of Chicago, IL**, held their first combined service on September 11. The Rev. **Hero Ulrichs** is the pastor.

■ **The Rev. Dennis Kee** has accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA, effective November 1. He has been serving as pastor of Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church, Bensalem, PA.

■ **Rev. David Wick** has been appointed to coordinate urban/ethnic ministries by the Church Growth Ministries Board. He will offer an urban/ethnic consulting service on a part-time basis while serving as senior pastor of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

■ **Kelley Lashley** serves as part-time youth pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ **Rev. Randall Kinnison** became senior pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR, on November 1. He has served as pastor of Ellinwood (KS) Baptist Church since 1981.

(Continued from page 28.)

of \$18,000 (in an assumed 30 percent tax bracket).

If instead of selling the securities, you transfer them to a special charitable trust designed to pay you eight percent each year, you will increase your income by \$5,000 a year. And you totally avoid paying the \$18,000 tax on the appreciation. In addition, you receive a substantial income tax charitable deduction, based upon your current age.

We trust one of these planning ideas will be of interest and value to you, as you consider your year-end

giving. We would like to provide maximum assistance in helping you with your planning.

If we can provide additional assistance in any of these planning areas, please let us know by completing the response form. You may also phone our office at (312) 495-2000, if that is more convenient.

Our assistance is offered without obligation and is completely confidential. Let us know if we can help. □

(This article applies basically to U.S. citizens.)

baptist world aid



Bangladesh Hit by Monsoon Floods

The worst monsoon floods in many years have struck Bangladesh. Reports indicate almost two-thirds of the country is under water.

- At least 1,200 people have died.
- Millions of people are homeless.
- Many buildings have been destroyed. Damage is too great to estimate.
- Communications systems have been destroyed in many areas.
- The airport at Dacca, capital city of Bangladesh, a vital necessity for receiving emergency aid, has been flooded and cannot be used.
- Starvation, due to lack of food supplies, and threat of waterborne disease threaten millions.

Baptist World Aid has sent an initial response to:

The Garo Baptist convention - \$5,000

The Bangladesh Baptist Sangha - \$10,000

The Bangladesh Baptist Fellowship - \$10,000

Additional help is urgently needed. Please send gifts to meet this emergency to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, designated for Bangladesh.

I've heard so much about year-end giving. But how do I know if any of it pertains to me?

WE'LL HELP

- Yes No
- Do I need additional tax deductions this year?
 - Will my income taxes be higher this year than next?
 - Do I have highly appreciated property that I wish to dispose of?
 - Do I need to receive more income from low or non-income producing property?
 - Do I have existing life insurance policies which I do not need?
 - Do I have commitments to my church or to other charities which I have not completed?

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, you can benefit from year-end planning. We would like to assist you in meeting your needs as well as providing for the missions and ministries of the North American Baptist Conference.

To assist you, we have prepared a special planning report entitled, "How to Maximize Your Year-End Giving."

Please complete the coupon below to receive your free copy or to let us know how we can help you with your year-end gift planning.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Birthdate _____ Spouse's Birthdate _____

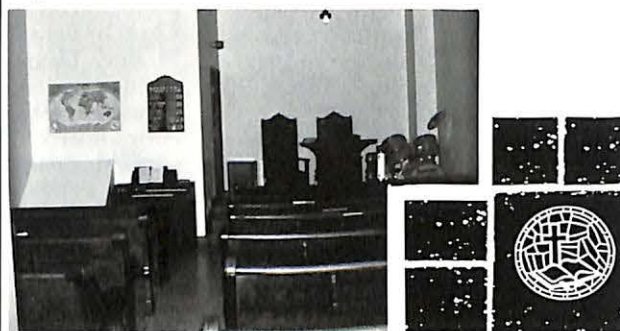
capital funds

Manitoba Association Uses Capital Funds for Inner-city



In June of 1988, the Manitoba Baptist Association was asked to assist in the purchase of a building for New Life Ministries (an urban church-planting project). Quick action was needed. After several meetings, the Association executive proposed that Manitoba's portion of their Capital Funds contributions be applied toward the purchase of the building. At the 1988 Association meeting in Minitonas, this proposal was unanimously approved.

"At present, renovations are being completed, and the congregation is very excited about this new phase in their life," says Harry Lehotsky, pastor of New Life Ministries.



CROSSOVER MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

**DECEMBER 28, 1988 -
 JANUARY 2, 1989**

Crossover Ministries is a new ministry of the North American Baptist Conference Missions Department. Crossover Ministries is developing training materials in discipleship, evangelism and missions, as well as helping churches provide short-term missions experiences for their young people and young adults.

The Crossover Ministries Leadership Seminar will:

- Give pastors, youth pastors and youth leaders firsthand cross-cultural ministry experience;
- Provide training for those interested in leading short-term missions teams using the materials developed by Crossover Ministries;
- Allows youth pastors to interact on the topic of short-term missions.

Who Can Come? Pastors, Youth Pastors, Youth Leaders
Where Will It Be Held? Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church in Rio Grande City, Texas, near the U.S.-Mexican border
How can I get more information? Write or call Karl Mueller, phone number (403) 437-1960
Crossover Ministries
 11525 - 23 Ave.
 Edmonton, Alberta
 Canada T6J 4T3

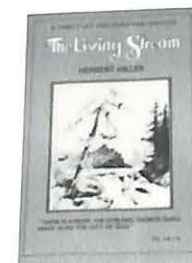
Registration deadline is Nov. 20, 1988

A timely lift for Christian growth The Living Stream

by Herbert Hiller

In these brief, vivid, inspirational messages, the writer tells some meaningful things God says to us through every month of the year.

"This book has truly renewed and fortified our Christian faith. The poetic language and descriptive vocabulary illuminates profound biblical truths. We consider it a spiritual classic. It should be on the reading list of every church library."



Rubin & Irmgard Kern
 Clearwater, ON.

Substantial proceeds from the sale are designated for North American Baptist Conference Missions and Ministries. Price per copy: \$8 U.S.

Send order to: North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Youth Minister Position Open

Qualifications:

- A burden for, commitment to, and demonstrated skills in Youth Ministries and Christian Education
- Completed a prescribed course of study
- Some "hands-on" pastoral experience
- Married

Duties:

- Coordinate staff and oversee the ministries to our Youth and College and Career groups (Youth group numbers 20-25; College and Career numbers 10-15; our community has excellent potential for outreach ministries to these age groups. A high school and a junior college are within a three-block radius of the church.)
- Act as a resource person for our Christian Education ministries.

Please send your resume to Rev. Neil G. Strohschein, pastor, Fort George Baptist Church, 1600 Johnson St., Prince George, BC, V2M 3A6.

In keeping with the requirements of Canada's Immigration Laws, we must give priority to candidates who are Canadian citizens.

Give A Unique Christmas Gift A hand-carved Nativity Set from Nigeria, West Africa

- Contains 10 figures: Mary, Joseph, manger, shepherd, two animals, angel, and three wise men.
- Carved from Thorn Tree by a Nigerian Christian and his employees. Thorn trees grow on trunk and branches of tree, most often in a pyramid shape. Wood colors are brown, blond, or rust. Each piece carved individually then glued together. The average carver makes only three figures a day.
- Portion of sale price will be returned to Nigeria to assist in evangelism.

Cost: \$20/set (incl. freight) Immediate delivery. Contact Holly Strauss, 18175 Midway Rd. #221, Dallas, TX 75287.

Employment Opportunity with Whole Life Counseling Ltd.

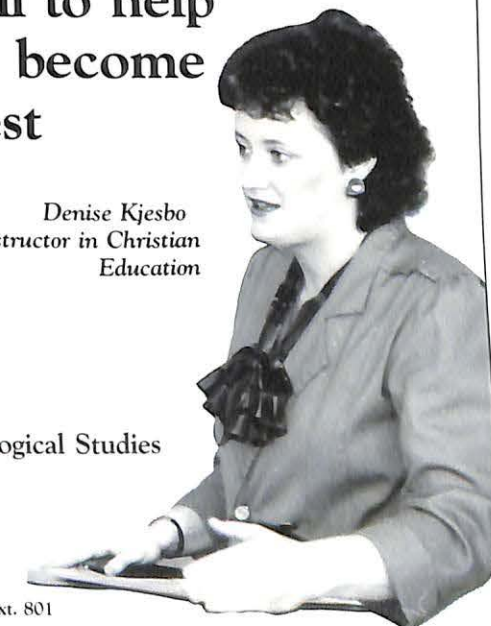
Position - Psychologist
 Qualifications - M.A.B. and eligible to be registered in Alberta

Contact - Charles R. Collett
 Box 725

High Prairie, AB, T0G 1E0 (N.D.J.)

"We have a call to help one another to become the absolute best they can be"

Denise Kjesbo
 Instructor in Christian Education



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