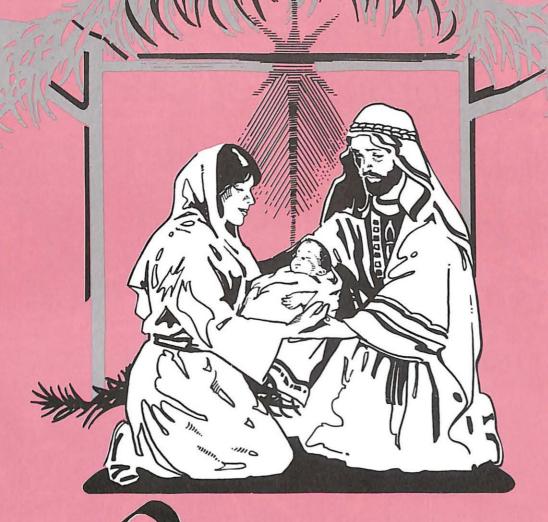
Baptist Herald

December 1989



Come and let us
Worship
Christ the Lord!

Baptist Herald —— December 1989 Volume 67 / Number 10



through Jesus Christ our Lord be with you this Christmas and throughout

the year.



The staff of the North American Baptist Conference International Office

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Articles

- **Evangelism Through Worship** Robert Webber
- Worshipping in a Village in Northern Cameroon
- Annemarie Hattenhauer The Tall Children
- Marilun Pontius
- From the Professor's Desk Are Good Works Necessary? Paul A. Rainbow
- Sunday School with a Difference Kathy Knoop and Karen Edinger
- Ministries With Mature Adults Lule E. Schaller
- Conference Youth Grow as They Serve in Summer Ministries

Departments

- Religiously Oriented Investment Scams Increasing Kathy Palen
- How Can I Continue to Give to the Conference after My Death?
- In Memoriam
- **Anniversaries**
- Reaching New Heights

President's Focus Manetta Hohn

20 Ways to Have a More Meaningful Christmas

Linda Ebel How Silently

Ruth Senter

- Vision 2000 Biblical Imperatives in Action
- **Baptist Herald Index** What's Happening

Barbara I. Binder, editor Phyllis Hill, subscriptions fulfillment Dorothy Ganoung and Linda Ebel, Reaching New Heights Holly Fann, secretary Jean Gingrich, secretary

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EVANGELISM THROUGH WORS



by Robert Webber

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Further searching of their travels does use worship to draw people to a saving orasp of His work. Today

adopted a lecture hall model in which the main event is the sermon. At times worshipers are encouraged to take notes, which places worship in an instructional setting. But worship is more than a service of instruction.

> "God is there in worship — to instruct us, to lead us, to make us whole."

rupled because of the many people

drawn to the converting experience

of its worship. I believe that this ex-

perience can take place in any church

committed to worship that is alive

with the presence of God. A worship

service with the joy of the Lord has

the power to draw seekers into the

Many churches have

experience of conversion to Christ.

The climactic point of an evangelistic church service is the invitation, while the hymns, Scripture texts, and choir numbers have been carefully chosen to present the Gospel also in a clear and persuasive way. It is not uncommon for this pattern to be repeated each Sunday. But worship is more than an evangelistic service.

Neither is worship an occasion only to meet the needs of the worshipers. It is not a psychiatric couch or a group therapy session in which the pastor assumes the role of a coun-

Further searching having sque where ions and worship soft ho joy."

Stantinople, they rectices revealed enced a worship there hiped at a "We knew not with dree withern to sight years, membership has quad
The further searching having sque where ions and worship stations and worship satisfact brain options and worship stations and worship satisfact brain options religions and worship to draw people to a saving grasp of His work. Today this same experience is witnessed to by thousands of people.

For example, the church where I am a member is committed to evangelism through worship. In the past eight years, membership has quad
"We knew not with dree withern to by the motion. The primary purpose of worship is telling the story of God'

The first part of salvation so that people to a saving grasp of His work. Today this same experience is witnessed to by thousands of people.

For example, the church where I am a member is committed to evangelism through worship. In the past eight years, membership has quad
The first part of the properties of the properties

great act of salvation so that people can enter into a personal relationship with God. We are to celebrate the

death and resurrection of Jesus V Christ, the overthrow of the powers of evil, and the beginning of God's saving work in the world.

This kind of active worship calls us to experience the victory of Christ in our own lives, for this is the victory that makes us new creations in Christ Iesus.

Once a minister was asked, "What do you do in worship?" He answered, "We gather the people, tell the story, eat the bread, and go out into the world to serve." This is the kind of worship that evangelizes the lost.

An evangelizing worship tells the is presented symbolically. story. In worship, we tell the Gospel story over and over again. It appears _ salvation, which is more than an inin our prayers, our songs, the Scriptellectual presentation of the Gospel. ture, and the sermon and in what we It goes deeper than the mind and say and do at the Lord's Table.

I recently attended a service in which the pastor's opening prayer went something like this: "O God, we bless You for creating us in Your image. When we sinned and fell away from You. You did not leave us to ourselves, but You came to us in the Person of Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, lived among us, was crucified, buried, rose again for our salvation, ascended, sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to receive us to Himself. Receive our praise to the glory of Your name. Amen."

In fewer than 100 words, paraphrasing the Apostle's Creed, this minister encapsulated the story of sign of the congregation's prayer and praise. This is evangelizing worship—telling the story for which we give grateful thanks.

An evangelizing worship dramawhich all of us are the players. We do not focus on ourselves but on God, our true Audience. That is how worship was understood in the Early Church when it was the usual prac- often inattentive in worship. tice to have both the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the was being read during a service, my Lord's Table every Sunday.

The great drama of the Lord's Table

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

sin and newness of life in Christ. At the Table, we take the bread and the cup. In these actions, the powerful deed of God's saving work in Christ

Here is a divine proclamation of reaches down into the hidden recesses of the being, touching the inner person with the message of God's saving grace in Christ.

That happens in worship. When we tell and act out the Gospel in worship, God does for us what He did in history. The power of Christ's death and resurrection reaches through the corridors of time and is offered to the people who gather in worship.

Consequently, worship is the context in which a relationship with God is established, maintained, repaired, enhanced, and transformed. What happens in worship is initial evansalvation and offered it to God as a gelism (decisional responses) and continuing evangelism (a deepening of commitment). But if this evangelism is to happen, there must be a response to God.

We first respond to God by learntizes the story. Worship is a drama in ing to listen. In Scripture, song, prayer, and the Lord's Table, God is addressing the assembled people with His words of salvation and instruction for living; but people are

Some time ago, as the Scripture mind wandered to something else. Then I heard a woman behind me calls people to remember death to saying softly, "Oh, yes, yes; oh, yes."

These words drew me up sharply, and I said to myself, "Bob, listen. Something really important is being said."

I had forgotten to be intentional about my listening, to open my ears and my heart to the voice of God present through the reading of the Scripture. We need to call on our people — the faithful and the seekers alike — to listen attentively and intently.

John Calvin taught that the bread and cup were "signs" and "symbols" of God's salvation in Christ. We receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

A third way to respond to God through worship is to act on what we have heard. A rule I like to observe is: "What can I take from worship today to act on during the week?" This kind of question sends me to worship in an intentional state of mind. I will worship with the high expectancy that God is there to meet

And God is there in worship — to instruct us, to lead us, to make us whole. Consequently, when we respond, God speaks to us, calls us to himself and directs our lives. God touches us with his saving power, brings healing to our sinful condition and makes us whole. That is what evangelism is about.

What happens in a worship that tells and dramatizes the living, the dying and the rising of Christ for our salvation? The Gospel is put into motion, and the seeker, the one who is already being made open by the work of the Holy Spirit, hears, sees, feels, and tastes the goodness of the

Robert Webber, Th.D., is a professor of theology at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including "Worship Old and New" and "Celebrating Our Faith: Evangelism Through Worship." This article is taken from Decision magazine, July-August 1989. ©1989 Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Worshipping in a Village in Northern Cameroon

by Annemarie Hattenhauer

Thy would anyone spend three days riding in a car and 25 hours on trains to attend a worship service in a place where there is no Baptist church?

Zecharias Buimlen, Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, asked me to come to the northern (French) region of Cameroon at Ngaoundal and Ngaoundere to "bring the Children's Bible lessons." Zecharias, who has started two Baptist prayer groups, is working there as an evangelist.

In the city of Ngaoundere, we worshipped in the living room of one of at the University, and a Catholic group. This group was started in students. April 1989. There we sang choruses. We prayed.

After someone read Psalm 90, Zecharias gave a challenging message on the theme, "Only One Life." He used the following illustration:

"The people in a certain village almost ceased to be alive, because take the students to the city on weekthey did not have any fire. Therefore, the people did not have light or warmth. They could not cook their food. Only one match was available.

"The king looked for someone brave enough to volunteer to light the tiny match so that the wind would not blow it out. One young man volunteered. He succeeded! The one and only match gave life to the entire village. Just as the young man had only one match to use, so we have only one life. We must use it to bring eternal life to others."

Along with visiting people in their homes, we also visited the university, a very modern, government institution. There some 500 students are specializing in "Food Technology."

Religious activities are permitted



Annemarie Hattenhauer

the members of the Baptist prayer chaplain is ministering to some of the

When I inquired about the possibility of a Baptist chaplain serving there, the assistant director of the University said: "If there were a Baptist chaplain, there would be much work for him to do."

ends for entertainment. The bus would also take students to worship at a Baptist church if there was one. The Ngaoundere Baptist prayer group is praying for a full-time pastor and for a place to worship. Zecharias, who lives in Ngaoundal, works with this prayer group in Ngaoundere about two weeks of each month.

After visiting at Ngaoundere, Zecharias and I rode the train back to Ngaoundal — a two to three hour train ride. At Ngaoundal, we spent two days walking and walking, visiting many homes. We met with the Ngaoundal Baptist prayer group, which started about two years ago. Only seven of the 22 registered members are wage-earners.

We met in their place of worship, a small, mud-brick building. Against two walls of that building stands a noisy bar on one side and a house of prostitution on the other. The place is not conducive to worship. Since the man who owned the place of worship recently died, the prayer group probably will have to move.

In the centre of Ngaoundal, there is a new mud-brick pan-roofed building with a piece of land for sale, for 250.000 CFA (\$796). The prayer group would like to purchase it. The members would then remodel and furnish the house for use as their church.

Zecharias receives a salary of 15.000 CFA (\$48) per month to feed himself and family. The rent of his small home, to be paid by the prayer group, is 5.000 CFA (\$16) per month. Zecharias told me that this rent has not been paid for the last six months. "The landlord is giving me trouble."

Therefore, the Cameroon Baptist The University provides a bus to Theological Seminary staff and students decided to send our last year's missions offering to help the Ngaoundal prayer group support Zecharias. Zecharias told me that he has paid 21.000 CFA (\$67) from his salary for the train fares to Ngaoundere. Due to his traveling back and forth and his much visiting of members and prospective members, Zecharias has not been able to be a "tentmaker" — have a second job.

Pray for Zecharias and for the two prayer groups. Zecharias wants to start a third prayer group.

We have only one life, let us use it to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and eternal life to others.

Annemarie Hattenhauer is a missionary teaching at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu, Cameroon.

oud and exuberant, often offkey, singing can be heard on any Sunday in our church. Several folk sitting in the front pews are sometimes heard disagreeing with each other like young children in a schoolroom. These children are tall with graying hair and lined faces; yet their enjoyment of the music and the sermonette is as great as that of the shorter children. Occasionally, someone blurts out an answer to a rhetorical question, or just

thought. These tall children who came to our church nearly two years ago have enriched our fellowship in many ways. Our mentally disadvantaged friends share their lives with us, often bringing a fresh insight to ordinary things.

wants to express a feeling or related

Lily broke in on one Sunday evening service during a message on grace, bursting out,

"I don't understand grace."

The pastor responded by saying, "Grace means God accepting you exactly as you are, even when you don't understand everything perfectly."

A wide smile lighted Lily's face, and she loudly exclaimed, "That's wonderful!"

Shortly after this, our area minister spoke in our Church. Henry, sitting in the front as usual, interrupted the message. The pastor fidgeted, fearing the speaker would be embarrassed, if not annoyed by this intrusion. The guest speaker walked over, stood right in front of Henry, and said

"In a minute I'll answer your question, when I'm through with what I'm saying." In about five minutes, he went over and stood in front of him again and asked,

"What did you want to say, Henry?"

Henry's stock comment on almost any occasion is,

"Jesus loves me and died on the cross for me."

"Right on, Henry," the speaker responded. "That's always the right answer."

by Marilyn Pontius

After the service, the pastor learned from the guest speaker that early in his own ministry the Lord had brought mentally handicapped people to his church. He soon found that those people were God's gift to his church. He realized that "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," (Matthew 25:40 KJV). This helped to keep in perspective what Christ expects of us in relation to others, no matter what their

Then one of the other ladies of the church, as she shook hands with the men at the door, said, smiling,

"We certainly had our sermon for

uring the summer, we often have picnics after the morning service. Each week, our special people look forward to this activity, taking joy in these occasions.

One girl, Jenny, loves to bring food to these picnics and to other potlucks we have. She feels accepted and validated as a contributing member, as folks express their enjoyment of her dishes and accept hand-written copies of her recipes she loves to share.

One day, Lily and Jenny confided to the pastor their disbelief that any church would welcome them with open minds and hearts. Once, as little girls, their mother took them to a church where the pastor met them at the door and refused them entrance. His reason was that there was no place for them; they didn't belong there; and they could not come. Two little girls went home, not under-

standing why they were unaccepted. Who knows how their mother felt?

The time came when the entire group of five who came to our Church wanted to become members as well as to be baptized. As with any other inquirers, these folk were required to take a membership class, along with some other potential members.

One Sunday morning while studying the Christian life, the pastor

"Does anyone know what it means to live the Christian life?"

Lily spoke up immediately, "I do!" In explanation she said, "To live the Christian life is to do what God tells you to do with no argument."

What a fine expression of simple, accurate faith!

A few weeks later, they were baptized, understanding the implications of taking such a step to the best of their abilities.

With shining faces and wide smiles, they descended the steps into the baptistry, answering the questions of affirmation with:

"I do," Lily and Jenny said emphatically.

"Why, shore," Henry said loudly.

The congregation needed to make a decision as to accepting our tall children as members of full standing. This meant discussing and seeking the Lord's will in light of God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves, not showing any favoritism (James 2:8-10 NIV).

The day came when our friends were welcomed into the membership of the church, and they were happy and proud.

As a church, we have discovered that it has been not so much our giving to them, as what they have gladly shared with us. These tall children are teaching us how to be open, honest, gentle, simple in faith, and faithful to the Lord and His body of believers.

Marilyn Pontius is the pastor's wife at our North American Baptist Conference Church, Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane, Washington.

Are Good Works Necessary?

by Paul A. Rainbow

giveness of sins. God also penalty of sin and also frees us from its power. That is good news indeed.

This is a matter that goes to the some Christians nowadays do not case in point. In the Baptist church where I was raised, Sundayschooled, and vacation-Bibleschooled, I had plenty of opportunities to respond to invitations (and did so), as well as many repeated instructions to help me be sure I was saved.

Somehow, I emerged from those years with the impression that one needed merely to raise a hand or go forward in order to have eternal se-

Of course, you had to mean it; sincerity was paramount. But salvation woolly. My own Bible reading led was by faith, not by works; this meant that lifestyle was irrelevant. No one ever told me that a completely unchanged life would render my profession useless and void.

If ever one had doubts, one was to seek assurance by re-reading Bible verses, such as "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins" (1 John 1:9). After all, I had confessed my sins, had I One day I said something like: "Good not? That was all that was needed. God could be counted on to take care of the rest.

As our youth group entered ado- wrong I was! lescence, problems began to emerge. Conversations shifted from the Lord to everything but the Lord. There know that the unrighteous will not were teenage pregnancies. Many stopped attending church, finding beer parties more congenial. Yet as idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [practhe world, the flesh, and the devil

encroached upon us, we found ourselves theologizing (better: rationalhe good news of Jesus Christ izing) to the effect that Christians can involves more than the for- choose either to live carnal lives or to place Christ on the thrones of their grants us the ability to live lives. Carnality entailed the future in such a way as to please Him. He loss of our reward, but no genuine regards us as righteous and also danger, as we would be infallibly makes us so; he remits for us the saved anyhow. As children we had done what we had to do — and "once saved, always saved."

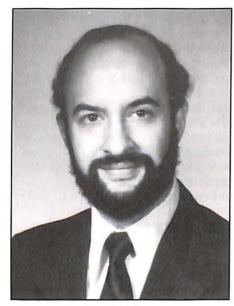
The false impression was deepened heart of the gospel. Unfortunately, by people's rededication testimonies as young adults. Again and again one think of the gospel in these terms. heard the story: "I was saved when I My own childhood experience was a was nine (or ten, or four, or whatever). I haven't been walking with the Lord, so now I want to get right with him again."

No one ever suggested that conversion was taking place for the first time. As for those individuals who came to church regularly but were known to be sold out to unethical practices during the week — well, they were poor Christians, but surely, beyond question, they were Christians, nevertheless.

Somehow this all seemed a bit me to suspect that good works were rather more important. Yet I hesitated to change my understanding of the gospel. I didn't wish to mix faith and

found myself teaching in a Bible college before I came to realize how seriously inadequate was this formulation of the gospel. works are not necessary now that God has provided a means of salvation through faith in Christ." How

A colleague put his finger on 1 Corinthians 6:9-10: "Do you not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor ticing] homosexuals, nor thieves, nor



Paul Rainbow

"The good news of Jesus Christ involves more than the forgiveness of sins. God also grants us the ability to live in such a way as to please Him."

the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God." The force of these words shook me to my senses. Here Paul, the great apostle of liberty, he who insisted vigorously on justification by faith alone (to the Galatians), when faced with a different group of self-professing Christians (at Corinth), some of whom were abusing their freedom, brought them up short by warning them that persistence in corruption is a certain bar to God's kingdom.

Other Pauline passages began to pile up together with this one. To the Galatians themselves, Paul wrote, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its pas-

reap eternal life" (Galatians 6:7–8).

Besides Galatians, the other epistle of Paul, which is most famous for its exposition of justification by faith, is that to the Romans. True, there he states clearly that a person "is justified by faith apart from works of law" (Romans 3:28). But a few paragraphs earlier: "It is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified" (Romans 2:13).

Once I had discovered this emphasis in Paul's writings, it was easier to find similar statements made by other New Testament teachers as

John the Baptist: "Bear fruits that befit repentance" (Luke 3:8).

Iesus: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Mark 3:35). "And behold, a lawyer stood up... saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' [Jesusl said to him, 'What is written in stand with them. the law? How do you read?' And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered right; do this, and you will live" (Luke 10:25-28).

The author to the Hebrews: "Strive... for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews

James: A person "is justified by works and not by faith alone" (James

Peter: Christians are "sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood" (1 Peter 1:2); "It is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

John: "No one born of God com-

sions and desires" (Galatians 5:24); mits sin; for God's nature abides in "Do not be deceived; God is not him, and he cannot sin because he is mocked, for whatever a man sows, born of God. By this, it may be seen that he will also reap. For he who who are the children of God, and sows to his own flesh will from the who are children of the devil: whoflesh reap corruption; but he who ever does not do right is not of God, sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit nor he who does not love his brother" (1 John 3:9-10).

> with the authoritative words of scripture. Obviously, each passage just quoted has its own context, and it would hardly do to oversimplify the complex issues raised by putting them side by side. Yet when a single idea is stated again and again by different writers in different words addressed to different situations, there comes a point when it can be seen to be a major theme of scripture. The verses above are only the tip of a great iceberg, which looms large in the New Testament. All the bishops, popes, and radio Bible preachers from Clement to whomever might conspire to tell me good works are not necessary in God's eyes, but if all or most of the New Testament authors say otherwise, I am bound to

> If our gospel is to be biblical, it must be drawn from what the Bible says. It seems, then, that we have to find a way to express the clear truth of salvation by faith without diluting the consistent, balanced requirement of good works. Likewise, let us not jeopardize the precious, liberating gospel of grace alone and faith alone. How can we do justice to both emphases?

I find the key to this apparent dilemma in Paul's epistle to the Romans. To summarize a few results of much detailed study and thought over the years since I have been grappling with this issue: God saves us by bestowing on us the gift of righteousness. He gives this gift out of His sheer grace alone, without regard

for works, because those to whom He gives the gift do not and cannot have good works: He "justifies the ungodly" (Romans 4:5).

The gift itself has two sides, justification and sanctification. When God justifies sinners, He imputes to them a good legal standing; when God sanctifies sinners, He imparts to them ow I am not one to fiddle a new nature, He constitutes them a new creation. Justification has to do with God's opinion about us, external to ourselves, in heaven. Sanctification has to do with what we are. internally, as it were, on earth.

Righteousness, then, has both an essential aspect, and an existential aspect; it spreads across both theory and practice. And when God gives the gift of righteousness to undeserving sinners — this is the solution to the problem — He gives it as a whole, not just in parts. People who have received God's gift by faith are both justified and sanctified. You cannot claim the one without the other.

So good works are neither a prior requirement to be fulfilled in order to be saved, nor are they a sort of optional extra after one is saved. Good works are the natural fruit of God's sanctifying work. Perhaps it would be right to say that a lifestyle characterized by true goodness is an integral part of salvation itself.

This is why Paul did not have to threaten the Roman church about continuing in sin. He spends five chapters of his epistle to them outlining justification by faith, leading to the climactic statement, "Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20). Then, lest that pronouncement be misunderstood, he presses the question, "Are we to continue in sin, that grace may abound"? (Romans 6:1). A libertine would answer, "Why not"? A legalist would counter by saying that if we continue in sin we are not meet-

(continued on page 27)

Sunday School with a Difference

by Kathy Knopp and Karen Edinger

tokens. Great work!"

morning for the Records Pilots and garten through grade six have been Schroeder of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, is especially designed for a mid-week kid's club.

Since we meet in a school and don't have the facilities during the week for a kid's club ministry, we decided to modify the program and use it on Sunday mornings. Connie encouraged us by making some helpful

aged us by making some nelpful suggestions to get us started.

After "check-in" and receiving tofter "check" sicks worth ten points

covery Bag and Bible, one for bring- added together for a collective score, ing offering, and three for saying to- which is announced each week. This day's memory verse... That's seven concept encourages a spirit of group cooperation and discourages individ-And so begins another Sunday ual competitiveness.

Next is Launch Time led by the attending Discovery Club during the Chief Pilot. We sing the Discovery seven-year series written by Connie motto, "You will seek me and find

ne for being here, each) from the Records Pilots, all the heart" (Jeremiah 29:13); say pledges one for being here boys and girls go into our main class of allegiance to the Christian flag, on time, one for area. There they deposit the tokens Bible, and Canadian flag, and pray. bringing your Dis- in one collection container. These are Any announcements are made at this time, and the previous week's token total is announced and posted on the monthly theme bulletin board.

Next, our Music Pilot leads singing and teaches the memory verse The group activities start off with song for the week as well as reviews children at Southdale Community a game time led by the Games Pilot. the past week's verses. We have Baptist Church in Winnipeg. Since September 1988, children in kinder-September 1988, children in kinderthing the children excel in and enjoy. Learning the verses to familiar tunes Sunday School hour. The material, a Club theme song; recite the club like "The Farmer in the Dell" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" has me when you seek me with all your made learning a lot more fun. A dif-

> "We're enjoying the new look of our Sunday School program. We have seen an increase in visitors and regular attenders, but most importantly, the children are benefiting from the Discovery Club through Scripture memorization and hearing God's Word shared in a creative and meaningful way."

They deposit their tokens in one collection container to be added together for a collective score, which is later announced.

> The boys and girls check-in with the Records Pilots and receive tokens.



Group activities, Launch Time, begin with a game time, often related to the theme of the day's lesson

for the month's verses.

The lessons or devotions led by the monthly theme and uses a variety of have a one hour maximum, we have and worship. One difficulty has been reaching the wide span of ages with a meaningful lesson. So after devotions, we separate into "ranks" for Logbook time: Jets (K), Pathfinders and 4), and Surveyors (Grades 5 and 6) with individual teachers who are referred to as pilots. One of the main lesson with the age group at their level and apply it in a personal way. The pilots also use the time to play craft related to the verse. Logbook pilots are accountable, too!) has

ferent tune each month is the basis time is usually around 20 minutes, so the time must be used wisely.

The Discovery Club material is Devotions Pilot takes the next 15 to written for a time allotment of about 20 minutes. The content follows a one and one half hours. Since we creative methods. Some lessons fo- revised it to suit our needs. We've cus on missions, some on the church appreciated the flexibility of this program in that respect.

There are no workbooks with the material; instead monthly leaflets are photocopied from the annual Program Guide. These have short assign-(Grades 1 and 2), Voyagers (Grades 3 ments for the children to do at home, and they receive tokens each week for completing them.

Discovery bags are simple cloth goals of this time is to review the tote bags that some of our ladies made. They are earned by completing the first leaflet of the year on salvation, being there three Sundays, "quickie games" to help memorize and saying the first three memory verses or do verse sheets — a small verses. Once a child or pilot (yes —

earned a bag, their name is printed on it, and they carry their Bible and papers in it. Sometimes our church looks like a sea of blue Discovery

Because there are many pilots involved and many different areas of the Club, we have a monthly PPP meeting (Pilots, Prayer, and Planning). Here we evaluate the past month and plan for the coming month. This has been an effective way to keep up-to-date with the total program.

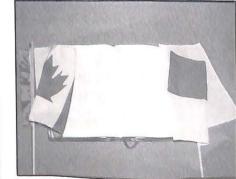
The decision to change over to this format did not come quickly or easilv. There was a period of adjustment, and we hit a few snags! However, overall we're enjoying the "new look" of our Sunday School program! We have seen an increase in visitors and regular attenders, but most importantly, the children are benefiting from the Discovery Club through Scripture memorization and hearing God's Word shared in a creative and meaningful way. They are enthusiastic and growing — that makes it worth all the effort!

During launch time, Submitted by Kathy Knopp and Karen we sing, recite the club Edinger, members of Southdale Commumotto, say pledges of nity Baptist Church in Winnipeg, Maniallegiance, pray, sing, toba. Kathy is the Chief Pilot of Discovand learn memory verses. This is followed eru Club.



The lesson or devotions led by the Devotions Pilot takes the next 15 to 20 minutes. This is followed by Logbook Time with children grouped according to their age. Here the lesson is reviewed.





Pledges are said to the Canadian flag, the Bible, and the Christian flag.

anuary 1990 marks the beginning of the Conference Vision 2000 emphasis on the second Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow. An excellent opportunity to begin this emphasis on spiritual growth is by participating in the Week of Prayer, January 7 through

During their meeting on September 11, 1989, the Grow Task Force determined that the meditations for the Week of Prayer should focus on seven spiritual disciplines: Solitude, simplicity, meditation, confession, silence, fasting, and prayer.

Their hope is that churches will use this week as a time of prayer and fasting on behalf of North American Baptist Conference Church Planters. There is a great need for more Church Planters.

We hope that during this Week of Prayer, we, as a Conference of believers, will beseech the Lord of the Harvest to raise up people to sense His calling to become Church Planting Pastors," says the Rev. Lewis Petrie, development director. "We encourage you to observe this week of prayer as individuals in your local church or in conjunction with other North American Baptist Conference churches in your area. We believe that God will graciously answer our prayers as we faithfully intercede for communities that need an aggressive Gospel witness.'

In Moments with God, you will find meditations for this week for your personal devotions. You will also receive a Week of Prayer bookmark through your local church.

C. Neil Strait said, "Prayer lifts the heart above the battles of life and gives it a glimpse of God's resources which spell victory and hope."

May this be a week in which all of us grow in our vision of God's power, holiness, and the resources which He has prepared for us.

Challenged Through Prayer



"Be still, and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10, NIV



Week of Prayer January 7-13, 1990 January 7-13, 1990

Week of Prayer

Sunday, January 7 Solitude

Read Luke 4:42-44 Pray for Current Church Planters

> Monday, January 8 Simplicity

Read Matthew 6:19-34 Pray for "New Churches...New Life" Campaign

> Tuesday, January 9 Meditation

Read Ephesians 3:16-19 Pray for Future Church Planters

> Wednesday, January 10 Confession

Read Isaiah 6:1-8 Pray for Rev. Bernard Fritzke, Church Planting Director

> Thursday, January 11 Silence

Read Psalm 46 Pray for Proposed Church Planting Projects

> Friday, January 12 Fasting

Read Nehemiah 1 Pray for N.A.B. College/ Divinity School and N.A.B. Seminary as they train Church Planters

> Saturday, January 13 Praver

Read Psalm 29 Pray for Growth in the N.A.B. Conference



North American Baptist Conference 1 So. 210 Summit Ave. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

challenged to grow

Ministries with **Mature Adults**

by Lyle E. Schaller

he aging of the American population in general and, in particular, the aging of thousands of congregations has sparked new interest in ministries with mature adults. Those concerned about this subject may want to look at the changing audience and various approaches to ministry. A useful beginning point is to recognize the clientele in 1989 differs greatly from the clientele of 1960.

The senior citizens' centers in the churches in 1960 were directed largely at the 16.7 million Americans born before 1895 who were still alive in 1960. All of "the elderly" of 1960 were persons born before the dawn of the twentieth century.

A Bigger Audience — One Out of Four Over 25

Today, that audience of people age 65 and over con-

sists of the 30 million Americans born before 1925 - that is the definition of those who will be 65 or older in 1990. In fact, the potential audience is larger than that.

Back in 1960, 85 percent of all males age 55-64 were in the labor force. Today that proportion has dropped to 66 percent. In other words, since 1960 approximately 1.2 million men, age 55-64, had chosen early retirement, but that number has now swollen to nearly four million early retired men, and most are married. Thus the combination of "senior citizens" and early retirees is close to 38 million, or one out of four Americans over the age of 25.

A Different Audience

That is a big audience! To be more precise, it is a collection of several audiences. Most display few resemblances to the senior citizens of 30 years ago. Let's look at five areas: Education, income level, jobs, health and life expectancy, and marriage.

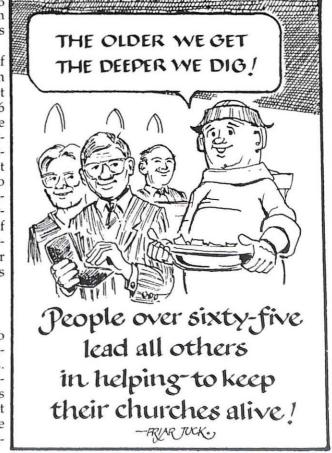
In 1960, 73 percent of the

men and 66 percent of the women in the United States, age 65 and over, reported they had less than eight years of formal education. Today, the comparable figures are 35 percent and 32 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, the proportion of mature adults who have completed at least four years of college has tripled. That difference in educational background will influence choices and program planning.

A second change is that in 1960, 30 percent of the families headed by a mature adult reported their income placed them below the poverty level. The proportion of elderly individuals living outside a family setting who were below the poverty line in 1960 was 58.5 percent for men and 69.1 percent for women. Those free or low cost nutritious meals were needed and welcomed!

> Today the comparable figures reveal that only six percent of the families headed by a mature male are below the poverty line (13 percent for families headed by a mature woman). Fewer than onefourth of the elderly individuals living outside a family setting report an income below the poverty level.

As a group, Americans, age 65 and over, have a higher per person average annual income than those under 65. Onethird of all families headed by a mature adult report a net worth of over \$100,000 compared to 30 percent of all families headed by someone in the 45-54 age bracket, and the elderly are more likely to receive interest from investments than any other age group. It also should be noted that, as a group, Americans, age 65 and over, a) contribute a larger proportion of their income to charitable and religious causes than any other age cohort and b) give a larger proportion of their total charitable contributions to religious organizations than do



younger contributors to charitable causes.

A third big change is that in 1960 32 percent of the men and 11 percent of the women, age 65 and over, had full-time jobs. Those proportions have dropped to fifteen and seven percent today.

A fourth change is in health and life expectancy. The life expectancy of the average 65-year-old American in 1985 was 16.7 additional years, up two and onehalf years from 1960. The biggest increase, 2.8 years, has been for white women.

The fifth change is that today more than three-fourths of all mature men are married and living with their wife compared to 69 percent in 1960. Today four out of ten women, age 65 and over, are living with a husband compared to 36 percent as recently as 1970. The number of mature women who are either widowed or divorced has held remarkably constant at 55 percent. The proportion who are widowed has shrunk, but the proportion currently divorced has tripled from 1.5 percent in 1960 to 4.5 percent in 1989.

Today's mature adults are not carbon copies of the senior citizens of 1960! They are twice as numerous; they are better educated; much more likely to be retired; financially far more comfortable; in much better health; more likely to be living with their spouse; and include a larger proportion of persons past 80 years of age than their counterparts of 1960.

Which Audience - the "Young Old," the "Old Old," or the Inbetween?

A second factor that must be considered in planning ministries with mature adults is the difference in ages. To be more specific, this probably should be thought of in terms of generations. When you plan for expanding your ministries with adults, are you thinking about the "young old" (age 65-74) or the "old old" (age 85 and over), or those between those age brackets? Obviously you should not be expecting many 67-year-olds to be interested in what you plan for people born before 1900. How old is the audience you are seeking to reach and serve?

Which Approach?

The need to focus on one age group can be illustrated by looking briefly at a half dozen different approaches to building ministries with mature adults.

The one that peaked in popularity in the churches in the 1970s was the senior citizen center, usually housed in the fellowship hall and organized around a) a nutritious meal, b) sociability, c) fun and games, d) the weekly reunion with longtime friends, e) something to look forward to fill the day, and perhaps, f) an educational experience or the opportunity to learn and practice a new skill or engage in a hobby (ceramics, Bible study, table games, quilting). This still attracts many of those born before 1920, but few of those born after

A second approach followed by a smaller number of churches is organized around trips, events, new experiences, meeting and making new friends, and adventure. Frequently, the most visible expression of this approach is the bus, which has replaced the fellowship hall as the primary meeting place.

A third approach, which has been overlooked by most of the churches, is directed at that slice of the mature population who share most or all of these characteristics. They a) enjoy a happy marriage and like to be in the company of their spouse, b) have been looking forward to those carefree retirement years, c) do not feel a compulsion to be needed; therefore they find it easy to move from having been heavily involved in church as a volunteer to more of a spectator role, d) enjoy the out-of-doors, e) enjoy better-than-average health for their age group, f) do not feel emotionally, psychologically, or economically dependent on their children, g) enjoy their grandchildren — but usually at a distance, h) prefer leisure time activities that have clearly defined rules, boundaries, and terminations, and offer immediate opportunities for the evaluation of one's performance (golf, service on single-purpose ad hoc task forces, bridge, travel), i) prefer not to spend all day alone, j) are comfortable making quick decisions that may have long-term implications, k) benefit from an above average income, l) enjoy helping to pioneer the new, but show little interest in perpetuating the old, m) display little interest in participating in intergenerational activities and are comfortable socializing largely with people from their own generation, n) find it relatively easy to switch denominational affiliation in the search for a new church home, and o) accept and affirm the advantages of cremation far more readily than people from their generation who continue to live in the same community where they spent most of their adult life.

The most highly visible expression of these characteristics can be found in those retirement communities in the Sunbelt organized around a golf course and a club house. A second is the crew of volunteers who spend two or three or more weeks constructing the meeting house for a new congregation or helping to rebuild a church that has been demolished by fire or the weather. A third is the work group that every year spends a few weeks in a mission station on another continent.

A fourth approach is built around the **needs** of some of the elderly. This may include delivering meals on wheels, visiting residents of nursing homes (perhaps one-fifth of all mature adults will spend at least 90 days in a nursing home), home repairs for those elderly persons who continue to live in their own home, and similar services. This caring approach is the primary approach to ministry with mature adults in many

A fifth approach, and one most vigorously endorsed by the participants, is to challenge mature adults to be engaged in doing ministry on a continuing basis. This may include teaching in the Sunday school; participating in a surrogate Grandfathers' Club, which functions as an active support group for the weekday nursery school; organizing and nurturing the Mothers' Club for first-time mothers, replacing the paid custodian; and maintaining the building and grounds, organizing, and implementing a big capital funds campaign; sewing for missions; volunteering in a food pantry; or teaching the 36-week new member orientation class.

Conference Youth Grow as They Serve in Summer Ministries

by Karl Mueller

he summer of 1989 was an exciting time of ministry for many of our North American Baptist Conference youth and young adults. Scores of them were involved in ministry and missions in North America and overseas. The following four reports highlight some of the things God has done through our Conference youth and young adults.

From Edmonton to the Philippines

On May 13, five young adults from Central Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, left for eight weeks of ministry in the Philippines and China. This was the second trip undertaken by young adults from Central Bap-

Under the leadership of Annette Konrad, the team had spent the pre-

vious eight months studying principles of cross-cultural missions to prepare themselves for their ministry overseas.

In the Philippines, the team worked with North American Baptist Conference missionaries, the Rev. Leland and Jennell Bertsch. They work in Legazpi City as church planters among the Bicol people. Although team members lived in the homes of non-Christian Filipino families during their five weeks of ministry, their ministry focus was

discipleship among the youth of the Albany Bible Community (the church the Bertsches have planted).

After leaving the Philippines, the team traveled to Hong Kong and China, where they spent three weeks distributing 4,500 pieces of Christian literature and Gospel cassette tapes. About 18,000 people were presented with the Gospel message.

Are there long-term results from such a short-term mission? Time will determine the long-term effects of this 1989 team.

(continued on page 16)



Youth from Edmonton worked with Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch. They focused on discipling the youth of the church that the Bertsches are planting.

Five young adults from Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta, served in the Philippines and in China this past summer for eight weeks.

(continued on page 28)

However, the results of the 1988 team are clear. One young man, who became a Christian through the ministry of last year's team, is now a leader in his church's youth ministry. He also has led several of his friends to Christ!

One young lady from Central Baptist served on both the 1988 and 1989 team. As a result of these short-term mission trips, she plans to go to China as a university student/missionary in 1990.

From Sioux Falls to Carol Stream

After two months of training and preparation, a team of 16 senior high school students from Trinity Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD, made the 12 hour trip to Carol Stream, IL, where they spent ten days in ministry at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

"The youth from Cornerstone Bap- an ice cream social." tist had prepared to teach ages 3-5, Tim Walker. "The youth were greeted the first day by 35 children who enjoyed skits, Bible stories, Bible les-The second day the two clubs had a done." record attendance of 56 kids. The average for the week was 48 chil-

Kelly Lashly (the associate pastor at both clubs performing a mini-musi-Trinity Baptist Church) and Jackie cal for their parents and friends. "The Aebi (a North American Baptist Lord blessed us with a beautiful Seminary student) led the group at summer evening and 115 people in the invitation of the Rev. Tim Walker, attendance. To close the program, pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church. they sent off balloons and enjoyed

"It was a tremendous week with U.S.A. ministry, and toured the Pahad trained and prepared to teach Trinity Baptist youth becoming bet-Kindergarten through grade 6 for ter acquainted," says Walker. "As a Backyard Bible Clubs," says Pastor result of their ministry, two new families expressed a sincere desire to attend Cornerstone Baptist. We thank the youth of Cornerstone and Trinity sons, recreation, crafts, and music. and their leaders for a ministry well

> In addition to the Backyard Bible Clubs, the team went door-to-door inviting people to attend Cornerstone

The finale of the week came Fri- Baptist Church, helped serve a meal day evening with the children from to the homeless at the Jesus People

Reflecting on their ministry at Cornerstone Baptist in Carol Stream are the 16 senior high youth of Trinity Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD.



The finalé of the week of Backyard Bible Clubs at Cornerstone Baptist occurred Friday evening. The children performed a mini-musical for 115 parents and friends. To close the program, they sent off balloons and ate ice cream.

and the youth from Trinity Baptist both the Cornerstone Baptist and cific Garden Mission in downtown Chicago.

> When asked to sum up what the team members learned, Kelly Lashly, the team leader said, "Throughout the project, we were aware of how God worked in and through our lives. We finished this mission project knowing God had used us as His instruments to touch other people's lives for Christ's sake and knowing that we had been richly blessed through it all."

From Winnipeg to Rio Grande City

On August 18, a Crossover Ministries team from Mission Baptist Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, left on a 1,850 mile trip to the Texas/ Mexico border and two weeks of ministry with the Rev. Juan Luna and the Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church in Rio Grande City, Texas.

The team of 11, led by Ken Thiessen, youth pastor, had been well prepared for ministry. Each team member had completed the Discipleship Training Institute — a threemonth training program developed by Crossover Ministries. This short-



The Mission Baptist team ministered on both sides of the Texas/Mexico border. Pigs, chickens, and dogs roamed the backyard as the team held a service in a little patio adjoining a small house.

After completing three months of training, eleven young adults from Mission Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, traveled to Texas to serve at Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church for two weeks this summer.

term mission trip was the opportunity to put into practice, all that had been learned in the "classroom."

The first week of ministry was spent in Rio Grande City in a series of evangelistic/renewal meetings in Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church. While team members did puppetry, led in music and worship, and participated in skits and testimonies, Ken Thiessen preached on "God's Call to Renewal." God moved in a powerful way; many people recommitted their lives to the Lord.

The second week was spent in ministry in various towns on both



During the first week of ministry by the wouth adults of Mission Baptist Church at Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church, team members led a series of evangelistic/renewal meetings. God moved in powerful ways: many people recommitted their lives to the



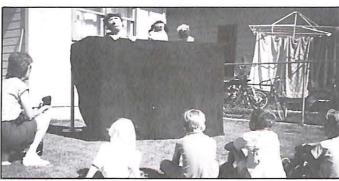
One hundred and twenty children participated in the Backyard Bible Clubs led by youth from our churches in Kankakee, IL, and Burlington, IA, for Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, CO. Of these 59 received Christ as Savior.



Seven youth and two adults from Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA served with Pastor Michael Mirelez and Grace Baptist Church this summer. Team members were discipled to effectively share the Gospel



Ten youth and three sponsors from Imman uel Baptist Church, Kankakee, joined the Burlington youth in Monte Vista for 10 days of ministry at Grace Baptist Church As a result, many of he members of these wo teams made ommitments to witness to friends t school this fall.



In addition to conducting Backyard Bible Clubs, the youth visited 360 homes and found 68 families interested in Christianity and the ministry of Grace Baptist Church.

sides of the Texas/Mexico border. In the town of Diaz Ordaz, Mexico, the team held a service in a little patio adjoining a small house. As the people listened to the Word of God, pigs, chickens, and dogs roamed the backyard.

Next door was a small shack with no running water or electricity. The elderly man and woman who lived there were both ill and were plagued by evil spirits. Together with Pastor Luna and one of the deacons of the church, several of the team members prayed for the couple's physical and spiritual health. Here, in this little town, the team came face-to-face with the physical and spiritual needs of the mission field of Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church.

As the team left Rio Grande City, Pastor Luna, made a statement that reflected all that the Lord had done during the two weeks of joint ministry: "Praise be to God! It has been 15 years, since I have sensed God working in such a powerful way."

From Burlington and Kankakee to Colorado

From July 14-24, seven youth and two adults from Oak Street Baptist Church in Burlington, Iowa, and ten vouth and three sponsors from Immanuel Baptist Church in Kankakee, Illinois, traveled together to work with the Rev. Michael Mirelez and

Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, Colorado. Much was accomplished in those 10 exciting days of ministry.

Working under the leadership of Pastors Mirelez, Joey Link of Burl-Kankakee, the teams led 120 children in five Backyard Bible Clubs. Fiftynine children accepted Christ as Savior. In addition, more than 360 homes were surveyed; 68 families indicated Christianity and Grace Baptist Church!

While the short-term results of this trip were wonderful, the long-term results may be even more impressive. First, team members were discipled to effectively share the Gospel with others. Second, many of the young people made commitments to witness to their friends at school. The goal of several of the young people is to lead at least one of their friends to Christ by Christmas.

The impact of this trip can perhaps be summed up in the words of Stacey Day, a 16-year-old team member from Oak Street Baptist Church:

"Before we started training for this mission trip, I didn't feel I was as close to the Lord as I wanted to be. I couldn't get myself to do devotions, or even volunteer to pray in Sunday

school.... Now, I do my devotions regularly. I know that it is something the Lord wants me to do. If you ever have the chance to go on a shortterm mission trip, I would definitely ington, and Dwight Jacobsen of recommend it. You learn a lot about yourself, others, and the mission field. If we get the chance to go again next year, there are no doubts in my mind — I'm going."

Does God use summer mission an interest in learning more about trips for spiritual growth? The answer is a resounding yes! He uses them to change team members, to lead others to a relationship to Himself, and to call young men and women to mission service.

> Karl Mueller of Pasadena, CA, is Director of Crossover Ministries for the North American Baptist Conference.

Crossover Ministries wants to help you help your young people experience God working through them in short-term missions. If you would like further information about how your church can form, train, and send a short-term missions team, please contact Crossover Ministries, 627 N. Mentor Ave. #204, Pasadena, CA 91106 U.S.A., Phone 1-800-795-4174

news

Religiously Oriented Investment **Scams Increasing**

by Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP). More than 15,000 Americans have lost almost \$500 million during the past five years as a result of religiously oriented investment scams, according to a report released August 7.

"Preying on the Faithful: The False Prophets of the Investment World," based on a survey of state securities agency enforcement cases, was released by the North American Securities Administrators Association and the Council of Better Business Bu-

The report points to "an alarming increase in the number of investment schemes peddled to religious people." It cites a variety of religiously oriented schemes, including "self-proclaimed 'born again' financial planners, con artists claiming to be endorsed by local and national church officials and givers of 'divinely inspired' investments advice" about coins, precious metals, real estate, stocks, and oil and gas wells.

"Religiously oriented scams are one of today's hottest tickets for investment swindlers," said John C. Baldwin, the association's president and director of the Utah Division of Securities. "The problem here is not religion but the growing number of swindlers who cynically exploit religious faith in order to fleece unsuspecting members of the flock."

Reasons for increase of religiously oriented scams

Many of the scams are based on dire predictions of imminent financial and social chaos.

• The tight-knit structure of many religious groups is a perfect environment for an investment swindler.

· Specialized media outlets, including religious magazines and radio stations, make targeting members of religious groups easy.

• The schemes frequently involve investments that are claimed to have some connection to a church or religious institution.

Perpetrators of such scams often

equate faith in their schemes with religious faith.

'Con artists are concerned with matters of ethics and religious beliefs only insofar as they can be used to run a scam," said James H. McIlhenny, Council of Better Business Bureau's president. "They will go to any length, including the exploitation of churches and deeply held religious beliefs, if they think it will work. They will take their 30 pieces of silver any way they can get them."

Tips for avoiding scams:

· Be wary of investments that seem closely tied to a particular religious belief. "It makes little sense that an investment opportunity would be available only to members of a specific church or faith," the report says.

• Be cautious if the promoter of an investment opportunity tries to capitalize on connections or a leadership position within a religious group.

· Be on guard if a new church member springs up with a "surefire" investment scheme. "Some con artists will waste little or no time in worming their way into a religious circle," the reports warns. "Find out who you are dealing with and what their background, if any, is within the church."

· Look closely at investments promoted by fellow church members. "Keep in mind that one of the con artist's most persuasive hooks will be the testimony of your friends and fellow believers," the report advises.

• Ignore claims that religiously based investments are unregulated. According to the report, "Virtually all investment opportunities, including church bonds, come under the scope of state and federal securities or commodities laws."

• Check out any promoter and his investment opportunity. "Don't suspend your doubt about an investment just because the promoter has made some claims about church connections," the report says. "All promoters and investors should be checked out thoroughly before money changes hands.

 Don't give a break to a swindler who hides behind religion. "Once discovered, investments swindlers promoting schemes to church members sometimes plea for Christian forgiveness," the report concludes. "Others will warn of the danger to the church or the greater faith if the scam is exposed. Don't listen to these self-serving appeals.

"If you suspect that you have been approached or taken by a con artist, report them to your state securities agency. Don't be taken advantage of for a second time by being talked into letting an investment crook off the hook. He or she will just take the opportunity to move on to greener pastures — and new victims."

committed to give

Can the Need Be Met?

ach year we hear of the tremendous financial need in our local churches, Associations, and Conference. The needs are almost overwhelming, yet they can be met. The consequences of not funding our ministry commitments will be serious.

On the Conference level, it is projected that we could be as much as \$500,000 short of our goal of \$4,750,000 for 1989. This hard fact will dictate possible missions and ministry reductions in 1990. It should be noted that the Conference has had to borrow money to meet current commitments.

There is a very real need. Please make every effort to become a part of the solution. Our God is able to meet our needs. Let us give Him the opportunity through our prayers and gifts.

Lewis J. Petric

estate planning

How Can I Continue to Give to Conference Ministries after My Death?

support to the North American Baptist Conference. What happens to my support should I die? What can I do to guarantee it?"

We'll Help Guarantee that Your Giving Will Continue

Do you, like many of our friends, American Baptist Conference continue after your death, so that the

'm concerned about my Conference can continue our task of taking the Gospel into all the world?

If so, it's important that you make plans for this to happen. Unless you have a valid estate plan that provides for the continuation of your support to the North American Baptist Conference, that support will cease upon your death.

You can make sure that this will desire that your support to the North not happen to you. Many are finding great satisfaction in knowing that with a valid estate plan, their sup-

port to the Conference will continue. And you can, too.

We have prepared a Will and Trust Planning Guide, which you can use to begin your planning or to review your existing estate plan. This will help you be certain that you have provided for your charitable inter-

Please write for your free copy today and discover how to continue your life-style of giving through your

(Neither the Development Department nor the N.A.B. Conference is engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. For advice or assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney should be obtained. The purpose of this article is to provide information of a general character only.)

	ning Guide. I understand there is no cost or obligation.
Please indicate if:	
Your estate is over \$600,000 or	
You own your own business.	
Please send me free information on Cha	
☐ I have made a bequest to the Conference	
☐ I would like to discuss my situation wit	h a North American Baptist Conference estate planning representative
☐ I would like to discuss my situation wit Mr./Mrs./Miss	h a North American Baptist Conference estate planning representative
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☐ I would like to discuss my situation wit Mr./Mrs./Miss Birthdate Spouse Address	h a North American Baptist Conference estate planning representative Birthdate State/Prov Code

in memoriam

LENA FROHLICH (89), Kelowna, BC; born April 28, 1900, at Millet, AB, to August and Louise Biebrick; died Oct. 16, 1989; married Daniel Frohlich, Oct. 25, 1928; charter member, Trochu (AB) Baptist Church; member, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; known for her selfless hospitality; predeceased by her husband, Daniel in 1977; survived by one son, Ornan, Peachland, BC; five daughters: Ivy (Arnold) Franke, Trochu, AB; Manetta (Edmond) Hohn, Kelowna, BC; Anita (Manfred) Taubensee, Westbank, BC; Eileen (Reinhold) Fichtner, Prince George, BC; and Ellen (Elmer) Breitkreuz, Edmonton, AB; 25 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; one sister, Hanna King, Wetaskiwin, AB; Rev. George Breitkreuz, pastor, funeral

ALEATHA CHRISTINE HUBER (76), Lodi, CA; born July 27, 1912, in Long Lake, SD; died June 30, 1989; moved to Lodi, CA, in 1945; married Arthur Huber, Jan. 14, 1955; member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; survived by her husband, Arthur; one step-daughter; two sisters; and two brothers; the Reverends David Mitchell and Aaron Buhler, pastors, funeral service.

JACOB LEHMAN (81), Kelowna, BC; born Aug. 7, 1908, to Henry and Elizabeth Lehman in Racskosar, Hungary; died Sept. 1, 1989; immigrated to Canada in 1927 to Regina, SK, and later to Valleyview, AB; married Emma Graber, Aug. 12, 1936; usher, trustee, deacon; faithful follower of Christ; member, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; predeceased by his parents; daughter, Esther; and three brothers: Henry, John, and Casper; survived by his wife, Emma; one daughter, Irma of Kelowna; two sons: Ronald (Lillian), Devon, AB; and David (Beverly), Valleyview, AB; one sister, Elizabeth Heizelman, Kamloops, BC; four grandchildren; the Reverends George Breitkreuz and P. Tim Schroeder, pastors, funeral serv-

LILLIAN E. NEUMANN (82), Tacoma, WA; born March 11, 1907, in Cos Cob, CT; died Sept. 18, 1989; married Felix Newmann who predeceased her in 1967; member, Calvary Baptist, Tacoma, WA; survived by three sons: Paul, Rochester, NY; Harvey, Tacoma, WA; Glenn, Bellevue, WA; one daughter, Carol, Anchorage, AK; three sisters: Ethel Kary and Ida Meyhoefer, Sonora, CA; Ethel Klein, Sanibel Island, FL; 11 grandchildren; 10 greatgrandchildren.

BEN G. SCHMIDT (76), Spokane, WA; born in Canada, May 11, 1913; died Aug. 6, 1989; moved to Spokane Valley, WA, 1920; married Alma in 1933; member, Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane; served as deacon, trustee, usher, and nearly all offices of the Church; he never forgot the goodness of the Lord; survived by his wife Alma; two sons: Robert B., Spokane Valley; George R., Pleasant Hills, CA; one daughter, Helen Marie, Cameroon, West Africa; two sisters: Esther Van Alstyne, Spokane Valley, and Ruth Jenkins, Tyler, TX; two brothers: William and Robert, both of Spokane Valley; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; Rev. George Pontius, pastor, funeral service.

GORDON HENRY STROHSCHEIN (57), Wetaskiwin, AB; born Dec. 5, 1931, to Henry and Bertha Strohschein; died Sept. 14, 1989; married Doreen Nelson, Feb. 27, 1952; member, Calvary Baptist Church, Wetaskiwin, AB; deacon, Sunday school superintendent and treasurer, served on Salem Manor Nursing Home and Camp Caroline boards; survived by his wife, Doreen; three daughters: Sharon (Maurice) Vanden Brink, Millet, AB; Joyce (Gilbert) Breitkreuz, Springside, SK; Margo (Warren) Ziolkowski, Yorktown, SK; two sons: Earl (Sharon), Wetaskiwin; Chad, Edmonton, AB; 13 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; mother; and two sisters; predeceased by his father and one brother, Loren; The Reverends Richard Emilson, Charles Littman, and Ed Fuellbrandt, pastors, funeral

VIVIAN YOST (62), Trochu, AB; born July 1, 1927; died May 25, 1989; member, Trochu Baptist Church, used her musical talent to serve the Lord; pianist and organist; predeceased by her parents, Adam and Mathilde Yost; and two brothers; survived by her twin brother, Delton (Bernice) Yost; two nephews: Kary (Karen), Richmond; Kenton, Edmonton; two neices: Shelley Ann, Richmond; Della, Cal-

anniversaries

Ebenezer Baptist Celebrates 85th Anniversary

■ SHATTUCK, OK. Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrated its 85th anniversary on September 23-24. Former pastor, the Rev. E. C. Ollenburger, and area minister, the Rev. Milton Zeeb, and their wives were among the guests at the Saturday banquet and Sunday morning service.

Mr. Zeeb showed slides of the Philippines mission field. On Sunday, he gave a message, "God's Glory in the Church."

"We rejoice in God's goodness and leading," says the Rev. F. H. Fuchs, pas-

Pioneer Baptist Celebrates 90 Years

POUND, WI. Pioneer Baptist celebrated 90 years of ministry, July 8–9. On Saturday the Church had a combination anniversary and Sunday School picnic in a neighboring community.

The activities on Sunday included a combined Sunday School service, with the children of the church singing several numbers. The adults shared memories of past Sunday School experiences. The Rev. Jacob Ehman, area minister, spoke in the morning worship service.

In the evening, the congregation enjoyed a slide presentation of the history of the Church. Letters of greeting from former pastors were read. The Rev. Anthony Guenther, who served the church from 1967-1973, shared thoughts on worship during the evening service. The Rev. Allan Steier, now missionary in Japan, was serving the Church as pastor during this celebration.

Temple Baptist Celebrates 25th Anniversary

■ JAMESTOWN, ND. Temple Baptist Church celebrated its 25th anniversary September 17. Former pastors, the Rev. Gordon Voegele, Beulah, ND, and the Rev. Jim Dick, professor at Jamestown College, were the guest speakers. Pat (Mrs. Dennis) Hoffman of Fargo, ND, gave a vocal concert. To end the service, balloons with tracts with a salvation message attached were released into the

The Church originally was a church planting project. Other pastors who have served the Church are the late M. Vanderbeck, the late Irvin Schmuland. George Breitkreuz, and George Robinson. The Rev. Ray Hoffman is pastor.

(continued on page 27)



president's focus

by Manetta Hohn, W.M.F. president, Kelowna, BC



HRISTMAS — a time of great joy. Our anticipation grows as we prepare for the special day. As I was writing this article, my eyes focused on the lovely cross-stitch motto of Isaiah 40:31 on my bulletin board, given to me by the Executive of our local Women's Ministries, and I asked myself, "How does Reaching New Heights fit in with Christmas?" The chorus we often sing based on this verse helped me focus on Reaching New Heights this Christmas. In all the busyness of the Christ-

mas season, our physical strength, as well as our spiritual and emotional strength, is often drained. Isaiah reminds us that as we wait on the Lord, our strength will be renewed. How much time will we reserve this season to wait on the Lord? The many extras that we feel need to be done will fall into proper perspective as we seek the Lord's will in what we are doing. I believe we need to learn to resist the pressure of society around us so that Christmas will not become the time of the great "too much." If there are times when we must run to accomplish our tasks, we will not be weary because we have first asked for the Lord's will and guidance.

Mounting up, as it were, with wings as eagles, our fellowship with the Lord will help us set our focus on higher values. We will then be able to look down and around and

see with compassion the many needs of others right around us. There are many in our society who find Christmas a time of great loneliness. We celebrate joyfully because we personally know why our Savior came, but what of those who don't know and those who are hurting and feeling alone? Christ is the gift that can reverse that pain. Perhaps we need to allow the Lord to show us that we need to go to a certain person or group to show them that God loves them and cares for them.

My prayer is that we will all Reach New Heights this Christmas season as we wait on the Lord who will then lead us to celebrate thoughtfully and to share with others the true meaning of Christmas. "Teach me, Lord, to wait" on You in all areas of my life!

gift, be thankful, whatever it is. Your thankfulness is part of your Christian testimony.

11. Attend a special Christmas service or cantata and sit together as a family.

12. When gifts are exchanged let them be exchanged one at a time instead of in a "free-for-all." Life is meant to be sipped, not gulped.

13. Play beautiful Christmas music in your home.

14. Visit a nursing home. Many residents have no family and spend each Christmas alone. Make cards or decorations to leave with them, sing carols, or give them a hug.

15. Take time to listen to the messages of the Christmas cards you receive. Just before or after your evening meal, have a family member chose a card and read it to the rest. Discuss the card's message and why the sender is special to your family. Remember the sender in your prayers.

16. Go caroling as a family. Greet your neighbors or serenade the residents of a nursing home. Visit elderly or shut-in members of your church.

17. Is your church on your family's gift list? Decide together what you will make or buy for your church. Choose a gift that your children will see in use at the church.

18. Plan a party. Ask each guest to bring a bit of Christ to share with others at the party. One may play or sing a solo; another may bring a recording; a family may act out a Christmas skit — whatever helps to turn our minds to the Christmas Christ. Play games like Christmas charades (take turns acting out scenes from the Christmas story, titles of carols) and Christmas word search (see how many words you can make from the letters in Christ-

19. As you decorate your Christ-

mas tree, you can also honor Christ. Here are some ideas to help you:

· After attaching lights to the tree, turn them on and read John 8:12 and John 1:4-9.

• As you place a star on top of the tree, discuss why the star is important as a Christmas symbol. Read Matthew 2:1-12.

 Ask each family member to choose at least one tree ornament that reminds them of Jesus. Have them explain their choice or challenge others to guess the connection as they place the ornament on the tree.

20. Have each family member think of nonmaterial things the family might like for Christmas (fewer arguments, more fun times, more cooperation, more sharing). Give each other gifts of prayer by praying for one another. Set specific periods of time that these gifts can

20 Ways to Have a More Meaningful Christmas

from the director

by Linda Ebel, women's ministries director



1. Thank the one who led you to a saving knowledge of Christ with a telephone call, letter, or card with a note.

2. Call a relative you haven't talked to in years.

3. Seek out a lonely person to share your Christmas dinner.

4. Remember families that have become one-parent families during the past year.

5. Give your family the gift of time: the message is "peace on earth," not "pace on earth."

6. Go caroling... in the home.

Singing as a family in the home is almost a lost art.

7. Gather around and read the Christmas story as a family and pray together.

8. Watch a television Christmas special as a family.

9. Give your attention to some person whose life has been filled with disappointments.

10. If your employer gives you a

How Silently?

by Ruth Senter

Silent night...

"But the crowds cried out, 'Crucify him. Crucify

Holy night...

"Then they spat in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, 'Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

All is calm...

"When Pilate saw... that an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands... 'I am innocent of this man's blood.' All the people answered, 'Let his blood be on us and on our children."

All is bright...

"And darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two."

Round yon virgin, mother and child...

"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? ...From now on... family divided against each other..."

Holy infant...

"And carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the skull."

So tender and mild...

"And he cried with a loud voice, 'My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me?""

"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has no place to lay his head." In heavenly peace...

"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Sleep in heavenly peace.

"It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

"And we beheld his glory, the glory of the one and only Son."

(Taken from Surrounded by Mystery by Ruth Senter. Copyright ©1988 by Ruth Senter. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House.)

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

ommissioned to Witness

Women Meet in Bible Study Weekly

ALPENA, MI. A Women's Bible Study and Fellowship is held each Thursday morning at Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church with leader Sandra Donovan. — Doris Turnbull

Rowandale Encourages Church Growth

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Rowandale Baptist held a Church Growth Seminar with 50 in attendance. recently.

A Get Acquainted Dinner was held for senior citizens of nearby apartments to welcome those who regularly worship with us and to invite others to join us.

"Pastors Bryan Hochhalter and Douglas Schultz continue to encourage the Church members to be a witness for the Lord," reports H. Kahler.

German Faith Conference of the Alberta Baptist Association Meets

■ EDMONTON, AB. "The German Faith Conference, held this year at Central Baptist Church, is always a highlight; every year the attendance increases!" says Karin Ristau. Guest

speaker Martin Homann, evangelist for Germany's Youth for Christ, challenged and encouraged young and old alike to continue being the salt of the earth and a light in the world. Keeping current with the times requires that we be firmly grounded and rooted in God's Word.

The Conference theme, "Verzahnt Mit Der Zeit Verankert Im Felsen," is translated, "Geared to the Times, but Anchored in the Rock."

Music by the mass choir and brass band, as well as other special music, glorified God.

Fountain Valley Church Hosts Church Planting Church and Mothers New Project

■ FOUNTAIN VALLEY. CA. Recently Pastor Keith McKinney and some 20 members of Pacific Bible Church, Dana Point, worshipped with the congregation of Fountain Valley Baptist. They enjoyed a concert by "Wings of Dawn," a musical ensemble from Pacific Bible Church, a church planting project.

Pastor Eugene Stroh and the congregation of Fountain Valley Baptist Church voted recently to assume the responsibility of being mother church to the new church planting project in Carlsbad, CA.

Praise God for People Receiving Christ as Savior and for His Growing Church

- MCCLUSKY, ND. The Rev. O. Fritzke recently baptized three young people and dedicated a baby at McClusky Baptist Church. — Marion Kirschman
- LOYAL, OK. The Rev. Roger Freelander welcomed two people into the fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church through membership transfer and one baptism.

- ALPENA, MI. Pastor Fred Sweet recently extended the right hand of fellowship to 10 individuals. Two of them came by baptism into the membership of Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church.
- MILBANK, SD. Valley Baptist Church recently welcomed 16 new members into the fellowship of the Church. Included in the group were persons who have moved into the community as well as others who had been attending regularly. This brings the membership to 120. Valley Baptist is the result of the 1987 merger of First Baptist, Corona, and Milbank Baptist. Danny Van Gerpen serves as pastor.

Pommanded to Care

Minneapolis Church Restructures Sunday **Evening Program**

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Faith Baptist Church is helping people develop deeper personal relationships by restructuring the Sunday evening program. Besides the regular evening service, the Church offers a monthly potluck supper with a program and home Bible studies. The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is pastor. — Anne Kruegel

Tender Loving Care Makes Church Plants Grow

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. The youth at Trinity Baptist Church are well acquainted with the planting of new churches. In March 1988, a new church plant, Oak Hills Baptist Church with Pastor Art Bollaert, took place with several of Trinity's young people and their families as the key planters. In July 1988, Trinity's then Associate Pastor, Rev. M. Timothy

Walker, accepted the call to pastor a church plant, Cornerstone Baptist, Carol Stream, IL.



Under the leadership of Associate Pastor Kelly Lashly and North American Baptist Seminary student worker, Jackie Aebi, Trinity's senior high youth prepared for two vacation Bible schools and the children's Sunday School program. The youth carried the major responsibility and leadership of teaching and programming for Trinity's vacation Bible school and closing program.

These young people, along with their leaders, traveled to Carol Stream, IL, to serve in Tender Loving Care at Cornerstone Baptist. For one week, they provided two backyard Bible clubs which resulted in a closing musical program.

Church plants need

Tender Loving Care! Like small trees growing under the shade and protection of the older, established trees, so the church plants need care from the older. established churches. That calls for involvement. "Trinity Baptist Church will remember 1989 for its Tender Loving Care in the growth of Cornerstone Baptist Church... because they were involved," says Pastor Coulon, pastor of Trinity Baptist.

Church Organizes Prayer Chain

■ ALPENA, MI. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church has activated a "prayer chain" for urgent prayer requests. Shirline Liske is president of WMF. - Doris Turnbull

Xtra Years of Zest Is New Ministry at First Baptist

■ MINOT, ND. XYZ (Xtra Years of Zest) is the name of the new ministry for the 50 plus age group at First Baptist Church. They meet once a month for the noon meal and a program. "Interest and attendance from our church and the community has been encouraging," reports Inez Rhone.

honoring Mr. and Mrs. Zeeb followed. The Rev. William Effa is pastor. — Clara Neidenthal

Binder Speaks at Danzig's Harvest Mission Fest

AVON, SD. Dr. John Binder, executive director, North American Baptist Conference, was the special speaker during the morning and afternoon services on Harvest Mission Sunday at Danzig Baptist Church.

"He spoke about our North American Baptist Conference and the things we are doing through our churches together in ministry and missions," reports Ianet Wormsbecker.

Bismarck Church Gives \$17,300 in Missions Offering

■ BISMARCK, ND. Wilma Binder, missionary to Cameroon, was guest speaker at the Harvest Mission Sunday services held at Bismarck Baptist Church.

"The mission work in West Africa was presented in an interesting and challenging way," reports Darleen Hoover. "We praise God for the offering of \$17,300 given that day. The Rev. Ed Bartel is pastor.

"Give a Dollar More a Week," says Lawrence

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

■ WESTBANK, BC. Ed Lawrence, member of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, spoke at a men's breakfast, which was part of a Missionary Conference at Grace Baptist Church. He expressed concern for the shortage of funds for mission projects.

"The goal is to increase funding for missions so that our ability to spread the gospel is strengthened," says Lawrence. "We need to encourage a broad base of people to systematically give an additional \$1 per week. The plan is to have one person at each church spearhead and publicize the "dollar a week" plan in British Columbia.



"Give a dollar more per week for missions," challenges Ed Lawrence.

"Everyone's responsibility is to act decisively and

ommitted to Give

Zeeb Speaks at Bison Church on Mission Sunday

■ BISON, KS. First Baptist Church recently observed

time they gave a special offering and heard the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, speak on "Patient Harvest." A time of fellowship

Mission Sunday at which

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

consistently," stressed Lawrence.

The benefits to full implementation of a program like this, Lawrence pointed out, are to 1) expand fields not adequately covered; 2) boost morale of our missionaries by letting them know we are ready to dig a little deeper to help; 3) encourage people to be systematic givers;

and 4) participate weekly in giving to keep people more aware of missions.

"Excellent results are being achieved by our missionaries, but they are also experiencing the frustration of not being able to reach those fields ready for harvest due to lack of funds," says Lawrence. -Bert Fichtner

Compelled to Serve

Education Workers Recognized at Emery Church

■ EMERY, SD. An appreciation banquet was held for all who served in the education ministry of the First Baptist Church. The special speaker was the Rev. David Sems, director, Church Growth Ministries Department. Mr. Sems spoke at the Promotion Sunday services, also. — Marg Fluth

Meinerts Visit Emery Church

■ EMERY, SD. Dr. Oryn and Pat Meinerts, missionaries to Cameroon and home on furlough, were the guests at First Baptist Church recently. The Rev. Charles Davis is pastor. — Marge Fluth

Minnesota and Iowa Youth Serve in Texas Church

■ AUSTIN, TX. Youth Ministry teams from the Minnesota/La Crosse Association and First Baptist Church of George, IA, joined in ministry with South Austin Fellowship Church. Backyard Bible Clubs, special services, and a total distribution of 15,000 door hangers were all a part of the these 10 days of combined ministry.

"We praise God for the willingness of these groups to give up a part of their summer to minister together with us. Once again, we see the family of God at work together and the importance of this principle within our own N.A.B. Conference family. We need to build God's kingdom — praise God for

what He has done, is doing, and will do," reports Pastor Gordon Stork, South Austin Fellowship Church.

New Day Gives Concert in Chancellor

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. The New Day team presented a Friday evening concert and led in Sunday worship services at First Baptist Church recently. The team also shared the gospel at two area high schools.

"The 1989-90 New Day team is to be commended for their exceptional talent and well coordinated presentation of the message of the Word of God through music and drama," says Ray DeNeui.

First Baptist Honors Missionary for 40 Years of Service

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. After serving 40 years as a missionary in Cameroon, Berneice Westerman is retiring. As a supporting church, First Baptist Church honored her on September 24 with a potluck supper, and presented to her a painting, "The Reapers," and a Black Hills gold necklace for her years of faithful service. She participated in the Sunday School and Sunday morning worship service.

Miss Westerman plans to work with the North American Baptist Conference Archives at the Seminary. — Ray DeNeui

Mission Emphasis Held at McClusky Church

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. McClusky Baptist Church recently held several missionary focused

services in connection with the North Dakota Round Robin Missionary Conference with Florence Miller, missionary to Japan, and Wilma Binder and the Rev. Gilbert Gordon, missionaries to Cameroon, as speakers. The Rev. Manuel Wolff of Turtle Lake, showed slides of Nigeria and spoke at McClusky's Baptist Harvest Mission Services.

Tri-Community Holds Western Roundup

■ ELK GROVE, IL. An old fashioned Western Roundup, recreating the days of the circuit riding country preacher along with country gospel music, brought close to 100 people to the worship service and picnic at Tri-Community Baptist Church. "Our Lord's work is to 'round us up' to follow Him. We are excited to be a part of this work," says Pastor Jim Vyleta.

Men Raise Roof on Texas Church

■ AUSTIN, TX. Eight men along with their families from the Southern Association spent Labor Day weekend in Rio Grande City, Texas, helping the people of Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church raise a roof on their new church.

"On Sunday, we observed the Lord's Supper both at Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church and at the church in Camargo, Mexico. "The fellowship and the opportunity to help Pastor Luna and his Church made the weekend very memorable," reports Mark Rogalski, Men's Fellowship president.

(continued from page 9)

ing the qualifications for justification: therefore we must practice righteousness. Not Paul.

Paul counters by proclaiming the good news of what God has done. God has indeed buried us in death with Christ and raised us with him to a new life (Romans 6:2-11). Therefore we can and ought to live out in practice the righteousness which is ours in principle, "internally" on earth as well as "externally" in heaven. Against the libertine: we do in fact have an obligation; against the legalist: our obligation arises out of what God has mercifully already accomplished in us rather than out of a brute standard to which the sinner. unaided, aspires. To continue in sin would be neither an open option for the believer nor a deficiency in meeting a prior requirement for salvation, it would be simply contrary to what we are as saved persons by the Grace of God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God not because of works, lest any Jone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

If that is good news (and to this sinner it most certainly is), let us believe it — and obey it — in its round fulness.

Dr. Paul A. Rainbow is Assistant Professor of New Testament at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. All Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version.

FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH FOREST PARK, ILLINOIS

invites friends and former members to its

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MAY 4, 5, and 6, 1990

Inquiries or greetings welcomed:

Rev. David A. Steinhart, Pastor Forest Park Baptist Church Harlem Ave. and Dixon St. Forest Park, IL 60130 (708) 366-5091

anniversaries

Calvary Baptist Celebrates 40th Anniversary

■ ABERDEEN, SD. "Leaning on the Past - Reaching for the Future," was the theme of the 40th anniversary of Calvary Baptist Church. Special participants in the worship and communion service were Jacob Éhman, area minister, who served the Church as a student, and Kelly Lashly, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, and Sherwood Schrenk, N.A.B. Seminary student, who call Calvary their "home church."

Following a potluck dinner, the Rev. Gene Kern, Fair Oaks, CA, was guest speaker at a praise service. He served as pastor of Calvary from 1969-73. Reflections were shared by many including Alice Schrenk, charter member.

"We thank God for the way He has guided us through these 40 years, and pray that we might continue to faithfully serve Him," reports Elaine Harms. The Rev. Robert Klein is pastor.

Oklahoma Church Celebrates State's 100th Anniversary

■ LOYAL, OK. Immanuel Baptist Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the State of Oklahoma by dressing up in western attire for the occasion and having a dinner on the Church grounds. The Rev. Roger Freelander is pastor. — Mrs. Vilhauer

Aplington Baptist Celebrates 115th Year of Ministry

■ APLINGTON, IA. The Aplington Baptist Church celebrated its 115th year of ministry on September 23-24. Dr. John Binder, executive director, North American Baptist Conference, encouraged the congregation with a message, "The Celebration to the Glory of God."

At the banquet Saturday evening, the program, including a narrative of the Church's history intertwined with musical selections, pointed to God's faithfulness shown through the many facets of Church life.

Pastor James Renke challenged the Church to maintain its faithful heritage as people of God. He baptized six new members, giving the Church a renewed vision for ministry.

Wedding Anniversaries

■ Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Peddle of Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and church friends.

Anniversaries Correction:

The pew pads were installed in memory of Virginia Lasher by Rusty Lasher and Mr. and Mrs. John Ebel at McClusky (ND) Baptist Church.

YOU ARE PART OF THE BAPTIST WORLD FAMILY!



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MinistryWith Mature Adults

(continued from page 14)

This approach is designed to reach and include those mature adults who have a commitment to doing ministry; who are convinced they still have gifts, skills, and energy to offer to the church; who enjoy doing rather than being cared for; and who enjoy being chal-

A sixth approach is based on the concept of the life cycle. The most common is that highly-specialized ministry by widowed mature adults with the recently widowed. Another is that adult Sunday school class for recently married mature adults. A third is a churchsponsored group home for single mature adults who no longer want to live alone. A fourth is the churchowned and operated nursing home. A fifth is that network of mutual support groups for mature adults.

Which audience is your church seeking to serve as you plan to expand your ministry with mature adults? Which approach appears to be the most promising? \Box

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what's happening

(continued from page 31)

- Dr. Stanley Grenz has resigned as Professor of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethfective July 31, 1990, to join the blended faculty of Carey Hall-Regent College, Vancou-Baptist Seminary since 1981.
- Edwin Fuellbrandt is the new administrator of the Salem Manor Society, Leduc, AB.
- Ken Peterson is the youth director at Riverview Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN.
- Baptist Church, Paul, ID.
- ther and Jonathan, at a church picnic and special program. — Pearl Martinitz

ics at North American Baptist Seminary, ef-

- CO. This work has been disbanded. ■ Max Harvey is the new pastor at Crossroads Baptist Church, North Port, FL.
 - The members of the Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, held an installation service on Sept. 18, 1989, for their new pastor, Dr. Rick Laser and his wife Lily.

■ The Rev. Cal Kroeker is the pastor at First

Baptist Church, Norridge, IL, and is enrolled

in studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity

as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Del Norte,

School, Deerfield, IL. He previously served

- The Rev. Clarence Walth of Citrus Heights, CA, is serving as a regional representative for the Billy Graham Association. He previously served as an Associate Pastor at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, and with the Ron Susek Evangelistic Association.
- Temple Baptist Church, Leduc, AB, held an induction service for their new pastor Rev. Neil Parker on September 24. Dr. Ron Mayforth, representing the Alberta Baptist Association, led the induction service. Dr. Benno Przybylski gave the message, "Ready, Set, Go." Parker and his wife Charlotte have two children. - Mrs. Vi Fleck
- Heritage Baptist Church, Yorktown, SK, formerly Central Baptist, dedicated their new church building to the Lord on Nov. 12, 1989. Rev. Edwin Broadway is the pastor.
- The Rev. James Liske becomes pastor of First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON, effective January, 1990.
- The members and friends of Randolph (MN) Baptist Church held an installation service for Pastor Andy and Nancy Owzarek on Sunday, September 3. Area Minister Rev. Jacob Ehman delivered the sermon. Greetings and messages of encouragement were brought from association and local churches.
- Gary Harris becomes pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church, Stevensville, MI, effective January 1, 1990.
- Laurie Lafleur was ordained Sunday, September 17, at McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. Dr. Ron Mayforth was the speaker for the service.

ver, BC. Grenz has taught at North American

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abilene, KS, welcomed their new pastor, the Rev. James Grupp, his wife Rosemary and children, Es-

Bibles for Russia/Eastern **Europe Is Bible Sunday Goal**

There are believed to be some 60

Yet by conservative estimates, they

Bible Society officials were as-

leading church figures in Moscow

issued them an open challenge to

The American and Canadian Bible

Gifts from our North American

American and Canadian Bible Socie-

Fund to be used for distribution of

through New Day.

Bibles on our mission fields and

Societies world partnership have

NEW YORK, NY (ABS). Because the Bible Societies are funnelling million Christians in the USSR alone. much of the current energy into supplying Christians in the USSR and have only three to four million Bibles Eastern Europe with a million Bibles among them. Western experts say and New Testaments under the ap- that some 60 million Bibles are propriate title, "Gift of Love," the needed and wanted in the country. choice of the massive \$3,000,000 program was a natural one for the Bible tounded earlier this summer when Sunday Offering.

On Bible Sunday, observed in November or December each year, the import 20 million Bibles, saying that custom is to designate a different part there would be no trouble getting of the world or a group of people to these into the Soviet Union. receive copies of the Word of God. and to ask churches to help by taking special love offerings on that day. helped supply the people of the

Bible Sunday is set aside one day a USSR regularly with Bibles over year to give thanks for the Bibles, many years. They have seen the flow which are as plentiful and as near as step up dramatically since 1985. the nearest bookshelf or shopping mall, and to remember those people Baptist Conference Bible Sunday Ofin other places who are not so fortu- ferings will be divided among the

As a result of the offerings, Bibles ties for Bibles for the USSR and Eastwill be supplied in 16 of the lan- ern Europe and The Conference Bible guages spoken by people of the USSR and Eastern Europe.

BAPTIST HERALD'S Annual Index

Volume 67 - January to December 1989

Church Growth

Changed Life, A, Gordon Stork, May:5 Church Growth Tips: Ray Harsch, "Reaching People on the Move," Jan/Feb:31; "Reaching Your Community," Mar:22; "Church Growth Potential Is Good," Apr:12; "How Can Your Church Parent a New Church," May:10; "Church Growth Potential Is Good," Jul/Aug:31; "What Will It Take To Reach the Unchurched," Sept:31; "Set Your Thermostat on Friendly," Oct:31

Church Growth Ministries, Jun:10

Conference Youth Grow as They Serve in Summer Ministries, Karl Mueller, Dec:15

Count the Entry Points, Lyle E. Schaller, Nov:18

Discipleship Evangelism Works at Redeemer Church, Tim Blackburn, May:14 Heart for Ministry, A, David Wick, Mar:18

How a Church Planting Project Benefits from a Mother Church, Bernard Fritzke, May:12

Iglesia Bautista Central Dedicates Building, David Wick, Jan/Feb:20

Introducing New Day 1989-90, John Kiemele, Oct:12

Is Your Church in Transition?, David Wick, May:13 Like Mother, Like Daughter, S. Donald Ganstrom, May:6

Ministry Is Being There, New Day, Apr:13

Ministries with Mature Adults, Lyle E. Schaller, Dec:13

Networking the Rural Community. Randall Kinnison, Mar:13

New Child Means a New Life, A, David Sems, May:2

New Day Alumni Celebrate Reunion, John Kiemele, Sep:23 New Life in an Established Church, Jim Leverette, Mar:15

New Day...Ministry Is, Lana Hohn, Mar:12

New Wave of Consumerism, The, Lyle E. Schaller, Sep:8

Quail Lakes Baptist Church Active in Homeless Ministry, Pat Fulks, Apr:14 Redeeming the Time — Redeeming the Space, Lawrence Wilkes, Jul/Aug:13

Reflections on "New Churches," John S. Kiemele, May:16

Sunday School with a Difference, Kathy Knopp and Karen Edinger, Dec:10

There Is a Difference, Lyle E. Schaller, Mar:20

"They Said It Would Be Impossible...", Gordon Stork, Sep:12 Vision: Planting Churches in Dakota Territory in 1800s, The. Arthur Fischer,

Sep:27

Who Are Your Friends?, Lyle E. Schaller, Apr:10

Why Church Planting?, Charles Feeney, Sep:31 Why I Served God in Philadelphia This Summer, Andy Siamans, Nov:20

Why Plant New Churches?, Jul/Aug:30

Why Strengthen Your Adult Sunday School Classes?, Lyle E. Schaller, Jul/Aug:8

Conference Schools

Are Good Works Necessary?, Paul A. Rainbow, Dec:8 Church Planting Focus Starts at Sioux Falls Seminary, Sep:28 Introducing the 1989 Graduates of the North American Baptist Seminary. Jan/Feb:14

Jubilee Year Celebration Events, Nov:16

Matching Gift Program Announced for IBM Employees, Sep:28

N.A.B. College Achieves University Affiliation, Richard W. Paetzel, Jan/Feb:8 North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School, Jun:18

North American Baptist Seminary, Jun:20

Ready to Serve: N.A.B. Divinity School 1989 Graduates, Jan/Feb:11 Seven Values for North American Baptist Seminary, Charles Hiatt, Jan/Feb:13

Three Decades of Pastoral Training in Edmonton, Syd Page, Jan/Feb:10

Departments

Anniversaries, Jan/Feb:27; Apr:31; May:29; Sep:28; Oct:31; Nov:26; "Immanuel Baptist Celebrates 125 Years," Nov:27; Dec:27

Baptist World Aid: "Funds Needed for Relief for People in Armenia," Mar:23; "Armenia," May:30; "Schmalkalde," Sep:30; "100,000 Bibles Distributed to

Moscow; More Needed," Oct:30 Capital Funds: Building on Foundations of Faith—a Final Report, Apr:28 Development, Jun:26; Can the Need Be Met? Dec:19

Estate Planning:

"Can My Will Be Contested?," Oct:29; "Financial Planning Techniques," Mar:23: "How Can I Continue to Give to the Conference After My Death?," Dec:20; "How to Receive a Tax Shelter on Your Home or Farm While You Continue to Live in It," Apr:23; "Life Insurance in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving," Jan/Feb:21; "Lifestyle Giving," May:22; Jul/Aug:19; Sep:22; "There Are Many Benefits Available to You When You Give a Gift before Dec. 31," Nov:28; "What Is Lifestyle Giving?", Jun:31

From the Editor, Apr:30; "Reflections", Barbara J. Binder, Oct:2

In Memoriam, Jan/Feb:30; Mar:30; Apr:22; May:23; Jul/Aug:22; Sep:23; Oct:30; Nov:21; Dec:21

News: "Religious Coalition in Canada Makes Statement on Human Life," Jan/Feb:31; "Christian Medical and Dental Society Issues Statement on the Use of Fetal Tissue," Sep:28; "MAP International Unveils Unique Aids Kit for Churches," Apr:32

Readers Respond and Letters: Apr:30; May:29; Jul/Aug:31

What's Happening, Jan/Feb:30; Mar:28; Apr:30; May:28; Jul/Aug:29; Sep:29; Oct:25; Nov:29; Dec:31

General Articles

Advancing Servanthood, Paul H. Siewert, Jan/Feb:9 All Religious Prisoners Set Free in Russia, Kathy Palen, Apr:2 Bibles for Russia/Eastern Europe Is Bible Sunday Goal, Nov:31 Caress of God: Embodied Spirituality, The, Stephen Brachlow, Apr:4 European Baptists Meet in Eastern Europe, Oct:2 General Council Meets, Jul/Aug:2 Groups Address Religious Holidays in Public Schools, Kathy Palen, Nov:30 How Much Should We Pay Our Pastor in 1990?, Lyle E. Schaller, Oct:11 Is Canada Christian?, Brian C. Stiller, Apr:6 Keeping a Spiritual Journal, Stephen Brachlow, Jan/Feb:4 Kids of the Kingdom at Trenton Are Growing, Maritza Patet, Nov:10 Mollenhauer Retires, Jul/Aug:30

Motivating People, Dennis Dearmin, May:8

Personal Perspective, A, Lewis Petrie, Nov:2

Religiously Oriented Investment Scams Increasing, Kathy Palen, Dec:28

Spiritual Gifts: How Can I Know Mine?, Richard Houts, Jan/Feb:6

Spiritual Journaling Helps Me, Tim Hiatt, Jan/Feb:5

Tall Children, The, Marilyn Pontius, Dec:19

Thank You, Thank You, G. Roger Schoenhals, Nov:4

Three Dakota Associations Celebrate Dakota Centennial in the Black Hills. Ralph Cooke, Sep:26

Writing an Effective News Release, L. Vanden Bosch, Jul/Aug:14

Missions

Baptists Make a Difference at Lake Nyos, Art Helwig, Mar:16 Burmese Baptist Brings New Meaning to 175th Anniversary, Robert O'Brien,

Burd Serves as Short-term Ambassador, Sep:18

Business Administrator Makes Impact on People's Lives, A, James Szymanski,

Cameroonian Pastors Lead Sunday School Teachers' Seminar, Nov:7 Come with Me on Trek in Africa for Medical Clinics, Myrna Goodman, Nov:7 Establishing Relationships with a Gang, Gregg and Maria Evans, Jul/Aug:6 Evangelists Engaged in Intense Battle in Nigeria, Allan and Karen Effa. Jul/Aug:7

God's Answers to Prayers, Gordon Thomas, Mar:9

How to Pray for a Missionary. Harvey Motis, Mar:11

Introducing Our New Missionaries: Linda Kieswether, Keith and Lilvane Bienert, Scott and Ruth Clark, Myrna Goodman, Herman Effa, Jan/Feb:18 Introducing Our New Missionaries: Craig and Maureen Moody, Jerry and

Monie Fluth, Robert and Karin Moss, James and Joy Mische, James and Elizabeth Black, Clyde and Barbara Zimbelman, Herman Effa, Sep:14

Japheth's Testimony, Japheth Tavnjong and Nancy Palmer, Apr:15 Mambilla Baptist Convention Celebrates 50th Anniversary, Wayne Bibelheimer, Oct:14

Many Opportunities for Service in Cameroon Say the Palmers. Dennis and Nancy Palmer, Oct:22

Miller Turns Over Classes in Japan, Florence Miller, Jul/Aug:7 Missions News, Jan/Feb:28; Mar:19; Apr:14; May:20; Jun:14; Sep:19 Ndu Students Practice Teach, Annemarie Hattenhauer, Jul/Aug:10 People in Remote Villages in Nigeria Open to Christ, James and Karen Szymanski, Oct:22

Prayer Requested for the Congregation in Novo Hamburgo, Ken and Jerilyn Bayer, Oct:22

Reaching the Unreached in Brazil, Martha Nelson, Jul/Aug:15 Role of Short-term Missions in World Evangelization, The, Karl Mueller, Sep:6 Special Homecoming in June, A, Mary June Burgess, Mar:8 Spletzer Organizes Theological School Library in Nigeria, Trudy Speltzer,

To the Uttermost Part...With Love, Mary Jo Stockdale, Mar:4 Weeks Vacation in the Inner-City, A, Leslie Yater and Lois Wolf-Reilly,

What Can Kids Do?, Mary Jo Stockdale, Nov:9 World Relief: New Hope Village Elderly Need Help, Ken Jones, Jul/Aug:32 Worshipping in a Village in Northern Cameroon, Annemarie Hattenhauer, Dec:6

Worshipping in French, Scott and Ruth Clark, Nov:7

Women - Reaching New Heights

Affiliations, Sep:21 British Columbia W.M.F., Nov:22 Commanded to Care, Minnie Mueller, Nov:22 From the Director, Linda Ebel, Apr:20 How Ministry Works, Linda Ebel, Sep:20 How Silently, Ruth Senter, Dec:2

Ministry Ideas, Jul/Aug:20

My Testimony, Nola Jones, May:18 New Churches for More Worship, David Sems, Apr:20

Our "Joy of Living" Ladies Bible Study: How It Started, Maria Rogalski, Oct:20

President's Focus, Manetta Hohn, Jan/Feb:22; Apr:20; May:18; Jul/Aug:20; Sep:20; Oct:20; Nov:22; Dec:22

Reaching New Heights, Nancy Lennick, Yvonne Fischer, Christa Eckert, Myrna Seibel, Mary Smith, Ginny Smith, Sally Prast, Rose Tolentino,

Reaching the Women in Your Community, Linda Ebel, Oct:20 Shepherding Home, Elsie Kerber, May:18

Thankful for Our Heritage, McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

20 Ways to Have a More Meaningful Christmas, Linda Ebel, Dec:22

Vision 2000

Biblical Imperatives in Action, Jan/Feb:24; Mar:24; Apr:24; May:24; Jul/Aug:23; Sep:24; Oct:26; Nov:24; Dec:24 Challenged to Grow through Prayer, Dec:12 Shifting the N.A.B. Conference into the Future, John Binder, Jun:2 Triennial Conference - a Highlight in 1988, Jun:30 Vision 2000 and You, Jun:5 What We Believe, Jun:4 Who We Are. Jun:3 (see also Worship)

Worship

Area Ministries, Jun:9 Called to Worship: An Imperative for 1989 and Every Year, Ted Faszer, Oct:4 Celebration of Gratitude, Oct:32 Church Growth Ministries, Jun: 10 Church Extension Investors Fund, Jun: 24 Development, Jun:26 Evangelism through Worship, Robert Webber, Dec:4 Financial Services, Jun:22 Giving Is Worship, Jun:30 Hope and Joy of Communion, The, Ed Quillin, Jun:27 Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners, Pat Daley, Jul/Aug:11 Kenosha Youth Learn about Worship, David Dryer, Sep:11 Let's Not Just Praise the Lord, Donald P. Hustad, Oct:6 Missions Jun:14 North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School, Jun:18 North American Baptist Seminary, Jun:20 Reliving the Mystery of the Holy Easter Season, Herbert Hiller, Mar:2

Taking a Shot at Worship from Half Court, Art Bollaert, May:4 Thinking about Worship, Jan/Feb:2 What Can We Do to Make the Lord's Table a Celebration?, Jun:29 What Makes Worship Meaningful, Ron Carlson, Denise Muir Kjesbo, Hugh Litchfield, Nov:5

Worship, the Thirst and the Wonder, Kent Carlson, Jun:6 Worship: Then and Now, Syd Page, Sep:4 Worshipping in French, Scott and Ruth Clark, Nov:7 Worshipping in Two East European Churches, Stanley J. Grenz, Jul/Aug:4

Authors

Bayer, Ken and Jerilyn, Oct:22 Bibelheimer, Wayne, Oct:14 Binder, Barbara J., Apr:30; Oct:2 Binder, John, Jun:2 Blackburn, Tim, May:14 Bollaert, Art, May:4 Brachlow, Stephen, Jan/Feb:4, Apr:4 Breitkreuz, Bevin and Grace. Sep:19 Burgess, Mary June, Mar:8 Carlson, Kent, Jun:6 Carlson, Ron, Nov:5 Clark, Scott and Ruth, Nov-7 Cooke, Ralph, Sep:26 Daley, Pat, Jul/Aug:11 Dearmin, Dennis, May:8 Dryer, Dave, Sep:11 Ebel, Linda, Apr:20; Sep:20; Oct:24: Dec:22 Eckert, Christa, Jan/Feb:22 Edinger, Karen, Dec:10 Effa. Allan, and Karen, Jul/Aug:7 Houts, Richard, Jan/Feb:6 Effa. Herman, Jan/Feb:18; Sep:14 Hustad, Donald P., Oct:6 Evans, Gregg and Maria, Jul/Aug:6: Sep:19

Faszer, Ted, Oct:4 Feeney, Charles, Sep:31 Fischer, Arthur, Sep:27 Fischer, Yvonne, Jan/Feb:22 Fritzke, Bernard, May:12 Fulks, Pat, Apr. 14 Ganstrom, S. Donald, May:6 Goodman, Myrna, Nov:7 Grenz, Stanley J., Jul/Aug:4 Harsch, Ray, Jan/Feb:31; Mar:22; Apr:12; May:10; Jul/Aug:31; Sep:31; Mueller, Karl, Sep:6; Dec:15 Hattenhauer, Annemarie, Jul/Aug:10; Dec:6 Helwig, Art, Mar:16 Hiatt, Charles, Jan/Feb:13 Hiatt, Tim, Jan/Feb:5 Hiller, Herbert Mar-2 Hohn, Lana, Mar:12 Hohn, Manetta, Jan/Feb:22; Apr:20; May:18; Jul/Aug:20; Oct:24; Nov:22: Dec:22

Jones, Nola, May:18

Jones, Ken, Jul/Aug:32

Kerber, Elsie, May:18 Kiemele, John, Sep:23, Oct:12., May:16 Kinnison, Randall, Mar:13 Kiesbo, Denise Muir, Nov:5 Knopp, Kathy, Dec:10 Leverette, Jim, Mar:15 Litchfield, Hugh, Nov:5 Miller, Florence, Jul/Aug:7 Motis, Harvey, Mar:11 Mueller, Minnie, Nov:22 Nelson, Martha, Jul/Aug:15 O'Brien, Robert, Jul/Aug:28 Paetzel, Richard W., Jan/Feb:8 Page, Syd, Jan/Feb:10; Sep:4 Palen, Kathy, Apr.2; Nov:30; Dec:28 Palmer, Dennis and Nancy, Apr:15; Oct:22 Patet, Maritza, Nov:10 Petrie, Lewis, Nov:2; Dec:19

Prast, Sally, Jan/Feb:22

Quillin, Ed, Jun:27

Pontius, Marilyn, Dec.:19

Rainbow, Paul A., Dec:8

Rogalski, Maria, Oct:24 Schaller, Lyle E., Mar: 20; Apr: 10; Jul/Aug:8; Sep:8; Oct:11; Nov:18; Dec:13 Schoenhals, G. Roger, Nov:4 Seibel, Myrna, Jan/Feb:22 Sems, David, Apr. 20; May:2 Senter, Ruth, Dec:22 Siamans, Andy, Nov:20 Siewert, Paul H., Jan/Feb:9 Smith, Ginny, Jan/Feb:22 Smith, Mary, Jan/Feb:22 Speltzer, Trudy, Nov:7 Stiller, Brian C., Apr:6 Stockdale, Mary Jo, Mar:4; Nov:9 Stork, Gordon, May:5; Sep:12 Szymanski, James, Apr:8; Oct:22 Tavnjong, Japheth, Apr:15 Thomas, Gordon, Mar:9 Tolentino, Rose, Jan/Feb:22 Vanden Bosch, L., Jul/Aug:14 Webber, Robert, Dec:4 Wick, David, Jan/Feb:20; Mar:18; May:13 Wilkes, Lawrence, Jul/Aug:13 Wolf-Reilly, Lois, Nov:11 Yater, Leslie, Nov:11

what's happening

- Paul Herr served as summer youth worker at Bismarck (ND) Baptist Church. He is now ministering as a member of the New Day team. — Darleen Hoover
- Grace Baptist Church of Medicine Hat, AB, held an installation service for Pastor Mario Giraldi, April 30, 1989. His wife Shelene joins him in ministry. Charles Littman, Alberta area minister, delivered the installation message The Rev. Irwin Kujat, Temple Baptist Church, presented the challenge of the ministry to Pastor Giraldi. — Violet Treiber
- Mrs. Susan Schmeidt resigned as Children's Director at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.
- The Rev. Oscar Fritzke has resigned as pastor of McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND, effective October 1 to retire. During his ministry, he has served the following North American Baptist Conference churches: Nokomis Baptist, SK; Fellowship Baptist, Camrose, AB; Trochu Baptist, AB; Anamoose and Lincoln Valley Baptist, ND; Oakridge Baptist, St. Joseph, MI; and McClusky Baptist, ND.
- Doug Brave became Christian Education/ Youth Director at Whitehaven Road Baptist Church, Grand Island, NY, on June 29. He is a 1989 North American Baptist Seminary gradu-
- Dr. Paul Thompson became senior pastor of Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH, effective September 1. He was installed as pastor of the church on November 5. Dr. John Binder, executive director, served as guest speaker for the event.
- Calvary Baptist Church, Penticton, BC, was recognized as an organized church of the North American Baptist Conference by the British Columbia Association Recognition Council March 30 and welcomed into the Association at its May annual meeting.
- Shell Creek Baptist Church welcomed their new pastor, the Rev. Richard Lute, his wife Pat, and son Kevin at a service in August. The Reverends Marlin Mohrman, Creston Baptist, and Arlie Rauch, Redeemer Baptist, participated in the service. The interim ministry of Dr. Virgil Dirks and his wife Marion of Omaha, NE, was also recognized. - George E. Behlen
- Joining the staff of Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, are the Rev. Bill Keple, associate pastor of adult ministries, and the Rev. Wesley Gerber, visitation pastor (a part-time position). The Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister, gave the charge to the pastors and the Church. Mr. Gerber also serves as a part-time chaplain at Bismarck Baptist Home. The Rev. Ed Bartel is senior pastor of the church.
- The Rev. Ralph Cooke, North Central area minister, Bismarck, ND, underwent double bypass surgery in Bismarck on September 27. He expresses appreciation for the prayers for his health and for the cards and expressions of concern received. He is making a good re-

tor of a new project located in Fra ship (greater Milwaukee area) This is a project of the Wisconsin and the North American Baptist Conference Church Growth Ministries Department. Schindler, son of missionary parents, was a member of Lakeshore Baptist Church, Stevensville,

■ Mr. John Schindler is church p

- The Rev. Rickey J. Threadgill began his ministry as a church planter on October 15 in Vallejo, CA. This is a project of the Northern California Association and the Church Growth Ministries Department of the Confer-
- The Rev. Monty Loudenslager becomes pastor of First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS, on January 1, 1990.
- Meadow Hills Baptist Church in Aurora, CO, granted their pastor, the Rev. Roger Cauthon, a sabbatical leave for six weeks this past fall. This time involved study, research, and
- Charles Smith of Spokane, Washington, has been serving as interim pastor at Odessa Baptist Church, Odessa, WA, since August.
- Mr. Matthias Dressler became pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC, effective October 1.
- Miss Helga Grams became the Director of Children's Ministries at Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, effective November 1.
- The Rev. Marvin Rust resigned as pastor of Oceanview Baptist Church, White Rock, BC, effective December 31.
- Dr. Reinhold Kerstan becomes senior pastor of McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective January 1. He has previously served with the Baptist World Alliance office in Washington, DC, and the Ron Susek Evangelistic Association in York, PA.
- The Rev. Ralph Chandler resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA, effective November 1. He and his wife Hazel have made Oelwein, IA, their retirement home. Chandler, who has been a pastor since 1939. has served two N.A.B. Conference churches: First Baptist, Elgin, IA, 1974-77, and First Baptist, Sumner, IA, 1977-79, 1987-89.
- Ron Presley became pastor of Cross Timbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, TX, effective November 1.
- David Dovle is Minister of Christian Education at North Highlands Baptist Church, Dallas, TX.
- William "Woody" Boyles is the youth minister at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma, Heights, OH, effective Nov. 1.
- Glenn Nemetschek became Associate Pastor at Thornhill Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, effective November 1.

- tist Church, Underwood, ND, as interim pastor. A farewell reception was held for him in honor of his 10 years of ministry at First,
- Brian Kimball resigned as Assistant Pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.
- Dave Kirsch is the Youth Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB.
- Paul Baumbach accepted the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, SK, effective
- Bruce Southard became Assistant Pastor of Youth and Related Christian Education Ministries at Bethel Baptist, Missoula, MT, effective October 1.
- The Rev. Leroy Kiemele, Army Chaplain, was promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in ceremonies Oct. 2, 1989, at Ft. Lewis, WA, main post chapel. Joining LeRoy and wife Joanne and their four children for the special ceremony were Pastor Don Decker and the people of Olympic View Baptist, Tacoma, WA, the Kiemeles' church.

Others of our Conference fellowship attended the ceremony, also, as well as a sizeable number of military men and women of all ranks. Significant written statements by his Army Chaplain superiors and others outline Kiemele's impact as a Chaplain in military service: "Brilliant capacity to understand and respond to the needs of soldiers and families. A professional and effective pastoral counselor. Absolute integrity of word, deed, and personal character. Unhesitantly states and supports what is right.... An outstanding preacher, a caring pastor, an effective and competent administrator, an outstanding pastoral counselor whose advice and counsel are readily sought by soldiers and family members." - LeRoy Schauer, Northwest Area Minis-

- Jerry Wilkinson is part-time Assistant Pastor for Christian Education at Riviera Baptist, Salem, OR, effective September 1.
- Kevin Eshleman became the Director of Youth and Christian Education at Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, OH, effective Octo-
- Carlo Walth became the Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries at Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA, effective December 1.
- Daniel Santos is the Director of Youth and Outreach at Olympic View Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA
- Mark Woods is the new Associate Pastor at Humbervale Park Baptist Church, Toronto.
- Clifford Olson is Director of Youth and Christian Education at Timberline Baptist Church, Lacy, WA, effective October 1.

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