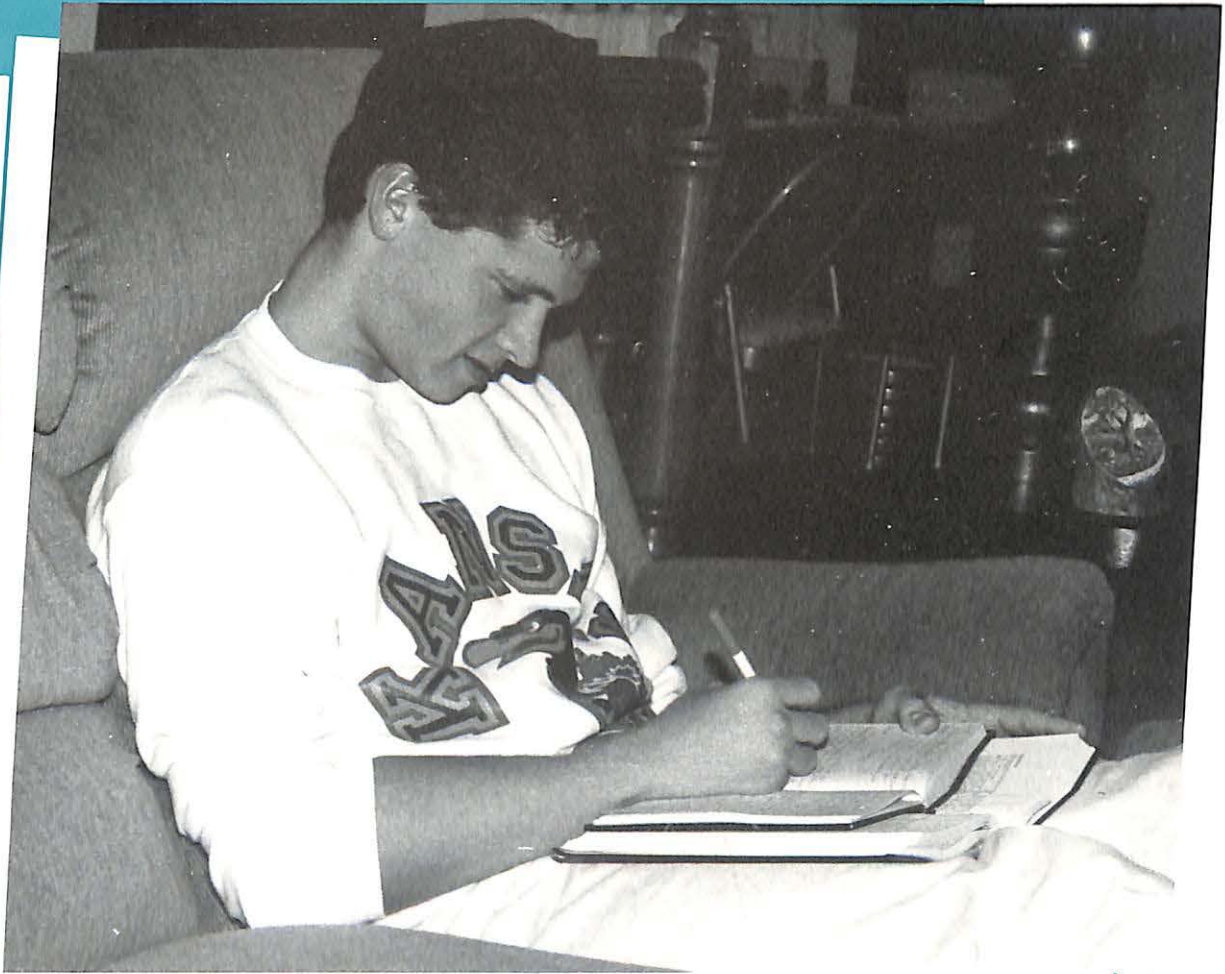


# Baptist Herald

January/February 1989



**B**y recording movements of the heart on paper, many people have found that they begin to discover in a more concrete fashion the activity of Christ in their lives.



# Thinking about Worship

During 1989, the North American Baptist Conference is focusing on the Biblical Imperative: Called to Worship in local churches and through the Conference. Regional and Conference task forces have set goals and activities for local churches and the Conference as part of **Vision 2000**, our strategic focus on six biblical imperatives to the year 2000.

We'd like to hear from you about the subject of worship. With enough response, we'll let you know what **Baptist Herald** readers think.

1. How would you define worship of God?

2. Do you simply appear at the Sunday morning worship service, or do you prepare for this experience of worship of God?

3. If you do prepare for worship, how and when do you prepare for Sunday morning worship?

4. How do you, as a family, make special preparations for a church worship service?

5. What, do you feel, hinders your worship of God? Before you get to

the worship service? During the worship service?

6. What do you bring to worship? What kind of "baggage" do you bring? Your attitude? Your expectations?

## Worship Is

The task forces have defined worship as "Individual and corporate worship is redeemed people's life-style response to God in everything through praise, adoration, reverence, obedience, thankfulness, and awe. It is not confined to style, place, event, or time."

7. Outside of your worship experience in church, what constitutes worship of God for you?

8. What do you expect from worship?

9. What do you experience or take home from worship?

10. Describe your most meaningful worship experience.

11. What style or type of worship service is most meaningful to you?

12. Do you believe that all boards or committees of the church have a part in making true worship happen in your church? How could they help to make worship in your church more meaningful?

Please type or print, if possible, your answers to these questions and mail to **Baptist Herald**, 1 South 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

## Planning Continues for Triennial Conference in 1991

The Program Committee chaired by Richard Russell of Grosse Pointe, Michigan, met December 2 and 3 to plan for the 43rd Triennial Conference to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 29 to August 3, 1991.

A tour of MECCA, a three section Conference complex preceded the meeting. "MECCA is the most convenient conference facility we have had," stated Dr. David Dryer of Kenosha, local arrangements committee chair. "There are ramps for wheelchairs, few stairs, and all programs, except the youth, can be held in this facility."

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Nancy Lennick, contributing editor,  
"Women of Hope"

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# Keeping a Spiritual Journal

by Stephen Brachlow

There are a growing number of earnest, seeking Christians in our day who are discovering the benefits of keeping a spiritual journal. More than simply a log of daily events, journaling holds the potential of becoming a fruitful spiritual discipline for those who take pen in hand in a spirit of prayer.

For those who pursue this discipline seeking to deepen their faith in God, journaling provides a means of discovering the presence of God in the daily, seemingly mundane events of one's life. It also offers us a tool that helps open our hearts to the transforming, life-giving Word that we find in the words of Holy Scripture. Finally, the spiritual discipline of journaling may become a richly rewarding avenue to meaningful prayer.

While the practice of keeping a spiritual journal may at first appear to be some newly imported therapeutic technique from the psychological sciences, it actually has very ancient Christian roots in the history of Christianity. The Puritans of sixteenth and seventeenth-century England and New England, for example, often kept spiritual diaries, or journals, in which they confessed their spiritual struggles and recorded the surprising work of God in their inner lives.

Augustine's celebrated *Confessions* is another example of a form of spiritual journaling. The famous fifth-century theologian wrote not only about his life story in the *Confessions*, but he also used this process of describing the journey of his soul on paper as a way of putting his spiritual life into perspective. As he put it: "I confess to be one of those

who write because they have made some progress toward understanding and who, by means of writing, make further progress."

This is one of the primary benefits of spiritual journaling. It opens our eyes to the truth about our lives, so that we come to understand who we really are in Christ. Anne Morrow Lindbergh made the same discovery in the writing of her beautiful spiritual journal, *Gift from the Sea* (New York: Vintage Books, 1978), in which she prayerfully recorded her thoughts born of the peaceful, quiet

this world. Through this discipline, we may come to see more clearly than before the wonder of God's gracious ways with us. Journaling may open the doors of our spiritual perception a little wider so that we come to see our busy, complex selves more clearly and coherently with eyes of faith, as God intended us to see ourselves.

There are many different ways of keeping a spiritual journal. Anne Broyles, in her recent book on the subject, *Journaling: A Spirit Journey* (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1988), lists no less than six distinct journaling methods. Some people may journal by recording their personal reflections to Bible study. Others may take a prayerful walk or sit quietly and reflectively and then record their response to that experience of solitude; often this is in the form of a written prayer of petition, thanksgiving, adoration, or praise. Still others may keep something more like a record of events that occur in their daily lives, much as John Wesley did in the life-long journal he kept. Therein,

one discovers something of the hand of God through the simple rhythms and routines of one's daily walk.

The point that needs to be made is that there is not necessarily one single, correct form for keeping a spiritual journal. Rather, spiritual journaling is a creative exercise between each individual and the Spirit of God who dwells within. Thus, as Anne Broyles emphasizes, "journaling is a freeing discipline because there is no 'right' method for spiritual growth but a variety of approaches which have in common pen

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**By recording movements of the heart on paper, many people have found that they begin to discover in a more concrete fashion the activity of Christ in their daily lives.**

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retreat she observed for several weeks along the Atlantic seacoast. She explained: "I began these pages for myself, in order to think out my own particular pattern of living, my own individual balance of life, work, and human relationships. And since I think best with a pencil in my hand, I started to write."

So the discipline of spiritual journaling helps bring clarity to what is often experienced as the clutter of our lives when they have become fragmented and dispersed by the many responsibilities we shoulder in

paper, and the desire to come closer to God in the writing."

Above all, journaling is a deeply personal and always very private discipline. In keeping a spiritual journal, one does not have to worry about writing for other people, because a person's journal is a private affair between oneself and God. It may become a place of personal freedom, a place of openness and honesty, a place where in the presence of God, we can truly be ourselves and bare our souls, thus opening our true selves to the healing, cleansing and life-restoring power of the Spirit of Christ.

For example, one very helpful approach to journaling is to allow ourselves to record, openly and honestly, a painful memory from the past that continues to trouble us. Then we may write a prayer of petition asking for the forgiving, healing presence of Christ in this memory. Finally, this act of personal disclosure may be followed by entering a written prayer of thanksgiving for God's wonderful mercy.

By recording these movements of the heart on paper, many people have found that they begin to discover in a more concrete fashion the activity of Christ in their daily lives. As we begin to comprehend God's love in this written, and thus more concrete, fashion, we cannot help but find ourselves growing and maturing in faith. As we faithfully submit ourselves to this ancient, spiritual discipline of the Christian church, we

may come to see how God is actually dealing with us, and how God wonderfully and continuously speaks the love of Christ into our daily lives. □

*Dr. Stephen Brachlow is Professor of Church History and Christian Spirituality at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.*

## Spiritual Journaling Helps Me



by Tim Hiatt

I began spiritual journaling about a year and a half ago at the suggestion of my church youth leader Kelly Lashly, who is a North American Baptist Seminary student.

My youth group was studying ways in which we could enhance our quiet time with God. When I heard the suggestion of spiritual journaling, I liked it right away. I was having trouble getting into my devotions; I needed something to liven them up. Spiritual journaling was definitely the answer.

I usually do my journaling right before I go to bed at night. First, I take some time to read a chapter or two from a book of the Bible. At the present time, I am reading through Joshua and Judges.

After I finish reading, I take a book with blank pages and date the entry I will make for that day. I then begin talking to God through my writing on the page, whether it be in the form of a

prayer or just talking about my day.

I find that when I have had a particularly difficult day, writing about it seems to relax me. It also helps me feel less anxious about the days ahead. When I have trouble concentrating on my prayer time, just letting my thoughts flow out on paper is a good release of anxiety for me.

I know that this technique has been helpful to other friends in my youth group. So if you are feeling bogged down with your day-to-day activities, take some time out to talk to God in a new way. Try spiritual journaling; it has definitely helped me to become more dedicated to the Lord and my quiet time with Him. □

*Tim Hiatt is a high school student living in Sioux Falls, SD. He is an officer of the youth group at Trinity Baptist Church.*



Stephen Brachlow



# Spiritual Gifts: How Can I Know Mine?

by Richard Houts



**"Many active church members commit themselves to some ongoing church position or responsibility, but they are unhappy, frustrated, or ineffective in their service."**

Have you ever heard another believer in Christ say, "I know I'm supposed to have some spiritual gifts, but I don't know which are mine!"

Many active church members or adherents commit themselves to some ongoing church position or responsibility, but they are unhappy, frustrated, or ineffective in their service. Such experiences may "color" their future attitudes towards serving in any capacity.

There must be a better way! There is, and it is God's way! It is the way of a "ministering congregation." Such a local church or body of Christ has "each part doing its work" (Ephesians 4:16). Each part (person) with a differing but *suitable* ministry function then contributes to the principle of *harmony*. Like a well-led church choir, each person doing their appropriate part well adds to a God-pleasing effect.

Many years ago, Dwight Moody said that we, as Christians, "...try to do too much business with too little capital."

Christians have "capital" they often are not aware of or utilizing. This

"capital" is a portion of the Grace of God available from the Holy Spirit.

For an evangelical Christian, there are three kinds of grace gifts, *saving* grace, *sanctifying* grace, and *serving* grace. Faith that receives Christ as Savior and Lord is *saving* grace. Growing in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) — character formation — is *sanctifying* grace.

*Serving* grace is the essence and matter of spiritual gifts. God wants us to serve or minister with our differences. He has not created us equally! "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Romans 12:6, NASB).

In the last dozen years, the author has led many classes and workshops on spiritual gifts. Two questions are asked most frequently: "How can I know which spiritual gifts are mine?" "What is the difference between talents and spiritual gifts?"

## Four Questions to Consider

To identify one's spiritual gifts, I suggest four questions:

- 1) Am I a believer in Jesus Christ, as Paul assumes in 1 Corinthians 12:1?

- 2) Am I obeying the *command* in 1 Corinthians 12:1 to be knowledgeable about spiritual gifts?
- 3) Do I meet *inward criteria* or standards — the proper motives — as found in 1 Peter 4:10-12?
- 4) Do I meet *outward criteria* that demonstrate God's working as I exercise gifts (1 Corinthians 12:6)?

Before answering any of the above, a Christian could identify his or her spiritual gifts *like any talent*. You try something you like. If you do well, there is reinforcement or recognition of this by others. If not sure, you can take aptitude tests to determine occupational or avocational families most suitable to you.

Talents, however, can leave out the capacities or potential given by the Holy Spirit. Talents also cannot have the "strength which God provides" (1 Peter 4:11) or God's "working" or energizing (1 Corinthians 12:6, NIV). Spiritual gifts do! A Christian can identify a gift by often experiencing such *empowering by God when and after using a gift*.

## Identifying Spiritual Gifts

First, Paul assumes that any recipient of spiritual gifts is a fellow disciple of Christ, a Christian. A person cannot know even a dormant gift if never received, and a non-Christian has none of the grace gifts, whether saving gifts, sanctifying gifts, or serving gifts.

Secondly, Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:1 does not want us to be ignorant or uninformed of spiritual gifts. To identify one's gifts, a Christian is *commanded* to be knowledgeable, a student of spiritual gifts.

Understanding what a spiritual gift is, how they are defined, and how they are compared is like knowing the basics of any sport or discipline before specializing where one's strength lies. Awareness of the various gifts can now be learned through an explosion of books, classes, and workshops available in most geographic areas.

Third, there are several *inward criteria* or yardsticks to assist in iden-

tifying gifts. According to 1 Peter 4:10-12, three motives are necessary if any special abilities may be called a spiritual gift. They are 1) the *servant* motive desiring to use this gift to build the Body of Christ, 2) the *stewardship* motive of recognizing one's capacity or special ability not as one's own but as God's to manage for His sake, and 3) the *sacred worship* motive of glorifying God with the exercise of any gift. So, a Christian seeking to know his or her gift should ask whether any strengths or special abilities they have are being *used with these motives*.

However, there may be a different kind of assistance to uncover one's particular gifts. Bobby Clinton, in his book, *Spiritual Gifts*, (Horizon, 1985), has an "inward conviction" assessment. He says we should ask ourselves, "If I could do anything in the world I wanted to, but not contrary to God's will, I would..." Then, "what three gifts could best be resources?" "Am I in a situation forcing these gifts in meeting a need of the Body?" Or, "Do I identify with another person who has gifts similar to mine?"

Another *inner* criterion especially preferred by the writer is that of Kinghorn in his book, *Gifts of the Spirit* (Abingdon, 1976). He suggests that we ask, "What is the greatest need or concern I have for my local church?" This may reflect a weakness where I have strength or gifts. Another favorite author, Carl George (Fuller Institute), asks us to think of where we are most constructively critical. This may suggest a spiritual gift we have.

Fourth, *outward criteria* or evidences from *use* of gifts helps us to know which are our spiritual gifts. They can be gathered from many experiences and other authorities. Do I use this gift with *ease* and *joy*? Am I comfortable with it? Am I, over a sustained period of time and with many event opportunities, *effective* and *affirmed* exercising this gift? Can our Master say, as He does in the parable of the talents, (Matthew 25), "Well done, thou good and faithful ser-

vant." Affirmation, unsolicited and at times solicited, from another respected, mature Christian, may be one of the best ways to know one's gift(s).

## Self-assessment Instruments

Not least in identifying one's spiritual gifts is the vehicle of *self-assessment* instruments. Many denominations publish their own now.

What these instruments reveal is to what degree a Christian has previously experienced the various gifts. An individual responds to statements representing the various gifts, indicating much, some, little, or no experience. There are usually anywhere from three to eight statements for each gift to which a person responds.

The most popular of these are published by Charles E. Fuller Institute (1-800-C-FULLER) and are as follows: *Wagner Modified Houts Questionnaire*, *Wesley Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire*, *Houts Inventory of Spiritual Gifts*, and *Trenton Spiritual Gifts Analysis*. As of this writing date, the cost of each test was \$2.25. The author's own is the *Inventory*.

Any of these have a number of limitations. Their definitions are those of each writer, and these vary. Some include the sign gifts, and others don't. Any of them are responded to by self, which may not be an accurate picture. But all have been helpful to thousands of respondents.

As individuals, playing the "appropriate instrument in this orchestra" locally (my local church) will alleviate or eliminate unhappiness, frustration, and ineffectiveness in serving our Lord Jesus Christ. □

Dr. Richard Houts is Professor of Church Administration and Director of Doctoral Studies at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



# N.A.B. College Achieves University Affiliation

by Richard W. Paetzel

For a number of years, the North American Baptist College has had an informal agreement with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Alberta whereby certain General Arts courses taught at the North American Baptist College in Edmonton received course transfer recognition. Although this was beneficial for a number of students, the course selection was rather limited.

In 1987, N.A.B. College approached the University of Alberta regarding the possibility of entering a formal affiliation agreement. After a great deal of work through a committee consisting of faculty and administrative personnel from N.A.B. College and the University and an on-sight visit by the University, an affiliation arrangement was approved and signed in July 1988.

Affiliation with the University provides a number of benefits for N.A.B.C. students who wish to pursue university training.

1) It enables students from N.A.B. College transferring to the University of Alberta to receive transfer credit of approved General Arts courses in a variety of disciplines to the extent to which such art courses are accepted by the University faculties. Submissions have been made to the University for course recognition in English, German, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, and Sociology. One of the goals of N.A.B. College is to provide up to two years of transfer credit for the core courses of the General Bachelor of Arts degree at the University.

2) It enables N.A.B. College students to receive greater course transfer recognition at other universities throughout Canada. Approved courses will now be published in the Alberta Provincial Transfer Guide.

3) Affiliation with the University gives public recognition to the high

quality of N.A.B. College's academic offerings. Students can be assured that they will not only receive a solid foundation in Bible and theology at the College, but also they will receive instruction in the General Arts comparable to that offered in Canadian universities. The qualifications of the instructor and general content of the course must be compatible with University standards.

The move to affiliation with the University does not represent a shift from N.A.B. College's basic purpose of providing a solid foundation for developing a Christian lifestyle. Biblical courses continue to serve as the heart of all programs at N.A.B. College. In addition to classes, regular Chapel meetings, Spiritual Emphasis Days, and Dorm Prayer Groups continue to encourage a Christian atmosphere on campus.

The College seeks to address the needs of students who desire a choice of greater options upon completing studies at N.A.B. College. In-



creasing numbers of students from the North American Baptist Conference and other evangelical churches are interested in pursuing a university education. N.A.B. College seeks to provide a program through its two year Associate of Arts in Religion degree that lays a foundation in Bible and Theology accompanied by General Arts courses that transfer to the University.

The affiliation with the University does not restrict the College from bringing a Christian perspective to the courses being offered. Indeed, one of the distinctives of N.A.B. College is that it enables students to take their introductory courses in a setting where a Christian world-and-life view is affirmed and where the relation of faith to learning can be explored in a healthy way.

In addition to the affiliation arrangement with the University, N.A.B. College has developed formal arrangements with several Christian colleges in the United States including Judson College, Elgin, Illinois; Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota; Sioux Falls College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. Students are able to transfer the entire two years of studies of the Associate of Arts in Religion to selected programs at these colleges.

The North American Baptist College is planning for the future. In addition to lay leadership programs in Biblical Studies and Music, N.A.B. College endeavors to provide a solid integrated foundation of Bible and General Arts for the future development of Christian leaders in various professions. □

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

compelled to serve

## Advancing Servanthood

by Paul H. Siewert

It was July 26, 1988. We left Rochester, Minnesota, under sunny skies. It was hard to look back. This had been our home for eleven years. Good years! Years of personal growth, family growth, and church growth. Many nostalgic memories raced through my mind. We came with our two sons in high school. Now they had completed university and were on their own—one married with two wonderful youngsters. We were leaving them behind.

We came to the First Baptist Church when it was located downtown in an old building with limited facilities and limited expansion possibilities. It was now relocated in a large new facility, with a spacious parking area and room for expansion. The people were the greatest treasure we knew outside our relationship with the Lord. We were leaving them behind as well! We came to Rochester, unknown, a beautiful city nestled near the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota. We were now leaving this home that we had learned to deeply appreciate and respect as one of those rare treasures of the mid-west.

The next day we traveled into North Dakota and saw the parched fields—bleached by the drought. The radio announced it was 110 degrees, which could only enhance the tinder dry conditions. Our entrance into southern Saskatchewan brought little relief. However, we were almost surprised at the "business as usual" attitude of the people. People are resilient!

We continued our journey to the northwest and approached Calgary, Alberta, in the afternoon of July 28. The closer we came to this beautiful city near the Canadian Rockies, the greener the

landscape became. It was like approaching an oasis. Everything was green, lush, and refreshing. We knew, of course, that the North American Baptist Triennial

### Leadership is the exercise of advancing servanthood.

Conference was in session here and that I would be presented to the delegates as the new President of the North American Baptist College and Divinity School the next day.

Our arrival at the Triennial Conference the next forenoon was nostalgic. We were welcomed with warm greetings, handshakes, and embraces. Many of our welcomers were old friends that we had known from our youth and early pastoral ministries. "We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers" (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

Soon it was off to Edmonton, the home of the North American Baptist College and Divinity School. Our first task was to get our household furnishings unloaded into our newly rented apartment, conveniently located near the campus. But oh, what a change from our spacious home in Rochester. Then it was time to get acquainted with the President's Office.

The College and Divinity School, a rare combination of lovely buildings and beautiful landscaping, sprawls over a 26-acre campus in one of the finest areas of Edmonton—itsself a thriving stately

city of more than 600,000 people and gateway to the north. It was here that God had called Helen and me to make our new home, become part of a discipleship of people, and serve Him.

My first impressions of the College and Divinity School were heart-warming. I sensed that these institutions have been endowed not only with a great favor of God but also a great host of capable, committed, and vision-oriented people. I unquestionably concluded that the schools have been in good hands. Assuming the Presidency of the College and Divinity School, though challenging, was not without forebodings.

It is the task of the President to be the chief executive officer of the school. He is appointed by and is responsible to the Board of Trustees elected by the North American Baptist Conference. All academic and administrative officers of the school are appointed by the Board upon the President's recommendation and are responsible to him either directly or indirectly. That is indeed a high calling!

I perceive the Presidency of the College and Divinity School to be primarily one of leadership. I recently heard a noted lecturer and writer say that leadership is not so much a role of the exercise of power as the exercise of advancing servanthood. This was, of course, beautifully modelled by Jesus. What more can we covet? □

*Dr. Paul H. Siewert is the newly appointed President of the North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta.*



# Three Decades of Pastoral Training in Edmonton

by Syd Page



In 1958, the North American Baptist Conference decided to establish a pastoral training department at the Christian Training Institute (C.T.I.) in Edmonton, Alberta. C.T.I. had been in existence since 1940, but in its early years, it offered only lay leadership programs. In the past 30 years, C.T.I. and its successors, North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Divinity School, have graduated 233 students from ministry-related programs. Nineteen have graduated with certificates or diplomas in pastoral studies, 78 with the Bachelor of Religious Education degree, 76 with the Bachelor of Theology, 10 with the Master of Theological Studies, and 50 with the Master of Divinity degree.

The first Bachelor of Theology degree went to Peter Schroeder in 1960. He put the training he received at C.T.I. to good use as he pastored churches in Alberta and Saskatchewan and served as a missionary in Cameroon and Nigeria. As might be expected, most of the graduates of the pastoral training programs in Edmonton have become pastors of N.A.B. Conference churches. Some have entered other types of ministry within the Conference, and are serving as missionaries, chaplains, camp directors, professors, and executive staff. Still others are serving with other denominations or in non-denominational ministries.

The pastoral training department of C.T.I. grew out of the concern that theological education be available in Canada. Ultimately that concern led to the formation of North American Baptist Divinity School in 1980. Since increasing numbers of western Canadians were going on to higher education, it became apparent that it was not adequate to offer pastoral training exclusively at the undergraduate level. North American Baptist Divinity School was established to provide graduate level theological education for Canadians.

In the spring of 1981, N.A.B.D.S. conferred its first Master of Divinity degree. One of the recipients was Tim Schroeder, son of the first B.Th. graduate! Tim, who followed his father, Peter, into the ministry, is now the senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Kelowna, British Co-

were only 17 graduates. In the last five years, N.A.B.D.S. has conferred 62 degrees.

Secondly, the academic level has been raised. Before 1980, only undergraduate degrees were offered in Edmonton. Since the formation of the Divinity School, three-quarters of its graduates have received Master's degrees, and that proportion is expected to increase.

Thirdly, the denominational composition of the student body has changed markedly. Prior to 1980, there were few students in the pastoral program who were not from N.A.B. Conference churches. When the Divinity school came into existence, it became the first evangelical seminary in Alberta. As such, it has been meeting the needs of a variety of groups who are ministering in western Canada. In fact, approxi-

## N.A.B. College signed an affiliation agreement with the University of Alberta in July 1988.

lumbia. Of the 50 who have graduated from N.A.B.D.S. with the M.Div. degree, about 45 percent are presently engaged in some form of vocational ministry within the N.A.B. Conference, and 33 percent are ministering with other denominations or Christian organizations. The rest are awaiting placement in a ministry situation, are pursuing further studies, or are in secular employment.

## Students will not only receive a solid foundation in Bible and theology at the College but also receive instruction in the General Arts comparable to that offered in Canadian universities.

Pastoral training in Edmonton has changed in several ways since its beginnings in 1958. In the first place, the numbers have increased dramatically. In the first five years, there

mately 42 percent of the graduates of the Divinity School have been affiliated with denominations other than the N.A.B. Conference.

There have been many changes in the pastoral training courses offered in Edmonton over the past three decades, but the vision for equipping Canadians for ministry has remained undimmed. That vision will continue to inspire us as we face the oppor-

tunities and challenges of the next three decades. □

Dr. Syd Page is Academic Vice President, North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton, Alberta.

# Ready to Serve

April 23, 1989, will be a significant day in the lives of 12 students at North American Baptist Divinity School. These students, who are in the final stages of their theological studies, expect to receive their degrees on that day. We are pleased to

present them to you and invite you to pray for them as they seek places of ministry where they can put their gifts and training to work. To introduce them to you, each one comments briefly on his or her vision of ministry.



growing Church in Cameroon.

Alfred Bumuh is a senior in the Master in Theological Studies degree program. He and his wife Mary have five children: Nancy, Wilson, Eleanor, William, and Novella.

As a servant of the Lord who is being prepared for His Ministry, I plan to serve Him in a church-related situation. I plan to teach at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) in Ndu, Cameroon, when I return to Cameroon. Young people are prepared at the Seminary for the



Lyle Buyer is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife Jean are the parents of Daunavan.

When I think of ministry, the word "people" springs quickly to mind. Whatever role of ministry God lays before me, I pray that He will enable me to get involved significantly in the lives of others. I desire to be a channel of the tremendous resources of the living God to the real needs of real people.



(pastoral ministry), or a combination of both, is not my immediate concern. My first priority is to understand and know God in a personal way. Any activity is contingent on this relationship.

Brian Greenwood is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is married to Karen.

My vision of ministry is first and foremost a life-style issuing from a relationship. If my relationship with the Creator is accurate and proper, ministry will be the natural by-product. Whether I am in the sole business of tangibly helping people (social ministry), preaching God's Word



Darcey Heath is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies program. She is married to Tim.

As a M.T.S. graduate I look forward to entering my place of work better equipped to have an influence upon those whom I rub shoulders with. Ministry is not something I plan to do only during a limited portion of my week, rather I hope to minister to people daily as I journey with them.



Scripture indicates to me that gifting for service is universal. Thus, my vision is to be a servant of Christ in accordance with the gifts given me.

Tim Heath is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies degree program. He is married to Darcey.







ministry which requires nurturing and helping people grow in the faith.

Connie Kaiser is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program.



families who are part of the local church. I believe Christ is best shared with those we have come to know, those we live near, and those people who see our daily habits. We serve Christ by serving each other.

Harv Kirsch is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is married to Kerry.



neighbour, all are reached, and God is glorified in our world. This is my vision of ministry.

Howard Lawrence is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is married to Carmen.



12 BAPTIST HERALD

God has called us to be faithful. Faithfulness involves exercising our spiritual gifts to their fullest potential for the glorification of God. I believe that God has gifted me with the ability to effectively communicate and relate to people. I believe my gifts are best used when I am involved in



Robert Moss is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is married to Karin.



Alan Powell is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife Faye are the parents of Michael.



Garry Vanderbaaren is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife Connie are the parents of Melissa. □

Ministry is a combination of loving and serving those within the body, and giving love and service to those outside of the body, all to bring glory and honour to God. These two facets of ministry cannot be separated. We are equipped so that we may tell others of this great God we serve.

My vision for ministry is founded on passages such as I Peter 4:10-11 in which God's people are called to use the gifts which they have received to share His grace with others. My goal is to see Christians mature to the point that they become faithful in the ministry that God has for each of them.

Ministry is primarily helping people grow more Christ-like in every area of their lives. This objective can be achieved by various methods, and each individual should serve in the area the Lord has best equipped them for. It is only when our leadership becomes servanthood, our learning becomes faith, and our theoretical becomes practical that we are effective ministers. Connie and I are looking forward to enhancing the ministry of the church by ministering through Christian camping.

# Seven Values For North American Baptist Seminary

by Charles M. Hiatt

In a recent time management course with all of the North American Baptist Conference Area Ministers, we were challenged to determine our values. The presenter asked us to imagine a long I-beam stretched between the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. We had to decide for which people or things we would be willing to walk across the I-beam.

I found clarifying values is a healthy personal and spiritual exercise and benefited from writing out my values. In a Time Management for Ministers January term class, I required my students to record their life and ministry values.

I present to you seven values that I consider significant for North American Baptist Seminary. I believe these values grow out of the commitment of North American Baptist Seminary to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inerrancy of Scripture, and a deep calling to fulfill our mission to prepare persons for a variety of Christian ministries, primarily in the context of the North American Baptist Conference. These values work together in concert to fulfill our mission.

## Creative Balance among Practical, Academic, and Spiritual Formation

After 131 years, the Seminary continues to stand at the crossroads of academic preparation and practical abilities for ministry. Persons coming to North American Baptist Seminary seek graduate level preparation to be equipped to meet the practical and ethical challenges of ministry or missions. Balance between academic preparation and practical ministry skills allows persons to flexibly meet the challenges confronting the church as it enters the next generation.

The church needs leaders who have a well-developed Christian character. Because of this, spiritual formation of our students is the top priority of the N.A.B. Seminary. Our students see



**"I present to you seven values that grow out of the commitment of North American Baptist Seminary to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inerrancy of Scripture, and a deep calling to fulfill our mission to prepare persons for a variety of Christian ministries." Charles Hiatt**

the modeling of family strength in faculty lives. They graduate as people of integrity ready to face challenges in a secular world with the confronting and comforting Word of the Lord.

## Commitment to Our Parent Denomination and Its "Statement of Beliefs"

I learned about the Lordship of Christ as I grew up in a North American Baptist Conference church. My pastor encouraged me to attend North American Baptist Seminary. My entire ministry career has been closely tied to this Seminary. I understand the special benefit of a denominational school and highly value our relationship with the Conference. I was very pleased when our faculty

and trustees adopted the denominational "Statement of Beliefs" in 1982. The quality of relationship I have with Conference churches constantly reminds me of the benefits of the North American Baptist Conference family.

## Positive Ownership of Our Multi-denominational Role in This Region

In the last two decades, North American Baptist Seminary has had opportunity to become a special servant to other denominations in our region. We have been able to be "salt and light" because of our influence on graduates who serve in other denominations. Our stand on Scripture, evangelism, and spiritual formation adds a rich flavor to many churches pastored by our graduates. I feel we would be failing in a part of our mission if we closed our doors to students who desire to learn what we teach. We have been called by God to be both a denominational seminary and a regional school preparing persons for ministry, missions, and theologically informed counseling.

## An Open and Cordial Administrative Style that Flexes to Meet New Challenges

A positive and productive work environment is best fostered by an open and cordial administrative style. It is of high value to me to know faculty, administration, and staff are working hard to equip our students because they enjoy working at North American Baptist Seminary. As needs change throughout time, flexibility is required to meet these new needs and challenges.

## Equal Access to All Educational Programs for All Races and Genders

God has called persons of all types and background to do specialized ministries in unique places. My travels throughout North America remind me of society's diversity. Each year our students from around the world expand my horizons even further as I realize whom God is calling to do His work. Men and women on mission fields have influenced our international students in their spiritual growth. North American Baptist Conference church staff have

(Continued on page 17.)



# Introducing the 1988 Graduates of the North American Baptist Seminary

## Vision for Ministry

**T**he view one has of the world is clarified by the vision of faith resident within each. Today's ever-changing world demands clear vision. One can no longer afford nearsightedness but must have the farsighted vision to see a world that needs Christ in so many areas. As I interact each year with our graduate seminarians, I realize God continues to faithfully call those needed to minister around His world.

To help you see more of what I see each year, I asked the 1989 graduates of North American Baptist Seminary to write a brief statement about their vision for ministry. These graduates are equipped with an education to help them fulfill their vision for ministry through the gifts and graces of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles M. Hiatt, president, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



**T**he vision for future ministry is always today in youth ministry. Our high school and college students need church involvement today. If they aren't involved, we could lose them. If they are equipped and utilized today, the church will continually have a trained army of disciples available for life-long service.

Doug Brave's home church is Immanuel Baptist in Kankakee, IL. He is a member of Forest Park Baptist in Illinois. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree program.



**M**y vision for ministry begins with social action. Christians living in the late 1980s and beyond must develop a ministry that calls for total Christian involvement in their local communities and their country. From AIDS patients, to politics, to the homeless and hungry, Christians must minister and be involved.

Bruce Boyle is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Lexington, Nebraska, and is a member of the Evangelical Free Church, Central City, Nebraska. His wife's name is Jane.



**T**he changes in the world have left people in fear, destitution, and despair. The good news for our time is that the gospel liberates. I am excited about sharing in the incarnational ministry of Jesus, making the dynamic power of the gospel available to all across all barriers.

Elias Bongmba is from Ntumbaw, Cameroon, and is a member of Ntumbaw Baptist Church, Cameroon. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Mary.



Jim Black is from Lacey, Washington, and is a member of Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Elizabeth.



**W**hile preparing to become a Christian counselor, three basics stand out: vision, humility, and yieldedness. Vision implies understanding each person's worth to God. Humility comes as I hear needs of others, just recalling my own neediness. Yieldedness implies the Holy Spirit leads. Together, these basics should bring joy unspeakable.

Vesta Berglund is from Slayton, Minnesota. She is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. Her husband's name is Theodore.



**I** believe that our world is populated with hurting people who need to hear and respond to the hope offered in Scripture. My vision is to share this hope with Christians and non-Christians alike as they search for meaning in life (Isaiah 40:28-31).

Michael Decker is from Olympic View Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs. His wife's name is Robin.



**T**he world today is full of many distractions that take people from the church. It is my hope to renew excitement within the church that brings Christians and non-Christians alike into the church. I pray that I can present the Gospel of Christ in a clear and exciting manner.

Tim Friez is from Seattle, Washington, and is a member of Sierra Heights Baptist Church in Renton. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Kathy.



John Gonnerman



Kristine Heeren



Donna Holcomb



Valerie Fuchs of Bismarck, North Dakota, is a member of First United Methodist Church in Bismarck. She is a senior in the Master of Arts in Christian Education degree program.



**I** see ministry as a transforming process of individuals. When the pastor provides care for people in crisis, the transforming presence of God is felt. I see my ministry as a facilitator of God's transforming presence.

James Harsh of Mandan, North Dakota, is a member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Mandan. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs.



**I** am excited about the N.A.B. Conference's emphasis on missions and church planting. It is my desire to lead a church to a greater sense of evangelism, marked by increased membership of new converts, increased support of Conference missions, and a desire to be involved in the planting of another church.

James Haw of Billings, Montana, is a member of Northside Baptist Church, Liverpool, New York. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Kathy.



**I**n a world cluttered with religious messages, my vision is to lead, motivate, and equip God's people in presenting the Gospel of Christ in a clear manner that impacts the lives of those who are lost.

Scott Joy



**M**inistry means meeting the needs of all people, directing them to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God's people must consider themselves servants called into ministry to serve others for the glory of the kingdom of God. My vision is to continue as His servant to reach others for their salvation.

Allan L. Kostboth of Canistota, South Dakota, is a member of the group planting Oak Hills Baptist Church in Sioux Falls. In addition to being Director of Recruitment and Alumni at North American Baptist Seminary, he is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Jeanette.



Deborah Larson is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. She is from United Methodist Church, Britton, South Dakota.



**T**here is a familiar saying that I believe is very applicable to the church and that is, "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders." My vision for ministry is focused on the teaching and guiding of youth in order that they may become disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe young people who are firmly grounded in their faith will mature into strong adult leaders for our churches someday.

Kelly Lashly is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs. She is from Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, South Dakota.



**J**esus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. I am sending you out like lambs among wolves" (Luke 10:1). I want to be a humble worker for His Kingdom, wherever I am needed. The worker must be faithful, genuine, lovable, and prayerful, which is my model to be His worker.

J. D. Lee is from Buyo Koon, S. Korea, and is a member of Edmonton Korean Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. His wife's name is Jenny.



**M**y vision for ministry is best described in the Gospels as the tasks of ministry as demonstrated by Jesus. In Matthew 9:35-38, Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching, preaching, and healing. He was moved to compassion when He saw the crowds because they were harassed and helpless. Some were hurting; some were hungry; some just needed a shepherd. Whether it be the peoples of the world or the neighbor next door, we should be moved to compassion and then be willing to go about the tasks of the ministry, as Jesus modeled for us.

Kim Liedtke of Sioux Falls is from First Wesleyan Church, Sturgis, South Dakota. His wife's name is Gwen. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Christian Education and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs.





Deke Moffitt, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. His wife's name is Judy.



Doug Peebles is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Stockton, California, and is a member of Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton. His wife's name is Katie.



Sherwood Schrenk, Aberdeen, South Dakota, is from Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, North Dakota. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. His wife's name is Vickie.



Dessa Strecker, Duluth, Minnesota, is from Lakeside Baptist Church, Duluth. She is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs.



Robert Travis, Sacramento, CA, is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, California. He and his wife, Susan, have two sons: Christopher and Bradley.

Fair Oaks, California. He and his wife, Susan, have two sons: Christopher and Bradley.



James Vollmer is from the Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, North Dakota. He is in the Master of Arts in Counseling and Master of Arts in Christian Education degree programs. His wife's name is Julie.



John Voss, Madison, Wisconsin, is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Rantoul, Illinois. His wife's name is Jane.



Marv Wirzba, Lethbridge, Alberta, is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is from Bethany Baptist Church, Lethbridge, Alberta.



Bernie Wollenberg is from Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program.



Steven Anthes



John Farrell

Because of the rapid changes, which we are experiencing, I believe the Church needs to adapt, without conforming, to the needs of today's society. I envision a ministry which reaches out to the "realities" of society (divorced, single-parent families, etc.) in a caring and healing way which the Church can do.

I want to use my spiritual giftedness in leadership and administration to equip and lead my congregation to minister both to each other and to the needs of the community of which we are a part. I would like to see my congregation be a healing and a nurturing community.

We live in a needy world. People are hungry; they need food. People are cold; they need clothes and a warm home. People are mourning; they need comforting. People are hopeless; they need the hope of Christ. Ministry is meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people. Ministry is people reaching out to meet the needs of others.

My vision for ministry is to participate in the church as it continues to meet the needs of people through Jesus Christ. As we introduce them to the person of Christ and demonstrate the love of Christ in a contemporary and relevant fashion, people are given the opportunity to live in a vibrant relationship with God.



Donna Stewart is from De Smet, South Dakota, and is a member of United Methodist Church in De Smet. She is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. Her husband's name is Bert.



Pat Rippentrop is from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. She is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. Her husband's name is Allen.



Lucie Oygard is from Douglas, Wyoming, and is a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. Her husband's name is Astor.



Cliff McNaughton is from Lawton, Iowa, and is a member of Central Baptist Church in Sioux City. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs. His wife's name is Nancy.



Fred Jones is from Des Moines, Iowa, and is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife's name is Glenda.



Jan Johnson is from Avon, South Dakota, and is a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls. She is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program.



Tim Heerts is from Stout, Iowa, and is a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Parkersburg, Iowa. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. His wife's name is Susan.



Rich Gifford is from Harrisburg, Nebraska, and a member of Harrisburg Community Church. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Religious Studies degree program. His wife's name is Susan.



Eric Gebhart is from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and a member of Bethany Reformed Church in Canton. He is a senior in the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program. His wife's name is Cathy.

Jay Hammrich is from Rapid City, South Dakota, and is a member of South Canyon Baptist Church in Rapid City. He is a senior in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Counseling degree programs. His wife's name is Dianne.

## Seven Values For North American Baptist Seminary

(Continued from page 13.)

disciplined the men and women from Conference churches who come to attend the Seminary. I marvel at the overflowing economy of God as He calls those whom He desires to serve His Church.

### Growth in Size and Quality of the Student Body

The need for ministers and missionaries in our Conference is a highly motivating force in my life. As

many retire from service and hundreds of new churches are planted, we need workers. In 1988 alone, 40 N.A.B. Conference ministers reached the age of 65. Our Conference needs the "best" from every church to step forward and do the best service with their lives.

### A Willingness to Serve Our Churches as Consultants, Specialists, and Guest Resource Leaders

Our faculty is deeply interested in translating their expertise into improved ministry in many N.A.B.

Conference churches. Invitations abound and travel miles accumulate because of our team effort with our churches. Wherever a willing group of God's people desire spiritual stimulation, we are ready to send a resource person.

Tomorrow's challenges will require careful and prayerful strategies that will be closely hinged to these seven values. In the years to come, our creative growth will continue while we foster a deep loyalty to these values. □

Dr. Charles Hiatt is President of North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



# Introducing Our Missionaries - Part II

by Herman Effa

In April 1988, the Board of Missions appointed missionaries to serve on our North American Baptist Conference overseas mission fields in Brazil, Cameroon, Japan, Nigeria, and the Philippines. An article appearing in the December 1988 issue of the *Baptist Herald* introduced nine new missionaries. This issue introduces six more. Pray for these servants as they adjust to new cultures and countries and seek to serve the Lord to win others for Christ as well as to plant churches.



**Linda Kieswether Teaches in Japan**

Linda Marie Kieswether, a short-term missionary, teaches missionary children at the Tsu Christian School in Tsu, Japan. Born in Toledo, Ohio, Linda is the daughter of Harold and Bess Kieswether. She received Christ as Savior at an early age, and says, "While I knew that Jesus came into my heart when I asked Him,

it was a while before I realized that I only had to ask Him once, and He came to stay. Linda was baptized when she was nine at Bethany Baptist Church, Whittier, California. "I am continually striving to be what Christ wants me to be," she says.

Linda is a member of Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, Washington, and was commissioned as a missionary by this seven-year-old Church along with four others in August.

Linda cites missionaries she has known, the desire to be where God wants her to be, and to be where she can be useful as factors that drew her into missionary service. She deeply desires to teach missionary children.

Linda says, "I know that missionary children have many needs that need to be filled. I also know that it is important to reach children with the Gospel. I feel that I can be used by God in both areas. □

## Bienerts to Serve in Brazil

Appointed as career missionaries to Brazil, Keith and Lilyane Bienert plan to serve in evangelism and church planting. To prepare for these ministries, they are studying Portuguese in language school in Campinas, S.P., Brazil.

Keith was born in Edmonton, Alberta, to Allen and Violet Bienert. He received Christ as his personal Savior at age six and was baptized four years later. After studying at Prairie Bible Institute, he enrolled in and graduated from North American Baptist Divinity School, Edmonton.



"I strongly desire to be used of God and would not be satisfied with any vocation other than full-time service," says Keith. "I have always considered missions as a career. I want to serve Him, do His will, serve others, and fulfill the Great Commission."

Lilyane, the daughter of Erwin and Suzana Rahn, was born in Curitiba, Brazil. At age four, they immigrated to Canada. Having received Christ as Savior at the age of nine at a Bible Club, Lilyane was later baptized at the age of 17.

"I desire to grow as a Christian and be a witness for my Lord," says Lilyane. "I so much desire to obey Him, too. I love the Lord and am eager to find out what He has for us in the days ahead."

Lilyane's interest in missions grew during her time at Prairie Bible Institute. Her involvement in mission prayer groups, service as a short-term missionary with Venture Teams International in Kenya and India, and ministry with children in evangelism helped to confirm her desire to serve as a missionary.

Keith and Lilyane are members of Temple Baptist Church in Calgary, Alberta. They have two daughters, Julianna and Amy-Lynn. □

## Clarks to Serve Among the Fulani

In January, Scott and Ruth Clark plan to leave for Cameroon, West Africa, to serve in evangelism and church planting among the Fulani Muslim Tribes.

Born in Seattle, Washington, to Newton and Patty Clark, Scott became a Christian in 1980. "At that time in my life, I was a very



lonely and anxious person," he recalls. "But through a Christian girl and the witness of the college group at church, I received Christ through a Gideon Bible in a motel in Quebec."

Scott says, "My first ministries were at Salt Creek Baptist Church with the two and three-year-olds." There he grew quickly as he was discipled by his pastor, the Rev. George Breitzkreuz.

"Through Josh McDowell," Scott remembers, "I learned I could trust the Bible."

Scott experienced continued growth while studying at Moody Bible Institute and serving a Black church in south Chicago as well as later in studies at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary. Part of his Seminary education was a seven-month internship in Muslim evangelism in Cameroon. It was during Moody's annual missions conference that Scott made a commitment to "go to a people who did not have the Gospel. Through

reading 'Operation World,' I became burdened for the 100,000,000 Muslims of North Africa and began praying specifically for the Fulani," says Scott.

Ruth was born in Tacoma, Washington. She received Christ as Savior at an early age, and her pastor, the Rev. Hans Wilcke, baptized her. Her parents, John and Nancy Chase, and her church nurtured her in the faith. Ruth participated in all activities in her church.

While at a youth camp, the Rev. Fred and Pat Moore, former missionaries, challenged Ruth to missionary service. "They made a deep impression on me," says Ruth. "When I returned home, I felt the direct call of God to be a missionary. Although I had felt God's call to be a missionary from the time I was 12, I thought more about being a doctor as I entered university. By the middle of the year, I knew that I was not doing what God wanted and transferred to Bible school."

Appointed as career missionaries, Scott and Ruth are two of five members of Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, Washington, who have been recently appointed to missionary service. They have a daughter, Karissa. □

## Goodman Returns to Cameroon

Myrna Joyce Goodman returns to Cameroon, West Africa, to serve as a short-term missionary in the Life Abundant Programme in January. Cameroon is not new to her, since she served there as a career missionary from 1968 to 1979. She also served as a Volunteer in Missions in Cameroon in 1987.

Myrna's ministry with the Life Abundant Programme helps bring basic health care, evangelism, and

discipleship training to people living in remote rural areas of Cameroon.

Myrna was born to the late Alfred and Grace Goodman in Millersburg, Iowa, and later moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming. She received Christ as Savior at



age 11, was baptized, and joined First Baptist Church of Cheyenne.

When reflecting on her Christian life, Myrna says, "I was brought up in a Christian home and took part in regular activities of the church. At summer camp, I was challenged about the needs in missions and made a renewed vow to serve God wherever He should lead."

After completing her nurses' training in Denver, Colorado, her call to missions became increasingly urgent. She returned to college to complete her B.S. degree. While there, she realized, "I needed more personal dependence on God daily through devotions, prayer, and a personal commitment to His Lordship in my life."

While attending Grace Baptist Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota, she became acquainted with North American Baptist Conference missions. She took further training at the midwifery school in Hyden, Kentucky, and went to Cameroon as a nurse/midwife. □



## committed to give Iglesia Bautista Central Dedicates Building

by David Wick

"You are standing on holy ground!" The preacher's voice boomed out over the crowd of excited, happy people on a hot, humid Sunday afternoon. The weather felt like mid-July, but, in fact, it was November 13. The preacher was Area Minister Milton Zeeb, and the congregation he addressed had gathered for the Dedication Fiesta for the new building of the Iglesia Bautista Central in Edinburg, Texas. Almost 200 people had come from all over the Rio Grande Valley and from as far away as Illinois and Michigan to rejoice with the Rev. and Mrs. Lindbberg Aké and the congregation.

The story of the new building begins with the vision and vital ministry of the Akés and their congregation. For many years, they labored faithfully to win people to Christ and to disciple them. Their congregation outgrew their church building — an inadequate frame structure located in an out of the way corner of the city of Edinburg.

The Akés and their people began to pray for a better building. Then the women of the N.A.B. Conference responded to a Capital Funds appeal to raise \$50,000 to build a new church on land owned by the church on Sugar Road, one of the main arteries between Edinburg and McAllen. This goal was very nearly met, and additional capital funds placed it right on target.

Pete Winkler, a recently retired building contractor from Grosse Pointe Baptist Church in Michigan, became interested in the Akés' ministry. He enlisted the help of a fellow member of Grosse Pointe Baptist, Ron Cieslak, an architect whose firm specializes in churches. These two men donated many, many hours of their time to help

translate the \$50,000 raised by the Conference women into a structure. Of course, for \$50,000 you don't get any frills, but the concept which governed the construction was to create a usable "shell" that could be finished in stages, as additional funds became available.

The result of the vision of the Akés, their congregation, the donation of the N.A.B. Conference women, and the volunteer work of Mr. Winkler and Mr. Cieslak, is one of the most striking and attractive buildings in the area. The front of the building, which faces Sugar Road, not only says, "This is a church," it also says, "This is a Spanish language church." The 6,400 square foot area enclosed by the steel roof and concrete block walls is simply open space and can be finished in a variety of ways. It is large enough to seat a congregation of more than 500 — large vision indeed!

The Lord is using the building itself to draw new people. Lately the church has been concentrating its efforts on finishing the shell and has been holding back on outreach until such time as classrooms and additional restroom facilities are finished. But the curious are coming: Sunday morning attendance has increased from around 80 to between 110 and 120!

The choir of Iglesia Bautista Central



The new building for Iglesia Bautista Central, dedicated November 13, attracts visitors and provides worship and learning facilities for its congregation.

There is still much to be done. If the temperature is 85 degrees in November, it is not difficult to see why air-conditioning will be required for this building during the summer months! Interior walls need to be finished and classroom space must be provided. The Akés request prayer for their congregation as they continue to work on building their dream — not only the physical building but also the spiritual life of the church. This congregation does indeed stand on holy ground, as weekly they are seeing people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ through their ministry. □

The Rev. David Wick is pastor of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, and Urban/Ethnic Consultant for N.A.B. Conference.



A new building provided through Capital Funds

## ■ Estate Planning

# Life Insurance in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

An extremely important asset in most individuals' estates is the life insurance contract. It has many uses in the estate planning process.

### To Protect Dependents

Life insurance is effectively used for the protection of dependents when there has not been sufficient time to accumulate assets. Many times, the only way a young family can guarantee that the surviving spouse and the children will have sufficient assets is through a life insurance policy, which is designed to provide cash when needed most.

### To Protect a Business Interest

A life insurance policy is an excellent tool for funding a business purchase agreement at the death of a business partner, or providing liquidity for the business at the death of a key man.

### To Meet Liquidity Needs

An individual may have successfully accumulated property. Even though the best estate planning tools are used, there may be liquidity needs to pay final expenses, death taxes, or to provide an inheritance for one family member so a business interest or real property can be distributed to a family member involved in a family business or farming operation.

Life insurance may be the only way to guarantee that this money will be available, in the right amount, at the time needed.

### To Provide Flexible Property

Life insurance is the most flexible property available in planning for the avoidance of taxes. The

value of the life insurance policy during one's lifetime is its replacement cost. For term insurance, this may be zero.

Therefore, the insurance policy can be transferred as a lifetime gift to an individual or to an irrevocable trust, without creating a taxable gift, unless the replacement cost of the policy exceeds the annual gift exclusion. (If the replacement cost exceeds the exclusion, the cash value can be borrowed from the policy to reduce the value of the gift.)

At the time of death, the face value of the policy is removed from the estate. The size of the estate dictates whether or not a policy transfer is advisable. If the irrevocable trust is utilized, it must be carefully drafted to keep the premiums paid from being taxable gifts.

### Life Insurance and Charitable Giving

Many friends of North American Baptist Conference also find that life insurance is an excellent way to make a gift to our ministry. Not only is it easy and convenient, but also many times it is one of the most thoughtful gifts you can make.

You might have property which you desire to be distributed to family members, but still desire to support the ministry of the North American Baptist Conference through your estate plan. With a gift of life insurance, your estate is not diminished, because the gift of life insurance is an amount in addition to your estate.

### How Much Life Insurance Should You Own?

A very difficult decision for you to make is determining how much life insurance is necessary in your estate. I don't think there are any pat answers; although many formulas have been derived. A lot depends upon the size of the estate, the ages of dependent children, and your charitable desires.

### May We Help?

We have prepared a Special Planning Report, **The Use of Life Insurance in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving**, which includes expanded information on the above ideas and some practical guidelines for you to use in determining how much life insurance you should own for your protection as well as your charitable giving. There is also information in this Special Report on how you can use life insurance to solve many other estate planning problems, which are not discussed here.

We trust that you will write for your free copy of this Special Planning Report today, and that you will find it to be of interest and value to you. □

Please send me the Special Planning Report, **The Use of Life Insurance in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving**. I understand there is no cost nor obligation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Dr. Connie Salios

North American Baptist  
Conference

1 South 210 Summit Avenue  
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181  
1-(312) 495-2000



Theme Verse: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..." (Isaiah 40:31).

Theme song: "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Triennial theme: "Reaching New Heights"

Yearly themes:

- 1989 - Reflecting... Spiritual Growth
- 1990 Relating... Relationships
- 1991 Responding... Service and Ministry

As we consider these yearly focuses, we see in them *Vision 2000*, our strategic focus on the six Biblical Imperatives: *Reflecting*—Called to Worship, Challenged to Grow. *Responding*—Compelled to Serve, Committed to Give. What a challenge lies before us!

The W.M.F. leaders, introduced in these pages, are ready to respond to this challenge and the possibilities it presents. May we all respond in our own way and in our own circumstances to reach for new heights in worship, growth, witness, service, giving, and caring.

**Manetta Hohn,  
W.M.F.  
president**



"The greatest thing in all my life is knowing You, Lord, loving You, Lord, serving You, Lord."

"The words to this song have been a source of encouragement and direction for my life as I have experienced the Lord's guidance," Manetta says. She and her husband, Ed, have been in the ministry together almost 30 years. Ed presently serves as Area Minister for British Columbia. Manetta ministers to the pastors' wives

through personal contact and by correspondence. She finds that serving in various ways in her home church, Lakeview Heights Baptist, Kelowna, British Columbia, and with committees on the Association level, presents many challenges.

Manetta becomes W.M.F. president well-prepared. She says, "I have appreciated the experience I gained as vice president for six years. As I take on the role of president, I know the Lord will continue to give grace and strength for the task. I have been encouraged by the many who have said they are and will continue to pray for me in this ministry and for our Conference W.M.F."

Manetta believes that there is a great future ahead for our Conference and our W.M.F. "We have a great God, so there can be no other way when we, as individuals, are obedient to the Lord and loyal and faithful in His service. My prayer is that we may be challenged with our new theme, 'Reaching New Heights' in our spiritual lives and in our service for our Lord."

**Nancy Lennick,  
W.M.F.  
Vice  
President**



Nancy has been active in her local W.M.F. for the 18 years that she and her husband have been members at Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson, North Dakota. She presently serves as president.

In the community, Nancy serves as secretary of the West River Apartment Association. On the state level, she is a board member for the North Dakota Apartment Association. The Lennicks own

and manage a rental property management business.

Nancy has enjoyed serving in several different areas of women's work, holding the office of president of Christian Women's Club, and speaking for the Christian Women's Clubs in North Dakota and Montana.

On the association level, Nancy served as president of the Central Dakota-Montana W.M.F. and as chair of the Central Dakota-Montana Association and Northern Dakota Association ladies retreat.

For the past three years, Nancy served on the national W.M.F. executive committee as editor of the women's pages in the *Baptist Herald*. Nancy's goal as vice president is to continue to promote our W.M.F. to be an exciting, vital ministry that will not only involve our older women but also our younger women as well.

**Yvonne Fischer,  
W.M.F.  
secretary/  
treasurer**



For 25 years, Yvonne worked at various positions in banks in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; she retired from Norwest Bank four years ago. She has been secretary-treasurer of the Parkston South Dakota Commercial Club and the Parkston Centennial. She served on the advisory board of the Parkston Good Samaritan Home for three years. Yvonne is a member of Memorial Baptist Church.

Yvonne says, "My goals and dreams for my position are that our financial goal will be met; that each society will have something about missions at each W.M.F. meeting; and that we will see growth in numbers and spiritual growth in all W.M.F. groups."

**Christa Eckert,  
W.M.F.  
German  
Program  
Packet  
Editor**



Christa teaches German at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She attends Parma Heights Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and is a member of the Christian Academy School Board.

This is Christa's second term as editor of the German Program Packet. She hopes to develop renewed interest among German-speaking women to contribute to and write for the packet. She says, "Publishing the packet is not just a local priority, but is almost global, as we send the material to Brazil, Cameroon, and other German-speaking areas."

**Myrna Seibel,  
W.M.F.  
Outreach  
Ministries  
Coordinator**



Myrna, a public school teacher, is a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Beulah, North Dakota. For several years, she worked in the Financial Services Department at the North American Baptist International Office.

She has been president of her local W.M.F., is a church pianist, and directs the church choir. She was on the Christian Education Committee in the Northern Dakota Association and is currently the Association W.M.F. president.

The position of Outreach Ministries Coordinator is a new W.M.F. appointive position. Myrna will be providing effective and practical materials, which focus on missions awareness and education to local church groups. She hopes that W.M.F. members will become

so interested in outreach opportunities that many women who are not currently W.M.F. members will be enticed to join.

**Mary Smith,  
W.M.F.  
English  
Program  
Packet  
Editor**



Mary is retired from 20 years of teaching high school English and speech in Louisiana. Presently, she coordinates a volunteer program of one-on-one instruction of literacy and GED students through the local library. Her husband is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Kyle, Texas.

After serving two terms as vice president of the Southern Association W.M.F., she now serves as president. In her position as English Program Packet editor, her goal is to adequately compile program materials to better enable local W.M.F. groups to enhance their programs in order to meet the needs of their women.

**Ginny Smith,  
W.M.F.  
Contributing  
Editor,  
Baptist Herald  
Women's pages**



Ginny, a young mother and homemaker, is a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Carol Stream, Illinois. For several years she was employed as secretary to LaVerna Mehlhaff, former women's work director. Her interest in and devotion to the W.M.F. and missions is long-standing. Her desire is to make W.M.F. and missions come alive for our women, so they will feel involved. "I know that so much happens 'out on the mission field' that we never hear about... and we should. I'd like to be a part of making that happen."

**Sally Prast,  
Representative,  
Church  
Growth  
Ministries Board**



Sally's home church is First Baptist, Jamesburg, New Jersey. Her husband, Larry, has retired from the pastorate. Sally continues teaching grade two in public school.

Sally's association responsibilities include serving as recording secretary, mission committee member, and W.M.F. president. She presently serves on the Church Growth Ministries Board. She is also president of the Board of Directors of the New York Residence for Women.

In her position, Sally will serve as liaison between the Church Growth Ministries Board, the laywomen, and the W.M.F. Executive committee. She says, "Primarily, I will try to represent the role of women in the church on the Church Growth Ministries Board. Our women are dedicated, able, creative, and busy. Their voice should be heard."

**Rose Tolentino,  
W.M.F.  
Office  
Secretary**



Rose is employed at the North American Baptist Conference International Office, Church Growth Ministries Department, as secretary to Linda Ebel, women's ministries director. She says, "I thank God for His leading in my life. I came to know Him through a W.M.F. Bible study group at Village Green Baptist Church." Her desire is to help bring others closer to Christ through her service at the International Office.



## Committed to Give

### Winnipeg Area Churches Hold Missions Conference

■ WINNIPEG, MB. "Our God Reigns" (Isaiah 52:7) was the theme of the Missions Conference held Oct. 26-30, 1988, in the greater Winnipeg area churches.

To date, about \$9,000 has been received toward the financial project to raise \$12,000 for Crossover Ministries.

Prayer breakfasts, held in three different locations prior to the Conference, helped prepare people for this event.

Missionaries Minnie Kuhn, Ken and Jerilyn Bayer, Reimer and Nobuko Clausen, Dave Burgess, and Karl Mueller, as well as Rev. Jake Leverette, area minister, and Mr. Ron Salzman, Rev. Ray Harsch, and Rev. Art Helwig from the N.A.B. International Office ministered in the various area

churches. In addition to individual church services, some joint activities were also held. These included a youth rally for junior high through college/career ages at the Ft. Richmond Baptist Church, a family breakfast at the Rowandale Baptist Church, an afternoon rally featuring a panel of missionaries who responded to questions regarding the role of women on the mission field, and an evening appreciation rally in honor of the missionaries.

A joint closing rally held on Sunday afternoon at the McDermot Ave. Baptist Church where Ron Salzman spoke was well attended. A number of people responded to the invitation given by Rev. Jake Leverette to do whatever God wanted in their lives.

People of the local churches presented music as well as viewed Conference

audio visuals and displays of local and overseas missions. — Mrs. Evelyn Bertsch

### Beulah Church Dedicates Hymnals, Burns Mortgage

■ BEULAH, ND. Immanuel Baptist Church held a dedication service recently for new hymnals given in loving memory of Ed and Ingrid Anderson. The same day, the Church celebrated the mortgage burning for the new educational unit completed in December 1984.

"We praise the Lord for His provident hand in the growth of His church," says Barb Heringer. The Rev. Gordon Voegelé is pastor. — Barb Heringer

### Olds Church Supports Muellers

■ OLDS, AB. East Olds Baptist Church, having a great interest in missions, has added

Debbie and Karl Mueller to their missionary support giving.

"The Lord has abundantly blessed our community with a good crop in spite of severe drought conditions in the Spring," says Trudie Schroeder. "This is evident in the Church as our people undertake mission projects with much enthusiasm to show their gratitude to God. Praise Him!"

### Hunter Church Holds Harvest-Mission Fest

■ HUNTER, KS. Bethany Baptist Church held its annual Harvest-Mission Festival with Ron Salzman, missions director, as guest speaker. "He challenged us to pray and give in support of our Conference Mission program," says Katherine Loofbourrow. A mission offering was given. The Rev. Anthony Dickerson is Pastor of the Church.

### Kerbers Honored by Calgary Church

■ CALGARY, AB. Dr. and Mrs. Walter Kerber received a plaque commemorating 25 years of ministry from the Rev. Charles Littmann, area minister, on behalf of

the annual Conference in Calgary by raising money through car washes, a pancake breakfast, projects, and chores. They exceeded their goal! — Esther M. Pucek

## Compelled to Serve

### Youth Learn How Church Operates

■ KANKAKEE, IL. High school age youth at Immanuel Baptist Church observed Youth Week by learning how the church

operates. Officers, appointed from their ranks, attended church board meetings and then gave reports in the evening service.

Fourteen youth and youth sponsors earned their way to the Trien-

the Alberta Association. The presentation took place at one of the outdoor services held every year at Grace Baptist Church during the Calgary Stampede. The Kerbers served churches in

Saskatchewan, Ontario, and presently serve Grace Baptist. — Gene Huber

### Olds Church Supports Missionaries

■ OLDS, AB. A farewell dinner, service,

and offering toward an all terrain vehicle was given for Kenton and Sheldina Brunner and family who are serving in Gabon, Africa, with African Evangelical Fellowship.

John Malpass, serving with "Youth with a Mission," is receiving prayer and financial support from East Olds Baptist Church.

— Trudie Schroeder

## Commanded to Care

■ KANKAKEE, IL. Immanuel Baptist Church recently started a new ministry. Once each month after the evening service, those who have birth-

days or anniversaries during that month have a special gathering for fellowship and refreshments.

A group of W.M.F.

women from Immanuel Church helped the residents of Central Baptist Home, Norridge, celebrate their September birthdays. — Esther M. Pucek

## Commissioned to Witness

### Greenfield Church Celebrates 20 Years

■ EDMONTON, AB. Greenfield Baptist Church celebrated 20 years of ministry on November 13.

"The morning service included a service of praise and worship as we celebrated God's faithfulness through special music, testimony, and prayer of commitment," says Mark Wollenberg, pastor.

Dr. J. Walter Goltz spoke from Hebrews 11:32-12:3: "From Weakness We're Made Strong."

The evening celebration included face-painting for kids, balloons, horns, hats, and lots of birthday cake. "A slide presentation of the building of the first church to the completion of the sec-

ond building led to reminiscing. Prof. Dave Follack, N.A.B. College, challenged the Church to continue to reach out to the community.

### Redeemer Baptist Hears McIntosh in Revival Services

■ PARMA, OH. Redeemer Baptist Church heard Doug and Belva McIntosh of the Canadian Revival Fellowship during revival services recently.

McIntosh gave his personal testimony in his message, "God Changes a Proud Board Chairman."

"After the Wednesday evening session, the congregation knelt in silent prayers of thanksgiving to God for ten minutes," says Gerda Markowski. "We continue to pray for a

lasting after-effect."

The Rev. Darrell W. McKay is Pastor of the Church.

### Jaspers Speaks at Week-long Meetings in Hebron

■ HEBRON, ND. Pastor Randy Jaspers of Linton, ND, was guest speaker for special meetings held at Hebron First Baptist Church recently.

"The many who attended were blessed and strengthened by his messages," says Shari Krein.

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

■ CRESTON, NE. Creston Baptist Church welcomed seven new members recently. All

came by letter and/or testimony from other churches. A fellowship meal followed this service. — Henrietta Scheffler

■ KILLALOE, ON. Pastor James Zurbruggen baptized two adults in Round Lake after a special service in the chapel of Bonnechere Baptist Bible Camp. "They were later welcomed into the fellowship of Calvary Baptist Church along with another member by transfer," reports Kathryn Kuehl.

■ KANKAKEE, IL. Twenty-five young people and adults were received into the fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church—twenty by baptism and five by statement of faith.



"All completed a series of church membership classes and gave their testimonies before the church body," says Esther M. Pucek. The Rev. Robert Penner is Senior Pastor.

■ ROCHESTER, NY. "The Latta Road Baptist Church rejoices in the continued growth that the Lord provides," says Pastor Marc Maffucci as he reflects on the fact that during October, ten new members were received into the Church. Three came by baptism.  
— Hilla Metzger

■ CEDAR FALLS, IA. "We have the greatest of news to share: Recently five were baptized at Cedarloo Baptist Church. Three of these became members of the Church and another person also joined the Church that morning," says Judy Schnieder. "We are so thrilled for the work the Lord is doing in our Church." The Rev. Ed Rafferty is Pastor.

■ SHAKOPEE, MN. Pastor Robert Lang baptized nine young people at Shakopee Baptist Church and also welcomed four other new members to the Church family. In October, this Church hosted a very

well-attended Minnesota-LaCrosse Association. The Rev. David Samf was guest speaker.

The Rev. Delmar Dahl encouraged the Church during a week of special meetings.

"We praise the Lord for His blessings," says K. Hennes.

## Berg Speaks at Ebenezer's Deeper Life Meetings

■ EBENEZER, SK. Ebenezer Baptist Church held a series of Deeper Life Meetings with the Rev. Ron Berg, pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton.

"Many came to our Church 'Celebration of Friendship' Sunday when we asked friends from the community to attend our Sunday worship service," says Mrs. Martha Dreger. "Fellowship continued as all shared a potluck dinner."

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

## Shell Creek Church Celebrates 115 Years

■ COLUMBUS, NE. Shell Creek Baptist Church celebrated its 115th anniversary Nov. 20, 1988, in conjunction with its annual Harvest Mission Sunday.

Guest speaker, Dr. Ernest Zimbelman, professor of Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke on the theme, "The Road of Our Father," during the morning worship service. Pastor Clyde Zimbelman read the church history.

The first pulpit Bible was presented to the Church by the Fred Behlen family whose grandfather was the first pastor of the Church. A display case, holding the Bible and a communion set used by the founders of the Church, was dedicated.

Dr. Ernest Zimbelman showed slides of his recent travels in Cameroon, West Africa; the Soviet Union; and Europe following a dinner.

"We praise God for this time to reflect upon the many blessings He has bestowed upon us as a Church." —Mrs. George Behlen

## Killaloe Churches Participate in "Breakthrough 88"

■ KILLALOE, ON. Calvary Baptist Church joined with seven other churches in the Greater Madawaska Valley Crusade, "Breakthrough 88," with the Rev. Ron Susek as evangelist.

"Commitments and rededications were made as we were reminded of our responsibility as Christians to be the person God wants us to be," reports Kathryn Kuehl. Pastor James Zurbruggen took an active part in the crusade.—Kathryn Kuehl

## Killaloe Churches Host One Day Missions Conference

■ KILLALOE, ON. Calvary and First Baptist Church hosted a one day Missions Conference using the theme, "Reaching Your Neighbour for Christ," with First Baptist, Arnprior, and Nepean Baptist, Ottawa, participating. Special speakers were the Rev. John Ziegler, area minister; the Rev. Wayne Jorstad, church planter, Mississauga, ON; and the Rev. Harry Lehotsky, Winnipeg, MB, who shared some of his experiences working with street people.

"We were made aware that we have a mission field here at home and need to reach out to our neighbour to share the gospel of Jesus Christ," says Kathryn Kuehl. The Rev. James Zurbruggen is the pastor.—Kathryn Kuehl

# Challenged to Grow

## Surrey People Experience Growth in Growth Groups

■ SURREY, BC. Several Growth Groups of approximately 10 to 15 committed members of mixed ages at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church are being held weekly in homes of members. "We find that homes offer the relaxed, informal atmosphere where each member participates in discussion," says Stuart Hodgson,

growth group director.

The Growth Group program is designed to fulfill five objectives: Bible study, which includes some verse memorization; prayer; sharing of joys and sorrows; evangelistic outreach training; and fellowship.

"God has said in His Word: 'Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18),' points out Hodgson.

"Precisely, Home Growth Groups offer to Christians an opportunity to do just this: to grow in their faith."

## Ziegler Speaks on Discipleship to Kitchener Church

■ KITCHENER, ON. Area Minister John Ziegler challenged the members of Central Baptist Church to continue to be people of

the Book of Life and to carry the message of redemption to a lost and hopeless nation. "Discipleship," he said, "is no longer an option but a necessity, a command to be obeyed. The challenge is clear; we must be committed to our God and His Word and accountable to one another in our discipling.

The Rev. Fred Kahler is pastor of Central Baptist. — Karen Yahn

# Called to Worship

## Faith Baptist Tries New Sunday Morning Format

■ MINNEAPOLIS MN. On October 2, Faith Baptist Church began having two identical morning worship services at 9:30 and 11 a.m. with a coffee fellowship in between.

"This change came about because we have outgrown our sanctuary," says Anne Kruegel. "Sunday School schedules have also changed."

Children through kindergarten attend a program that lasts the entire morning. Students, grade one

through adults, attend classes that meet during the worship services: some meet at 9:30 and some at 11 a.m.

The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is Senior Pastor of the Church.

## Creston Dedicates New Hymnals

■ CRESTON, NE. Creston Baptist Church

invited Shell Creek Baptist and Redeemer Baptist Churches of Columbus to join in on Sunday afternoon service of dedication for their new hymnals. Mr. Marlin Mohrman is Pastor of the Creston Church.

— Henrietta Scheffler

# anniversaries

■ Hollis and Meta Mae Havens celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, August 20, 1988. They are members of First Baptist Church of Steamboat Rock, IA.

■ Mr. and Mrs. August (Lydia) Pepple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Nov. 4, 1988. Formerly of Saskatchewan, they have been members of Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, since 1973.

■ The Rev. and Mrs. Fred E. Klein celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on Sept. 26, 1988.

■ The Ladies Missionary Society of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, celebrated their 60th anniversary in September 1988. Missionary Eileen Priebe from Cameroon was guest speaker. — Delila Cichon

■ Mrs. Cornelia (Lehman) Burrow celebrated her 100th birthday, on Nov. 6, 1988, when her family hosted an open house at First Baptist Church of Elgin, where she has been a member since 1907.—Ruth Jacob



## Many People Have Shared in Leading Girl to Christ

"Recently, a college student received Christ during the invitation at the end of a Sunday service," says Missionary Leland Bertsch. "What struck me, however, was how many people had a part in sharing the Gospel with her." Bertsch, who serves in the Philippines, says this girl lived with one of the church families. "I know of at least five others who shared with her the plan of salvation over the last year," reflects Bertsch.

"She started attending services in January, and the experience of fellowship spoke to her as well. If I were to ask our members who it was who led her to Christ, the only answer would be: 'We all did!' When the body works together with every member functioning, it grows."

## Youth Moving to Cities in Cameroon

by Jakob and Lorie Koch

With the increase in formal education, youth are moving out of the villages and into the cities where schools and colleges are located. The temptations and challenges facing these youth are staggering and often overwhelming. Materialism, alcohol, promiscuity, and so on, seem to become a part of everyday life. In addition, work with youth in the villages continues to bring its own challenges with the influence of native religions and spirit worship that is still deeply ingrained in society.

At the beginning of July, the National Youth Council met for

three days to discuss and plan for youth work in the Cameroon Baptist Convention over the next six to twelve months.

Please pray with us that we will know how we can best contribute to the furtherance of the Gospel among the youth in Cameroon.

## Barnabas Seminars Held during Health Care Clinics

by Daphne Dunger

We are holding "Barnabas" seminars during each visit to our Life Abundant Programme (LAP) posts during this year (total of six to eight hour sessions over three visits.) Our first round has proved to be a blessing. (Barnabas means "Son of Encouragement.") Please pray that at least one-third of the church leaders attending may be seriously challenged to a new *active commitment* in their Christian walk through these times of sharing. Pray also that each of our LAP central team may be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in our preparation and doing. (LAP combines primary health care and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.)

## 15 Baptized in Creek in Cameroon

by James Garbat

Eight passengers and the driver packed into a local taxi. Slipping and sliding as we drove on muddy roads, we wondered if we would slide off the road. Then we walked two kilometers through a rubber tree plantation to a creek. We were on our way to a vil-

lage named Laduma to see 15 young people baptized in a creek, which had been blocked up to raise the water level. This service doubled the church's membership.

On our way back from the river going through the village, we enjoyed singing and dancing. The church service, communion, fellowship, and eating followed. We were blessed by seeing the Lord's work in a very different setting than at our Baptist church in Kumba. — James Garbat, missionary serving in Bamenda, Cameroon.

## Missionaries Church Participation Encourages Christians

by Jim and Karen Szymanski

While visiting our pastor at his home in Gembu, he expressed much joy that we were attending Sunday school, Sunday morning and evening services, as well as the Wednesday evening teaching/business meetings. We did not think much about attending all these services. We would do the same if we were back home. The Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25, NIV).

However, the pastor expressed how just "being there" was a great encouragement to the Christians in the church. It was a witness showing that it is important for even "educated Christians" to gather for prayer and to hear teaching from God's Word.

We realized how action does speak louder than words. People do notice what we believe to be important by how we live. Therefore, as Paul says, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." (I Corinthians 11:1, NAS).

## Edmonton Youth Serve in Philippines

During the summer, a team of five from Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, and two Filipino Bible school students conducted special activities at the church planting point in Legazpi City, Philippines.

"How would our group be affected when they left?" wondered Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch. "In the Sundays immediately following, our attendance actually increased," reported the Bertschs. "Many commented on the Lord's wonderful timing. As a result, the momentum is continuing. Thanks to these volunteers, we have several new outreach Bible studies. This brings the total to nine, six of which are led by members of our group. One or two new ones are expected to start soon."

Pray for new Christians who need to follow through on their decision to become active in a local fellowship.

## "Making Choices" Theme of Youth Camp in Cameroon

More than 150 youth attended the Cameroon Baptist Convention Youth Camp held in July in Mamfe. "Generally it rains night and day," says Missionary Wilma Binder,

"but God gave us very favorable weather, as we had sunny days and rainy nights."

The theme of the camp, "Making Choices," helped to meet needs of the youth "as they are seeking answers and are open to counselling," reports Wilma.

One young girl had lost her assurance of salvation, because her mother had taken the whole family to a native medicine man to protect them. The father was quite ill, so the mother thought a family member was trying to get rid of them. The question: Should the daughter have refused to to and disobey her mother?

Pastor Njongi openly and frankly warned the youth that as Christians they should not become involved in native medicine and mixed marriages.

"Miss Woloa and I met with the girls, and the pastors with the boys," says Wilma. "After this, we had time for individual counselling."

A goodly number of young people came for salvation and rededication after the sermon, "Choosing Life or Death."

The Cameroon Baptist Convention plans to have a permanent camp at Bimbila, near Limbe, within two years time. "The camp will be started in January, and it will be prefabricated in Canada," reports Wilma. "One of the pastors has been overseeing the clearing of the land. Pray for the young people in northern California who are sponsoring this project and who will be coming to put up the buildings."

## Evans Begin Missionary Serve in the Philippines

"Thank you for your prayers for our arrival and settling-in in the Philippines," say Gregg

and Maria Evans, new missionaries. "Two weeks after our arrival, the Lord ministered to Maria through a sermon (enough of it was in English for us to get the gist), which aided her in her recovery from homesickness."

Gragg has given his testimony at church, a devotional lesson at a midweek prayer meeting, and delivered sermons. They are involved in outreach at a local high school (the largest in the country) and home visitation, also.

The congregation of the church that Gregg and Maria presently attend is helping them learn the language. "We enjoy their assistance and fellowship immensely," says Gregg. "The Lord has provided us with a new family, just as He promised (Mark 10:29-30)."

"God has also given us a good contact for personal evangelism," says Gregg. "One of my language helpers, Zaldy, a non-Christian, attended our church three of the last four Sundays."

For a recent Tagalog lesson, Gregg had Zaldy record for him the first 18 verses of John's gospel. It was the first time Zaldy ever read this. "We expect good things to come of this relationship," says Gregg.

The way of life in the Philippines is very different from what the Evans were accustomed to in North America. Maria says that she is slowly adjusting to domestic life. She's learning to live with lizards, roaches, other insects, and even mice.

"Adjusting is not always easy, but the strain is lessened when we are reminded of what a great privilege it is to serve God in this way," says Gregg. "We are thrilled to be here in the Philippines. Thank you for your prayer and financial supports. Both are ongoing needs."



## what's happening

■ **The Rev. Bob Carroll** began his ministry at Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, on June 1, 1988. He had served as Assistant Pastor at Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, Richmond, BC, from 1980 to 1983, and as Assistant Pastor at McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, from 1983 to 1988. His wife Audrey and three children join him in ministry.

■ Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, appointed **Glen Nemetchek** as youth pastor and **Ed Peters** as student pastor in September.

■ On Sept. 11, 1988, Apple Valley Baptist Church officially welcomed **Andrew Owzarek** as their Minister of Youth. He helps youth in grade 6 through 12 plan and implement activities, Bible studies, and special outings. Originally from Winnipeg, MB, he is a graduate of North American Baptist College and North American Baptist Seminary. Owzarek has been visitation worker at Apple Valley since November 1987.

■ **The Rev. Ed Underwood** resigned as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, Michigan. **The Rev. Norman Vernon** is serving as interim pastor there.

■ **The Rev. David Dryer**, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha,

WI, received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, this fall. His thesis analyzed sermon conclusions of great preachers.

■ **Rick Leary** assumed the position of Associate Pastor at Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA, on Nov. 1, 1988. He previously served on the staff at Grace Baptist Church, Glendora, CA.

■ **Tom Jackson** resigned as youth pastor at Sierra College Boulevard Baptist Church, Rocklin, CA, effective Dec. 31, 1988.

■ **The Rev. Herbert Bachler** is the new pastor at Smokey Lake Baptist Church, Alberta.

■ **The Rev. Art Bettig** has resigned as Associate Pastor of Central Baptist Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, to serve with New Life Ministries, India.

■ The First Baptist Church of Elgin, IA, held an installation service for their new pastor, the **Rev. Jon Cooke**, on Nov. 20, 1988. The Rev. Jacob Ehman preached the installation sermon. Pastor Cooke, his wife Pam, and daughter Lindsey came from Olympic View Baptist Church in Tacoma, WA, where he served previously.—*Ruth Jacob*

■ **John Dotson** became pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, Oregon, in June 1988. He is a graduate of Marshall University; served as Per-

sonal Director for Athletes in Action track team, University of Oregon; and graduated from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, Portland, in May 1988. His wife Kristi and son Alexander join him in ministry. The Rev. LeRoy Schauer, area minister, gave the installation message on June 26. The Reverends Donald Richter, Robert Vogel, Phil Yntema, Perry Kallis, and James Andrews participated in the service as well as laymen Seth Marks and Rod Rosentreter.

■ **The Rev. Jim Renke**, Sacramento, California, was installed as pastor of Aplington Baptist church, Iowa, on July 10. Renke graduated from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in May and was ordained June 5 in Sacramento, California. He pastored Central Baptist Church, George, Iowa, during the past two years as a seminary student. His wife Kris and son Andrew join him in ministry.

■ **The Rev. and Mrs. Terrence Midkiff** and daughters Rachel and Rebekah were honored at a farewell reception on June 19 at Central Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, where he served as pastor. Midkiff has enrolled at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

■ **Mrs. Leslie Chaffee**, former missionary to Cameroon, West Africa, died in Everett, Washington, August 9, 1988.

## in memoriam

JOHN FISCHER (88), Ashley, ND; born July 4, 1900, in South Russia; died Nov. 2, 1988; married Emma Schauer, May 24, 1924; member, Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND; survived by one daughter Violet (Mrs. Ernest Goehring) of Long Lake, SD; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law Pricilla Fischer of Eureka, SD; two brothers, Christoph and Ted; Rev. Allan Gerber, pastor, funeral service.

WILLIAM ERBELE (90), Lansing, MI; born Feb. 5, 1898, in Logan County, ND; died Oct. 11, 1988; member, Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, MI; survived by his wife Hulda of 63 years; two daughters; two sons; two sisters; two brothers; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

several nieces and nephews; Rev. Elmo Taharn, pastor, funeral service.

MARY BRAUN (91), Auburn, MI; born May 30, 1897, in Colosna, Russia; died Aug. 8, 1988; married Otto Braun, March 26, 1914, who predeceased her in 1976; member, First Baptist Church, Auburn, MI, for 51 years; survived by six sons: Reinhold, Berthold, and Donald, Auburn, MI; Adolph, Anaheim, CA; Arthur, Phoenix, AZ; Gustave, Pueblo, CO; three daughters: Elsie Jezowski and Margaret Jezowski; Midland, MI; Elaine Johansson, Lake Jackson, TX; 22 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; Reverends Robert Hess and Frederic Spalding, pastors, funeral service.

LYDIA BREITKREUZ (87), St. Petersburg, FL; born Feb. 17, 1901, to Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Pohl in Woly-nien, Poland; died Aug. 5, 1988; married Henry Breitzkreuz of U.S.A., April 21, 1922, in Poland; returned together to New Jersey, U.S.A.; moved to Florida in 1957; church member, choir member, Ladies Missionary Circle, vacation Bible school, helped the poor and widows; predeceased by her husband Henry in 1984, oldest son, Alfred in 1985, five sisters, and three brothers; survived by one son, George (Viola) of Denver, CO; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister; Rev. Bob L. Christie, pastor, funeral service.

## news

### Religious Coalition in Canada makes Statement on Human Life

"Never before has Canada seen such a religious coalition," commented Brian Stiller, executive director, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

Stiller was commenting on the October (1988) intervention to the Supreme Court made concerning the Borowski case. The General Council of EFC approved the move at its September meeting.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and other Canadian religious groups formed an Inter-Faith Coalition.

The coalition declares its basis to be a) that all human life irrespective of the stage of development has transcendent value, worth beyond merely human valuing; b) that all forms of human life are sacred as created in the divine image and have the right to be respected and protected by law; c) that society has the right and the duty to do justice and protect the weak and the vulnerable; and d) that where life is in question, there must be a presumption in favour of the maintenance and protection of life.

North American Baptists Inc. Canada was among the 23 other groups signing the Factum.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is composed of 26 Protestant denominations. In addition, para-church agencies, local churches, and individuals are members of the Fellowship. It is estimated that there are two and one half million evangelical Protestants in Canada.

## Church Growth Tips

### Reaching People On the Move

The average family moves 14 times in their lifetime. Young adults are the most mobile group of the U.S. population. In recent years, 36.4 percent of U.S. residents who were between the ages of 20 and 24 changed their place of residence. Of persons 25 through 29 years of age, 31 percent changed addresses.

The magazine *Net Results* reported, "Older persons are more likely to stay put. Even when they move, they tend to stay in the same county. Sixty percent of the people aged 55 or older who moved their residence in a recent year stayed within the county. The *Real Estate Today* article from which these figures are taken says that retirees who move to other states are usually more affluent, better educated, and more active than other retirees."

The University of Illinois asked the question, "On what basis do people choose their new locations. Their study indicates that 71 percent say they moved to be close to relatives and/or friends; 47 percent say that one of the household members had lived there before; and 46 percent say

their new location was a frequent vacation spot.

What does this say to the church? where should ministry be formed?

- 1.) Reach out to welcome and assimilate young adults by offering ministries that meet their needs.
- 2.) Encourage members to invite their moving relatives and friends to worship with them.
- 3.) Keep contact with people who visit your church while vacationing in your area.
- 4.) Periodically send your newsletter to people who once lived in your community and may move back.
- 5.) Establish a visitation plan that contacts all new people who move into the vicinity of your church.
- 6.) Keep good records.

You can reach people on the move!

*Ray Harsch*

Associate Director for Evangelism and Church Growth, Church Growth Ministries Department

### 50th Anniversary of Christianity in Mambilla, Nigeria, to be Celebrated

Warwar Baptist Church and the Mambilla Baptist Convention, Nigeria, invite all its former missionaries and other supportive brothers and sisters of the North American Baptist Conference to join in a celebration of praise for the 50th Anniversary of Christianity in Mambilla, Nigeria, West Africa. The celebration will be held May 27-28, 1989, at Warwar Baptist Church.

For more details, write  
The Executive Secretary  
Mambilla Baptist Convention  
P. O. Box 6  
Gembu, Gongola State  
NIGERIA

### Mission Baptist Church

771 Sargent Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

invites all former members, pastors, and friends to the

### 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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