

Baptist Herald

July / August 1990



BUILDING A

LANE
IN CAMEROON

(See page 16)



SIMPLICITY

by Arnie Kirschner

Simplicity — the very word seems foreign to those of us living in a nation of abundance. Many different images and thoughts surface evoking various emotions.

Perhaps you, like I, entertain ideas of the simple life as being a spartan existence possessing only what is necessary to feed, clothe, and shelter oneself and one's family.

A spiritual discipline can be one of abstinence, or it can be a discipline of engagement. A discipline of abstinence would be denying oneself to a lesser or greater degree the enjoyment of some normal and legitimate desires. We may choose to go without food, sleep, companionship, or sex for a time to take part in some discipline of engagement such as study, fasting, service, or prayer.

In his book, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, Dallas Willard defines a spiritual discipline as "exercises unto godliness: Activities undertaken to make us capable of receiving more of His life and power without harm to ourselves and others." Just as we train and discipline ourselves to be able to perform an act to the best of our ability in the realm of the physical, so we must train and exercise ourselves to grow spiritually.

To do anything well, we have to train rigorously. Some can run a mile in less than four minutes but must push themselves to the limit and then keep pushing more and more. An athlete will perform skillful feats that win our admiration, but it is not the type or quality of his equipment, clothing, uniform, or shoes that enables him to accomplish. It is the many tiring hours of hidden practices, the training, and the diet behind the

"He is no fool who gives up that which he can never keep to gain that which he can never lose."
— Jim Elliot

scenes, that lead to the athlete's success.

Likewise, if we desire to be and function like Jesus, we should practice the spiritual disciplines as He did. Not only did Jesus fast and pray, He also practiced simplicity. As He was here on earth to do the Father's will, He did not use money or goods merely to gratify His desires, nor did He hunger for status or luxury. "But seek ye first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33 NIV).

Jesus stated the principle that absolute personal loyalty to God must take precedent over anything and everything else. A word of



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caution — the simple life is not to be equated with the least possible consumption of worldly goods. All these things can be very good — if they are used to support our relationship to God rather than to compete against it.

Richard J. Foster states in *Celebration of Discipline*: "Simplicity sets us free to receive the provisions of God as a gift that is not ours to keep and that can be freely shared with others."

As we practice the discipline of simplicity, God is faithful to provide. May we be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "...I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12 NIV).

I believe Jesus summed up the discipline of simplicity in John 12:24,25 NIV: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

In the spiritual life, we gain by giving. Are we willing to possess nothing in order to eventually get all things? □

Bible Readings

Monday	Matthew 6:19-34
Tuesday	Genesis 22:1-18
Wednesday	I Timothy 6:6-10
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-10
Friday	Mark 4:1-20
Saturday	Ephesians 4:17-5:2

(continued on page 21)



6



10



16

Articles

- 2 **Spiritual Disciplines Series**
Simplicity
Arnold Kirschner
- 4 **General Council Approves New Mission Fields, Appoints Directors, Acts on Theological Education Task Force Report**
- 6 **From the Professor's Desk**
The God Who Enters Human Pain
Daniel Leininger
- 9 **Vital Signs in Healthy Churches**
Ralph E. Cooke
- 10 **Kelm Family Receives "Best Possible" Gift for Daughter**
Margaret Knutson
- 12 **Winds of Change Blow through Colorado Church**
Joan Spletstoesser
- 14 **Where Is Your Church's Memory?**
Lyle E. Schaller
- 16 **Building a Youth Camp in Cameroon**
Darrell Schuh

Departments

- 8 **Triennial Conference 1991**
Sights to See in Milwaukee and Wisconsin
Tom Gaudio
- 19 **Mission News**
Growing through Prayer, Jerry and Monie Fluth
The Rehabilitation of a Burn Patient, Pat Lenz
- 20 **In Memoriam**
- 22 **Reaching New Heights**
President's Focus, Manetta Hohn
WMF Scholarship Recipients
Tools for Ministry
- 24 **Vision 2000 - Biblical Imperatives in Action**
- 28 **What's Happening**
- 30 **Willis Potratz Honored by General Council at Retirement**
- 32 **Estate Planning**
Your Estate Plan Does Not Need to Become Public Information

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

BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0 005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing office, and registered as Second Class Mail under permit #9327 at Norwich, Ontario. **SUBSCRIPTION RATES** in the United States—one year \$8.00; two years—\$15.00; Canada—one year \$10.50; Church Family Plan (United States)—\$6.00, (Canada)—\$8.00; Single Copy (US \$)—\$1.00; foreign subscription (US \$)—\$16.00 one year. **ADVERTISING RATE:** \$8.00 per inch single column (2 1/4 inches), black and white. **OBITUARIES:** \$8.00 US; \$9.00 CDN; to accompany obituary; (100 word limit). **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Six to eight weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Send address change to **Baptist Herald** subscriptions, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Member of Evangelical Press Association. **News reported and views expressed are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference.** 16mm microfilm, 35mm microfilm, and 104mm microfiche are available through University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. (Printed in the U.S.A.)

General Council

During its annual sessions, June 1 and 2, the General Council voted to approve beginning work in two new mission fields in 1991, appointed two new department directors, and acted on the Theological Education Task Force report. The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, moderator, and Richard Russell, vice moderator, chaired the General Council, composed of two or three representatives elected by each of the 20 Associations.

- The Council granted the Board of Missions' request to establish a mission presence in Eastern Europe in 1991. At this time, the specific country and type of work is being discussed with the Baptist Conventions in Eastern Europe. The ministry is expected to be in the areas of leadership education, Bible and Christian literature distribution, evangelism, and relief efforts in cooperation with our sister Baptist conventions. The Board of Missions has appointed the Rev. and Mrs. Harold Dressler of Vancouver, BC, as missionaries to Eastern Europe.

- The second new mission work approved by the General Council is in Mexico City in cooperation with the Mexican Baptist Convention. The missionaries are to be appointed in 1991. Because of the great need for an evangelical witness in this city and the opportunity to provide a base for youth summer ministries, this city was chosen.

- The Rev. Gene Kern, representing the Theological Education Task Force, reported that the survey conducted by the Task Force affirmed that the Conference continue to provide theological education through its own schools in both Canada and the United States.

Both seminaries were affirmed in their recruitment of students from other denominations, provided they meet appropriate criteria, and the

- approves two new mission fields,
- appoints two directors, and
- acts on theological education task force report

schools strive to retain a majority of Baptist students.

The Task Force encouraged the N.A.B. Seminary to continue to actively pursue the concept of satellite extension programs and the N.A.B. Divinity School to actively consider this, also. The Task Force also encouraged Associations and churches to assist and cooperate in developing such regional delivery of courses by supporting them financially and through offering their facilities for such purposes.

The Task Force also affirms the desirability of liaison and coordination in determining academic priorities and programs in theological education, and that this be the responsibility of the schools' administration, to which would be added senior Conference personnel.

The General Council approved the following recommendations of the Task Force:

1) that the Seminary and the Divinity School develop specializations in such areas as church planting, youth ministries, cross-cultural ministries, and music;

2) that churches be encouraged to provide funding and time for pastors to take advantage of continuing education courses and, further, to provide time off;

3) that the schools be encouraged to develop internship and residency programs; and associations, churches, and pastors cooperate in providing such programs;

4) that the Conference continue to provide theological education at N.A.B. Seminary and N.A.B. Divinity School;

5) that the Divinity School Board and faculty research and develop the criteria, timeline, and budget for the move toward achieving full accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools;

6) that the N.A.B. Seminary and N.A.B. Divinity School be encouraged to explore cooperative ventures in theological education with each other and with other Baptist groups;

7) endorsed the joint resolution developed by representatives of N.A.B. Divinity School and Carey Hall (Baptist Union of Western Canada) to cooperate in theological education in every feasible way which will provide evidence for a positive witness of Christian unity to the world at large, offer a wider scope and better quality of professional ministry education at both schools, and strengthen the recruitment appeal to potential students of both Conferences.

The recommendation that requests for major capital funds campaigns for expansion of the schools and changes in the formula for operational subsidy be supported by both boards of the Divinity School and the Seminary prior to submission to the General Council was referred back to the Conference Executive Committee and the two schools following questions raised by Seminary Board Chair Peter Fehr.

- The request that the Conference provide funds to the Seminary in Sioux Falls for a church planting internship supervisor including salary, equipment, and support costs of that person was referred to the Church Growth Ministries Board for further discussion and is to be brought back to the General Council in 1991. Church Growth Board Chair



Bill Kauffeldt stated that the Board did not have the finances to fund this request.

- N.A.B. Seminary and N.A.B. Divinity School received permission to conduct a cooperative Conference-wide capital funds campaign to raise 4.86 million dollars for expansion of theological education.

The General Council did ask the schools to report definitive plans for their joint campaign to the Executive Committee in February 1991 and the General Council in June. Plans are to launch the campaign at the Triennial Conference in 1991 and begin raising funds in late 1991 or early 1992. The Seminary in Sioux Falls plans to build a chapel/multipurpose building and increase endowment funds. The Divinity School in Edmonton will use its anticipated funds for a seminary complex on the campus of North American Baptist College. The \$4,860,000 drive is to be coordinated with the "New Churches... New Life" and missions expansion fund-raising efforts.

- The N.A.B. Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, received permission to change its name to Edmonton Baptist Seminary. Dr. Paul Siewert, president of the School, stated that the words Divinity

School did not have the significance or meaning that the word Seminary has to the constituency in Canada. Since the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, already has that name, they chose Edmonton Baptist Seminary. The Council approved the name change.

In other action, the General Council

- Accepted the 1991 Conference budget goal of \$7,468,190 including (A) \$6,075,000 for Established Ministries; (B) \$862,190 for Expansion Ministries, and (C) \$531,000 for Special Projects, which includes the estate planning projected income goal of \$205,000.

- Approved a new Mission Statement of the North American Baptist Conference, as follows: "The strategic focus of the North American Baptist Conference cooperative ministries in *Vision 2000* is to evangelize and disciple people globally by enhancing ministries in established churches and planting new churches that are committed to implement six Biblical Imperatives to worship, grow, witness, serve, give, and care."

- Appointed Ron Salzman as Director of Management (Financial)

Services, effective Sept. 1, 1990. He has served as Missions Director since 1985.

- Appointed Herman Effa as Missions Director, upon recommendation of the Board of Missions, effective Sept. 1, 1990. He has been Associate Missions Director for Promotion since 1986.

- Approved the change of the name of the Financial Services Department to Management Services Department in recognition of the fact that this Department is responsible for functions in addition to finances.

- Approved the formation of the North American Baptist Conference Historical Archives. The purpose is to raise funds from membership fees to help to develop the Conference Archives. Former missionary Berneice Westerman will be assisting and is being trained by the present archivist, Dr. George Dunger.

- Reappointed Jake Leverette and Egon Nickolai for another year as N.A.B. Inc. (Canada) representatives to the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada General Council.

- Nominated John Binder to the Triennial Conference in 1991 for election to a subsequent three-year term (1991-1994) as executive director of the Conference.

- Chose Edmonton, AB, as the site of the 45th Triennial Conference in 1997, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made. Enthusiastic invitations were also received from the British Columbia and Manitoba Associations. The 1991 Conference is scheduled for Milwaukee, WI, and the 1994 Conference for Dallas, TX.

Two items for prayer are for God's direction in regard to someone to fill the position of Area Ministries Director and possible nominees for the Triennial Conference ballot for the position of Conference treasurer in 1991. The present treasurer, Milton Hildebrandt, has indicated he will be retiring and does not wish to seek re-election. □

The God Who Enters Human Pain



by Dan Leininger

Charles laid in his hospital bed as the doctor told him the extent of his intestinal cancer. When the physician finished, Charles rolled over to face the wall and said, "Well, I guess there is nothing else to do but die."

At that moment, Charles also seemed to face another wall, one deep inside of him. He would not speak to family or friends. He expressed little or no emotion. He did not say good-byes. He found no joy in seeing friends or even his grandchildren. He often would not answer when spoken to. The people who thought they knew him had never seen this side of Charles. Everyone who cared about him felt lonelier and lonelier in those final months before his death. His despair was evident to those who loved him, but he seemed unable to allow anyone to enter into that private world of pain.

The pains of life are inevitable. Whether they be physical, emotional, or spiritual, we find threads of pain woven into the fabric of all human experience. The simple truth is that life is painful. Acting as if

this were not so proves to be neither helpful nor at times even possible. As Christians, we are certainly not immune to pain. It will inflict itself on us with the same intensity that everyone else experiences it.

The pains of life take many forms. Nothing can be as excruciating as physical pain. It traps us within the limits of our own body. At the moment of intense physical pain, nothing else seems to exist except the pain itself. Yet emotional pain can debilitate as well. A tragic loss can change an entire family for a lifetime.

The spiritual aspect of pain is what happens to our faith in the midst of the pains of living. Pain will inevitably produce a crisis of faith. For Charles, that became a silent crisis of faith. The silence separated him from loved ones. The unfinished business of "letting go" of life and relationships remained unfinished. The physical pain which Charles experienced could be relieved and managed. But he seemed totally unprepared for the slow spiritual and emotional agony of that gray day when the doctor brought the sad news.

Charles had numerous losses and griefs in his life, but he seldom mentioned them either. Even his closest friends did not know some of his past pains. He cloaked his memories in short answers which hid more than they revealed. He was a man acquainted with loss and grief, but he felt strangely unprepared to live his closing months as he curled up in his hospital bed that day.

The Psalms have much to say about the crises of faith and human emotions. They are the distilled essence of human faith and doubt from the mountain tops of praise to the valleys of despair. The Psalms

are profoundly resistant of any attempt to deny and cover over the darkness which we are sometimes called to enter.

The Psalms are consistent with the flow of human life, whether it be through satisfied seasons of well-being that call out responses of gratitude (Psalms 66, 75, 100), or through painful seasons of suffering where disturbing emotions become our only companions. Matching the latter are the Psalms of disorientation which scholars call "laments" (Psalms 6, 55, 102). They contain the concentrated honesty of confession born of pain and trust. Here doubt grows larger than faith. In the jagged emotions of such a season, God seems so far away as to be absent or hidden.

Yet into the flow of life come moments when joy breaks through the despair as welcomed by Psalms of reorientation (Psalms 32, 118, 126, 149). These are the surprising times of a new beginning which come as gifts of God. Into the darkness comes the astonishment of one small ray of light, a fresh intrusion which makes all things new. Yet we do not just change or quit grieving all at once. Such transformations are filled with surprises and can be reached only by the journey through pain.

Of all the Psalms which express human pain, Psalm 22 proves the most poignant. The poet's cry, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" has echoed through the ages from the lips of the tormented. Such an expression of forsakenness has a paradox in it. We experience the absence only of those whose presence we have felt previously and of whom we have become keenly and longingly aware. Some memory or representation of that presence has etched itself upon our

soul. Thus, the poet's weeping is an act of faith. The thirsty soul's cry to the remembered presence of the gracious covenant God (Psalm 106:44-45).

It is both ironic and reassuring that Jesus quoted Psalm 22 from the cross. Consider the following question: If a committee of Baptists were asked to recommend which Psalm our Lord was to quote as He hung on the cross, what would be the likelihood of such a committee picking Psalm 22? Why not a more pleasant affirmation of faith? Why not "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want?" Why a Psalm of almost scandalous accusation?

Jesus opened Himself to God in bearing the anguish of His soul to the Heavenly, Abba, Father. What are we to make of Jesus' cry of forsakenness? The answer is found in the steadfast love of God. The heart of the Lover God has already been laid bare (John 3:16a). The anguished cry of lament represents a human act of honest response to God's invitation to live in covenant relationship. God honors the trust and confession of that act. Since God desires to genuinely know the heart of His children, the immaturity or distortion of what is said is no offense. Only in the act of casting ourselves upon God can the depth of that mercy be found.

Because of God's compassionate entry into human pain, what avenues open to us in our crises of faith? Allow me to suggest the following:

1) We can talk to God about our own pains. "Lord, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me." Is there something wrong with such a request? Is there something wrong with repeating it three times when all our friends have deserted us? Only in honest struggle can the answer come.

If this is our cup with our name engraved on it, then the options are to drink or to flee. To wrestle and to choose our appropriate suffering is



Dan Leininger

to align ourselves with the Kingdom of God.

"Nevertheless not my will but thine be done." Yet remember that these words of Jesus did not settle the struggle. He still felt forsaken on the cross; yet again He opened His pain to God.

2) We can talk to trusted friends about our pain. A minister troubled by the painful experiences of his ministry visited a friend several hundred miles away. In the time together, he shared the agony of watching years of work suddenly change and evaporate over night. He described the losses and sense of failure which he bore. He recounted the intense anger, doubt, and confusion which all of this brought to him. All the old answers were not working any more. The advice that he had faithfully dispensed to others through the years did not work now for himself. Doubts turned to despair.

After much listening, the friend congratulated the minister for not running away from his pain. The minister wept.

3) We can ask others about their pain. The friend who listened was no stranger to such pain; he had also been listened to in his griefs and losses. He had slowly grown strong in the places where he had been broken. "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

4) We need not be frightened by tears, doubts, or forsakenness when they are honestly confessed. We don't make people cry by asking about painful things. People cry

because they hurt and need to cry about it. The crying minister thought he could juggle his pain for a few months and go on with business as usual. He tried to run from it and found that he couldn't. His own integrity would not allow either running or denial. As he continued, he began to accept his own pain and to consider this suffering as an important metamorphosis to another stage of life and faith. The tears helped to do that.

Deep inside, he knew that for all its insidious agony, this pain would not ultimately destroy him. For one of the truths of the kingdom is that pain once accepted becomes our ally in life and in ministry. Pain is, therefore, transformed into suffering and because God has entered human pain, suffering has been turned to victory.

5) Thank people for their honest faith. Let them know that we value knowing their life at its deepest trials. Sometimes our doubts are the only gifts that we have to bring to God. God does not despise such honest confession, for it is truly born of faith. At such priestly moments, any believer can exercise the awesome power of listening love and become, as it were, the ears of the God who entered human pain.

The ultimate rejoicing lies in the fact that the God who created human life and chose His people with steadfast love was the same God who was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. Jesus' cry from the cross confirms both God's full entry into human pain and the reconciliation which came from that sacrificial act.

The power of reconciled faith gives birth to resurrected life. Because God has entered human pain, the world will never be the same. □

Dr. Dan Leininger is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Sights to see in Milwaukee and Wisconsin

by Tom Gaudio

What do magnificent shorelines, rolling green farmland, stately pine forests, spectacular waterfalls, and crystal clear lakes have in common? They belong to the site of the 43rd North American Baptist Triennial Conference — America's Dairyland, Wisconsin! Rich in natural wonders and recreational activities, Wisconsin is the ideal family summer getaway.

Fish superb trout streams. Watch cheese being made and cranberries being harvested. See a dairy farm. Relax in a cozy cottage or camp on a campground on one of Wisconsin's nearly 15,000 inland lakes. Visit nationally known museums from Baraboo's Circus World to Oshkosh's EAA Air Adventure Museum to Green Bay's Packer Hall of Fame.

Looking for more action? Try tubing the Apple, canoeing the Peshtigo, rafting the Wolf, or cruising the Mississippi on a paddlewheeler. For the ultimate family adventure, don't miss the Wisconsin Dells. It's an action packed adventureland with over 60 unique attractions — from dare-devil thrill shows to one of the Midwest's largest water parks — all nestled in a magnificent seven mile stretch of the Wisconsin River where glacially sculpted cliffs tower 100 feet above water.

Don't leave before sampling some mouth-watering Wisconsin specialties. Try a Sheboygan brat with kraut; nibble at some golden roasted corn with real Wisconsin butter; pick up some squeaky



cheese curds fresh from the factory, and don't miss a Friday fish boil in Door County.

The showplace of Wisconsin is the "city of festivals," Milwaukee. Over a dozen major festivals are celebrated throughout the summer months saluting the city's rich cultural heritage. It's this heritage that gives Milwaukee its special charm — a mixture of Old World hospitality and New World vigor. Milwaukeeans call it "gemutlichkeit," the German word for friendliness.

This unique combination is what gives the city the ability to offer world class dining, entertainment, and recreational activities without the big city hassle. Within walking distance of the convention center, MECCA, is an exciting fine arts complex. Drama, ballet, opera, symphony, and concerts can be seen at the Performing Arts Center, the historic Pabst theater, and the brand new \$100 million Milwaukee Center. Or take the enclosed "skywalk" from MECCA to the Grand Avenue, a unique major

retail shopping center that actually winds through four city blocks and five ornate historic buildings in downtown Milwaukee.

Perhaps Milwaukee's most famous attractions are its natural history museum — fourth largest in the nation — where you can experience a Costa Rican rain forest; a one-of-a-kind horticultural display called the "Domes" for its three mammoth glass domes; and the County Zoo, ranked as one of the three top zoos in the country.

One of Milwaukee's most appealing qualities is its low cost. You can enjoy excellent food, entertainment, and lodging at modest prices.

So come to the Triennial Conference and plan to spend some time discovering the beauty and fun of Wisconsin and Milwaukee. Experience for yourself the meaning of "gemutlichkeit"! □

Tom Gaudio of Kenosha, WI, is Communications Chair for the Local Arrangements Committee.

VITAL SIGNS IN HEALTHY CHURCHES

by Ralph Cooke

The size of a church is not the gauge that reveals a healthy church. Small churches can be healthy and alive. Big churches may be sickly and anemic.

Healthy churches are

- *worshipping* churches that delight in knowing God personally, in knowing and meditating upon God's Word. They love to sing, pray, and celebrate as children of the Heavenly Father who delight to be with and care for each other.
- *caring* churches where people love each other, love hurting people, love strangers, and show that care in word and deed.
- *serving* churches where people delight in ministry, in living for others, in doing things for the glory of God and not for personal gain or reward.
- *giving* churches that acknowledge God's ownership of all things including themselves and see

themselves as stewards of God's possessions including time, resources, and abilities.

- *witnessing* churches as joyous worshipping, caring, serving, and giving people share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and depend totally upon God for results from their testimony.
- *growing* churches as worshippers become like Christ and live lives of caring, serving, giving, and witnessing for the glory and honor of God and His Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unhealthy churches

- magnify personal achievement as individuals strive for power, prestige, and praise. These communities are highly competitive and extremely concerned about who gets the credit. Worship is counterfeit, a facade for self-interest.
- are cold and unfriendly with worship a fraud, being used as an escape from being concerned for people.
- are selfish with individual, family,

- and corporate life being self-centered and self-serving. Positions are sought for personal honor rather than as a means to serve.
- do not belong to God, they belong to the people who bought them. Material possessions in these churches are for the showcase not for ministry.
- do not exist for the salvation of souls, unless the pastor or the missionaries win them. After all, these people were hired to do this and, if they fail, they should be replaced. They are treated like baseball managers — they win or they are fired.
- are stagnant, lifeless, and unChrist-like. They do not grow in quality or quantity. They may be orthodox but dead.



How do you read the vital signs in your church? □

Rev. Ralph Cooke is North Central Area minister and resides in Bismarck, ND.

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Kelm Family Receives 'Best Possible' Gift for Daughter

by Margaret Knutson,
The Hutchinson Leader

In December 1989, Harold "Harry" and Cindy Kelm received the best gift for which they could hope for Christmas.

It came on their visit to a cancer specialist at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, where they were told that trimonthly blood work-ups on their two-year-old daughter, Sara Anne, could now become semi-yearly occurrences.

Sara, whose father is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Hutchinson, was only nine months

old when doctors discovered a two and one half pound tumor on her left kidney.

"Everything moved pretty rapidly after that," Kelm relates. "Two days later, Sara underwent surgery to remove not only the tumor but the kidney and adrenal gland as well."

For the next week, the Kelms waited for Sara's doctors to tell them that their little girl was on her way to recovery. Instead, the news brought to them was that two types of cancer were contained in the tumor. Both are rare enough on their own, but the combination was nearly unknown and previously unheard of in anyone Sara's age.

The specialists' prime concern, the Kelms were told, was how to proceed with treatment. Had Sara been older, both radiation and chemotherapy would have been used. Instead, doctors decided to concentrate on the more serious of the two cancers, using chemotherapy on a weekly basis. To eliminate injecting the chemicals through the baby's veins, a second surgery was performed to insert a Hickman catheter in her chest. Through it, chemicals traveled directly to her heart to be pumped throughout her small body.

With her surgeries, Sara dropped from a weight of 22 pounds to 14. During chemotherapy, growth stopped. She was the same 28 inches tall after five months of therapy that she had been at nine months of age. She lost her hair, a fact borne out by a photo Kelm carries showing his completely bald but brightly smiling daughter at Christmastime a year ago.

"We've had a good year," the Kelms say of 1989. "Since Sara's combination of cancers was new to her doctors, they had no basis for comparison with other patients. While they are very guarded in their optimism, we feel that we've reached at least the first stage of her recovery in having the length of time between checkups extended."

Now standing 34 inches tall and weighing 26 pounds, Sara is a good-natured, book-loving, healthy appearing little girl.

The toddler has been surprising her parents since arriving on the scene almost a month prematurely in LaCrosse, WI.

"We were taking part in a family camp at Lansing, IA, when my water broke," Cindy says. "When we learned the nearest hospital was at LaCrosse, we took off." The couple's six pound, seven ounce daughter arrived not long after, on August 8, 1987.

Their experience with Sara's illness, the Kelms agree, has made them more sensitive to the pain of others. Both feel that Sara, too, senses discomfort in those around her. If Mom cries, for example, Sara cries with her. If a child cries in church, Sara can't rest until she goes to the child and is assured he or she is all right. "If I think about it," Kelm says, "I come to the conclusion that there was, for us, no great spiritual experience in Sara's illness. By that, I mean, that we knew Jesus before it happened and felt He was already our best friend. We didn't have to get to know Him as, I think, people who are suddenly faced with some crises might feel they have to do before they can pray.

"We moved through those days trusting in the doctors and going along with their recommendations, confident without even thinking about it that we were in God's hands. We know that our congregation was praying for us. We also know that, because of word being put out through our North American Baptist Conference, people throughout the United States, Canada, and other countries were praying as well.

"We've never really asked why such a thing should happen. We know God didn't cause the illness, but we know He got us through it and that whatever He has in store for us, He will be there with us, carrying us."

The Kelms believe that because of their relationship with Jesus Christ, they were able to enjoy good times in the midst of the bad times.

"If there were something we could say to others struggling with problems," the Kelms say, "it might be: Trust in Him and accept the joys of life. Find contentment in the little

things you might once have taken for granted. Realize that laughter is a way to deal with the stress of the world. Dare to be happy."

The Kelms are well aware that they have much for which to be happy and thankful: Sara's improved health, family, friends, and the opportunity to labor in the vineyard that is Bethany Baptist Church and the Hutchinson area.

Originally from Milwaukee, Kelm's parents and other family members are still in the city to which his father came in 1955 as a German immigrant. German was the pastor's first language, and he enjoys surprising people by speaking it fluently.

After graduating from high school in Milwaukee in 1977, Kelm studied for four years at North American Baptist College in Edmonton, Alberta, returning to the United States to enter Bethel Seminary in St. Paul. There he met Cindy who was majoring in elemen-

tary education and psychology. The two were married in 1983. In 1984, they accepted a call to Hutchinson.

For Cindy, it was something of a homecoming. The daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Etan Pelzer, she had lived in Hutchinson from 1963 to 1968 while her father was pastor of Bethany. From here, the Pelzer family moved to North Dakota, then Iowa. It was in her father's church in Cedar Rapids that the two were married on Aug. 13, 1983.

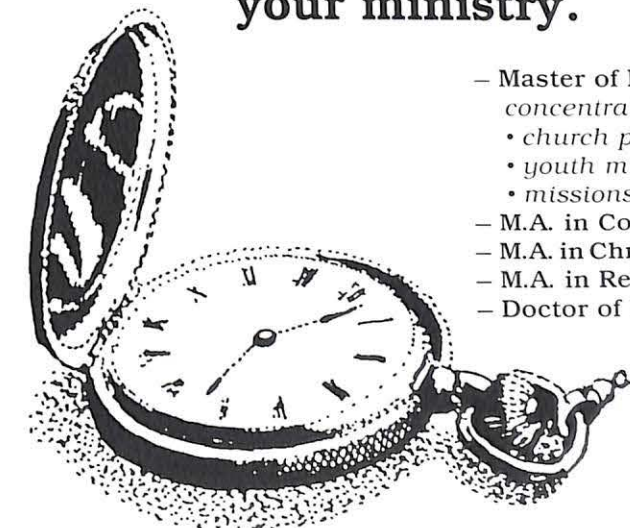
"We're really glad the Lord brought us here," the couple emphasize. "We've built friendships and relationships that are very important to us."

It is with firm faith and the prayer that all would find joy and peace in the love of Jesus Christ. □

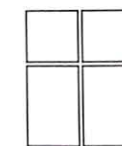
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Winds of Change Blow through Colorado Church

by Joan Spletstoesser

The winds of change have recently blown through Grace Baptist Church of Monte Vista, Colorado, along with the breath of life.

In May of 1987, the Rev. Earl and Lois Ahrens retired from the pastorate of Grace Baptist, after 28 years of service, and young Michael Mirelez assumed that responsibility, his first experience as a pastor.

During Pastor Michael's first year, all ran smoothly. The second year was one of painful analysis and adjustment, as expectations all around were brought to more realistic levels. For a very few people, that total change was unacceptable, and they left the church. For some others, there was frustration, disappointment, and misunderstanding. The attendance dwindled, with only a faithful few remaining. The church's continued existence was in question.

In June of 1989, three couples from First Baptist Church in Lodi, CA, came to help remodel the church. After their week in Monte Vista, there was no doubt that physical change was taking place. However, while their efforts were greatly appreciated, along with the funding they and other churches provided, there were questions in the hearts of the Grace people as to whether the church would exist long enough to see the project completed.

But God knew the plans He had for the Church, and the rest of 1989 saw steady changes for the better. Work on the church continued, most of it being done by members.

Even as physical changes were being made, God was preparing the church for spiritual change and growth. In the summer of 1989, a 35-member youth group from Nueva Vida (New Life) Baptist Church of Garland, Texas, came for

several days to sing and minister to the youth, especially. Several young people deepened their understanding and commitment as a result of this group's visit.

A few weeks later, a group of youth and adult sponsors from Oak Street Baptist Church of Burlington, Iowa, and Immanuel Baptist Church of Kankakee, Illinois, spent a week at Grace Baptist, doing backyard Bible clubs and reaching out to the neighborhood. With this group, were the Claire Bohlen Family Singers who did two programs — one on a stormy night when lightning knocked out all the power in town, and they sang without their customary tape backup; it was beautiful. Many young lives were touched and changed during that week, and 25 decisions for Christ were made.

In December, a lovely Christmas cantata was presented by Grace Baptist Church's newly formed choir.

Joan Spletstoesser is a member of Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, Colorado.

Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, Colorado



In January ten new believers representing three whole families began regular attendance, and attendance by old members began to increase as well. A sense of God's peace and strength began to infuse the Church as a whole, along with hope and an awareness that the Church has a place in God's plans for this part of the world.

We thank God for His love and faithfulness. We thank God for the Ahrens' long labor of love at Grace Baptist, and for the seeds of faith they sowed; some of them are bearing fruit even now. We thank God for Michael Mirelez and his faithfulness in difficult times, his willingness to work patiently with seeking people, and his vision for the future.

We know that God has answered our prayers — not long ago we prayed for healing of the church, and for new families to be added.

Within two months, these prayers were answered. Now we pray that God will bless our people with continuing growth, and that His love will shine through the pastor and people of Grace Baptist Church. May His name be praised. □

At press time it was learned that Pastor Mirelez was killed in an automobile accident in Kansas on Saturday night, June 30. Our sympathy is extended to the family and the Church.



Three couples from Lodi, CA, came to begin the remodeling process. After they left, the members continued the work. (Pastor Mirelez is at front right.)



They stripped the sanctuary to begin remodeling. The ceiling was lowered, and a new one of aspen put in place; walls were torn down, redone, painted and/or paneled; a new hot water heating system replaced the old noisy blower; new carpet provided a unifying element and a baptistry was installed — the first in the Church's history. The Church now has an open cheerful look.

Where Is Your Church's Memory?

by Lyle E. Schaller

"When we built the new educational wing in 1967, we were told by the architect that the foundation and walls were designed to carry the weight of a second story if we ever wanted to add it," recalled sixty-nine-year-old Henry Ferguson. "It would cost less to do that than to build another addition, and we wouldn't lose any of our parking."

"I don't think this building was designed to carry the weight of a second story," challenged Jack Reynolds, a contractor in this community for 12 years.

"All we have to do is check the original drawings prepared by the architect. Where are those plans?" suggested the recently arrived pastor.

"As near as we can figure out what happened, our set of architectural drawings were thrown away when we remodeled the office here back in 1979," replied another member. "I tried to find a set. When I couldn't find any here, I went to see if the architect who designed the building had a set. All of their records disappeared soon after the firm went into bankruptcy several years ago. I went to city hall and was told they keep a set for 20 years and then discard them. I don't believe a set of drawings still exists."

The missions committee in another church was planning a missions fair. "The last time we did this, we served a variety of ethnic dishes — food from different parts of the world," recalled a long-time committee member. "We ought to do that again."

"Sounds like a great idea," agreed the refreshments committee chair. "What did you serve, and how much of each dish did you prepare? Give me some idea; I am sure my group will be glad to carry out that suggestion."

"I haven't the faintest idea," came the reply. "Helen Highwater was in charge of the refreshments; now she is in a nursing home with Alzheimers. I don't know where we would find any record of that."

These moments of frustration illustrate a central need in every organization. Where is the institutional memory housed? Who can help today's leaders benefit from past experiences?

In hundreds of congregations, the answer is that it is the long-tenured pastor who has seniority on nearly all of the members. In many more, it is that key lay volunteer who has been heavily involved here for decades and makes everyone else envious of her remarkable memory. In a few traditions, the answer is a combination of the elected volunteer clerk plus accurate written records. In many larger congregations, the answer is Lillian, who joined the staff as the church secretary twenty-nine years and seven pastors earlier. In too few congregations, the heart of the institutional memory is that remarkably comprehensive set of records in the office.

Is This a Problem?

While some readers may discount this as a non-issue, in many congregations it is a serious problem. Perhaps the most common example is the newly arrived pastor who asks, "Could I see a copy of the list of the names of the people who may have displayed

some interest in joining this church? Maybe I should call on them."

While rarely expressed in these words, a common response is, "That list was carried in the head of your predecessor, and both the list and that minister disappeared several months ago."

A second example is when the possibility of purchasing the property next door for additional off-street parking comes back on the agenda. "If I remember correctly, we talked to the owner about acquiring that property back about 1985. What did we offer, and what was the owner asking?"

Often the answer is, "Lou Gardiner, a trustee at the time, knew the owner, and he handled all of the negotiations by himself. All I know is he told us the owner had some objections to selling it to us, but I don't know what

they were. If we knew what those objections were, we might be able to overcome them, but as you all know, Lou died last winter."

Perhaps the most common example is represented by the recollection, "I can remember when we had people in the balcony nearly every Sunday morning, and our Sunday school attendance was at least double what it is today." This type of statement can be remarkably useful in evoking feelings of nostalgia among the old-timers and in the effort to make the present pastor feel inadequate and/or guilty, but it is of little value in planning.

What was the average worship attendance back in that golden era? Was it really higher than today? Who sat in the balcony? Were all of the first floor pews filled, or did people go to the balcony because of a different view or better acoustics rather than to find a vacant seat? Who knows?

Three Beneficiaries

The most obvious beneficiary of reliable institutional memory is the new pastor. He can benefit greatly from knowing a range of facts such as: 1) What were the peak Sundays and the low Sundays for worship attendance for each of the past two or three years? 2) When was the roof last repaired, and what was the prediction when it again would need attention? 3) What are considered to be the inviolable traditions for Christmas Eve and Holy Week? 4) What is the normal tenure for Sunday school teachers and other volunteers? 5) What are the most widely and generously supported special financial appeals every year? 6) Do any of the office furniture, equipment, or chancel furnishings represent memorial gifts? 7) What are the traditions here in regard to baptism? 8) Who has keys to the buildings? 9) What are the names of the most recent adult new members? 10) Who is married to the former spouse of another member?

This is far from an exhaustive list. It is offered only to illustrate how knowledge can minimize embarrassment, guilt, and blunders.

A second beneficiary is the newly appointed long-range planning committee. Among the useful facts are: Do total member contributions, including special appeals, memorials, and other non-budgetary items exceed budgeted expenditures? If so, by how much? How does that compare with five years ago? (It is not at all uncommon for the budget to understate total member contributions by 15 to 40 percent.)

How many of the current members rarely or never attend Sunday morning worship? How does that compare with ten years ago?

How many first-time visitors do we have on a typical Sunday? How does that compare with five years ago? With ten years ago?

How many people attend an adult Sunday school

class at least 30 times a year? How does that compare with 10 years ago?

How many of our members "drop out" each year without asking for a letter of transfer? How does that compare with 10 years ago? With five years ago?

What proportion of our regular attenders have passed their 60th birthday? How does that compare with ten years ago?

How many babies were born to member families last year? How does that compare with 1980 or 1985?

How many high school age youth are regular participants in our youth program today? How does that compare with ten years ago?

How many of our regular attenders at worship grew up in a church of our denomination? How does that compare with ten years ago? With five years ago?

How many of our members attend Sunday morning worship at least three Sundays in the average month? How does that compare with five years ago?

How many of our regular attenders live at least five miles from our meeting place? How does that compare with five years ago?

How many of our members have left this congregation to join another church in this community during the past five years?

How many of our current members are currently worshipping with another congregation in this community? How does that compare with five years ago?

In most congregations, the responses to the questions about a comparison base with five or ten years ago will evoke one of three responses: 1) "I don't know, but my guess is..." 2) "Who knows? I don't." 3) "I wish I knew, but I don't know where to find even the current figures on that, much less a comparison base for several years ago."

One way to have a better quality data base for 1995 or 1999 is to begin to build it now and preserve it in the institutional memory.

A third beneficiary of an improved institutional memory is the church board. Often these policy makers are asked to decide complex issues on the basis of hunches, vague recollections, hopes, inadequate or faulty data from the past, a committee's recommendations, or pressure from one powerful person.

In today's world, knowledge is the number-one source of power. The power of your governing board can be enhanced by improving the quality of the institutional memory of your congregation and giving your leaders access to that institutional memory.

Where is the institutional memory of your congregation? What information is lodged in it? What else should be stored for future retrieval? Who has access to that institutional memory? How reliable is it? What can be done to improve it? □

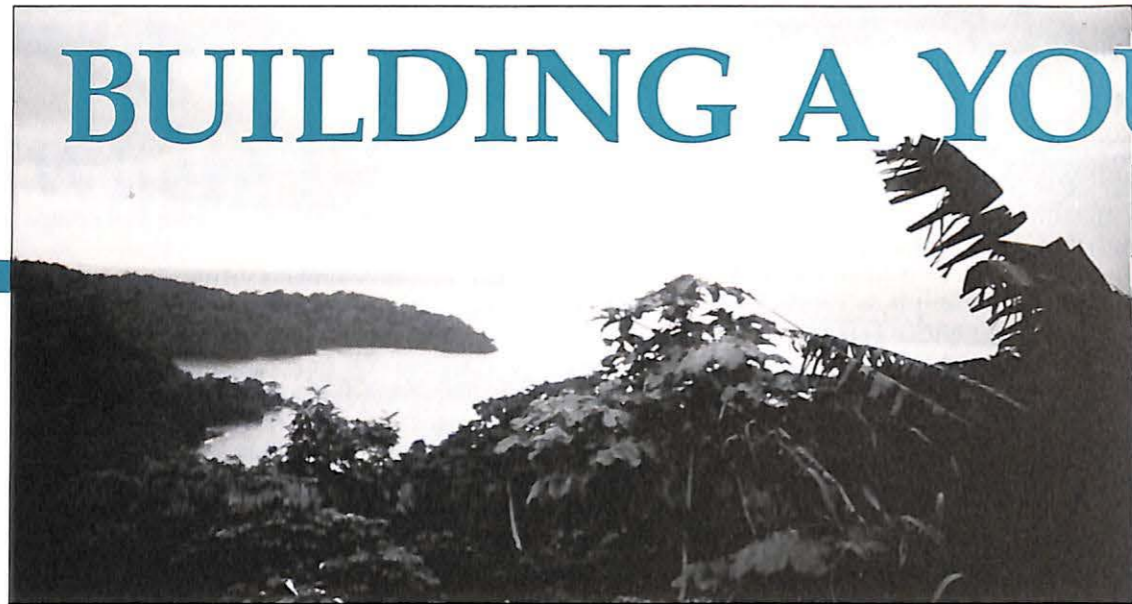
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*The future is redeemable
when
our institutional memory
is retrievable!*

-FRANK JUCK-

BUILDING A YOUTH CAMP IN CAMEROON



Photos and
Text by
Darrell Schuh

In 1987 churches of the Northern California Association accepted the challenge to build a youth camp in Cameroon, West Africa. By the end of 1989, we were putting plans into action and actually constructing the camp.



◀ These California churches gave around \$100,000 for materials and sent a team of 17 for this mission. Training included seminars on building relationships cross-culturally as well as with the Lord and each other.

▶ Jakob and Lorie Koch were our contact missionaries in Cameroon. "Our primary goals included building a positive relationship with the Chief and villagers in Bimbia as well as with the government officials for proper completion of documents and building permits. We also developed specific goals for building the camp and for its eventual functioning," says Jakob. "Our plan includes making the camp self-sufficient and developing a uniquely African and distinctly Christian camp ministry to reach the young people for Christ."

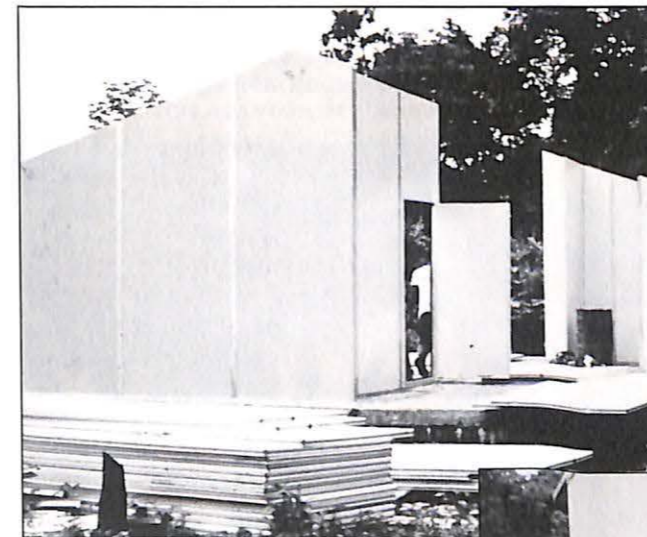


◀ When we arrived at camp, all the slabs had been poured.

▶ "We need a real kitchen," said our team. "Can't you cook on three rocks like the Cameroonians do"? I responded. "We need a counter and shelves and a place to keep the vegetables," was the reply.



▶ Cooking for 17 to 30 people was a full-time job. Almost everything we ate was made from scratch, so cooking was an all day task. Our breakfast meals usually consisted of bread and fruit.



▲ The prefab construction panels, made from a polyurethane insulation and pressed between 28 gauge metal, were shipped directly from Canada. Our job was to lay out the buildings, square them, and lay down and anchor the bottom plate. We cut most panels on an angle to form the roof pitch, and hung pre-hung doors. We fastened the panels together with screws on a one foot off-centered pattern and pop-riveted the interior panels. We sealed all the exterior walls and roof seams with a silicone bead.

We custom designed and produced all the vents for the ventilation system. In a good day, we could produce approximately five vents. We needed 30.



▲ After constructing the building, the window areas were marked, cut open, and boxed in — ready to accept the windows.



▲ To do laundry, we filled two tubs up with water — one for washing and one for rinsing. Washing dirty, stinking clothes by hand was definitely an experience.

(Continued from page 17)



▲ We needed a way to hang our mosquito nets.



▲ The nationals dug the septic tanks — 10 feet deep — and lined them with blocks made on the site. A good pressure system is needed to get enough water so everything will operate at the same time. Presently, only one fixture operates at a time. We also had to fit metric to inch. Each dorm was outfitted with a large sink, toilet, and shower. The guest house was outfitted with three lavatories, shower, toilet, and a kitchen, also.



▲ The hardest part of painting the chapel, where most of the painting took place, was standing on the trusses, about ten feet off the ground. It was very hot up there.

► Installation of electrical wiring, switches, and fixtures took a lot of time. Although we like to think our efforts would go without the bugs, God proved to us that we were not perfect. He did give us the desire and strength to persevere — to work out the bugs. Our power source was provided by the Camp generator, since there is no local power source available yet. The light at night was definitely a delight. It eliminated reading by flashlight, as long as we didn't read past 9 p.m.



► We went to nearby villages to have Bible classes for the Cameroonian and missionary children. We sang songs, told and acted out the Bible stories, had puppet shows, and made crafts together. The children were eager to learn about God. We shared ideas for Sunday school, youth, and adult programs with three churches. We talked about teaching aids — used puppets to tell them about children's church, presented teaching techniques to use in adult Bible classes, and gave ideas for women's ministries.



◀ We thank the Lord for the opportunity to be a part of this building project. Through His power, we were able to complete more than we had ever expected.

Before we left, Camp Bimbia was ready for our Cameroonian youth. Our prayer is that many will come to know Christ and then go share this experience with others.

"Thank you for your prayers and support in making this camp possible. God needs each one of us to be open and willing to serve at home or abroad," says Darrell Schuh of Elk Grove, CA, leader and coordinator of this group project. "We are His hands, His feet, His people — children of the Lord." □



mission news

The Rehabilitation of a Burn Patient

by Pat Lenz

Humphrey is the most recent in a long line of burn patients since I started in the physical therapy department in 1972 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. His problem is almost identical to that of my first patient. The scars from the burn are preventing him from having full use of one arm. As scar tissue tends to shorten, he will have to fight this problem for some time to come.

What we are attempting to do is to prop up the arm with a modified "airplane" splint. This keeps the scar tissue gently stretched until healing is complete. This particular arrangement is a combination of a pelvic band and leg iron from a polio brace, a broken elbow splint, and straps from unused patient restraints. This was necessary because we don't have even one airplane splint, much less one the right size.

Richard is among the first in a new line of rehabilitation patients. The rehabilitation project is still suffering from birth pains, and is trying to find its way in this world. It was born for vocational training of leprosy patients, but is gradually expanding to help people, like Richard, with other problems.

Richard's blue-painted wheelchair is number "16" of those custom-made at Mbingo. The wheelchair workshop was started about a year ago by a British technical advisor. Several leprosy patients are being trained to do the work. The chairs are rugged but lightweight, and are especially designed to make it easy to do a "wheelie." Skilled patients can traverse very rough terrain balancing on the back wheels.

We praise God that we are able to work together with you to meet the needs of Humphrey and Richard, and many others here in Cameroon. Your prayers bring wisdom and strength for daily needs. Your financial support



through the Established and Expansion Budgets provide us with supplies and equipment to facilitate the ministry. □

Pat Lenz serves as a missionary in physical therapy at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Cameroon.

Growing through Prayer

by Jerry and Monie Fluth

I can hardly believe how completely and wonderfully God answered our prayers! Perhaps a missionary shouldn't confess such lack of faith, but a little honesty must be okay.

Recently, we held the General Session of the Cameroon Baptist

Convention. More than 1,000 delegates, plus as many observers, came from all over Cameroon. Everyone had been filled with apprehension over an impending constitutional crisis, elections, and the feelings that were building in some quarters. Only later did we begin to realize how many of our Christians were driven to prayer by these fears. There were prayers in daily staff devotions, in Bible studies, in special early morning prayer sessions, and in countless private times.

The first session lasted into the evening, and the constitution was brought up. It was almost a disaster. Finally, someone led the delegates in a song, made us all hold hands, prayed, and encouraged us all to go pray and come back tomorrow.

Sure, I prayed more, but I went back the next day still with lingering apprehension. The constitution breezed through in five minutes! Business was conducted with dispatch. Elections take forever because some delegates are

not literate. So for each ballot, the thousand delegates march through the voting booth and vote with a color coded ballot. The hours this took were filled with singing and dancing, and praising God for the miracle taking place. Satan's divisive schemes had been defeated, and absolutely everyone recognized God's intervention!

One of my personal goals this year is to learn more about prayer. I've just experienced a big lesson. I have also been reading a few books—and trying to pray more, too. Maybe you would like to write us with some thoughts or special insights you have on prayer. I am not sure I'll ever comprehend it, but my faith is growing.

Keep on praying that we will all learn more about prayer. □

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Fluth, former medical missionaries to Cameroon, West Africa, have completed the first of a three-year-term as replacements for furloughing missionaries in administration.



THELEA WESSELER (66), Lorraine, KS, born to George and Frances Schroeder, Sept. 13, 1923, at Lorraine, KS; died May 14, 1990; active member, First Baptist Church, Lorraine; married Delmar Wesseler, March 28, 1948; editor of "Broadcast" and English program packet, W.M.U.; president, Woman's Missionary Union, North American Baptist Conference, 1964-66; Board of Missions Laywoman-at-Large, 1970-73; the WMU coordinator, 1973-76; a vice-president, Baptist World Alliance, 1977-79; member, B.W.A. Aid Committee and Evangelism and Education Division; chair, N.A.B. Triennial Conference nominating committee; member, Board of Trustees, Judson College; survivors include her husband Delmar and two sons: Delmar II and David, of Lorraine; a brother, Victor Schroeder; and a sister, Marvel Schlick. A brother predeceased her; Rev. Monty Loudenslager (pastor), Dr. John Binder, Rev. Herman Van Arsdale, and Dr. Harm Webber, funeral service.

ARTHUR AUGUST SIELER (81), Plevna, MT; born Jan. 6, 1909, to Edward and Rosina (Huber) Sieler in Selby, SD; died March 10, 1990; married Rose Schopp on June 2, 1938; active member and deacon, First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT; predeceased by his parents, six brothers, and three infant sisters; survived by his wife, Rose; two daughters: Naomi, Plevna; Ruth Pust, Sidney; son-in-law, Gail Pust; four brothers: Emil Sr., Simon, Benjamin, and David; two sisters: Hulda Huether and Ruth Sieler; four grandsons; the Reverends Herbert Vetter and Michael Backhaus, pastors, funeral service.

PHILIP DOCKTER (76), Jamestown, ND; born to John and Margaretha (Fink) Dockter in Newbury Township, Stutsman County, ND; died April 4, 1990; married Louise Gienger June 23, 1936; camp director, Crystal Springs (ND) Camp; member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, Temple Baptist Church and Gideons International; predeceased by his parents, one daughter, Iva Jean Nagel, one brother, and two sisters; survived by his wife, Louise; three sons: Dennis, Streeter, ND; Abel and Ivahn, Rochester, MN; two brothers: Arthur and Rueben; five sisters: Emma Oberlander, Mary Graf, Esther (Rudolph) Dockter, Pauline Rennick, Viola (Joe) Zenter; ten grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; the Reverends Ray Hoffman, Jim Dick, and N.E. McCoy, pastors, funeral service.

MARTHA NORDING (86), Jamestown, ND; born Jan. 29, 1904, to Karl and Elizabeth Ockert in Mercer, ND; died March 22, 1990; married Gustav Nording, Oct. 31, 1923; member,

Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; predeceased by her parents, her husband, three sisters, five brothers, and two great-grandchildren; survived by four sons: Heber, Silverton, OR; Douglas, Jamestown, ND; Wayne, Billings, MT; Larry, Tucson, AZ; four daughters: Gloria (George) Gerbi, Tucson, AZ; Betty (Forrest) Bold, Carrington, ND; Gladys (Carl) Beyer and Arleen (Donald) Hutchinson, Bozeman, MT; 34 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; two great, great-grandchildren; one sister, Ida (Lloyd) Jones; the Reverends Ray Hoffman and N.E. McCoy, pastors, funeral service.

EMANUEL FROMM (89), Tacoma, WA; died March 17, 1990; married to Maggie Fromm for 65 years; faithful, longtime member, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA, since 1930; Rev. Ed Wesner, pastor, funeral service.

ELLA BAIER (91), Lansing, MI; born Oct. 2, 1898; died Mar. 5, 1990; married to Assaph Baier; last serving charter member, Colonial Village Baptist Church; predeceased by her husband, Assaph, in 1969; son, Oscar, in 1977; three brothers; four sisters; survived by daughter, Alice Eckhart, Gladwin, MI; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; Rev. Robert Brown, pastor, funeral service.

JEANETTE LILLIAN DEBOER (82), Milbank, SD; born to Mr. and Mrs. Folkert Poppen on Dec. 14, 1907, in Buffalo Center, IA; died Mar. 16, 1990; married Leonard DeBoer, Nov. 25, 1926, Corona, SD; faithful member, custodian, First Baptist Church, Corona, SD; member, Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD; predeceased by two infant grandchildren, three brothers, and two sisters; survived by her husband, Leonard, three daughters: Evelyn (Maynard) Hoekman, Corona, SD; Lorraine (Bernard) Fritzsche, Glen Ellyn, IL; Ruby (Dale) Rott, St. Paul, MN; two sons: David, Milbank, SD; Paul, Corona, SD; 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two sisters: Mabel (Otto) DeBoer; Rose (Antone) Hoeke; Mr. Danny Van Gerpen, pastor, funeral service.

TENA HUISMAN (88), Parkersburg, IA; born May 4, 1901, to Helmut and Kate Getting; died Feb. 1, 1990; married to William T. Huisman, June 7, 1922; member, active W.M.F. member, Sunday school teacher, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA; predeceased by parents, one brother, one daughter, two grandchildren; survived by husband, William; one daughter, LaVerne (Fred) Everts; three sons: Donald and Delbert, of Parkersburg; Alvin, Centerville; 14 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; Rev. Dennis Kee, pastor, funeral service.

MARTHA CAROLINE BLUME HUISINGA (90), Parkersburg, IA; born Jan. 21, 1900, in Linden Hanover, Germany to Wilhelm and Lina Schwerdtfeger Blume; died March 25, 1990; immigrated to U.S.A., 1906; married Heit V. Huisinga, March 27, 1923; member, Sunday school teacher, cradle roll superintendent, Sunshine Society officer, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA; predeceased by her husband, Heit; her parents; one brother, Karl Blume; survived by one son, Wilbur (Ada); four grandchildren and their spouses; eight great-grandchildren; Rev. Dennis Kee, pastor, funeral service.

HENRIETTA HENKELMAN (90), Kelowna, BC; born Mar. 26, 1900 in Porozow, Poland; died Mar. 30, 1990; immigrated to Canada, 1928; married Gottfried Henkelman; member, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; predeceased by her husband, Gottfried; one son, Ervin; and one daughter, Mary; survived by one son, Fred (Ruth), Kelowna, BC; four daughters: Evelyn (Art) Dykau, Kelowna, BC; Alice (John) Heymen, Lethbridge, AB; Martha (Herbert) Herman, Swan River, MB; Otilie (Eric) Rettig, San Leandro, CA; one daughter-in-law, Adena Henkelman; one sister, Otilie Mauser; one brother, Daniel Kilbrai; 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; Rev. George W. Breikreuz, pastor, funeral service.

DAVID HINSZ (87), McLaughlin, SD; born June 30, 1902, in Drake, ND; died Feb. 9, 1989; married Pauline Mehlhaff, Dec. 27, 1923; member, served on church board, First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD; predeceased by his wife, Pauline; his parents; three brothers; and one sister; survived by two sons: Ronald and Clifford; one daughter, Lorraine Goehring; five brothers: Art, Leo, Emil, Rudy, LeRoy; four sisters: Lydia Knoll, Ruthe Schlenker, Violet Raymo, Erna Baker; seven grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; the Reverends Art Freitag and Steve Olson, pastors, funeral service.

LOLA BLANCHE KRETZ (70), Shattuck, OK; born Feb. 25, 1920, to Walter and Blanche Stewart; died Apr. 29, 1990; married Roy Kretz, Nov. 9, 1947; member, Sunday school teacher, director of children's choir, and youth sponsor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck, OK; survived by her husband, Roy; one daughter, Pam (Dennis) Brown, Wichita Falls, TX; six sisters: Eileen Doyel, Arleen Stewart, Lucille Stewart, Gladys Sipe, Reba Stewart, Aldyth Holloway; sister-in-law, Alice (George) Littau; mother-in-law, Mary Kretz; two grandsons; the Rev. Fred Fuchs, pastor, funeral service.

Simplicity

(continued from page 2)

Suggested Exercise

Simplicity in the Words We Use (Matthew 12:32-37)

Ask the Spirit to reveal words you are using that are not pleasing to Him.

List them. With what words can you replace them?

Memorize Ephesians 4:29

Simplicity in Our Relationships (Genesis 22:1-18)

Is there anyone in your life who is keeping you from following God completely?

What steps would you have to take to rectify this hindrance?

Simplicity Is Learning to Enjoy All Things (I Timothy 6:6-10)

All we have is from God and is to be used to His glory.

Being honest before God, make a list of all your possessions. Draw a circle around each item that truly belongs to God. Include in this list people, job, possessions, health, wealth, situations.

Place a G next to each item you would give up willingly.

Place an S next to each item that you would struggle to part with.

Place an NR next to each item that you are not ready to give up at this time.

Ask God to give you the strength to give away or sell at least one item in the NR (not ready) list.

Simplicity in the Use and Desire of Other Things (Mark 4:1-20)

Meditate on Mark 4:19

Decide today to cut down on or eliminate anything that you are becoming addicted to. Be a slave to God instead!

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July 30-August 3

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"From Jerusalem to Rome: The Acts"

Dr. Ronald E. Mayforth (NABDS):

"Renewal in Ministry"

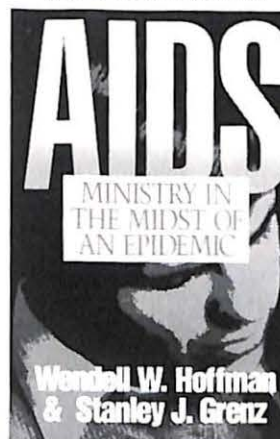
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President's Focus

by Manetta Hohn,
WMF president,
Kelowna, BC



CARING. The WMF emphasis this year, under our theme of "Reaching New Heights," is relating and relationships. We want this to be emphasized in our programming, our projects, ministries, and our personal lives. Relationships are our daily, moment by moment interaction with people — family members, church members, neighbors, employees, employers, our casual acquaintances. Relationships are a constant part of our lives, and they have many aspects.

As a Conference this year, we began our focus on the Biblical Imperative, "Challenged to Grow." How are we growing in our relationships? Growing naturally leads to God's command to "care."

As I read our Conference publications, it is evident, and encouraging, that our people are caring people. As stated in the Personal Inventory, a tool of our Biblical Imperatives, "Christian caring is responding to the love of God by expressing concern and compassion for the alleviation of people's suffering."

There is one segment of our society that needs more care than is generally shown and that segment is handicapped people, especially those in wheelchairs. Linda Zimmerman, a dear friend in my church, has been handicapped since she was 12 years old; she has been in a wheelchair for a number of years. In the 17 years that I have known her, she has been a challenge and blessing to me with her cheerful, positive spirit, praising the Lord for His grace and blessings to her. She is one who has served her Lord through music, teaching Sunday school, and helping wherever she could—much more than some

Christians who have normal physical capabilities. God has used her to challenge and bless many people over the years. Linda has written her life story and testimony in a book, *When the Hedges Are Down*. (Published by Welch Publications and available in most Canadian Christian bookstores and our N.A.B. College Bookstore in Edmonton, AB.)

In the following paragraphs, she tells how she has received care from Christians.

My View from a wheelchair

"In Acts we read how the early church was concerned for the physical welfare of the needy, and they organized a system to fill this need. The result was that the number of disciples increased greatly (Acts 6:7). This concern later became the beginning of hospitals and schools.

"To be on the receiving end of this compassion has moved my heart greatly, and I am awed at the magnitude of belonging to the body of Christ. Care from God's people is very evident to us. At Christmas, our freezer gets baked things to last until June. I can only praise His name!

"This concern shows itself even publicly. The ushers of my church have learned the technique of lifting me from the car and putting me into the fold-up wheelchair. Even when I was not so extremely dependent and still sang in the choir, two men literally lifted up my wheelchair to a two-foot high platform. People have been heard to say, 'My, how these people must love each other.' There is still a need at public functions, such as luncheons and buffets, for care to be shown, especially to relieve the aging spouse, who is trying

to push and hold a plate all at once. I have learned that underneath the shyness, people are willing to help if they are asked. Never forget to greet the one who is 'down there.' Remember we are all part of the body of Christ, whether upright or infirm. Let's continue to be a caring church and keep on growing in this area."

As we grow in the ministry of caring, we will find our focus being more on the other person and less on ourselves. There are so many needs in our hurting world today. Sometimes we feel so helpless and ask, "What can I do?" Something I read some time ago challenged me: "We can't change the world, but we can help change the world around us...for someone. Find a hurt and help heal it." Let us ask the Lord for wisdom in examining our lives for our love and care for others.



Linda Zimmerman

WMF Scholarship Recipients

The Conference WMF Budget includes scholarships for students studying at our North American Baptist Conference schools.

Recipients this past year at the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, are Jackie Aebi (Dallas, OR) who graduated in May 1990 with a masters degree in Christian education and Ekoka Molindo (Limbe, Cameroon) who also graduated in May with a masters degree in counseling.

Our recipient at the North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, is Patti Kauffeldt (Arnprior, ON) who graduated in April 1990 with a bachelor of arts degree in religion. Patti's testimony follows:

"Since coming to N.A.B.C. in the fall of 1987, I have been blessed with many wonderful ministry opportunities. God has shown me, time and time again, that if I am willing to put complete trust in Him, He will open the doors for me and provide for all my needs.

"One of my greatest joys in the past three years has been the way in which God has shown me that He can use me in any situation. Through athletics, I have come in contact with other athletes with whom I have been able to share both on and off the court. Playing basketball and volleyball has allowed me to use these athletic abilities to glorify God in a very distinct way.

"Music has been a real blessing for me, as well. I am thankful for all the doors that the College has opened up to me with their music program. Through Summer Team, Choristers, and other ensembles, I have been able to share my faith with hundreds of believers and nonbelievers across North America.



Patti Kauffeldt

I was also able to experience cross-cultural ministry in Rio Grande City, TX, during the summer of 1989. What an experience to work with people from another culture who desire to serve the Lord! That in itself breaks down many cultural barriers.

"It is incredible the way God has provided for all my needs, especially since coming to N.A.B.C., not only financially, but physically and spiritually as well. The scholarship provided by the Women's Missionary Fellowship is one more way that God has shown me His faithfulness. As a student, I have many financial obligations, yet God has provided for me in every circumstance.

"Upon graduating with my bachelor of religion degree, I am confident that God will continue to be faithful to me as I pursue a career in the field of elementary education.

"I thank the Lord for teaching me to 'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:6-7, NAS)."

Tools for Ministry

The Director of Women's Ministries and the Executive of the WMF are pleased to present to you the *Handbook for Ministry with Women*.

- This *Handbook* is designed to
- give guidelines for the development of ministries.
 - help leaders give effective leadership to ministries.
 - provide opportunities to expand ministries.

Each one of our churches can be involved in using this *Handbook* to strengthen their

women's organization, provide opportunities for cooperation on an international level, and challenge the women of their congregation to reach new heights in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ!

The *Handbook for Ministry with Women* can be ordered from the office of the Women's Missionary Fellowship, 1 So. 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181-3994.

Price for a single copy is \$21.95.

Commissioned to Witness

Praise God for people receiving Christ as Savior and for His growing church

■ DICKINSON, ND. Pastor Daryl Dachtler baptized three children and welcomed seventeen people in addition to these into the fellowship of Hillside Baptist Church. —Mrs. Fred Kulish

■ KITCHENER, ON. Eight young people were baptized by Pastor Fred Kahler, and they celebrated communion with the members at Central Baptist Church. —Karen Yahn

■ EDMONTON, AB. Dr. R. J. Kerstan extended the right hand of fellowship to six young people by baptism and three by membership transfer to McKernan Baptist Church. —Irene Fiege

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. Two adults were baptized by Pastor Michael Lerud, and five others, by testimony and letter of transfer, were welcomed into the membership of First Baptist Church. —Verna Luiken

■ BEULAH, ND. The Rev. Gordon Voegelé baptized a family of five and welcomed them into the fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church. —Rose Voegelé

■ PARKSTON, SD. Dr. Richard Mayforth, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, baptized six young people.

■ CRESTON, NE. After completing the family seminar, "What the Bible Says

about Child Training" led by Pastor Marlin Mohrman, the parents of three small children dedicated them at Creston Baptist Church. —Henrietta Schefler

■ MINOT, ND. Five adults and two children were baptized by Pastor Douglas Timm at First Baptist Church. The AWANA program was instrumental in bringing the children to the Lord. —Inez Rhone

■ BELLWOOD, IL. On Easter Sunday at First Baptist Church, breakfast was served to over 100 people. In the worship service, five families witnessed the baptism of their sons and their welcoming into the fellowship of the Church. At the close of the service when the invitation was given, a young mother came forward accepting the Risen Savior as her Lord and Savior. William Kresal is pastor.

■ MILLET, AB. A young married couple were baptized by the Rev. Grayson Paschke at Wiesenthal Baptist Church. "As Pastor Paschke received them into the Church membership, he challenged us to 'go and make disciples,'" reports Anne Hoffmann.

■ EMERY, SD. The Rev. Charles Davis baptized seven young people and extended the right hand of fellowship to them at First Baptist Church. —Melinda Schrader

Bethany Church holds Life-Style Evangelism Seminar

■ VANCOUVER, BC. Richie Speidel of Navigators challenged members and friends concerning Life-Style Evangelism at a seminar at Bethany Baptist Church. Dr. Lyle Schrag is pastor. —Vivian Zimmerman

Calvary Church hosts "The Master's Touch"

■ TACOMA, WA. The young people of Calvary Baptist Church hosted a 16-member singing group, "The Master's Touch" of Berean Bible Church, Spokane, WA.

"The salvation message in contemporary gospel music and spoken word was very good. Everyone received a blessing from the concert," says Earl Shadle. The group gave concerts at area nursing homes, churches, and the Purdy Prison for Women. The Rev. Don Burnett is pastor.

Martin Church holds New Life Crusade

■ MARTIN, ND. The people of the Martin community experienced a musical treat and spiritual blessing as Ron and Marjorie Daltzell held a New Life Crusade at Martin Baptist Church. The Rev. Clem Auch is interim pastor. —Delma Kost

Friend Day held at Calvary Church

■ REGINA, SK. The congregation of Calvary Baptist Church invited their friends to Calvary Baptist Church for "Friend Day" to introduce them to our friend, Jesus Christ. The attendance doubled for the morning worship service, and some new families continue to attend.

"It was an exciting venture, and we look forward

to another 'Friend Day' in the fall," says Kathy Orthner. The Rev. Bruno Voss is pastor.

Winter speaks at Melville Church

■ MELVILLE, SK. The Rev. Niander Winter, president and professor at the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary in Brazil, spoke at the spring missions banquet at Melville Baptist Church. The congregation was challenged by Rev. Winter's vision for the evangelization of South America.

"We were enlightened in our understanding of how the Baptist church ministers in Brazil," reports Beth Gould. The Rev. William C. Gould is pastor.

Ron Susek speaks at East Olds Church

■ OLDS, AB. Ron Susek of Gettysburg, PA, conducted a series of meetings at East Olds Baptist Church on spiritual renewal and commitment to intercessory prayer.

"The hearts of God's people were touched. As a result, we look forward to reaching our community with the good news of Jesus Christ," reports Ruth Leischner.

Leaders receive awards

■ BALGONIE, SK. Balgonie Baptist Church devoted part of the morning worship to present awards to the leaders and clubbers of their AWANA Club. The Church also held an AWANA Fair. "Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry," reports Evangeline Wilson. The Rev. David Simpson is pastor.

Tacoma Church hears talk on drugs

■ TACOMA, WA. Bobb Absten, high school teacher

and counselor, spoke on "Why Good Kids Take Bad Drugs" at a Sunday evening service at Calvary Baptist Church. Bobb was a user of drugs for eight years before accepting Jesus Christ as Savior under the guidance of the Rev. Ervin Gerlitz.

It is well documented that all individuals have basic needs such as daily physical needs of feeling safe, loved, and belonging to someone, because they are bombarded by peer pressure in today's culture. Young people are willing to forfeit their families in order to be accepted members of a group. There are no qualifications. All a kid has to do to be accepted by some peers is to take drugs. Parents and churches should be urged to accept young people as they are; even though their dress or long hair may shock or annoy them. The

point is, kids of parents who are too strict will react to external forces and may start using drugs as soon as they leave home.

"Bobb is a dedicated and faithful Christian and an asset to our Church in working with the youth," says Earl Shadle. "He is the high school Sunday School teacher at Calvary Baptist." The Rev. Don Burnett is pastor.

Awana club holds Grand Prix event

■ HAMILTON, ON. The Awana Club of German Baptist Church held its third annual Grand Prix event — an exciting afternoon of homemade car racing. "Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, and there was opportunity to witness to non-Christian parents," reports Angela Plessl.

The Rev. Walter K. Schroedter is pastor.

Challenged to Grow

Medicine Hat Church's emphasis on worship brings new people

■ MEDICINE HAT, AB. In keeping with the Conference emphasis on worship, the Rev. Irwin Kujat and Craig Ginn, associate pastor, worked together on a series of sermons at Temple Baptist Church. They covered the topics of discipleship, the disciples of Jesus, and the Sermon on the Mount. As a result, several new people are attending the services.

In an evening service, Missionary Wilma Binder related the joys and challenges of her ministry at Saker College in Limbe, Cameroon, where some 3,000 girls have attended in its 25 year history.

"Needs were expressed for expansion of the buildings and for experienced teachers in the fields of

science, math, and music," reports Madeline Kern.

Detroit women attend Deeper Life seminar

■ DETROIT, MI. Ridgmont Baptist Church hosted 200 ladies of 13 Metro Detroit North American Baptist Conference Women's Missionary Fellowships at a Deeper Life Seminar. Speaker Elise Arndt challenged the women from John 15 on "God's Relation to Us," and from John 13 on "Our Relationship to Others."

A business meeting, with installation of new officers, and lunch, prepared by the ladies of Ridgmont Church, were also part of the seminar. —Christel Sonnenberg

Temple Church blessed by deeper life weekend

■ LEDUC, AB. Temple Baptist Church began their Deeper Life weekend with a banquet, where Dr. Ron Mayforth, professor, North American Baptist Divinity School, spoke.

On Good Friday, Wiesenthal Baptist, Millet; Riverside Baptist, Devon; Rabbit Hill Baptist, South Edmonton; and First Baptist, Leduc, joined with Temple Baptist for "The Service of Shadows," portraying the Passion Week events from the betrayal to the tomb.

At the Easter morning service, Pastor Neil Parker baptized two young girls. "We serve a risen Lord and praise God for all the blessings of this special time," reports Violet Fleck.

New church sets ministry goal

■ LA COSTA HILLS, CA. La Costa Hills Church completed their seventh Sunday as a church in May.

"From our short existence as a fellowship, God has brought people together who have a commitment to prayer and seeing God work in a supernatural way," reports Pastor Larry Lamb. "We remind the people that prayer is not a ministry of our Church, it is the ministry of our Church."

This new Church has set six goals for the year: to 1) experience spiritual growth and stability in each person; 2) begin a prayer partner ministry; 3) begin a gift assessment program; 4) have four stations of H.O.P.E. (homes open to

prayer and encouragement with 15-20 in each home); 5) have 100 in attendance; 6) see 20 people come to Christ as a result of the influence of La Costa Hills Church.

"These goals will stretch us to a greater dependence upon God," says Pastor Lamb.

New church plant experiences growth through creativity

■ FOLSOM, CA. Oak Hills Baptist Church, a five-year-old church planting project, has experienced growth from its first worship attendance of 17 in November 1984 to its current attendance in the mid to high 200s. Easter attendance this year, at two services, was 455.

The Church currently meets in the afternoons at a Presbyterian church, and a Saturday evening service is also being planned for the Fall.

"Until we find land and are able to build a permanent facility, we will continue to be creative with our meeting times and places in order to reach more people," says Pastor Kent Carlson.

Folsom is one of the more rapidly growing small cities in California. Its population of almost 25,000 (up from 15,000 five years ago) is expected to increase to 80,000 or more in the next decade. In spite of that growth, most of the Folsom churches are not growing.

"Even without a facility of our own and meeting at an unusual time, we are one of the largest churches in town," says Carlson.

"There is a great need for a solid, contemporary,

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

and relevant church that will take the challenge to reach this community. Our desire is to be that church."

Effas speak at Steamboat Rock Church

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. The Rev. Herman Effa, associate director for promotion, North American Baptist Conference Office, spoke at special services at First Baptist Church. Mr. Effa spoke on "Why Not Revival Today," "Personal Quest for Revival," "Why Not Powerful Prayer," and "Why Not Total Commitment." Mrs. Effa shared mission updates.

"As a Church family, we were inspired by the messages and "Challenged to Grow," says Verna Luiken.

Petrie speaks at Central Church

■ KITCHENER, ON. "The Lord used Rev. Lewis Petrie's preaching and His mighty Word to restore, renew, and rekindle hearts at Central Baptist Church," reports Karen Yahn.

Friends and neighbours were invited to the special meetings where Rev. Petrie challenged the people to grow by "putting down a stake of commitment for a bigger heart for those that are lost."

Petrie is Development Director for the North American Baptist Conference.

Heritage Church adopts Growth through Involvement program

■ YORKTON, SK. Heritage Baptist Church has adopted a "Growth through Involvement" program. The purpose and

aim of the program is to spread the Gospel using prayer, personal contact through visitation, and witnessing. The Rev. Edwin Broadway is pastor.

—Hertha Rowden

Rowandale Church sees increase in AWANA program

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Rowandale Baptist Church rejoices as the AWANA attendance increased to over 60 children during its first year. More than half of the children are not from the Church. The Rev. Bryan Hochhalter is pastor. —H. Kahler

Saskatchewan pastors hold spiritual renewal retreat

■ REGINA, SK. All pastors of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association met for a spiritual renewal retreat led by the Rev. Lewis Petrie at Calvary Baptist Church in Regina.

"Emphasis was placed on giving God an opportunity to work in and through our lives," says Walter Foth, a pastor serving in Saskatoon. "Our goal is to grow in grace and knowledge, making prayer and our dependence on God our main focus."

This was the first time in many years that the pastors of the Saskatchewan Association met for a retreat of this nature. During two worship services, considerable time was spent in singing and prayer, following the outline of worship, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

"The prayer time touched the innermost of our souls and united us openly only as God can,"

reports Foth. "Our renewed commitment to service and the winning of the lost to Christ brought into focus the purpose of our churches and our own calling."

This has been one of the most meaningful, life-changing, encouraging, and empowering sessions in a long time," says Foth. "We are thankful that our Conference is taking leadership in the area of spiritual renewal, which is the basis for growth in reaching the unsaved and discipleship."

Compelled to Serve

McKernan Church holds missions conference

■ EDMONTON, AB. The "Many Cultures — One Gospel," theme of McKernan Baptist Church's mission conference. Guest speakers included Allan and Karen Effa, former missionaries, Nigeria; Deborah Penner, short-term missionary, Brazil; and Florinda Serafin, North American Baptist College and Divinity School student from Brazil.

Special mission projects for Nigeria, Brazil, and Texas totalling \$3,500 were established.

"God richly blessed this time of fellowship together," reports Irene Fiege. Dr. R. J. Kerstan is pastor.

McKernan Church hosts World Day of Prayer gathering

■ EDMONTON, AB. McKernan Baptist Church hosted one of the World Day of Prayer gatherings in Edmonton. Mrs. Sharon Mayforth spoke on the theme, "Women of Czechoslovakia."

"Mrs. Mayforth challenged us to pray more, to

The materials used, *Challenged to Grow — a Spiritual Renewal Retreat*, were made available through the Conference Development Department of which Petrie is the director.

Melville Church draws up plans for expansion

■ MELVILLE, SK. A building committee has been formed and is currently drawing up plans for expansion of their facilities.

The Rev. William C. Gould is pastor. —Beth Gould

give more, and to move out more to the people around us showing God's love," says Irene Fiege. Dr. R. J. Kerstan is pastor.

McKernan retreat held at Camp Caroline

■ EDMONTON, AB. McKernan Baptist Church's leadership retreat was recently held at Camp Caroline.

"Discussions centered around discovering who we are as persons, as a church, and as leaders," reports Irene Fiege. "We were challenged to extend our vision and mission."

Dr. R. J. Kerstan is pastor.

Baptist and Lutheran churches present combined witness

■ MILLET, AB. The combined choirs of Wiesenthal Baptist Church and a Lutheran church in Millet presented "Emmanuel" at both of their churches and the Salem Manor Nursing Home, Leduc, AB.

"The impact of this combined witness to the larger community is evident," reports Anne Hoffmann.

Woodland Shores Church hosts Association meeting

■ BRIDGMAN, MI. The 7th annual meeting of the Great Lakes Association was held April 19-21 at Woodland Shores Baptist Church with 107 delegates in attendance.

The theme, "Dynamics for a New Decade," was addressed by speakers: Dr. Jay Kesler, president, Taylor University and Allyn Decker, chair, Communications Department, Grace College.

The Rev. Winston Decker, host pastor, welcomed the delegates to Woodland Shores, which now meets in newly expanded facilities with seating for 300.

The Rev. Gordon Thomas, pastor, North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren, MI, was re-elected moderator of the Association.

Napier Parkview Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, MI, will host the 1991 meeting on April 18-20. —Darrell McKay

New Day ministers at Heritage Church

■ YORKTON, SK. New Day ministered in music and drama for two evenings at Heritage Baptist Church. Neighboring churches and visitors shared the blessing. The Rev. Edwin Broadway is pastor. —Hertha Rowden

Immanuel Church holds special services

■ BEULAH, ND. Dr. Hugh Litchfield was the guest speaker at Immanuel Baptist Church. "His messages were well received," reports Rose Voegelé. Litchfield is Associate Professor of Homiletics at N.A.B. Seminary.

"Wilma Binder Sunday" was also observed at Immanuel Baptist Church.

Miss Binder shared her testimony, told a children's story, and challenged the congregation concerning missions in West Africa. A special bulletin board was prepared listing her ministries. The Rev. Gordon Voegelé is pastor.

New Day does outreach for Rowandale Church

■ WINNIPEG, MB. The New Day team ministered at Rowandale Baptist Church at a luncheon for 90 seniors of the community who had not previously attended the Church. The team, under the direction of John Kiemele, also had the program following a potluck supper for Church members and non-church people.

"Pastor Bryan Hochhalter commends the New Day team for their positive attitude and their desire to minister," reports H. Kahler.

Christian education board sponsors appreciation brunch

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. The Board of Christian Education of Faith Baptist Church sponsored an Appreciation Brunch for those involved in the educational program.

Mrs. Denise Kjesbo, instructor in Christian Education, North American Baptist Seminary, and her husband, the Rev. Allen Kjesbo, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, spoke and sang.

A Bible was presented to Bernice Machande, who has been a Sunday school and weekday Bible class teacher for 53 years.

The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is pastor. —Anne Kruegel

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

Committed to Give

Funds raised for New Churches...New Life

■ KITCHENER, ON. The young people at Central Baptist Church encouraged members to sponsor them in memorizing Scripture to raise funds for New Churches...New Life. A drawing of a church, with bricks representing a Scripture verse, was displayed in the foyer.

"As the church is being 'built,' we thank God for helping us grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ," says Karen Yahn. The Rev. Fred Kahler is pastor.

Pennies saved for missionaries

■ MCLAUGHLIN, SD. The First Baptist Church Sunday school classes have been saving pennies to help support missionary families. The children put the money in a bank and

send this to the missionary family at the end of the year.

The families are chosen by the Sunday school members. Those receiving support are the Rev. Juan Luna, Rio Grande City, Texas; the Rev. Richard Kaiser, Brazil; and Dr. Rodney Zimmerman, Cameroon. —Virginia Walker

Central gathers relief supplies for Romania

■ EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist Church designated a month's benevolent offering, over \$14,600, for relief supplies to Romania.

Associate Pastor and Mrs. Lee Reimer travelled to Romania to personally deliver over 300 hampers containing food supplies and Bibles. The Rev. Terrence Fossen is senior pastor. —Kurt Remus

Commanded to Care

Faith Community initiates shepherd care program

■ AIRDRIE, AB. "It is with excitement and commitment that the Shepherd Care Program has been initiated at Faith Community Baptist Church," reports Barbara Remin.

The program's focus is on prayer, care, and outreach, ensuring the congregation that someone is always there for them. Each care leader, instructed by Pastor Lyle Buyer, has been assigned a number

of family units. The care leaders are in turn cared for by the diaconate, and the diaconate is cared for by Pastor and Mrs. Buyer.

Senior saints honored for faithful service

■ EMERY, SD. First Baptist Church honored their "Senior Saints" (70 years and older) for their faithful years of service at the Church. The program included a musical concert and fellowship. The Rev. Charles Davis is pastor. —Melinda Schrader

Ministerial Changes

David Soldner, 1990 North American Baptist Seminary graduate, from student pastor, Plum Creek Baptist Church, Emery, SD, to pastor, Martin (North Dakota) Baptist Church, July 1.

Ed Wild from Business Administrator, Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, to Administrator, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, May 28.

Donald Blatchley to interim pastor, Berlin Baptist Church, Fredonia, ND.

Daunavan Buyer from minister of Christian education, Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, June 30.

The Rev. Jim Zier from pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC, to pastor, Memory Lane Baptist Church, Wichita, KS, July 1.

Randy Frasier to music director, Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA.

Mike McInnes to youth outreach worker, New Life Ministries, Winnipeg, MB.

The Rev. Arlie Rauch from pastor, Redeemer Baptist Church, Columbus, NE, to pastor, Community Bible Church, Glendive, MT, June 1.

Alfred Reschke to youth worker, Mission Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

Jim Jouwstra to minister of music and worship, Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, OH.

Leland James Altizer to minister of music, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA.

The Rev. Merle Brenner to visitation pastor, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

Jerry Wilkinson to minister of Christian education, Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, OR.

The Rev. Byron Brodehl from First Baptist, George, IA, to church planting, Salmon Creek project, Vancouver, WA, August 1.

The Rev. Steven Bowyer to associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Minot, ND, May 1990.

Keith Heyn from interim pastor, to pastor, First Baptist Church, Underwood, ND.

Stephen May to staff member, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

The Rev. Ed Broadway from pastor of Heritage Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK, to church planting pastor, Okotoks, Alberta, August 31.

Dennis Shippy to church planting, Patterson/Newman area, California, August 1.

Kevin J. Sayers to director of Christian education and music, Bethel Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI.

Patricia Guntert to director of children's ministries, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA.

Michael Hernandez to associate pastor, Oakridge Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI.

John Druckemiller to associate pastor, South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD.

The Rev. Randy Bowman from pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

Greg Hochhalter from youth pastor, Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA, to enroll at North American Baptist Seminary.

Katherine Kyle from youth director, Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB.

Chris Seibert from minister of worship and music, Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

The Rev. Lester Buening to pastor, McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND, July 8.

The Rev. Arnie Kirschner installed as pastor, April 29, by First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA.

Wayne Dickau from associate pastor at Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB.

Randy Jaspers from pastor, First Baptist Church, Linton, ND, to pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND, and First Baptist Church, Medina, ND, August 1.

Carolyn (Scheel) Oeste from director of Christian education and youth, Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

Rick Stewart to minister of youth and worship, Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Loren Kopf from assistant director of youth, North American Baptist Conference, April 15. Kopf began his ministry with the Church Growth Ministries Department, August 1, 1986, as Director of Youth and New Day. He also served with the Local Arrangements Committees in planning for the youth programs of five Triennial Conferences.

John Kiemele from New Day Director, to enter North American Baptist Seminary this fall.

Dr. Lyle Schrag commissioned as senior pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

Ordinations

Joseph Hart, ordained March 25, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church, Bensalem, PA.

Dean Eisner, ordained February 18, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Trochu Baptist Church, Trochu, AB.

Don Schmid, ordained into the Christian ministry, First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND.

Clark F. Flesher, ordained April 1, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Ridgewood Baptist Church, Ridgewood, NY.

Dan Nieman, ordained March 18, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Anchor Baptist Church, So. Sioux City, NE.

Blair Nelson, ordained March 18, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

Byron Reiner, ordained into the Christian ministry by Northwest Fellowship Baptist Church, Chicago, IL. The Reiners are members, Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA.

Dale Hufnagel, ordained May 27, 1990, into the Christian ministry by Emmanuel Baptist Church, Valleyview, AB, from pastor, Community Baptist Church, Taber, AB, to N.A.B. missionary, Cameroon, West Africa.

Retirements

The Rev. Fred Fuchs retired as pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck, OK, June 24. He was ordained by First Baptist, Plevna, MT, in 1950. He and his wife served pastorates at Anamoose and Lincoln Valley Baptist, ND; First Baptist, LaSalle, CO; First Baptist, Eureka, SD; First Baptist, Fessenden, ND. They will be making their home in Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Art Freitag retires due to illness as pastor of First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD, July 31. After his ordination by Zion Baptist Church, Drumheller, AB, in 1969, he and his wife served as North American Baptist Conference missionaries to Cameroon, West Africa, 1969-71, and in pastorates at First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND; Grace Baptist, Medicine Hat, AB; and First Baptist, McLaughlin, SD.

The Rev. Ray Hoffman retired effective June 30. A graduate of North American Baptist Seminary and ordained by

Ashley (North Dakota) Baptist Church (1964), he and his wife served pastorates at Spring Valley Baptist Church, Canistota, SD; First Baptist, Fessenden, ND; Salt Creek Baptist, Dallas, OR; First Baptist, Medina, ND; and Temple Baptist, Jamestown, ND. They also served as North American Baptist Conference missionaries to Cameroon, West Africa, 1976 to 1983.

Dr. Willy Muller retires July 31, 1990, after 26 years of teaching psychology and education at North American Baptist College and Divinity School, Edmonton, AB. He will continue to teach the first semester of the 1990 school year. Dr. Muller served as pastor of Lauderdale Baptist Church and Meadowlark Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB; dean of students and professor of practical theology, N.A.B. College; and during his sabbatical, as teacher at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ndu, Cameroon, West Africa.

New Appointments

Benjamin C. Leslie to assistant professor of systematic theology and Christian ethics at North American Baptist Seminary, August 1. Leslie received his master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, his master of theology degree from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Switzerland, and is in the final stages of earning his doctorate from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. He and his wife, Kathy, have two daughters.

The Rev. Robert Walther, appointed by the Church Growth Ministries Board to the position of assistant director of church planting — field operations, July 8. Walther will provide on-site leadership, encouragement, and professional assistance for church planting pastors and projects, will work in partnership with the Associations and area ministers in all phases of new church planting projects, and will represent the Department at North American Baptist Seminary and Edmonton Baptist Seminary

(NABDS). Walther, who will reside in Sioux Falls, SD, has served as New Day Director; as church planting pastor of North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, TX; and as pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD.

Linda Guenther, appointed to road director of New Day 1990, is a graduate of Taylor University, Upland, IN, with a bachelor of music degree in church music. Linda's major emphasis is voice; her minor emphasis is piano. She has directed ensembles, a 50-voice adult choir, youth and children's choirs, and handbells. She previously traveled with the Baptist Festival Singers, Taylor Sounds, and the Reach Out Singers. Linda is church and choir accompanist at Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH.

Transitions

Rev. John E. Grygo, (87), Waverly, OH, died May 5, 1990. A graduate of North American Baptist Seminary and ordained Oct. 27, 1932, in Lansing, MI, served as pastor of Holmes St. Baptist Church, Lansing, MI; Immanuel Baptist Church, New York; Pioneer Baptist Church, Pound, WI; Ogden Park Baptist Church, Chicago, IL; Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND; as editor of German Publications, North American Baptist Conference, and as chaplain, Central Baptist Home, Chicago, IL.

Recognitions

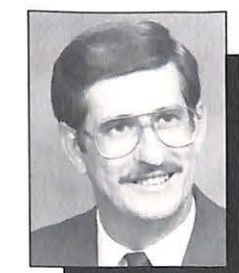
Ron Salzman, missions director, presented a plaque to Daphne Dunger in recognition of her 25 years of service as a medical missionary in Cameroon, West Africa. The Missions Board presentation was made in April during the Chicago Area Missions Rally at Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL.

On May 1, 1990, the Board of Directors of the Southern California Association voted to accept the recommendation of the Credentials Committee to approve for membership in the Association two churches: **Immanuel Church Los An-**

geles, a 40-year-old German speaking congregation, where the **Rev. Traugott Vogel** is pastor, and the **Chinese Evangelical Church of Orange County**, Costa Mesa, with the **Rev. Jonathan Cheng** as pastor. This congregation meets in Harbor Trinity Baptist Church for their worship services. These churches will be officially welcomed at the Association meeting in February 1991.



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POSITION OPEN
Assistant Director of Development for Stewardship
North American Baptist Conference
The Development Department is presently looking for a candidate to fill this vacant position. The candidate should possess good communication skills, a general knowledge of financial principles and procedures and be familiar with the constituency and tradition of the North American Baptist Conference.
Please send a resume' outlining past work experience, education, and personal information to the Rev. Lewis Petrie, development director, North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181-3994.

Potratz Honored by General Council at Retirement

Dr. Willis Potratz received recognition for his nine and a half years of service as Area Ministries Director and Associate Executive Director for the North American Baptist Conference during the annual sessions of the General Council on Friday evening, June 1, 1990.



Willis and Ruth Potratz

Dr. John Binder, executive director, spoke with high regard for Potratz as a person and expressed appreciation for his ministry. Dr. Binder recalled that in 1979 at the Triennial Conference in Bismarck, ND, there were five names on the ballot for the position of executive director. In a runoff, two names were left on the ballot, that of Willis Potratz and John Binder.

"Upon my election to the position," recalls Dr. Binder, "I immediately said to myself, 'I want to bring Willis Potratz to the N.A.B. International Office to work with me to supervise the area ministers.'" So in 1981, Dr. Potratz, who had been serving for eight years as Great Lakes Area Minister, became the first to hold the position of Area Ministries Director and Illinois Area Minister.

"I appreciate Willis for his perceptive insights and his wise counsel to people of all ages in all walks of life. Some might have thought: 'Why ask someone who ran against you on the ballot to work with you? Will he be loyal?'" said Binder. "I cannot imagine anyone with greater loyalty in all circumstances than Willis Potratz; he is impeccable in this respect. He loves God and exemplifies God's love in his daily walk. Willis is not only highly respected, but also he is loved," stated Binder.

On behalf of the General Council, Dr. Binder presented a Citation of

load," responded another. "I appreciated his friendship."

"Willis has been a model of genuine Christianity as he worked with us through the joys and trials of everyday service in the Lord's vineyard," pointed out another area minister. "His patience, coupled with wise counsel, has been of real encouragement through those times when weighty decisions concerning pastors and churches have been faced."

"His warm and affirming personality encourages trust and confidence," noted another area minister. "His deep spiritual convictions and gentle Christ-like spirit inspire a desire to share his expectations in ministry. Under his leadership, the area ministers have felt a strong team spirit."

Following his graduation from North American Baptist Seminary, Dr. Potratz and his wife served pastorates at Plum Creek Baptist, Emery, SD; Grace Baptist, Grand Forks, ND, and First Baptist, Lodi, CA, before becoming Great Lakes Area Minister (1973 to 1981). Judson College conferred the honorary degree of doctor of divinity upon him in 1984. For the past several years, he has also served on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

His wife, Ruth, has served as church secretary for nine and a half years at Village Green Baptist Church and has also used her gift in music on the organ and piano there and at Associational activities. □

The Potratzes plan to relocate to 1523 N. 20th St., Bismarck, ND 58501, effective August 1, 1990.

Appreciation to Dr. Potratz and a gift. In response, Dr. Potratz stated: "I give thanks to God for His grace; to my wife, Ruth, for her love and support; to Dr. Binder; and to the area ministers. Our team is an encouragement to me; they've been loyal — those in the past and those in the present. To all, I thank you for your love."

The team of area ministers who worked with Potratz describe him as a kind, caring, and thoughtful person, an encourager to pastors and laypeople, and a friend who builds you up. He exhibits the fruit of the spirit in his relationships with others. Known as a pastor to the area ministers, he is personable, congenial, and gentle as he exercises the spiritual gifts of encouragement and mercy.

"It was easy to respond to his administration," said one area minister. "He was always more than helpful as we set goals and direction for my area of work."

"He was always available and a good listener. He helped to carry the

Treasure Island

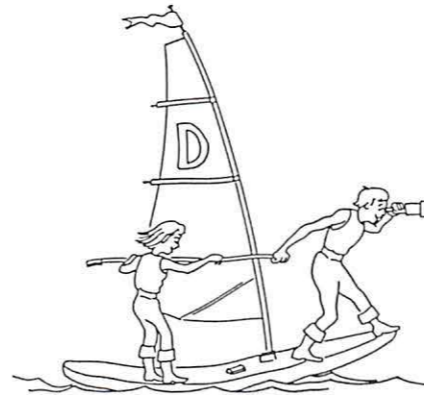
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estate planning

Your Estate Plan Does Not Need to Become Public Information

Many people do not realize it, but when a will is entered into probate, it becomes public knowledge. It is entered into the public records, and in most, if not all areas, it is accessible to the general public. Anyone can go to the court records and find out what you owned and how you distributed your possessions.

This is very uncomfortable for many people, for many different reasons.

- After all, it is your estate. God entrusted it to you, and how you distribute it is a matter between you and Him.
- You may have unique situations in your family which need to be spelled out clearly in your estate

instruments . . . a spendthrift child, a previous marriage, property involvements . . . situations which you wish to keep within your family.

- You may wish to make special charitable gifts which are important to you, but may not be understood by other people.
- And I'm sure there are many other reasons.

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And there are other advantages to the trust:

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We have prepared a special planning report, **The Use of Trusts in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving**. It contains many helpful ideas on how a trust can become an integral part of your estate plan.

Please take time to request your copy. There is no cost nor obligation, as this is part of our ministry to you.

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

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