

June 1990



GROW WITNESS



a special edition of

THE BAPTIST HERALD

VISION

2000

Selected Primary Long-range Goals of the North American Baptist Conference for 1990 to 2000

- Provide resource materials and seminars for churches to effectively implement six Biblical Imperatives: Worship, Grow, Witness, Serve, Give, and Care.
- Assist Associations to plant 150 churches and raise the necessary expansion ministry funds needed for this.
- Expand the mission commitment of our churches to include a greater emphasis on evangelizing people in Canada and the United States.
- Assist the North American Baptist Seminary and Divinity School in implementing church planter tracks to prepare church planters for ministry.
- Assist North American Baptist Conference churches in their outreach ministry to increase total worship attendance by 40 percent or about 4 percent annually.
- Research, plan, and initiate church planting ministries among 12 new unreached people groups on our present mission fields as well as establish a new mission field.
- Participate in evangelistic efforts overseas resulting in 50,000 recorded decisions for Christ leading to baptism and membership in a local church.
- Assist the overseas national conventions to increase their number of churches by a net of 30 percent.
- Assist in the training of 1,000 national ministers overseas.
- Raise and distribute \$1,000,000 for world relief and development.
- Assist the overseas national Baptist conventions in discipleship education resulting in churches that are self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.
- Recruit and train 500 professional leaders at our schools to follow God's call to service in our Conference and the wider Christian body.
- Assist churches to develop ministry plans for meeting the needs and utilizing the potential of the growing number of aging persons.
- Encourage North American Baptist Conference educational institutions to cooperatively develop extension theological education opportunities for the laity and ministers.
- Adhere to the highest level of accountability and integrity in all financial activities of our Conference, Associations and our churches.
- Encourage churches to develop ministry plans for rapidly changing urban communities and the people immigrating to North America.
- Work toward religious liberty, justice, and dignity for all people and peace among nations of the world.

WHO WE ARE

From the Conference beginnings in the mid-1800s, our early leaders from their study of the Bible concluded that Biblical baptism consisted of baptism by immersion on confession of faith in Christ. Originating from Europe with a State Church background, they rejected infant baptism and acted on their vision to plant churches. They called these the German Churches of Baptized Christians (usually called Baptists).

In 1988, we, as a Conference, recommitted ourselves to accelerate planting churches through the New Churches . . . New Life campaign to the year 2000. Our people continue to be a people of vision.

"Our early forefathers felt strongly that it was their mission to bring the Gospel to the tens of thousands of German immigrants coming to North America each year," wrote Dr. Frank H. Woyke in his book, *Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference*.

This vision continues today as our churches open their doors in ministry to new immigrants from Romania, Germany, China, Vietnam, and Mexico. Through our focus on **Vision 2000** and the Biblical

Imperative: Commissioned to Witness, we find in our churches not just one ethnic group but people of many cultures, diverse heritages, and various ethnic backgrounds — worshipping God and experiencing spiritual growth.

The vision of the early leaders included providing theological education to train ministers to bring the Gospel to the people of North America. This continues with renewed commitment today as our Conference seeks to train more qualified leaders for our new and established churches through our two theological schools.

In the early days of the Conference, leaders reminded the people of the religious freedom enjoyed in North America. They challenged the people to "a greater effort in promoting the work of the church." With the crisis in morals and values in North America today, God calls us through **Vision 2000** to renewed commitment to Him and His work.

Our early leaders called their people to a high level of spiritual life and to fervent prayer — conditions, they felt, necessary for the growth of healthy churches. Again during this

year of 1990, we are challenged to pray and to grow spiritually — to experience spiritual renewal — as individuals and churches.

Our Conference has been and continues to be known for its conservative theology. But then, as now, we are equally concerned about vital Christian living — about addressing the realities and issues of the day.

The Conference is committed to world evangelization and has been involved in planting churches in five overseas countries since 1883. Two new mission fields to begin in 1991 in Eastern Europe and Mexico are being proposed to the General Council in June 1990.

Our Conference of more than 60,000 members is binational with close to 400 churches and church plants in Canada and the United States. The Conference is divided into 20 associations of churches that are joined together for mutual encouragement and support.

We are a people of vision. We have committed ourselves to God's work through **Vision 2000**, a strategic focus on six Biblical Imperatives. We are a people who have excellent gifts bestowed by God and who use them sacrificially for God's glory and the building of the Kingdom of God.

We are fulfilling the mission God has entrusted to us: "to reconcile the world through Christ." This characterizes the people of the churches who are the North American Baptist Conference — cooperatively working together to make **Vision 2000** a reality!

Barbara J. Binder



VISION 2000 & YOU

Vision 2000 has given local churches focus as they have evaluated their ministry in light of six Biblical Imperatives. Church leaders and members of their congregations have met and continue to meet in local church retreats to evaluate their ministry and to set goals. They've evaluated their worship services and made changes. Now they are planning spiritual renewal retreats in their local churches.

Pastors are experiencing spiritual renewal through area and Association spiritual renewal retreats.

Pastors have commented:
"My ministry must be from the overflow of my walk with God. As a result of the retreat, I have made a greater commitment to fostering that overflow."

"Many have experienced blessing and victory. Sin has been confessed, spiritual wounds healed, and hearts and lives opened to share needs."

"This retreat came at a time when I needed 'rest' physically and emotionally."

"The retreat provided a time for me to reevaluate my life and my ministry before God."

"I gained spiritual strength through exercising the spiritual disciplines of fasting and solitude."

Associations have focused their themes on the Biblical Imperatives: Called to Worship and Challenged to Grow.

Woven throughout this issue of the *Baptist Herald*, you will see that the various Conference departments



- What do you feel is important for your church and the Conference?
- What is needed in your church, family, and life?

These people said enthusiastically that six Biblical Imperatives with specific and related goals — **Vision 2000** — should be our emphasis and direction to the year 2000. Delegates at the Triennial Conference in 1988 unanimously affirmed this.

Called to Worship 1989-91

The focus on the Biblical Imperative: Called to Worship, launched in 1989, brought a new awareness of the need for church leaders as well as individuals to prepare for worship and to understand the elements of worship. This led to the realization that it is important for the congregation to become more involved in worship. This then pointed up the importance of planning by the worship committee and an understanding of

the role of the worship leader.

Resources on worship are available for pastors and worship committees. They include

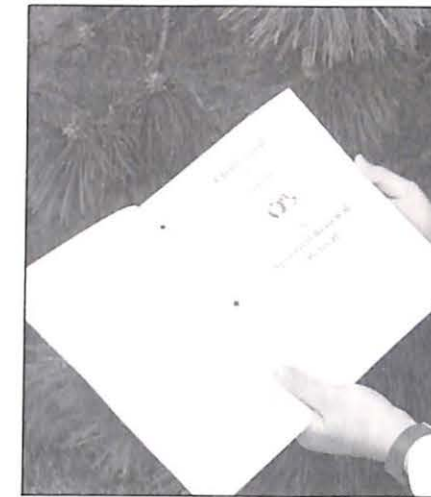
- a bibliography on worship,
- a manual for worship committees, *The Worship Planning Committee*,
- book reviews,
- articles on worship printed in the *Baptist Herald* and "Link,"
- a diagnostic and consulting system on worship, *Worship Rediscovered*, for church leaders to use with their congregation to bring new vitality to worship services,
- and a video series, *Principles of Worship*, developed by Robert Webber of Wheaton College, to be used in seminars, workshops, or small study groups.

Nine regional workshops on worship, involving 827 registrants and 154 churches, were held in 1989 in Vancouver, BC; Calgary, AB; Buffalo, NY; Yorkton, SK; Detroit, MI; Crystal Springs, ND; Lodi, CA; Winnipeg, MB; and Chicago, IL. Dr. Robert Webber, Dr. John Thielenhaus, Rev. Ray Harsch, Dr. Ron Mayforth, and Dr. Mel Unger served as leaders.

"Lay leaders and pastors were stimulated and motivated to renew their own worship experiences in their churches," says Ray Harsch, a workshop seminar leader. "Some of these churches made plans for worship renewal, and lay people encouraged their pastors to do so."

Challenged to Grow 1990-92

In 1990 the emphasis on the Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow has been launched. Believers are being challenged to evaluate their spiritual development and maturity and to focus on spiritual renewal. Articles on the spiritual



disciplines, written by members of the Grow Task Force, are being published in the *Baptist Herald* and "Link." Resources are available to assist the local church in their study of the spiritual disciplines and also to suggest ways these disciplines can be incorporated into the life of the individual and the church.

Churches and individuals were encouraged to begin 1990 with a "week of prayer," particularly interceding for church planters and praying for the Lord to raise up pastors and others to lead the new church planting projects being planned.



Challenged to Grow — a Spiritual Renewal Retreat has been provided through the Conference Development Department. This 24-hour mini retreat, focusing on the classical spiritual disciplines, provides an opportunity to meet with God in silence and in solitude. The retreat material contains ideas and resources to provide opportunities to become spiritually renewed as pastors. Ways to adapt the material for spiritual renewal retreats in the local church are suggested.

Witness Task Force 1991-93

The Task Force for the Biblical Imperative: Commissioned to Witness meets in July 1990 to plan the resource material to be provided for this Imperative when it is launched in 1991.

Compelled to Serve 1992-94

Basic resource materials have already been identified for this Imperative.

Committed to Give 1993-95

The Development Department is in the process of providing resources for the Biblical Imperative: Committed to Give. It is hoped that this will encourage individuals and churches to practice Biblical principles of stewardship.

Commanded to Care 1994-96

What is your involvement — your commitment — to the mission of Vision 2000? How are the Biblical Imperatives becoming a more meaningful part of your life?

The Mission/Purpose Statement

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.

Schedule of Conference Services and Emphases

| | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Called to Worship | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Challenged to Grow | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Commissioned to Witness | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Compelled to Serve | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Committed to Give | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Commanded to Care | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ |

by John Binder

ARE WE REALLY GROWING?

▶ "Growing in Christ." You hear this phrase, or some version of it, almost every week in our North American Baptist Conference churches — either in a sermon or a Sunday school class or a small group. It is loaded with a wide range of meanings, but most of you would probably agree on what it means to grow in Christ.

But I have this growing uneasiness about how effective we really are in helping one another grow into mature disciples of Jesus Christ. In fact, there is a real lack of clarity as to what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

Never in human history have we, as followers of Christ, had more resources available (at least here in North America) to help us grow in our knowledge and commitment to the God we serve. Helping people grow in Christ has spawned whole industries, which account for multiple millions of dollars in the North American economy. Tens of thousands of people sell goods, services, and programs to millions of Christian consumers.

With all this help to grow, why is it that we see few of our Christian family members and friends really growing to be more obedient to Christ's standards — to be more faithful and more disciplined than they were a year ago?

I suspect that somewhere we have taken a wrong turn.

We have become addicted to Christian church-going, but not



empowered by the Holy Spirit. There is no discernible difference between the life-style of the Christian and the non-Christian.

We have confused absorbing information with active, biblically-defined maturity.

We have exchanged the pursuit of Godliness for the pursuit of how to fix ourselves up to be more "fulfilled."

We have delegated the maturing of ourselves and our families to the church, youth group, denomination, publisher, and broadcaster, rather than taking on the responsibility ourselves.

We are working hard — but are we focused on the right priorities?

As I look across the Conference, I see all of us, myself included, running hard in the race to help people "grow in Christ." I see a mind-boggling amount of effort poured out to help people grow. But I believe that we are working against an inadequate definition and application of what it means to help people "grow."

Dallas Willard in his book, *The Spirit of the Disciplines* (p. 18), says,

"Seventeen years of ministerial efforts in a wide range of

denominational settings had made it clear to me that what Christians were normally told to do, the standard advice to churchgoers, was not advancing them spiritually.

"Of course, most Christians had been told by me as by others to attend the services of the church, give of time and money, pray, read the Bible, do good to others, and witness to their faith. And certainly, they should do these things. But just as certainly, something more was needed. It was painfully clear to me that, with rare and beautiful exceptions, Christians were not able to do even these few necessary things in a way that was really good for them, as things that would be an avenue to life filled and possessed of God. All pleasing and doctrinally sound schemes of Christian education, church growth, and spiritual renewal came around at last to this disappointing result."

Willard builds a strong case that the *transforming resurrection power of God* in the life of the believer comes through the practice of spiritual disciplines.

One of the reasons the North American Baptist Conference has undertaken the **Vision 2000** strategy and the Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow is precisely for this reason that Dallas Willard speaks about. There is this strong tendency within the Conference and its churches to believe that if we take last year's program and just try to work harder at it this year, then we will see the kind of results we are looking for.

But in my deepest moments of

reflection, I believe that we're working with the wrong formula for spiritual nurture in our lives and churches. How do you feel about that? I suspect the kind of formula for spiritual nurture we need implies changes which I frankly find difficult to make personally and organizationally.

As a Conference, we have put a high premium on knowing the Word of God. This emphasis has sustained our Conference throughout its history.

We put a tremendous emphasis on knowing the Bible, and I take nothing away from our efforts. But I

"Growth is a Holy Spirit-led process through which believers know God and His purposes, becoming like Christ in character and conduct."

am concerned that much of this activity is based on a faulty assumption that if we simply fill a person's head with enough knowledge and facts, somehow they will turn out to be Biblical Christians.

I have talked to scores of people around the Conference who long for God to show us a new definition and application of spiritual growth for our lives.

The Conference task force on the Grow imperative wrestled with this. The definition they settled upon is significant: *Growth is a Holy Spirit-led process through which believers know God and His purposes, becoming like Christ in character and conduct.*

I like the concept of process because it relieves us from the burden of guilt that Satan would so

easily put upon us. It allows for God's grace to cover my life. It makes my walk with Him more of an adventure of purposeful decisions — decisions that result in changes in my character and my conduct, which my wife, children, and those I work with can see. This is how I want to grow. Do you?

Our task is not an easy one. In the race before us, our churches need to be places of renewal, where we come not simply for information but rather to encounter the Living God and be energized by the Holy Spirit for the next leg of the race.

Finally, I would invite you to reflect with me on the passage of 2 Peter 1:5-8:

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

This passage begins to address the factors that make our knowledge of Christ both effective and productive. I ask each of you to pray with me that God will give us a new understanding of spiritual growth and a new experience of growth in Christ.

*Dr. John Binder, executive director
North American Baptist Conference*

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

helping to win
the world
for Christ by
the year 2000

► **S**piritual growth as well as numerical growth was evidenced on all five overseas missions fields in 1989, and the growth continues in 1990.

Our missionaries work alongside national Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in Brazil, Japan, the Philippines, and Cameroon and Nigeria, West Africa. Plans are to begin mission work in Eastern Europe and Mexico in 1991.

Missionaries serve in a variety of ways: church planting, evangelism, administration, theological education for pastors, medical work, schools, strategizing, and targeting unreached areas.

The goals of overseas mission ministries point to growth and helping to win the world for Christ by the year 2000.

► Our missionaries assist national conventions in church planting

Church planting is the top priority of the North American Baptist Conference mission.

• Japan

The Lord is bringing people to



Bible studies and worship services at a new church planting work in Kameoka started by Missionaries Reimer and Nobuko Clausen. "We praise the Lord for the miracle of finding property for one third the market price of land in that area and for a contractor, although not a Christian, who will build the building for almost no profit because it will be a church."

• Brazil

Of the 342 cities in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, only 65 have Baptist churches. Six million people live in these 342 cities.

Missionaries Ken and Jerilyn Bayer have planted Igreja Batista Boas Novas (Good News Baptist Church) in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil. It is now an organized church with 46 members. "Our wooden house is not holding the people any longer. Several times now, we have had to

meet outside on the front lawn."

Baptizing believers and training lay leaders to conduct outreach home Bible studies are keys to ministry here.

• Cameroon

In 1990 the Cameroon Baptist Convention plans to secure land to plant a church in the city of Douala and to establish another church in Bamenda.

• Philippines

In the Legazpi-Daraga area of the Philippines, long-range plans include establishing a strong multiple staff, multiple ministry church with a number of satellite congregations that will relate directly to the mother church (established in 1989) according to Missionary Leland Bertsch. "We plan to establish our first satellite group in 1990."



"We greatly appreciate the help of the North American Baptist Conference to meet the personnel needs on these fields by appointing a missionary in 1990 for this work," says Samuel Ngum, executive secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention.

• Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria reached out with the Gospel to new areas.

► Our missionaries reach unreached people groups through mission outreach by national conventions

• The churches of the Japan Baptist Conference are giving offerings for the North American Baptist Conference mission work in the Philippines.

• Through the missions outreach of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, people previously unreached for Christ are being reached on the mission fields of Bafoussam (five churches with 216 members and one pastor), Ndian (nine churches, no pastors), Douala/Edea, and Adamoua.

Some pastors and evangelists were sent to bring the Gospel to the people of Bali, Kasuwan, Ndoro, and Kumbo areas.

"These men wholeheartedly did their work through the support and prayers of the Christians in Mambilla," says the Rev. Samuel Yubuin, executive secretary. "Some churches were planted; they kept growing. More and more churches were opened in the area until it became three associations. They organized into a field in 1989."

In the Ndoro area, several small churches have been planted in a number of widely scattered villages.

Our missionaries in Nigeria personally pay for one of the national missionaries to this area.

► Our missionaries assist in church growth

• Four of the eight Japan Baptist Conference churches have already doubled in membership by the ninth year of their ten-year-goal to double the membership of the Japan Baptist Conference.

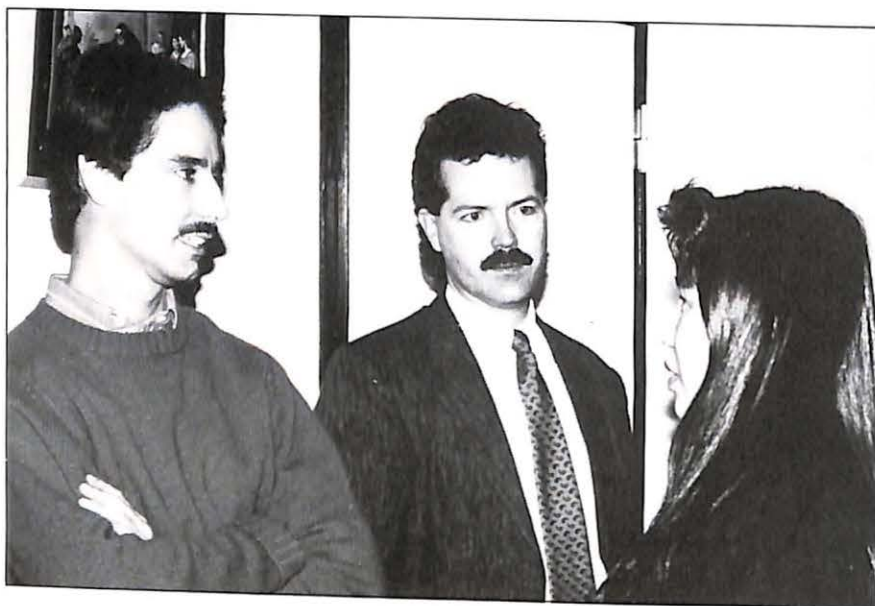
► Our missionaries train national pastors

• **Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil.** The teaching staff of this Seminary is composed of pastors of Baptist churches. One pastor drives 700 kilometers once every 15 days to teach Greek to the students. Two of our missionaries—Richard Rabenhorst and Ken Bayer—teach there part-time.

The students work full-time from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to support their families. In the evenings, they attend Seminary classes held in the German Baptist Church in Porto Alegre. They arrive home at midnight. On Saturdays and Sundays, they are involved in practical church work. They are praying that they might have a full-time school in their own facilities with full-time professors.

• **Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center, Legazpi City, Philippines.** The goal is to have 10 students this year with at least three who are preparing for full-time pastoral service.

• **Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu.** In September 1990, a new Diploma of Theology



program begins. In September 1991, a three-year Certificate of Pastoral Studies begins.

"These two new programs along with the Certificate of Theology and the Bachelor of Theology courses make our Seminary a vital lifeline for our Convention," says Missionary Kenneth Priebe, evangelism secretary for the Convention. "We thank the North American Baptist Conference for its continued support of this school and its students. The ongoing training of pastors and wives is a result of your faithful financial support."

- **Mambilla Baptist Theological School, Mbu, Nigeria.** Seventeen students graduated with five-year certificates in pastoral studies in 1989. During 1989-90, 88 students were enrolled in the Certificate of Theology degree program. 37 students' wives studied in the Women's Department of the School. 23 students graduate in July 1990. 213 students and wives and families were part of Mambilla Baptist Theological School during the 1989-90 school year. Twelve staff members (10 nationals and two missionaries) serve there.

Our missionaries encourage evangelistic outreach

- Short-term missionaries serve through "bridge-building" friendships while working with students of Mie University. These friendships develop through teaching classes directly within Mie University in Japan and assisting the English Speaking Society on campus.

Robert Joy, a short-term missionary in Japan, befriended a third-year elementary education student at the university. After sharing the Gospel with her several times, he invited her to attend his Saturday Bible Class. As she became more interested in the Bible, she joined the Bible Club. She then started to attend the services at the Toyogaoka Church. Over a period of time of evangelistic meetings and spiritual discussions, she decided to follow Christ and was baptized this past Christmas. As a result, there have been more university students eager to discover the joy in her life, and several have inquired about baptism.



- The women of Good News Baptist Church in Novo Hamburgo, RS, Brazil, are involved in an evangelistic ministry. Every Tuesday afternoon, they visit women who have ties with the church but who are not Christians. This has helped women come out of their shells and see their worth in the Lord's work, says Jerilyn Bayer.

One woman never used to visit members of her congregation. Recently, she accompanied another woman to deliver used clothes to a needy family, explain the Gospel through her personal testimony, and leave tracts with this family. This does not seem like much, but this lady does not know how to read or write, was raised in the interior of Brazil where a woman has a definite servant role in society, and where she would be suspect for not letting her husband lead in this work.

Our missionaries conduct spiritual growth seminars

- During annual Bible Conferences, churches in each of the 20 fields of the Cameroon Baptist Convention spent three days studying God's Word and having fellowship on the theme, "World Evangelization Now"

(Acts 1:8). The Spirit of God spoke to hearts of people as they committed themselves to the task of being witnesses inside as well as outside Cameroon.

- TEACH '90 (Theological Education Advancing Cameroon's Harvest in 1990) began in mid-February.

"Rev. Lorne Hamp and Don Kerr of St. Catharines, ON, joined three of us in Cameroon to go to each of our fields with teaching on the life, walk, and growth of a Christian to pastors and church leaders," says Missionary Ken Priebe.

- A spiritual gifts seminar was conducted for all ordained pastors of the Mambilla Baptist Convention. This provided continuing education opportunities for the trained leadership. God's Spirit worked through seminars on "Learning to Live at Peace" and revival services that caused people to be open for change in their individual lives and church life.

- The Cameroon Sunrise Project

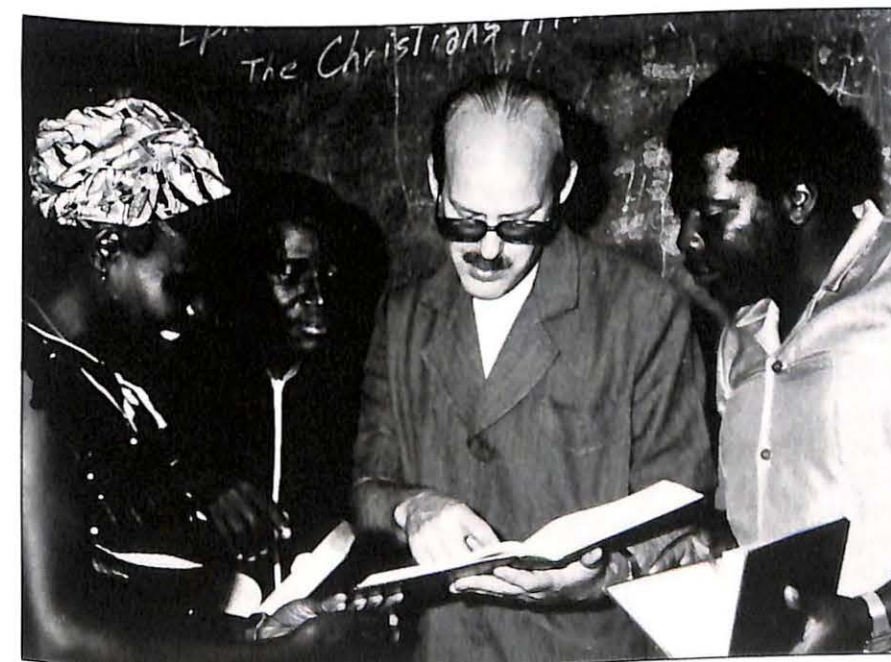
using the film, **Jesus**, translated into Pidgin English, reached more than 90,000 with more than 9,000 people making decisions for Christ.

Laypersons from British Columbia, and Alberta, North American Baptist College and Divinity School students and Campus Crusade for Christ staff, joined with students from Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, national pastors and lay leaders and Missionary Ken Priebe for this evangelistic outreach in about six areas.

As a result, a church in Belo Field, enrolled 37 new Christians in their new believers class.

Another church grew by more than 65 even before the film was shown, because the church leaders put their counsellor training immediately into practice.

Another church has divided the 662 names it received for follow-up among its deacons and church members. Eyes have been opened to the working power of Jesus Christ in the lives of thousands of people.



Our missionaries disciple lay leaders

- As a result of discipling new Christians in the new church in Legazpi City, Philippines, several of these church members are very active in outreach ministries. This allows Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch more time to be involved in pastoral care and leadership training.

- A Cameroonian now serves as youth director, a position formerly held by missionaries, for the Cameroon Baptist Convention. The Convention has also employed a full-time director for women's work, funded partially by the North American Baptist Conference.

Missionaries

At year-end 1989, our overseas missionaries numbered:

| | Career | STM | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Brazil | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Cameroon | 26 | 13 | 39 |
| Japan | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| Nigeria | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| Philippines | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 63 | 21 | 84 |

This compares to 56 career and 12 STM at year-end 1988.

- Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson have discipled Sergio and Carmen, who own a real estate company in Campeche. Since their conversion to Jesus Christ, they have been two of the strongest Christians in Campeche. Sergio witnesses to his clients as he sells them real estate, and Carmen witnesses to her friends as they do gymnastics on the beach.

Our missionaries encourage spiritual growth through medical work

• In 1990, the hospitals and health centers are improving and developing their concept of the whole person approach to medical care, including spiritual growth. Annual personal evangelism training courses continue. Theological Education by Extension courses are offered to hospital personnel as well as training programs for staff to help them deal with patients' spiritual and emotional problems. The goal is to station a chaplain at all health centers.

• Chaplains do a tremendous work in the hospitals and health centers of Baptist medical institutions in Cameroon. Many people made first-time decisions for the Lord as the result of spiritual emphasis throughout the medical institutions. The gospel teams of the two hospitals visit nearby churches and make trips to distant areas.

• The Medical Board of the Cameroon Baptist Convention established two additional health centers in Ndu and Kumba. The Kumba Center opened in November, and by the end of December, it had ministered to 944 patients. A short-term missionary serves there with a national as chief of post.

• Primary health care in remote areas is provided through village health clinics and training of health workers in Cameroon and Nigeria.



Our missionaries plan work opportunities for volunteers in missions

• Volunteers in missions serve in a variety of ways such as building churches and parsonages, building camp dormitories and chapels, doing electrical wiring, and cataloging library books.

In 1989, Missionary Ralph Nelson made almost 20 trips to several fishing villages trying to find land on

which to build a church for a new congregation. This church was planted as a result of reaching out to a previously unreached fishermen's group on an island of Florianopolis, SC, Brazil. Finally, the Lord provided a piece of land on Campeche. Twenty-four North American Baptists from Alberta arrived November 21 and worked hard for about 10 days constructing a basic brick and concrete building to be used as a church. On December 3, more than 150 people gathered to dedicate this building to the Lord.



Missions Department executive staff: Fred Folkerts, Herman Effa, and Ron Salzman discuss the possibility of mission work in Mexico.

Camp Saker, Bimbia, was the center of much work by the Cameroon Baptist youth as well as people in churches from Northern California. They erected three dormitories, a chapel, and a rest house. The prefabricated buildings were donated by the Northern California churches under the vision of Darrell Schuh, a lay contractor and member of the Board of Missions.

Our missionaries provide advisory support to the schools

• The primary and secondary schools of the Cameroon Baptist Convention are among the front-ranking schools of Cameroon in discipline, spiritual and moral formation (growth), and academic output. This is noted in their performance in the national certificate examinations.

• Two of the blind children from the Integrated School for the Blind, Kumbo, are doing extremely well in the Government High School in Kumbo. This evidences the excellent academic training these children are receiving to prepare them for entry into the public school system.

• Saker Baptist College, a secondary

school where Missionary Wilma Binder serves as vice principal and teacher in Limbe, Cameroon, has a student body of more than 650 girls. They plan to begin providing junior college curriculum there, also.

Our missionaries minister to people's needs

• "We must be ready at all times to build people up," says Ken Bayer.

Recently a brother of one of the youth that the Bayers work with in Brazil was spraying pesticide in a tobacco field. The hot sun was unbearable, so he got off his tractor and drank from a pond located in the field. He died from the poisonous pesticide. He was only 21 years old, worked for less than 80 cents a day, and probably did not know Christ as Savior.

Celebration

• The Mambilla Baptist Convention celebrated its 50th anniversary in May 1990 (1939-1989). The mission work started in 1939 with four Christians and one church. It has grown to be the Mambilla Baptist Convention with 155 churches and 15,000 members.

World relief

• \$46,418 was contributed for world relief in 1989.

JAPAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

| | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 17 | baptized |
| 8 | churches (+1) |
| 405 | members |
| 6 | pastors |
| 1 | Christian Education Center |

CAMEROON, WEST AFRICA

| | |
|--------|--|
| 20 | fields |
| 112 | associations |
| 654 | churches |
| 52,566 | members (10.6% growth) |
| 440 | pastors |
| | (169 ordained pastors 271 non ordained) |
| 110 | primary schools |
| 6 | secondary schools |
| 1 | theological seminary |
| 1 | private school of nursing and midwifery |
| 3 | hospitals |
| 2 | health centers |
| 1 | school for the blind |
| | Life Abundant Programme |

NIGERIA

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 | fields (+1) |
| 23 | associations (+2) |
| 155 | churches (+8) |
| 10 | preaching points |
| 75 | trained pastors (+8) |
| 90 | untrained pastors (+10) |
| 24 | ordained (+4) |
| 1,081 | baptisms (+325) |
| 15,931 | members (+862 or 5.7%) |
| 19,010 | av. Sunday worship attendance (+464) |
| 1 | theological school |
| | village health care ministries |

BRAZIL

| | |
|-------|--|
| 97 | churches |
| 42 | congregations |
| 6,915 | church members |
| 665 | baptisms |
| 11 | associations |
| 111 | ordained pastors |
| 42 | seminary students (Rio Grande do Sul) |
| 13 | theological education students (Santa Catarina) |

PHILIPPINES

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | church (+1) |
| 11 | baptisms |
| 37 | members (+9) |
| 3 | leaders being trained (+1) |

*accelerate the planting of
churches in North America*

In 1952, at the Triennial Conference, a definite commitment was made to plant new churches. Since then, 198 churches have been started. Of these, 160 continue as churches or church planting projects. About 38 percent of the Conference's present membership are worshipping in churches planted since 1952.

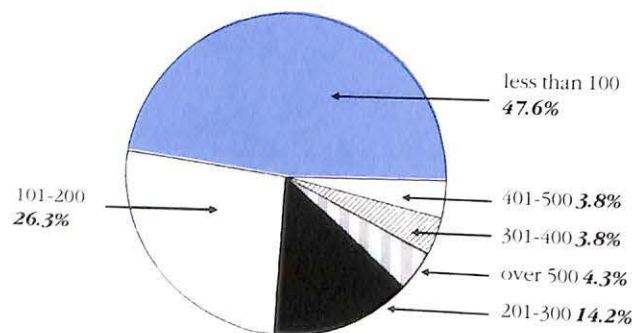
In 1988 at the Triennial Conference, delegates made a new commitment to accelerate the planting of new churches through New Churches . . . New Life.



New Churches ... New Life

Scores of North American Baptist Conference donors were contacted through New Churches . . . New Life "Celebrations of Life" events and challenged to covenant and give toward a \$1.8 million goal over a three-year period. As a result, by April 1990, about \$1,100,000 was covenanted or given through more than 700 covenants.

Percentage of churches according to size



Fourteen churches have placed New Churches . . . New Life in their annual budgets.

The majority of the people contacted agree that this emphasis is vital: to provide support for pastors of new church planting projects in new needy areas to reach people for Christ.

Church planting

1989 was a strong year for church planting, according to the Rev. Bernard Fritzke, associate director for church planting. As a result, nine new churches receive prayer and financial support from the North American Baptist Conference in cooperation with seven Associations. Presently, your giving to North American Baptist Conference established and expansion ministries supports 29 church planting projects.

As of April 1990, the aggregate attendance of 28 projects is 2,099 per Sunday. This averages 75 people per project.

The Church Growth Ministries Department works closely with Associations in interviewing and selecting



pastors for new church planting projects. An orientation for the pastor and wife is held after they arrive at their place of service in the new area.

▶ Church planting projects started in 1989

- Fairfield, CA, *Crossroads Baptist*, Charles Feeney
- Carlsbad, CA, *La Costa Hills*, Larry Lamb
- Winnipeg, MB, *Abundant Life Baptist*, Erwin Kelbert
- West Des Moines, IA, *Christ Church-Baptist*, Elmo Tahrán
- Silverdale, WA, *West Sound Community*, Rainer Kunz
- Franklin, WI, *Franklin Community*, John Schindler
- Vallejo, CA, *Southampton Bay Baptist*, Rickey Threadgill
- Rochester Hills, MI, *Oakland Hills Baptist*, Randy Beck
- Detroit, MI, *Southfield Memorial Baptist*, Dwayne Turner
- Sacramento, CA, *Romanian Baptist*, John Gug

Dwayne Turner, while working full-time for the U.S. Postal Service and teaching at a Bible College in Detroit,



Michigan, spent one year building four Bible study groups. These groups became the nucleus of the new church, Southfield Memorial Baptist Church in the Detroit area of Michigan. The first public worship service was held in October 1989. At the time, he became a full-time church planting pastor. Twenty-five people have made first-time decisions for Christ since this work began. Many more have rededicated their lives to Christ.

▶ Church planting projects beginning in 1990

Ten communities without an evangelical witness have been selected as church planting areas for 1990. As contributions are received for church planting, through the Expansion Budget, these church planting projects will begin. Six approved by the Church Growth Ministries Board as of April 1990 are

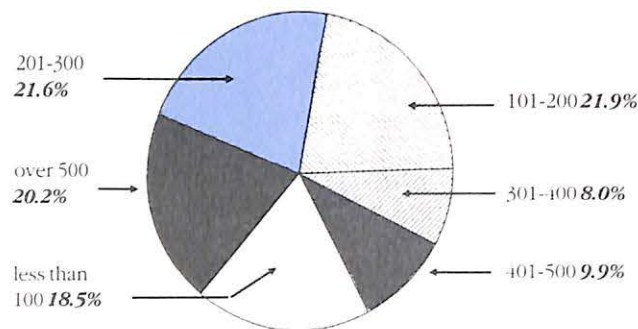
- Temecula, CA, *Valley Christian Fellowship*, Mike McNeff (January 1)
- Downsview, ON, *All Nations Baptist*, Kenrick Sharpe (March 1990)
- Vancouver, WA, Salmon Creek area
- Regina, SK, Wascana Baptist
- Mission Viejo/Santa Margarita, CA (June 1990)
- Patterson/Newman, CA area (August 1990)

▶ Church planting projects become self-supporting

Two church planting projects become self-supporting in 1990:

- *Shady Grove Baptist Church* of Gaithersburg, MD, with Jim Arends, pastor (January 16)

Percentage of membership according to size of church



Valley Baptist Church of Tracy, CA, Dennis Dearmin, pastor (anticipates self-support by August 1, 1990).

In less than three years of service, Valley Community Baptist Church in Tracy, CA, has incorporated and has been accepted by the Northern California Association as a recognized N.A.B. Conference church. As of March 1990, average attendance was 166 in this Church.

"The greatest joy is that there is a group of men and women here who are committed to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to living for and serving Him through the worship of their lives," says Pastor Dearmin. "Thank you for your assistance in helping us to plant this Church. We serve our Lord together to reach a lost, dying, and hurting world."

The Philadelphia project

Nearly 150 years ago, a North American Baptist Conference church was organized in Philadelphia. Almost 40 years ago, in 1952, this Church and others from the area, hosted a Triennial Conference. At this Conference, it was decided to renew the emphasis on church extension or planting. In 1990, Philadelphia has become once again a place of historical significance and innovation for our Conference.

In partnership with the Center for Urban Theological Studies, and with the enthusiastic cooperation of the Atlantic Association, three urban churches have been planted. Each of these churches of the Philadelphia Project has a unique ministry and is served by a highly qualified black pastor.

The International City Community Church, a new congregation, serves a community on Philadelphia's far southwest corner. This community's black residents have moved there within the last five years; adjacent to it is a large, new, housing development peopled largely by middle and upper-income blacks.

Christian Compassion Baptist Church, served by Pastor Sam Slaffey, is located in the heart of the old and densely-packed South Philadelphia. Saved by God from the violence of mean streets, the pastor has remained in his community to bring the gospel to his people.

Bible Baptist Fellowship Church is located in a Camden, NJ, neighborhood, where many families move on their first stop on the journey upward from the inner-city. Joseph Lewis, pastor, has a vision to keep the hearts of his people full of compassion for the neighborhoods they have left behind.

Women's ministries

"To reach women in our neighborhoods, communities, nation, and the world for Jesus Christ" (Acts 1:8) is the vision providing impetus for women's ministries in our churches since 1907.

The Women's Missionary Fellowship seeks to unite women in Christian fellowship, provide opportunities for Christian growth, and provide outreach ministries at home and overseas.



The nature of our Women's Missionary Fellowship is changing. Our concept of women's work has grown to include all the women of the church, moving away from a specific group which meets at certain hours and in certain places. Any woman involved in the work of the local church as it functions in the community of believers and reaches out to those around it is a part of the Women's Missionary Fellowship.

The **Handbook for Ministry with Women** in preparation over the past several years was published in 1990. It gives flexible guidelines for the development of women's ministries, helps leaders organize and give effective leadership to women's ministries, and provides suggestions for opportunities to expand ministries in the local church.

The Women's Missionary Fellowship has accepted the challenge to raise \$150,000 toward the \$1,800,000 New Churches . . . New Life goal to plant new churches.

New Day—a youth ministry opportunity

New Day 1989-90 traveled from October through May 6 with John Kiemele as director. This team of eight North American Baptist Conference young people volunteered their services in music and drama to 54 churches and their communities in 15 associations of the North American Baptist Conference. The total audience attendance for this tour was approximately 32,000.

New Day is now entering a transitional period. Three month tours will replace the traditional nine month season beginning the fall of 1990.



Church Growth Ministries Department: Linda Ebel, women's ministries; Bernard Fritzke, church planting; and David Sems, director

Age of Churches 1841-1989

| Church Age | Years Started | No. of Members | % of Members | No. of Churches | % of Churches |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 0-10 | (1981-89) | 2,521 | 4.19 | 39 | 10.48 |
| 11-20 | (1971-80) | 7,827 | 13.01 | 47 | 12.64 |
| 21-30 | (1961-70) | 6,031 | 10.02 | 39 | 10.48 |
| 31-40 | (1951-60) | 9,069 | 15.07 | 47 | 12.64 |
| 41-50 | (1941-50) | 3,931 | 6.53 | 17 | 4.57 |
| 51-60 | (1931-40) | 1,645 | 2.73 | 6 | 1.61 |
| 61-70 | (1921-30) | 3,225 | 5.36 | 14 | 3.76 |
| 71-80 | (1911-20) | 2,717 | 4.52 | 20 | 5.38 |
| 81-90 | (1901-10) | 4,370 | 7.26 | 31 | 8.33 |
| 91-100 | (1891-1900) | 6,611 | 10.99 | 40 | 10.75 |
| 101-110 | (1881-90) | 5,352 | 8.90 | 31 | 8.33 |
| 111-120 | (1871-80) | 2,695 | 4.48 | 17 | 4.57 |
| 121-130 | (1861-70) | 2,188 | 3.64 | 10 | 2.69 |
| 131-140 | (1851-60) | 1,650 | 2.74 | 11 | 2.96 |
| 141-150 | (1841-50) | 336 | 0.56 | 3 | 0.81 |
| Totals | | 60,168 | 100 | 372 | 100 |

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION
 23 churches
 1 church planting project
 4136 members (+37)
 2097 av. S.S. attendance
 4095 av. Sun. worship attendance
 131 baptisms

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION
 14 churches
 1347 members (-26)
 787 av. S.S. attendance
 1350 av. Sun. worship attendance
 27 baptisms
 1 new church start 1990

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION
 16 churches
 2 church planting projects
 2497 members (-27)
 1487 av. S.S. attendance
 2441 av. Sun. worship attendance
 74 baptisms
 1 new church start 1989

GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION
 29 churches
 2 church planting projects
 7097 members (-25)
 3123 av. S.S. attendance
 5811 av. Sun. worship attendance
 151 baptisms
 2 new church starts 1989

MINNESOTA/LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
 11 churches
 1583 members (-48)
 611 av. S.S. attendance
 1049 av. Sun. worship attendance
 12 baptisms

NORTHERN DAKOTA ASSOCIATION
 16 churches
 2161 members (+86)
 1175 av. S.S. attendance
 1842 av. Sun. worship attendance
 63 baptisms

CENTRAL DAKOTA/MONTANA ASSOCIATION
 26 churches
 3331 members (+20)
 1710 av. S.S. attendance
 2666 av. Sun. worship attendance
 69 baptisms

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION
 12 churches
 1 church planting project
 2481 members (+38)
 1067 av. S.S. attendance
 2198 av. Sun. worship attendance
 31 baptisms
 1 church start 1989

EASTERN ASSOCIATION
 24 churches
 1 church planting project
 3456 members (+58)
 1712 av. S.S. attendance
 2786 av. Sun. worship attendance
 70 baptisms
 1 new church start 1990

SOUTH DAKOTA/WYOMING ASSOCIATION
 16 churches
 1 church planting project
 2563 members (-81)
 1508 av. S.S. attendance
 2184 av. Sun. worship attendance
 53 baptisms

IOWA ASSOCIATION
 15 churches
 1 church planting project
 2240 members (-180)
 902 av. S.S. attendance
 1332 av. Sun. worship attendance
 42 baptisms
 1 new church start 1989

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION
 16 churches
 2004 members (-80)
 988 av. S.S. attendance
 1401 av. Sun. worship attendance
 52 baptisms

ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION
 14 churches
 1 church planting project
 1516 members (+48)
 779 av. S.S. attendance
 1245 av. Sun. worship attendance
 35 baptisms
 1 new church start 1990

CENTRAL PACIFIC ASSOCIATION
 13 churches
 2323 members (+103)
 1275 av. S.S. attendance
 1677 av. Sun. worship attendance
 85 baptisms
 1 new church start 1990

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
 11 churches
 7 church planting projects
 6275 members (+272)
 3875 av. S.S. attendance
 5794 av. Sun. worship attendance
 202 baptisms
 2 new church start 1989
 1 new church start 1990

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
 8 churches
 4 church planting projects
 1675 members (+38)
 1289 av. S.S. attendance
 1693 av. Sun. worship attendance
 57 baptisms
 1 new church start 1989

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION
 27 churches
 2345 members (-145)
 1328 av. S.S. attendance
 1700 av. Sun. worship attendance
 66 baptisms

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION
 14 churches
 2 church planting projects
 1291 members (+25)
 993 av. S.S. attendance
 1227 av. Sun. worship attendance
 21 baptisms

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCHES
 2 churches
 245 members (+10)
 71 av. S.S. attendance
 173 av. Sun. worship attendance
 2 baptisms

1989 Statistics
 372 churches
(four gains, three losses)
 9 new church starts
 60,168 members (+165)

1989 Gains
 234 churches reported baptisms in 1989
 1,585 baptisms
(65 in church planting projects)
 1,467 gains through transfer of letter
 1,043 gains by Christian experience
 1,110 church planting "members"

1989 Losses
 537 through death
 2,024 removed from rolls
 121 churches reported no baptisms
 42 did not submit a report
 52,108 average Sunday worship attendance

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

Churches in Canada and the U.S.A.

This map reflects the number of churches, membership, average Sunday school and worship attendance, and number of church starts in each Association in 1989. (- under / + over 1988)

**Church planting projects are those churches not received into the Association as of December 31, 1989*

WORSHIP GROW WITNESS

CHURCH EXTENSION INVESTORS FUND CEIF

Individuals and churches with investments in Church Extension Investors Fund have made a significant investment in the worship and growth of North American Baptist Conference churches.

You have helped new churches

• PURCHASE LAND SITES

like Fellowship Bible Church in Troy, MI
or Valley Community Baptist Church in Tracy, CA

• CONSTRUCT NEW FACILITIES

like Summit Drive Baptist Church in Kamloops, BC
or Timberline Baptist Church in Lacey, WA
or Middle Island Baptist Church in Middle Island, NY
or Nepean Baptist Church in Ottawa, ON

• PURCHASE EXISTING FACILITIES

like Romanian Baptist Church in Sacramento, CA
or Calvary Baptist Church in Fremont, OH
or Gettysburg Baptist Church in Gettysburg, PA (an automotive garage, which they remodeled into a worship center)

• CONSTRUCT A UNIT FOR EXPANSION

after financing the first unit
like Sunrise Baptist Church in Fair Oaks, CA
or Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA

You have helped established churches

• RELOCATE

to more advantageous ministry sites
like Heritage Baptist Church in Yorkton, SK

• PURCHASE A LAND SITE

for future expansion
like First Baptist Church in Elk Grove, CA
to be used for senior citizens housing
like Faith Baptist Church in Regina, SK

• MOVE AHEAD

like Zion Baptist Church in Terrace, BC
or Highland Bible Church in Dallas, TX, who had most of the capital needed but needed some additional funds

You helped the Conference

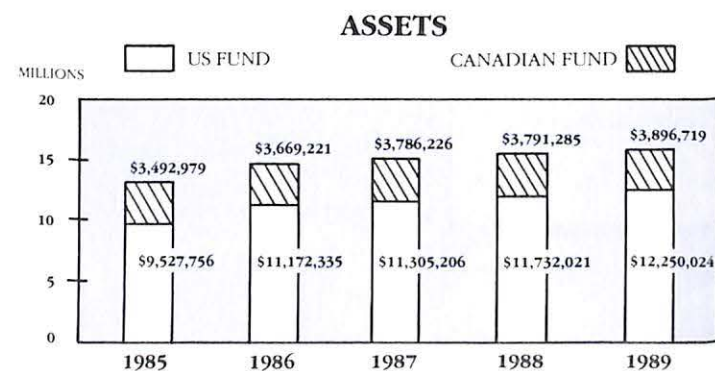
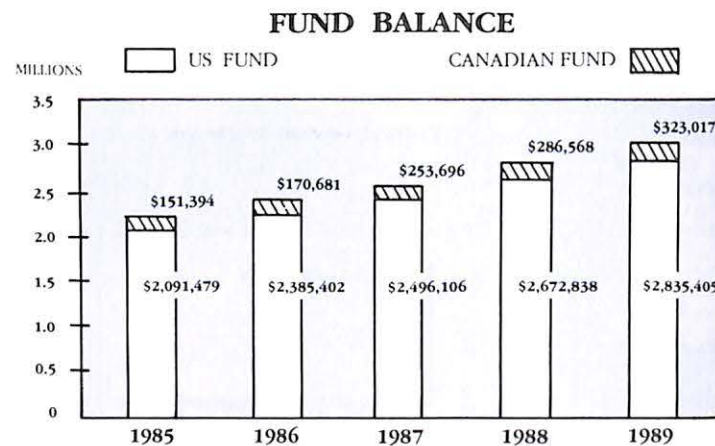
• BY PROVIDING A SHORT-TERM CASH FLOW LOAN for the Basic Budget

• BY FINANCING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE like the computer system and the expansion of the word processing system

Your investment has provided more than 16 million dollars for investment in 129 loans.

It also provided a good return for our investors. The total was over one and a quarter million dollars!

The resources (total assets) of Church Extension Investors Fund have grown steadily over the last five years enabling it to respond to the loan needs of the Conference. The safety of the Fund as measured by its fund balance has also grown steadily.



Do you know where your money is right now? If you or your church has investments with Church Extension Investors Fund, we thank you.

What about the future?

The need in 1990 may be over two million dollars for churches in Tracy, Folsom, Sacramento, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Rochester, or Fargo.

Can you help?

AREA MINISTRIES

enhance the ministries of the local church



As Conference representatives, Area Ministers carry key communications regarding **Vision 2000** and the emphases on the Biblical Imperatives to our pastors, congregations, and the people attending Association events. They convey ideas, ministries of local churches, blessings, and needs to our General Council, Conference leaders, and the various departments.

As they serve in their local area, the Area Ministers help pastors and congregations work through challenges, thus to grow spiritually. The Area Ministers' experience, gained in previous situations, can be a source of wisdom to pastors and churches in similar difficulties.

A pastor who formerly pastored a North American Baptist Conference church and who now pastors a major church in another Conference

wrote to one of our area ministers expressing appreciation for the support he had given him as a pastor.

He said, "This Conference does not have the support system I felt in the North American Baptist Conference. At a time when a person hurts an awful lot, there is no one to call, or to know he is even there, so you hurt alone. How great it is to be able to call someone who cares and understands the pastor's viewpoint. It may be one of the most important ministries which a Conference can offer the church."

Helping to enhance the ministries of local churches, the Area Minister serves as a resource person as he is given the opportunity. This may occur in structured seminars, workshops, or retreats, or in informal situations in the church and homes of lay people and pastors.

Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director and Illinois area (1981-1990); (l. to r.): Rev. Jake Leverette, Manitoba/Saskatchewan area; Rev. Jacob Ehman, Upper Midwest area; Dr. Charles Littman, Alberta area; Rev. Edmond Hohn, British Columbia area; Rev. William Taft, Great Lakes area; Dr. Kenneth Fischer, California area; Rev. Ralph Cooke, North Central area; Rev. John Ziegler, Eastern area; Rev. Milton Zeeb, South Central area; and Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Northwest area

This has been particularly evident in the very positive response to the seminars that they conduct in relation to the Biblical Imperative: Called to Worship.

As a result, there is an increased understanding and alertness to appropriate Biblical worship and a growing openness to meaningful changes in our corporate worship experience.

Area ministers are leading aggressively in planning pastors' prayer retreats. These retreats on spiritual growth launched in 1990 are based on the Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow. Area Ministers are encouraging pastors who have participated in these retreats to provide similar opportunities for their people to grow spiritually.

There is a growing emphasis and participation in our churches in prayer. Many congregations have reinstituted using the first week in January as prayer week. We agree with the statement, "To grow tall spiritually, a man must first learn to kneel."

"Churches who worship, pray, and grow together can expect to rejoice in their relationships with God and one another," says Dr. Willis Potratz, area ministries director.

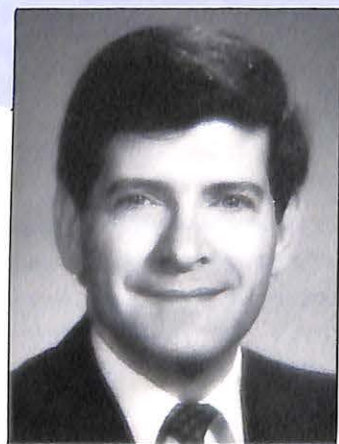
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST SEMINARY

seeks to train more top quality leadership

"Spiritual formation is our top priority at N.A.B. Seminary. Personal spiritual growth and development are priorities for all Christians. Those desiring to serve God by ministering to others must clearly demonstrate their spirituality as examples. Our faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees are committed to seeing others grow spiritually by modeling their lives after Christ and His servants. Fellow students quickly catch this vision in ministry to one another."

"In addition to modeling, we also seek to stimulate spiritual formation through classes, chapels, retreats, and regular small groups for spiritual development."

—Dr. Charles Hiatt, president



Worship is an integral part of the North American Baptist Seminary community. It is an important focus of the weekly faculty prayer times when administrators and faculty members gather at the beginning of the week to offer praise and requests to God. The Seminary also includes worship in annual events such as the Decision Conference and Great Plains Pastors Conference.

Worship is also a central theme of the chapel services shared by the entire N.A.B. Seminary family. These important hours, set aside each week, provide a wide variety of worship experiences including prayer, collective readings, drama, and music.

In addition, worship is an emphasis in the North American Baptist Seminary curriculum. Among the Master of Divinity requirements is a course on leadership in worship. This course has developed in the past ten years from a "ministry and management" course to a class that equips students to effectively lead worship in various settings. Each spring, this class plans four creative worship chapel services and leads the seminary community in innovative ways to offer praise to God.

Intentional Plans for Growth

"Spiritual formation is our top priority at North American Baptist Seminary," says President Charles

Hiatt. "Those desiring to serve God by ministering to others must clearly demonstrate their spirituality as examples."

Because spiritual development is vital in the preparation of leaders for ministry, intentional plans for



spiritual growth have been developed at the Seminary. All persons entering a degree program receive a "growth plan notebook" which encourages the recording of spiritual formation goals, the filing of academic papers on theological issues, and the journaling of their spiritual walk through seminary.

Spiritual Development groups provide another opportunity for growth. These groups are made up of faculty members, administrators, and students who agree to meet on a regular basis in order to provide accountability and challenging dialogue.

Much growth also occurs in the one-on-one interaction between faculty and students. North American Baptist Seminary provides a community atmosphere in which the small student/faculty ratio allows for individual instruction and mentoring.

For 132 years, North American Baptist Seminary has been preparing persons for ministry. This past year, North American Baptist Seminary celebrated 40 years in Sioux Falls and looks toward the future for continued growth and opportunities to meet the growing need to prepare quality leaders—pastors, church ministers, and missionaries—for the North American Baptist Conference.

North American Baptist Seminary...

- Is located in Sioux Falls, SD
- Academically served 273 persons during the 1989-90 school year
- Is known as a caring community
- Emphasizes spiritual formation for effective ministry
- Has a student-faculty ratio of 10:1
- Shares the same statement of faith as the North American Baptist Conference

The Seminary offers five accredited degrees:

- **Master of Divinity** offers concentrations in Biblical interpretation and exposition, church planting, missions, youth ministries, evangelism, family and adult ministries, and church staff ministries.
- **Master of Arts in Christian Education** with concentrations in youth ministries, family and adult ministries, and church staff ministries.
- **Master of Arts in Counseling**
- **Master of Arts in Religious Studies**
- **Doctor of Ministry** for ministers who have served at least three years in church ministry and are currently serving a church.

"Spiritual formation needs to be structured and stimulated. Intellectual inquiry must never overpower the personal development of a person of God. Moral integrity and wisdom form the foundation for the emerging Christian leader. Such ingredients form the basis for devotional structures. Christian life consistency must balance worship experiences. Ministry skills need to be balanced with the power of the Holy Spirit."

—Dr. J. Gordon Harris, vice president for academic affairs

Seminary Invites You to Consultation on Worship

Dr. William Willimon, dean of the chapel and professor of Christian ministry at Duke University, Durham, NC, will present lectures on worship at the Consultation on Worship to be held at the North American Baptist Seminary, October 15-17, 1990.

On Monday and Tuesday, Dr. Willimon, a prolific writer on the matters of worship, will deliver three lectures: "The Need to Re-think Worship," "Worship as the Service of God," and "Worship as Pastoral Care."

In addition to Willimon's lectures, numerous workshops on worship and worship opportunities will be offered.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE & DIVINITY SCHOOL

seek to train more top quality leadership

► People of Christ are called to growth. The North American Baptist College and Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, are committed to inspire and train students to growth in ministry and to provide opportunities to exercise ministry gifts in a broad spectrum of expressions.



but also as planners and leaders in these growth experiences. In keeping with the Biblical Imperative: Called to Worship launched in 1989, several faculty members conducted worship seminars and led creative worship services. This helped to broaden appreciation for potential development in this area.

► Prayer

We are called to be a praying people. How encouraging it was at the outset of the 1989-90 College and Divinity School year to hear student after student express the desire to develop a deeper prayer life! That desire continues to be demonstrated as groups of students

meet regularly and spontaneously for prayer; as student leaders gather weekly to pray for wisdom and direction; and as faculty join with students individually and corporately to pray for renewal, growth, and unity on campus, throughout the constituency, and in the Church throughout the world.

During faculty prayer times, requests listed in "Prayer Link" are brought before the Lord. This response form, included in the President's monthly letter to the College and Divinity School constituency, invites prayer requests to be forwarded to Dr. Siewert. The many responses have encouraged faculty members through the opportunity to more specifically



► Worship

We are called to be a worshipping people. The Chapel has become symbolic of the worship and praise focus on campus. Regularly scheduled chapel times provide a significant variety of experiences ranging from dignified, formal, and liturgical worship to vibrantly enthusiastic experiences of corporate praise. Faculty, staff, and students are involved not only as worshippers

"bear each others' burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

► Ministries

We are called to be a ministering people. At North American Baptist College and Divinity School, the term ministry readily evokes thoughts of the Music Teams and Choristers.

While music is a long-standing vehicle for ministry, it is only one of a host of service opportunities utilized by students and faculty.

Athletic teams, during out-of-city tournaments, often arrange for ministry involvement in a church or youth meeting.

Faculty members are frequently called upon to serve at conferences, retreats, camps, or churches.

Scores of students are involved in a variety of church ministries each week.

Teams of students, often with faculty supervision, minister in an inner-city church, with community children, orphans, and senior citizens.

During the summer, many are involved in ministry throughout and beyond North America.

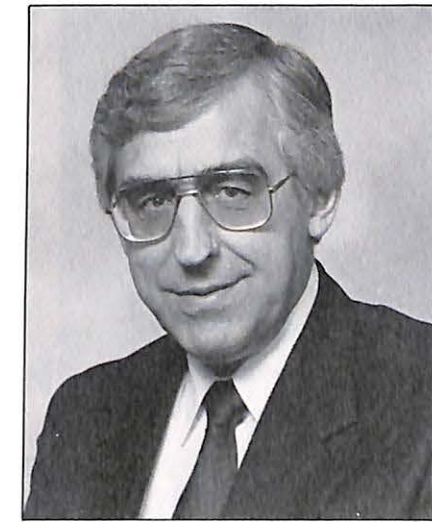
A specific and unforgettable ministry opportunity including Dr. and Mrs. Paul Siewert and a group of students was "Cameroon Sunrise 1990." The positive impact of those who ministered there continues to be a powerful testimony to the growth engendered by this experience. Several of the group are already planning to witness again overseas through "Cameroon Sunrise 1991."

Growth in ministry is a vital emphasis at North American Baptist College and Divinity School. Numerous opportunities for growth in ministry as well as a selection of

courses focusing directly on equipping and providing practical experiences in ministry witness to this fact. The "Church Planting" track in the Master of Divinity program also provides growth in preparation for the pastorate.

We are committed to growth. Record student enrollment this past year encourages us in our ministry.

We continue to appreciate and rely upon the prayers and support of our constituents in our efforts to provide leadership in the Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow.



"No one can lay a good foundation without Jesus Christ! That is what the North American Baptist College and Divinity School is all about — laying foundations in young lives that will endure in the midst of the deluge of hopelessness that can come in life. It's about spiritual growth. Where do we find the moorings to carry us through? We believe it is Jesus Christ!" —Paul H. Siewert, president

Students Experienced Growth in 1989-90

Lay Leadership Preparation

Studying for the Certificate in Biblical Studies helped 71 students establish firmer foundations for fruitful Christian living.

Sixteen students were enrolled in the Diploma in Biblical Studies.

Eleven students majored in the Diploma in Music program.

Career Preparation

Ninety-three students studied in the Associate of Arts in Religion program, including the two-year university transfer track.

The Bachelor of Religion program helped 88 students advance in their pursuit of personal growth and academic studies.

Ministry Preparation

The Divinity School provided training for 94 full-time and part-time students who are looking forward to a career in Christian ministry.

Continuing Education is provided through summer seminars and courses.

College Marks Jubilee Year

The year 1990 has been declared the Jubilee Year of the North American Baptist College as it marks its 50th year and the tenth anniversary of the Divinity School.

WORSHIP
GROW
FINANCIAL
SERVICES

| BASIC BUDGET | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Overseas Missions | \$1,629,173 | \$1,820,169 | \$1,855,663 |
| Church Growth | 955,675 | 1,174,714 | 1,166,840 |
| College/Divinity School | 364,603 | 453,400 | 471,200 |
| Seminary | 364,603 | 453,400 | 471,200 |
| General Council | 173,084 | 242,924 | 312,991 |
| Development | 425,002 | 12,904 | 24,457 |
| Financial Services | | 12,716 | (15,045) |
| Area Ministries | 238,553 | 305,233 | 330,385 |
| Interest/exchange | 95,174 | 38,359 | 90,366 |
| Total | \$4,245,866 | \$4,513,820 | \$4,708,057 |
| GROWTH BUDGET | | | |
| Church Growth | 96,903 | 109,344 | 194,384 |
| Overseas Missions | 803,929 | 1,103,549 | 1,312,808 |
| Conference Services | 413,464 | 427,907 | 462,725 |
| Total | \$1,314,295 | \$1,640,800 | \$1,969,917 |
| Variance Income/Expense | (23,468) | 4,729 | (316) |
| BASIC & GROWTH EXPENSE | \$5,536,695 | \$6,159,349 | \$6,677,658 |
| Bequest Income | 437,239 | 144,352 | 143,029 |
| Capital Funds | 609,376 | 95,203 | 10,932 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$6,583,310 | \$6,398,904 | \$6,831,619 |

1989 Basic Mission and Ministry Goal

During 1989, North American Baptist Conference churches and individuals gave generously — \$4,486,430 — to the \$4,750,000 goal for basic missions and ministries. Although we missed the goal by \$263,570, we do rejoice in all ministry that was accomplished to the glory of God. Examples of these are seen through the department reports. These ministries are now known in 1990 as Established Ministries.

1989 Growth Budget Goal

A total of \$1,969,918 was given through the Growth Budget for ministries and missions over and above the Basic Budget. This giving — a 20.1 percent increase over 1988 — includes \$173,678, designated for New Churches . . . New Life. The growth goal is now called Expansion Ministries.

▶ **Total Conference Giving**

Overall, total Conference giving was up \$211,405, reaching an all-time record level. Contributions totalled \$6,610,309 exceeding the overall giving goal for all purposes of \$6,585,310. The members of the North American Baptist Conference are to be commended for their sacrificial giving to the cause of Christ.

► **Per Capita Giving in 1989**

Basic Mission and Ministry
Budget: \$108.

Basic and Growth Budgets: \$110.

All Conference and related ministries: \$153.

Again we have proved to be faithful stewards to the ministry of the Gospel.

Bequests

A total of \$143,029 was received through bequests in 1989.

Where the money came from

(for the Basic Mission and Ministry and Growth Budgets)

| ASSOCIATION | | | | | | Per Capita |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | Members | 1989 |
| Alberta | \$927,404 | \$924,373 | \$1,184,453 | \$1,149,155 | 7,714 | \$149 |
| Great Lakes | 583,138 | 574,967 | 585,395 | 614,165 | 7,097 | 87 |
| British Columbia | 535,835 | 531,342 | 537,637 | 657,818 | 4,136 | 159 |
| Manitoba | 410,681 | 374,005 | 393,690 | 379,584 | 2,497 | 152 |
| Eastern | 301,229 | 322,222 | 360,334 | 365,923 | 3,456 | 106 |
| Northern California | 301,553 | 294,257 | 303,463 | 343,640 | 6,275 | 55 |
| Southwestern | 236,914 | 226,465 | 267,694 | 290,373 | 2,345 | 124 |
| Central Dakota | 234,768 | 239,838 | 266,613 | 283,376 | 3,331 | 85 |
| Minnesota/Lacrosse | 200,207 | 207,726 | 242,383 | 245,135 | 1,583 | 155 |
| South Dakota | 187,959 | 216,822 | 235,430 | 244,801 | 2,563 | 96 |
| Illinois | 197,618 | 196,558 | 221,270 | 186,126 | 2,004 | 93 |
| Iowa | 208,454 | 181,849 | 212,584 | 216,414 | 2,240 | 97 |
| Central Pacific | 165,757 | 175,633 | 190,224 | 199,749 | 2,323 | 86 |
| Atlantic | 138,631 | 147,042 | 184,496 | 206,395 | 1,516 | 136 |
| Northern Dakota | 171,261 | 177,596 | 180,539 | 183,070 | 2,161 | 85 |
| Saskatchewan | 142,994 | 158,483 | 176,151 | 194,248 | 1,347 | 144 |
| Pacific Northwest | 146,610 | 144,336 | 142,152 | 144,611 | 1,888 | 77 |
| Wisconsin | 130,820 | 153,304 | 137,227 | 161,351 | 2,481 | 65 |
| Southern California | 131,763 | 102,066 | 128,960 | 156,061 | 1,675 | 93 |
| Southern | 57,798 | 54,934 | 64,237 | 78,406 | 1,291 | 61 |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | 245 | |
| Inter-Association | 97,651 | 132,877 | 144,418 | 309,910 | | |
| TOTAL | \$5,509,043 | \$5,536,695 | \$6,159,349 | \$6,610,309 | 60,168 | \$110 |

The Financial Services Department collects, receives, and disburses contributions for Conference missions and ministries, supervises and administers the pension plan and medical insurance services for pastors and Conference personnel, maintains Conference properties, and provides data processing services for the Conference International Office. Executive staff members are Phil Pucek (l. to r.), Sarah Redlich, Gary McCullough, Al Keller, and William Gingrich.



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Phyllis Hill, subscriptions
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DEVELOPMENT

promote unified direction and growth

▶ **T**he Development Department communicates the vision and plans of **Vision 2000** and researches and provides materials for the Biblical Imperatives.

The Development Department communicates the financial commitments the Conference has made to fund missions and ministries in North America and overseas. Through its publications and audio-visuals, it reports how God is working through the missions and ministries of the Conference as well as the results of our churches' and individuals' praying, giving, and serving.

In the past, in our monthly reports, we reported only contributions for Established Ministries. Beginning in 1990, we are reporting all contributions for approved budget ministries to their respective goals.



The Development Department executive staff plans and produces materials for **Vision 2000**: (l. to r.) Barbara Binder, editor of *Baptist Herald* and "N.A.B. News," Dorothy Ganoung, editor of *Moments with God* and "Link," Arthur Helwig, fund-raising and audio-visuals, and Lewis Petrie, director.

Established Ministries

This category represents those mission and ministry areas that are of the highest priority and to which we are already committed. This includes provision for 59 career missionaries, 27 existing church planting projects and 6 new ones, and the education of future missionaries, pastors, and church planters. The entire Area Ministries budget, including the amount provided by the Association, is included in this category.

Expansion Ministries

This category represents those additional mission and ministry areas that will be implemented as commitments are made, and these funds received. This includes the funding for 9 career missionaries and 22 short-term missionaries. It is anticipated that 6 new churches will be planted through the New Churches . . . New Life Campaign from this category.

Specials

This category represents those projects which are usually completed in one year as well as contributions to various other organizations and world relief projects. This may include approved capital funds projects.

North American Baptist Conference Committed to Give our stewardship in action 1990 Goal: \$7,289,195

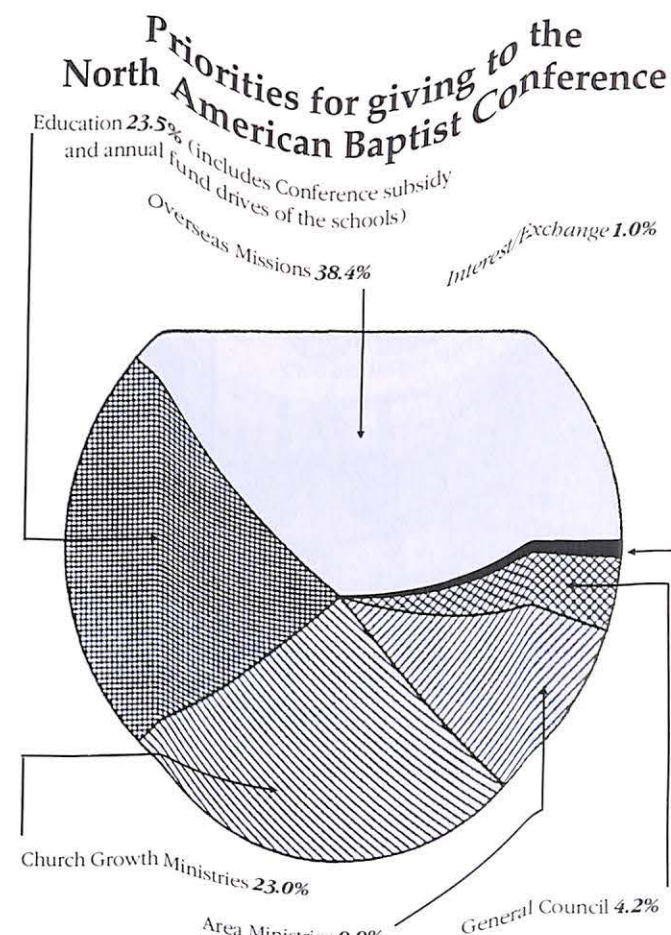
| Established Ministries (formerly known as basic budget) | Goal |
|---|---------------------|
| Undesignated contributions (to be distributed to ministries below) | |
| Overseas Missions | \$2,409,570 |
| Church Growth Ministries | 1,378,800 |
| College/Divinity School | 498,450 |
| Seminary | 498,450 |
| Area Ministries | 816,030 |
| General Council | 292,400 |
| Interest and exchange | 56,300 |
| Total | \$5,950,000 |
| Expansion Ministries (formerly known as growth budget) | |
| Overseas Missions | \$553,600 |
| Church Growth Ministries | 512,795 |
| Financial Services | 25,700 |
| *Schools' annual supplemental funds not included. | |
| Total | \$1,092,095* |
| Specials | |
| Overseas Missions | \$196,100 |
| Retired ministers; fraternal groups | 51,000 |
| Total | \$247,100 |
| Total giving goal | \$7,289,195 |

Conference Total Giving Goal

Throughout 1990, the commitment of every church and individual donor is needed to fulfill the financial goals to fund the Conference mission and ministry commitments. These total \$7,289,195. This means a 10.7 percent increase over the giving in 1989 or an average of \$122 per member.

Beginning with the 1990 budget, the Conference International Office made significant changes in the way it reports contributions. The three giving goals of previous years have been integrated into one budget or giving goal consisting of three categories: The Established Ministries (formerly known as basic budget), Expansion Ministries (formerly known as growth budget), and Special Projects.

The Conference total giving goal includes commitments for funding overseas missions, area ministries, church growth ministries, two theological schools and a college, general council, and fraternal organizations distributing world relief and Bibles.



My Response

▶ **YES, I will have a share in Vision 2000 by making the following gift to the N.A.B. Conference mission and ministries for this current year:** (Please make check or money order payable to North American Baptists, Inc.)

☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ other amount \$ _____

☐ I will give through my local church.

☐ I would like more information about **Vision 2000**.

☐ I request more information about ☐ serving overseas ☐ N.A.B. College/Divinity School

☐ N.A.B. Seminary ☐ planning my estate ☐ other _____

☐ I wish to subscribe to the *Baptist Herald*: US\$8; CDN\$10.50.

Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____

THE DISCIPLINE OF SOLITUDE



of the life of the church in 4th century Egypt, when there was a great movement of earnest young Christians who went into the desert to pray. The saying reads: "It was said of Abbot Agatho, that for three years, he carried a stone in his mouth until he learned to be silent." The point was, of course, that even for those who devoted their whole lives to prayer, the practice of solitude took great discipline, as it does for us today.

It is the discipline to make room in our often overcrowded, busy lives in which we may pray. It is the discipline to create places of quiet retreat amid all the noise and rush of

life where we are able to quiet our hearts and say with the Psalmist, "For God alone my soul awaits in silence" (Psalm 62:1).

The call to solitude in the spiritual life is found primarily in the words of Jesus in His teaching about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount. "When you pray," Jesus said, "go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:6).

By calling us to step out of the rush of things, Jesus indicates that true prayer begins with our willingness to let go of the many things that we do in order to fill our

WORSHIP
WORSHIP
WORSHIP
GROW
WITNESS

by Stephen Brachlow

Solitude is a discipline of the spiritual life. I realized that again today as I sat down to write this article.

In order to find enough time to be alone to write — away from the many demands of work and family that always seem to be competing for my attention — it took a certain measure of discipline. I needed to make special arrangements — block off the time on my calendar and actually leave my seminary office — in order to find a quiet place away from the phones, students, and colleagues. I needed to find a place where I could be alone, in solitude, to think and write.

And now I am here at home alone on a quiet March morning with the snow falling outside. How difficult it seems simply to sit quietly with myself, even for a few moments, without my busy life of work and responsibility to keep me occupied — to keep me going.

If it is so hard to even make time for quiet in order to do a task like this, then how much more difficult to make time to practice solitude for prayer. It is not something that comes easily for many of us.

The practice of a prayerful solitude takes discipline. That, I think, is the point of a strange, rather humorous little saying that came out



Connie Salios and Melvin Bergstresser serve as estate planning counselors.



I would love to make a major charitable gift from my estate, but I also feel a strong obligation to my family. What can I do?

We'll Help You Give It Twice

When it comes to making a decision concerning distribution of our estates at the time of death, most of us face the same dilemma.

It's not easy to find a comfortable solution. But for many, the "give it twice" concept provides an exciting alternative.

The concept is simple. At the death of the surviving spouse, you establish a trust which pays income to your family members until they have received an amount equal to the total value of the estate at the time of death.

When that value has been received, the assets remaining in the trust are distributed to a charitable organization, such as the North American Baptist Conference.

To many individuals, it makes a lot of sense. I trust that you will also find it to be of interest and value.

Our staff has prepared a special planning report to assist you in your planning. Why not write for your free copy today? There is no cost or obligation.

Yes, please send me the special planning report, **We'll Help You Give It Twice.** I understand there is no cost or obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____

Phone: Home () _____ Business () _____

Birthdate _____ Spouse's Birthdate _____

Mail to: Dr. Connie Salios, North American Baptist Conference
1 South 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3906
Phone: (708) 495-2000; FAX: (708) 495-3301.

Estate Planning Ministry

It is estimated that more than 60 percent of individuals both in Canada and the U.S.A. do not have a will or an estate plan. If this is true, either the State or Province does have laws that govern the distribution of your estate as they think it should be distributed.

It is far better to do your own planning—trusting God to guide you—than to leave such an important matter to your government.

The Estate Planning Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference offers the following services for your benefit without cost or obligation:

Literature

To help you understand Biblical stewardship and to plan your estate.

Special reports

"The Place of Life Insurance in Estate Planning"

"The Use of Trusts in Estate Planning"

"What Is a Charitable Gift Annuity?"

Stewardship seminars

Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning
Biblical Stewardship
Financial Planning

Representatives

will meet with you to assist you in either making or reviewing your will
in finding God's plan for your estate

Please call or write today for a free copy of your "Will and Trust Planning Guide," or to schedule a seminar and/or to make arrangements for a North American Baptist Conference representative to meet with you.

lives. In effect, He asks us to empty our lives for a time by going apart, alone, in order that we might let God fill our lives with His loving presence.

When we create this space in our busy schedules to be with God, and God alone, we then allow room in our lives for the habitation of God. We create a place near the very center of our lives in which He may come to dwell within us richly.

This Jesus often did Himself, as the Gospels reveal in several places. While active in ministry, Jesus regularly found time to withdraw from the crowds and activity of His ministry to be alone, to rest, and to pray. And in Mark's Gospel, Jesus extends that invitation to each one of us when He said to His disciples: "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place and rest awhile" (Mark 6: 31).

Thus, the discipline of solitude leads us into the discipline of rest. In the busy, goal, and production-oriented society in which we find ourselves, most Christians live pretty much like everyone else does. Our busy lives are crowded with important things to do at work, or at home, or even at church. We do and do.

But we do not know, it seems, how to be at rest. As Walter Rauschenbusch once commented about the busy lives of so many Christians, "We do much for God, but we do not rest much in God."

Research has pointed out that working hours have declined in the past 100 years. Even so, people have not filled their newly acquired free time with rest but with additional work.

Reduced working time for most middle-class people means they fill in their time with other forms of work: repairing, painting, caring for yards and for cars, or preparing elaborate, multi-course "gourmet" meals—then cleaning up the kitchen afterward! In addition, those of us who are committed, active Christians often fill up the remaining time with a multitude of programs, committee meetings, and other activities at church.

But Jesus says, "Come away by yourself to a lonely place and rest awhile." The "rest" to which we are called, however, is not necessarily the same as taking a good nap.

Rather, it is rest of a peculiar kind. It is not so much a rest "from" something as it is, we might say, a rest "in" something—in the grace and peace of Christ.

Those Christians who were the

Bible Readings

| | |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Luke 1:18-23 |
| Day 2 | Matthew 6:5-6 Luke 5:5-16 |
| Day 3 | Psalms 8 |
| Day 4 | Matthew 26:36-46 |
| Day 5 | James 3:1-12 |
| Day 6 | Matthew 27:32-50 |
| Day 7 | Matt. 14:23, Mark 6:46 Luke 4:42, Psalm 62:1 |



masters of prayer during the Medieval Era had a Latin phrase to describe this kind of rest. They called it *otium sanctum*, or "holy leisure." It was a way of simply being with God, a way of almost "wasting time" with God, as one might do with a good friend over a cup of coffee.

Otium sanctum was a way of resting quietly in God's loving presence rather than continually striving to do something for God, as if by all our efforts we might somehow justify ourselves before God. But the wonderful gift of quiet solitude, as Richard Foster has observed, is "the freedom to let our justification rest entirely with God."

In the great peacefulness of a prayerful solitude we find the burden of all our vain attempts at self-justification lifted as we allow ourselves to rest in God's sustaining, life-restoring presence. There we discover the reassuring truth of Isaiah's words that "in returning and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be your salvation" (Isaiah 30:15).

The practice of solitude reminds us that the spiritual life is a gift of grace. It is not therefore so much a life we create by our own effort, as it is a life that wants to create something new in us. Thus it is not so much a life we live, as it is a life that wants to "live" us.

Solitude teaches us that the spiritual life is, as Henri Nouwen has expressed it so simply, "a gift of the Holy Spirit, who lifts us up into the Kingdom of God's love." This is the wonderful freedom of grace we discover in the rest and peace that is born of our "coming away" to "rest

for awhile" in prayerful solitude.

But the grace of solitude extends beyond ourselves to include others, as well. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his book, *Life Together*, "only in aloneness do we learn to live rightly in fellowship." In solitude, we allow room in our lives not only for God's presence but also His perspective on our relationships with others. This happens especially when we allow God to speak to us about our relationships through Scripture.

It is in the silence of solitude that the Word of God is often able to make itself known to us most clearly. In solitude, we allow the Word to speak to us about our self-drivenness and our often selfish desires to possess and manipulate those at work or in our homes to whom we are closest in life.

In our solitude under the Word, Scripture may also come to speak to us of our sometimes rather self-centered vision of the church. In our vision, we may expect our brothers and sisters to live more according to our own wishes and desires rather than in the freedom of their own uniqueness, as created by God.

Thus, in solitude we are able to gain some distance on our relationships with others. If it is a solitude under the Word, it will likely become something of a "divine distance" that helps us see our family and friends in their proper focus.

Finally, when we go apart in solitude, intercessory prayer, which is the life and strength of real fellowship, becomes possible at a very deep level. As Henri Nouwen has said, it is in solitude that "an enormous space opens up" in our otherwise overly preoccupied lives.

a space into which we can welcome all persons who have been committed by Christ into our care. In solitude, Nouwen says, we empty our lives of our own "selves" so that the true needs of others, and not just our dim perception of them, become clearer to us.

These are the gifts of solitude to which Jesus calls us when he urges us to "go into our room and shut the door." It is not always easy to do. It takes discipline. But the fruit of solitude is the rest, the joy, and the peace that we find in Christ.

For to be with Christ in the secret place of the heart brings His joy and peace, which is the greatest treasure in all life. It is the pearl of great price, which is worth all the rest of the treasures of life put together.

Dr. Stephen Brachlow, professor Church History and Christian Spirituality, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Exercise

- Take your calendar and designate a time to be alone this week. It may be a day, a half a day, or a few hours. Find a quiet place, where you can be alone in the presence of God—away from all the distractions and responsibilities of your normal activities. Wait upon God, who has promised to renew your strength. This is a time for God to minister to you by allowing room in your life for God alone.
- How can you make this a regular discipline in your life? Set aside that time each week or month on your calendar now.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A FRIENDFEST IN MILWAUKEE

"Friendfest — Faithful to Christ's Vision" has been chosen by the Program Committee as the theme for the 43rd Triennial Conference to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 30 to August 4, 1991.

The theme focuses on a Biblical Imperative of **Vision 2000**: "Commissioned to Witness," being launched in 1991. It reinforces our emphasis on **Vision 2000** and Christ's vision that all would have the opportunity to know Him as Lord and Savior.

During this 43rd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches, we will be encouraged to

- share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and action with those who do not know Christ as Savior and
- focus on the church's priority to evangelize its community — to introduce people to our greatest Friend.

Friendfest identifies us with the

host city, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, known as the "festival city." According to the Milwaukee Visitor's Bureau, there are more ethnic festivals held here than in any other city in the United States. In fact, Germanfest, a festival celebrating the German heritage, is tentatively scheduled for the weekend before the Triennial.

And so, this Triennial Conference will be a time to renew friendships and make new friends — to come to know our North American Baptist Conference family better.

Special times to worship our greatest Friend, Jesus Christ, and to celebrate this friendship are part of the program.

All sessions, except for the senior high/college program, will be held at MECCA — the Milwaukee Exposition and Convention Center.

Senior high and college age youth will be staying at Marquette University and hearing Dewey Bertolini speak on the theme: "Making a Difference Today for

Tomorrow."

Special programs are planned also for young teens and children from age six months through grade six during the Conference sessions.

"Reserve these dates now: July 30-August 4, 1991, to attend the Triennial Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin," says Gary McCullough, triennial conference manager. The Wisconsin and Illinois Associations will be hosting you. Registration forms will be available by January 1991.



"Think of the joy of seeing the evangelism flame sparked in some youth and adults, and the flame further fanned in others," says Dr.

David Dryer, local arrangements committee chair and pastor in Kenosha, WI. "The word friend is central to our Lord's evangelism mandates. Lasting solid results in our witnessing require that we give ourselves as friends to those we would seek to win. For seven great days, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, site of the Conference, will be our laboratory for witnessing."

WHAT WE BELIEVE

When we become Christians, we are born into God's family. When we join a local church, we become part of that family. If that local church has chosen to be a part of the North American Baptist Conference, we automatically become a part of that larger family. Our common experience with Jesus Christ and common commitment to His mission in the world is the glue that holds us together as a Conference family today.

■ We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error — the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct. It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity.

■ We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and love. He exists eternally in three coequal persons Who act together in creation, providence, and redemption.

■ We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will.

■ We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation. As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect. Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the



human race and suffering to all creation. Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God. Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him. Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions, and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator.

■ We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death. It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

■ We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members. Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church

for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Each church is a self-governing body with a congregational form of government under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility. The ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

■ We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God. Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other.

■ We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society. We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability.

■ We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth. The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally, and visibly in glory according to His promise. The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness.

This is a condensation of the "Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference." The complete statement as well as a study guide is available from the Conference International Office.

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"There needs to be constant attention to the matter of growth in the Christian life because of the very nature of growth. Growth is not a one time event but a lifelong process and even a battle with defeats and victories, ups and downs, until death. If this is true, then there needs to be a recommitment to the matter of spiritual growth in the Christian life."

*from Challenged to Grow —
A Spiritual Renewal Retreat*

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Scripture: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NIV).

Definition: Growth is a Holy Spirit-led process through which believers know God and His purposes, becoming like Christ in character and conduct.

-  *Goal 1.* Assist believers to understand and respond to the transforming person and work of the Holy Spirit.
-  *Goal 2.* Assist believers to mature in their Biblical knowledge of God and commitment to Christian doctrine and life-style.
-  *Goal 3.* Assist believers to mature in their relationship with God through the exercise of Christian spiritual disciplines: Meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude/silence, confession, worship, and guidance.
-  *Goal 4.* Assist believers to grow spiritually through their compassion and involvement in a needy world.