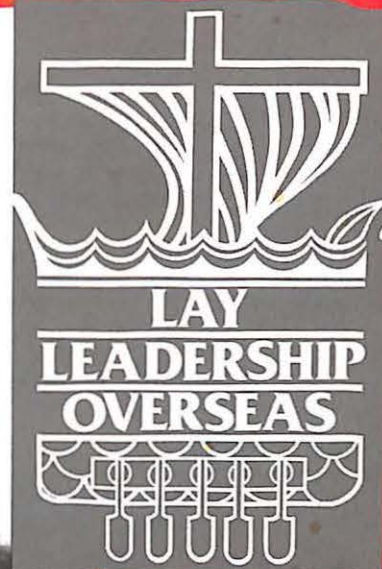
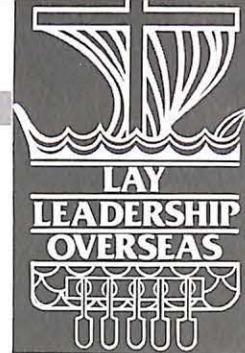


BAPTIST HERALD

SEPTEMBER 1990





Lay Leaders

Plant Churches Overseas

by Herman L. Effa

The overseas Baptist conventions, where North American Baptist Conference missionaries carry out their activities, today number more than 65,000 believers. It is noteworthy that there are less than 500 ordained, trained pastors working with these many believers and churches. Some of these fields show as high as a 10 percent yearly net growth. It is obvious that for such growth to take place, lay leadership is being used of God in evangelism and discipleship ministries.

Scripture clearly teaches the endowment of spiritual ministry gifts for all believers, not just for those who are called as pastors or are ordained (I Corinthians 12). It is only as each believer exercises his or her gifts that the body of Christ functions in completeness (Ephesians 4:16).

As a pastor in a local church as well as a missionary, I have always appreciated the lay leaders with whom God has allowed me to work. They contributed much godly wisdom to decision-making and ministered in many needy situations where a lay person was more effective or where I simply didn't have the necessary time. Lay people served as a continuous source of encouragement and prayer support.

Differences of opinion served to sharpen our reasoning for positions held and made for wiser and more

productive decisions. Diversity served to enhance unity rather than destroy it.

Part of North American Baptist Conference's heritage is buried in history, but some of us well remember the lay preachers who travelled regularly and under difficult circumstances to minister where ordained pastors were not available. Many of our churches started through such a ministry. God was pleased to use these lay leaders to gather many souls into the kingdom and establish His church. This is still happening overseas.

One layman whose heart concern for Brazil's interior cities that do not have an evangelical witness comes to mind immediately. He is Mr. Alfredo Winter, the father of Rev. Niander Winter. Niander is the president of the Baptist seminary in Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, and was the commencement speaker at our North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in May.

When Alfredo took an early retirement from his regular employment, he moved to a remote interior city and began preaching. In a matter of months, a church was established. His enthusiastic reporting at the Association meetings served to encourage younger pastors to attempt new things for God. Because of this layman's example, we saw a number of younger



"I encourage our lay people to use their God-given ministry gifts for the advancement of God's kingdom."

pastors brave Brazil's frontier cities and villages to present the gospel.

I hope that the articles in this issue of the **Baptist Herald** will give due honor to God's lay servants and will also serve as an encouragement to our lay people to use their God-given ministry gifts for the advancement of God's kingdom. □

As of September 1, 1990, the Rev. Herman L. Effa is missions director of the Missions Department, North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



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Nigerian Laymen Pioneer Evangelistic Outreach Among the Ndoro People

by Allan Effa

It was on a hot December afternoon in 1982, that Minnie Kuhn, four Nigerian pastors, and I made our first contact with an Ndoro village in Nigeria. Right from the start, we could sense that God was about to do something special in that area. Where the road had become a narrow, overgrown path, we abandoned the vehicle and began an arduous two-hour hike through the steamy jungle.

Just an hour before sunset, we burst into a clearing. We could scarcely believe our eyes. A large assembly of some 150 adults sat there waiting for us. They had received the message about our planned visit and had gathered from many directions.

Some of them had been waiting since ten o'clock that morning. Now they sat attentively as all of us shared an impromptu message from God's Word. After the sixth sermon, they still sat there, eager to hear more.

Despite such an open door of opportunity, our Nigerian evangelists and pastors were reluctant to move into such a remote region to establish a permanent witness. At the time, there were no schools for the children, and the nearest health clinic was a long distance away. Malaria and dysentery were rampant, causing many deaths,

especially among the children. It would be a tremendous sacrifice for one of our evangelists to move into such a region with his family.

The first converts to Christianity among the Ndoro were the fruit of a Christian schoolteacher sent by the government to open a primary school in an Ndoro village. This man became at once the principal, teacher, and chaplain of this new school. He used every opportunity to present Christ to his students.

Through his influence, several young men received Christ as their Savior. These became key people in spreading the Gospel among the Ndoro people. With only little help from trained clergy, today there are seven small churches, each in a different village of this widely scattered tribe.

Benjamin was one of the first converts. Shortly after becoming a Christian, he made his way to the Mambilla Baptist Theological School where he enrolled in a five-year pastoral studies program. There Benjamin became my student.

Day after day, Benjamin struggled with his classes. He was never absent. I could tell he was trying his hardest to understand the material, but he just could not keep up with the rest of his classmates. Benjamin was a likeable fellow. His face radiated the joy of the Lord,

but exam weeks were painful times, and though I'm sure he studied very hard, he just could not attain a passing grade.

One day I called Benjamin into my office to talk about his studies. I told him that I thought he was wasting his time at Bible School and that, perhaps, he should return home. I suggested he consider attending a school that taught in the Hausa language rather than English. Benjamin took my advice, packed his bags, and left.

I did not see Benjamin again until February 1989. Once again, I decided to visit the Ndoro area. I drove as far as I could. There, at the end of the road, was Benjamin. We spent the night by the road.

Early the next morning, by the light of the moon, we began a six-hour hike up into the mountains to the place where Benjamin was living. Two hours into our journey, we came upon the first village.

Benjamin pointed out to me a hut where his wife and children lived. I asked him why they were not living with him.

Quietly he replied, "When I became a Christian, my wife and children left me and moved back to her father's house. They do not associate with me anymore."

I had not known what a price Benjamin had paid for following Jesus.

Four hours later, we arrived at

our destination. After a bit of rest and some refreshments, Benjamin led the way to the neat little church building he had erected. A clean-swept, stone-bordered path led up to the doorway.

Benjamin rang a bell. Soon a small group began to gather: about five young men, three women, and a dozen little children.

Benjamin had taught them all the songs he knew and all the basic

Scriptures that he could read and understand. Equipped with only a worn copy of the Good News Bible and his own personal testimony, Benjamin had planted a church. He supported himself by doing some farming and hunting plus an \$8 per month grant from the mother Association.

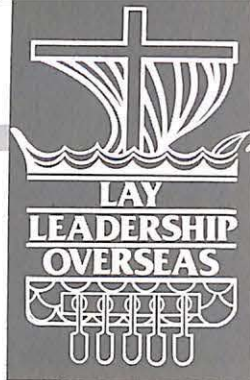
I left Ndoro with a profound admiration for Benjamin and the many faithful lay Christians who

had offered what little they had to the Lord. They allowed God to multiply it for the sake of the growth of the Kingdom. Their faithfulness is bearing fruit that shall last for all eternity. □

The Rev. Allan Effa is a former missionary to Nigeria now in graduate studies in missions in California.



Benjamin (third from left) with a small group of Ndoro believers.



Discipling— Key in Growing a Brazilian Baptist Church

by Ken Bayer

It was a dark and stormy Sunday night. We drove to church silently, knowing that we would likely be the only ones there — our family and probably faithful brother Teodosio. He was the one who lived the furthest away; yet the distance and his 70 years of age never kept him from coming to church.

Our morale was low as the two of us, our two babies, and brother Teodosio sat in the cold church



Luiz — a lay leader who leads Bible study

waiting for others to come. No one else came. It was on that discouraging night that we learned a very important lesson — a lesson that would characterize our future ministry.

"...how good is a timely word!" (Proverbs 15:23b) was true that night as brother Teodosio told us we were going about the work completely the wrong way. We were being dictators. By our desire to do everything ourselves and do it just right, we were actually saying with our actions that no one else was needed, and they were not good enough.



Clovis — a lay leader who leads the worship service

Why should people come to church on a stormy Sunday night if the service would go on without them? They had no responsibilities. That night we were challenged to delegate and train leaders, even in a situation where they were all new Christians—and most of them uneducated.

Fortunately, we were able to learn and change the course of the ministry in that city.

We began this four-year-term in a new church planting situation with this lesson already learned. Praise God, it is causing our Lord's Kingdom to expand more rapidly than we expected.

As soon as we arrived in Novo Hamburgo and met those already committed to Christ, a discipleship program was set up. Every Saturday night for several months, seven Christians were taught Bible studies as well as about Sunday school teaching, evangelism, and preaching.

Our youngest lay leader is 16 years old. Two lay leaders cannot read or write. Even so, the work of the church has multiplied many times over because of these lay people. Discipleship is ongoing as



Anita — a lay leader who coordinates and participates in vacation Bible school

every member of the church develops his or her individual ministries.

Every Saturday night in the summer months, the church is involved in outdoor evangelism in 11 strategic points of the city on a rotating basis. These outdoor meetings are led by the lay leaders. They do the announcing with loud speakers, the music, the preaching, and the counseling.

From these outdoor meetings, home Bible studies have developed with the people who have responded and desire further study in God's Word. These home Bible studies are also led by lay leaders. This whole program is under the

supervision of an Evangelism Director (who, by the way, is illiterate).

Lay leaders lead every part of the worship service, and each month, one of them preaches. They teach Sunday school, lead the youth and adolescent groups, and co-ordinate the social outreach (distribution of food and used clothing to the needy).

We, the pastor and wife, have become the resource people, the encouragers, the troubleshooters. We still work very hard. We pray and cheer for each one, rejoice with their development, and cry with each one's discouragements. For the lay people, the main result has been knowing and feeling that this work is not "the missionaries," but "ours" in a very real way.

The goal is for the church to be completely independent of its planter missionaries by the end of our four-year-term among these dear brothers and sisters. We pray that we will not be "missed" because we are needed but only "missed" because we are loved. □



Abel — a lay leader who disciples



Ken and Jerilyn Bayer are North American Baptist Conference church planting missionaries serving in Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Lay Leaders Model Discipleship in Japanese Church



by Izumi Akasaka

It is always a great joy and privilege, as a pastor, to help a new-born Christian grow to be a faithful disciple of the Lord.

Emiko Nishio is one of those faithful disciples at Ise Baptist Church where I serve. Baptized seven months ago after a few years of active fellowship in the church, Emiko is now training to serve as a Sunday school teacher. Some 20 years ago, she had been a Sunday school student. That experience became the major thrust for her decision to follow Christ.

Emiko says: "I could not deny God and His love because I had

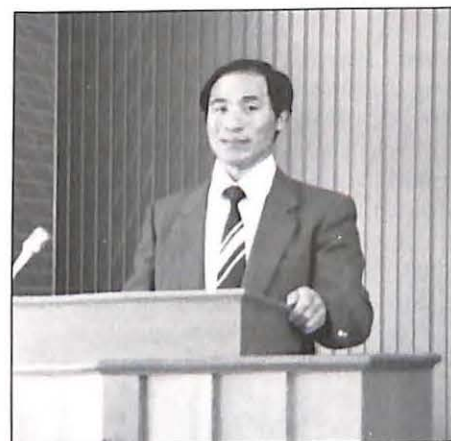
been taught His truth as a child. Unknowingly, because of my Sunday school experience, I felt uneasy with idol-worship and pseudo-religion for many years before I became a Christian. That is why I believe in the ministry for children very strongly and why I am willing to learn to be a teacher myself." She will grow to be a devoted minister for children.

We know that lay leadership is always an indispensable part of the body of Christ. It is not new to Japanese churches that lay people lead the worship services. Two of the lay leaders — Kenichi Wakabayashi and Tsutako Hiramatsu — at our church lead Sunday morning services.

At first, when I invited them to be worship leaders, they were very reluctant to do this solely because they were not experienced and thus lacked confidence. We started by studying about meaningful worship and group dynamics. After several study sessions, they led worship services and grew to be creative and confident worship leaders.

Since they have started leading worship, other lay participants have multiplied. Many in the congregation now feel more comfortable as they stand up to give praise to God, testimonies, or prayer requests during the services.

Tsutako Hiramatsu, who had been a schoolteacher, is talented also in other areas, such as calligraphy and floral arranging. So she leads three groups of ladies in



Kenichi Wakabayashi

the church on weekdays. While teaching calligraphy and floral arranging, she shares Bible verses and her personal testimony.

Kenichi Wakabayashi, a workman in his 40s, is the type of person who does not mind giving his time for others' needs. In this way, he is a role model of a good steward for the congregation.

These lay people are not only leaders but also servants in Christ. The ministries of these dedicated and trained lay people serve as a model of discipleship for the whole congregation. □



Izumi Akasaka is the associate pastor at Ise Baptist Church in Ise, Japan.



Tsutako Hiramatsu

Changed

Lives in Cameroon

by Ken Priebe

The Rev. Peter Nyumnloh, field pastor (area minister) of Ndu Field of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, tells about his exciting follow-up experience to the showing of the film *Jesus* in January. A Baptist primary school chaplain and he planned a special spiritual emphasis week immediately following the film showing at the Ndu Baptist Primary School. The messages that week focused on the life of Jesus as seen in the film. Different events of Jesus' life were brought close to the hearts and minds of the students.

After the week's meetings, 54 children made decisions to follow Jesus Christ. Each one was counselled individually.

Six of the students wanted to publicly confess their sins before other students. One, the son of the chaplain, unashamedly confessed that he used to fight and steal from his mother. He wanted to know how to get rid of his sin. In the middle of his confession, he burst into tears and promised he would not commit such sins again. He said that it was the devil who made him steal and fight.

After prayer with the children, this nine-year-old boy requested to be allowed to stay and continue to



The second Cameroon Sunrise group from Canada will be showing the film Jesus in Cameroon in January 1991.

pray alone in the classroom while the rest went for lunch. He was hungry, but he was more concerned about Jesus who died to save him — that He would forgive him and cleanse his heart.

His spiritual life has grown tremendously in the last month. He is a changed boy. By his fruit, one can tell that the Holy Spirit is in control of his life. Pray for him as he grows to perhaps be a pastor like his father or a chaplain like his mother.

Because of viewing the *Jesus* film

in January at Mile 3 in Bamenda, another young man prayed to accept Jesus as his Savior. He immediately began to attend church and became a faithful member in the Baptist church youth fellowship. It has been exciting to see how the Holy Spirit has transformed his life and how he and the friend who prayed together with him that night have grown in their faith and spiritual life.

This was visibly seen on the afternoon when the Cameroon soccer team played their first match of the World Cup. The game happened to fall on the same night as the youth meeting. The youth leader/sponsor thought that no one would show up, but just to be sure, he decided to go to the church and check. To his amazement, who should be found standing and waiting outside the church door but Carmichael and his friend.

When the sponsor asked them why they weren't watching the soccer match on television, their reply was, "Doesn't the Bible say, seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness"? With such a statement, does anything more need to be said? How we need to grow in Jesus! □

The Rev. Kenneth Priebe is a North American Baptist Conference missionary to Cameroon, West Africa.

The Spiritual Discipline of Silence

by Sam Berg



The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him (Habakkuk 2:20).

The discipleship group sat in silence. The opening exercise of the meeting was the devotional time. The first stage, memorization, had given way to meditation. In the room, silence reigned.

We became aware of noise: "Woe to the man who calls to wood, 'Come to life,' and to lifeless stone, 'Wake up.' Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it" (Habakkuk 2:19).

The noises of life, which crowd our days, with which we fill our lives with significance, which finally take the place of God, gradually, in the silence of the meditation time, ceased reverberating. We became more and

more aware of the Presence. The Lord was in His holy temple, and we knew it.

There is a time to be silent. To be sure, there is also a time to speak. The Bible teaches that we should come into His presence with singing, into His courts with praise, to make a joyful noise unto His name, to sing a new song. He has turned our mourning into dancing, so that our hearts may sing to Him and not be silent (Psalm 30:11,12).

There is also a time to be silent. The spiritual discipline of silence provides for us a three stage process that contributes to our spiritual growth.

An awareness of our "inner noise"

First, silence makes us aware of our "inner noise."

Part of my spiritual discipline is to read my Bible in the silence of the early morning. I often find it

difficult to concentrate, not because I'm not yet awake, but perhaps because I'm too awake. My mind wanders to many other matters — the happenings of yesterday, with their angers or joys, the challenges of today, and the many details of life. These things make up my "inner noise." They are important matters, the stuff of my life, but at this moment, they drown out the voice of God in His Word.

Without the discipline of silence, I would not even be aware of this "inner noise." I would be very much like the man who calls to wood, "Come to life," and to the lifeless stone, "Wake up!" Without the discipline of silence, I would not even be aware that the details of my life are drowning out the most important sound of all, the Father's voice in His Word.

An awareness of the Presence of God

The awareness of the "inner noise" readies us for the next stage of the spiritual discipline of silence: The practice of silence in the Presence of God.

This involves obedience to the teaching, "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." I can't do much about all the earth, but I can do something about me; I can be silent before Him. I can "be still" and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10).

The secret to success in this second stage lies in the conviction that He is indeed in His holy temple. In the Old Testament, His dwelling place was the Holiest Place, behind the veil in the inner temple. In the New Testament, the veil has been torn, the temple has been redefined. He lives within me. Down in the center of my being, there is His sanctuary, established

by His indwelling and abiding Spirit — His constant fulfillment of His promise to never leave me or forsake me.

To the altar of this inner sanctuary, He invites me to bring the noises of my life, to offer them up to Him for His evaluation. For some of these noises, I already know His verdict: I simply need to ask for forgiveness. For others, I need to realize that they are on the altar where they belong. For still others, I know that they will come with me when I leave the inner sanctuary, for they are part of His task for me.

As I hear His verdict about my many noises, they grow muffled, and then silent. As the silence increases, so does the awareness of the awesome Presence, before Whom the first appropriate response is, and can only be, silence.

Silence must come before the shouts of praise, before the joyful noise, before the new songs. If we praise too soon, before there has been silence, we risk the mingling of our inner noises with the joyful noise. Our inner noises confuse the joyful noise unto the Lord that we seek to make, with results not much better than those of the poor fellow trying to inject life into his block of wood. There is no guidance there, no breath.

The Lord is in His holy temple; I must be silent before Him. In my stillness, I know that He is God. In the silence, I, through my Lord Jesus Christ, know Him as my Father.

An awareness of His meaning for me

The third stage follows: In the silence, I am now ready to hear His meaning for me.

Silence is not an end in itself. It cannot be. In the beginning was the

"The practice of silence makes us aware of our 'inner noise' and readies us for the Presence of God."

Word. God spoke, and the heavens and earth came to be. Silence, as a spiritual discipline, is rather an almost desperate attempt to get my noises out of the way — out of the place in my life where His Word must dwell.

One writer has described "The Retreat from the Word," a modern trend to devalue language, an attempt to get above language. Meaning, then, can be found in silence itself.

The Canadian National Art Gallery recently purchased "The Voice of Fire," a huge abstract painting. The artist stated that the viewer is welcome to supply his own meaning. There it hangs, immense, awesome indeed, but silent. The voice of fire makes no sound!

As a spiritual discipline, silence is rather the narrow way by which we enter the Father's school. It is the readiness with which we come to drink the living water and eat the living bread.

In the silence, I find myself on the Mount, gathered there with the disciples at the feet of Jesus. Jesus, seated there on the grassy slope, speaks: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). In the silence, these words fill my heart to overflowing, for I realize He knows me.

Again I find myself on the Mount, with the disciples. This

time, Jesus comes to me. Again, in the silence, He speaks: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

In the silence, these words fill my heart with an intense energy and desire to do His will. I go to the altar in my inner sanctuary and retrieve from it those things which are His tasks for me. I leave the inner sanctuary, the place of silence, ready for another day. □

Suggested Bible Readings

- Day 1 Habakkuk 2
- Day 2 Psalm 46
- Day 3 Job 37:1-14
- Day 4 Psalm 4
- Day 5 Matthew 5: 1-16
- Day 6 Matthew 28: 16-20
- Day 7 Revelation 8: 1-5

Exercises

- 1) Find a quiet place, where you usually don't go, for your Bible reading.
- 2) To lower the decibels of your inner noise, write down the distracting thoughts that come. Describe the accompanying emotions.
- 3) When silence is achieved, listen for God's voice in His Word.

The Rev. Sam Berg is pastor of Nepean Baptist Church, Nepean, Ontario.

It's a New Day for Evangelism in Canada

A Canadian Perspective on the Biblical Imperative: Commissioned to Witness

by Siegfried H. Schuster

Without question, the nineties will be remembered as an era of enormous change.

The final decade of this millennium began in a most exciting way. Who could have guessed even a year ago that communism would unravel so dramatically...? that the Berlin wall would crumble to reunite East and West Germany...? that the tiny countries of Estonia and Lithuania would dare to defy the Russian giant by declaring their independence?

In the wake of these exciting changes, we hear reports of spontaneous public worship in these countries that had been denied religious freedom for so long. It is encouraging to see that God-consciousness survives such rigorous persecution.

On the other hand, we see changes in the West which affect the religious behaviour of people negatively. There is "good news" and "bad news" to report on the religious scene in Canada with important implications for evangelism in the nineties.

This truly is a new day for evangelism in Canada!

What is the current religious picture in Canada?

A careful review of Statistics Canada census data reveals a serious problem for the church in Canada. While in the 1980s, 87 percent of Canadians registered "religious preference" as Christian, 47 percent Catholic, 40 percent Protestant, and only 13 percent as "other" or "none"; yet under "religious affiliation" (membership), 43 percent registered Catholic, only 19 percent Protestant, and 38 percent unaffiliated. The picture for total weekly attendance is even worse with 23 percent attenders and 77 percent non-attenders. In 1900, about two-thirds of the population attended church regularly.

Today, Evangelical Christians are definitely a minority in Canada. In fact, a recent report of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada revealed that Evangelicals accounted for approximately 22 percent of the population in 1900, but represented less than seven percent of the population in 1986 and may be reduced to only four percent by the year 2000 if present trends continue.

Today, Evangelical Christians are definitely a minority in Canada. In fact, a recent report of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada revealed that Evangelicals accounted for approximately 22 percent of the population in 1900, but represented less than seven percent of the population in 1986 and may be reduced to only four percent by the year 2000 if present trends continue.

While we may identify several contributing factors that are beyond the control of the Church, we must also admit to certain internal factors that influenced this lack of growth.

What has gone wrong with the Canadian spiritual harvest?

One factor is Canada's dependence on immigration. Currently, Canada grows more through immigration than by birthrate. Indeed, without immigration, the population of Canada would actually be in decline.

Since immigration policies favour applicants from non-Christian countries, a major shift is occurring in the religious profile of Canada, as these immigrants bring their own religious convictions and practices with them and build temples and mosques in all major Canadian cities.

Another factor is the official emphasis on multiculturalism, which reduces the preferred status of Christians and encourages all people of different ethnic backgrounds to maintain their distinctive cultural and religious heritage, rather than being absorbed into a Canadian cultural blend. Canada favours a "cultural mosaic" concept over the "melting pot" theory.

A third related factor is the strong commitment of Canadian politicians to pluralism. In a pluralistic society, Christianity can only be one of many options at best; therefore, we have had the recent battles to remove religious instruction and prayer from public schools so as not to offend people of other faiths. This trend will likely increase in the nineties; therefore, Christians will need to learn how to witness more effectively in this new milieu.

A significant problem for the Canadian Church is the process of marginalization. Research reveals that many Canadians believe there

is a God. They even accept Jesus Christ as deity, but they are not prepared to adjust their lives to this truth. They look to the church primarily for rites of passage—like marriage and burial, but they are not committed otherwise. Thus, the Church is plateauing, and many denominations are declining. Even those who report growth are merely recycling unhappy saints from other groups.

Another significant trend is the negative impact on church growth and evangelism through a shift toward liberal theology and social action. It is difficult to maintain effective evangelism, when one becomes so preoccupied with social issues that SOCIAL is capitalized while gospel is reduced to small letters. Since this is unfortunately true of some major denominations in Canada, it is not surprising that they are rather ineffective in evangelism.

Nor can we ignore the general apathy of Evangelicals as a major cause of church decline. The selfish pursuit of affluence and "the good life" have caused many good Christians to become spiritually indifferent, apathetic, and weak, forgetting that they are to be engaged in spiritual warfare.

What are the implications for evangelism in the 90s?

There are some hopeful signs of change toward more effective evangelism for the nineties. While older Christians may remember "the good old days" of great evangelistic rallies, it is a fact that only about 0.5 percent of the current church members found Christ in public campaigns, while at least 80 percent came through a personal relationship! This was demonstrated at a recent rally, where the speaker asked nearly 800 delegates for a show of hands if they had come to faith in Christ at a crusade or special event. From my observation, less than one percent responded, while about 90

percent indicated they were introduced to Christ through a friend or relative!

This has prompted a shift from public to personal and from confrontational to a more relational approach in evangelism. Books, like *Life-style Evangelism* by Joe Aldrich, alerted us to the fact that society has changed from a confrontational style of settling issues in the fifties and sixties to negotiation in the seventies and eighties. This must be taken seriously, if we want to effectively communicate God's redemptive message.

The approach has also shifted from front door to side door emphases. The unchurched are no longer attracted to the church through duty or tradition, but they will respond to a personal invitation from friends. People have not really given up on God, even in this secular age. In a recent street survey of several hundred people in Ottawa, less than 10 percent claimed to be attending church regularly, but of the 90 percent who made no such claim, nearly 80 percent said they would attend, if invited by a friend. This opens a tremendous opportunity for lay people, but it also suggests a great need for equipping lay people for more effective outreach.

We are also learning that even our emphasis on "life-style evangelism" may be inadequate, if it eliminates those who do not feel gifted for evangelism. Therefore, I welcome a recent shift toward "body life evangelism," which seeks a cooperative effort of all the members within a body of believers, according to their individual giftedness. □



Siegfried H. Schuster is Associate Professor of Church Ministries and Director of Church Liaison, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, Edmonton, AB.

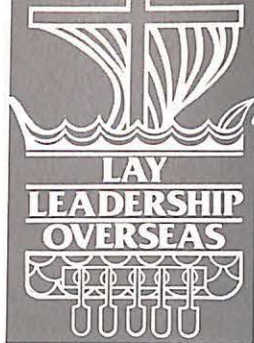
Practical Steps Toward Effective Outreach

Ultimately, the best plan for evangelism is futile, unless it is personalized. Here are some suggestions toward developing more effective strategies to reach your neighbourhood with the redemptive message of Christ's love:

- Begin by praying for sensitivity to the needs of unchurched people in your community and ask for wisdom in developing a personal action plan for outreach.
- Ask the Lord to stretch your church's vision to embrace your "potential congregation" by multiplying the present active membership by eight.
- Identify by name and pray specifically for one to three of the unchurched people in your network of relatives, friends, or acquaintances whom you think might be open.
- Choose three specific ways for each individual named through which you may demonstrate your love by acts of kindness and seek to develop a personal relationship with them.
- Recognize that people are tired of empty words and promises! God's love is best communicated through actions, not words, therefore, seek to spend quality time with these friends.
- Learn how to work through your extended family (*oikos*) and through natural webs of relationships. Use a team effort. It is more effective than solo ministry.

Don't give up on your friends, if they are slow to respond to your efforts to share the Gospel. Remember, God's love is unconditional and so must be ours.

Japanese Women Visit California Church



Japanese guests, missionaries, and staff from Sunrise Baptist visit Lake Tahoe

by Melinda Ryan

International Ministries Emphasis Week took on special meaning at Sunrise Baptist this spring when the Fair Oaks, California, church hosted 17 visitors from its sister church in Tsu, Japan. The Rev. Hisashi Murakami, pastor of Tsu Toyogaoka Church and his wife Nobuko accompanied 14 ladies and one gentleman from Japan to California, April 22-29.

This sister church relationship was established in April 1980 when 10 men from the Tsu church visited Sunrise. Then, in 1982, 11 Sunrise representatives visited the Japanese church. This visit in 1990 was the first time a group of Japanese women made the 11-hour flight to California to exchange ideas with their American counterparts.

The ladies were guests at the Women's Bible Study, where they demonstrated a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and at a Spring Tea. They also met with church families

in Care Cell gatherings.

"The language barrier really wasn't a problem because of the oneness we sensed in Christ," said Elenor Kern, director of women's ministries at Sunrise. "Their joyful hearts were contagious to us. The sacrifice these ladies made to come to visit us enriched our lives." Pastor Murakami translated for the women.

The Sunrise women were encouraged and inspired by the moving testimonies of their Japanese sisters. Many have endured societal hardships and pressure from family members as minorities in the predominately Buddhist culture.

"Statistics show one half of one percent of the Japanese population are Evangelical Christians," said Pastor Murakami. "The eight North American Baptist Conference churches in the Japanese Baptist Conference have a combined membership of 405. Those numbers are very small, but Jesus showed us what counts is not numbers but the

quality of the life we lead that will bring more into the family of Christ," said Pastor Murakami.

It was after meeting with Pastor Murakami that a Sacramento Japanese woman made a decision to follow Jesus. She had attended Sunrise, but was struggling with some deep questions about Buddhism versus Christianity. Pastor Murakami was able to answer her questions in Japanese, and she came forward to pray and commit her life to following Jesus.

One way the Tsu Church is reaching out to its community is through its Women's Ministries program. Mrs. Sumiko Sakamoto, leader of the women's group, shared how its membership has swelled to 83 Christian ladies. Two-thirds of the women's husbands — including Mrs. Sakamoto's — are not Christians, she said.

"My husband did not appreciate my church work in the beginning, but he now has a very good understanding of my work and cooper-



Pastor and Mrs. Gene Kern and Pastor and Mrs. Hisashi Murakami have been friends since student days at N.A.B. Seminary.

ates," she said. "I am praying for him that he will be led to Christ."

Several ladies shared how life for Japanese women today is not so far removed from the challenges faced by their sisters in the United States. Japanese women have traditionally behaved meekly but now are becoming more assertive, Pastor Murakami confirmed with a wry smile. "They are becoming more out-spoken as they are more awakened to themselves," he said.

The stringent demands of the Japanese culture make it far more difficult for men to make decisions for Christ than women, the ladies agreed. The work ethic and loyalty to the company is so strong that it conflicts with the self-sacrificing teachings of Christianity. Some husbands are so opposed to their wives' conversion that they threaten them with divorce to force them to choose between their

husbands or Christ.

Indeed, there has been a definite increase in the number of divorces among Japanese couples in recent years. There is also a marked increase in delinquency and drug use among Japanese youth, they said. An estimated 40 percent of Japanese women work outside the home today, said Pastor Murakami. The percentage is even higher among Christian women who are concerned about meeting the costs of providing the best education possible for their children, he added.

Still another growing concern is providing quality care for the nation's aging population, the ladies said. Where traditional Japanese families once took care of their own sick and elderly family members, that is becoming more difficult in this modern age. Fewer women are staying home today, and the aged are living longer due

to medical advances. The average life expectancy for today's Japanese women is 81, and 76 for men. "This creates a lot of problems as the need is very great," Pastor Murakami said. "The Bible says the church should take care of the widows—not the government—so we are looking at ways to meet this great social problem now."

The Tsu Church is in the process of building a rest home for the elderly. Plans are also in the works to build a home for the disabled. During their Northern California stay, the Japanese visitors toured area nursing homes to collect ideas. □

Melinda Ryan is editor of Sunrise Baptist's bi-monthly Women's Ministries newsletter and a former newspaper reporter. She and her husband Rich have two children.

mission news

Three Men Baptized at Tsu Church

by Ron and Joan Stoller

On Easter Sunday, about 180 people witnessed the baptism of three men at our Tsu Toyogaoka Church. One of those baptized, a Mie University student, Mr. Ishiguro, has been studying with Ron and short-term missionary, Bob Joy, regularly on Saturday afternoons at the Center. Several of his friends and his girlfriend came to witness his baptism.

Another man, Mr. Sakanai, has been exposed to Christianity over 30 years since his older brother became a Christian. This brother had come in contact with a missionary and believed that even though he was severely handicapped, God could use him. Mr. Sakanai, his brother, and parents now believe.

Another man who was baptized, Mr. Kobayashi, has had contact with our church for many years. His wife was the first in the family to join the church and then their daughter was baptized a few years ago. His daughter is enrolled in a



three-year seminary course in Church Music in Tokyo.

What a special day this was to see these three men join the family of God here in our church. So often we have only ladies join our churches, which naturally is great, but here in this country of so few men in our churches, we counted it a special blessing to have three new brothers in Christ join our fellowship.

Mr. Ishiguro has had a hip problem, and on June 14, he had a bone transplant in his right hip. Bob Joy and Ron visited him daily and brought reading materials and the

Bible on tape. His non-Christian mother is now reading the Bible for the first time! Pray that Mr. Ishiguro's mother will come to know the same joy in Christ that he found before Easter. Pray for the three men who were baptized on Easter: Mr. Ishiguro, Mr. Kobayashi, and Mr. Sakanai.

Joan taught several university girls the Bible on a one-to-one basis. Recently with national holidays and school festivals, these study days have landed on those days. The girls have come faithfully, and when they heard that we had other conference and church plans on those days they were disappointed that they couldn't study. We are pleased to teach those who are very interested to open God's Word and learn more about what life has to offer. It's a joy to teach someone who wants to study even on holidays.

The Stollers are N.A.B. Conference missionaries to Japan on furlough.





Meet Your New Missionaries

by Herman Effa

In April 1990, the Board of Missions appointed eleven missionaries to serve on our North American Baptist Conference overseas mission fields in Cameroon and Japan as well as to a new field in Eastern Europe. This issue of the Baptist Herald introduces them to you.

Pray for these servants as they adjust to new cultures and countries and seek to serve the Lord to win others for Christ, to plant churches, and to prepare national pastors for ministry.



Dale and Marcella Hufnagel

Dale and Marcella Hufnagel to Urban Evangelism and Church Planting in Cameroon

Cameroon, like most emerging nations, is experiencing migration to urban centers. North American Baptist Conference Missions in Cameroon has concentrated largely on the grasslands of the Northwest Province, and the Gospel has had tremendous acceptance there. With migration to the cities, our focus must also include urban evangelism and church planting.

In April, the Board of Missions appointed the Rev. Dale and Marcella Hufnagel as urban church planters in Cameroon. They will spend the first 12 months in French language study in Quebec, since much of their ministry will be in that language.

Dale is the son of Jacob and Bertha Hufnagel of Valleyview, Alberta. When Jacob was six years old, his father led him to Christ. He was baptized at age 13 in Bethel Baptist Church, High Prairie, Alberta. Dale, a graduate of Prairie Bible Institute, received his master of divinity degree from the North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta. Dale has served in a variety of ministries in North American Baptist Conference churches

in Alberta: as intern at Sunrise Baptist, Red Deer; associate pastor at Westland Baptist in Edmonton, and as pastor of Community Baptist in Taber.

Marcella, the daughter of Alvin and Gwen Heppner, was born in Calgary, Alberta. She accepted Christ as Savior at a Bible camp at an early age. While attending Prairie Bible Institute, she was baptized, and she also met Dale. Here they were challenged for missions service.

The Hufnagels have three children: Joanna Marie, Sherri Lynn, and Benjamin Jacob. Pray that God will grant them special ability to learn the French language well and then give them an open door of effective ministry in Cameroon.

Scott C. Hug to Teach English in Japan

For many years, teaching English to Japanese students has been a vehicle for short-term missionaries to share their faith and to establish contacts with potential converts to Jesus Christ. They introduce these new friends to Japan Baptist Conference churches.

Scott Hug begins such a ministry this fall in Japan. The Board of Missions appointed him as a short-term missionary for two years; he will center his teaching ministry in Tsu.

Scott, the son of James and Jo-Anne Hug, accepted Christ as Savior at the age of 12. His faith in Christ began to grow when he was 17, while attending Meadowlark Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta. There he made a commitment to Christ, was baptized, and joined the Church. It was here that he was disciplined and found opportunities to serve the Lord.

Scott is a graduate of North American Baptist College in Edmonton. During these years at the College, missions ministry came into a sharp focus for Scott.

The two-year short-term missionary ministry is not really an interruption in his program of preparation. He views this two-year ministry as an integral part of his preparation for missions as a lifetime career. He plans to continue his studies following his short-term service. Pray for Scott as he seeks to adapt to a new culture and a heavy teaching schedule. May God give him many opportunities to share his faith.

Harold and Ruth Dressler to Pastoral Training in Eastern Europe

Dr. Harold and Ruth Dressler will be our first missionaries to Europe since our North American Baptist Conference missions presence there was interrupted during World War II.

With the tremendous open doors to Eastern Europe, Dr. and Mrs. Dressler will have a unique opportunity to serve through a variety of ministries. Because of the desperate need for trained pastors, Dr. Dressler will focus on the preparation of pastors for Eastern Europe as his primary function. Dr. Dressler will also coordinate the North American Baptist Conference assistance to the Eastern European churches in terms of Christian literature and Bibles, as well as special projects involving construction of churches and church supplies. Hopefully, Dr. Dressler will be able to coordinate evangelism and discipleship teams from North America to Eastern Europe.

Dr. and Mrs. Dressler, who immigrated to Canada in 1953, are uniquely prepared for this ministry. Both were born in Europe. They speak German and understand the European culture.

Dr. Dressler received his B.A. degree from the University of British Columbia, his B.D. degree from Northwest Baptist Theological College, and his Ph.D. from Cambridge University.

He taught at Northwest Baptist

Theological College and Seminary in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 1975 to 1988. He has served on the pastoral staff of Bethany Baptist Church, Vancouver. Prior to that, as a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, he served in a variety of ways, which included choir director and organist. Presently, he and his wife are members of Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church in Surrey. He is pastoring a Chinese congregation, which meets in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver.

The Board of Missions appointed the Dresslers to begin service in Europe in early 1991. Pray for a quick reentry to the European scene and an effective ministry.



Harold and Ruth Dressler

Louanne Wiens to Teach Music in Cameroon

The Cameroon Baptist Convention Secondary Schools present an excellent opportunity for short-term mission experience. In addition to the secular subjects that are taught, the missionary uses the classroom, Bible studies, one-on-one discipleship, and evangelism teams to effectively share his or her faith and build lasting relationships with students and faculty alike.

Louanne Wiens, a member of Esterhazy Baptist Church in Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, is uniquely prepared for such a ministry. She serves as head of the music department of Saker Baptist College in Limbe, Cameroon.

The daughter of Norman and Elizabeth Wiens, Louanne grew up in a Christian home. She received Christ as Savior at the age of 5 and was baptized at the age of 12.

As a Christian, her growth has been steady over the years. Her call to missions came into sharp focus while at Prairie Bible Institute during high school and Bible college days. Louanne received her bachelor of education degree with specialization in music from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and has taught in Esterhazy High School.

The Board of Missions appointed Louanne early in 1990 to go to Cameroon in August for a two-year teaching term. Pray for an effective ministry for Louanne.



Louanne Wiens

Deborah Lynn Kern to Student Evangelism in Japan

Deborah, the daughter of Dr. Edwin and Meraleen Kern, was born in Japan while her parents served there as North American Baptist Conference missionaries.



Deborah Lynn Kern



W. Bradlee and Sandra Gerrish

During a Child Evangelism Fellowship rally, Deborah received Christ as her personal Savior at the age of seven. She was baptized by her father in 1977 at Wiesenthal Baptist Church, Millet, Alberta. About her growth as a Christian, Deborah recalls, "At the age of 16 through some revival meetings which were being held at Central Baptist Church in Edmonton, I realized that my faith was very dependent on the faith of my parents, and that I needed to reevaluate my own faith."

Deborah has served at Central Baptist Church in youth ministries, backyard Bible clubs, vacation Bible schools, and various music ministries. She was also a member of the Cameroon Sonrise Mission Team in January 1990.

Deborah went to college planning to prepare for missionary service. During the missions conference in Edmonton in the fall of 1989, Deborah realized that it was time to make a definite move toward missionary service. Having graduated from North American Baptist College, she felt it was time for her to consider short-term missionary ministry in Japan. The Board of Missions appointed her to be involved in student evangelism through teaching English to Japanese students. Pray for grace, wisdom, and the necessary energy to carry out a demanding ministry schedule.



Kenelee Proctor

W. Bradlee and Sandra Gerrish to Medical Ministry in Cameroon

What does a mission agency do when a much-needed missionary doctor is due to come home on furlough? Where does one find another doctor who can fill in for just one year? Our great God raised up Dr. Bradlee and Mrs. Sandra Gerrish just for this purpose and for this time.

Dr. Gerrish serves with five other doctors at the Snohomish (Washington) Family Medical Center. Only five of the six doctors are in hometown practice at any given time, allowing one doctor to be on sabbatical each year. Dr. Gerrish's sabbatical year, July 1990 to July 1991, gives him the opportunity to accept the invitation extended to him to fill this particular need. They previously filled a similar need in Cameroon in 1984-1985.

Bradlee was raised in a Christian family and committed himself to Jesus Christ at the age of 12. Sandra was raised by her mother and great aunt "whose faith was a very basic and lived-out faith in the everyday presence of

God." It was through their influence that she made a decision to follow Christ. She was baptized at the age of 11. The Gerrishes are active members of First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish and have three children: Christina Annette, Sara Grace, and Winslow Gregory.

The Gerrishes state, "Now that we have decided to return to Cameroon, we are experiencing the freedom to become excited. God seems to be opening the way, just when we needed the clarity of vision to help disrupt the natural reluctance to upset that which is comfortable and predictable and pack up, take risks, and contend with the unknown."

Kenelee Proctor to Kansai Christian School in Japan

Kenelee Proctor serves as principal of Kansai Christian School in Japan—a position she assumes this fall. Providing quality education for missionary children is a major concern for the Board of Missions, who appointed Kenelee as a career missionary early in 1990. Our missionaries need to know that their children can effectively reintegrate into North American schools while on furlough or when entering college.

Kansai Christian School is a joint effort of several evangelical missions in Japan including that of the North American Baptist Conference. Kenelee taught at Kansai as a short-term missionary from 1984 through 1986.

When the need for a teacher became apparent last fall, Kenelee sensed God's call to return to Japan. Because of her excellent academic and practical preparation, she has been appointed principal of Kansai Christian School and will be ministering as a career missionary. She received her master of arts degree in education from California State College and has a number of years of teaching experience.

Kenelee, daughter of Kenneth and Mary Anna Proctor, was born in a Christian home and received Christ as Savior at an early age. Parents, Sunday school teachers, and pastors influenced her in her spiritual growth. She was baptized and is a member of Canyon Community Church in Bakersfield, California.

Pray that God will grant Kenelee much wisdom and energy to carry out her commitment to Kansai Christian School and that her activities in the local Baptist Church will be used to touch many lives for Jesus.

Sheryl Mae Grunwald to Student Evangelism in Japan

Raised by Christian parents, Elmer and Hannah Grunwald of Leduc, Alberta, Sheryl Grunwald knew about God at a very early age. As she grew, her knowledge of the love of God developed. When she was nine years old, she asked Christ to be her Savior during vacation Bible school.

Sheryl says, "There were no radical changes in my life because I had basically been a good kid. As I matured, however, I realized the necessity of having Christ as Lord of my entire life and have been working on various areas of my life since then."

Sheryl was baptized in her home

church, First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta, in 1972 and is presently a member of McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, Alberta. She has been active in her local church, teaching Sunday school classes, children's clubs, vacation Bible schools, singing in the choir and with an organized music outreach team, and leading music and worship times in the church. Sheryl has also worked as a camp counselor and music director as well as a summer youth and Christian education worker at Onoway Baptist Church. She ministered with a Mexican short-term missions medical team and recently served with New Day.

Sheryl states that her missionary interest was sparked through reports of

missionaries, which always intrigued her, the encouragement of people around her as to her skills and abilities, the need world-wide for missionaries, and the Holy Spirit's prompting.

She says, "I want to serve God with my life, using the talents and abilities He's given me to the best of my potential. I see the need for reaching out to a world dying without Christ and have had a desire to do something cross-culturally. I prayed for an open door and got one!"

Sheryl has been appointed by the Board of Missions to teach missionary children in Japan and to do student evangelism through teaching English to Japanese students. □

mission news

Student's School Fees Stolen

by Ken and Sharon Jerzyk

Last year, James travelled to Cameroon from Nigeria to visit his brother. There he gave James a large sum of money to help him pay his school fees in Jos. Unfortunately, the bush taxi that traversed the lightly travelled border area was operating a scam. After taking a "shortcut," the taxi suddenly developed engine trouble and ground to a halt in the middle of nowhere.

Suddenly, a band of armed robbers emerged from the bush and stole everyone's money—including James' school money. The thieves then drove off in the taxi.

Although discouraged, James offered a prayer and began the long walk back to the nearest village. He began to talk to a fellow passenger along the way and shared with him the Good News of Christ. By the time they reached the village, he had committed his life to Christ. James then introduced the man to the local pastor in the village, and got a new taxi to Jos.

However, some good news was awaiting the penniless James in Jos. The year before, an organization in Texas had sent James a scholarship of \$300, but had sent it to the wrong school. It took a year for the school to find out who and where James Fongong was.

James had no idea that he had any help coming, but it could not have come at a better time. The aid covered his school fees for the year and displayed God's providence for His children.

James Fongong, a graduate of

Mambilla Baptist Theological School is now in Jos with his family continuing his studies at a local seminary. He also works as night watchman on the Jos mission compound.

James plans to be an evangelist to the unreached areas in the remote Mambilla area. It is my privilege to see God working in his life.

I have enjoyed James' diligent work and his wisdom in helping me sort out various cultural questions in my relationships with nationals with whom I come in contact. One night, I was awakened to take James' wife to the hospital for the birth of their daughter, Joy, whom we had the privilege of naming. The Rev. Clyde Zimbelman was also recently awakened to take James who had yellow fever to the hospital. James and his family are now fine and ready to make the most of every opportunity.

Remember to pray for the James Fongong family as he continues his studies. Also remember the other students in Jos and at Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Mbu, as well as the tutors, which include Missionaries Jim and Karen Szymanski and Jim and Joy Mische. Pray for workers for the Mambilla Baptist Convention who will try to win Southeast Gongola State for Christ by the year 2000. □

Ken and Sharon Jerzyk are N.A.B. missionaries in Jos, Nigeria.



Roselynn, Comfort, Theo, James, and Joy Fongong.

Tradition-Bound or Market-Driven?

by Lyle E. Schaller

Conventional wisdom suggests the most distinctive differences among churches can be found in their denominational affiliation, their place on a theological spectrum, their community context (rural, central city, suburban, small town) or their age, their growth curve, their racial or nationality heritage, their view of Holy Scripture, their expectations of ministerial leadership, or their polity. These are important; sometimes they are exceptionally influential variables.

During the past three decades, however, a new approach to ministry has reemerged that suggests a different frame of reference that may be more revealing than any of the traditional categories. This consists of a simple two-part system that helps to explain contemporary reality.

Three Cautions

Before looking at this system for categorizing congregations, three cautions must be raised. First, beware of overly simplistic explanations of life. Life is too complicated to be fully explained by any one simple system.

Second, rarely does any one congregation fit completely, fully, and comfortably into one category.

Third, congregations do change. The simplest illustration is the church planting project of 1958 that is now a mature, 32-year-old church. The numerically shrinking parish may reverse that trend and double in size in only a few years. In other words, today's category is not a prison; it may be only a temporary resting place.

The Largest Group: Tradition-Bound, Strong Member Orientation

The vast majority of the Protestant churches in North America are heavily influenced by tradition, custom, the past precedents, history, and their own institutional culture.

Unless a new and powerful force is introduced into the equation, the standard expectation is that tomorrow will resemble today. The beginning point for preparing next year's budget is this year's budget. The comparison base for evaluating the new pastor is the personality, performance, and gifts of the previous minister. The criterion for deciding on the number of bulletins to be reproduced for this next Sunday's wor-



ship service is the number used last Sunday, perhaps with a look at the number required for the equivalent Sunday last year. The evaluation of the size of the current youth group will be a comparison with last year's numbers. The beginning point for a recommendation for the minister's compensation for next year will be this year's compensation. The assignment of rooms to Sunday school classes will begin with past usage.

Even more significant is the strong member orientation of these churches. The top priority on the pastor's time is assumed to be the care of today's members. The Sunday morning schedule is determined by the preferences of the members in general and the volunteer leaders in particular. The Sunday morning worship experience is designed to meet the needs of believers in general and today's members in particular. The minis-

tries with teenagers usually are designed and scheduled with the hope of serving the children of today's members.

In some congregations, this strong member orientation prohibits the pastor from officiating at a wedding in which neither party is a member or from conducting the funeral service for a non-member. In other congregations, this strong member orientation often means that special events, such as the Christmas Eve services or the Thanksgiving morning service, or Saturday evening worship service, are designed, scheduled, and publicized on the assumption these are for the benefit of members. The total ministry of music, the choices of hymns, and the liturgy often are chosen to please today's members.

In some congregations, this powerful member orientation is altered by the influence of outside factors that shape the life and ministry of these churches. The most highly visible examples are theological seminaries, continuing education events for both the laity and the clergy, the denominational committee that created a new hymnal, the lectionary, denominational mergers, the system for ministerial placement, and various denominationally initiated priorities.

The most highly visible consequence of this strong member orientation is it facilitates the process of growing older and smaller. The stronger the pressures of tradition and the greater the member orientation, the more likely that the congregation will shrink in numbers as the members grow older.

The Market-Driven Minority

By contrast, a small but rapidly growing number of churches are driven by a desire to reach, attract, and serve new generations of youth and adults. In a few extreme examples, the Sunday morning worship experience is designed for seekers, persons on a religious pilgrimage, skeptics, inquirers, first-time visitors, and pilgrims. The worship service designed for the committed Christians is scheduled for another time during the week.

The basic distinction between these two approaches to the world was described in an award winning book, to the world was described in an award winning book, *Innovation in Marketing*, by Theodore Levitt, first published in 1962. This book, which was written for a business, not a church audience, lifts up the difference between focusing on the needs of the seller rather than on the needs of the buyer. Levitt urges the reader to concentrate on the needs of the people, rather than on the needs of the institution. Literally scores of books and influential articles have been published during the past three decades by other authors who have emphasized this same point. This perspective calls for focusing on the consumer of the services or program, not on the producer's needs.

The most highly visible example of this distinction in the churches can be seen in the advertisements on the church page of the Friday or Saturday newspapers.

A church runs an ad announcing the name and address of a particular congregation plus the Sunday schedule and the names of the staff. It may include the text and title for Sunday's sermon. That satisfies those who contend, "We should advertise our church in the newspaper."

Once in a while, however, that same page will carry the church ad which is addressed to the needs of the reader. Relatively few of the words in these ads relate to the advertiser. Most of the words are directed to the religious pilgrimage and needs of the reader.

A second example of this "market-driven" approach surfaced back in the 1960s when dozens of congregations made the changes necessary to attract and welcome the so-called "Jesus People." Among the most common of these changes was a willingness to relax the dress code, to expand the Sunday schedule, to accept different music, to double or triple the number of worshippers, to enlarge the teaching ministry, and to add new staff to serve the increased numbers.

A third example is in those denominations willing to create new congregations to reach and serve the wave of immigrants from Central and South America and the Pacific Rim. This usually required postponing that dream of integrating all immigrants into Anglo churches, changes in the requirements for ministerial standing, and multilingual publications.

A fourth example is in new church development directed at younger generations of the population. This usually has meant abandoning the traditional approaches to ministerial training, ordination, and placement; accepting and utilizing new approaches to new member enlistment; creating a different format for corporate worship; dropping the old pattern of beginning small in the hope of growing larger in favor of beginning large; offering very modest or no financial subsidies; emphasizing a far greater sensitivity to the needs of people; affirming a greater recognition of the power of excellent preaching and top quality oral communication; and offering prospective members meaningful choices.

Three Questions

1) Are the questions on policies, priorities, and schedules in your congregation determined largely by tradition and a strong member orientation? Or are you seeking to identify and respond to the religious needs of the people who are the potential new members for next year and the year after that?

2) To use Theodore Levitt's frame of reference, are you "pushing your product," or are you trying to be responsive to the needs of people?

3) Are you happy with the answers to these two questions? If not, what can you do to change the current situation? □

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President's Focus

by Manetta Hohn,
WMF president,
Kelowna, BC



It is encouraging to hear how many women's groups are planning to start or already have outreach Bible studies for women, such as "Time Out," "Mom's Morning Out," or "Take a Break." We have had "Time Out" ministry at my church for a number of years. Some years about a third to a half of the women attending were not from our church. The purpose of these groups is to teach God's Word to Christian and non-Christian women as well as to their children. This teaching ministry for the children is so very important. One mother said, "It is so good to know that as we are learning, our little ones are learning too."

In the following paragraphs, the ladies of College Heights Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, tell about their exciting "Ladies Morning Out" ministry. I hope it will encourage your group to continue your women's outreach ministry or to consider starting one.

"Ladies Morning Out"

College Heights Baptist W.M.F. began a "Ladies Morning Out" ministry in September 1989. It was scheduled to run through April 1990. Our purpose was to reach unsaved women and provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth for them and the women of College Heights Baptist. Each

meeting consisted of a Bible study, craft, activity or speaker. We provided a children's program as well as baby-sitting.

We averaged 43 women who brought their 35 children for what many said was the "highlight of my week." Nineteen of the women had no church affiliation or were from churches with no evangelical emphasis. Five women accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Four are now attending our church and Sunday school.

God is at work in our group changing many lives through this ministry. One woman, for example, experienced a dramatic change in her life. She arrived for the first meeting frightened, not knowing how she would be received. Our women opened their hearts to her, and she accepted Christ. Now she is outgoing with a radiance and happiness evident to all.

Many women did not want to see "Ladies Morning Out" end in April and requested a spring study. Under the leadership of our president, Vi Kwiatkowski and our 18-member executive committee, we

scheduled a study in a home, using material prepared by Elenor Kern, *Disciplines of the Beautiful Woman*. An evening Bible study was requested for working women.

Nine women are now studying *Becoming a Woman of Excellence*.

All in all, it has been a wonderful, uplifting year with our only problem being lack of

space—a good problem when it results from winning the lost! To God be the glory! May we continue "Reaching New Heights" for Christ our Savior. □

Overcoming Objections

by Linda Lee
First Baptist Church
Jamesburg, NJ

In her article, "Reaching the Women in Your Community" (Baptist Herald, October 1989), Linda Ebel was quite correct in saying, "All of us resent it if we think someone is only interested in making a sale" when they are evangelizing. As a salesperson, I am very conscious of another person's perception of me and how I present my product. The very idea of "pushing" someone into buying something they neither want nor need offends me.

I have learned some wonderful concepts from top rate non-Christian salespeople that have helped not only my product sales but also, oddly enough, my evangelism efforts. The most important of these concepts is being "sold" on the product. I can't sell something I don't believe in myself. Well, I'm sold on Jesus! I can't think of anything in all the universe I'd rather tell others about than my Creator. That slogan, "the product speaks for itself," fits me. I'm God's spokesperson by the very fact that I am His creation; not just a human being, but an eternal being under the quality control of His Holy Spirit.

Another fundamental concept is overcoming the resistance to a sale. If people don't buy what you're trying to sell, it's usually for one of the following reasons.

1) Lack of trust — they don't trust you or your product.

We human beings can be so distrustful. "Why is this person

telling me about God? What is her motive? Where did she get her information?" The objections raised from lack of trust are endless. People who find it hard to trust other people find it even harder to trust God. My job as God's representative is to help them overcome that lack of trust. I must "walk my talk!" I must daily question my motives. Am I genuine? Am I honest with others about my vulnerabilities, my struggles, my weaknesses as well as my victories? Do I see that person as an annoyance or as someone who is headed for eternal damnation unless he or she trusts Christ as Savior?

2) Lack of information

I remember an aunt of mine saying that the Bible taught reincarnation. "How interesting," I said. "Do you know in which book of the Bible you read that?" She replied that she didn't know there was more than one book in the Bible. I promptly showed her the Gospel of John and dispelled the fallacy of more than one life after death.

How will they know unless someone tells them. Scripture says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." One commercial says that "an educated consumer is our best customer." My aunt came to know the Word of God and received Jesus as her Lord and Savior a few years after that incident. Information, or lack of it, can mean eternal life or death.

3) Fear of loss

The last objection, not only to sales but to the gift of salvation, is the fear of loss. People want to be in

control. They don't want to let go of their money, life-style, their "ideal." Perhaps, they think, something better is just around the corner. If I wait just a little longer, even if there is nothing better than this, I won't have to change yet.

People are afraid of change, even when it's for the best. To change from what we are accustomed is a frightening thing. No matter how miserable someone's life may be, to accept something unfamiliar is often a more threatening alternative.

As one who has experienced new life in Christ, it is my duty to be understanding to the point of empathy when an unbeliever says giving up the pleasures of sin not only sounds impossible, it's undesirable. I need to share what the Master Producer has done for me. What have I gained from knowing Christ? How have I benefited from allowing Him to control my life? Have my "ideal" and desires changed?

My earthly boss reminds me weekly that if a person enters our store, it's because he or she is looking to buy our product, therefore, it's my job to sell it to them. My Heavenly Father has also placed each person in my life for a reason. He expects me to influence them for His sake.

In sales, people are going to have objections. These do not have to be viewed as barriers, hard stone walls that keep the truth from penetrating; rather they should be seen as stepping stones across a sea of doubt. Each time an objection is overcome, the Holy Spirit can draw that person closer to salvation. And they, too, might become "sold" on Jesus. □



Vi Kwiatkowski



Evening Bible study group.



Children learn as well as mom.

Commissioned to Witness

Men's prayer breakfast used as outreach

■ EBENEZER, SK. The men's prayer breakfast at Ebenezer Baptist Church was attended by over 60 men and boys. Guest speaker was Tuineau Ali-pate, linebacker for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. "This breakfast proved to be an outreach to our community," reports Martha Dreger.

Tracy church becomes self-supporting in three years

■ TRACY, CA. On June 10, Valley Community Baptist Church, celebrated three years of service to the Lord.

"What a blessing for us and for all of you who have shared in the establishment of Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA," says Dennis Dearmin, pastor. "In less than three years of service, we have been accepted by the Northern California Association as a recognized N.A.B. Conference church."

The Church's full-time youth pastor ministers to more than 60 young people a week. Larry Underwood, a counselor, is in charge of the new Family/Marriage and Child Ministries. Average attendance is 155 in this Church.

The Church also budgeted for the pastor to attend the Ministers' Family Conference in Edmonton in August. At that time, he carried with him a letter telling the N.A.B. Conference that the Church will no longer need their financial support.

"Perhaps 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."

Minot Church holds evangelism seminar

■ MINOT, ND. Kirk Johnston, Danville, IA, conducted an evangelism seminar at First Baptist Church to teach effective witnessing. His wife, Gayle, presented an evening of music and message to 160 women and girls at the annual mother/daughter tea. The Rev. Douglas Timm is pastor. —Inez Rhone

Lay-witness weekend in Dickinson County

■ HOPE, KS. The First Baptist Church held a Lay-Witness Weekend with speakers Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wirth, Bethany Baptist Church, Hunter, who shared of God's faithfulness through difficult times, and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Wiles from a neighboring church told how they had recently come to Christ through the witness of friends.

"The witness of these two couples was a challenge to our members," reports Elaine Strobel. The Rev. Chester Strobel is pastor.

■ WINNIPEG, MB. The congregation of Rowandale Baptist Church celebrated the Lord's Supper after Pastor Bryan Hochhalter baptized five adults and

four youth and welcomed three other adults into the Church's membership by testimony. One of the couples recently came from Central America. The baptismal candidates represented several ethnic groups. —Miss H. Kahler

■ EMERY, SD. The Rev. Charles Davis extended the right hand of fellowship to four new members at First Baptist Church. —Melinda Schrader

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Six adults were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship of Faith Baptist Church by Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff. Five babies were also dedicated. —Anne Kruegel

■ BISMARCK, ND. The Rev. Ed Bartel extended the right hand of fellowship to ten people at Bismarck Baptist Church. Bismarck Baptist also held a parent/child dedication for six couples desiring to provide a Christian atmosphere in which to raise their children. —Darleen Hoover

■ DICKINSON, ND. Seven adults and children were baptized by Pastor Daryl Dachtler. Several of these adults were welcomed into the fellowship of Hillside Baptist Church. —Mrs. Fred Kulish

Challenged to Grow

Special events highlight growth

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. Ridgewood Baptist Church experienced many special events contributing to the Church's growth.

Some members meet every Saturday for an early morning prayer fellowship. Once a month, the men of the Church meet for a prayer breakfast in a restaurant.

The New Day team

■ MADISON, SD. The Rev. Lynn Heinle baptized nine young people and one adult and extended the right hand of fellowship to these ten and one other adult at a communion service at West Center Street Baptist Church. —Betty Wilbur

■ RAPID CITY, SD. South Canyon Baptist Church welcomed 22 new members, 11 by baptism and 11 by transfer of letter. Dr. Jack Smith is pastor. —Mrs. Herb Decker

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. The Rev. Leigh Harrison extended the right hand of fellowship to 19 adults; ten by transfer, two by baptism, and seven by conversion and baptism at Hillcrest Baptist Church. —Evelyn Itterman

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. Nine people were baptized and welcomed with five other people into the fellowship of Ridgewood Baptist Church. Dr. Ronald Read and the Rev. Erwin Babbel are the pastors. —Louise Erbach

■ EDMONTON, AB. The Rev. Ken MacDonald baptized 13 people among whom were a deaf boy and a Laotian woman at Meadowlark-Westland Baptist Church. —Barbara Edwards

gave a challenging program. Twenty-one young people, under the leadership of Randy and Shelly Schmor, toured the mid-west presenting the musical, "Extra-Extra," written by John Kiemele in various churches. They had several fund-raising events to fund the tour.

Four couples dedicated their babies to the Lord in a special Sunday worship service.

Twenty-two of the 55 Alive group spent senior week at Central Baptist Camp, Lansing, IA.

The Church felt privileged to hear the Rev. Niander Winter, president of the Rio Grande do Sul Seminary in Brazil.

"We are grateful to our pastors Ronald Read and Erwin Babbel for their leadership and look forward to greater things the Lord has for our Church," reports Louise Erbach.

Bismarck Church sets Bible reading goal

■ BISMARCK, ND. Have you ever made a resolution to read the Bible through in one year? Using the study guide, "Through the Bible in One Year" by Alan B. Stringfellow, the adult Sunday school classes at Bismarck Baptist Church have made this their goal.

"This has had a positive effect on all participants as we become more familiar with the Bible as well as reaffirming the inspiration of the Scriptures and its importance in our lives," reports Darleen Hoover. The Rev. Ed Bartel is pastor.

Women of Grace celebrate God's grace

■ GRAND FORKS, ND. The women of Grace Baptist Church held a tea and special program that included music, a skit, mission emphasis, and a talk on "Precious Keepsakes." The Rev. Phyl Putz is pastor, and Bud Fuchs is associate pastor. —Lillian Balogh

Ruth Strauss speaks to Kansas women

■ HOPE, KS. The W.M.F. of First Baptist Church hosted a ladies tea for sixty ladies representing nine area churches. Guest speaker, Mrs. Elmer Strauss, Dallas, TX, former missionary to Nigeria, demonstrated how African women dress, tend their

farms, and how Christians can keep their spiritual lives tended. The Rev. Chester Strobel is pastor. —Elaine Strobel

Men meet for prayer

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. Tuesday mornings, six to ten men from Hillcrest Baptist Church meet for prayer at 6:00 a.m., followed by a fellowship breakfast. The Rev. Leigh Harrison is pastor. —Evelyn Itterman

Petrie speaks about growth at Central Dakota/Montana Association meeting

■ DICKINSON, SD. Six hundred eager worshippers from the Central Dakota/Montana Association filled Hospitality Inn, for the closing worship service.

At least one first-time decision for Christ was made, and scores of Association participants came forward after the message, "Vision 2000 and Growing," given by the Rev. Lewis Petrie, development director.

Petrie emphasized the concepts of prayer, process, perspective, Person, and prospective in growth as seen in the Imperative key verse, II Peter 3:18.

After business sessions on Friday, Petrie spoke on "Growing Healthier Marriages, Families, and Churches," in which he emphasized how marriage is exemplified in the Lord Jesus who loved the Church and gave Himself for the Church.

Missionary to Nigeria, Jewel Roehl, Women's Missionary Fellowship breakfast speaker, stated that Hillcrest Academy, where she serves as a teacher of music, is a huge mission field. Youth from many countries as well as children of missionaries make up the student body. Jewel, a daughter of the Association from New Leipzig

Baptist Church, has now returned to Nigeria to serve a third year.

The Rev. Edward Bartel, Bismarck Baptist Church, spoke following the brotherhood breakfast on "What Dads Can Do for Their Kids." As Jesus did, give them time, talk to them, and touch them, giving them the blessing and affirmation every child needs from a father.

After a number of helpful workshop sessions on Saturday, busses were boarded for a tour of Roosevelt National Park at Medora, a delicious barbeque, and the evening Medora Musical.

Hillside Baptist Church, led by Daryl and Cecelia Dachtler, celebrated its silver anniversary as they hosted the 1990 Association meeting. —Rev. Ralph Cooke, area minister

Twenty-two sign Rochester church's charter

■ ROCHESTER HILLS, MI. Oakland Hills Baptist Church, a church planting project of the Great Lakes Association, initiated membership on Charter Sunday, June 3. Twenty-two people joined the Church the first Sunday. They gave their testimony of salvation and reason why they wanted to join Oakland Hills.

The Church enjoyed a five-month high in attendance (60) with 26 guests. Nine were first-timers.

Reay Zoellner, Great Lakes Association church extension committee chair, shared the vision of the Conference and Association for church planting.

"The Church conducted a survey of 317 homes in

order to locate the unchurched and give out information about Oakland Hills. We plan to survey 3,000 homes in the area for a prospect list," reports Pastor Randy Beck.

The Rev. Herman and Ardath Effa presented the N.A.B. Conference missions program as the Church was in the process of determining a missions strategy and allocations.

Hilda women hear message on spiritual growth

■ HILDA, AB. Many women came from the community and neighbouring towns to join with the women of Hilda Baptist Church for their mother/daughter tea.

"There was a demonstration on how to grow fruit trees on the prairies and a challenging message for us to grow in the fruit of the Spirit," reports Linda Enslen. The Rev. Bob Findley is pastor.

Northern Dakota quality is job one

■ MC CLUSKY, ND. "Quality Is Job One," the theme of the 87th Northern Dakota Association, set the stage for a quality experience from the opening devotional on the "Excellence of God," by the Rev. Keith Heyn, First Baptist Church, Underwood, ND, to the closing fellowship meal served by the hosts, McClusky Baptist Church, Donald Schmid, interim pastor, Lester Buenning, new pastor, and Allen Wahl, local arrangements chair.

"All rejoiced in God's provision of recent refreshing rains for our parched fields," reports the Rev.

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Ralph Cooke, area minister. The business and reports sessions were led by moderator, Wade Faul, Underwood, and vice moderator, the Rev. Loren Franchuk, Carrington.

Workshops on the grow imperative were led by the Rev. Donald Schmid, Mercer, (Growth in Personal Spiritual Life); the Rev. Douglas Timm, Minot, (Growth in Marriage and Family Life), and the Rev. Phyl Putz, Grand Forks, (Growth in Church Body Life).

Ardath Effa spoke to the women, led by Kaylene Reddig, Carrington; and the Rev. Herman Effa, to the men, led by Leonard Martin, Fessenden.

The Underwood/Turtle Lake Melodichords led a concert in a park in a Saturday evening of inspiration and fellowship.

Sunday events included a presentation by the youth, led by Paul and Lynn Singer, Turtle Lake, a missionary report by the Effas, and a worship service with the Rev. Ralph Cooke as speaker.

Sunshine Ridge hosts BC Association

■ SURREY, BC. Delegates and members representing 24 churches of the British Columbia Association met at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church for their 41st annual sessions. The Rev. Herman Effa, associate missions director, N.A.B.

Conference, challenged the group to revival.

Pastor Paul Paquette reported on the growth of Stewart Christian Fellowship. Stewart, the most isolated and northerly church in the N.A.B. Conference, is located on the Alaskan border, and numbers both Canadians and Americans among its regular worshippers. But the difficulties experienced by Calvary Baptist Church, Penticton, with Pastor Ken Strelau, in the heart of BC's vacationland, reminded us that we dare not let up on prayer.

Special reference was made to the possibility of a new work being opened up in Mexico, and to the challenge facing the Church in Eastern Europe, involving the need for volunteer pastors and lay workers. A report was given on "Street Level Youth Centre," set up by Vancouver's Youth Pastors.

The senior citizen residents of Evergreen Home, White Rock, presented \$4,000 and \$2,000 towards the Association's budget needs and to the BC Women's Ministries. The women took up a special missions offering of over \$3,000.

The concern of delegates over the abortion issue was addressed by a decision to ask each member Church to send a telegram to its M.P., urging the government to adopt a pro-life stance in its legislation. —Bill O'Connor

work, removing storm windows, and any other job too difficult for the seniors was done.

Members also delivered "meals on wheels" to shut-ins throughout the city. The Rev. Lynn Heinle is pastor. —Betty Wilbur

McDermot honors longstanding member

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Mrs. Frida Streuber was honored by family members and the congregation of McDermot Ave. Baptist Church on her 100th birth-

day. A longstanding, active member, Mrs. Streuber taught Sunday school and served as secretary of the W.M.F.

"Mrs. Streuber is loved and respected by young and old and has been an example of a godly woman throughout her life," says Maria Rogalski.

A gift of \$1,000 (\$100 for each decade of her life) was presented to Mrs. Streuber. At her request, the money was given to the Streuber Scholarship Fund at North American Baptist College.

Called to Worship

Children's Jubilee present musical

■ DICKINSON, ND. The children of Hillside Baptist Church presented a musical during a worship service. Under the direction of Eileen Miller and Betty Buckholty, the Children's Jubilee meets throughout the year. —Mrs. Fred Kulish

Meadow Hills dedicates organ

■ AURORA, CO. The Rev. Larry Ellis, minister of

worship, Meadow Hills Baptist Church, reports a good weekend with Dr. Austin C. Lovelace who worked with the choir and congregation singing many of the pieces of music Lovelace had written. The focus of the service was the gift of music bestowed by God to equip Christians to praise Him. They also dedicated their new Gilante-Preludium I organ on June 10. The Rev. Roger Cauthon is pastor.

Compelled to Serve

The Jubilee Choristers sing at Tacoma Church

■ TACOMA, WA. The singing group, "The Jubilee Choristers," from North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, ministered in song at Calvary Baptist Church. The youth group helped to sponsor the program. —Earl Shadle

Kieper recognized for 30 years of missionary service

■ FESSENDEN, ND. First Baptist Church celebrated the 30th anniversary of Barbara Kieper's commissioning for missionary

service to Africa. The service included a challenging message from area minister, Ralph Cooke, reading letters of commendation from the Conference Office, and presentation of a plaque commending Barbara's faithfulness.

Among the friends and relatives present were Barbara's mother, Elsie Kieper, her brother, Dr. Bill Kieper, sister, Suzanne Edinger, and colleague and mentor on the mission field, Minnie Kuhn. Barbara served ten years in Cameroon and 20 years in Nigeria, West Africa. She returned to Nigeria in June.

"The Church rededicated itself to continue to pray for Barbara and share in her financial support," says Pastor Oliver Bender.

Meadowlark school has outstanding year

■ EDMONTON, AB. Meadowlark Christian School, operated by Meadowlark-Westland Baptist Church, serves children from Kindergarten to Grade 9. The school has overcome several obstacles: finding a new building, reversing a financial deficit, and increasing enrollment.

"We have seen a 50 percent increase in enrollment, found a more spacious building, and the financial deficit has been eliminated," reports Bob Humphreys. "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

Missionaries featured speakers in Hilda

■ HILDA, AB. During the Medicine Hat Area Missions Conference, two missionaries spoke at Hilda Baptist Church: Miss Bernice Westerman, formerly of Cameroon, West Africa, and the Rev. Allan Effa, formerly of Nigeria.

"Keeping in touch with our missionaries is important and gives our children an awareness of missions," reports Linda Enslin. The Rev. Bob Findley is pastor.

Manitoba choir gives concert in Minot Church

■ MINOT, ND. The Manitoba Youth Choir of about

40 youth presented a concert at First Baptist Church. "It was an inspiring concert, and the group was housed by the Church families during their stay," reports Inez Rhone. The Rev. Douglas Timm is pastor.

Auch speaks to XYZ group

■ MINOT, ND. "Missionary Moments in May" was the theme for the monthly meeting of the XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) group at First Baptist Church. Former missionary to Nigeria, Clem Auch, was the guest speaker to 40 attendees. —Inez Rhone

Crist family minister at Calvary Church

■ TACOMA, WA. Tami Crist along with her brother, Rich, from Woodenville, WA, presented a concert of contemporary gospel music at Calvary Baptist Church. —Earl R. Shadle

Eureka student joins missions project in Alaska

■ EUREKA, SD. David Grosz was involved in a summer missions project in Glennallen, Alaska, with SEND International, an interdenominational missions agency ministering to Alaskans through radio, medical care, and church planting.

David is a member of First Baptist Church. The Rev. Perry Schnabel is pastor. —Irene Kusler

Committed to Give

Creston women designate offering for outreach

■ CRESTON, NE. The Dorcas Society of Creston Baptist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary by designating the offering for

the National Women's Missionary Fellowship Goal and the Southwestern Conference budget. Women from Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, attended the dedication of White Cross articles for Cameroon missions and

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viewed a slide presentation.

"We praise the Lord for the growth in our Church and the opportunity to serve the Lord," reports Henrietta Scheffler

Eureka people give for local church projects

■ EUREKA, SD. First Baptist Church completed an

unfinished room to give Pastor Perry Schnabel a larger study. A copier was also purchased with the proceeds from the W.M.F. sponsored spaghetti supper, bake sale, and auction sale. A card desk was donated to the Church by the Arlo Bertsch family in memory of Theodore and Matilda Bertsch.

church anniversaries

Forest Park celebrates 100th anniversary

■ FOREST PARK, IL. Forest Park Baptist Church celebrated their 100th anniversary May 4-6.

Friday evening's service highlighted the Church's relationship with the community. The mayor and representatives from the local ministerium and historical society brought greetings as well as all the former pastors, and their mother church, Northwest Fellowship, and daughter churches, First Baptist of Bellwood and Bloomingdale Baptist.

Dr. Willis Potratz presented a plaque from the N.A.B. Conference.

On Saturday evening, all living former pastors brought greetings: the Reverends Richard Schroeder, William Jeschke, Rubin Kern, Frank Veninga, and David Wick.

"It was a blessing to hear how the Lord used the church in the lives of men and women over the years, as people gave testimonies," says Martha Remus.

On Sunday, the Church was filled for the worship service in which former pastors and associate pastors

served the Lord's Supper to the congregation. The Rev. David Wick gave the message, and the Centennial Choir composed of former and present members sang.

At the closing banquet, a drama, an overview of how the Church has changed was presented, and Dr. Frank Veninga spoke.

Bethany Ladies Mission Circle celebrates 69th anniversary

■ HUNTER, KS. Former missionaries, the Rev. Elmer and Ruth Strauss, were guest speakers at Bethany Baptist Church's 69th anniversary of the Ladies Mission Circle.

The Rev. Anthony Dickerson is pastor. —Katherine Loofbourrow

Pioneer Club celebrates 10th anniversary

■ EBENEZER, SK. The Pioneer Club at Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrated their tenth anniversary. Reports were given and awards handed out to those who served as well as to ten girls with honors. —Martha Dreger

Commanded to Care

A "helping hand" is given to elderly

■ MADISON, SD. The Diocese Board spent a Sat-

urday lending a "helping hand" to the elderly of West Center Street Baptist Church. Jobs such as yard

ELIZABETH MOSER (89), McLaughlin, SD; born Oct. 15, 1900, in Campbell County, SD; died June 16, 1990; married Phillip Moser; member, Women's Missionary Fellowship, janitor, First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD; survived by her husband, Phillip; three sons: Edwin, Clarence, and Marvin; four daughters: Fredda Mertz, Tillie (Gottlieb) Dietterle, Adeline (Argo) Brockel, and Betty Pareno; half-sister, Bertha Senger; ten grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; the Reverends Art Freitag and Cliff Gunnels, pastors, funeral service.

CHARLIE BAUMGART (94), Humphrey, NE; born March 11, 1896, to Carl and Augusta (Kehn) Baumgart; died June 4, 1990; married Irene Kallweit, Jan. 16, 1921; member, Sunday school superintendent, deacon, treasurer, Humphrey Baptist Church (ABC), Humphrey, NE; member, Creston Baptist Church, Creston, NE; predeceased by his parents, five brothers, and two sisters; survived by his wife, Irene; three sons: Lavern, Des Moines, IA; Norman, Overland Park, KS; Myron, Humphrey, NE; ten grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer; two sisters: Clara Miller and Rose Schlender; the Rev. Marlin Mohrman, pastor, funeral service.

HATTIE BATKE KATZBERG (88), Vancouver, BC; born July 15, 1901; died April 15, 1990; married Fred Katzberg in 1920; active member, choir member, president of the Women's Missionary Society, Christian hospitality, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ebenezer, SK; member, deaconess, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; predeceased by her husband in 1970, sister Laura, three brothers: Fred, Gus, and Egan; survived by three daughters: Janice, Vancouver, BC; Doris, Victoria, BC; Audrey, Regina, SK; two sons-in-law: Louis Knoll and Fred Sonnenberg; sister, Bertha Clark; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; Dr. A. Boymook, pastor, funeral service.

LETTIE E. DEBUHR (93), Kesley, IA; born Oct. 8, 1896, to Lewis and Charlotte Schwarze Schmetman in Freeport, IL; died May 29, 1990; married George W. DeBuhr, Nov. 10, 1920; active member, Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, IA; predeceased by her husband, George; daughter, Faye Van Gerpen; her parents, three sisters, and an infant brother; survived by daughter, Phyllis (Elvin) Uhlenhopp, Aplington; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren.

OTTO MARTIN (86), Three Hills, AB; born April 28, 1903, to Christof and Sofia Martin in Turtle Lake, ND; died Dec. 10, 1989; immigrated to Carbon, AB, 1923; married Edna Copeland in 1927, who predeceased him in 1966; married Mary Copeland in 1967; member, deacon, trustee, choir member, Carbon Baptist Church, Carbon, AB; predeceased by daughter, Marilyn, his parents, one brother, and three sisters; survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters: Irene (Earl) Lambert, Parksville, BC; Audrey (Ken) Darida, South San Francisco, CA; son-in-law, Bob Ohlhauser; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five sisters; two brothers.

NATALIE KOCH (80), Ellinwood, KS; born June 7, 1909, to Peter and Katherine Rube in Hoisington, KS; died March 18, 1990; married Elmer Koch, May 17, 1931; member, W.M.F. member, First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS; predeceased by her husband in 1961 and two daughters: Kathryn Ann and Joan McCarty; survived by two daughters: Ella Hartig and Arline Ankerholz; four sisters: Emma White, Clara Yakel, Linda Strecker, Katherine Kunhart; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; Reverends George Redington and Jon Duba, pastors, funeral service.

RUTH DEWERFF (72), Ellinwood, KS; born Aug. 20, 1917, to G.F. and Minnie Koch in Ellinwood, KS; died May 7, 1990; married Harold DeWerff, Feb. 10, 1936; member, W.M.F. member, First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS; predeceased by her husband in 1985 and infant son; survived by four sons: Harold Lloyd, Dallas, Dennis, and Dale; one daughter, Carol Clawson; one brother, Harry Koch; one sister, Ruby Eggers; 16 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; Reverends George Redington and Jon Duba, pastors, funeral service.

ARTHUR ALVIN GERBER (89), Camrose, AB; born Jan. 9, 1900, to Ernest and Iola Gerber in California, MO; died Oct. 11, 1989; married Clara Weisser, Dec. 28, 1927; member, deacon, Sunday school superintendent, teacher, choir, custodian, East Bittern Lake Baptist Church/Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB; predeceased by his wife, Clara in 1965, an infant daughter, his parents, one brother, Edgar; survived by four sons: the Rev. Wesley (Doris), Bismarck, ND; Leslie (Carol), Carrollton, TX; Duane (Vi), Camrose, AB; the

Rev. Allan (Leona), Ashley, ND; one daughter, Bernice (Allen) Link, Leduc, AB; 28 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; the Rev. Mark Morris, pastor, funeral service.

PHIL LINK (80), Camrose, AB; born July 21, 1909, to Rudolph and Anna Link; died March 24, 1990; married Gertrude Jasman, July 4, 1933, who predeceased him in 1954; married Helen Carlson (Nesvold), 1957; member, board member, choir, treasurer, German Baptist Church/Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB; predeceased by three brothers: Harry, Norman, Rudolph; son-in-law, Norris Knudston; survived his wife, Helen; daughter, Marjorie (Wes) Schultz; step-daughter, Charlotte Knudston; step-son Curtis (Jeanne) Carlson; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer (Berdeen); one sister, Beatrice (Herb) Pankrat; the Rev. Mark Morris, pastor, funeral service.

EDWARD KORT (86), Kelowna, BC; born Oct. 26, 1903, to Gustav and Bertha Kort in Andregufka, Russia; died May 12, 1990; immigrated to Manitoba, Canada, in 1911; married Emma Wuerch, April 13, 1926, who predeceased him Nov. 5, 1989; member, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; survived by four daughters: Gladys (Carl) Schindel; Evelyn (Eugene) Job, both of Winnipeg; Jean (Bob) Buss, Kelowna; Irene (John) Frers, Richmond; two sons: Ernie (Gladys), Kelowna; Ken (Elaine), Winnipeg; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two brothers: Arnold and Henry; two sisters: Tina Rattai and Helen DeYoung; the Rev. George Breitreuz, pastor, funeral service.

ARNOLD KRUGER (57), Valleyview, AB; born June 1, 1932, to Reinhold and Ottillie Kruger; died April 6, 1990; married Dorothy Pratt, May 23, 1958; member, usher, deacon, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Valleyview, AB; member, Gideons International; survived by his wife, Dorothy; two daughters: Violet (Ronald) Bellamy, Edmonton, AB; Velma (Raymond) Kohout, Grande Prairie; three sons: Dexter (Lianne), Valleyview; Dwayne, Valleyview; Darwin, Calgary; five grandchildren; the Rev. Norman Dreger, pastor, funeral service.

baptist world aid



Funds Needed for Iranian Earthquake Disaster

- Death toll estimated to exceed 50,000. Rescue teams are being withdrawn as hope fades for finding additional survivors amid the rubble.
- Number injured estimated to be 110,000. Many of the injured have been flown to hospitals in other parts of the country. Appeals have been made for help in the form of drugs and surgical supplies and for services of the following specialists: general and trauma surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, infectious disease specialists.
- 500,000 people have been left homeless. Seven towns and 300 villages have been completely destroyed. Urgently needed: food, blankets, shelter, cooking stoves, utensils, and fuel.

Baptist World Aid will work through Elam Ministries, a channel identified by Southern Baptists. This mission based in London, England, and led by an Iranian, has contacts with evangelical churches in Iran. Food and supplies will be purchased in England and flown to Iran, free of charge, by Iranian airlines. The supplies will be distributed in the country by the churches and by Red Crescent. The first grants for emergency supplies have already been sent.

Your assistance is urgently needed. Please urge your people to identify with the Baptist World Alliance in this ministry of compassion to the people of Iran. Please send gifts designated for Iranian Earthquake Disaster and make checks out to:

North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

what's happening

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Marvin Rust** to pastor, Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, June.

■ **The Rev. Fredric Spalding** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Auburn, MI, to pastor, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, August.

■ **Wayne Eisbrenner**, 1990 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, to pastor, Whitecourt Baptist Church, Whitecourt, AB, August.

■ **Eric Van Patten** to youth minister, Corona Heights Baptist Church, Corona, CA.

■ **Jacqueline Aebi**, 1990 North American Baptist Seminary graduate, to Director of Children's Ministries, Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, July 1.

■ **Kevin Strong** to youth pastor, Pine-land Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, July 8.

■ **George Johnson** to youth pastor, Ridgemont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI, July 10.

■ **The Rev. Wenzil Hanik** from pastor, Onoway Baptist Church, Onoway, AB, July.

■ **The Rev. Les Buenning** to pastor of McClusky Baptist Church, ND, July 15.

■ **The Rev. Byron Brodehl** from pastor, First Baptist Church, George, IA, to church planter, Salmon Creek, Vancouver, WA, August 1.

■ **The Rev. Terry Stoltenow** from pastor, Gillette Baptist Church, Gillette, WY, June.

■ **The Rev. Jack Whitehead** from pastor, Oakridge Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, to pastor, Oceanview Baptist Church, White Rock, BC, August 12.

■ **The Rev. Gordon Voegelé** from pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND, to pastor, Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND, September 9.

■ **The Rev. Edward VanderBaaren** from pastor, Carbon Baptist Church, Carbon, AB, June 30.

■ **The Rev. James Kilgore** to associate pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, July.

■ **The Rev. Winston Smith** from pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX, to pastor, Central Baptist Church, George, IA, August 6.

■ **The Rev. Norman Vernon** to interim pastor, Community Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI.

■ **The Rev. Phil Zylla** to pastor, Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, July 22.

■ **The Rev. Millar Crawford** retires as pastor of Pittsford Community Church, Pittsford, NY, November 1. He will be pastor emeritus.

■ **Timothy Dekker** to First Baptist Church, Warburg, AB, July 22.

■ **Mike DeLong**, 1990 North American Baptist Seminary graduate, from youth pastor to pastor, First Baptist Church, George, IA.

■ **Mark Hailstone** from youth pastor, Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, September 1.

■ **The Rev. Dwight Jacobsen, Jr.**, from assistant pastor of youth, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL.

Ordinations

■ **Mario Giraldi** ordained on June 24 into the Christian Ministry by Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB.

■ **Robert Burkle** ordained June 24 into the Christian Ministry by Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK. The Rev. Milton Zeeb gave the Charge to the Candidate and the Welcome into the Pastoral Ministry. The ordination message, "The Privilege of Being a Pastor," was given by the Rev. Steve Vetter. — *Mary Leppke*

■ **John Dotson** was ordained April 22 into the Christian ministry by Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, OR. The ordination message was given by the Rev. James Andrews, professor of Homiletics, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary. The Charge to the Church by Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Northwest Area minister.

■ **Roland Kuhl** was ordained June 3 into the Christian ministry by McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. The Rev. Peter Schroeder was guest speaker. Dr. Richard Paetzel presented the Charge to the Candidate, and Dr. Ronald Mayforth presented the Charge to the Church.

Retirements

■ **The Rev. Chet Dundas** retired as pastor, Community Baptist Church, St. Clair Shores, MI, effective June 30. He had served at Community Baptist Church for the past 24 years. He was ordained in 1953. He served churches as circuit pastor for Methodist churches in Forester, MI, Port Sanilac, MI, McGregor, MI; assistant pastor, Berkley Community, MI; pastor, Memorial Baptist, Warren, MI; assistant pastor, Grosse

(continued on page 30)

what's happening

(continued from page 29)

Pointe Baptist, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; pastor, Community Baptist, St. Clair Shores, MI.

Transitions

■ **The Rev. Michael Mirelez**, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Monte Vista, CO, was killed in an automobile accident on June 30. He is survived by his wife, Annabelle and two sons.

■ **Hudson Bay Park Baptist Church**, Saskatoon, SK, has changed its name to Bay Park Baptist Church.

In Recognition

North American Baptist Seminary announces the release of Dr. Hugh Litchfield's book, *Sermons on Those Other Special Days*.

Associate Professor of Homiletics at the Seminary, his book includes sermons for special days such as New Year's Day, Children's Day, Stewardship Sunday, and ten other occasions. Copies are available through North American Baptist Seminary Bookstore, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

letters

I was reading the special June 1990 edition of the **Baptist Herald** and found some interesting facts. We must **think global** in our endeavors for our North American Baptist Conference. Let's look at the total picture of our N.A.B. Conference churches world-wide; for example,

Churches	1,287
Members	136,022
Pastors	722
Associations	167
Baptisms	2,603 (not complete)

Globally, we look healthy as a Conference. There seems to be growth in all areas of our work. Maybe in the future, we can have global reports on our Conference.

Another thought, (I have) is that possibly (we could) have adopt-a-church projects (which give opportunities for) smaller churches to interact with the larger ones.

Or some churches of equal size could exchange ideas with overseas sister churches or with churches in the U.S.A. and Canada. For instance our LaCrosse church could exchange ideas with a church in Calgary. Cities have sister cities, why not N.A.B. Conference churches having sister churches in the U.S.A., Canada, or on the overseas mission field?

*Rev. William H. Heisler, Jr.
Bible Baptist Church
LaCrosse, WI.*

We, at McKernan Baptist in Edmonton, wish to re-introduce the Church Family Plan to our church family and would appreciate information on how this could be accomplished.

The May 1990 issue was especially interesting to read as many of articles helped zero in how to cope with our busy life-style.

All the efforts put forth to make the issues of the **Baptist Herald** interesting, helpful, and attractive are truly appreciated.

*Lillian Sass
Edmonton, AB*

Pilgrim Baptist Church Vancouver, BC

invites
all their former members
to the

25th anniversary
on
October 14, 1990

For more information
call Rev. Garry Dirk
at (604) 327-8831

30th Anniversary Celebration for

Community Baptist Church
Beavercreek, Ohio
September 8-9, 1990

*"Celebrating God's Goodness,
Catching His Vision"*

*Rev. Stephen C. Patrick
(513) 426-5864*

estate planning

"I'm totally confused. Some say I should have a trust, and some say I don't have enough money to afford one. Some say it will save me considerable dollars, but others say it's not necessary."

We'll Help You Understand Trusts

It is confusing. There are no simple answers. A trust can be a very simple document, utilized to manage property, or it can be a very complex tax planning tool.

A trust can be used to
avoid probate,
manage property during incompetency,
remove life insurance from the taxable estate,
transfer property to personal beneficiaries tax-free.

And the list goes on and on.

We want to help you further understand trusts,
especially as they relate to estate planning and charitable
giving.

For that reason, we have prepared a special planning report, **The Use of Trusts in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving**, which will provide answers to many of your questions.

Please write for your free copy, and discover how a trust can be an integral part of your life-style of giving.

Yes, please send me the special planning report, The Use of Trusts in Estate Planning and Charitable Giving.
I understand there is no cost nor obligation.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____
Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____
Birthdate _____ Spouse's Birthdate _____

Mail to Dr. Connie Salios, North American Baptist Conference
1 South 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994
Phone: (708) 495-2000; FAX: (708) 495-3301.

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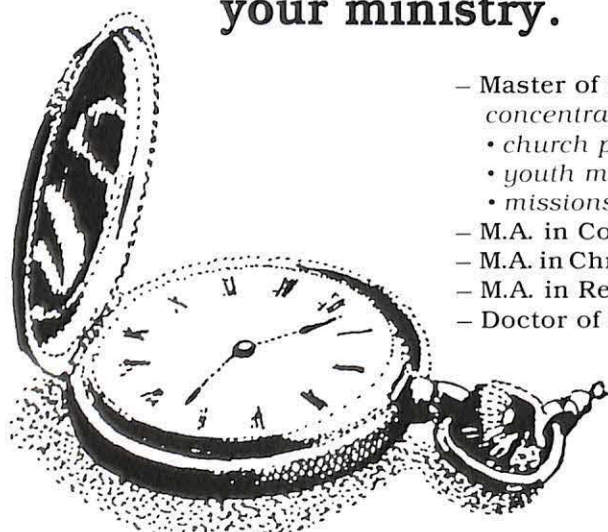
If you sense God's call to Christian ministry, we can help you develop your spiritual gifts and ministry skills.



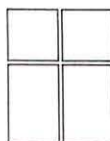
Write or call:
Prof. S.H. (Sig) Schuster
11525 - 23 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T6J 4T3
(403) 437-1960

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your ministry.**



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triennial conference

Young Teens Invited to 'Share the High' in MILWAUKEE, WI



Young teens are invited to 'Share the High' at the 43rd Triennial Conference of the North American Baptist Conference churches," says Lynn Miller of Milwaukee. "We will come together at a great place on a Great Lake — Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The dates are July 30 through August 4, 1991, and the meeting place is the Milwaukee Exposition and Convention Center and Arena (MECCA).

Every three years the N.A.B. Conference meets in Triennial Conference sessions. Special programs are planned for all age groups beginning at six months. "Our program is designed for those entering grades seven, eight, and nine," says Miller, chair for the young teens program. "The young teens will focus on the privilege of their relationship with Jesus Christ and how they can share the good news with others."

Energetic singing, special music, and announcements begin each morning's program at 9:30 a.m. A dynamic speaker, David Dean, who is also a comedian and juggler, speaks at 10 a.m. Get-acquainted games, a film, a missionary speaker, and other activities related to the theme follows at 11 a.m.

"On Wednesday, we will board busses at noon to travel to the world-class Milwaukee County Zoo for the afternoon. There we'll eat lunch and view the 4,500 animals on exhibit. On Thursday afternoon will be free time to spend as a family. Friday, at 1:30 p.m., we will walk to Discovery World," reports Miller. "This museum of science, economics, and technology features over 140 'hands on' exhibits. We will return to MECCA at 4:15 p.m." Saturday afternoon young teens will have the opportunity to have fun at a water park and enjoy a picnic lunch. Other activities may include volleyball, mini-golf, and softball.

The young teens have been invited to join the high school and college-age youth on Friday night at the DeGarmo and Key concert, which will be held at the Varsity Theater on Marquette University campus.

"Come and join the hundreds of other young teens from across the United States and Canada as we 'Share the High' in Milwaukee"! invites Miller. □