

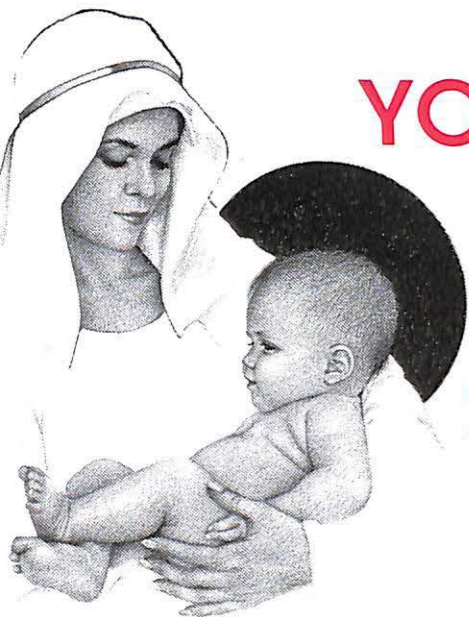
DECEMBER 1991

BAPTISTHERALD

You'll Be Surprised!

"You'll be surprised!" That phrase is splashed across postcards mailed out to 3,000 homes in the Folsom, CA, area recently by Oak Hills Baptist Church for the purpose of promoting a Saturday evening service. It's true. Most people are surprised. Read about this Church's "Seeker-Driven-Service" inside.





YOUR GREATEST GIFT WAS FREE... BUT SHARING IT COSTS MONEY!

The greatest gift you will ever receive—the saving Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ—was free. It didn't cost you a cent. To attempt to give it monetary value would be futile. The real value and power of the gospel is realized when it reaches out to touch the hearts and lives of others. This happens in many ways; all of which require the prayers and financial support of dedicated Christians.

As you remember God's great gift, we invite you to help the home and overseas ministries of the North American Baptist Conference. Offerings may be given through your local church or directly to the Conference. Share your gift—remember your joy when it was received—contribute so that others may share His Love. It is your privilege as one who knows Him.

☐ YES, I am enclosing my gift of \$ _____ for missions and ministries of the North American Baptist Conference. I will pray for these ministries.

Name _____

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Let's Reach the \$6,600,000 Goal!

Last year, many churches and individuals overwhelmingly responded during the final weeks of 1990 as they prayed and gave to meet the financial needs of the N.A.B. Conference.

This year, our total financial goal for all areas of ministry is \$6,600,000. And due to your faithful giving, we have reached a total of \$4,848,344 or 73 percent of our goal as of Nov. 22, 1991.

As a Conference of 60,168 members in Canada and the U.S.A., we support through prayer and financial giving 30 church planting projects—four of which were started this year in Alberta, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, California; 476 students in our college and two seminaries; and 69 overseas missionaries planting churches, evangelizing, and training pastors in more than six countries.

\$1,751,656 more is needed through contributions in December. Why? Ministry goals that have been set can only be achieved if adequate financial resources are available.

What will it matter if we do not reach our goal? We will plant less churches, send fewer missionaries, and discontinue some personnel and ministry services.

That will translate into countless numbers of people left unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ—people who may have been reached.

That's the bottom line, my friends—not the dollar value, however large or small—of our final year-end budget.

Thank you for your prayers and sacrificial gifts.

John Binder, executive director



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Phyllis Hill, subscriptions
fulfillment
Holly Fann, assistant
Jean Gingrich, assistant
Dorothy Eisaman,
typesetting
Dorothy Ganoung/
Linda Weber,
Reaching New Heights
Joyce Wagner, design

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The Church— East of Eden

by Benjamin C. Leslie

"We learn from our mistakes." Most of us have used this saying at one time or another to help ease the pain of something that has not quite turned out the way we had hoped. Perhaps that is one of the best ways we have of looking at the history of Christian church. We are certainly at no loss for mistakes in our past, and we do well to learn from them.

One such teacher from the past is John Humphrey Noyes and his followers. They came to be known as the Oneida community of New York. Along with thousands of other Americans, Noyes was caught up in the revival spirit of the 1830s and was converted at a revival meeting of the evangelist Charles Finney.

Noyes experienced a true transformation. He abandoned his failing law career to become an enthusiastic and charismatic preacher. Almost immediately, he entered seminary where he applied himself vigorously to his work and distinguished himself in Biblical studies.

Soon he was invited to join an elite group of students known as "the Brethren." It was a group made up of the more dedicated students who strove to improve their spiritual condition by especially intensive study and by an organized method of personal criticism. Each week, the group would gather and select one member who would have to hold his tongue while the others offered frank criticism of his character. Everyone would take a regular turn in the "hot seat" so that all of

them could share in this character-building exercise.

If we had met Noyes in those early days, my guess is that we would have been greatly impressed. We would have said to ourselves: Here is a man on fire for the Lord; here is an example of what it means to be a really committed disciple of Christ. Noyes was determined not to let the usual short-lived nature of revival conversions become the pattern of his own faith. He resolved to be a young convert forever.

But somewhere along the way, something went wrong. The reasons are complicated. In the end, no one knows exactly why some Christians start out well but at some point chose a different path, a distorted kind of Christianity. They are like the seed that fell on rocky soil. The grain flourishes for a while, but then it withers.

John Humphrey Noyes came to believe in the possibility of human perfection in this world and in this lifetime. He came to believe that the final perfection of the believer and of the church were goals that could be fully attained. He preached that those who continued to have sin in their life in any form were actually of the devil, for Christians no longer sinned. Consistent with his preaching, Noyes announced publicly his own moral perfection. From here, it was a short step to his belief in his own special inspiration to interpret Scripture.

He gathered around himself a community of disciples who followed an ideal of economic communism. This was Noyes' perfect

community with perfect sharing among its members. He developed the infamous doctrine of complex marriage, a kind of group polygamy restricted to the congregation of the committed. Noyes soon became opposed to the formalities of organized religion so much that he did away with worship services entirely. There were no baptisms, no communion services, no weddings, and no funeral services.

In spite of their peculiar beliefs,

**Only if God shatters
our illusions about what
it means to be a genuine
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Christ can we begin to
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fellowship.**

the community of John Humphrey Noyes flourished in Oneida, New York, for more than a generation. But the dream could not last forever. The zeal and devotion of the early years eventually began to wear off. Members began to resent the harsh rules and restrictions of the community. Talks about the Bible gave way to complaints about the administration and operation of the community. Dissent led to division. Division inside was matched by an even greater hostility from outside. Eventually Noyes was

forced to resign, and he left the Oneida community never to return. Soon after, the community was dissolved. The dream of a perfect community had collapsed in the midst of its own strife.

The story of John Humphrey Noyes is a Christian tragedy. It is the story of a hopeful beginning which goes astray. But there is another message as well. It is a message similar to what we read in the first chapter of I John: "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1:7f).

What happened in Oneida was an extreme situation, and hopefully, few of us are likely to seek a congregation like the one that Noyes founded. But there is another sense in which many of us come into a Christian congregation with some of the same expectations that John Noyes had. We come into a church with a very definite idea of what Christian life together should be, and then we try to realize that idea.

So often, however, there is an important little fact about the church that we forget when we formulate our expectations concerning the church. It is a little fact that I find I have had not only to learn but also from time to time, I have had to relearn it. And that is the simple fact that the church is made up of people. Even though we are members of the church of Christ and even though we may be committed Christians, our commitment and our church membership do not eradicate our own sinful human nature.

We forget that the Christian congregation of the present is simply not yet the kingdom of God in all its fullness. We are not the new Garden of Eden, but we are still just East of Eden. We live our lives as outcasts from paradise—pilgrims on our way to a promised land—a promised land to which we hold deed, but which we do not yet occupy.



**When we worship
together, it will be a
group of sinners
gathered together, a
group of ordinary folk
who have found
something extra
ordinary in
Jesus Christ!**

The point is not simply that we are not perfect, but rather, the point is that the vast majority of us who call ourselves Christians have massive inconsistencies in our lives. Jesus asked the Pharisees, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye"? This question of Jesus is one that fits almost every Christian.

If we gaze into our hearts, we will see that there is at least one part of life, if not many, in which we are less than complete in our commitment to Christ. At some point in our experience, what we think and do is not in keeping with our discipleship.

The human side of the church confronts us almost everywhere we look. But there is just enough of John Noyes in most of us to cleverly conceal it. Only if God shatters our illusions about what it means to be

a genuine fellowship in Jesus Christ can we begin to experience the real promise of Christian fellowship. Only if we allow God to shatter the John Humphrey Noyes that is inside each of us can our fellowship begin to be what it ought to be.

John Noyes was a Christian who wanted to walk in the light. He wanted to rid his life and the life of his community of the darkness that had no place in the life of God. What he failed to realize was that what we see when we walk in the light of God is ourselves as we truly are. We see our character in its unholiness, and we see ourselves in light of the judgment we deserve. We see ourselves in such a way that we have no choice but to be rigorously honest with God. We have no choice but to acknowledge and confess our sin and claim that forgiveness that comes through Christ.

The harsh reality that we must learn again and again is that what we should be is never in fact what we are. Our purpose is not the same as our nature. Our nature says who and what we are: a group of people who gather for worship regularly for whatever reasons. Without exception, it will be a group of sinners gathered together, a group of ordinary folk who have found something extraordinary in Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to bear witness to God's kingdom as His children, but it is a purpose which in this life never achieves complete fulfillment.

The fellowship which God offers us comes to us as His gift. It is not something that comes from our own demands for discipline or righteousness. Nor is it the result of our own dreams and visions about what the church should be. The more thankfully that we receive this which has been given to us by God, the more surely and steadily our fellowship will grow from day to day and week to week as God pleases. □

Dr. Benjamin C. Leslie is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Oak Hills Church: You'll

by Lou Ann Smith

"You'll be surprised!" That phrase is splashed across postcards mailed out to 3,000 homes in the Folsom, CA, area recently by Oak Hills Baptist Church for the purpose of promoting a Saturday evening service. It's true. Most people are surprised.

Pastor Kent Carlson calls their Saturday evening meeting at Oak Hills a "Seeker-Driven-Service." Walk in at 7 p.m., and you might be unprepared to see what looks like a movie set or a theater stage in place of the usual oak pulpit. That's because drama is often used to enhance the evening message.

"This doesn't feel like a worship service," some have commented afterwards. "That's because it isn't," church leaders respond.

Would most Bible-believing Christians be surprised if a church service opened with a James Taylor song? In a recent series of messages on "How to Get Rich!," Pastor Kent zeroed in on "How to have rich friendships." The most appropriate song unbelievers would relate to? "You've Got a Friend."

Surprised? You wouldn't be if you understood the motivation behind this dynamic strategy God is using to attract hundreds of unchurched community members drawn to listen to a weekly presentation of the Gospel in a modern context.

Contemporary, thirty-something, and passionate about reaching scores of "non-churched Charlies" sitting in their La-Z-Boys" in his local mission field, Kent Carlson talked about the vision, the obstacles, and the goals of this seven-year-young church.

The Vision: "Lost people matter to God; therefore they ought to matter to us."

In October 1990, seven members of the leadership team from Oak Hills attended a conference on evangelism at WillowCreek Com-

munity Church in South Barrington, IL. In their terms, they each felt that God "creamed" them with that message. So much so, that "Lost People Matter" has now become the foundational principle and motivational force behind their church.

"We returned home from that conference with a deep sense of the value God places on the lost," Pastor Carlson said. "Luke 15 shows the Pharisees nailing Jesus for hanging around lowly sinners. He nailed them right back with three powerful parables in rapid-fire succession: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, and The Lost Son. In all three, we see clearly that something of tremendous value was lost. The next thing to notice is that with the lost sheep and the lost coin, the owner went into a total search mode. He stopped everything else until the lost was found."

"Based on that passage, essentially what we've decided is that the lost matter to God. And, if they matter so much that He would send His Son to die for them, we have to ask ourselves a question: How is that same passion for lost people reflected in our church? In our scheduling? Our budgeting? Our staffing? Do lost people really matter to us?"

Oak Hills Baptist Church was formed in 1984, when five families from Sunrise Baptist Church in Fair Oaks, near Sacramento, wanted to have an N.A.B. Conference church in their own community. Unable to locate suitable property for a building of their own, the church group rented commercial buildings and eventually a school gymnasium for worship services.

After out-growing those facilities, the Oak Hills congregation currently shares space with the Folsom Presbyterian Church. They continue to pray and search for property in a growing area where the market is tight.

Congregational worship is held

Be Surprised!

on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. and usually attracts about 200 people. When the Saturday evening seeker program began this past year with slogans like, "Church like you have never experienced it," and sermon topics like, "Money, Sex, Power," and "Raising GOOD Children in a BAD World," the auditorium swelled on Saturday evenings with more than 300 people. Both services continue to grow as new believers are discipled and then folded into the worshipping body of the church.

"I have personally led more people to Christ in the past six months than I have in the past six years," Pastor Carlson said with excitement. "Our church body has seen more individuals come to Christ in recent months than since the church started."

Everything at Oak Hills sounds like a constant train of energy and movement for the glory of God's Kingdom. A Great Commission kind of church. But are there obstacles? The pastor says there are.

The Obstacles

"The greatest obstacle," Pastor Carlson admits, "is the tremendous pressure to go back—to knuckle under to Christians who want to be served instead of serving."

There are people who don't understand. People who are uncomfortable with change. People who say, "Well, we've never done it this way before."

"We came THIS close to becoming another traditional church," Kent says with his fingers pinched together in illustration. "And there's nothing wrong with that, except that there are plenty of churches around here to meet the needs of people who want a comfortable, traditional body."

Not judgmental, Pastor Carlson admits that many churches verbalize that lost people matter. But then they really don't show it in their actions. He believes Christians have a tendency to become insulated

from the lost. If unbelievers do venture into church, they have to "jump over" obstacles they don't relate to like unfamiliar music, language, culture, and relationships. Because of that conviction, one of the premises at Oak Hills is that "God is our contemporary."

Another obstacle to overcome is the temptation to be "program-driven." One basic philosophy printed in Oak Hills literature is: "We are Value-Driven. Not Program-Driven."

In other words, every program and event in the church should blossom out of the basic value that lost people matter. Because of that, Pastor Carlson says the specific goals for the future of Oak Hills Baptist Church are simple.

The Goals

"Our goal at Oak Hills is to have 50 percent conversion growth."

According to Pastor Carlson, many local churches experience growth when Christians change churches or move into the area from another location.

Because 60 to 70 percent of those attending Oak Hills' Saturday evening service come from the unchurched community, the pastor, leaders, and ministering members believe they can realistically pray for future growth at Oak Hills to spring from

- 1) bridge-building relationships with the unchurched;
- 2) verbal witness;
- 3) relevant seeker-service;
- 4) contemporary worship experience;
- 5) discipleship;
- 6) ministry with excellence; and
- 7) promise of financial integrity.

If that happens, the recipients of future postcards will continue to be surprised—surprised by joy! □

Lou Ann Smith is a freelance writer and a member of Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA.



The drama team performs an opening skit to illustrate how friendship can be a burden.



In his office, Pastor Kent Carlson discusses the next service with Sue Bridges, who is in charge of the drama ministry.



Manuel Luz, the minister of worship, leads the singing of contemporary, often original choruses.



Carlson is casual and animated as he delivers the message at a "Seeker-Driven-Service."



The church office, a small, modular building, is located behind the church building at 452 Blue Ravine Road. "Nothing fancy, but it meets the need!"



CITY FOR YOUTH

City For Youth: New Life for Detroit

by David Wick

When the Rev. Eddie Edwards, director of Joy of Jesus Ministries on Detroit's east side, called me in January of 1990 and invited me to a two-day prayer retreat, the first thing I thought was, "Oh, not something else to do." My calendar was already full. But how could I turn down the invitation to spend time praying with other pastors for a city with such desperate needs? So I went, little realizing to what that two days of prayer would lead.



**Detroit—
known for
murdering its young
and burning its homes—
could it become
a good place to raise
children?**

Prayer first led to dialogue with the other five pastors present. Before long, the needs of youth surfaced as our primary prayer concern. We knew that we were losing an entire generation of young people and that the key to winning our city back from its slide into despair was to save this present generation. How would we begin?

A significant presence at that first meeting was Dr. Robert Larson, the president and general manager of WTVS, Detroit's public television station. Dr. Larson is an ordained Presbyterian minister who views his secular occupation as his spiritual calling.

As we groped with the massive problems facing our city, he kept searching for ways that the media and the church could cooperate to find an answer. Before our two days of prayer had ended, Dr. Larson offered a theme for renewing Detroit. He envisioned a City for Youth.

Detroit, we agreed, was presently a city known for murdering its young and burning its homes. By God's grace, could it become a city known as a good place to raise children?

The two days of prayer ended, but dialogue continued. At Dr. Larson's invitation, our group continued to meet once or twice a month in the board room at WTVS's offices in the New Center area of Detroit in the shadow of General Motor's headquarters.

Eventually a plan emerged: a month-long media campaign focused on the positive things that are happening in Detroit and that would invite leaders from every conceivable religious, civic, and business organization to participate

in dialogue and planning that would create a City for Youth.

The huge task was divided up into many parts. One part involved a pulpit exchange between city and suburban, black and white churches, to build understanding and break down the barriers of racism and fear. I began serving as a member of the pulpit exchange committee and soon became its chair. I continued to work with the steering committee, recruiting religious and civic leaders and organizations.

October of 1991 was named "City for Youth" month. *The Detroit News* and *Free Press* ran multi-page supplements on the campaign.

The three major network television stations and the FOX network outlet joined with WTVS in making substantial amounts of public service advertising and program time available. Four half-hour long documentaries on the plight of and hopes for youth in Detroit were produced, one by each of the television stations involved. One hundred and twenty-two "View and Talk" sites were established, where community groups would view the documentaries and respond with positive, practical suggestions.

Each Thursday night in October, a 90-minute panel discussion was broadcast on WTVS, featuring, in turn, a discussion of the role of clergy, business and education leaders, the media, and government in fashioning a City for Youth.

The month ended with a massive Town Hall type meeting where all the suggestions were considered, and plans were laid for 1992.

My Pulpit Exchange Committee worked hard. In the end, about 100 congregations had agreed to partici-

cipate in what must have been the single largest pulpit exchange in the history of the city.

As an evangelical, I rejoice that many staid "mainline" suburban congregations heard fiery, spirit-filled presentations of the Gospel . . . possibly for the first time in a long time!

I exchanged pulpits with the Rev. Ellis Smith of Jubilee Christian Fellowship, an African-American, charismatic church. After Rev. Smith's powerful and uplifting sermon at Grosse Pointe (he had my congregation shouting "Amen!"), I felt a little like "Rev. Dull" going to his church, but I am certain that God blessed both congregations through the exchange. We committed ourselves to build an ongoing relationship in ministry.

That phone call from Eddie Edwards led to countless hours of work, but I don't regret one minute of it. I feel enriched by the contacts I had with many significant leaders in metropolitan Detroit.

One of those contacts with David Crumm, religion writer for the *Detroit Free Press*, led to his featuring the ministry of Grosse Pointe Baptist (very favorably) in a newspaper series on the impact of religion on the city. This heightened the visibility of our church in our community.

The campaign helped our church and blessed me, personally. But did City for Youth accomplish its primary objective? Is Detroit now a good place to raise children? A one-month campaign can't turn around decades of decay and deeply ingrained pathologies. City for Youth was not meant to be a cure-all; it was meant to be a beginning.

Speaking for those who took part, I believe that we made a good beginning. Now it is up to those who took the first steps at working together towards solutions to continue to be faithful. God willing, Detroit will yet be a City for Youth. □

The Rev. David Wick is pastor at Grosse Pointe Baptist Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

V I S I O N

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

Partners in Vision 2000

By Ron Mayforth

It is challenging to see how the Biblical Imperative to Witness is being accentuated and implemented in many Associations and churches. We pray for much lasting fruit from these combined efforts.

We want your help to develop the next Imperative . . . Compelled to Serve. Many good things are already happening in and through our churches. We want to know about these and make them known to one another.

1) What creative ways, does your church use to help Christians discover, develop, and deploy their spiritual gifts?

2) How do you involve persons in fulfilling service?

3) What methods do you or your church use to keep persons serving with joy, energy, skill, and faithfulness?

4) What is your world, your community, your church doing to serve Christ—to meet needs in the community in the love, power, and name of Christ?

5) Tell us about servants who have made a special impact on you, your church, and /or your community.

Tell us about their gifts, development, joys, struggles, clues to effectiveness, modeling, and faithfulness. Send us a picture of them about the Master's business. We plan to feature as many as possible in the **Baptist Herald**.

6) How can we help persons hear the call of God to vocational Christian service—pastors, teachers, Christian education workers, youth workers, music ministers, missionaries, counselors, other specialists, and Conference workers? How can we cooperate with one another—the seminaries, Conference, churches, pastors, and homes?

7) What books, speakers, seminars, systems, music, and drama should we pass on to one another?

We look forward to the new cross-fertilization which will happen because of your creative, thoughtful sharing. □

Send your contributions to Ron Mayforth, area ministries director, or to Barbara Binder, Baptist Herald editor, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.



Team members were (l. to r.) Jered Helwig, Village Green Baptist, Glen Ellyn, IL; Esther Schmidtko, Grace Baptist, Kelowna, BC; Alyse Dickey, Debra Dailey, and Derek Zahnd, Sunrise Baptist, Fair Oaks, CA; Dave Waterman, Grace Baptist, Grand Forks, ND; Nicole Bibelheimer, First Baptist, Fessenden, ND; and Dale Fuchs, team leader.

"Someone" Went

by Dale "Bud" Fuchs

"How can they call on the one of whom they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without SOMEONE preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14 NIV)

In July of '91, eight "Someones" submitted to the command: "GO!" They served in a summer cross-cultural ministry project in Eastern Europe. These eight young adult "Someones"—from N.A.B. Conference churches in British Columbia, California, Illinois, and North Dakota—committed themselves to a pilot project of the N.A.B. Conference Missions Department. "Project Poland" was a networking effort with International Messengers, an organization that focuses on sharing the Good News in evangelistic English language camps.

- Project highlights were
- **a one week orientation and intense training** at a church near Minneapolis, MN. Most of the training focused on practical cross-cultural ministry, Bible study, and teaching English as a second language. The way the Lord molded these "Someones" together through prayer and fellowship was a miracle of His Spirit's design. "It's so evident how the Lord uniquely brought us together," stated a team member.
- **the camp near Krakow, Poland**, where 21 campers met together with the "Someones" for nine days. This life-style evangelism



PHOTO BY DAVID WATERMAN

Derek Zahnd (center) said, "I learned the terrific value of teamwork. We each needed the service and care of each other in order to make it."
"My spiritual fire was intensified . . . I could see the work God is doing," reflects Esther Schmidtko (l.).

approach provided 24 hours a day of teaching, playing, eating, and sleeping.

- **life-time relationships** were built among the "Someones" and the campers as a result of this quantity and quality of time together. Resulting in a flood of correspondence between North America and Poland, this indicates that God did use the "Someones" in a meaningful way to "those who had not heard."
- **the spiritual impact** upon the campers will have eternal consequences. One camper made an obvious decision to receive Jesus Christ, and several others said they would now follow Him. A camper in Poland said, "All the information I received about how Jesus could be a personal Lord and a personal friend is so new that I must sift through it all. What impacted me the most is the love your team has for each other and for the campers."
- **the "Someones" were impacted greatly**, too! "There's no greater joy I know than being in the process of reaching people, no matter where, for Christ," stated a team member. Another team member



PHOTO BY DALE FUCHS

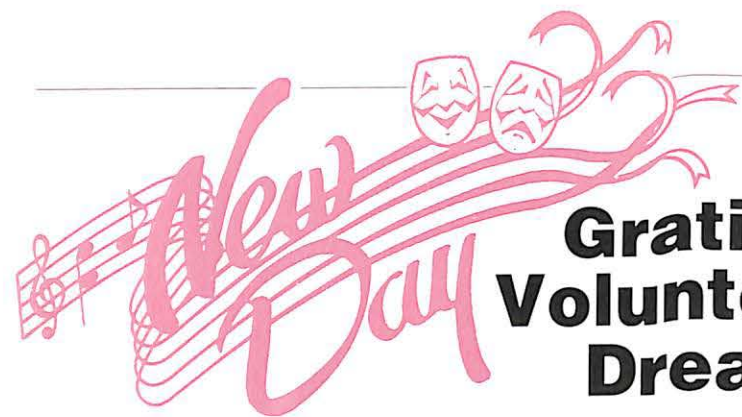
"Being able to share God's love and free gift of salvation to people of a different language and culture in Poland was an experience I'll treasure forever. In the future, I pray the Lord opens doors for me to do more with missions," says Nicole Bibelheimer (far right). Nicole taught English to Polish youth.

said, "My spiritual fire was intensified . . . I could see the work God is doing." "I developed a better understanding of how much prayer works . . ." another said. Still another responded, "I hope to help motivate my church toward more missions outreach." It seems obvious to me that there are many "Someones" throughout our Conference who are willing to

give up three to four weeks for a cross-cultural ministry in evangelism.

"How can they hear without 'Someone' preaching to them?" Please write if you are interested in being a "Someone." □

Dale "Bud" Fuchs is an Associate Director in the Missions Department, North American Baptist Conference.



Gratitude for God's Volunteers/New Day... Dreams for a New Day



by Ron Mayforth

North American Baptists are grateful to God for 35 years of ministry by God's Volunteers/New Day. They were evangelistic, musical, dramatic, equipping, and romantic.

Some historical highlights include

1956 - God's Volunteers begins as an evangelistic team, providing an evangelist, music, and assistance in evangelistic visitation.

1962 - Two God's Volunteers teams sent out.

Mid 1970s - The format changes: one team focuses on evangelistic/musical; a second team follows doing follow-up, discipleship, and evangelism training in the local church.

Late 1970s/early 1980s - The music team makes records and tapes, and broadens their ministry to include prisons, nursing homes, public schools, and colleges. The follow-up team becomes known as the Discipleship Team.

1978 - The name is changed from God's Volunteers to New Day.

Mid 1980s - The Discipleship Team includes drama in programs.

The team traveled by car, station wagon, van, and "people mover" (who can forget). Training sessions were held at Christian Training Institute, N.A.B. College in Edmonton, AB; N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD; and Central Baptist Camp (Village Creek Bible Camp), Lansing, IA.

The following directors led the teams: Daniel Fuchs, Walter and Phyllis Hoffman, Elmer Strauss, Edgar Klatt, Connie Salios, Ray Harsch, Robert and Marilyn Walther, Daniel Heringer, Warren Hoffman, Loren Kopf, and John Kiemele. There were numerous assistant directors/road directors.

We thank God for this concentrated, creative investment of life.

We thank God also for the fruits of their investment...

- Of the approximately 400 young people involved, nearly one half have gone on to full-time Christian vocations.
- Youth recruited and trained for Christian Service. Dedicated leaders are spread throughout our Conference.
- Local churches equipped and inspired in a variety of evangelistic/discipleship/worship methods.
- Local churches encouraged and blessed by visitors from the N.A.B. Conference family.
- Bonding of Christians from all over North America and a growing sense of the nature and vitality of our N.A.B. Conference fellowship.
- Persons won to Christ or grew in Christ partly because of the campaign focus.
- Persons in local churches grew as they served the teams with the gifts of hospitality.
- Team members often made life-long friendships. Some of those friendships became marriages.
- Church plants were given a special boost in accelerating their growth.

God only knows the total fruit which will multiply from these ministries.

We are living in changing times.

Over the past several years, changes have impacted New Day:

- difficulty getting a qualified group of youth to commit to almost a year of service;
- a rapid turnover of leadership;
- fewer churches asking to have New Day for extended meetings (New Day had increasingly



- shorter stays and shorter tours);
- difficulty in raising pledged financial support. Appeals for Christians' dollars come from so many directions.

Therefore, this ministry was carefully and prayerfully reviewed in the light of these changes. Presently, Dale Fuchs, associate director of missions, and Dan Hamil, N.A.B. Conference youth coordinator, are working together to plan and promote new Youth Team Ministry opportunities for N.A.B. Conference youth. Possibilities include teams to overseas mission fields, to new church plants, to inter-cultural ministries, to camps, and to established churches (church planting churches, youth, and vacation Bible schools).

We welcome your ideas, support, and involvement. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, obedient, believing Christians can maximize the possibilities of a New Day. We are confident that N.A.B. Conference youth leaders and youth will rise to the challenge. □

Dr. Ron Mayforth is Director of Area Ministries and Acting Director of Church Growth.



Arnprior Church Celebrates Friendship Sunday

by Gerald B. Kuehl

An eight-member team, consisting of the pastor, administrative assistant, three women from the W.M.F., a young mother, and a young couple were selected to serve on the committee for Friendship Sunday at First Baptist Church. These people represented and gave us a cross-section of involvement and necessary outreach in planning. We used "Celebration of Friendship" material as a guide.

Our actual planning began four months prior to the Celebration Sunday. Four live interviews were conducted on the four Sunday mornings preceding the event. We asked questions of a cross-section of new attendees and members. Why did you chose First Baptist? What programs do you enjoy? Would you recommend others here today to invite their friends to our church?

Posters were placed around the town. A large two by ten foot Friendship banner was installed outside the Church building. Media tips sheets were forwarded to TV, radio, and newspapers explaining our outreach. Inserts were placed in our bulletins three months in advance of the event to explain the importance and significance of this outreach program. It was especially lifted daily to God in prayer.

The elements of our Friendship Sunday were the same as any normal Sunday, other than we used "A Celebration of Friendship" bulletin cover.

Our service included a welcome to our guests, special music, and the choir. A key message was presented

on the subject, "Forever Friends." We also made available an insert explaining our ministries—adults, youth, and children—our goals as a church, weekly activities, our location, what we believe, and how to become involved.

The results were overwhelming. Our Church was full. Much enthusiasm was generated for this first Friendship Sunday. Several visitors came upon the invitation of their friends. The greatest harvest from this Celebration was the promotion of our second service which began on the following Sunday. An open invitation was extended to our visitors to attend our 9:00 a.m. Celebration service in which 75 people responded.

From the greeters and the involvement of our entire congregation came the overwhelming response, "This is great! We must do this again real soon."

Our follow-up plans include letters and visits to the guests who attended to encourage and befriend these special people. Our future plans also include holding another "Celebration of Friendship Sunday" next spring.

As a leader of this outreach program, I certainly encourage other churches to become involved in a Friendship Sunday. It motivates each one to obey the command of Jesus, "Go therefore and make disciples." □

Gerald B. Kuehl is Administrative Assistant at First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON.

Catching a New Glimpse of Missions

The recent ruling of the courts in Gorman vs. Swaggert, where a 10 million dollar lawsuit was awarded to Gorman, is just another episode in a terribly shameful drama. In a Gallup poll where various professions were rated in order of their respect by the American public, the TV evangelists rated next to drug dealers.

What does the recent scandalous behavior of men who call themselves "preachers of the gospel" have to do with Kingdom building? Dr. Denton Lotz of the Baptist World Alliance recently asked the question, "What keeps Baptists together and united? It is missions and evangelism." I most wholeheartedly agree.

If we concentrate on that which is to be the primary focus of the church, we will have so much to rejoice over because of souls that have come into the Kingdom that we will not be tempted to scrap over personal Kingdom building and financial gain.

Furthermore, we will have so much to pray for because of the intense battle with the enemy that our energies will be consumed in spiritual warfare.

Finally, we will have so many people to follow-up on who have come into the Kingdom that we will have little time for criticizing, demoralizing, judging, and protecting our little kingdoms.

Can we catch a new glimpse of the mission of the church and the individual believer? Ronald Blocking of the London Missionary Society said, "The missionary (believer) is the man or woman who lives under the continual constraint of crossing the border between belief and unbelief in order to claim the realm of unbelief for Christ. He is a microcosm of the church which is apostolic, and being obedient to the call of Christ, he continually reminds the church of her essential nature and purpose. In Him the church reaches out beyond her borders to bring into God's Kingdom the whole world for which Christ died and which does not as yet acknowledge Him as King."

It is my prayer that this might be the motivating force and primary focus of every pastor, Conference leader, and believer in all of our churches.

Herman L. Effa

Herman L. Effa, missions director North American Baptist Conference.

Important Advice for Youth Leaders

by Gene and Irene Huber

Our youth are our greatest mission field, we believe; therefore, we encourage you to faithfully and actively take up the challenge to work with them. They need to be supported, encouraged, and befriended by pastors, youth sponsors, parents, friends—all share in this responsibility. Although we do not have all of the answers, we can share some of the things that we have learned from our experiences over the years.

Dedication and hard work. The motivation for youth work? LOVE! "For where your treasure is, there shall your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Your involvement has to have a very high priority in your life. You must constantly determine to establish spiritual growth in your youth group and commit yourself to attend essentially every youth event in order to have an effective rapport. Only with an honest and open commitment on your part can you expect to teach this to youth.

Encourage youth. Encourage youth to put fellowship and Bible study high on their weekly priori-

ties even when jobs and studies conflict. Help them to realize that their walk with the Lord will suffer if they try to walk without Christian fellowship. Never give up encouraging any young person. The parable of the ninety and nine inspires us (Matthew 18:12-14).

We have sometimes worried that the youth would become angry with us for reminding them too often to attend the services or activities and to be faithful in their Christian lives. But, if we do it out of love and concern, they understand.

Apathy, set backs, and other problems. Expect apathy periodically. Use set backs and problems to build for the future. Sparsely attended events have sometimes been our best times. We became better acquainted with those who came. We encouraged them and discussed ways to improve the program.

Problems? Never let the word "burnout" cross your lips. "Burnout" implies being rendered useless. If we are Spirit-controlled, we are never useless. We can become tired, but rest and prayer will refresh us,

as it did Jesus.

Age differences are not important. Both of us are about 50 years old, but we still feel that we can work with youth. As one gets older, one has different social values. If genuine interest and love are shown, age is not important. Our son and one of our daughters are part of the College and Career group we now work with. Our co-sponsors, Barry and Sheila Davis, were once in a youth group that we sponsored. Unfortunately, our churches lack mature adults willing to help in youth ministries.

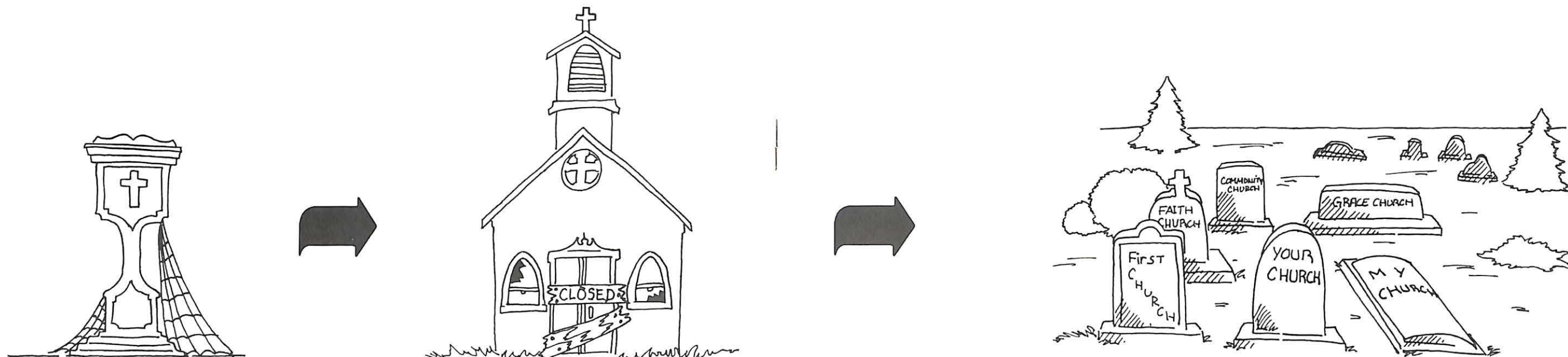
If you love youth and have the gift of patience, consider working in this area, regardless of age. We encourage youth pastors and other leaders in our churches to spend more time looking for mature sponsors.

Meet regularly throughout the whole year. Plan youth activities to occur regularly so that good relationships and routine can be established. In particular, summer is a great opportunity. Days are longer, and youth have more time available. Youth search the most for

social interaction during the summer. (To be continued in next issue.) □

Gene and Irene Huber have been sponsors of junior high, senior high, college and career, young adult, and mixed youth groups for many of their 25 years of marriage. They serve at Grace Baptist Church in Calgary, AB.





"How can they hear without a preacher?"

Romans 10:14b

Does it scare you to think of an empty pulpit or a closed church? Your church, my church, and in fact, our whole N.A.B. Conference is at risk.

If trends continue, many North American Baptist churches will be without a pastor in the coming decade. More than 350 new pastors, church planters, and missionaries will be needed in the next twenty years to fill the needs of our N.A.B. Conference.

On whose shoulders will rest the future of our churches and our conference? With your help, that burden will be borne by men and women of unshakable faith.

We need to commit today for building leaders for tomorrow. That is why we must undergird the North American Baptist institutions of theological training with the support needed to continue their legacy of leadership development.

"Foundations for the Future" is a capital funds Campaign to be conducted throughout 1991 and 1992 to benefit the N.A.B. institutions of graduate training. The Campaign will provide for the expansion of facilities and programs at both North American Baptist Seminary and Edmonton Baptist Seminary in order to expand and enhance the quality of leadership training necessary to meet the needs of our N.A.B. Conference.

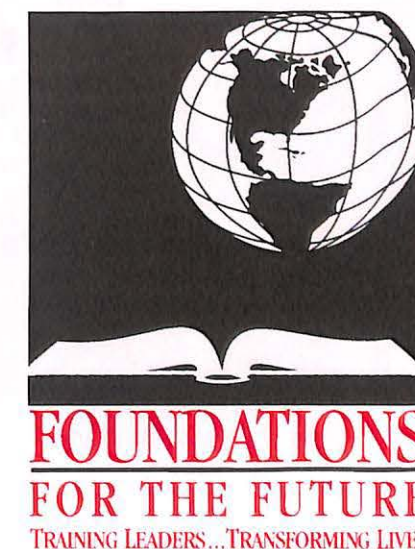
Achieving the financial objectives of this Campaign will result in increased ability of both schools to recruit, house, and train dynamic persons for ministry and leadership positions throughout the United States, Canada, and in countries around the world.

Your participation in the Campaign will not merely provide much needed expansions to the campuses...but, like an architect, you will help lay the foundation for the birthplace of great leaders dedicated to achieving God's purposes in the world.

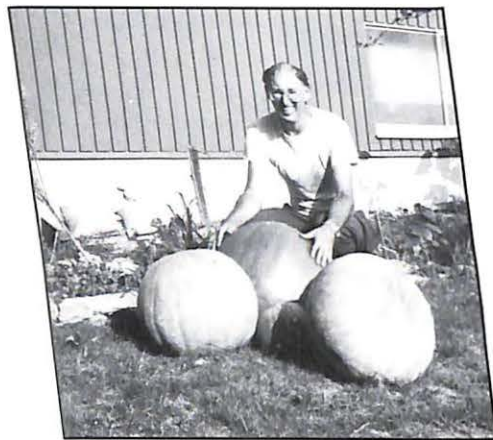
For information on how you can take part in laying the foundation for dynamic leadership in our N.A.B. Conference, contact:

North American Baptist Seminary
1321 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
1-800-843-1300, ext. 801 (U.S. calls)
(605) 336-6588

Edmonton Baptist Seminary
11525-23 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3
(403) 437-1960



Why Witness?



Reimer Clausen

When the Kameoka Church in Japan purchased its land for a mission home and church building, half of it was zoned agricultural land. "We had to promise to farm it," says Missionary Reimer Clausen. "As a result, I discovered something new—garden

Pumpkins—Witnessing Tools

evangelism," says Clausen. "People gave me seeds, seedlings, a lot of ideas, and even fertilizer. A local farmer let me have all the manure I wanted for free."

"It must have been an unusual sight to see me—a white foreigner—pushing a wheelbarrow full of manure down the main street of our neighbourhood," thinks Clausen. "I got a lot of stares, but it produced results. I never ate so many tomatoes and green beans in my life as I did this summer. We gave away piles of vegetables and received a lot in return by trading vegetables for fruit."

The biggest story, though, comes from the Clausens' pumpkins. "I found some pumpkin seeds in the local gardening store—imported from the USA—the super big variety. The biggest pumpkin grew to 80 pounds, with several around 50 pounds, and a few more small ones."

The Japanese had never seen anything like it. We found recipes in a book I had received in Germany—recipes for pumpkin pickles, pumpkin cake, pumpkin bread, and pumpkin orange marmalade. I translated some recipes into Japanese." The Clausens divided up the biggest pumpkin and gave away pieces with the recipes to church people, neighbours, and friends—and to N.A.B. missionaries in Tsu to divide up for pumpkin pie.

"Through this all, I discovered that if you give a person a religious tract, they stiffen up and politely take it saying they may read it. I have my doubts as they shove it into their pocket," says Clausen, "but you give them a piece of pumpkin pie, and they come back for seconds!" □

Rev. Reimer Clausen is an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving in Japan.

Missionaries Witness in Quebec

Lord and ready to talk.

The other two teams knocked on doors without response, reports Dale Hufnagel, except for two or so who identified themselves as Baptist Christians as well.

Missionary-appointees to Cameroon, Dale and Marcella Hufnagel, are in French language study in Quebec, learning to minister, to evangelize, and disciple in French. Hufnagel is discipling an African couple in French.

On a recent Saturday, Dale Hufnagel shared the Gospel and lead Marie-Rose to the Lord, all in French. "The Lord prepared her well," says Hufnagel.

The other team met with Marcel, but he made no decision.

The province of Quebec is approximately 0.5 percent evangelical in population. Until recently, the society has been dominated by the Roman Catholic church, including politically. As a result, within the last 20 or so years, the society has rebelled against anything that smacks of religion," says Hufnagel. "Through the history of this province, there have been periods of real openness to the Gospel. These times have often included intense religious persecution of any group other than Roman Catholic. Now there seems to be either extreme disinterest or eager receptivity." □

The Hufnagels are scheduled to leave for Douala, Cameroon, on Jan. 6, 1992.



Leland and Jennell Bertsch

Man Meets Christ after 41 Years

"It took me 41 years to find the truth," commented Jun soon after he accepted the Lord. Though he had attended one of the finest Catholic schools in the Bicol Region of the Philippines and had attended a Protestant church with his wife on occasion, no one had ever explained the gospel to him.

"His wife, a Christian for many years, began attending our church last January," says Missionary Leland Bertsch. "What a thrill to see Jun being drawn to Christ as my wife, Jennell, and I began a seven week Bible study course in our home. When in Lesson 5, opportunity was first given to make a personal decision, Jun almost leaped into the Kingdom! Since his rebirth in July, he has become an eager student of the Word of God and is already sharing his faith. His wife testifies to the many changes in his life. He is arranging his business so he can close it all day Sunday, giving time to church in the morning and his family in the afternoon. That will be a big commitment for him as Sunday is one of his better selling days. This testimony is evidence of God answering your prayers for a return to growth in our church in Legazpi."

In addition to Jun, a family of three has also become Christians. Others are at inquiry stage in small group Bible studies. Four new people were welcomed into the church in October. □

The Bertsches serve in evangelism, church planting, and Bible school ministries in Legazpi City in the Bicol Region of the Philippines.

Christmas in Cameroon

Usually the Christmas music in the market begins around the first of December. Most of the shopping consists of new outfits for the children—maybe a new pair of shoes. It is not common to give lots of toys. Most children receive balloons or get to use sparklers for part of the celebration. On Christmas Eve, we have a church service. In our church, mostly children attend both the Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day Services.

The women and young people will usually decorate the church making it look festive with palm branches, and various decorations made from toilet tissue, such as roses in various colors, as well as purchased metallic streamers and sometimes a string or two of electric lights. It looks like a birthday celebration. Last Christmas, there was a Christmas tree.

For the service, anyone who has a recitation or would like to sing is given time. The children in New Life Clubs often recite verses. Our



The Garbat family

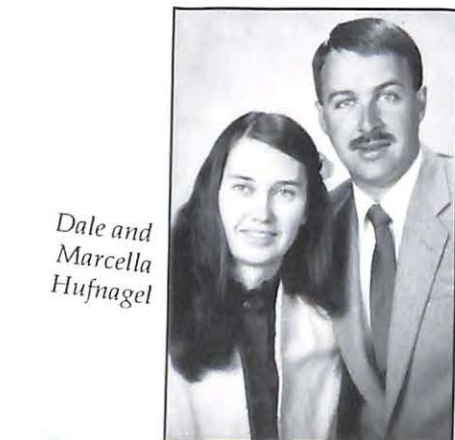
daughter April joined a man and sang "Silent Night" while he played guitar on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Day, a traditional meal is chicken. Many people will visit all over town during the day. Most will have chin-chin and popcorn ready to serve guests; mostly the guests are children. (Chin-chin is a kind of fried cookie flavored with orange peel and nutmeg). □

Missionaries Jim and Marla Garbat serve in the Central Treasury at Kumba, Cameroon.



"Camps are always a lot of fun, especially in Japan, when you can get away from the crowded cities and hectic pace of life, go swimming in the cool waters of Lake Biwa, and fellowship together," says Missionary Reimer Clausen. "Our small church put on a family camp. Only a little more than a dozen people attended, but among them were several non-Christians and their children. Everyone participated in fixing the meals, cleaning up, leading singing, and carrying out the program. One of the non-Christian men declared that next year he and his family definitely planned to attend again." □



Dale and Marcella Hufnagel

"Hi, we are Christian Baptists, and we would like to talk with you about Jesus Christ," began the leader of the door-to-door team one Monday night. The response: "Sure! Come on right in, I'd love to talk with you. Would you like coffee?" Marcel, 74-years-old, was prepared by the

Should We Make Church Membership Easier?

by Lyle E. Schaller

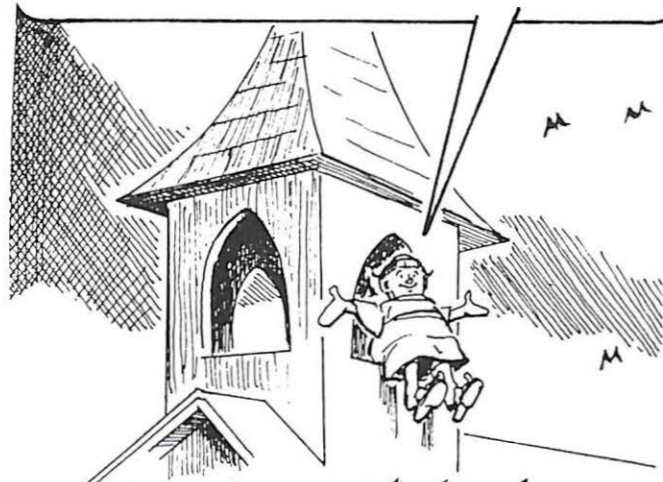
"As I look back on it now, I wish I had joined sooner," reflected a 35-year-old woman who had recently become a member in a large urban church.

"Why didn't you?" came the inquiry.

"The procedure here calls for all visitors who want to join to come down front after the benediction and gather underneath a banner just to the left of the front pews," explained the new member. "I almost did that a couple of times, but I never was able to muster up the courage to do it. I had no idea what would happen if you went up there, so I never asked to join. One morning after church I happened to be talking to a woman who, it turned out, chaired the membership committee here. When I got home, I telephoned her, and she sent me the schedule for the next membership class. A couple of days later, I received a letter inviting me to come to the first meeting of that new class of inquirers."

"You're asking me what changes I would suggest here?" responded a recent new member of another church. "That's easy! I would make it easier to join. My wife and I began coming here the first Sunday after we moved here from Arkansas. After a few weeks, we decided this should be our new church home, so we filled out one of the visitors' cards from the pew rack and checked the box indicating we would like a call from the pastor, but nothing happened. So two weeks later, we filled out another card and checked the box indicating we were interested in joining

WHERE THE REQUIREMENTS ARE HIGH, THE LIVING IS EASY!



Churches with high expectations have less difficulty fulfilling their dreams!
—FRIAR JUCK—

this church. Nothing happened. So about three or four weeks later, we called the church office and were told a new class was being formed for prospective new members and would meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday evening. We came only to discover that class had held its first meeting the previous Tuesday evening. I think it should be easier to join this church! That's my number-one suggestion as a new member."

"Why am I not a member here? That's a good question!" declared the 47-year-old woman who rarely missed Sunday morning worship at First Church. "Every two or three months, we hear the announcement that a new class for prospective new members will be formed the following Sunday and will meet for ten

weeks during the Sunday school hour. The first couple of times I heard that announcement, I thought that next time the class would be scheduled for a different hour. That never happened.

"Finally, I explained to the pastor that I work from midnight to 10 a.m. every Sunday morning, and I barely get home from work in time to get here for 11 a.m. worship. There is no way in the world I can be here at 9:30 for 10 consecutive Sundays without losing my job. When I explained this to the pastor, he said they had tried other times, but the one that was convenient for most people was during the Sunday school hour. Since I can't make that, I guess I can't become a member."

For more than three decades, we have been asking two to four thousand people every year, "Why did you choose to join this congregation?" When this question is addressed to recent new members, they often add comments, such as those reproduced here, to illustrate their complaint about how hard it was to join that church.

Standards versus Convenience

A radically different perspective often is voiced by the volunteer leader of many years who exclaimed, "One of our problems is that we make it too easy for people to join. All you have to do is attend a couple of sessions of the pastor's class for new members, show up on the Sunday when we receive new

members, walk down the aisle, stand in front of the pulpit, and agree to a couple of sentences read by the minister. That's too easy!

One result is that we have more members dropping into inactivity every year than we receive as new members. That's why our total membership has been dropping year after year. We should make it clear that everyone is welcome to come and worship God with us, but we also should point out that if you want to become a member, you're expected to do more than simply show up on Sunday morning."

A comparison of these two sets of comments raises a pair of important policy questions. The first is the distinction between convenience and standards. Do you make it easy (convenient) for people to unite with your congregation? Some churches, for example, offer two or three worship services every weekend, but receive new members only at one service.

The other half of that question reflects the issue of standards or requirements for membership. That is a different issue. Does your church have high standards for membership? Or are the requirements rather modest?

One church, for example, receives new members only on two Sundays a year, but all that is required of prospective new members is that they come forward and respond affirmatively to four questions asked by the minister. Entry into membership may not be convenient for everyone, but it is easy.

Another congregation in the same denomination requires attendance at a minimum of 42 out of 48 sessions of a weekly new member class. A new class organizes every two months. One meets during the Sunday school hour. The next one meets on Tuesday evenings. A third meets only on Saturdays. A fourth meets early on Sunday afternoon. A fifth meets on Wednesday evening, and a sixth meets early on Sunday

morning. The standards are high, but an effort is made to make it convenient for every prospective new member.

Another church requires a prospective member to be 1) a regular attender at Sunday morning or Sunday evening worship, 2) an active member of an adult Bible study group, 3) a tither, and 4) a volunteer in some form of outreach ministry before applying for membership. If that application is approved, that person can be received into full membership at the worship service of that person's choice. The standards are high, but it is easy to join if one meets those standards.

High Commitment or Low Commitment?

The second policy question raised here overlaps the first. This is the difference between the high-commitment churches and the low-commitment congregations. Some churches project high expectations of every member on the assumption that this is a high-commitment church, while others project modest expectations.

The simplest illustration of this is some congregations meet in a building that was designed on the assumption the day would never come when every member would be present at the same hour for the corporate worship of God. The educational facilities were designed on the assumption that at least two-thirds of the members would not participate in Sunday school.

As a general rule, the high-commitment churches display at least four of these six characteristics: 1) the Sunday morning ratio of worship-attendance-to-membership exceeds 65 percent, 2) the average attendance in Sunday school is at least 80 percent of the average worship attendance, 3) it is relatively easy to enlist volunteers for the necessary responsibilities, 4) most of the members attend two

different worship services every week, 5) at least one-third of the members are tithers, and 6) at least 30 percent of total member contributions are allocated to benevolences and missions.

By contrast in low-commitment churches, the worship-attendance to membership ratio usually is below 50 percent. There is a perpetual shortage of volunteers. The level of financial support for missions often ranks far lower on the operational list of priorities than does care of the sacred meeting place. Few adults participate in the teaching ministry. The pastor is not a tither. Most of the total program for the week is scheduled for Sunday morning (with the exceptions being committee meetings, choir rehearsals, and meetings of groups in the women's organization). Everyone accepts this as a normal pattern that cannot be changed.

Perhaps the biggest difference is that today the high-commitment churches are attracting large numbers of people born in the 1956-1968 era, while the low-commitment churches draw largely from the generations born before 1950.

As you examine how difficult or how easy it is for someone to join your congregation, you may want to ask these four questions.

1) Do we make it convenient or inconvenient for prospective members to join?

2) Do we have high standards or low standards for becoming a member here?

3) Do we want to move in the direction of making this a high-commitment church, or in the direction of making this a low-commitment church?

4) Are the answers to these first three questions consistent with one another? □

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Our Unchanging God



President's Focus

by Manetta Hohn
WMF president
Kelowna, BC

Someone once said, "Change is the pathway to God." Change benefits our lives and ministry. If we don't change, we keep the status quo or even go backwards.

Confronted with the multitude of changes taking place in our society, we can become overwhelmed trying to address the needs they represent. At the same time, we need to take an objective look at our personal spiritual health as well as that of our ministries and ask, "Are we mission-minded or maintenance-minded?"

As we attempt to do this, we can be confident that the Lord will give wisdom and guidance as the Holy Spirit initiates the changes that are needed. Peter, in Acts 11, knew that the Holy Spirit could work in the hearts of people to make them willing to get rid of barriers and prejudices for the sake of advancing the kingdom of God.

It is reassuring that this same unchanging God gives us the solid foundation that we need to step out in faith to assess our needs and make the necessary changes that will enable us to have effective ministries. Hebrews 1:12 says, "They shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail."

Though we constantly live with change, we can rest our faith in God who does not change, neither do His promises. How wonderful to know He cannot fail, for He is God. Let us celebrate His presence with us. Emmanuel! □

I thank my Lord for His guidance and faithfulness to me during this three-year term as your W.M.F. president. It has been a time of learning and blessing as we shared together—one-on-one, in groups, and through the printed page. Thank you for your love, encouragement, and prayer support.

Luis Palau gave us a challenge at the 1988 Triennial Conference to "dream great dreams, plan great plans, and pray great prayers."

I believe that God has great things in store for the women of the North American Baptist Conference—if we are open to His vision for us both through the local church and as an international organization of the Women's Missionary Fellowship—if we spend much time in prayer, seeking God's direction, and if we are obedient to Him.

The 1990s are bringing many new opportunities for the cause of Christ. I will continue to pray that we, as North American Baptist Conference women, will take up this challenge and "Reach New Heights" together!

—Manetta Hohn

Angels in Wheelchairs

by Dorothy Ballard

Christmas is one of the most open and natural times for us to give a witness of who our Savior, Jesus Christ, is. This is a story of how we can share the message of Christmas. You will want to tell it to your children, grandchildren, and neighborhood children, as well as to children in a variety of teaching settings.

You had to be nine-years-old to join the Caroleers. This group of boys and girls was known all over the city for singing carols at the hospitals on Christmas Eve. Noreen's birthday came just in time for her to begin practicing with the club in November.

Mother was making her a blue robe with a white collar, like those the other Caroleers wore. There would be a special bus to take them downtown to the hospitals and refreshments afterward at the home of Mrs. Vanning, the leader. Noreen was counting the days 'till Christmas Eve.

Then she did a silly thing. Without waiting for her sister to help her, she climbed a ladder to hang a wreath over the fireplace at home. The ladder tipped over—and here was Noreen in Memorial Hospital

with her leg broken in two places. "Will you get home for Christmas?" asked Miriam, the girl in the bed next to hers.

"My doctor said so," Noreen replied, "but I can't sing with the Caroleers, and I wanted to so much."

"Noreen, you must know a lot of carols," said Manuela from her bed. "Can you teach us some?"

"Don't want to sing," said Angie.

"Me neither," chimed in Joe.

Wing Lee and Sammy didn't say anything.

Noreen loved to sing, and even if only two or three joined with her, it would help them all pass this dark December day. She began with "Away in a Manger," one that some of them already knew. Soon Manuela was singing with her and, finally, even Angie and Joe and Sam and Wing Lee. Noreen taught them "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

In the next two days, the children learned five more carols. Their day nurse, Miss Clark, invited the head of the hospital to come to listen to them.

Mrs. Winkel, a patient on the top floor, heard about Noreen's choir. She asked Miss Clark if she could come down in a wheelchair to hear the children sing, then sent a note asking them to learn "Silent Night." She wrote that she used to sing it in Germany when she was a little girl. The children already knew "Silent Night," but Noreen said, "We can sing it a special way that will surprise Mrs. Winkel."

Two days before Christmas, it began to snow. By noon on December 24, the streets were buried deep. Cars and buses were stalling in drifts. The roadways iced over, and people were warned to stay home.



Dr. McGowan appeared in the children's ward. "We've checked with all your families," he said calmly. "They can't get here to take you home tonight, or even to visit you. But by tomorrow, the snow-plows should have the streets clear. There's a good chance you can be home in time for Christmas dinner." "But what about the Caroleers?" asked Miss Clark. "Patients all over the hospital are feeling lonely with no one to visit them on Christmas Eve. The carols would cheer everybody up."

"Yes, I know," said Dr. McGowan, "but I just talked to Mrs. Vanning on the phone. It is too dangerous to make the trip downtown. So, there is nobody to sing for our patients."

"Oh, yes, there is, Dr. McGowan. There's us," said Noreen. The doctor looked at her in surprise. Turning to Miss Clark, "If I can get permission to take the children around the hospital, can you rustle up enough orderlies and aides to push the wheelchairs?"

Supper was over early. Fresh hospital gowns were put on each boy and girl. Faces were scrubbed and hair combed until, as Miss Clark said, the children looked like Christmas angels. Then into the wheel-

chairs. "Don't forget, hot cocoa and cookies when you get back," whispered Miss Clark.

Noreen's heart was thumping wildly. So much depended on her. She raised her hand and gave the signal to begin.

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come . . ." Bravely and clearly the good news resounded along the hallways through the open doors into the sickrooms where men and women lay waiting to hear the Christmas music.

Another year, Noreen would carol with the club. The music might sound better, but not even the Caroleers could sing with more spirit than the "Angels in Wheelchairs."

On the top floor, the children stopped in Mrs. Winkel's doorway to sing "Silent Night." Then came the surprise. They sang it in German: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht . . ." Mrs. Winkel sang softly with them. When it was over, she said, "Ach, just like when I was a little girl. You make this a happy Christmas." □

(Reprinted from *Contact*.)

Tools for Ministry at Christmas

Family Devotions for the Advent Season by James L. Evans, Tyndale House Publishers, 1991.

A Mother's Manual for Holiday Survival by Kathy Peel and Judie Byrd, Focus on the Family / Word, 1991.

The Big Book of Gift Ideas by Alice Chopin, Tyndale House Publishers, 1991.

Before and After Christmas by Debbie Trafton O'Neal, Augsburg Publishers, 1991.

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ TEMECULA, CA. Pastor Mike McNeff reports four people have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and has baptized eight people at Valley Christian Fellowship Church.

■ WETASKIWIN, AB. At a recent communion service, Pastor Richard Emilson baptized four people and welcomed them and two others, who came by membership transfer, into the fellowship of Calvary Baptist Church.—Minnie Knuenz

■ KILLALOE, ON. The Rev. James Zurbriggen baptized a young mother upon her confession of faith in Jesus Christ and welcomed her into the membership of Calvary Baptist Church. He also dedicated a young child to the Lord.—Kathryn Kuehl

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Three adults were welcomed into the membership of Faith Baptist Church: the Rev. and Mrs. Ray Harsch, Billy Graham Ministries, and Joyce Woyke, student at Northwestern College and daughter of Missionaries Douglas and Sharon Woyke. Joyce transferred her membership from a Japanese Baptist Conference church. The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is the pastor.—Mrs. Jack Kruegel

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. The Rev. Les Buenning officiated at the dedication service of an infant at McClusky Baptist Church.—Marion Kirschman

Killaloe churches hold joint service

■ KILLALOE, ON. The congregations of First and Calvary Baptist Churches joined to hear the Rev. Larry Burd in a series of meetings. "Burd challenged us to be witnesses for Christ and to be more dedicated to the cause of missions," says Kathryn Kuehl. The Rev. James Zurbriggen is pastor of both churches.

Pacific Northwest Association holds annual meeting

■ POST FALLS, ID. The Pacific Northwest Association met at Ross Point Baptist Camp for their annual meeting. Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane, WA, with Pastor George Pontius, hosted the meetings.

Moderator David Gibson opened the meetings with the theme, "Commissioned to Witness." Among the guest speakers were the Rev. James Fann, associate director, Development Department; Dr. Ron Mayforth, area ministries director; Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones, missionaries on home assignment from Cameroon; and Area Minister Rev. Leroy Schauer.

Resolutions adopted were to continue support of N.A.B. Conference seminaries, renew commitment to church planting in the Pacific Northwest area, pray and work for revitalizing established churches, and renew the commission to witness at home and overseas.—Earl Shadle

Golden Prairie church conducts seminar

■ GOLDEN PRAIRIE, SK. Dr. Siegfried Schuster, associate professor of Church Ministries, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, conducted a seminar on "How to Become a Caring Church" and "The Dynamics of a Growing Church" at First Baptist Church.

Schuster challenged the group to examine the mission of their church and the spiritual and practical needs of those in their community to whom they could extend care and share Jesus Christ. Hopefully, this will build a bridge to provide an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with that individual.

"All of us who attended the seminar were encouraged to reach out to our community with spiritual and practical hands and 'care' people to Jesus Christ," reports Pastor Eric Spletzer.

Evande speaks at missions banquet

■ GEORGE, IA. First Baptist Church held its annual missions banquet with guest speaker, the Rev. Peter Evande of Cameroon. Evande is presently a student at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. Evande showed a film of his home territory and church and spoke on being commissioned to witness. The offering taken was designated toward the Church's mission goal. The Rev. Michael DeLong is pastor.—Vera Arends

Rowandale church holds Friend Day

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Rowandale Baptist Church declared Oct. 6, 1991, Friend Day and Thanksgiving Day. A missions offering of almost \$8,400 was received. Most of the 325 people in attendance stayed for the dinner following the morning worship service.

"Sunday morning services are well-attended, and opportunities for ministry to the elderly, youth, and young families continue to challenge us," reports Helga Kahler. The Rev. Bryan Hochhalter is senior pastor.

Petrie conducts revival meetings

■ GACKLE, ND. Revival services were conducted at Grace Baptist Church by the Rev. Lewis Petrie, Conference Development Director. Nine area N.A.B. Conference churches were invited by Pastor Roger Monson and the Board of Deacons to participate in these meetings. Special music was presented by area churches.

Four weeks before the meetings, Grace Baptist Church divided into nine home prayer groups. The attendance doubled the amount normally attending the midweek prayer meeting.

"The results were above our expectations," reports Pastor Monson. "Many responded by rededication, and one known conversion to the invitation following Mr. Petrie's message on the 'Lordship of Christ'." Attendance averaged 135 for the five services.

Fifteen new young people have joined the Wednesday night Bible Clubs at Grace Baptist. Five of the mothers bringing their youth have stayed for the adult Bible study.

McClusky church holds special services

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. During "Spiritual Emphasis Days," the Church viewed the video, "Country," and Dr. Gordon Harris, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, spoke on "Crises in Our Lives Today."

Roc Steward of "Partners in Christ International" spoke on Harvest Mission Sunday at the Church.

The Rev. Lester Buenning is the pastor.—Marion Kirschman

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Church planter speaks at mother church

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. The Rev. Leigh Harrison challenged the congregation of Faith Baptist Church "To Dream the Impossible Dream." Harrison has begun a new work in the northwest suburbs, and Faith is the mother church for this church plant. The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is the pastor of Faith Baptist.—Mrs. Jack Kruegel

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Many of the congregation of Faith Baptist Church attended the sessions of a Renewal Seminar conducted by Dr. Roger Fredrikson of Sioux Falls on September 20-22.—Mrs. Jack Kruegel

Atlantic Association women meet

■ ALLENTOWN, PA. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Atlantic Association held their fall retreat with 70 women in attendance. Mrs. Linda Weber, director of women's ministries, spoke on "Strength for Living," using the story of Jonah.

"Mrs. Weber noted that when God calls us to do something, we can ask Him to take our hand and walk with us, or we can let our fears and desires get us into trouble," says Mae Dillon. "But God forgives us, and we can go on."

The women of Christian Compassion Church, Philadelphia, PA, performed a skit depicting various women's life situations called, "Woe Is Me."

Three workshops were offered: Irma Norman demonstrated "White Cross for the 1990s," Mae Dillon led a craft session, and Linda Weber talked about "What It Takes to Start or Jump Start Your Women's Organization."

Pacific Northwest Association holds women's retreat

■ AUBURN, WA. "Growth and Commitment" was the theme for the 23rd annual Pacific Northwest Association women's retreat held at Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA. Eighty women were challenged to "Bloom Where You Are Planted—Look What's Coming Up Roses" (Growth and Commitment). Each woman was paired with a prayer partner and encouraged to keep in touch with her

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partner throughout the year. Author Marilyn Woody of southern California was the guest speaker. A local florist held a class on flower arranging.—Earl Shadle

Harvest Festival held at Beulah church

■ BEULAH, ND. Immanuel Baptist Church held its Harvest Festival Oct. 13, 1991, with guest speaker, the Rev. Manuel Wolff, pastor of Turtle Lake Baptist Church. A potluck dinner was served. The Rev. Terry Midkiff is the pastor.—Ottillia Allmer

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Tacoma church has Rally Sunday

■ TACOMA, WA. Calvary Baptist Church kicked off the fall Sunday school program with Rally Sunday. The movie, "Molder of Dreams," the story of the former national Teacher of the Year, Guy Doud, was shown.

Attendance was higher than normal for this special occasion," reports Earl Shadle. "We praise the Lord for that." The Rev. Don Burnett is pastor.

Faith church dedicates workers

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. During a morning worship service, the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff conducted a dedication service for 75 Sunday school workers and 64 Awana workers.—Mrs. Jack Kruegel



NABS celebrates global alert 1991

■ SIOUX FALLS, SD. "Global Alert 1991" was the theme for the Autumn Missions Conference at North American Baptist Seminary. Missionaries Richard (I.) and Beth Rabenhorst and Doug (r.) and Sharon Woyke were the special speakers for the conference held October 8-10.

"In order to be successful in ministry," said Woykes, "we must always put people before programs. The opportunity for sharing Christ with the Japanese people comes when they know that they can trust us. All ministry is basically difficult because it is a spiritual warfare." Woyke encouraged the Seminary students to have a

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commitment to permanency in their ministry and not expect instantaneous success.

Those who attended the conference were given the opportunity to explore the cultural differences between Japan and Brazil, reflect on the challenge of the ever-growing city, and discuss how to be effective for Christ in a difficult environment.—*Linda Pelzer*

Iowa Association meets

■ GEORGE, IA. First Baptist Church hosted the Iowa Association annual meeting Sept. 13-15, 1991. Business sessions were held on Saturday followed by a banquet.

Among those participating in the concluding service were Dr. Ron Carlson, who spoke on "Sharing the Gifts of Our Faith;" the Rev. Gregg Donaldson; Missionary Richard Rabenhorst; and Dr. Roy Seibel. An offering for missions was received. The Rev. Michael DeLong is pastor of First Baptist. —*Vera Arends*

Goodrich and McClusky hold joint missions conference

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. Goodrich Baptist Church joined McClusky Baptist Church for a Round Robin Mission Conference with Missionary Pat Lentz, Cameroon. The Rev. Lester Buenning is pastor at McClusky, and Mr. Kenneth Wutzke is pastor at Goodrich. —*Marion Kirschman*

Ochre River church dedicates building project

■ OCHRE RIVER, MB. Pastor Reinhold Wilde and the deacons led the congregation of Grace Baptist Church as they dedicated for the Lord's work a newly completed and enlarged foyer, nursery, and restrooms. This building project was possible through a gift left by the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Prikker. Mr. Prikker was church organist for more than 50 years, and Mrs. Prikker taught Cradle Roll for almost 50 years. "We praise God for His continued blessings and guidance in this project," reports Jean Roos.

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Grosse Pointe church offers day of prayer and fasting

■ GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MI. Grosse Pointe Baptist Church held a Day of Prayer and Fasting, Oct. 13, 1991, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. The 50 to 60 people who attended on a "come and go" basis were led by the Rev. David Wick in a time of worship and praise; small group intercessory prayer; testimonies of thanksgiving; individual, corporate, and general prayers of confession; and commitment prayers of dedication followed by a communion service.

Faith church holds prayer vigil

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. About 50 people from Faith Baptist Church took part in a 24-hour prayer vigil held at the Church. The Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff is the pastor. —*Mrs. Jack Kruegel*

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

■ **First Baptist Church of Bellwood, IL**, celebrated its 50th anniversary October 18, 19, 20. The mixed choir and men's choir provided a concert of Gospel music on Friday evening under the leadership of Deacon Roosevelt Baas. Former pastors and spouses were recognized: Dr. and Mrs. Connie Salios, Mrs. Ray (the former Edith Schroeder) DeNui, the Rev. R. I. Thompson, and the Rev. and Mrs. Leo Reck as well as interim pastor, the Rev. Dan Fuchs.

Following the Saturday evening banquet, former pastor, Dr. Connie Salios, commended the church for its characteristics.

On Sunday morning, Dr. John Binder, Conference executive director and member of the Church, reviewed the positive qualities of the church, reminded them of the great sacrifice God made in giving His Son for their sins, challenged the Church to make plans for future ministry to reach more of the community for Christ, and called the church to commitment to Christ's dream.

William Kresal is pastor of the Church.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

■ **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schnabel**, First Baptist Church, Fessenden, ND, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends on June 21, 1991.

■ **Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Pepple**, First Baptist Church, Fessenden, ND, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 28, 1991, with family and friends.

■ Members and friends of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB, honored the **Rev. Del and Evelyn Bertsch** as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 11, 1991. Among the guests was the area minister, the Rev. Jake Leverette.

Baptist Herald Index 1991

If you wish an index to articles in *Baptist Herald* issues in 1991, please call at (708) 495-2000, or Fax (708) 495-3301, or write to us (including your November Readers Survey, if possible) at 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

NEWS

NABS/NABC/EBS launch joint capital funds campaign

At the Triennial Conference in Milwaukee on August 3, North American Baptist Seminary and North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary launched a joint four million dollar capital funds campaign.

Dr. Peter Fehr, N.A.B. Seminary Board chair, announced that N.A.B. Seminary has received more than one million dollars toward its capital funds campaign. The 2.2 million dollar goal will fund a new chapel and additional endowment funds for student financial aid, chapel operating expenses, and endowed professorships. As of November 15, \$1,078,423 (49%) of the \$2.2 million goal has been committed in cash and faith promises.

"The North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary are enthusiastic about the 'Foundations for the Future' capital funds campaign launched at the Triennial Conference," says Dr. Paul Siewert, president.

The NABC/EBS goal of \$1,750,000 provides funding for the construction of the initial seminary complex for Edmonton Baptist Seminary. So far, more than \$382,000 has been received in cash and faith promises.

IN MEMORIAM

■ **LAWRENCE G. BIENERT** (66), Beaverton, OR; born Feb. 21, 1925, in Leduc, AB; died Sept. 3, 1991; married Ruth Peter; member, Fredericksheim (AB) Baptist Church, Forest Park (IL) Baptist Church, and Bethany Baptist Church, Portland, OR; graduate, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and University of Chicago; ordained, Cathay (ND) Baptist Church, Sept. 16, 1951; pastor, Cathay Baptist Church, 1951-53; youth director, CBY and Sunday School Union, N.A.B. Conference, 1955-1960; manager, Roger Williams Press, N.A.B. Conference, 1960-65; assistant to the president, Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL, 1965-73; development director, Illinois College, 1973-75; estate planning counselor, N.A.B. Conference, Beaverton, OR, 1975-83; administrator, Baptist Manor, Portland, OR, 1983-1990; he left a legacy of a gentle, kind spirit, always seeking peace and unity; survived by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Rachelan (James) Stronach, Portland, OR; the Rev. Randall Kinnison, pastor, funeral service.

■ **ALBERT W. JESCHKE** (71), Salem, OR; born Oct. 14, 1919, to Reinhold and Alvina Jeschke in Drake, SK; died Oct. 5, 1991; served in the U.S. Army in neuropsychiatry laboratory; faithful

member, Bethel and Sunkist Baptist Churches, Anaheim, CA, Riviera Baptist Church, Salem; served as Sunday school teacher, missions supporter, church clerk, deacon at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA; conducted volunteer prison services for many years; predeceased by one sister, Elsie Kwast; survived by one brother, Reuben; one sister, Elva Kuhn, Salem; one sister, Walda Kwast; nephews and nieces; the Reverends Wally Kroguletz, William Jeschke, Lloyd Kwast, and Reuben Jeschke, pastors, funeral service.

■ **LAVONNE TRAISSER SCHERBENSKE** (64), Jamestown, ND; born April 17, 1927, to Joe and Vada (Lockwood) Traiser, Wolford, ND; died Oct. 15, 1991; married Elder Scherbenske, Oct. 18, 1944; active member, Sunday school, W.M.F., Temple Baptist Church; survived by her husband, Elder; one son, James E. (Tom) (Gale), Jamestown; two daughters: Connie Skaare, Jamestown, and Lori (Merle) Conway, Bismarck, ND; two brothers: James and Robert; one sister, Betty Jo Davis; seven grandsons; one great-granddaughter; predeceased by her parents and infant daughter; the Reverends Randy Jaspers and N.E. McCoy, pastors, funeral service.

HOW I SEE IT

RAPTURE ... OR RUPTURE?

About this time of year, I am always telling stories on the Conference International Office Staff. I usually say that we are all scrambling around trying to find a current book on the topic of the rapture, because we know that we want to escape the rupture that we are sure is coming in terms of the finances needed to meet the commitments towards our giving goal.

I know I sometimes say this jokingly. On the other hand, I have to confess to a certain level of uneasiness as I head toward the last page of my calendar. Will we make the budget? Will we be able to fund all the ministries that we have committed ourselves to? Will the rapture occur before the rupture that may come?

Someone reading this column may say to themselves, "Don't waste your time worrying, what will be will be."

I guess I also know that, but it makes me feel better somewhat to worry. I know that, in some small way, I am responsible to help meet the needs of our missionaries, church planters, schools, and cooperative ministries.

I also know that I need to pray and trust that the God of the Universe is still in control and that He has a plan. One day, He is coming again, but until that day, I will continue to joke and worry and pray and trust. That's how I see it.

L. J. Petrie

Lewis Petrie
Development Director

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Christmas is a time to give. It began when the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh at the birth of the Christ Child. The custom has continued even until this day.

This spirit of giving which has given birth to countless ministries that have made a difference in the world—the dreams of men and women willing to give of themselves to the benefit of others.

As you consider charitable gifts you might make during this special season, we suggest the following ideas.

Cash Gifts. To take a deduction for the gift on your 1991 taxes, make sure your gift is postmarked or delivered before the end of the year. If you itemize your deductions, you can deduct cash gifts up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Any excess deductions can be carried forward into as many as five additional tax years.

Gifts of Appreciated Assets. A gift of appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year will generate a tax

deduction based on its fair market value.

If you own property such as stocks, bonds, or real estate, which have appreciated in value, it may be to your advantage to contribute that property to the North American Baptist Conference, especially if the appreciated property is not property which you desire to maintain in your investment portfolio.

There will be no tax payable on the capital gains, and you will receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the property.

Gifts of Life Insurance. You may give ownership of an existing life insurance policy to the North American Baptist Conference and claim an income tax charitable deduction for the cash value of the policy.

You may also take a charitable deduction for the remaining premium payments as you make them.

If you wish to purchase a new policy naming the North American Baptist Conference as owner of that policy, you may claim an income

tax charitable deduction for your contributions towards the payment of the premiums. In either case, you may wish to make your gift of the premium amount directly to the N.A.B. Conference, allowing us to pay the premiums, since there may be tax implications when you pay the premiums directly to the insurance company.

Before you make this gift, make certain that your state considers a charitable organization to have an insurance interest.

Gifts of Tangible Personal Property. When you make a gift of tangible personal property related to our Conference, you may deduct the fair market value of the property without paying capital gains tax on the appreciation, providing that you held the property for more than one year.

Gifts with Retained Benefits. It is also possible for you to make a transfer to the North American Baptist Conference, while retaining benefit from the property which you transfer.

Whether that property is stocks, bonds, real estate, or even your personal residence or farm, guaranteeing today that the N.A.B. Conference will receive the property at your death (or at the death of a named beneficiary), will allow you to claim an income tax charitable deduction.

Your deduction is based on 1) the full fair market value (based on appraisal) of assets gifted, 2) the age(s) of the beneficiaries, and 3) the value of the income or other benefit which you retain.

We will work closely with you to design a plan to meet your needs, and provide maximum tax benefits.

Gifts and Long-range Planning. As you consider your year-end plans, you may want to give thought to long-range financial needs for yourself and your family. Charitable gifts often play a significant role in effective retirement and estate planning.

We will be happy to provide you with additional information. Your gifts are always appreciated. Please call or write if we can be of help. □

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

- ☐ **I have taken inventory of my giving in 1991.** Enclosed is my year-end gift of \$_____ to help in the ministry of the North American Baptist Conference.
- ☐ **I would like to receive additional information to help me in my year-end giving. Please send me information on**
- ☐ Gifts of appreciated property
 - ☐ How to take a deduction for future gifts
 - ☐ Gifts with retained benefits
- ☐ **I have the following property which I would like to consider giving this year. Please calculate the best possible way for me to do so.**
- Type of property: _____
- Current value of property: \$_____ Cost basis: \$_____
- My top income tax bracket this year is estimated to be _____%
- Name _____
- Address _____
- City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____
- Phone: Daytime () _____ Evening () _____
- Birthdate _____ Spouse's birthdate _____

Mail to: Estate Planning, North American Baptist Conference
1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994
Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301

WHAT'S HAPPENING

New Church

■ **Community Bible Church, Medford, OR**, was received into the Central Pacific Association at the Association meeting Nov. 1-3, 1991. The Rev. Ed Graham is the pastor.

Ordinations

■ **The Rev. Michael DeLong** was ordained into the Christian ministry Oct. 20, 1991, by First Baptist Church, George, IA. Participants in the service were the Rev. Winston Smith, pastor of Central Baptist Church, George, IA; the Rev. Reuben Grueneich, Faith Baptist Church, Rock Rapids, IA; Mr. Dennis Schrick, deacon chair; Dr. Hugh Litchfield and Dr. Stephen Brachlow, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; the Rev. Harold Kelm, Bethany Baptist, Hutchinson, MN; and the Rev. Herman Effa, missions director.—*Vera Arends*

■ **The Rev. David M. Soldner**, pastor of Martin Baptist Church, Martin, ND, was ordained into the Christian ministry, Nov. 10, 1991. The Rev. Ralph Cooke gave the ordination message.—*Viola Fiesel*

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Lyle Richards** from pastor, College Heights Baptist Church, Prince George, BC, to pastor, Spurgeon Valley, St. Albert, AB, effective January 1992.

■ **Mr. Brad Blyth**, student at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, is serving as youth pastor at First Baptist Church, George, IA. Mr. Jeff Schrick, member of First Baptist, served in this capacity during the summer. The Rev. Michael DeLong is pastor.

■ **The Rev. James Harris** from pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church, Marion, KS, effective Nov. 1, 1991.

■ **Mr. Brian Johnson** to part-time junior high youth director, Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

■ **The Rev. Mervin F. Noah** to pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Cherokee, OK, effective Dec. 1, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Brian Siken** to youth pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA, effective Nov. 15, 1991.

■ **John Gonnerman** to youth pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA, effective Nov. 3, 1991. He is a graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ **D. Walter Schroedter** to interim pastor, German language, Humbervale Park Baptist Church, Toronto, ON.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE



A Bible for Christmas?

BAPTIST WORLD AID is asking Baptists to give a Bible this Christmas.

"How much will you spend on presents this Christmas?" asks Paul Montacute, director of BWAid. \$1.50 will buy a Children's Bible Story Book for Russian and Ukrainian children. \$3.50 will buy a complete Bulgarian Bible, and \$4 will buy a Cuban Bible.

People are hungry for the Word of God. The doors are open for Bibles to be received in so many countries. Christians and non-Christians are asking for them. The costs include the purchase and shipping of the Bibles.

"Now people have the opportunity to read the Christmas story in their own Bible," says Montacute. "I know that the Baptist family will help us to give the most wonderful Christmas present ever!"

Individuals, families, Sunday school classes, house groups, and churches can simply send their "Bible money" designated for **Bibles for Christmas** to N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. BWAid will then send the Bibles and Bible Story Books.

Help Needed for Romanian Orphans

BWAid is supporting work being undertaken by Romanian Baptists in a number of orphanages. "Baptists are going into their local orphanage, sharing their love and care, and conducting Sunday school classes," according to BWAid Director, Paul Montacute.

BWAid has made \$5,000 available to buy shoes for the children. Another \$10,000 has been made available to assist Romanian Baptists in these children's ministries. A further \$10,000 is still needed.

Also, BWAid is raising \$125,000 to give support to Children's homes in Romania. \$100,000 will be for the new home being built by the Second Baptist Church in Oradea. This home will eventually cater to 120 children and will provide a new model of child care. BWAid has already sent \$25,000 towards this project. BWAid needs your help in raising the other \$75,000 for Oradea.

Send your contributions designated for **Romanian Orphans** to N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Thank you!

■ **Dr. Willis Reed** to interim pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Carpentersville, IL.

■ **Dr. Jack Smith** from pastor, South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD.

■ **The Rev. Loren Stark** from Zion Baptist Community, Edmonton, AB, effective Nov. 24, 1991.

■ **Mr. Nathan Zug** to youth pastor, Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, effective Nov. 1, 1991.

■ **Mr. Steve Kerr** from associate pastor of youth and CE, Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, effective Nov. 30, 1991.

■ **Mr. Eric Berg** from minister of youth and worship to program manager, Camp Caroline, Caroline, AB, effective October 1991.

■ **Interim pastor Keith Chapman** and

his wife Evelyn were welcomed to Mary Hill Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam, BC. Their future plans are to serve in Sonora, Mexico, training national pastors.

Transitions

■ **The Rev. Marlin Paul Mohrman** of Columbus, NE, and Nancy Ann Haley of Dallas, TX, were married September 14 at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha, NE. Mohrman is pastor of Creston (NE) Baptist Church.

■ **The Rev. Henry Schumacher** of Richmond, BC, died Oct. 17, 1991. He served as pastor of Fenwood Baptist, SK, 1947-50; Calvary Baptist Wetaskiwin, AB, 1950-58; Temple Baptist, Medicine Hat, AB, 1958-67; Lakeshore Baptist, St. Catharines, ON, 1968-70; Missionary Baptist, Cleveland, OH, 1970-72; Fellowship Baptist, Camrose, AB, 1972-78; and Faith Baptist, Vernon, BC.

On Serving

Our church is deep into the ministry of family clothing give-away. Our goal is to have our own building that can store not only clothes but also furniture as well. Right now, we are trying to get an old church donated; it just might happen. This kind of ministry has little or no cost, but even when it does, we'll meet it. Anyway, we are "living the vision" and doing our commission to witness, serve, grow, worship, give, and care. We believe in the Biblical Imperatives.

*Daryl Dachtler, pastor
Hillside Baptist Church
Dickinson, ND*

Triennial Conference

A total of 27 people from Oak Hills Baptist Church attended the Triennial Conference in Milwaukee. Of these, eight were new to the Conference. Our goal is to encourage more individuals and families to begin planning to attend the next Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, TX, in 1994. Many applauded the good speakers, music, and youth program in Milwaukee. We hope to rent a bus and travel there as a church family to Dallas.

*Art Bollaert
Oak Hills Baptist Church
Sioux Falls, SD*

Youth Ministries Triennial Conference was a wonderful time of renewing past friendships and meeting many new Christian friends. However, it was also very disappointing. It has become very obvious to me that the N.A.B. Conference has lost its vision for the youth of America. All the presentations I saw were exclusive of a revitalization of youth ministries.

Where will the Church be in the future if we don't concentrate on today's young people? The biggest way this has been manifested in my own life is the cancellation of New Day 1991-92.

*Linda Maytan
Apple Valley Baptist Church
Apple Valley, MN*

Reactions

I appreciate the high quality, variety of content, and comprehensive coverage of Conference activity you provide for us through the **Baptist Herald**. You have always and are doing a great job!

*Harvey Mehlhaff, pastor and
Conference moderator 1988-1991
Faith Baptist Church
Minneapolis, MN*

Many thanks for *Vision 2000* witness. Well done.

*H.G. Dymmel
Salem, OR*

The 150th anniversary and witness in the July/August **Baptist Herald** is a masterpiece! Congratulations! Excellent pictures and reports about all members of our N.A.B. family! *Vision 2000* is a challenge we will accept because we have a great God. Working together as we witness, grow, serve, give, and care we will continue toward that goal God has planned for us. I loved the bottom 35 pages of history. I read this history for hours... praising God for the many people I have met and occasions I attended during my years as a missionary. I appreciate the many prayers God has answered. Missionaries know your prayers and giving of the N.A.B. family make it possible to obey His orders.

*Laura Reddig
Bismarck, ND*

The May '91 **Baptist Herald**... it's great! Thanks.

*Connie Schroeder
Yorkton, SK*

I grew up in an N.A.B. Conference church in Vancouver, BC... member there until 1964. I live in New Jersey south—no N.A.B. church in the southern half of the state. We are members of an Evangelical Free Church in Mt. Laurel. We served two terms from 1949-1964 in mission work in South Africa. So for the years from the early 1930s, I have read the **Baptist Herald** and still follow the activities.

*Rev. Wilfred Miller
Moorestown, NJ*

The **Baptist Herald** has really caught the interest of our church people. They like the church happenings featured in it with all the good articles. Keep up the good work.

*Mr. and Mrs. John Winter
First Baptist Church
George, IA*

Your Mission coverage in the **Baptist Herald** is excellent. Truly it is the various mission fields that binds our Conference churches together.

*June Goodman
Timberline Baptist Church
Lacey, WA*

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God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (1 John 4: 9-11)

Thank you for your partnership in spreading the Good News.

May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through Jesus Christ, God's Son, be with you throughout 1992.

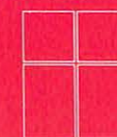
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