

MARCH 1991  
**BAPTIST HERALD**



THANK THE  
LORD  
*FOR THIS*  
ONE!





# "Thank God for This One!"

by Dale Fuchs

As any parent would admit, one of the great joys in parenting is that moment you see your child come into this world at birth. But far greater joy and thanksgiving is experienced when this same child comes to understand the need of having a personal relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our joy is multiplied even more when we see our children "walking in the truth" (3 John 1:4).

Hopefully each one of us can account for spiritual sons and daughters and joyfully say, "Thank God for this one!"

"And for this reason, we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe" (2 Thessalonians 2:13 NASV).

For many decades now, we, as churches and members of the North American Baptist Conference, continue to be filled with joy and thanksgiving for what God has done on our overseas fields. What a privilege we have been given—but the task is FAR FROM OVER! Yes! We need to thank God for the more than 80 supported missionaries we now have in six different countries overseas.

Thank God for the more than 900 churches in those fields, with more than 76,000 members.

We can express our thanks to God several ways:

**1) EXPAND our vision of the world and the Christian Church.** The small, thatched-roofed, dirt floor church in a Filipino village is just as important in God's economy as the 20 million dollar mega-



church in Suburbanville, North America. Each one represents a group of God's children as part of our Lord's universal Church.

All of us have the commonality that our forefathers were once converts of overseas missionaries. How grateful we are that these servants were burdened for souls. So we, too, must look with burdened hearts to the other peoples of this world who are waiting to hear the gospel. Thank God for those who had a vision for you and me!

EXPAND your vision by

- making the "international news" section of your newspaper a priority,
- reading all the letters from your church's missionaries and N.A.B. Conference publications emphasizing missions,
- Being aware of unreached people groups that we are reaching out to and those who have no evangelizing church, and
- Seeking out internationals in your community that you could befriend and learn more about their world.

**2) ELEVATE your prayer life to new heights.** We must realize that

our goals to reach the world for Christ can only be accomplished through spiritual battle. Those of us who are not on overseas fields must carry out our mission to the world through intercessory prayer. Prayerful people are THANKFUL people!

ELEVATE your prayers by

- Praying for one of our missionary families each day,
- Focusing them on unreached people groups,
- Targeting one of the great cities of our world (more than 200 now have one million population).

**3) ENRICH your life by making it simpler.** Most people would believe that to enrich our lives we would need more possessions. Yet the opposite is true in God's economy. The life-style of our Lord when He lived on earth was one of simplicity.

What things in your life consume your time, talent, and money—that keep you away from the commitment we all have to the Great Commission? Self-centered people are thankless people!

Each one of us has a part in this great harvest of souls. And I'm looking forward to the day when we stand together before the Lamb in a countless multitude from every tribe, peoples, tongue, and nation and say, "THANK GOD FOR THIS ONE!" □



The Rev. Dale "Bud" Fuchs is Associate Missions Director, North American Baptist Conference.



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# Europe—Our New Mission Field

by Harold Dressler

In 1922, our Conference began an evangelism emphasis in various countries of Europe. The Rev. Carl Fuellbrandt, director of the Danubian mission, organized the work. This work was carried on through European pastors and evangelists. At its peak in 1935, 89 workers were supported in the European countries of Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Germany.

In the years following World War II, relief ministry became a primary concern. Through sacrificial giving and volunteer labor of the N.A.B. Conference, hundreds of thousands of parcels—CARE packages—were sent to the many peoples "In Jesus' Name."

Following the end of World War II in Europe, many countries where the N.A.B. Conference had supported mission work were closed. The iron curtain was real—no resumption of work in Bulgaria, Romania, or Poland . . . the list goes on. Only Austria was left. The Rev. William Appel, an experienced American pastor, served as director of the Austrian work from 1956 to 1960; the work in Austria was turned over to the Baptists of Germany by 1966. — *Baptist Herald*, July/August 1982, page 19.

In June 2, 1990, the General Council of the North American Baptist Conference decided to establish a missionary

outreach in the Eastern European countries. The decision came as the result of the mercy and powerful hand of God who had recently liberated the people in these governments. As the borders opened, and it became possible for Baptist churches to engage in evangelism, children's work, social ministries (hospitals, orphanages, prisons,) and church planting, the great need for leadership training became evident.

As a result, the Board of Missions appointed Dr. Harold and Mrs. Ruth Dressler of Vancouver, BC, as missionaries to Eastern Europe. The Dresslers arrived in Vienna, Austria, on November 16, 1990, to begin this ministry. The following interview with Dr. Dressler allows us a glimpse into the goals of our missionaries:

**Q With which countries do we plan to be involved in mission in Europe?**

**A** As I prepared for my task in Europe, I concentrated on researching the needs in East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Austria, Bulgaria, and Romania.

**Q What did you find as the greatest need?**

**A** In February 1990, the Baptist leaders of Western European countries met

with the Baptist leaders of Eastern European countries at Dorfweil in West Germany. They pinpointed leadership training as one of the greatest needs.

For example: In Bulgaria, the last pastor with theological training died three years ago. In Romania, the Baptists have 1,300 churches but only 300 pastors.

**Q How do you plan to help?**

**A** There are several possibilities: 1) Joining the faculty of one of our existing Baptist seminaries in Europe and teaching the students who come from Eastern Europe; 2) with recommendations from our own Romanian pastors in Northern California, teaching at the Seminary in Bucharest; 3) setting up workshops, seminars, and intensive training courses for pastors and church workers and teaching them in their countries; 4) organizing teams of theologians and pastors from our own N.A.B. Conference who would teach in shorter and longer sessions; and 5) helping pastoral candidates to take their training at one of our seminaries.

**Q What about language skills? Surely, in these eight countries you will find more than twelve languages!**

**A** Yes, that is true. However, our N.A.B. Conference is the only Baptist conference in North America with a storehouse of European languages at our disposal. Many of our professors and pastors speak German. Some of our pastors still speak Polish, Hungarian, or Romanian. One of our retired pastors who is fluent in the Polish language offered his services in Poland. Also, much of the work can be done by interpretation. Finally, there is great enthusiasm in these countries now to learn English.

**Q If leadership training or theological education is the greatest need, how can such training be achieved as quickly as possible?**

**A** There is no instant solution, no quick-fix. We must see our involvement as a long-term effort for at least two reasons: a) the building of trust and b) the volume of material. Presently, there is an onslaught of Western missionary societies of all types flooding into Eastern Europe. Our Baptist brethren watch this with justified caution and skepticism. Before they allow their pastors and church workers to be trained, they need to examine carefully the credentials and doctrinal soundness of the teachers. Consequently, it will take some time to establish the necessary trust (through recommendations and visitation). Secondly, pastoral training takes at least 90 hours in seminary and more than 120 hours in college; this takes our students three or four years.

**Q In the light of all this, what will be your plan of action?**



The Baptist Chapel at Essling, Austria, meeting in a former residence.

**A** We are living in Vienna, Austria, the so-called "Gateway to Eastern Europe." We have some valuable contacts with missionaries who have been working in Eastern Europe for the past ten or more years. We are in the process of contacting all Baptist Unions in Eastern Europe. As soon as we have purchased a vehicle, we will travel to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to discuss the training of their pastors. The president of the Austrian Baptists is excited about the possibility of German-speaking groups of seniors coming here to provide missionary support to local churches. We will send details soon.

We are contacting the Baptist leadership in every country, especially the presidents of our Baptist seminaries. Their wishes, ideas, and priorities will, then,

guide us in formulating a plan of action and activating our resources.

**Q When you speak about activating our resources, are you thinking only of our seminary/college professors and pastors?**

**A** No, certainly not. We also want to motivate and activate our senior citizens, adults, our young people, and our laywomen and our laymen to become involved in our missionary outreach.

**Q That sounds exciting. What exactly do you have in mind?**



**A** Whereas leadership training is a priority, we also want to help our Baptist churches in Europe to evangelize in their communities. Imagine what the evangelistic impact would be for a small Baptist church in a town of Austria, East Germany, or Yugoslavia, if a group of 30 to 40 senior citizens, vacationing in their town, would be openly identified as Baptists? Just their presence would be a tremendous encouragement to the church. But also their assistance in outreach to the community would bring great spiritual rewards.

**Q** This sounds like our "Volunteers-in-Missions" program. Is that what you have in mind?

**A** Yes and no. It is actually something like a "Vacation with a Purpose" or "Vacation as Missions." For our senior citizens, we would find a pleasant and fairly inexpensive resort, located in or near one of our Baptist churches. There they would relax, sightsee, take hikes, and visit the tourist attractions. At the same time, they would participate in the services of the church, have prayer sessions, have Bible discussions, and help as much as possible with literature or invitation distribution. Two weeks in one town would do wonders for putting the Baptists locally on the map and making the name of Christ known.

**Q** What about our young people? How can they help?

**A** The field is wide open for young people. If they come in small groups of four to six people, bringing their guitars and other musical instruments, they would be welcomed into the churches. They could be engaged in street ministries (European towns have market places) and evange-

listic work among young people and children. It would be wonderful if our church leaders would train these groups in personal evangelism before they go.

Beside the area of music, I see opportunities for young people gifted with dramatic skills. What can be a better way to invite people to evangelistic meetings or talk with them in the street about the Lord than by putting on a brief skit with a spiritual point?

**Q** How you see our women's and men's groups involved?

**A** Actually in three ways: a) by establishing a solid link by adopting a "sister-church" in one of the countries; b) in case of material needs, sending money for food parcels to Baptist World Aid with a letter to begin a contact with the church; and by c) praying regularly for our brothers and sisters in the Eastern European countries. They are facing tremendous problems now with the influx of Western life-styles; they need our steadfast prayer support.

**Q** Where is the financial support for our new mission field in Europe coming from?

**A** The support for this ministry comes as churches place this ministry in their church budget or individuals contribute to the N.A.B. International Office. Together, we, as a Conference of churches, move another step forward in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. □

**P**resently, Harold and Ruth Dressler are ministering in a Baptist church in Essling, Austria. Some of the members have been in this church for more than 20 years. Others are very young Christians who desperately need



training. Some of these are in leadership positions and long for theological teaching. In July a married couple and a young man were baptized in the Danube River. "The Lord is working His miracles of regeneration. We are eager to be effective tools in His hands," write Harold and Ruth Dressler.

### A Testimony

**"I** have come to the Lord through my work as a computer-cartographer. Preparing my doctoral thesis, I realized more and more that there are no absolutes, that everything is subjective interpretation. This must lead ultimately to nihilism. A consistent nihilist has nothing to live for and ought to commit suicide. There was only one other possibility: God.

I explored this possibility seriously and discovered that He really existed; therefore there was hope for me. This is how I found the Lord Jesus Christ—rather how He found me. When I decided to follow Him, it was based on this very rational argumentation." —A university researcher who is the moderator of the Baptist church in Essling, Austria.



# Cameroon 9005

Text by Jakob Koch  
Photos by Walter Grob

**A**lmost 100 blue duffle bags, marked Teen Missions Cameroon 9005, piled high in the Douala International airport—but one bag was missing. The task was to find the baggage claim number of the missing bag. This minor yet tedious challenge was the first of many that the Teen Missions leaders would face as they attempted to guide 36 young people to work on the Camp Saker project.

Very quickly, it became apparent that the preparation in organization and teamwork gained through an intensive two weeks of military-styled boot camp would turn a potentially disastrous summer into one of blessing and growth.

The team brought the majority of their food along with them: canned meats, fruits, sauces, peanut butter, as well as stoves and pots to cook with—so they were very self-sufficient. Money raised by team members for this project was sufficient to cover nearly all of their expenses as well as building materials, tools, and transport for their work project.



The team, led by Martin Hartley and four assistant leaders, included 31 young people—13 to 22 years old—from Canada and the U.S.A. as well as from Columbia, South America. More than two-thirds of the team and leaders were from N.A.B. Conference churches.



In the five weeks that the team was in Cameroon, they completed the foundations, interior and exterior walls, and roof of the Camp director's house.





They ministered to people in the neighbouring villages through puppet displays, testimonies, and church services as well as in the nearby city of Limbe. There they performed their puppet ministry in the market place. This fascinated the crowds.

Perhaps the greatest testimony of the team was to the 450 Cameroonian young people attending the National Youth Camp in Limbe. The Cameroonian youth were deeply challenged by the team's willingness to work under the harshest conditions imaginable.



In the five weeks that the team was there, more than seven feet of rain fell. Team members worked in all but the very heaviest downpours (anything less than four inches per hour) hauling gravel.



Digging in knee-deep mud, hauling sand and gravel, mixing cement, and dragging bogged-down wheelbarrels.



Laying bricks



The team worked alongside Cameroonian workers. As with the other North American and Cameroonian teams that worked at the Camp before, they have added greatly to the youth ministry in Cameroon.

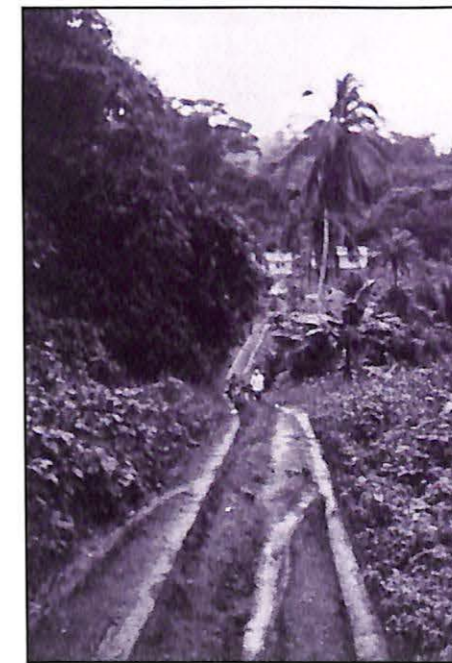
The times of work were interspersed with times of prayer, Bible memorization, worship, and Bible study. Although the team slept in the brand new camp dormitories, they used outdoor latrines and the nearby stream for bathing and put up their own clotheslines. They struggled with malaria, skin ulcers, and foot problems as a result of the heavy rains. Through all of this, they remained generally in good spirits through their team efforts.



This team was the third North American team to work under the direction of Camp Manager Pastor Emmanuel Nsah.



"However, the greater joy was to see the spiritual growth, the greater awareness of missions, and the deeper commitment to Christ evident in the lives of the young people who composed the team known as *Cameroon 9005*. We sincerely praise and thank God for the excellent leadership and special young people of this team," say Missionaries Jakob and Lorie Koch, short-term missionaries serving in youth work and in the Camp Saker ministry in Cameroon. □



The road to Camp Saker

#### Cameroon 9005 Team

The following are N.A.B. Conference church members who served on the *Cameroon 9005* team.

Thomas D. Kluczynski, *Fountain Valley, CA*; Kimberly Ann Stahley, *Fountain Valley, CA*; Dawn Tucker, *Gladwin, MI*; Karine Merrifield, *Costa Mesa, CA*; Kevin Michael Fluth, *Jos, Nigeria*; Kara C. Hartle, *Aurora, CO*; Robert Grob, *Mount Hope, ON*; Ted Riske, *Portland, OR*; Stephen Miles, *Edmonton, AB*; Lisa Babitt, *Berea, OH*; Tammy Mueller, *Winnipeg, MB*; Carmen Wittmeier, *Calgary, AB*; Ryan Runge, *Costa Mesa, CA*; April Smith, *Garden Grove, CA*; Kayo Nakamura, *Huntington Beach, CA*; Carrie Marie Bracken, *Lodi, CA*; Sylvia Harder, *St. Catharines, ON*; Carla Scheel, *Regina, SK*; Heidi Fay, *Parkville, MO*; Renee Merrifield, *Costa Mesa, CA*; Michelle Renee Dearmin, *Tracy, CA*; William Ahrens, *Newberg, OR*; Juergen Harder, *Welland, ON*; Bill Stahley, *Fountain Valley, CA*; Dave Dutenhoefer, *Orange, CA*; Roxanne Weiss, *Medicine Hat, AB*; plus seven non-N.A.B.s.





# Fruit for the Kingdom

by Gregg and Maria Evans

"I have been praying and praying that someone would start a church in this place." An aspiring church planter like me couldn't have heard more encouraging words than those. When they were addressed to me, I knew I was where God wanted me to be, doing what God wanted me to do. What assurance!

Just days before, carpenters at a nearby construction site had urged me to start a Bible study in their barrio (rural neighborhood). I had been praying for an opening in that place, so I decided to "go for it." In less than two hours, I had secured permission from the Barangay Captain (community manager) to conduct Bible studies; rented the best meeting place in the area; and made initial contacts by strolling house to house along the dirt paths of the barrio.

When Lando approached me, I was in my newly-rented meeting place making plans for the outreach. Lando became a Christian three years ago, and since then he has been praying that someone would come to his barrio to start a church. As we talked, it became obvious that he was figuring that I was the answer to his prayers. All things considered, I was inclined to agree.

Since then, almost 40 adults have eagerly devoured the first four lessons of our series of seven evangelistic Bible studies, and we have many more people waiting to begin. Lando's prayers are truly being answered. There should be a church in his barrio before Maria and I leave for furlough in July.

When Lando first started praying for someone to come to his barrio to plant a church, Maria and I were half a world away, just beginning to do deputation. Two years ago, with Lando still praying, we took up resi-

dence in Manila, 500 kilometers from Lando's barrio. One year ago, with Lando still praying, we arrived in Legazpi, 20 km. from Lando's place. Today Lando, still praying, is helping me plant a church in his barrio. Hopefully, half a world away, you are praying, too.

One of our Bible studies in Ligao (45 minutes from Legazpi) has borne fruit for the kingdom as eight recently made first-time confessions of faith. We are confident that a

few of these are genuine and that the others will become so as we continue with Bible study.

Mer received Christ, left the cult, and is really growing. Her mother followed suit and will be baptized at the same time as Mer.

Norma and Caloy, the mother and son who were having Bible study, lost interest and quit. □

Missionaries Gregg and Maria Evans serve in Legazpi City, Philippines.



# An Unexpected Blessing

by Martha Nelson

It was two weeks before the annual State Women's Retreat was to commence. The special speaker scheduled to come from Rio de Janeiro notified us of her cancellation. Her mother had terminal cancer, and the Doctor said she might expire at any moment.

After making approximately 30 telephone calls, the Executive Secretary suggested that we might have to divide the speaking engagements among the Executive Committee. But God had His own special plan.

A Brazilian woman, Catarina Jacobsen Oliveira, who had done pioneer church planting, was now working in the Rio de Janeiro office for the Brazil National Missions Board. Due to her college friendship with Sandra de Souza, our Executive Secretary, she agreed to leave her busy schedule to come as the main speaker for our state retreat.

When she arrived at camp, some of the women commented to me, "Martha, she looks so young and

flighty. Do you suppose she's had much experience?"

My answer was that we can't judge by the stature or appearance of a person—God knows each heart—and she might be dynamic.

As we listened to Catarina's message and testimonies to the women, we knew God had sent the right person to talk on the theme: "Steadfast Women in a World of Crisis."

On Saturday evening, we had an evangelistic meeting. A special choir, in white uniforms with lilac scarves, (the colors of the women's society) presented two moving songs. Catarina spoke, and as she gave an appeal, one woman came forward to accept Christ as her personal Savior.

Shortly before noon the next day, Catarina gave her final message. She turned the meeting over to me. I told the women to lead in sentence prayers, and I would close.

As the women were praying, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, "Give an

altar call, Martha . . ." I hesitated. I thought the women would think that was strange. I pondered over several excuses that entered my mind, but the still, small voice would not silence. I felt I must obey.

I asked the women to remain in an attitude of prayer as I gave the altar call. Six women came forward to receive Christ as Savior. Most of the women in the auditorium were weeping. I asked Sandra to take the new converts out for prayer and gave an invitation for women to dedicate their lives to Christ. Fifty-two women came forward.

This experience served as another reminder of my necessity to depend wholly on the Lord. When things seemingly go wrong, I need not waste time fretting. Sometimes our disappointments are, indeed, God's appointments! □

Missionary Martha Nelson is the Santa Catarina State leader for the Women's Missionary Fellowship.

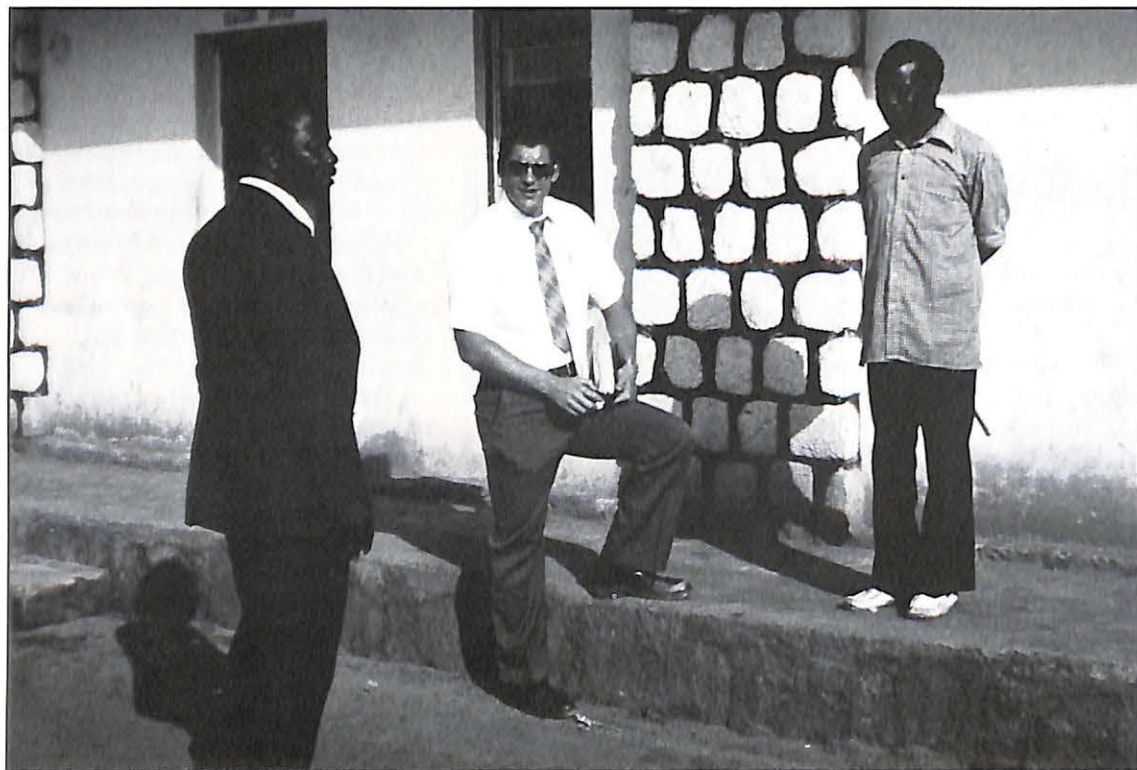






# Persecuted—but National Christian Is Faithful

by James and Karen Szymanski



**T**he Mambilla Baptist Convention is actively working to meet the challenge of N.A.B. Conference *Vision 2000* to reach unreached people groups. This young Convention, which has developed in the last 50 years since Christianity first reached the Mambilla Plateau, is now sending missionaries to unreached villages.

Benjamin, one of these missionaries, has been witnessing for Christ in the Ndoro area. Here paganism is practiced, and the Christian message of salvation is often rejected.

As a missionary, Benjamin has faced tremendous persecution. Benjamin is married to a Christian wife; however, her parents who are pagans have taken her back to live with them. Because of his faith in Christ, these pagan parents have denied Benjamin his right to live with his wife and children.

After returning from a period of evangelism in a nearby village, Benjamin found his mud brick house totally destroyed. Brick by brick, the house was completely dismantled, and the few valuable items in his home were stolen. Little support has been given by the

villagers to help Benjamin through his difficulties.

Through all of these problems, Benjamin has remained faithful—proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in this unreached area. Other missionaries in this area have faced similar persecution and oppression.

Pray for Benjamin and other Nigerian missionaries who face many hardships as they proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. □

*James and Karen Szymanski, now on furlough, are missionaries to Nigeria.*



# The Mambilla Baptist Convention—Growing in Ministry

by James Black

**I**t is almost 10:30 p.m. I am staying in Kusuku, a small village, just two or three hours from Gembu. The purpose of my visit is the Gembu Field Youth Conference. Our meetings started about 9 a.m., and I have just come back to my lodging place a half hour ago.

After two hours of singing choruses, the Rev. Zaccheus Njibe preached to more than 100 youth. Later in the afternoon, I had an opportunity to try to motivate and inspire those same young people. I preached from I Timothy 4:12 as did Rev. Njibe.

After our evening meal, we gathered together in Salem Church again to see the *Jesus* film. The church was packed far beyond capacity. After the film, we offered the young people an opportunity to come to the front of the church for counseling. Several young people came to Christ that night, and several others came for counseling regarding problems they face in their Christian life.

The encouraging thing to me was to see how little I actually had to do with this whole event. I preached a 45-minute message, which was translated into the Fulfulde language by one of the young people. Besides that, I only set up the VCR, generator, and TV. The invitation was given by a capable young man from Ebenezer Church in Gembu. The counseling was done by members of a Gospel team also from Ebenezer Church and by Rev. Njibe and Pastor Isaac Sankun, the youth pastor from First Baptist Church in Gembu.

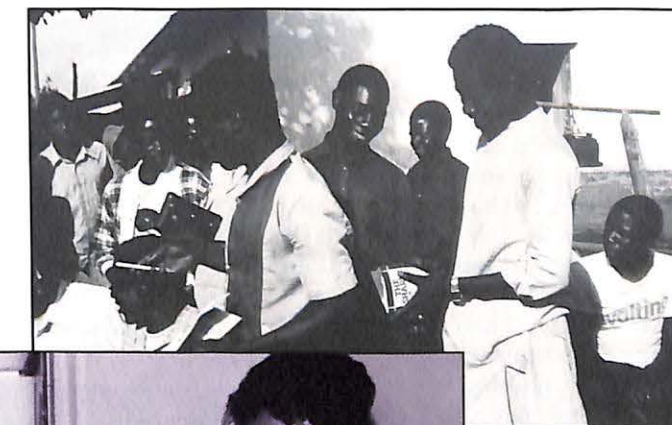
We are in the business of equipping people to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11ff). In missiological terms, we say that we here in Mambilla are busy building an indigenous Christian movement which is capable of self-sustained propagation and edification. But plainly put, we are helping Nigerians build a strong Nigerian church, to win folks to Christ, and to help people grow in their faith.

One of our major objectives in the Mambilla Baptist Mission is to see a fully indigenized Mambilla Baptist Convention by the year 2000. To be quite honest, there are

times when I think we are more than ten years away from that objective. There are those encouraging events, however, like today's harvest, which lead me to believe that the M.B.C.N. really is growing up in their preparedness for fully indigenized Christian ministry.

Please keep praying for us as we plan and work toward seeing a fully indigenized Convention in the next ten years. □

*The Rev. James Black is Evangelism and Field Secretary at Mambilla Baptist Mission, Gembu, Nigeria*







# Student Residences Overflow at CBTS

by Grace and Bevin Breitkreuz

Our student residences are full to overflowing at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ndu, Cameroon. We thank God for this. The desperate need for trained pastors in Cameroon was again revealed to us when we heard the following story:

Jacob Nsom, an older man, has been a pastor for some time. He has returned to CBTS to upgrade his education after many years of ministry. Jacob also loves to hunt.

During the past school break, Jacob served a church in a remote area near his home. He had been there a few weeks, and things seemed to be going well.

One day, he arrived home from hunting and saw some corn placed on a pile of stones near the church. As the church members often gave the pastor food as a gift, he assumed someone had brought the food for him, so he took it and ate it.

A man who saw him pick up the food questioned Jacob about taking the corn. The man seemed quite upset, but Jacob had no idea why.

The man reported Jacob's action to the chief, and Jacob was called to explain his behavior. It was then that Jacob discovered that he had taken food that had been offered to an idol. Having thought the pile of stones was a boundary marker, Jacob was really shocked to learn there was a pagan idol right outside the church door.

Jacob had seen some of the Christians from the church put food down on those stones and leave it. In Cameroon, people often bring produce from their gardens as offering; the produce is then

auctioned after the service to raise money. Jacob had thought that the pile of stones was merely a convenient spot to place the food.

Upon questioning the people of the church, Jacob found that they knew the pile of stones was an idol, and they knew what they were doing when they left food there. He realized he had much to teach them.

As time passed, Jacob discovered that the people saw no problem with offering food to idols and practicing Christianity at the same time. They said that they gave lots of money to the church and the Baptist Convention, so thought they could do what they wanted at their own church.

When Jacob told them that what they were doing was wrong, the people replied that none of their previous pastors had taught them that. He also heard that some of the previous pastors were so afraid of the idol that they ran away in the night.

By the time Jacob left, the people had agreed to remove the idol as well as several others in the village. Whether they will stop offering gifts to them and begin to fully follow Jesus Christ remains to be

seen. But now that Jacob is back at school, the Christians in the village again have no one to teach them the truth.

In the Cameroon Baptist Convention today, there are more than 600 churches. Only 67 percent of them have pastors; only around 30 percent of those pastors are trained. The church in this story was founded in 1952—it is 38 years old. One wonders how long the Christians in the village have been trying to worship God and idols at the same time; one wonders how many other Baptist churches have the same problems.

Pray for those who teach at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary in Ndu as well as for the students, who face financial problems, also. Pray for the students as they study God's Word—that they might be able to use all Scripture for "teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." □

*Bevin and Grace Breitkreuz are N.A.B. Conference missionaries teaching at Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, Ndu, Cameroon.*



# Cameroon Sonrise Presents the Gospel in Cameroon's Capital City



The monastery dorm where Canadian volunteers stayed in Yaounde during the Cameroon Sonrise Project.

Text and photos by Fred C. Folkerts

Fifty-five North American Baptists from Western Canada completed a second evangelistic film campaign in Cameroon from December 29 through January 16, 1991. These N.A.B. Conference pastors, N.A.B. College students and lay people, mostly from Alberta and British Columbia, joined with four Campus Crusade of Canada staff and dozens of Cameroon Baptist Convention personnel and missionaries to show the *Jesus* film in two major urban areas, Yaounde and Buea.

The project, known as the *Cameroon Sonrise* Project, is an effort to show the *Campus Crusade* sponsored *Jesus* film to thousands of nonbelievers, bring them to a decision for Christ, disciple them in the Christian life, and enfold them into the life and ministry of local churches.

Heading the project in Cameroon is N.A.B. Conference missionary, the Rev. Kenneth Priebe, evangelism secretary, Cameroon Baptist Convention. Martin Epp and Bob Kraemer headed the *Campus*

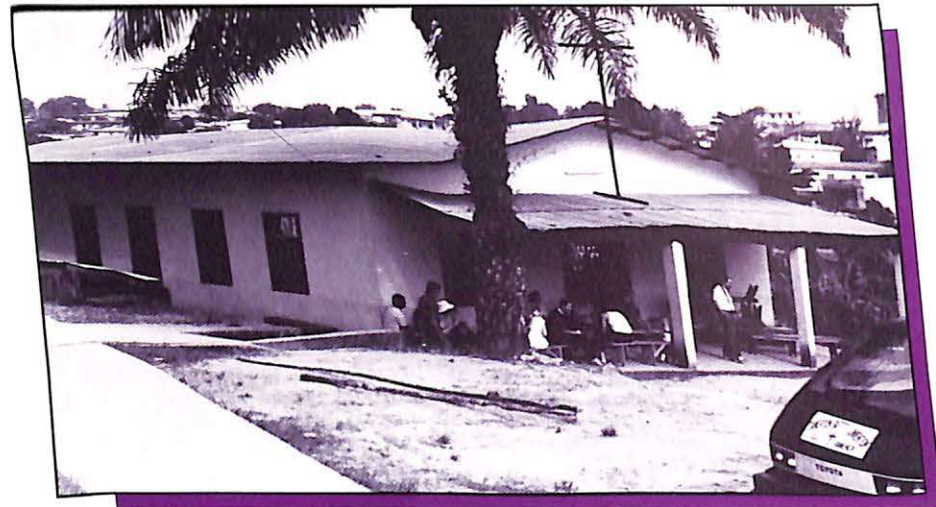
*Crusade* staff who directed the Canadian participants. Several pastors were among the Canadians including the Rev. Willy Muller, retired N.A.B. College/Seminary professor; Dr. Walter Kerber, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary; the Rev. Irwin Kujat, Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat; the Rev. Cliff Pedersen, Hartland Baptist Church, Prince George; the Rev. Tom Anderst, associate pastor, Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton; and the Rev. Wally Weiser, Baptist General Conference Area



Minister for British Columbia. This project started a year ago in early January 1990 with two weeks of film showings in the English-speaking grasslands of Cameroon. Last year, approximately 95,000 people saw the film, and more than 9,000 people made decisions for Christ. The film showings this year were as successful as the ones last year. This year, the film was shown to approximately 90,000 people, and 9,000 adults made decisions for Christ. The film showings are planned for one additional year in 1992.

Cameroonians from all walks of life viewed the film. In Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, the film was introduced at one site by a prominent Baptist Christian, Dr. Jato, the Dean of the University of Yaounde Medical School. Many Baptist Christians in the civil service and students in the University counselled those who made decisions for Christ. More than 30 students on Christmas vacation from the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary at Ndu traveled to Yaounde and Buea to counsel people who made decisions.

The film was shown at six separate sites in Yaounde and six other sites in Buea each night. At one of the 12 sites, more than 3,000 people stood to view the three-hour-long film. At all of the sites, the film was shown outdoors on open play fields or lots where no seating was



Etougebe Baptist Church in Yaounde, one of two Baptist Churches in Cameroon's capital city.



Team members prepare literature for distribution.



Team members prayed before the evening film showings.



Canadians and Cameroonians worked together in selecting and preparing the site for the film showing.

# COME TO MILWAUKEE TO

*Celebrate*

July 30 through August 4, 1991



### Great Theme

Friendfest — Faithful to Christ's Vision invites us to Milwaukee to meet old friends and make new friends • Calls us to worship our greatest and best friend, Jesus Christ • Challenges us to obey the commission to witness by introducing our friends to Jesus Christ.

### Great Speakers



**BILL HYBELS**  
Tuesday evening speaker



**R.C. SPROUL**  
Morning Bible study speaker



**CHARLES L. CHANEY**  
Wednesday evening speaker



**JOSEPH STOWELL III**  
Sunday morning speaker



**DEWEY BERTOLINI**  
Youth and Saturday evening speaker

### Great Program

Worship, sing, pray, and study with 5,000 N.A.B.s • Conduct Conference business • Learn from a variety of workshops • Exhibits • Nursery/preschool for infants six months through age five • Children's program for those entering grades one through six • Young teens program for those entering grades seven through nine • Youth program, *Making a Difference Today for Tomorrow*, at Marquette University for those entering grades 10 through college age with Dewey Bertolini, speaker, and DeGarmo and Key • *Friendship to Share* integrates singles into the adult program while providing a variety of social activities. • Special musical concert Monday evening at 7 p.m. in Bruce Hall (MECCA) • Kinderfest on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. with performances by children, young teens, and P.O.W.E.R. Company puppet team.

### Great People

• Lay people • Youth, children, and preschoolers • Ministers • Missionaries • Church planters • Chaplains/counselors • Seminary and college faculty • Conference workers • Visitors from overseas

### Great Place

Milwaukee — a great place on a great lake — is known as a friendly, clean, convenient city with a diverse ethnic culture • Renowned for outstanding ethnic restaurants • Plenty to do and see in Milwaukee  
Thursday afternoon and evening are free to enjoy a cruise on Lake Michigan • Visit the Wisconsin State Fair • Take in the Milwaukee Brewers/Kansas City Royals baseball game • Visit Milwaukee's renowned Zoo • Shop • Stroll through The Domes, indoor botanical gardens • Tour Old World Wisconsin • Ride the roller coaster at Great America in Illinois.

### Great Facilities

Hotels are conveniently clustered downtown around the Milwaukee Exposition Convention Center and Arena (MECCA). • Many ramps make it easy to move about with few stairs to climb. • Skywalks connect the Hyatt Regency, the Federal Plaza, the Grand Avenue Shopping Mall, and MECCA.



## 43rd TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**No preregistrations will be processed after May 31, 1991. Please complete entire form.**

YOUTH AND YOUTH SPONSORS, USE YOUTH AND SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM.

Mail to: Kathy Miller, registrar, N.A.B. Triennial Conference, P.O. Box 1991, Lake Mills, WI 53551 - (414) 648-8025.

Name of Registrant(s). **Please print clearly.**

Title: (Circle) Mr. and Mrs./Rev. and Mrs./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Rev./Other \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Initial

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Initial

Names of children and grades they are entering. **Please check. Please print clearly.**

FIRST NAME	6 mos. -5 yr.	Grade 1-6	Grade 7-9	FIRST NAME	6 mos. -5 yr.	Grade 1-6	Grade 7-9
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: Area Code ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: Area Code ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City and State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Mode of Transportation: Auto \_\_\_\_\_ Chartered Bus \_\_\_\_\_ Bus \_\_\_\_\_ Train \_\_\_\_\_ Plane \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Housing: Through Convention Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Other motel \_\_\_\_\_ Private home \_\_\_\_\_ Camping \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if confined to a wheelchair \_\_\_\_\_

This Triennial Conference will feature an all-Conference choir. If you would like to participate, please indicate below the part you sing:

\_\_\_\_ Soprano \_\_\_\_ Alto \_\_\_\_ Tenor \_\_\_\_ Bass

### REGISTRATION FEES

**Registration fees payable in U.S. Funds.** Make all checks payable to North American Baptists, Inc. No refunds will be given after July 5, 1991. **Registration fees must be mailed with this form.**

#### ADULT

\_\_\_\_ Each adult (\$40) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### SINGLES

\_\_\_\_ Each person (\$40) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Activity Fee (\$20) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Lake Cruise (\$25) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH AND YOUTH SPONSORS. Please use Youth and Sponsor Registration Form (youth entering grades 10 thru college).**

**YOUNG TEENS (entering grades 7-9) (Housed with registered adult)**

No. attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Per person activity fee (\$25) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(for entire week, T-shirt incl.)

**YOUNG TEEN SPECIALS (Limited tickets—reserve in advance)**

List number of tickets desired.

\_\_\_\_ Zoo (\$12) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Discovery World (\$3) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Water Park-incl. lunch (\$15) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CHILDREN (entering grades 1-6)**

No. attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Per child for the week (\$30) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NURSERY (6 months to age 5)**

No. attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Per child for the week (\$20) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please state age(s) of nursery child(ren) as of July 30, 1991.

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**MONDAY NIGHT CONCERT**

No. attending \_\_\_\_\_ per person (\$5) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SUBMITTED** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Separate checks required for

a) Housing and b) Registration/Concert fees).

### MEAL EVENTS—RESERVATIONS

Tickets for meal events must be paid for upon arrival at the Conference Registration Desk in U.S. Funds. We encourage reservations with registration. Meal prices include gratuity and taxes. Limited tickets: ticket requests will be processed in order received. Please list number of tickets desired.

No. tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ AREA MINISTERS' dinner (\$20) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

July 30 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ COUNSELORS' breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

July 31 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ MINISTERS' WIVES breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

July 31 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ CHURCH PLANTERS' luncheon (\$10) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(current and past Planters and spouses)

July 31 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ NABC/EBS breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 1 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ SINGLES' breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 1 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ NABS breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 2 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ BWA breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ MISSIONS' breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ NEW DAY breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ MEN'S luncheon (\$13.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Marc Plaza

\_\_\_\_ MINISTERS' luncheon (\$13.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Marc Plaza

\_\_\_\_ WMF luncheon (\$13.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 3 — Hyatt

\_\_\_\_ PENSION breakfast (\$8.50) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

August 4 — Hyatt

(Complimentary for retired N.A.B. Conference Pension Fund members and retired N.A.B. Conference ministers and spouses.)

provided. The people were so gripped by the drama of Jesus' life and ministry that they seemed not to mind the long stand to watch the three-reel film.

The Canadians gave personal testimonies of their faith in Christ between reels. Following the film presentation, they assisted by counseling the people who came forward to make a decision for Christ.

During February, March, and April of 1990, the Rev. Lorne Hamp, pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church

in St. Catherines, Ontario, with one of his laymen, Donald Kerr, worked with Cameroon Baptist Convention leaders conducting week-long discipleship and church membership seminars for the new believers in a variety of locations where the film was shown earlier.

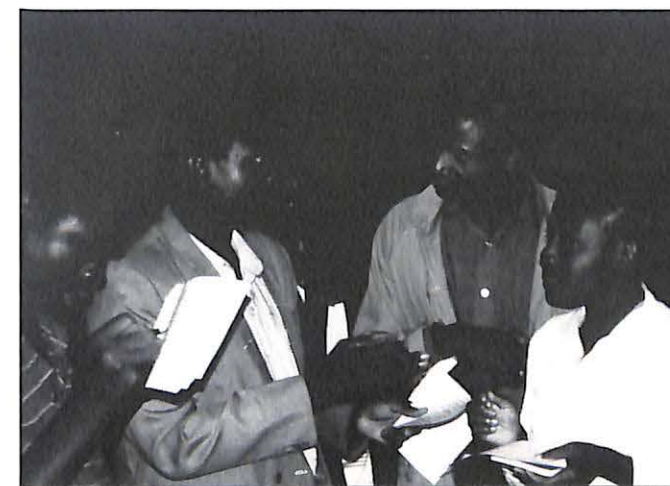
Daryl Martin from the film team has remained in Cameroon to help conduct follow-up seminars. The Rev. Gerald Scheel, pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Regina, and the Rev. Ron Berg, pastor, Steele

Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, plan to work with the CBC leaders and Daryl Martin conducting the discipleship and church membership seminars during March, April, and May of 1991. As part of the project follow-up, 30,000 New Testaments will be distributed to persons who made a decision during the film showings. □

*Fred C. Folkerts, associate missions director, N.A.B. Conference, and his wife Nancy were in Cameroon during the time of this Crusade.*



The Etougebe Health Center adjoining the Etougebe Baptist Church where one team showed the *Jesus* film.



Irwin Kujat counsels an inquirer following the film showing.



A Cameroonian student pastor counsels those who came forward after the *Jesus* film was shown.



A Canadian technician tests projection equipment.



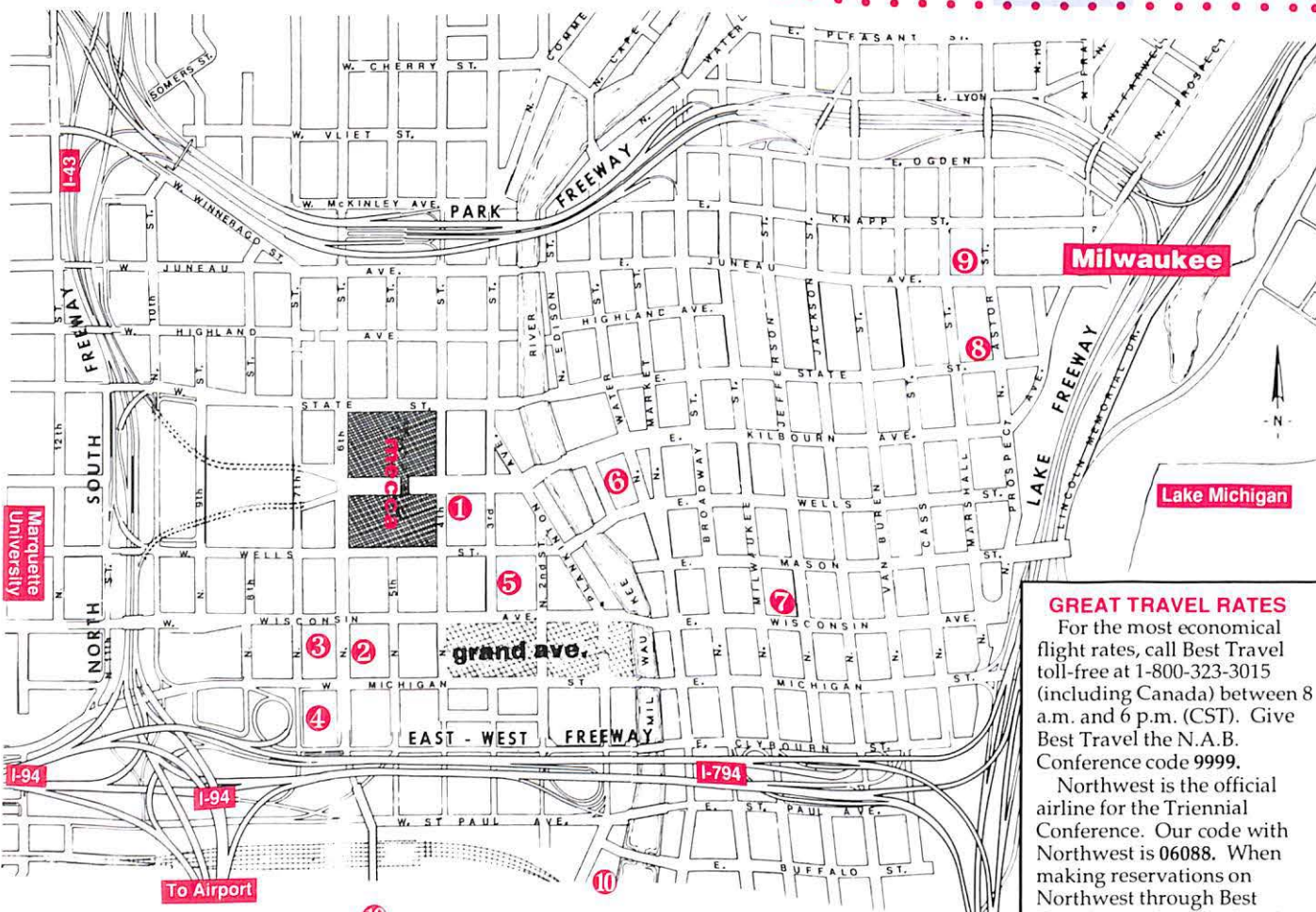
Walter Kerber tests the sound system before the film showing.



## HOTELS

Hotel Name and Location on Map	Single	Double	Triple	Four	Children NC under	Parking	Pool	To MECCA
1 Hyatt	\$78	\$88	\$98	\$108	18	Daily fee	No	1 block
2 Marc Plaza (Add \$15 Tower section)	78	88	93	98	18	\$5 per day	Yes	3 blocks
3 Holiday Inn	75	82	89	97	18	Free	Yes	3 blocks
4 Ramada	66	74	78	78	18	Free	Yes	4 blocks
5 Hotel Wisconsin (by assignment only)								
6 Wyndham	83	93	103	113	18	\$7.25 daily	No-HC	4 blocks
7 Pfister	91	102	122	142	18	\$8 daily	Yes	9 blocks
8 Park East	61	71	81	91	12	Free	No-HC	12 blocks
9 Astor	64	72	83	94	18	\$2 daily	No-AC	12 blocks
10 Grand Hotel	68	Flat Rate			18	Free	Yes-HC	Airport

Note: A small portion of room rental will be used for Convention Center rental.  
HC - Health Club, AC - Athletic Club



10 The Grand Hotel: Ten miles from downtown; 10 minutes via Expressway

**CAMPsites.** Three of the few campgrounds within 25 miles of Milwaukee are listed below. All arrangements for campsites must be made directly with the campgrounds.

**CALEDONIA**  
YOGI BEAR'S JELLYSTONE PARK - Water Slide, Rec. Bldg., Pools, Snack Shops, Mini-Golf, Bar, Store, 247 sites. 8425 Hwy. 38, Caledonia, WI 53108; (414) 835-2565.

**MUKWONAGO**  
COUNTRY VIEW CAMPGROUND - Electric, Water and Sewer Hookups, Playground, Swimming Pool, Rec. Room, Laundry, Store. 25 miles to Milwaukee. S110 W26640 Craig Ave., Mukwonago, WI 53149; (414) 662-3654.

**WATERFORD**  
HAWTHORN HILLS CAMPGROUND - Hwy. K (Apple Rd.), 3 mi. E. Hwy. 36, P.O. Box 266, Waterford, WI 53185.

## HOUSING APPLICATION

### 43RD TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES JULY 29 - AUGUST 4, 1991

The Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) will make hotel accommodations upon completion of this official housing application, provided all necessary information is given.

- All applications will be handled on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- If the Bureau is unable to honor your choice of hotel, it will select for you accommodations that are closest to your choice.
- Please complete ONE HOUSING FORM if you are sharing a room and list all occupants.
- All applications must be received by JUNE 28, 1991.**

#### HOTELS (rank in order of preference)

- Astor \_\_\_\_\_
- Holiday Inn \_\_\_\_\_
- Hyatt \_\_\_\_\_
- Marc Plaza \_\_\_\_\_
- Park East \_\_\_\_\_
- Pfister \_\_\_\_\_
- Ramada Inn \_\_\_\_\_
- Wyndham \_\_\_\_\_
- Grand Milwaukee \_\_\_\_\_

#### LIST ALL OCCUPANTS OF ROOM

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTED

- One Double Bed \_\_\_\_\_
- Two Double Beds \_\_\_\_\_
- Queen/King Bed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People in Room \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### ROOM GUARANTEE

All participating hotels are requesting an advance deposit or a credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. **Please enclose a \$75 per room check or money order made payable to N.A.B. HOUSING BUREAU or fill in the information to the right.**

I wish my room to be guaranteed by my credit card (circle one)  
MC VISA A/E DINERS

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL MY ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Prov./Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

**NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE OR OVER THE FAX MACHINE.  
ALL RESERVATIONS WILL BE RESERVED VIA THIS FORM.  
DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL!**

Mail to NAB Housing Bureau with *separate* check or credit card information.

Mail to: Kathy Miller, registrar, N.A.B. Triennial Conference, P.O. Box 1991, Lake Mills, WI 53551 - (414) 648-8025.



# Diverse Coalition Releases New Equal Access Guidelines

by Larry Chesser

**W**ASHINGTON — Consensus guidelines to help school officials understand and comply with a 1984 act designed to end discrimination against religious speech in public secondary schools were issued today by a broad coalition of educational and religious groups.

The publication, **The Equal Access Act and the Public Schools: Questions and Answers**, represents the end product of four months of work by the diverse coalition that included both supporters and opponents of the 1984 act.

In light of the Department of Education's earlier decision not to issue regulations, the guidelines likely will serve as the baseline for understanding the act, according to Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and a chair of the coalition of groups that issued the guidelines.

A number of coalition members were involved in drafting an earlier set of equal access guidelines in 1985. The new version represents the input of a larger coalition, including a number of key educational organizations. The new version also includes, based on the 1990 U.S. Supreme court ruling upholding the act, clear definitions of what types of student groups qualify for free speech protection under the act.

Under the Equal Access Act, public secondary schools that permit groups to meet for student-initiated activities not directly related to the school curriculum must offer equal, but not preferred, treatment to those seeking to exercise religious speech rights.

The act requires that such student meetings be student-initiated and student-led. Additionally, the act assures the concept of local control, protecting the

authority of the school district to maintain order and discipline and protect the well-being of students and faculty.

According to the guidelines, the 1984 act is triggered when a public secondary school creates a "limited open forum" by providing an opportunity for non-curriculum student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.

The act applies to all public secondary schools receiving federal financial assistance.

According to the guidelines, outsiders may attend student-initiated meetings if invited by students and the school does not have a policy barring all outsiders.

Teachers or other school employees may be present for student religious meetings but only in a "non-participatory capacity." However, no teacher or employee may be required to attend a student religious meeting in violation of his or her conscience.

The guidelines also note that some student groups may be excluded under the law.

"The law gives schools the latitude to prohibit groups from meeting if they are going to be disruptive," Thomas said. "But that doesn't mean they can be prohibited just because their ideas are unpopular."

Thomas said the guidelines should provide a "safe haven" for school officials seeking to comply with the act.

"The Equal Access Act strikes a nice balance between the requirement that government refrain from promoting religion and the students' right to exercise their religion in ways that do not impinge upon the rights of others," Thomas said.

In remarks delivered at a press conference at which the guidelines were released, Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James M.

Dunn noted that the religious liberty agency began in 1981, "searching for an appropriate vehicle to affirm the free exercise of religious expression."

Dunn said the Equal Access Act "fit our interest in maintaining the balance between 'no establishment' and 'free exercise,' making creative tension between the two clauses."

"They clear the air regarding the free exercise of religion for secondary students. He said the guidelines will not solve all problems associated with the role of religion in public schools, but insisted, "They do represent a much higher and broader level of consensus among those who are profoundly affected." □

Religious groups in the coalition sponsoring the guidelines include the American Academy of Religion, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Baptist Joint Committee, Christian Legal Society, Department of Education of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the General Conference of Seventhday Adventists, the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the National Council of Churches.

Educational coalition members include the American Association of School Administrators, the American Federation of Teachers, the Americans United Research Foundation, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the First Liberty Institute at George Mason University, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Council on Religion and Public Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, the National Education Association, the National Parent-Teacher Association, and the National School Boards Association. □

# Transfers in — 3, 5, or 7 Percent?

by Lyle E. Schaller

**"O**ur church simply isn't appealing to church shoppers the way we used to be able to do," lamented Max Stephens. "In 1963 we received 15 new members by letter of transfer from other congregations; a dozen years later, in 1975, we received 13, in 1986 we received 10, and last year we received seven. That's a drop of more than 50 percent from 15 to seven. In 1963 we reported 300 confirmed members, so those 15 transfers were equivalent to five percent of our membership. At the end of last year, we reported 235 members, and those seven transfers were equivalent to three percent of our membership. If we had continued to receive transfers at the rate of five percent for every year since 1963, we would have more than 300 members today."

"That depends on whether those additional new members would have stayed with us or left as so many of our folks have done," corrected Harriet Green. "We've had a lot of members drop out in the past 20 years."

Max and Harriet are talking about two of the critical variables in determining whether or not a congregation grows or shrinks in size, but it is easy to over-simplify the issue. One variable, which Harriet has identified, is the capability of a congregation to assimilate and retain new members.

The other variable is the ability of a congregation to attract that growing number of people who "shop"

for a new church home. It is not uncommon for them to visit and worship with three to eight congregations in that search for a new church home. Many of these church shoppers are newcomers to that community. Others begin to shop when their pastor departs, and they are unhappy with the successor. At least a few shop because their pastor has not departed.

A growing number shop following a change in their family situation (marriage, divorce, the arrival of that first child, children growing into adolescence, remarriage, the empty nest stage of life, and retirement) while others shop for a new church home as they move into a

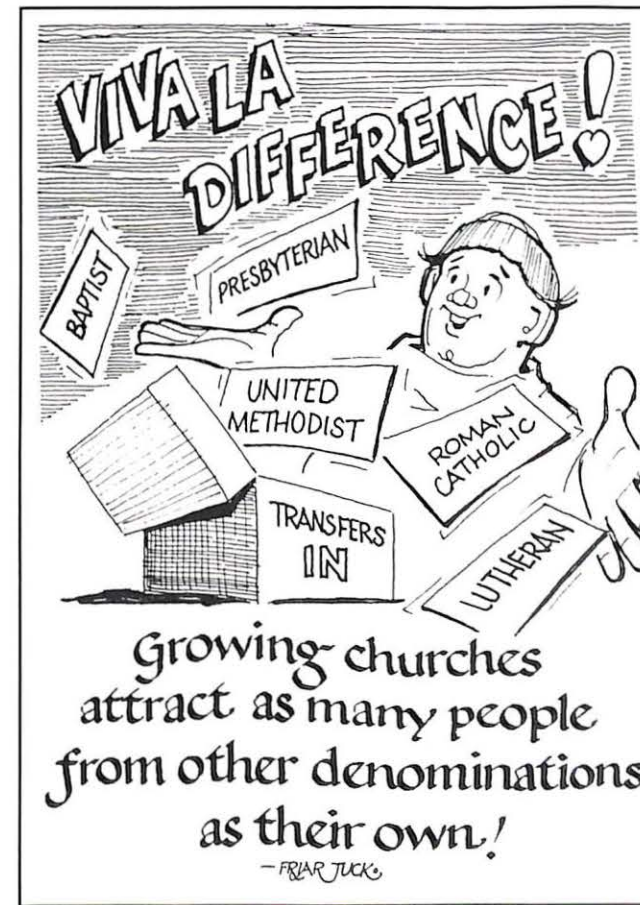
different stage of their religious pilgrimage.

The two best statistical indicators in measuring a congregation's attractiveness to church shoppers are (a) the number of people received by letter of transfer or certificate and (b) the number received by reaffirmation of faith or reinstatement. (A growing number of churches neither issue nor accept letters of transfer, and many adults reared in the Roman Catholic Church join a Protestant congregation by reaffirmation rather than by letter of transfer. This means for a believer's baptism church the number of adult baptisms also may be a valuable indicator.)

## A Denominational Perspective

From a denominational perspective, the difference between numerical growth or decline as a religious body often is a reflection of the capability of the congregations affiliated with that denomination to attract and retain today's church shoppers. If, year after year, that denomination reports the number of new members received by letter or transfer or certificate is equal to or exceeds five percent of the membership, that probably is a growing denomination. If that figure is equal to three percent or less of the membership, that denomination probably is experiencing a net membership loss. The difference between growth and decline is the difference between three and five percent.

For those denominations that receive at least an average number of members by confession of faith, adult baptism, reaffirmation of faith, or reinstatement, that difference between growth and decline often is the difference





between three and four percent. An increase of one percentage point in transfers could be the difference between growth and decline.

### The Small Church Perspective

This also can represent the difference between numerical growth or decline for most small and middle-sized congregations. The typical small and middle-sized church loses four to six percent of its members annually via deaths, moving away, and dropping out. If professions of faith, adult baptisms, and reaffirmations of faith each year are the equivalent of two to three percent of the membership and if "transfers in" equal four percent of the membership, that church probably will report numerical growth.

### The Large Church Perspective

While many exceptions do exist, large congregations usually need to replace six to ten percent of their members every year to remain on a plateau in size. Very large and rapidly growing churches often report they lose 12 to 20 percent of their members annually and in a few that figure exceeds 25 to 30 percent.

This may mean the number of people joining by letter of transfer must exceed five or seven percent of the membership year after year if that congregation is going to replace every member who departs. For most, a figure of seven percent will produce numerical growth.

### The 3-to-2 Ratio

Most congregations report more members are received by transfer than are lost by letter. The obvious explanation is that some people who join by letter subsequently become inactive and later are removed by action of the church or simply are carried as "inactive" members. Maintaining the status quo usually means receiving more new members by letter than are lost by transfers. Numerically growing churches usually report they receive three new members by transfer for every two lost by letter.

### The Denominational Loyalty Factor

"Hardly anyone who moves into this community comes from a church of our denomination." This statement often is one part of a widely used effort to rationalize why a particular congregation attracts few people who transfer their membership to that church. This had more validity in 1955, when denominational loyalty ties were still highly influential. It still has limited validity in small town and rural churches seeking to attract as new members church-goers born before 1930.

By contrast, those churches displaying a slightly above average ability to attract church shoppers usually report at least one-third of their "transfers in" come from a different denominational family. The congregations that church shoppers find to be most attractive often report that more than one-half of those who join by letter of transfer do not come from that denominational family.

### What Do They Seek?

One of the significant characteristics of today's church shoppers is by definition approximately one-half of them place a low priority on denominational labels. Perhaps as many as 50 percent look solely for a church within their own denominational tradition. The other half are seeking a church home that meets their religious needs. Those born before 1940 are somewhat more likely to shop within their denominational tradition while those born after 1945 tend to shop across denominational lines.

When questioned why they decided, after visiting several different churches, to make this particular congregation their new church home, most shoppers offer a response that can be placed in one of five overlapping categories. Nearly one-half, as mentioned earlier, point to the denominational label as a highly influential factor, but many visited two or more churches of that denomination

before making a choice.

A second set of answers can be summarized under the word "quality." This may include praise for the preaching, the physical facilities, the weekday program (often on the list of people born after 1955), the teaching ministry, the pastor, the Sunday morning worship experience, special events, convenient off-street parking, and/or the obvious high level of Christian commitment by the members.

The third most frequent set of responses can be summarized by the sentence, "This church repeatedly invited us to come here, and every time we came, we received a warm, friendly, and sincere welcome." This category also includes the follow-up calls made on first-time visitors.

The fourth, and least frequent response is, "We were tremendously impressed by the community outreach and the emphasis on missions we found here."

Finally, overlapping these other categories is the word "persistence." A typical example is this comment, "Within 48 hours after our first visit, we received three calls. The first came from a couple who stopped by Sunday afternoon and brought us a freshly baked pie. Later that same day, the pastor dropped in for a brief visit. Monday evening, we received a visit from a member. We decided they really wanted us here, and we never did visit any of those other churches on our shopping list."

The emphasis on persistence frequently is voiced by recently retired people, by young adults, and by families who moved to that community solely for economic reasons and left their previous place of residence with great reluctance.

### What Are the Implications?

The most obvious implication is that your future new members will come from one or more of three categories. The first consists of children born into your church who grow up and remain here. This

(continued on page 23)

### PRESIDENT'S FOCUS



by Manetta Hohn  
WMF president  
Kelowna, BC

# Commissioned to Witness

**W**itnessing of God's redeeming love to those who are without Christ is His commission to us in Acts 1:8. As we encounter various situations in our lives, our witness of His love and grace is also to those in the family of God.

Caught up in the self-centeredness of the world in which we live, many Christian homes are being eroded by unfaithfulness. First comes unfaithfulness to God, then to the marriage partner, followed by much heartache to God, His family, and all involved in the relationships. A friend shared with me her experiences with marital unfaithfulness in the belief and hope that what she learned will be helpful to others.

Although she was not all sweetness and light as she went through a most difficult time in a deteriorating marriage, God showed her that He was going to refine her character through it all. Her desire was to be obedient to the directives in God's Word; often this was opposite her natural inclinations. That is not surprising since Isaiah 55:8 confirms, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." She discovered that, as He led her, God gave her real peace in the things she did even when some well-meaning Christians opposed her actions. She had peace in the midst of turmoil, surely because her goal was to walk with God, centering all her thoughts on Him, and desiring what she knew He desired

for their marriage and home—that it be mended and reestablished with Christ at the center. Rifts are rarely caused by one offending party. She realized that she had to ask forgiveness as well as forgive. Now there is potential for a deeper and more caring relationship in their marriage because God has worked in each of their hearts.

### Healing memories

As time passed, her greatest struggle was with devastating memories of the third party which kept coming up in her thoughts. One day God gave her new insights into a Scripture she knew well, Matthew 18:21-22. Here Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times but seventy times seven." Jesus knows that we struggle with recurring bad memories, so He tells us what to do with them. Each time the unwelcome thought surfaces—forgive. She found this to be a tremendous remedy. As she continues to apply it, the pain diminishes, and the thoughts she does not want to entertain are fewer and farther between—seventy times seven and more if necessary.

If you are involved in a similar struggle, remember that your actions will remain on the screen of your memory all your life. If those actions and decisions are truly right before God, the pain will diminish with time. Make a right relationship with God your primary focus, and He will honor you as you put aside selfishness to preserve your marriage and your home. Dissolving a marriage is the easier solution at the time of the crisis, but the long-term

consequences of this move will bring more stress and difficulty for the rest of your life. It is a prime example of how Satan puts forward a plan that seems good in order to distract us from waiting for God's best plan for our lives and families.

### Don't isolate

Christian friends and church leaders must be involved to help you get through something like this. That's part of 1 Corinthians 12:27 and Galatians 6:2. Do not neglect fellowship with your church family. Through them, God will encourage and strengthen you. You will need their strong prayer support at this time.

There were many encouragements for her along the way, for example, a simple smile from a dear lady who didn't know the burden of her heart at the time. Another time, a friend who met her for lunch assured her that when it was all over, things would be much better than before. Yet another friend hopped on a plane to spend a couple of days with her. Two books that she found particularly helpful were *Love Must Be Tough* by Dr. James Dobson and *Your Husband and Your Emotional Needs* by Margaret Hardisty. These should be read by everyone to prevent marital unfaithfulness. It could happen, as in her case, when you least expect it.

Ultimately, through His Word, through prayer and by centering your thoughts on Him all through each difficult day, God will guide you in what is right. Then you will know what to do. As Zig Ziglar puts it in his book, *Dear Family*, "The time is always right to do what is right." God bless you as you seek His best. □





# Estate Planning Is for Women, Too

by Constantino Salios  
estate planner

**T**imes have changed considerably since bygone years (especially on the farm) when husband and wife worked side-by-side, but all the income was reported in the husband's name. It was assumed that all property was owned by the husband. Some assets may have been held in joint ownership, but purely for the purpose of avoiding probate.

Today, it is estimated that the majority of wealth is controlled by women. And women are living longer than men. That means that the final distribution of most estate assets, even of married couples, will be from the estates of women.

Therefore, it is important that we explore some of the uniqueness of estate planning for women.

## What is estate planning?

In its broadest sense, estate planning deals with the accumulation, conservation, and distribution of assets. But here we are going to focus on the distribution of assets at the time of death.

To accomplish her goals and objectives for the distribution of assets at death, a woman will utilize one or more of the estate planning tools available.

These tools include a trust, a will, a durable power of attorney, property ownership, beneficiary arrangement for pension plans and life insurance policies, payable-on-death accounts, life estate agreements, and more. A proper estate plan will coordinate the ownership of an individual's assets with the legal instruments utilized in the estate planning process.

If your estate is large enough to be subject to federal estate taxes (more than \$600,000 for an indivi-

dual; \$1,200,000 for married couples in the U.S.—no federal estate taxes in Canada), then estate planning tools such as insurance trusts, charitable trusts, and lifetime gifts, will also be important in your estate plan.

And certainly the coordination of the estate plan with your charitable desires is important.

## What should a woman's estate plan look like?

At the very least, a woman should have a will.

This is very important, because you will want to make sure that your estate is distributed according to your desires and not according to the intestacy laws of the state or province in which you are a legal resident at the time of death. If you have minor children, the will is an absolute necessity to nominate guardians for your children.

In your will, you also name the personal representative who will be responsible to carry out your desires at the time of death.

If your estate is more complex, then a trust might be important for you to consider. The trust can be established through your will, or it can be established and funded during your lifetime. Following are several reasons why you might want to consider a trust:

- 1) If you have minor children, a trust can postpone the distribution of assets until your children are more financially mature than they probably would be at the legal age of 18.
- 2) If you have aged parents who are financially dependent on you, a trust can provide an income stream to them, without the actual distribution of assets.
- 3) If your estate is large enough to be subject to estate taxes, a trust can be utilized to avoid taxes. If

you are married, this is extremely important to guarantee that the amount which the government allows you to give away tax-free is protected.

But regardless of whether or not you are married, a trust can eliminate taxes on any size estate, when aligned with your charitable interests.

If your estate exceeds the amount which you can give away tax-free, a trust can remove the life insurance proceeds from your taxable estate.

- 4) A trust can also provide for management of property in case of incompetency prior to death.
- 5) A trust gives you confidentiality in the distribution of your assets.

Another vehicle which should be included in your estate plan is the durable power of attorney.

A **durable power of attorney** is a special document designed to give someone whom you trust the power to manage your property should you become incompetent prior to death.

This is extremely important if you choose not to establish and fully fund a trust during lifetime.

## An estate plan is important

It is extremely important for all women to have an estate plan. If you are single, your desires for the distribution of your property at the time of death, and the management of property in case of incompetency prior to death, can only be accomplished through a valid estate plan.

If you are married, you should not assume that everything will be cared for by your husband's estate plan. In fact, many men's estate plans assume that the husband will pass away first and make no provision for planning in case the wife dies before the husband.

Whether you are married or single, if your estate plan was com-

pleted more than two or three years ago, it is important that you review your plan to make certain that it is current.

Changes in financial situations, changes in beneficiaries, tax law changes, changes in desires all can cause your estate plan to become obsolete.

North American Baptist Conference has available for you a free **Will and Trust Planning Guide** which has been of interest and value to many individuals in their planning. There is no cost or obligation for this material. We count it a privilege to be of service to you. Please write for your free copy today using the following form:

Please send me a free Will and Trust Planning Guide. I understand there is no cost or obligation.

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Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Dr. Constantino Salios  
North American Baptist Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994

**43rd Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches**  
**July 30 - August 4, 1991**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Events especially for women:

- Ministers' Wives' Breakfast  
*Wednesday, July 31*
- Workshops on Women's Ministries  
*Wednesday afternoon, July 31*
- Women's Leadership Breakfast  
*(by invitation)*  
*Friday, August 2*
- WMF Luncheon  
*Saturday, August 3*

(Transfers in — 3 ...  
from page 20)

often is described as "biological growth."

The second consists of those who are new converts to the Christian faith.

The third group includes those who came from other churches and join by letter of transfer or Christian experience. (Those churches that practice believer's baptism add the category of adult baptism for some of those coming from other churches.)

Despite the emphasis in the church growth movement on new converts, the vast majority of rapidly growing Protestant congregations on the North American continent report most of their new adult members come from other churches. A blunter way of stating this is that as institutional loyalties continue to be eroded, the number of church shoppers is increasing, and the competition among the churches to attract these shoppers is becoming more pronounced.

One way to measure the attractiveness of your congregation to potential new members is to review those numbers of transfers. What do these numbers suggest?

Are you happy with that? If not, what can you do about it? □

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## ESTATE PLANNING

### WE'LL HELP... PLAN FOR EDUCATIONAL COSTS

*"Financing education for my child (or grandchildren) is so costly. And the traditional planning techniques have been curtailed by tax reform."*

Charitable planning alternatives provide an attractive method of shifting income, sheltering taxes, and minimizing after-tax costs of education.

If you are concerned about providing for your children's or grandchildren's education, consider the charitable educational trust, especially if you are planning to finance these costs through the sale of appreciated assets.

We have prepared a special planning report, **The Charitable Education Trust**, which explains in detail this attractive planning tool.

**YES**, please send me the special planning report, **The Charitable Education Trust**. I understand there is no cost or obligation.

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

Mail to Dr. Constantino Salios, North American Baptist Conference

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# 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

## COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ **WARBURG, AB.** Two adults were baptized and five people were welcomed into the fellowship of First Baptist Church since the Rev. Timothy Dekker became pastor in August. "There is good attendance in our services, and the youth and children's programs are showing good progress," says Mrs. M. Hubscher.

■ **GEORGE, IA.** Pastor Mike DeLong welcomed ten young adults into the membership of First Baptist Church. Seven were baptized, and three were received by transfer of letter. —*Vera Arends*

■ **PHILADELPHIA, PA.** Pastor Dirk Spalding welcomed nine new members, five by baptism, into the fellowship of Pilgrim Baptist Church. Eight were junior high through young adult, including Cameroonians Wilfred and Angelica Fon. Wilfred Fon is presently studying at Westminster Theological Seminary with plans to return to Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary to teach.

■ **MEDICINE HAT, AB.** Pastor Irwin Kujat baptized seven young people, including his son and daughter at Temple Baptist Church. —*Madeline Kern*

■ **PARMA, OH.** Three young people were welcomed into the fellowship of Redeemer Baptist Church by baptism. The

Rev. Darrell McKay is pastor.

■ **EDMONTON, AB.** The Rev. Henry Goliath baptized three youth and two adults, including a blind woman, and welcomed them into the fellowship of Zion Baptist Church. —*Lena Schroeder*

■ **ALPENA, MI.** Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church observed the dedication of a one-month-old boy by his parents. A young couple were baptized and welcomed into the membership of the Church at the New Year's Eve candlelight communion service. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor. —*Mary Coy*

■ **MORRIS, AB.** The Rev. Del Bertsch welcomed nine new members into the fellowship of Emmanuel Baptist Church, six by baptism and three by transfer of letter. —*Cynthia Bergstresser*

■ **COLUMBUS, NE.** The Rev. Richard Lute dedicated an infant at Shell Creek Baptist Church. —*Ruth Behlen*

■ **JAMESTOWN, ND.** The Rev. Randy Jaspers welcomed ten new members into the fellowship of Temple Baptist Church during the past few months. New families with children are coming, and our Sunday school reached 99 attendees on a recent Sunday. "We trust the Lord will continue to bless," reports Leona Meisch.

### McDermot holds spiritual renewal meetings

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** Desiring to start the new church year in the right spirit of commitment to the Lord and dedication to His work, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church held a week of spiritual renewal meetings. The Rev. Bill McLeod, Western Canada Revival Fellowship, was the speaker. The congregation had prayed collectively and in individual organizations to prepare their hearts for renewal.

"Thirty-six responses were recorded, and many more were touched by the Holy Spirit," reports Maria Rogalski. Dr. John Hisel is pastor.

### Temple church celebrates 35 years of service

■ **MEDICINE HAT, AB.** Temple Baptist Church celebrated 35 years of witness and service with a congregational dinner and other events. Pastor Irwin Kujat stated, "We were enriched through the puppet ministry of Dave and Joy Kelly, and the teaching of Dr. Mel Unger and Ron and Diane Susek."

Pastor Kujat is also one of this year's Cameroon Sonrise team along with

Daryl Martin, whose parents are members of Temple. —*Madeline Kern*

### Drumheller church is active in outreach

■ **DRUMHELLER, AB.** Parkdale Baptist Church organized a Christmas dinner and opened it up to those in the community who would not otherwise have Christmas dinner. Pastor Jim Browning conducts a service once a week at the Sunshine Lodge for senior citizens and also holds services at the penitentiary. The Sunday morning service is televised in the Drumheller district on Sunday evenings and Monday.

"Our church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1990, with other churches participating in that special occasion," reports Ethel Lange.

### Effas conduct revival services

■ **PARMA, OH.** The Rev. Herman Effa, missions director, and his wife, Ardath, conducted revival services and provided special music at Redeemer Baptist Church.

"Numerous decisions were made as people prayed to deal with what the Lord made clear to them," says Pastor Darrell McKay.

## COMPELLED TO SERVE

### Bethany church hears Evandes on Harvest Mission Sunday

■ **HUNTER, KANSAS.** The Rev. and Mrs. Peter Evande, students at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, were special speakers on Harvest Mission Sunday at Bethany Baptist Church. "We appreciated their song as well as message about the work in Cameroon," reports

Katherine Loofbourraw. The Rev. Anthony Dickerson is pastor.

### WMF holds outreach retreat

■ **EBENEZER, SK.** As an outreach to the community, the WMF of Ebenezer Baptist Church sponsored their third annual retreat. Approximately 75 ladies heard guest speaker Elaine Nystrom from Saskatoon

and soloist Sharon Karcha. The speaker and various laywomen spoke on the theme, "Fashioned by God." Topics addressed were Our Uniqueness, Created for His Use, and Our Lives are in His Hands. Denise Jorstad, the pastor's wife, gave her testimony.

"Our WMF also mailed Kilo packages to the missionary children in Cameroon and at Woyke House in Nigeria," reports Martha Dreger. The Rev. Wayne Jorstad is pastor.

### Emmanuel WMF holds fund-raising supper

■ **MORRIS, MB.** The WMF of Emmanuel Baptist Church invited their husbands to their annual supper and Christmas program. The offering taken towards the building fund was \$18,000. —*Cynthia Bergstresser*

### Langs speak at Harvest Mission service

■ **COLUMBUS, NE.** Shell Creek Baptist Church celebrated its Harvest Mission Festival with the Rev. George and Lenore Lang as speakers. Creston Baptist Church joined the Shell Creek church for the afternoon service and a time of refreshments. —*Ruth Behlen*

### Ministers hold retreat

■ **PARMA, OH.** "Coping with Our Call" was the

theme of the second annual retreat for ministers, staff, and their spouses of the Ohio portion of the Great Lakes Association. "Attendees came away encouraged and ready again to minister in the power of the Lord in their respective places of service," reports Pastor Darrell McKay.

### Jamestown women send packages to soldiers

■ **JAMESTOWN, ND.** At the request of Chaplain Richard Uhler, the women of Temple Baptist Church packed 200 individual sacks of Christmas goodies to send to soldiers in basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. These soldiers were scheduled to be sent to Saudi Arabia. There were 3,000 troops stationed at Fort Knox for basic training.

The young people, meeting every Wednesday evening, prepared Kilo packages to send to missionaries.

About 80 couples and children enjoyed a chili supper and then went caroling to homes of shut-ins and those in two nursing homes.

A college age Sunday school class is meeting with ten enrolled.

The Church also planned a "50 Day Walk through the Bible." —*Leona Meisch*

## COMMANDED TO CARE

### WMF share their love

■ **ALPENA, MI.** The WMF of Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church invited the boys of Huron House and two counsellors to a Christmas dinner party. Youth pastor, Tim Powell, entertained the boys with games and told the Christmas story. The

ladies presented each boy with a gift of gloves and keep in touch by sending birthday greetings. Huron House is a home for boys ages 13 to 19 years. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor. —*Mary Coy*

# 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

## CALLED TO WORSHIP

### Tacoma church views Tolstoy film

■ **TACOMA, WA.** Calvary Baptist Church began their New Year's Eve service with the Leo Tolstoy film, "The Visitor," adapted from his short story, "Where Love Is—There Is God." Rick Wells and his sister, Sue, presented special music. After refreshments, Pastor Don Burnett led the group in a communion service. —*Earl R. Shadle*

### Men's Bible study continues to grow

■ **ALPENA, MI.** The men of Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church have begun their third year of Bible study and prayer each Tuesday morning at a local restaurant before going to work. "This practice began with one to two, then three to five, as well as both pastors; now the total is 14," reports Mary Coy. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor.

## CHALLENGED TO GROW

### George church holds goal-setting seminar

■ **GEORGE, IA.** The Rev. Jacob Ehman, area minister of the Illinois and Upper Midwest Area Associations, held a goal-setting seminar at Central Baptist Church. Long-range goals, as well as short-term goals, were discussed. The Rev. Winston Smith is pastor. —*Helen Sudenga*

### McDermot focuses on their youth

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** In view of the large segment of the fellowship being parents of small children, the Christian Education Department of McDermot Ave. Baptist Church sponsored a workshop in Early Childhood Development. Mr. Al Friesen, Family Life Conference speaker, led the workshop.

The youth of McDermot Ave. observed their Youth Encounter Weekend and

were challenged by the Rev. David Moore, Palm Desert, CA. "A large number of youth from outside the church attended these meetings," reports Maria Rogalski.

To keep in touch with the community and reach out to the parents of the Awana program children, the elders of McDermot Ave. sponsored a Community Christmas Dinner. Many responded to the invitation and enjoyed a meal, carol singing, a film, and a meditation by Dr. John Hisel.

### McDermot prepares for building expansion

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** In preparation for McDermot Ave. Baptist Church's proposed facility expansion, several fund-raising events have been held, and others are in the planning stages. "It is our desire to serve our Lord by being the visible presence of the invisible



# 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

God in our world," reports Maria Rogalski.

### Church plant celebrates first birthday

■ ROCHESTER, MI. "Everyone stood around a big cake with a number one candle on it and sang 'Happy Birthday' as we celebrated our first birthday," says Randy Beck, pastor of Oakland Hills Baptist Church.

During the worship service, Bill Taft, Great Lakes Association area minister, complimented the church on its work during the past year. He exhorted the members to remain faithful and look for God's blessing in the next year.

Pastor Beck spoke to our future with reference to the **Baptist Herald** article on Trinity Baptist in Portland. "I challenged those present to establish a church with a vision that would reach beyond the next three to five years, beyond our lifetime to provide a church 100 years from now," says Beck.

Tim Barr, the worship leader, led the 65 people in attendance, 17 of whom were visitors, in a time of music worship. A family of four joined the Church.

The Church started in January 1990 with 35 in the core group. The average attendance is 50 with a ministry sphere of 80 people to whom they minister on a regular basis. Oakland Hills offers Sunday school and junior church on Sundays and an all-ages program on Wednesday evenings.

"We plan an aggressive outreach program for new move-ins to the community. The membership

participated in a lifestyle evangelism seminar in February to better minister in one-on-one situations," says Pastor Beck.

### Tracy Church sets course for building program

■ TRACY, CA. Valley Community Baptist Church, a church plant begun in 1987, now self-supporting, is now ready to begin to raise funds to build their first building on seven acres of land. This Church has grown from zero in 1987 to an average attendance of more than 190 in 1990.

To assure the approach to a Scriptural capital funds project would take place, the Rev. Lewis Petrie, development director, N.A.B. Conference, was invited to train the Church's leaders.

More than 20 leaders attended the first seminar on a Friday night, "God's Cause, Your Concern." This session dealt with how to develop the mission, case, and purpose statement of a capital funds drive. "The scriptural bases and emphasis on this training proved to be an encouragement to all and brought tears to many present as Mr. Petrie shared the results of scriptural growth in a church and the call to reach a lost and dying world," reports Pastor Dennis Dearmin.

The same group met again on Saturday for the second seminar, "Problem with Presentation," on how to approach the congregation to be involved financially in a building project from a scriptural position.

On Sunday morning

prior to the worship service, Mr. Petrie spoke on "The Stew in Stewardship," giving the Biblical perspective on seeking God first and His plan for stewardship. Valley Community had its largest adult Sunday school session of its three-year history that Sunday with more than 62 adults attending.

"In the worship service, there were more than 191 who were challenged by Mr. Petrie to not only build a building but also to build

a kingdom for God and reach the lost," recalls Pastor Dearmin.

When the invitation was given, 138 adults responded with a recommitment to God; two made first-time commitments, some expressed the desire to be baptized, and others expressed their desire to become members of this Church.

"It was a glorious time; lives were touched; and God's Spirit was present," says Pastor Dearmin.

## COMMITTED TO GIVE

### Heritage church burns mortgage



■ YORKTON, SK. On Sunday, December 2, 1990, 13 months after Heritage Baptist Church was dedicated, a mortgage burning ceremony took place mark-

ing the retirement of the \$550,000 debt on their building.

The Rev. Jake Leverette, area minister, as well as Pastor Robert Sandford, the church moderator, and several finance committee members spoke to the congregation. "We praise God for the faithfulness of the members and friends who gave sacrificially in order to retire this debt," reports Hertha Rowden.



### Trinity Baptist Church Portland, OR, invites you to attend its centennial celebration!

**March 9**  
3 p.m. Open House  
6 p.m. Centennial Banquet, *Fred Jantz, speaker*  
Cost: \$10 (call for tickets)

**March 10**  
11 a.m. Centennial Worship Service, *Fred Jantz, speaker*  
4 p.m. Open House  
6 p.m. Anniversary Concert

The Bowker Brothers, internationally known duo-piano team

**Mementos available:** Centennial calendar featuring old photos, anniversary plate, special notecards, history book, 30-minute video, and more.

For information contact Dr. Donald Richter, Trinity Baptist Church, 2700 SE 67th Ave., Portland, OR 97206, (503) 775-1533.

■ LUDWIG J. CASSELMANN (81), Eunice, LA; died Dec. 22, 1990, married Esther Bieber; member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, member of Board of Trustees, Mowata Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Esther; four daughters: Hannah Zaunbrecher and Arlene Tucker, Eunice; Gloria Rockett, Mowata; Cynthia Sanders, Pineville; 10 grandchildren; the Rev. James Haw, pastor, funeral service.

■ SHARON MESSINA DAVIS (38), Emery, SD; born Aug. 16, 1952, to Mathew and Catherine Messina in Detroit, MI; died Jan. 9, 1991; married the Rev. Charles P. Davis, Jr., Dec. 28, 1974; God's Volunteers 1971-72, co-ordinator, Sioux Falls Area N.A.B. Women's Retreat; member, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD; pastorates served with her husband: Bethel Baptist, St. Clair Shores, MI; Bloomfield Hills (MI) Baptist; Southside Baptist, Monclova, OH; survived by her husband, Charles; three sons: Benjamin (13), Brian (13), Adam (8); parents, Mathew and Catherine Messina; two brothers: Vincent and Stephen; Drs. Charles Hiatt and Gordon Harris, funeral service.

■ LENA EMMERT (96), Okeene, OK; born Dec. 30, 1893, to Fred and Mary Greb of Marion, KS; died Feb. 21, 1990; married Frank Emmert, June 1, 1918; active member, Zion Baptist Church; predeceased by her husband, Frank, two sons, three sisters, four brothers; survived by one daughter, Ruth Schafer, Okeene; three grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; the Rev. Monte Michaelson, pastor, funeral service.

■ HANNAH GEIS (89), Okeene, OK; born May 26, 1901, to John and Katherine Laubach; died Oct. 3, 1990; married William Geis, May 6, 1920; active life member serving in various positions, Zion Baptist Church; predeceased by her husband, William, one daughter, three brothers, one sister; survived by two sons: Weldon and Willis, Okeene; one daughter, Maxine Davidson, Waynoka, OK; four sisters: Bertha, Lydia Rothes, Elsie Hammer, Olivia Laubach; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; the Rev. Monte Michaelson, pastor, funeral service.

■ PHILIP JOHN (P.J.) GOEHRING (98), Lodi, CA; born July 9, 1892, to John and Elizabeth (Bertsch) Goehring in Ashley, ND; died Dec. 23, 1990; married Christina Knoll in 1917, who died in 1975; married Christina Fogler in 1979; faithful

member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; predeceased by daughter Emma, son Reuben, six brothers, one sister; survived by his wife, Christina; daughter, Elsie Abeldt; six sons: Levi, Elmer, Harold, Victor, Clifford, Ben; 19 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; the Reverends David Mitchell and Merle Brenner, pastors, funeral service.

■ ALWIL HAGEN (71), Okeene, OK; born April 22, 1919, to William and Alma Kramp Hagen; died Jan. 6, 1991; faithful member, Zion Baptist Church; survived by two uncles: Harry and Raymond; the Rev. Monte Michaelson, pastor, funeral service.

■ REV. REINHOLD KANWISHER (81), Calgary, AB; born Sept. 12, 1909, in Russia; died Dec. 22, 1990; immigrated to Canada 1927; married Sinaide Litke in 1931; graduated from Rochester Seminary in 1945; pastored churches in Springside and West Ebenezer, SK, 1945-50; Regina, SK, 1950-52; Morris, MB, 1952-55; Medicine Hat, AB, 1955-59; Superintendent of Baptist Haven of Rest, Medicine Hat, AB, 1959-68; served interim pastorates; survived by his wife, Sinaide; son, Wally (Freda); daughter, Joyce (Ephraim) Kelly; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; the Reverends Gerhard Poschwatta and Marlo Fritzsche, pastors, Temple Baptist Church, funeral service; eulogy by the Rev. Ron Kernohan.

■ F.D. LOEWER (92), Branch, LA; died July 21, 1990; married Emilia Heimann; member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, treasurer, member of Board of Trustees, Mowata Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Emilia; three daughters: Elfrieda Thomas, Bossier, LA; Ingrid Kelley, Zachary, LA; Dr. Ericka LaBrentz, Terre Haute, IN; four grandchildren; the Rev. James Haw, pastor, funeral service.

■ LOUISE MEHLHAFF (82), Parkston, SD; born near Tyndall, SD, to Fred and Magdalena Rueb; died Nov. 11, 1990; married Helmuth Mehlhaff, Feb. 3, 1929; member, charter member of WMF, Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD; survived by her husband, Helmuth; daughter, Irene Mehlhaff, Sioux Falls; Dr. Richard Mayforth, pastor, funeral service.

■ PAULINE OHLHAUSER (89), Calgary, AB; born May 16, 1901, in Long Lake, SD; died Dec. 3, 1990; married Julius Ohlhauser who predeceased her in 1968; charter member, Grace Baptist

Church, Calgary, AB; predeceased by her parents, Fredrich and Fredricka (Neher) Harsch; five brothers; three sisters; survived by three daughters: Aleada (Carl) Becker, Edna Hayes, Agnes Dodds; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; Dr. Walter Kerber, pastor, funeral service.

■ JOHN SCHMIERER (92), Trochu, AB; born Nov. 23, 1898, in Rumania; immigrated to U.S.A. in 1899 and to Canada in 1905; died Dec. 19, 1990; married Magdalene Weigum, Oct. 31, 1921; active member, Trochu Baptist Church since 1915; predeceased by his parents, son LeRoy, three brothers, one sister; survived by his wife of 69 years, Maggie; three daughters: Irene (Milton) Falkenberg, Richmond, KY; Bernice Stickelmier, Calgary; Ardath (Herman) Effa, Villa Park, IL; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one brother, three sisters; the Rev. Dean Eisner, pastor, and sons-in-law, the Reverends Milton Falkenberg and Herman Effa, funeral service.

■ GERHARD KARL SCHWAN (74), Kelowna, BC; born Feb. 14, 1915, in Gruben, Germany; died Dec. 16, 1990; married Ruth Dorothea Kliem, Nov. 18, 1939; member, music ministries, violinist in Seniors Orchestra, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; helped construct Zion Baptist Church, Terrace, BC; first violinist, Kitimat Symphony Orchestra; survived by two sons: Wolfgang (Sheila), Surrey; Werner, Victoria; two daughters: Regina (Don), Kelowna; Doneen Schwan, Victoria; 10 grandchildren; the Rev. George Breitzkreuz, pastor, funeral service.

■ KATHERINE WENGEL (98), Upland, NY; born in Rochester, NY; died Nov. 18, 1990; married the Rev. Paul Wengel, May 28, 1918, in Milwaukee, WI, who predeceased her; the Wengels served First German Baptist Church, Williamsburg, NY, now Ridgewood Baptist Church during two separate terms beginning in 1920-29 and 1950-58; served Bethel Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, for 14 years; First Baptist Church, Adrian, MI, for seven years; Rev. Wengel translated a number of hymns in our N.A.B. hymnal into English from German; survived by three daughters: Esther Wengel, Upland; Naomi Koval, Sarasota, FL; Paula MacDonald, Groton, MA; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; the Rev. Frank Sanders, pastor, funeral service.

## In Memoriam



## BAPTIST WORLD AID



### Baptist World Aid Meets Needs

During the last days of 1990, Baptist World Aid sent

- US\$10,000 to the Ghana Baptist Convention for relief work of churches among refugees from Liberia. There have been many deaths, incredible suffering, displaced persons, disease, and hunger, but the situation in Liberia is slowly improving. Further assistance is being given early in 1991.
- BWAid is helping the light to shine in Bulgaria. After hearing of the shortage of power due to

the drought there and the shortage of candles, as well as the shortage of food during this long and hard winter, BWAid is working with Baptist Response Europe to send candles with the food parcels.

- BWAid has sent US\$10,000 from its Hunger Fund to Eastern Europe for food parcels. Churches and individuals around the world can support this program by sending funds. Baptist Response Europe makes up and transports the packages. BRE, set up a year ago, coordinates relief work and meets new opportunities in Eastern Europe. More than \$2 million has been given to Eastern Europe in 1990 through BRE and other Baptist groups.

Send your contributions to North American Baptist Conference, 1 South 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994 designated for Baptist World Aid.

### College/Seminary seeks Director of Advancement

North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary are accepting applications for the position of Director of Advancement. Applicants for this position must be committed to an evangelical expression of the Christian faith, be a self-starter, have administrative abilities, be conversant with fund-raising, and be an effective communicator.

In accordance with Canadian immigration laws, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. March 1, 1991, is the closing date for submitting applications. Apply in writing to Dr. Paul Siewert, president, N.A.B.C./E.B.S., 11525 - 23 Ave., Edmonton, AB, T6J 4T3.

### Attention Western Canada! Triennial Conference Tour

Join with Calgary Grace Baptist Church and Tourific Coach Lines as they motor by private motorcoach to the Triennial Conference.

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Larry or Kathy Corneil, c/o Tourific Coach Lines, 1430 Child Ave. NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 5E2; Phone: (403) 237-9120 or AB 1-(800)-342-6529. □

## NEWS

### Bulgarian student studies at N.A.B. Seminary

Zornitsa Igoff, the first Bulgarian Baptist student to attend North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, has begun her masters degree program in counseling and carries within her the dream to build a counseling ministry in Bulgaria.

"Counseling is not known in Bulgaria," states Miss Igoff. "I hope to develop a counseling practice in a public place to help Christians and non-Christians with their spiritual problems."

Miss Igoff appreciates the "open and warm-hearted" welcome that she has received from the Seminary students and staff.

She expresses her appreciation to the European Baptist Federation and N.A.B. Conference churches and individuals who have made it possible for her to attend N.A.B. Seminary.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### New Appointments

■ Daniel Digatono joined the North American Baptist Seminary faculty January 1 in the position of Instructor of Family Therapy. Digatono was in private practice as a marriage and family therapist and a minister of counseling at a local Baptist church in Delray Beach, FL. He received his Master of Divinity degree from North American Baptist Seminary, his Master of Science degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Thomas University, and is a candidate for his Doctor of Philosophy in Family Therapy from Nova University. Digatono is a licensed marriage and family therapist (FL) and a clinical member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. Dan also brings experience as an adjunct faculty member of the St. Thomas University family therapy department.

■ Miss LeeDel Howard became Registrar at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, effective January 10. LeeDel, formerly of Green Lake, WI, brings 23 years of experience working in church-related organizations as an administrative assistant. She replaces Mrs. Isabelle Long who has retired.

■ Dr. Roy Seibel joined the administrative staff of North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, effective February 15, in the position of Associate Director of Capital Funds. Dr. Seibel is assisting the North American Baptist Seminary Development Department in fund-raising during the Conference-wide capital funds drive. He and his wife Gladys are traveling extensively during the campaign, visiting individuals and churches.

### Ministerial Changes

■ Eric Spletzer to pastor, First Baptist Church, Golden Prairie, SK, effective January 1991. —Leota Fritzsche

■ The Rev. Eric Bjorn from pastor, Creston Baptist, Creston, BC, effective March 31, 1991.

■ The Rev. Terry Midkiff to pastor, Immanuel Baptist, Beulah, ND, effective Jan. 27, 1991.

■ The Rev. Paul Humphrey to pastor, Gillette Baptist (WY), effective Jan. 3, 1991.

■ The Rev. Terry Stoltenow to pastor, First Baptist, Hebron, ND, effective Jan. 15, 1991.

■ Robert Weiss to pastor, Immanuel Baptist, Kyle, TX, effective Jan. 13, 1991.

■ The Rev. Randall Rheume from co-pastor, Fellowship Bible Church, Troy, MI, to church planting pastor, Stony Creek Church, Utica, MI, effective January 1991.

■ The Rev. Ervin Gerlitz, retired pastor, to serve as interim pastor at Sierra Heights Baptist Church, Renton, WA, effective Jan. 13, 1991. Pastor Gerlitz helped start the Renton Church approximately 30 years ago. —Earl Shadle

■ The Rev. Bruno Voss from pastor, Calvary Baptist, Regina, SK, to associate pastor, Rowandale Baptist, Winnipeg, MB, effective April 1991.

■ The Rev. Merle Hoots from First Baptist, Buffalo Center, IA, to pastor, Herreid (SD) Baptist Church, effective April 7, 1991.

■ The Rev. Winston Smith installed as pastor, Central Baptist Church, George,

IA, Sept. 2, 1990. The Reverends Jacob Ehman, Rueben Grueneich, and Michael DeLong assisted in the installation service. Pastor Smith served for the past six years as pastor at Immanuel Baptist, Kyle, TX. —Helen Sudenga

■ The Rev. N. Jawahar Gnaniah to church planting pastor for new Asian Indian Project, Anaheim, CA, effective Jan. 1, 1991. The group is meeting at Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

■ The Rev. R. I. Thompson to interim pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Woodside, NY, effective January 1991.

### Retirements

■ The Rev. Allan Strohschein retired as pastor of First Baptist Church, Colfax, WA, effective Feb. 1, 1991; ordained at Calvary Baptist, Wetaskiwin, AB, June 17, 1959; served pastorates at New Leipzig Baptist (ND); Bismarck Baptist (ND); Faith Baptist, Minneapolis, MN; Sierra Heights Baptist, Renton, WA; Bethany Baptist, Portland, OR; and First Baptist, Colfax, WA. He is available for interim pastorates.

### Ordinations

■ James Haw ordained into the Christian ministry at Mowata Baptist Church, Eunice, LA, Oct. 14, 1990.

### Transitions

■ Mrs. Sharon Davis, wife of the Rev. Charles Davis, pastor, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, died Jan. 9, 1991.

■ Mrs. Katherine Wengel, wife of the late Rev. Paul Wengel, of Upland, NY, died Nov. 18, 1990.

## FULL-TIME PASTOR REQUIRED

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Please apply in writing to: Pulpit Committee, Carbon Baptist Church, Carbon, AB, T0M 0L0.

## First Baptist Church Dickinson County, Hope, KS

invites former members and friends to celebrate its 125th Anniversary.

April 28, 1991

Contact Rev. Chester Strobel, Rte. 2, Box 55, Hope, KS 67451 (913) 949-2806.



# I Know the Man

by Cathy Arreguin

I was born in 1959. And being born in 1959, I remember very little of the Vietnam War. By the time I was old enough to have friends in the draft, the war was over. I personally didn't know anyone who had been in the war. I didn't know their brothers or sisters. I didn't know their children. Any effect the Vietnam War has had on me has been in retrospect.

The only notable and vivid recollection I have is sitting in front of our black and white television, very quietly, with my brothers and my parents, and watching the nightly news. In my mind's eye, I still vaguely see the maps of Southeast Asia. I hear the tone of voice the reporters use. And I hear the reporters say things like, "Today in Vietnam, six troops were killed . . ."

I would turn to my Dad and say, "Daddy, what is a troop?" I didn't know what a troop was.

And he would put his arm around me and looking down at me, he would say, simply and quietly, "A troop is a man."

A troop is a man. That's the most important thing I remember from growing up with the Vietnam War.

But now, there's another war, and this time, I am deeply affected. Maybe it's because I'm grown-up this time. Maybe it's because the media coverage is more intense. Everything is uncut. Everything is "live." Maybe it's because peace seems unattainable.

But I think the main reason I cry is because this time, I know the "man." His name is Mark, and he's a pilot. His name is Bruce, and he flies an F-15E. And when the CNN reporters in Baghdad excitedly report that they just saw an F-15 fly by, I wonder if he is in the cockpit. I cry, and I pray that he will not be shot down. His name is Don, and he is on ground support. Their names are Robert and Eddie, and they are in the reserve—waiting to go.

I know his wife—Sara—Elizabeth—

Dawn—and Karen. I know his children: Andrew—Katie—Drew—Sienna—Kevin—and Patrick. I know his sister. I know his brother. I know his address, his phone number, the warmth of his smile, and the twinkle in his eye. I've heard him laugh, and I've seen him cry. He loves his country. He loves his family. And, in many cases, he dearly loves God. And in the midst of his fear, he is willing to die for what he believes and for whom he loves.

Sometimes, when I think about this, I am very soberly and seriously scared. My chest hurts, and I can't sleep at night. My stomach hurts, and my children see me cry. I wonder if there will be a war when my boys are older. And I wonder if some day there will be someone asking for prayer for our servicemen (or women): Christopher—Michael—Jeff—Eric—Jacob—Timothy—and Ryan, and on and on and on. Inside my heart, I yell, "Not my kid! Not my son!"

But I must remember that I know another man, an only son, who was sent by his father into battle, not against an evil dictator, but against evil itself. Not just for Kuwait but for you and for me. Not just to free our bodies—but our very souls.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

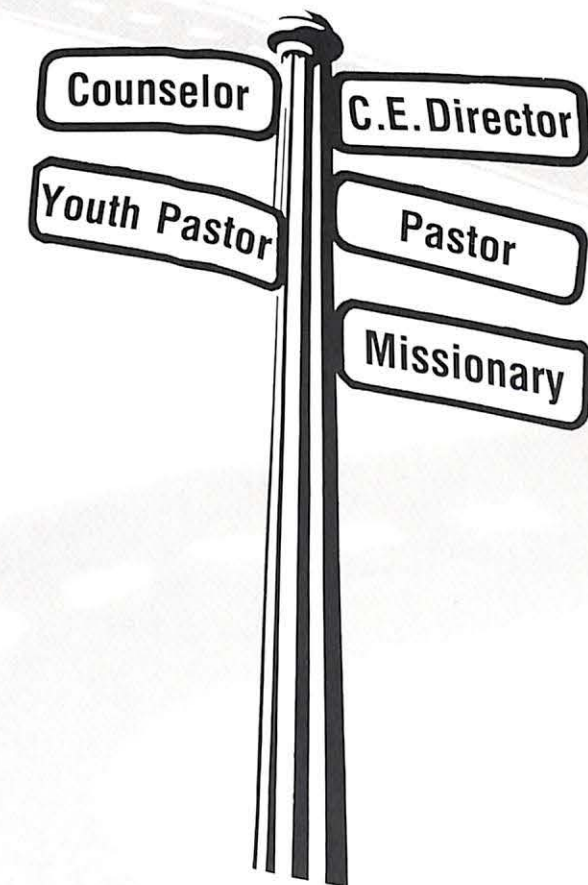
And in a world of man-made gods, He is God, made man. And in a world of self-proclaimed kings, He is the King of Kings. And in a desert of Arabian princes, He is the Prince of Peace. And in a world that is falling apart, He holds all things together. □



Cathy Arreguin is a member of Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA. Reprinted by permission from "Oak Hills Acorn," Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA.

**" . . . And I hear the reporters say things like, 'Today in Vietnam, six troops were killed. . . ' And I would turn to my Dad and say, 'Daddy, what is a troop'? And he would put his arm around me and looking down at me, he would say, simply and quietly, 'A troop is a man.'"**

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triennial conference

## Music Plays an Important Role in Friendfest



"It's an exciting challenge and an overwhelming responsibility planning for the music ministry at the Triennial Conference," says Sandra Lindgren, chair of the Triennial Conference Music Committee. Mrs. Lindgren is a music teacher/administrator in the Kenosha, Wisconsin, school system and is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Kenosha.

Individuals and groups have sent her audition tapes, and the Music Committee is selecting from these people to minister during the pre-Conference sacred concert, Monday evening, July 29, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for the concert to be held in Bruce Hall at MECCA.

The Music Committee also invites those interested in singing in the Conference mass choir that will sing Tuesday evening, July 30, and Sunday morning, August 4, to indicate this on your registration form. "We'll practice Tuesday afternoon for the Tuesday evening service," says Mrs. Lindgren, "and during the week for the Sunday morning worship service."

Music will also be an important part of the program during the day and evening sessions of the Conference. The Program Committee has designated 15 minutes before each evening service as a praise time. This comes as a direct result of people in past Triennial Conferences requesting more time for congregational singing.

On Saturday afternoon, following the special luncheon, a first—*Kinderfest*—will feature the children's choir composed of those in the Children's Program of the Triennial Conference—those entering grades one to six—and P.O.W.E.R. Company, a puppet ministry of Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL.

"The Music Committee prays that each Conference participant will be richly blessed by the music offerings at the Triennial Conference," says Mrs. Lindgren.

Plan now to attend the Triennial Conference. Obtain registration forms from your church office or the N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.