

OCTOBER 1991

BAPTIST HERALD



FRIENDFEST

**FAITHFUL
TO CHRIST'S
VISION**



On Change and the Triennial Conference

God has worked overtime on me and our church these past couple of years in the areas of worship and evangelism. Both of these areas were very strongly and creatively presented at the Triennial, and that was very encouraging.

Bill Hybels and the worship team, *Edify*, were thrilling and challenging aspects of the Triennial. I encourage you to continue in that direction.

This is a changing world, and if we are going to reach the non-churched population which has largely written off the church as archaic and irrelevant, we are going to have to be risky and live on the edge. A Conference whose heart beats and breaks for lost people is a Conference in which God will be very strong.

I have learned how important leadership is, as well as how risky it is to lead. I heard some very encouraging and courageous things in Milwaukee, and it made me proud to be part of N.A.B. There are a number of us who want to reach lost people, and we'll do whatever it takes to be faithful to God in this area. —*Kent Carlson, Oak Hills Church, Folsom, CA*

I felt it was a very stimulating Triennial Conference with quite a diversity of presentations. I have received mixed responses from our people who attended. They felt the focus was almost exclusively on evangelism and doing the "new" thing—church planting. How about those who have been working "faithfully" within the structures of the church?

Some of the presentations were a bit unsettling; i.e. the contemporary music and drama. Bill Hybel's message and presentation was a real joy to me, but to some of our people a real reaction was present. "The church exists for us, and the pastor and ministry projects need to be there to nurture us." Here the whole focus is on the outsider, using the media of the world to present the Gospel. That was hard

for some to swallow. "If someone comes to the church and is truly converted, he will follow the pattern of church life that we traditionally have established. They should then know how to act."

Stowell's message created some hackles; he was almost intimating that the church is the Pharisee. Jesus came for the sinners and the outsiders.

Chaney's elephant story seemed to say to me, "The church is the lumbering elephant. The only way anyone will get his attention is by a painful kick in the rear."

Rather than coming back excited about the work of ministry, I felt among many a very subdued atmosphere. They didn't even want to talk about the Conference or give a report in church.

I realize that we are forced to make some drastic changes in our church life if we shall appeal to the world or make the Gospel relevant. However, I have some real reservation whether it is possible to switch around an established congregation. I have not seen too many "models" of established churches who have adopted radical methods of outreach and ministry. Most of the examples we are being shown are of churches that have started from scratch in which the new philosophies of ministry were adopted right from the beginning.

Might I suggest that we need some help in being able to absorb change. I think changes can be brought about, but they must always be kept in line with the basic structure and development of the church's past. Furthermore, we need some solid models in this area. Don't show us only the models of new ministries who did not have to contend with the baggage of tradition.

Also, as a Conference, I feel we need to develop a "theology of evangelism," which includes a recognition of the reality of the spiritual forces that are dominant in our culture which do oppose the work of God. However, we also need to gain an understanding of the "spiritual resources" that are

available to us. So often it seems that our outreach is a matter of right programs or plans or agendas. Behind every successful evangelistic breakthrough in history has been a powerful movement of prayer on the part of God's people. Our churches are far too comfortable to get on our knees to pray. For me, this has been the toughest discipline so far. But I have seen every time I have "humbled myself (kneeled) and prayed to God"—it was He who brought in the people. —*Fred Kahler, Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON*

As a church planter in California, I have studied very diligently the type of people God wants us to reach for Jesus Christ and have found that they must be reached in ways that are very different from the vast majority of Conference churches. I've enjoyed being different and unique in much of what we do, and a number of things in Milwaukee were on our "wave length."

I have found it difficult to promote Conference and Association activities simply because we're asking our previously unchurched "baby boomers" to expose themselves to "religious culture shock." Yet it was refreshing to have a worship experience with *Edify* leading.

I'm sure that there are plenty of people uncomfortable with the style, and that's why I want to encourage the Conference staff and Dallas Triennial Committee to continue on in that direction. If we have the same worship style in Dallas, then I can promote it more to the people of our Church without reservation. "Bite the bullet" and keep our Conference moving forward and please don't go back.

—*Dave Bolton, Mountain View Community Church, Fontana, CA*

On the Triennial Conference

I appreciated Dr. Binder's comments at the Triennial, particularly in his opening "State of the Conference" address. I know that the urban ethnic ministers were

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Photos: Paul Thomas, Racine, WI, pp. 16-17 • Lester Cook, Stockton, CA pp. 5-15, 18-19

Barbara J. Binder, editor
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Joyce Wagner, design
Cover photos: Lester Cook

BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0 005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301. Second class postage paid at Villa Park, IL 60181 and at additional mailing office, and registered as Second Class Mail under permit #9327 at Norwich, Ontario.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES in the United States—one year \$8.00; two years—\$15.00; Canada—one year \$10.50; Church Family Plan (United States)—\$6.00, (Canada)—\$8.00; Single Copy (US \$)—\$1.00; foreign subscription (US \$)—\$16.00 one year.

ADVERTISING RATE: \$8.00 per inch single column (2 1/4 inches), black and white. OBITUARIES: \$8.00 US; \$9.00 CDN; to accompany obituary; (100 word limit).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Six to eight weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Send address change to Baptist Herald subscriptions, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

Member of Evangelical Press Association.

Remain Faithful to Christ's Vision

A condensation of the address of the executive director, John Binder

A lot has happened in the last three years. Some churches have grown; some have declined. Thirteen churches closed; 26 new ones started. A few churches experienced internal conflict, but most have good harmony and a clear sense of direction. A few pastors experienced painful, involuntary termination. All have struggled to be "faithful to Christ's vision" and God's calling in their lives.

Since the Triennial Conference in Calgary in 1988, where we committed ourselves cooperatively to the goals of **Vision 2000**, we implemented the first three of the six Biblical Imperatives: to worship, grow, and witness.

Looking at Our Strengths

"How faithful have we been to Christ's vision and how healthy are we, as a Conference of churches?"

- The Conference is a caring community of people.
- We have a clear, unequivocal commitment to the authority of the Bible as God's Word—without error.
- The number of large, pace-setting churches of 1,000 to 2,000 members has increased in our Conference. Some small and medium-size churches are creatively reaching new people in their respective communities.
- Twenty-six new churches have been started in three years with 26 church planting pastors.
- Since we made a commitment in 1952 to plant new churches, 206 have been started. This is more than half of our churches and 41 percent of our church membership.
- Our two seminaries are providing

specialized training in church planting.

- Intercultural churches are springing up and becoming part of our fellowship: Spanish, Romanian, Polish, African-American, East Indian, Chinese, and others.
- There is a vitality in our churches. Lives are being changed.
- Overseas, one sees significant growth in the number of missionaries from 70 in 1988 to 82 in 1991, in the number of churches, in membership, and in reaching new people groups.
- New and creative ministries are being initiated overseas through volunteers. Also, we are reestablishing our witness in Eastern Europe.
- At both of our theological seminaries, there is a renewed commitment to meet Conference future needs for ministerial leadership. Our seminary graduates are doing outstanding work overseas. There is a breakthrough in cooperation between the two seminaries as they launch their capital funds campaign this fall.
- Our Conference statistics show an outstanding record of per capita giving to our cooperative ministries of \$107 per member. Thank you!

Looking at Our Weaknesses

Looking at our weaknesses, we have not grown totally more than about one-half to one percent per year, even though we emphasized church growth principles since about 1982. I know it is possible for declining churches to turn around.

At the N.A.B. Conference International Office, we have made a commitment through **Vision 2000** to assist in enhancing local church ministries. We made a good start with **Vision 2000**, but because of the financial shortfall, some

resource helps were cut back. They need to be reinstated.

- Many more called and prepared church planters are needed.
- More funds are also urgently needed especially for planting churches. New partnerships with associations need to be forged.
- More youth ministers are needed—those who are committed to long-term ministry with youth.
- As a medium-size Conference of churches, we have some limitations. We cannot do everything larger denominations can do, but we can maintain high quality as our priority. We have had to down-size ambitious dreams and goals because of financial shortfalls. We have no other alternative but to balance the expenses with the income.

Realities Require Our Attention

Various trends affect the ministries of the church.

- *Consumerism and materialism.* To keep the system and machinery going, we produce more things than any other society in the world—mostly things that nobody needs. There is a lack of a sense of sin or guilt . . . a deadness today, especially among the youth culture.
- Because of a *pluralistic society*, no congregation can afford to be unaware of the kind of community in which it functions. One sees strong contrasts between one community and another in our two nations.
- *Less loyalty to a particular denomination* and more fuzziness between denominations. People will increasingly shop around for denominations, religions, and churches. The biggest challenge will come from the New Age Movement.
- *Meaningful relationships.* The church has a great opportunity to

meet that need.

• *Financial crises.* The newspapers and television report these everyday: Recession, cutbacks, financial upheaval, downsizing. Christian organizations and their leaders are also dramatically affected. If you read the "N.A.B. News" report of the shortfall in 1990 giving, you are also aware of some of the cuts N.A.B. has made. We are living in tough times—times of turmoil. On the other hand, pruning can help the body remain healthy, growing, and productive.

• *Globalization.* The world is rapidly urbanizing, and every city is a mosaic of different cultures. The number of very poor will continue to increase, and most will be people of color.

Freedom of speech is alive and well all across America except in colleges and universities, as some campuses require everyone to be 'politically correct' in their speech and conduct.

Our Vision for the 1990s

We need to look beyond the immediate to the long-range future. I look forward to your candid input for shaping our vision as a Conference for the 1990s. We, together, need to chart a course of action. There are three possible actions: Coast—NO! Try some new things—YES! Make a bold open commitment to Christ—YES!

We are living in a time when evil has become overwhelming and seems to be winning. Many problems defy solution. There are people who have lost all hope. These people see no future—the disciples felt this way on the road to Emmaus. But they found, and we find, real hope because *Christ is alive* and at work in our world.

• My vision is that we will continue to affirm as a high priority *corporate worship renewal* and *personal spiritual growth by exercising the classic spiri-*

We, together, need to chart a course of action. There are three possible actions: Coast—NO! Try some new things—YES! Make a bold open commitment to Christ—YES!



tual disciplines. We need to be strong in the Lord if we expect to have an impact for the Gospel today. That requires reliance on divine resources to do God's work.

• My hope is that **Vision 2000** will become our *new identity*—purpose for existence—as a Conference . . . a new way of looking at ourselves. We want to be known by our commitment to six Biblical Imperatives: worship, grow, witness, serve, give, and care. We began as a European ethnic group, but today we are multi-cultural.

• Goals of our staff at the Conference service center in Oakbrook Terrace are to *enhance ministries in the local church, accelerate planting of new churches, train more top quality leadership, and cooperate with others to evangelize every people group in the world by the year 2000* . . . minimal essentials to be kept in appropriate balance for effectiveness as individual Christians, as churches, and as a fellowship of churches.

• Some areas need special, priority attention now. We have a unique opportunity as Baptists today because of *new freedom*. Baptists emerged as a freedom movement but did not do very well during the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe. But in the 19th century, Baptists found themselves in a climate where they could flourish. Now in North America, the largest evangelical movement is Baptist. Our Baptist perspective if we can represent it with dignity and integrity today

will have a tremendous reception in the countries where new freedom is struggling for expression.

The lessons of history are clear; Baptists are at their best when they share "the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21) with those who are hungry for freedom as the key to their highest fulfillment.

- I am hopeful that we will develop a *mediation team* of specialists to assist churches that are experiencing extreme internal conflict.
- Christians need the *characteristic of joy*. The Psalmist prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation . . . then sinners shall be converted" (Psalm 51:12-13).
- A genuine *passion for unbelievers*—our witnessing needs a strong ingredient of love and compassion for individuals we hope to win to Christ. We need a passionate love for God and a passion to fulfill Christ's vision of everyone coming to eternal life.

• If we are going to have a significant impact for the cause of Christ, we need to have an appropriate balance between *planting churches* in North America and sending missionaries overseas to plant churches there. Four to six churches are needed at home in order to send one missionary overseas. To send out one more new missionary, we must establish at least four new churches at home.

- We need to be *open and adapt to*

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Sproul Speaks to Life's Issues

Master Scripture and be mastered by it says Sproul

"Something was introduced into the world and into the Bible that was ghastly," Dr. R.C. Sproul observed as he introduced the Wednesday morning Bible study from Genesis 3. He dealt with the matter of Satan's subtlety. Why did the Scripture say Satan was subtle? Sproul was morning Bible study speaker at the Triennial Conference.

Sproul led the listeners to consider Satan's questions to Eve. These questions attacked the credibility of God's words. Because God placed one restriction upon her, Satan questioned Eve's free will as a created being.

Sproul compared Satan's logic with that of the French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre. Sartre did not believe God could exist if mankind truly possessed a free will. In like

manner, Satan tried to make Eve feel incomplete as a free will being.

Sproul continued with the comparison of Eve's temptation to Christ's temptation. Though the circumstances were different, Satan's intention was the same—to discredit God's Word. His attack upon Scripture continues today. This makes our watchfulness of critical importance.

Sproul concluded with the challenge, "It's not enough to have a doctrine of Scripture. We must master the Scripture and be mastered by the Scripture."

Sproul talks about personal anguish and obedience

Engaging the listeners' empathy with the story of his anguish over the almost loss and suffering of his own dog, R.C. Sproul, focused on Abraham's soul-wrenching anguish on receiving God's instruction to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah and his absolute obedience to God's Word.



"It's not enough to have a doctrine of Scripture.

We must master the Scripture and be mastered by it."

Abraham's temptation with the statements of James concerning temptation. He exposed the tortured humanity of Abraham as he obeyed God. Each listener identified with Abraham's turmoil as He obeyed God's command to sacrifice Isaac in light of his status as a unique promised son.

The final walk to Calvary as God proved Himself to be mankind's provider gave each listener the opportunity to respond to God's love.

Sproul speaks on the sovereignty of God

"All because of one lousy coat!" R.C. Sproul adamantly climaxed his message about the sovereignty of God. Using the term, concurrence, in the Friday morning Bible study, he described God's attainment of His will through individuals who make choices—good or evil.

Drawing from the life of Joseph in Genesis 50, Sproul showed how the events in Joseph's life, evil or good, fulfilled part of God's redemptive plan for Israel and the Church. Joseph's dream about his brothers' subservience, his reception of the many colored coat, his sale into slavery, his accusation as a rapist, his prison term, and his rise to the prime minister's position in Egypt—all contributed to God's goal—the redemption of humanity.

Sproul further expounded this point from the death of Christ. Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ; Pilate turned Him over; and a mob

crucified Him. We call that day *Good Friday*.

Sproul challenged us to believe in the sovereign God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He urged us not to accept the impotent God of the 20th century. Sproul asked, "Do you think anything happens to you which is outside of God's sovereign purpose?"

Christ's death not chance says Sproul

"Why would anybody give a child this dreadful name?" questioned Dr. R.C. Sproul as he introduced the Saturday morning Bible study. He referred to Eli's grandson, Ichabod, whom his dying mother named at birth when she heard that Israel lost the battle and the Ark of God.

Ichabod means "the glory is gone" which depicted the status of Israel as they suffered 30,000 casualties of whom two were Eli's sons. Eli died when he heard the news of the casualties and the capture of the Ark by the Philistines.

Israel was left without their high priest, Eli, or the symbol of God's abiding presence, the Ark. I Samuel 4-6 depicts the sovereign action of God in the Ark's loss and its return by the Philistines.

Sproul then traced the Ark through the cities of the Philistines as they played musical chairs with it. He showed how God made the pagan god, Dagon, give subservience to the Ark, and how God plagued the Philistines as they moved the Ark from town to town. The situation became so bad that the Philistines decided to rid themselves of the Ark.

Sproul pointed to the atheism of the Philistines as they devised a scheme to unload the Ark. They took two cows who had never

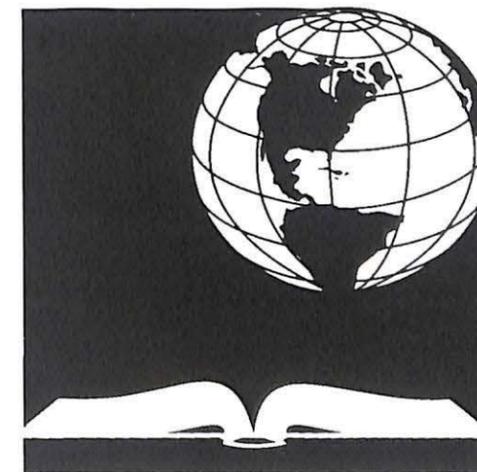
pulled a cart to pull a cart along a predetermined route. They shut the cows' calves in the barn. If the cows left their calves and pulled the cart along the determined route, they would view the plagues as from the hand of the Israelites' God. If the cows went back to their calves, they would view the plagues as chance. Indeed, the cows did just that and took the Ark back to Israel.

Attributing the cows' action to God's sovereignty, Sproul made this comment, "If there is one molecule running around in this universe outside of God's power, then He is not sovereign, then He is not

God. Sovereignty rules out chance. There is no such thing as chance. Chance is a word we use to describe mathematical probability," said Sproul. "Chance is nothing. Out of nothing, nothing comes." Sproul stated that 20th century America does not leave room for the possibility that God has sovereignly judged this nation.

Sproul took us to the cross and explained how Christ's death was not chance. He showed how Christ would not be deterred from giving Himself on the cross to satisfy the anger of God to pay for our sins. —Myles Beck, reporter; L. Cook photo

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Hybels Urges Group to Seek Non-Christians

Using the story of Matthew's conversion in Luke 5 and his concern for the salvation of his tax-collecting buddies, Bill Hybels, pastor of the 15,000-member Willow-Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL, urged the audience to establish relationships with non-Christians in order to win them to Christ.

More than 3,000 heard Hybels in the opening session, Tuesday evening, July 31, in Bruce Hall, MECCA.

"Matthew knew best how to throw a party," said Hybels, "and that's how he introduced his tax-collecting buddies to Jesus Christ."

The Pharisees muttered, "This is unconventional evangelism!" But Jesus replied, "You still don't get it. I came to rub shoulders with the lost."

Masterfully, Hybels and his team used drama, music, and his message to demonstrate the content of seekers' services and the seven step strategy they use.

About 16 or 17 years ago, Hybels and some friends had a transforming experience. At the

same time, he noticed that people were dropping out of church in droves—lost and headed for hell. Through a community survey, they learned that the nonchurched found church boring, that it did not speak to the questions they were asking, and that "church" was lifeless, emotionless, and predictable.

Out of a sincere love for Christ and an authentic concern for lost friends, Hybels and his friends developed a Spirit-led seven step strategy.

- Hybels urged pastors and the laity to challenge believers to build relationships with nonchurched people. "It is necessary to keep modeling and challenging believers to break up holy huddles and build intentional relationships with nonchurched people," said Hybels.

- Teach believers how to give a concise testimony for Christ. "This could revolutionize your church," stressed Hybels.

- Encourage believers to invite non-Christians to seekers' services designed to help them feel like they fit in. "At these services, we use contemporary music, poetry, readings, drama, dance—the arts—to speak to seekers," said Hybels.

- Call people to make a commitment to Christ. Then invite them to worship services for believers where they sing, participate in guided prayer and communion, and hear an exposition of Scripture. "This is the place where the community (church) gathers for worship and edification," said Hybels. WillowCreek holds these services on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

- Encourage believers to become involved in small groups in order to challenge each other and to keep each other accountable.

- Encourage and train each one to serve according to their spiritual gifts. "At WillowCreek, people are

trained in a four-week program to discover their gifts," Hybels noted.

- And finally, challenge believers to be good stewards of their money—to put all on the altar, make a budget, work toward giving a tithe, and then work toward giving more. "Then we challenge these believers to find another non-Christian and befriend him," said Hybels.

"Your heritage is rich, and you are known for being faithful," Hybels commended Conference attendees, "but there's never been a time in history when seekers have been more open to Jesus Christ. I cheer you on to fulfill your calling to find seekers to save." □



LESTER COOK PHOTO

"Get Out of the Boat!" Urges Chaney

Speaking Wednesday evening during the Church Growth Ministries Celebration, Charles Chaney stated that the right kind of questions need to be asked: How can we plant churches? How can we penetrate ethnic North America? How can we help plateaued churches grow again?

"We cannot be obedient to the commission of Christ unless we plant churches in every segment of North America," stressed Chaney.

"We can't be faithful if we do not recognize the mosaic of North America."

Dr. Charles Chaney is vice president, Home Missions Board, Southern Baptist Convention.

In answering the question, "What can we do to help reach the unsaved?", Chaney referred to Matthew 14. He stressed that Jesus took what was available and did the impossible.

Chaney challenged: "The time has come for the N.A.B. Conference to attempt what men say is impossible. You must aim higher, try harder, ask for God's help, and believe He will give it. When we attempt the impossible, we achieve the significant."

Chaney went on to say, "God wants to take what we have . . . our resources, our commitment—and bless it and use it." Answering the question, "Why attempt the impossible?" Chaney said, "Because that's the only way we really can accomplish anything that's really significant. It may not be possible for you to have 80,000 members by the year 2000, or 500 churches, but you ought to try it—for Christ's glory."

God wants our bread—our fish, and He will make so much of it that we will say, 'That's not our bread and fish, but that's God working.' We'll give Him the glory."

Chaney cited four rules for achieving the impossible:

- Don't give counsel to your detractors. "We can't set our direction by people who are always saying, 'It can't be done,'" said Chaney.

- Don't give counsel to your circumstances. "Circumstances are NEVER right for achieving the impossible," Chaney noted. "You'll wait forever."

- Don't attempt the impossible in your own strength. Chaney challenged: "Walk on water; grow to 80,000 members in 500 churches."

You have to make a covenant with God like Peter did when deciding to walk on the water; 'Lord, if that's you, come to me, and I'll go.'"

- "Get out of the boat," urged Chaney. "You'll never attempt the impossible until you try. You, as an individual and as the N.A.B. Conference, will never achieve the impossible until you try!" □



LESTER COOK PHOTO

Dunn Notes "Soul Liberty" as Distinctively Baptist Message

"We share many dimensions of faith with all believers, but one message is distinctly Baptist. One element holds us together and thrusts us apart. It is, at the same time, both our best contribution and most troublesome characteristic. Our common bond is almost surely our refusal to be bound and our denial of commonness. Roger Williams called it 'soul liberty . . . soul freedom,'" stated Dr. James Dunn on Friday afternoon. Dunn is Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, DC.

"Ours is an experiential faith overshadowed by a transaction of grace," Dunn reminded the audience. "As Baptists, we celebrate freedom. Baptists' belief in reli-

gious liberty is rooted in our very understanding of God—not in the Bill of Rights or philosophy or political expediency." Dunn pointed out that God is free and that every human being is free to come directly to God. "Each of us is individually the world's leading authority on at least one subject: 'What God has done for me.'"

Dunn also pointed out that all believers have a right to equal privileges in the church and that freedom and responsibility are inseparable, indissoluble. That responsible freedom calls forth a stewardship of creation as well as of material possessions.

Dunn recalled that his father taught him: "Every Baptist a tither. Every Baptist a Baptist."

For Baptists, religious liberty also means a free church in a free state. Dunn warned that the recent Supreme Court ruling by Mr. Scalia in *Oregon v. Smith* "guts 'free exercise' from the First Amendment calling traditional protection for religious minorities a 'luxury' that we can no longer afford."

He also noted that the latest voucher scheme put forth by the U.S. Department of Education would be one more way of funneling public funds into private and parochial schools, 90 percent of which belong to one denomination.

"Baptists have always rejected such aid and the government regulations that come with it," he championed. Dunn concluded by stating, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." □

Lotz Says "BWA Inspires Us to be Evangelistic People"

"The Baptist World Alliance encourages all Baptists to be evangelistic people," stated Dr. Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, in his Friday address. He reported that delegates attending the Baptist World Congress in Korea



LESTER COOK PHOTO

provides mercy to the lost."

In answering the question, "Why does God care?" Stowell said, "Because God suffered a significant loss. It began back in Genesis. People are hopelessly and helplessly lost unless there is divine intervention."

Stowell pointed out that there are two pressing matters that we must resolve: repenting of prejudice and committing to be a seeker.

"In order to be there with Christ, we must repent of our prejudice. Prejudice blocks the flow of the

adopted "The Seoul Covenant" in 1990—a recommitment to the task of evangelism.

Quickly, Lotz took delegates around the world as he noted the spiritual hunger in Eastern Europe and the number of people responding to Christ. He told of the one million Baptists in Burma with a goal to grow to two million by the end of the decade. In Northeast India, the one million Baptists there plan to have 10,000 missionaries by the year 2000. In Africa, 16,000 people become Christians every day.

Lotz invited adults to arrange tours for youth to Harare, Zimbabwe, for the next Baptist World Youth Congress in 1993—"Risking All for Christ . . . Our Only Hope." □

Stowell Asks "Who Cares?"

In his Sunday morning message, Joseph Stowell III of Chicago, IL, addressed the issue of Biblical compassion that is needed to witness. Basing his remarks on Luke 15, he pointed out that there was a great division between the "good" and the "bad" people in the eyes of the Pharisees. They asked, "Why was the Lord hanging around with the 'bad' people?"

"Sometimes we don't act any differently than the Pharisees," said Stowell. "We don't believe God



LESTER COOK PHOTO

Holy Spirit in our lives," said Stowell. He suggested that our reactions to seeing teenagers with grotesque T-shirts sauntering in the mall or someone who moves next door of a different culture indicate some of our prejudices. "Every lost sinner on this earth is precious. We need to repent of prejudice and see Christ as He saw them all."

Secondly, Stowell said, "We need to commit to be seekers for Christ. "Seekers are leavers; they

leave their comfort zone and holy huddles."

"Seekers are finders." They don't just go out and search for 10 minutes and return. They are like the shepherd who left and stayed out until the job was done—the sheep was found, Stowell pointed out.

"Seekers are bearers." When a seeker finds the lost, he bears them back to church—back to the fold to disciple that person into the values of the Kingdom.

"Seekers are rejoicers. If people are receiving Christ in your church, there will be rejoicing," noted Stowell. "There is lack of celebration in our churches when there is no birth in the family."

"We are walking in the world with people who don't know they are lost—people who are in tremendous danger," challenged Stowell. "The issue is 'Who Cares?'" □

Missions Presentation Concludes with Prayer Concert

Conference attendees said, "Impressive" . . . "very moving" . . . "outstanding" . . . "highly motivational" . . . "best mission presentation ever" . . . after watching and participating in the Missions Celebration Friday evening. The P.O.W.E.R. Company mime team from Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, under the direction



of Christy Watkins, challenged the audience to "Take the Light into All the World."

It was learned that more than one half of the world has yet to hear the story of the Messiah—much less study it. More than 12,000 people groups in the world have never heard the gospel.

The musical presentation challenged the audience to witness God's majesty anew and sigh at His victory . . . to hear the Great Commission again . . . "Will you tell them that I came back from the dead . . . and that I am coming back again"? . . . and to respond to the challenge, "Go, carry the light."

Where the Gospel has not penetrated, the enemy has kept up barriers that have isolated these millions from exposure to the good news of salvation. Through mime and dressed in army fatigues, the P.O.W.E.R. Company artfully dramatized the fight or warfare between Satan's messengers of destruction—ignorance, superstition, false religion, famine, and disease—and Christianity.

The challenge to be missionary people: "We must carry the Light" reminded NABs that God has placed our Conference missionaries in six strategic international ministries in evangelism, discipleship training, church planting, theological education, relief, and medical care in Brazil, Japan, Brazil, Cameroon, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe.

The challenge to "Go into all the world," closed with a prayer concert. As people stood in groups of four or five, they praised God, confessed failure in witnessing, and interceded for the lost—especially unreached people groups. □



LESTER COOK PHOTOS

1,118 Delegates Elect Conference Officers and Board Members

During the Triennial Conference, 1,118 accredited delegates representing 275 churches elected officers of the N.A.B. Conference and board members.



Nominating committee chair, the Rev. Phyl Putz of Grand Forks, ND, presented the ballot to delegates.



Newly elected Conference officers are **Moderator**: Mr. Richard Russell, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI (center); **Vice Moderator**: Rev. Ronald Norman, Elk Grove, CA (l.); **Treasurer**: Mr. Jackie Loewer, Branch, LA (far left); and **Executive Director**: Dr. John Binder (r.).

Delegates elected one department director: the Rev. Herman Effa, missions director. A church growth ministries director was not elected due to the one-year trial merger of the Area Ministries and the Church Growth Ministries Departments. The Rev. Ron Mayforth, area ministries director, serves as acting director of the Church Growth Ministries Department.

Board Members Elected

(*newly elected for six-year term)



Church Growth Ministries Board: (front row, l. to r.): Ron Mayforth, acting director; Doris J. Roberts*, Ernie Rogalski; (back row, l. to r.): Irwin Kujat, James Correnti, chair, and Bernard Kamutski*. (Not pictured are Paul Neumann*, G. Joe Walker*, and John Binder.)



Missions Board: (l. to r.): Walter Kerber, Harold Lang, Rosemarie Asbach*, Herman Effa, Wayne Bibelheimer, Darryl Schuh*. (Not pictured are Elmer Breitkreuz*, Verna Peter*, and John Binder.)



Voting for Conference officers and board members is one responsibility of delegates to the Triennial Conference.

N.A.B. College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary Board (newly elected, 6 year term*): Gerald Scheel*; Eugene Huber*; Eric Roller*; Klaus Gerhardt*; Ervin Lewandowski*; Joyce Magill-Evans*; Ron Berg*, join present Board members: Ellen Breitkreuz, Larry Froese, Ervin Gerlitz, Jerry Hirsch, Fred Kahler, Marilyn Schaer, Tim Schroeder, Rudy Spiess, Vic Stobee, John Binder, and Paul Siewert. (No photo available.)



N.A.B. Seminary Board of Trustees: (back row, l. to r.): Warren Weeldreyer*, Randy Mitrovich*, Phyl Putz, Bruce Merrifield*, Fred Jantz*; (front row, l. to r.): Earl Backhaus, Marvin Faust*, Janell Christiansen*; Harvey Wilkie*, Peter Fehr (chair), Barbara Fiegas, Robert Klein (not pictured); John Binder, Rodney Fluth*, Jerry Edinger, Wendell Hoffman, Bill Konnert, Curtis Radke, Randall Kinnison, and Charles Hiatt).

Delegates Approve Constitutional Changes

Conference delegates approved constitutional changes that call for merger of the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee of the Conference. The new committee, called Executive Committee, consists of four Conference officers and the two most recent past moderators plus five additional mem-



Conference Moderator Harvey Mehlhaff, Minneapolis, MN, graciously and capably led the business sessions.

bers appointed by the General Council.

Delegates approved cutting the third representative of associations of more than 3,000 members as a cost-cutting measure. Each association would continue to elect two representatives—one pastor and one lay person—to the General Council. Travel expenses of each are to be paid by the 20 associations on an equitable, shared basis.

Delegates approved the rewritten purpose of the Conference to read: "The purpose of the North American Baptist Conference, so that God is glorified and His Kingdom advanced, is to evangelize and disciple people globally by planting new churches and to assist all churches to be healthy and growing by effectively implementing six Biblical Imperatives: to worship, grow, witness, serve, give, and care."

Delegates also gave the President and Chair of the Board of C.E.I.F. voting privileges on the General Council.

After considerable, strong discussion on both sides of the issue, delegates approved granting the NABC/EBS Board of Trustees the liberty to nominate to the General Council three non-N.A.B. members of Christian churches in the Edmonton area for appointment to serve on their Board. It was pointed out that this gives the College and Seminary the opportunity to take advantage of the talents, skills, and input of individuals in the community who are taking an active interest in the schools but who are not members of N.A.B. Conference churches.

Delegates also approved that the President of the Alumni Association

of North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary be a voting member on the NABC/EBS Board of Trustees.

Remain Faithful . . . (from page 5)

change and learn how to manage change better. As pastors and Conference leaders, we need to actively lead in witnessing personally; standing for truth, freedom, fairness, and justice for all; empathizing with people who are powerless, in pain and poverty, and ministering to the newly unemployed; and speaking out against racism, bigotry, hatred, and inhumanity anywhere it raises

Wherever the Conference constitution reads "at least one of whom must be a woman" was changed to "including men and women."

its ugly head. We need to find new ways of helping the laity to discover their God-given gifts for ministry and provide encouragement for their development. We need to recognize that ministers are very ordinary human beings who have been called to a task, which is simply too big for any human. They are not God. Ministers need to join forces with laity in order to fulfill the overwhelming task today.

Discussing Pros and Cons



Delegates Adopt Resolutions

Delegates adopted four resolutions dealing with integrity, AIDS, senior adults, and change.



Resolutions Committee chair, Sara Pasiciel, presented the resolutions, which were adopted during the Friday business session.

■ The resolution on integrity calls for "renewed integrity in our lives and relationships, based on our belief in and dependence on Jesus Christ"; it is a call to a "renewed involvement with and obedience to the Word of God." It calls us to recognize anew the seriousness of sin, and "to validate the teachings of the Bible by living according to Biblical principles, to be salt and light in the world, and to reinforce purity of doctrine with purity of life. By the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are to avoid any characteristics which would demonstrate that we are of the world . . . and avoid any activity which would indicate that we are concerned with our rights rather than upholding truth."

It is a commitment of ourselves to exercise the freedom which our surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ allows us.

It also affirms "our support of the six Biblical Imperatives as creative guidelines for spiritual and social action as members of the body of Christ . . ."

■ A second resolution urges churches to adopt a compassionate ministry response to persons with AIDS.

The resolution recognizes "the necessity to understand and respond to the tragic epidemic of AIDS" which affects society and

churches—socially, economically, and theologically.

The resolution calls us to "reaffirm our belief in the Biblical standard of celibacy outside of heterosexual marriage, faithful monogamy within marriage, and the honoring of the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit" and to "oppose those sexual mores and practices which contribute to the development and spread of this disease."

The resolution urges N.A.B. Conference churches to "commit themselves to understand HIV and AIDS and its implications for the church and its communities"; to "educate their members as to the true nature of the disease and its spread; and to prepare for the possibility that AIDS will affect congregations in some way by open discussion of the issue, or even by the preparation of a policy and procedure statement before the matter becomes personal and specific.

"We believe that Christ has called us to be ministers of compassion and of His saving gospel, and we covenant to respond to the afflicted and to their families with prayerful, loving, and knowledgeable support."

■ A third resolution addresses mobilizing the gifts of senior adults. There are increasing numbers of post-employment adults who have time, energy, creativity, and a variety of skills and spiritual gifts which are no longer being used in meaningful ways.

The resolution recognizes the tendency in our society to either unconsciously ignore senior adults or consciously alienate them. At the same time, needs in our society and in our churches go unmet because of a lack of funds or people to minister.

The resolution affirms the gifts

and abilities of the senior adults in our churches and thanks God for their patient work and loyalty.

It challenges senior adults to continue to use their resources of time, money, and skills for ministry and to contribute their expertise, maturity, and wisdom to serve the Lord in the local church and in their communities.

The resolution challenges churches and church leadership to be aware of the potential of senior citizens, "to be alert to ministry needs and to our responsibility to carry them out, and to provide creative and significant opportunities for senior adults to continue to contribute to the growth of God's Kingdom."

■ Another resolution concerning change calls churches to be "open to positive and loving change" and to see change as "an active pursuit of effectiveness" in ministry and evangelism.

The resolution recognizes that there is much change in society and lists some of the consequences of change. It points out that "to a large extent the Christian church has not remained attuned to the changing society and thus has become irrelevant because it has been resistant to necessary change."

Churches and individuals find it difficult to cope with change or to change. It is important to understand that society changes, but some things such as basic scriptural principles, our belief in God, and the way He expects us to live does not change. We need to recognize that perhaps our ways of ministering to and reaching and drawing people into the church needs to change.

The resolution recognizes that we become "attached to methods and programs which keep us inner-directed, and do not see or meet the

needs of people outside of our accustomed pattern of worship, fellowship, and ministry."

The resolution reminds us "that our mission as a church is to spread

the redemptive message of the Gospel."

Since how we handle change becomes our choice, the resolution calls us to maintain the model of

Delegates Adopt "The Seoul Covenant"

As a commitment to joining with others in the task of reaching every people group by the year 2000 A.D., delegates adopted "The Seoul Covenant."

The Seoul Covenant

a challenge to Baptist churches

We dedicate ourselves anew to the task of world evangelization with the aim that by A.D. 2000 every person will have the opportunity to respond to the message of God's love in Jesus Christ in an authentic and meaningful way.

We call upon Baptists, collectively and individually, to join in this covenant.

To this end:

- 1) We confess that the mission in which we engage belongs to God. It is our joy and responsibility, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to be witnesses throughout the world to Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.
- 2) Since Baptists are part of the whole family of God, such witness calls us to pray and work with other Christians in this vital task.
- 3) Because all people stand under the judgment of God, the Gospel of Salvation needs to be proclaimed and demonstrated to every generation until Jesus Christ returns. We do this humbly, for we are all sinners saved by grace, yet confidently, for it is the

power of God by which people are saved.

- 4) Believing that personal faith in Jesus Christ involves commitment to His body, the Church, we aim to build communities that will be effective signs of God's Kingdom in the world.
- 5) We confess that inherent within the Gospel is the need for God's people to work for a world where peace and justice are pursued, and whose environment is preserved.
- 6) As members of the Baptist family, we pledge ourselves to sacrificial giving for this purpose, and to provide resources to enable all to share the good news of salvation in their own cultures and languages.
- 7) Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. He is the center around which our lives revolve. He is the Sovereign Presence in the Kingdom in which we live and work. His truth is eternal, His love unchanging, His grace sufficient. To Him we commit our lives totally, joyfully, unreservedly.

To God be the glory.

Adopted by Baptists gathered in Seoul, Korea, 1990 and by delegates at the North American Baptist Triennial Conference, 1991.

God's relationship to change. God remains unchanging; His standards are absolute; and He and His Word provide constancy. At the same time, God is sovereign and works in and through change to accomplish His purposes.

The resolution recognizes that if the church does not change its methods and programs it will disappear in many communities. The resolution calls for a commitment "to become more sensitive to the ever changing needs and to learn more about the people around us . . ." to understand to which needs the local church is best equipped to meet and to be aware of "new ways of meeting those needs, motivated by Christ's love, in order to reach out to those who do not know Christ." The resolution calls for individual congregations and the Conference "to be open to positive and loving change . . . We see change as an opportunity for courage and risk-taking as an expression of faith, and pledge ourselves anew to a greater degree of sacrificial effort and faithfulness to Christ's vision and to His agenda for the building of His Church."

Serving on the Resolutions Committee were Sara Pasiciel, chair; Terry Fossen, Rubin Herrmann, Warren Weeldreyer, Harvey Mehlhaff, moderator, ex officio; and John Binder, executive director, ex officio.

■ Delegates also adopted *Vision 2000* Long-range Goals to the year 2000. (Most of these were printed on p. 35 of the July/August *Baptist Herald*) and "The Seoul Covenant." The full text of the Resolutions and Long-range Goals to the year 2000 is available from the Office of the Executive Director, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994; phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301.

Youth



Youth—Recharged to 'Make a Difference'

More than 100 youth sponsors and 716 youth heard and learned how to be recharged and how to get their lives straight with the Lord—to go back to their communities, homes, and churches to "Make a Difference."

Group singing, comedy, a concert by N.A.B. Seminary graduates Doug and Beth Snyder, and a monologue by David Dean provided an entertaining and full Tuesday evening.

Youth enjoyed singing the Conference theme song, "Making a Difference."

During the Triennial Conference week, youth celebrated the opportunity to "Make a Difference," as they heard Dewey Bertolini speak from the Word of God, made new friends, experienced spiritual growth, and learned how to make a difference for Christ through their lives.

Bertolini Talks about Hell

At a combined Saturday evening service for youth and adults, Dewey Bertolini talked about hell.

"The facts," said Bertolini, "are that there is a place called the Lake of Fire that God prepared for the devil and his angels. Countless millions of people are spending eternity there."

"There are two kinds of people—those who live in the will of the Father and those who display a stubborn, unrepentant heart," hammered Bertolini. "They say, 'I know God doesn't like my lifestyle, but I will do it again and again.'"

"Hell is a place that is utterly terrifying. A conscious man can feel it, and it

appears that he is all alone and in agony," said Bertolini.

In answering the question, "How many people does God send to hell?" Bertolini stated, "None. Any person who ends up in hell is there by his own willful choice."

In describing hell, Bertolini said it is a place from which God has removed His presence in response to a person's prayers. "Things that scare me most are that given enough time, God will give us exactly what we want." He noted that hell is eternal because the rebellion of man is eternal, and people will not come to Christ in hell.

"Hell is a place where I deserve to be," said Bertolini. "But God said, 'I will become one of them and experience the eternal torment of hell in this place.'" As Jesus hung on the cross, crying out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", for a short amount of time, Jesus suffered the eternal suffering of hell—in your place and mine."

Bertolini urged, "We need to reach people for Christ before their 21st birthday. If we don't, their hearts become so hardened that they consign themselves to hell."

"Youth ministry receives the smallest allocation of church budgets, and the most untrained person is usually assigned to be youth director," said Bertolini. "With the problems of youth today—suicide, bitterness, alcoholism, and bulimia—we need highly qualified men and women to lead youth, and we need to give the highest budget to train youth."

"Why do we do what we do?" Bertolini asked. "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. Join hands with the apostle Paul . . . persuade men!"

God Can Heal Your Heart!

God can heal your heart," Dewey Bertolini told youth. Bertolini spoke of his own family life, particularly the rejection he felt from his abusive, sometimes drunken father. He shared his feelings about being the smallest, "gooniest" kid in his class.

Using examples that youth found believable, Bertolini told of disappointing his father on Baseball Diamond #1.

"Some people say that when you become a Christian, you don't hate anymore," said Bertolini. "Wrong!" He explained that after many years of prayer, he reconciled with and learned to love his father. After his father's open heart surgery—in excruciating pain—he spoke the words, "This is my son"—and was proud of him.

Bertolini encouraged everyone to be honest with themselves. God loves everyone equally. "If God can heal my heart (making me love my father). He can heal yours," encouraged Bertolini. —Jenny Gingrich and Karie Smith, reporters

How to Know the Difference Between Right and Wrong

In his Friday morning message to youth, Bertolini warned, "There are six ways Satan invades our lives: through rebellion in our hearts, Satanic entertainment, drugs and alcohol or any outward stimulant that gives a high, a sexual relationship outside of marriage, Satanic activity, and if you are not for Me, then you are against Me (Luke 11:23). But Satan cannot touch us unless we allow him to."

Bertolini gave some guidelines to

consider when asking the question:

- How can we know if an issue is right or wrong?
- Will this activity be beneficial or potentially dangerous?
- Will this activity place me in area of personal weakness?
- Will this activity cause anyone to question my commitment to Jesus Christ?
- Is this the type of activity Christ would enjoy? Remember Christ lives in us.
- Would you want your children to do this activity?
- Is this activity potentially addictive? Do not be mastered by anything.
- Will this activity cause a person to stumble? Consider our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

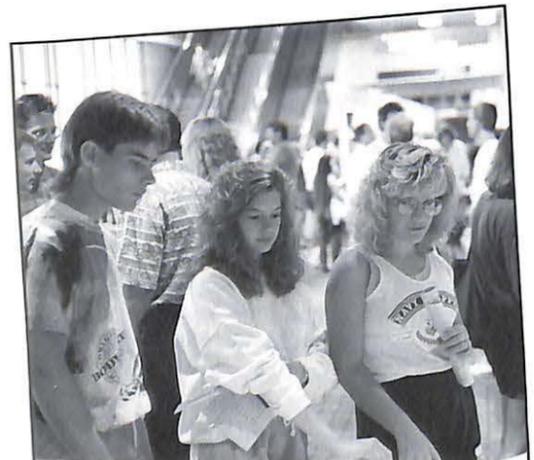
—Tom Schaer, reporter.

One Bad Choice Can Ruin Your Life

Youth speaker, Dewey Bertolini referred to Jude 11: "Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain." Stating that life is full of choices, Bertolini pointed out that making one bad decision can ruin one's own life or someone else's life—such as Cain's. Bertolini gave several examples of people in the Bible, as well as some people today, who made wrong decisions. —Jenny Gingrich and Karie Smith

Youth Involved in Service Project

In 14 buses, 714 senior high and college age youth and 30 sponsors rode to Franklin, WI, for the special witnessing project of their Conference youth program. In less than two hours on Friday afternoon, they distributed brochures and invitations to 8,000 to 9,000 homes surrounding Franklin Community Church, an N.A.B. Conference church planting project pastored by John Schindler in the Milwaukee area. Several families visited the Church as a result. □



More than 3,000 attended the 43rd Triennial Conference held in Milwaukee, WI, July 30 to August 4. "Friendfest—Faithful to Christ's Vision"—the theme—was woven throughout the program. Of the 2,990 who registered, 1,765 were adults, 58 singles, 716 youth, 125 young teens, 178 children, and 148 nursery age. Others from the area joined various sessions during the week.



■ Conference registrar, Kathy Miller, reports that 236 persons from Alberta registered for the Triennial Conference giving this province the highest number in attendance followed by North Dakota 170, Wisconsin 148, South Dakota 135, Ontario 73, and Manitoba 72.



■ Jerry Worsham of Racine, WI, led Conference attendees in worship through giving as they expressed their gratitude to God. Conference offerings totalled \$106,190 toward a \$350,000 goal for Conference missions and ministries. Of this, \$11,026 was given by those attending the women's luncheon and \$789 by the youth.

Special offerings taken in local churches on August 4 as well as contributions by individuals are expected to increase the total given. Total giving for N.A.B. Conference missions and ministries stands at \$3,636,833 as of September 24, which is one half of the total goal of \$6,600,000 needed by December 31.

Recognitions

■ Delegates gave Conference treasurer, Milton Hildebrandt of St. Paul, MN, and his wife a standing ovation in recognition of his service on boards and committees for 28



John Binder, executive director, presented to him a plaque reading: "His unique gifts, professional competence, creative initiatives, perceptive insights, sensitive concern for building the Kingdom of God, especially through planting churches, devotion to Christ, and loyalty to the North American Baptist Conference are gratefully recognized."

"I have learned so much, and benefited personally so much from my Conference involvement over these many years, that whatever I may have contributed is hardly equal to that which I have received," responded Hildebrandt. "So my thanks is not confined just to these present days or people, but to the past as well, and the many with whom I was privileged to work in days gone by, also."



■ The General Council presented the Rev. Jacob Ehman with a Citation of Appreciation: "For 40 years as a positive, dedicated, and caring pastor (1951-1986); a faithful expositor of God's Word; an enthusiastic partner in N.A.B. Conference ministries; a wise, persistent, and caring area minister (1986-1991); a true friend; a constant challenge to others to live for Christ with excellence."

Ehman responded: "All the years the Lord has given me to serve have given me a great deal of joy and excitement. I feel like Amos. The Lord took me from a farm and used me for a high and holy calling. Even though I grew up in a N.A.B. Conference church, I'm an N.A.B.

years. Recognized as a faithful steward, valued advisor, and team player, he concluded 21 years of service as Conference treasurer at the close of the Conference.



because of what the Conference has stood for in all these years—always identifying with people of the world needing to be saved while holding to Biblical truth."

■ The General Council recognized Ed Sardachuk of Calgary, AB, on the completion of 12 years of service on the Conference Finance Committee. Most recently, he served as its chair.

"His concern for the total cooperative ministry of our Conference and its financial health are deeply appreciated," commented Dr. John Binder, executive director. "He has not missed one meeting of the Conference Executive Committee and Finance Committee. He contributes phenomenally to discussion—even radical ideas. I appreciate his special concern about the total cooperative ministries of the Conference—its total financial health. The major health of our finances comes from the guidance of Ed Sardachuk and the backing of his home church, Brentview Baptist in Calgary."

"Our Conference is doing a wonderful work," responded Sardachuk. "Every one is trying their best to do the work in the most efficient way. We need to pray and give that our Conference budget goal will be reached. We must think of all as missions: development, local church, church planting, schools—not only overseas missions. A soul in each of these areas is just as valuable as the soul of a person overseas." Sardachuk rejoices that the schools are working together in a joint capital funds campaign.

■ Dr. Charles Hiatt, N.A.B. Seminary president, presented Church Recruitment Awards for outstanding recruitment during the 1980s to Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD; Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church, Alpena, MI; Brentview Baptist,

Calgary, AB; and Trinity Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD, during the Seminary breakfast.



■ During the Seminary Breakfast, the Rev. Harry Haas, president of the N.A.B. Seminary alumni association, presented distinguished alumni awards to Dr. Arthur Kannwischer (l.), Pittsburgh, PA, and Dr. Frank Veninga (r.), former president, Minneapolis, MN.



■ Missionaries Richard and Beth Rabenhorst of Brazil were recognized for 25 years of service as missionaries in Brazil at the Missions Breakfast.



■ Conference attendees thanked the Local Arrangements Committee members and volunteers—especially the LAC chair, Dr. David Dryer of Kenosha, WI, and Conference manager, Gary McCullough, International Office—for their work.

■ About 400 youth have been a part of God's Volunteers/New Day team ministries it was learned at

their meal event at the Conference. Celebrating 35 years of ministry, "One to Remember," former team members were saddened as they learned that New Day in its present form will no longer exist. The team ministry is being redesigned to meet interests and needs of present-day churches and time schedules of youth volunteers.



■ Children attending the Conference joined with P.O.W.E.R. Company in "Kinderfest" on Saturday afternoon. They presented a musical, "God Uses Kids," with Christy Watkins as director. The children learned Bible verses and enjoyed various field trips.



■ Three hundred fifteen ministers heard Hugh Litchfield, professor, North American Baptist Seminary, challenge them as he spoke from Isaiah 55, "Standing for the Invitation." He asked the ministers: "Does Preaching Matter?" He affirmed the role of preaching and of the preacher and encouraged the ministers to continue in the work God called them to do.

■ Pastor Ioan Gug, speaking through an interpreter, told 311 men at the Men's Luncheon of his experiences in Romania and his coming to America. Despite serious health problems, he began to wit-

ness to Romanian people in the Sacramento, CA, area. When his congregation reached 65—without any money—they began looking for a church to purchase. After meeting Dr. Ken Fischer, area minister, Gug and his church arranged to join the North American Baptist Conference. Today, they have 100 members and 50 youth. Gug underwent four surgeries during this time. God not only provided money miraculously for the purchase of a church for \$250,000 but also \$45,000 for his medical expenses. Gug stated that he experienced "God takes care of you, if you take care of God's work first."



■ Young teens were entertained by speaker David Dean and had fun during their field trips.



■ JoAnn Gorski received a bouquet of roses from a pastor in North Dakota for her ministry in the nursery/preschool section.



■ Music chair Sandra Lindgren and her committee did a fantastic job in arranging a variety of music.

Staffing the Ministry of Music

by Lyle E. Schaller

"As many of you already know, our choir director plans to go back to school this fall and has submitted a letter of resignation," announced the pastor at the April meeting of the board. "I recommend we appoint a special committee to search for a replacement." That recommendation was adopted, and two months later that special ad hoc committee was gathering for its third meeting. Out of the first two meetings, 17 suggestions surfaced.

1) Seek someone who would serve as both the organist and the choir director.

2) Give the choir members an unreserved veto over any candidate since the number-one goal is to keep the choir happy.

3) Search for someone who could organize and direct a big youth choir as well as direct the chancel choir.

4) Find someone who could help the pastor plan and implement a Saturday evening service that would be built around music and attract the 17-24 age group. One person suggested this service might be scheduled for 11 p.m.

5) Find someone who could work with the pastor on the proposal that had been around for years that this church add an 8:30 a.m. service to the Sunday morning schedule. One proposal was to make this a more liturgical service built around music and the Lord's Supper every Sunday in contrast to the 10:30 a.m. service, which on three Sundays out of four is focused



Our priorities
will always guide
our staff selections!

-FRIARJUCK

nurture a religious community of people who also can carry a tune. Instead of making rehearsal of next Sunday's anthem the top priority at the weekly choir rehearsal, place a greater emphasis on Bible study, prayer, mutual support, and the sharing of one's faith journey.

10) Combine the responsibility for directing the chancel choir with the responsibility for children's ministries and make this a half-time position as choir director/children's ministries.

11) Search for someone who first of all is a good teacher. The person proposing this insisted that the number of people in the whole music program could be doubled or tripled if the

new director was skilled in helping people cultivate the gifts God has given them.

12) Find someone with an excellent background in classical church music who can teach the members to appreciate good church music.

13) Seek a choir director who understands and likes contemporary music and can build a ministry of music that will attract today's young people. The future of this church depends on attracting younger people, and most of them do not like the music their parents prefer.

14) Find someone who can get along with our pastor. (Although this was never mentioned during the formal deliberations, everyone knew the real reason the present choir director is leaving is because

of conflict with the pastor.)

15) Raise some additional money and make this a full-time position for an ordained minister who will serve as a combination associate pastor/minister of music.

16) Try to find a volunteer, from within the membership, who would direct the choir and use the money that would be saved to help pay for the overdue renovation of the building.

17) Seek someone who would be a combination choir director/evangelist and could help enlist new members for this congregation.

Making a Decision

After two hours of discussion at that third meeting, the committee chose the third alternative, to seek someone who could both organize and direct a high school age youth choir and also direct the chancel choir. Why?

During the discussion it became apparent this was the preference of a) the most influential, widely respected, articulate, and persuasive person on that seven-member committee, b) a mother of two teenagers who was one of the three choir members on this committee and clearly the most influential of those three, c) a representative from the personnel committee who saw this to be one of the lower-cost alternatives, d) the pastor, who was increasingly frustrated in trying to maintain a youth program, and e) the father of a thirteen-year-old son and a fifteen-year-old daughter.

Alternatives

This is not an unusual way to make decisions in the church. The preferences of two or three or four respected, influential, articulate, thoughtful, persuasive, and persistent leaders often prevail. That need not be the only process, however.

One alternative would be to ask three prior questions before even creating a special search committee. The first would be "What do we believe this church should be and should be doing five years hence if it is to be faithful and obedient to

God's call?" The second would be "What is the place of music in that scenario?" Third, "How do we staff to turn that vision into reality?" This three-step process forces the committee to begin by reflecting on purpose, mission, and role rather than on filling a vacant position.

A different procedure would be to begin by asking several volunteers to go out and study a half dozen similar congregations in similar settings that are vital, vigorous, and numerically growing churches and also have a strong ministry of music. What are they doing? How are they doing it? What can we learn from their experiences?

A third beginning point could be to recognize the generational differences about music and to decide whether we want to place the top priority on a) making our older members happier, or b) reaching the "sight-sound-sensation" generation via music, or c) some combination of these two. A fourth, and perhaps the most difficult, alternative would be to a) define and agree on our priorities in ministry and outreach, b) determine how music can reinforce and strengthen our top priorities, and c) prepare a list of expectations of the new choir director or minister of music that would be consistent with reinforcing those priorities.

Overlapping is a fifth alternative. This would include the formulation of specific, attainable, and measurable goals. This could be incorporated into the first alternative of defining what will be required to be faithful and obedient to the call of the Lord. The formulation of these goals would force the committee to be specific about priorities and also provide a base for future accountability and evaluation.

One example of such a goal could be to double the size of what is now an 18-voice choir within two years. Another example would be to organize a second choir to sing at that proposed early service. A third could be to have a minimum of three music groups on at least 48

Sundays a year. A fourth could be to offer at least one organ concert, one religious drama, and one choir concert every year. A fifth could be to increase the number of music groups by at least one annually for the next four years.

A sixth, and perhaps the most threatening, approach may be the best beginning point for the congregation that has been experiencing a long-term decline in worship attendance. The easiest response is to blame that decline on external factors. "People are too busy today." "So many people now have to work all day Sunday." "A lot of our members are away at their cabin or on vacation or visiting relatives over the weekend." "We can't compete with the new churches that have far better facilities than we have." "Today's young people simply don't go to church the way their parents did." These excuses increase the feeling of powerlessness and avoid the issue.

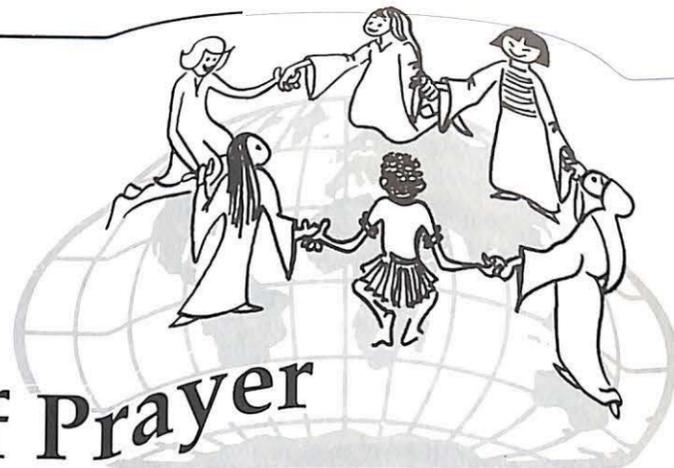
A better approach is to begin with the question, "What are we doing or not doing that has resulted in this decline in our attendance?"

For some churches the beginning point for that prescription is to decide to improve, strengthen, expand, and undergird the ministry of music.

Four generalizations that should be considered when staffing the ministry of music are 1) the larger the size of the congregation, the more important is the role of music, 2) an effective means of expanding any ministry can be to adopt specific, attainable, and measurable goals and that process can be incorporated into staffing any ministry, 3) expanding the ministry of music can be one of the most effective means of increasing the number of attractive entry points for future new members, and 4) the younger the people you are seeking to reach, the more important is instrumental music. □

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November 4, 1991



Baptist Women's Day of Prayer

"Together in Christ... We Pray"

Following are excerpts from a message given by Catherine Allen, president of the Women's Department of the BWA, to the women of the Baptist World Alliance.

What if you could hold the world in your hands for a few minutes each day? Actually, you can, if your hands are folded in prayer, stretched upward to God and outward to your Baptist sisters in a hundred lands. Yes, through the power of prayer, we can be workers together with God, holding the world in our hands

We have work to do, praying with women for women around the globe. Every day as you hear news from afar, when guns are fired, bombs are dropped, volcanoes erupt... when seas overflow and winds destroy, when crops parch, when dictators rage, when diseases kill and hearts break—stop and remember!

Remember: "I have a Christian sister there. I know Baptist women who are in danger now. And I hold them in my hands. I am obliged to pray!"

This year, the Women's Department is celebrating 40 years of formal organization. Beginning in

1911, Baptist women in many countries desired to have a permanent network of communication and cooperation. Two world wars interfered, but those wars also proved the need for a worldwide organization. The organization began to take shape in 1947 in war-torn Europe. In 1948, the European Baptist women began the custom of a Day of Prayer.

By 1951, Baptist women of North America joined hands with Europe and united their voices in the Day of Prayer. By 1957, there were continental Baptist women's unions in six regions of the world.

I want to invite every Baptist woman on earth to take part in the next Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, Nov. 4, 1991. Just as the Day of Prayer brought healing in Europe in 1948, today the Day of Prayer continues to be a leading unified ministry of women. The Day of Prayer program is translated into 200 languages. As women pray, we also give money. These funds provide the operating budget for the continental unions and for the worldwide organization. Why pray and give this year? Because our theme is "Together in Christ."

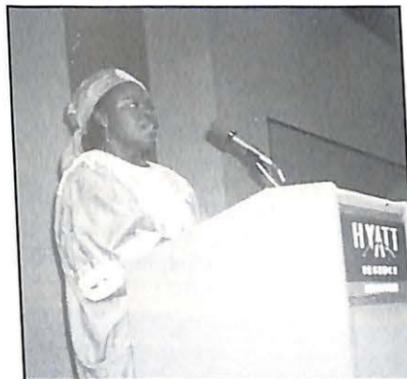
Together in Christ, we pray, we give, we love, we share for three main united emphases and projects. First, we sympathize. We sympathize with the plight of women. Of the total population, not quite one-half are women. Yet women receive

only 10 percent of the world's income, while doing 62 percent of the world's work. Women own one percent of the world's property. Seventy-five percent of chronically ill persons are women. Sixty-six percent of all illiterate persons are women. Eighty percent of refugees are women. Twenty-three percent of married women are beaten and battered by their husbands. Worst of all, more than one billion women have not yet had the opportunity to know the Good News that Jesus Christ came, died, and lives again for them!

We also organize. The worldwide organization is a composition of hundreds and thousands of local, regional, and national Baptist women's organizations. Experience has shown that women have their best opportunities to serve God and humankind when they are organized.

The awareness of women in soul darkness leads to our third and most challenging goal: evangelize. Evangelization of women is our special task. The risen Redeemer said first to the waiting women, "Go quickly and tell." There is no other name by which women may be saved then that of Christ Jesus.

Are you happy and joyful to know that you are part of this worldwide fellowship of women? Reach out now, through the bonds of prayer, and join hands with your Baptist sisters and encircle the globe with the glory of God. □



Mrs. Beatrice Nokuri brings greetings from the Women's Union of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.



WMF President Manetta Hohn.



WMF Association leaders share planning strategy at the Women's Leadership Breakfast.



Women Inspired by Women at Triennial Conference

At the Triennial Conference Women's Luncheon, 900 women joined together in a celebration of what God has done through the ministry of women throughout North American Baptist Conference churches! Through the inspiring music of Mrs. Pat Hoffman, a pastor's wife, and testimonies of how God is using women to reach people for Christ, we were challenged to carry the torch of our rich heritage into the 1990s and to continue to reach out

to our world of needs in the name of Jesus Christ.

Heather Lamb, a church planter's wife from California, told the story of a family who came to their church and were won to Christ as their needs were met through a parenting class.

Beth Rabenhorst, a missionary from Brazil, praised God for the physical and emotional healing she has experienced as a result of being caught in a riot in 1989. Throughout this ordeal, Romans 8:28 became a reality in her life as neighbors cared, watched, and aided in her recovery, leading to their interest in the person of Jesus Christ, the source of strength and comfort for Beth.

Betty Slaffey and her husband have been called to serve a church in the most poverty stricken area of south Philadelphia, where crime and drugs have taken over the community. Her ministry includes counseling, being the Sunday school superintendent, directing VBS, directing the women's ministry, visiting the sick, and leading an outreach ministry to the prison.

As we saw how God is mightily at work around our world, our faith and commitment were renewed. We saw that God can and will use each of us in our own family, church, neighborhood, and community. □

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ MADISON, SD. Pastor Lynn Heinle baptized two youth and welcomed them and 15 other youth and adults into the fellowship of West Center Street Baptist Church. —Betty Wilbur

■ BEULAH, ND. Seven youth were baptized by Rev. Terry Midkiff at Immanuel Baptist Church. —Ottillia Allmer

■ PLEVNA, MT. Five young ladies were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church by Pastor Martin Schmidt. —Betty Kusler

■ ALPENA, MI. Pastor Frederick Sweet baptized three people, led the congregation in communion, and then welcomed seven others into the fellowship of Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church. —Mary Coy

■ BENSALLEM, PA. Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church praises God for the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of many in the Church family and for the recent baptism of eight people who also joined the Church. This brings the total to 17 baptisms in the last 20 months. Twenty persons received Jesus Christ as their Savior during VBS. "We have witnessed powerful changes in people's lives," says Pastor Joseph Hart.

■ AUBURN, MI. Pastor Rick Weber welcomed 16 people into the fellowship of First Baptist Church and

baptized 10 of these new members. —Ilene Reinhardt

■ LANGLEY, BC. The Rev. James Calamunce reports one conversion and ten rededications at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ WESTON, ON. The Rev. Kenrick Sharpe reports four conversions, four rededications, and three members welcomed into the fellowship of All Nations Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ VACAVILLE, CA. The Rev. Dave Wesner baptized four people and welcomed them into the membership of Vaca Valley Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ WINNIPEG, MB. The Rev. Erwin Kelbert baptized one person at Abundant Life Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ FRANKLIN, WI. Pastor John Schindler reports one conversion at Franklin Community Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ MECHANICSBURG, PA. The Rev. Denis Friederich reports one conversion at Faith Community Baptist Church, a church planting project.

■ PENTICTON, BC. The Rev. Leonard Strelau reports one conversion at Calvary Baptist Church, a church planting project.

Kiemele becomes senior Army chaplain for Panama

■ PANAMA. During the

past 12 months, Chaplain LeRoy Kiemele had the joy of baptizing 21 candidates on five different occasions and was the project officer for the National Prayer Breakfast for Panama-Pacific in February. "A full-feature Christian film on the last Sunday evening of each month has been a real outreach ministry," says Kiemele.

In May Chaplain (LTC) LeRoy Kiemele became the

Garrison Chaplain for Panama, which includes both the Atlantic and Pacific sides of the Canal. The Canal is about 55 miles across on the Isthmian Highway. His responsibility includes all chaplains and chapels on both the Pacific and Atlantic in all of the military communities. He is now the second most senior Army Chaplain in all of Panama and the deputy Chaplain for U.S. Army South.

COMMITTED TO GIVE

Children give to mission project

■ LORRAINE, KS. Children of Lorraine Baptist Church surpassed the goal of \$150 as they gave for a special project—a light generator in Nigeria. The Rev. Lamont Loudenslager is pastor. —Margaret Wilkens

Burlington youth take part in missions project

■ BURLINGTON, IA. The junior high youth at Oak Street Baptist Church participated in a mission project under the direction of youth intern Roger Bolander.

The young people collected 639 books, 113 Bibles, 59 New Testaments, and \$655 to cover postage and mailing supplies. The books were distributed to seven missionary churches in Kenya, East Africa.

"Bibles and books are

scarce in these areas; it is not unusual for them to be dissected and distributed among an entire neighborhood so that everyone has a section," says Bolander, a senior at Moody Bible Institute and member of Oak Street Baptist. The Rev. Gregg Donaldson is pastor.

Fischer Memorial

■ EUREKA, SD. A display cabinet was erected in the foyer of First Baptist Church in memory of Rheinhold Fischer. The Rev. Perry Schnabel is pastor. —Irene Kusler

Langley church becomes self-supporting

■ LANGLEY, BC. Walnut Grove Baptist Church became self-supporting Sept. 1, 1991, after four and a half years of subsidy. The Rev. Jim Calamunce is pastor.

COMMANDED TO CARE

Missionary guild hosts secret sister party

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. The missionary guild of First Baptist Church has a "secret sister," a group of ladies 70 years and older. At a party, their identity was revealed to one another.

Each received a gift from their secret sister.

"Throughout the year, they are remembered on their birthdays and anniversaries," reports Verna Luiken. The Rev. Michael Lerud is pastor.

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Alberta women hold retreat

■ LAKE LOUISE, AB. The Alberta Baptist Women held their ladies retreat at Lake Louise, Alberta, with the theme, "Freedom to Love." Marion Lee spoke about what God has done in her life and taught her

about relationships. April Zimmerman told how she grew spiritually as a missionary in Cameroon. Workshops were offered on the abused woman and improving culinary skills. The women gave more than \$7,000 for the mission offering. —Arlene Ohlmann

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Children's choir presents musical

■ MINNEAPOLIS, MN. Faith Baptist Church's children's choir presented the musical, "Fat, Fat, Jehoshaphat" under the direction of Jack Hildebrandt and Camie Bohlen. The Rev. Harry Anderson is minister of education and youth. —Anne Kruegel

WMF honors missionaries

■ ALPENA, MI. Missionaries Dennis and Nancy Palmer, serving in Cameroon, and Dan and Linda Fluker, Quito, Ecuador, spoke at Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church. The WMF learned of the responsibilities and experiences missionaries have serving the Lord in other parts of the world. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor. —Mary Coy

Schnabels conduct special meetings in McIntosh

■ MCINTOSH, SD. The Rev. and Mrs. Perry Schnabel, Eureka Baptist Church, conducted special meetings with puppets at First Baptist Church.

Former pastor, the Rev. Paul Brannan, and his family from Sidney, MT, gave a concert. The Rev. David Ling is pastor. —Irene Schuh

Tacoma church observes Association Sunday

■ TACOMA, WA. On Pacific Northwest Association Sunday, the Rev. Don Burnett, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, spoke at West Sound Community Church, Silverdale, and Rev. Rainer Kunz, pastor of West Sound Community, spoke at Calvary Baptist.

Special music was provided by Murray and DeAnn Decker, Olympic View Baptist Church. Bobb Absten, public school and Sunday school teacher, concluded his series on "Helping Hurting Kids." —Earl Shadle

British Columbia Association holds annual meeting

■ PRINCE GEORGE, BC. Fort George Baptist Church hosted the 42nd annual British Columbia Association meeting with 94 delegates represented. Among the speakers were Dr. Ralph Powell, former professor at N.A.B. Seminary; Pastor Peter Evande from Cameroon but studying at N.A.B. Seminary; and Ardice Powell, former missionary to Cameroon.

Business sessions included an overview of the work, witness, and challenges facing the Asso-

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

ciation and the N.A.B. Conference. The Chinese Faith Baptist Church, meeting at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, with Aymon Chu as pastor, was welcomed into the N.A.B. Conference.

"The challenge of church planting in Langley has resulted in an unexpected blessing," reports Dr. Arthur Boymook. "A church body has been formed and premium land was bought and sold, bringing added income. A title of the profits in the amount of \$45,000 was given to N.A.B. Conference missions as an expression of gratitude for God's direction."

The music group, "Undivided," from NABC in Edmonton ministered in music. Everyone celebrated the 75th anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church, Prince George, BC.

Southwestern Association meets

Leverettes honored by Saskatchewan Association

■ MARION, KS. The Rev. Steve Vetter and the Strassburg Baptist Church hosted the Southwestern Association meetings on the campus of Tabor College, Hillsboro, July 12-14. Among the speakers were Dr. Ron and Mrs. Sharon Mayforth, Dr. Roy Seibel, former pastor of Strassburg Baptist, and missionary appointees to the Philippines in 1992, Jon and Elizabeth Duba, First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS.

The Association is anticipating a new church planting project in Highlands Ranch, south of Denver, CO. The projected beginning date of this ministry is Dec. 1, 1991, with the Rev. Chris Creech as pastor.

The 1992 Association meeting will be hosted by the Nebraska churches July 10-12, 1992.

—Ruth F. Kirstein

■ SPRINGSIDE, SK. The Saskatchewan Baptist Association honored the Rev. Jake and Peggy Leverette as their area minister. The Springside Baptist Church was packed as they greeted

Zimbeldans speak at home church

■ COLUMBUS, NE. Missionaries Clyde and Barbara Zimbelman, house-

2000

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parents at Woyke House in Nigeria, spoke at Shell Creek Baptist Church, where he was their former pastor. The Zimbelmans shared their experiences and gave testimony of their commitment to share God's

love to the missionary children at Woyke House. Clyde also baptized his daughter, Miriam, who was welcomed into the membership of the Church.

—Ruth Ann Behlen

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Eureka men sing

■ EUREKA, SD. The men's chorus of First Baptist Church presented, "A Night of Music," under the direction of Pastor Perry Schnabel. —Irene Kusler

Alpena church sponsors singles conference

■ ALPENA, MI. Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church invited singles speaker, Nancy Honeytree, to conduct a community singles conference at Alpena High School. Honeytree also spoke and sang at the singles Sunday school class and worship service at Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church. The Rev. Frederick Sweet is pastor. —Mary Coy

Bethany church dedicates new organ

■ VANCOUVER, BC. Bethany Baptist Church dedicated its new Rogers Oxford 945 organ to the glory of God. Dr. Joyce Jones, head of the organ department of Baylor University, Waco, TX, gave the

dedication concert. The three manual organ has MIDI technology and produces the precise realism of a pipe organ.

"Our hope is to encourage a new generation of worship leaders to bring glory to God and to edify the body of Christ," reports Kim Campbell. Dr. Lyle Schrag is pastor.

Minitonas church holds drive-in services

■ MINITONAS, MB. For two Sunday evenings in August, First Baptist Church held drive-in church services on their parking lot. Although this was a new experience for the Church, it was well accepted by the large number of members and guests who attended, among whom was Jake Leverette, area minister.

"The warm weather made it possible for people to sit on chairs set out on the blacktop or remain in their cars," says Monica Muller. Pastor Ron Kelway is the pastor, and Brian Kirsch is student pastor.

ANNIVERSARIES

■ The Rev. and Mrs. Hugo Zepik, Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 20,

1991, with family and friends.

■ Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, celebrated their 25th anni-

versary May 22-26, 1991. The theme was "God's Amazing Grace." Among the guest speakers were former pastors, Dr. Walter and Mrs. Kerber, founders of Pineland; the Rev. Jake and Mrs. Leverette; and the Rev. Harvey Wilkie, present pastor. Speaking at the banquet

was the Rev. Don Jost, People's Church, Toronto.

"It was a blessing to see former members and how God has blessed Pineland over these 25 years. We look forward to what God will do in and through us, by His grace, in the future," reports Dorothy Trost.

IN MEMORIAM

■ GLADYS LEGG ERICKSON BUBACH (78), Bismarck, ND, born Jan. 13, 1913, to James and Florence Legg in Ruso, ND; died June 19, 1991; married Roy Erickson, June 26, 1936, who predeceased her in 1956; married John Bubach in 1963; active member, Sunday school teacher, VBS, WMF, Bible studies, Bismarck Baptist Church; survived by her husband, John; one son, Daryl (Virginia) Erickson, Amherst, NH; two daughters: Sharon Erickson (Harlan) Johnson, Flagstaff, AZ; Edith Erickson Alvarez, Nisswa, MN; eight grandchildren; the Rev. Ed Bartel, pastor, funeral service.

■ WILFRED WALTER HAIT (58), Kelowna, BC, born Oct. 12, 1932, to Henry and Mary Hait; died June 14, 1991; married Irene Kraemer, Nov. 14, 1953; active member, youth choir director, Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna; charter member, music director, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna; predeceased by his mother and twin brothers in 1936 and his father in 1952; survived by his wife, Irene; three sons: Brian, Doug (Nona), and Tim; one granddaughter; step-mother, Mrs. Alice Pansegrau; three brothers: Ervin (Elsie), John (Frieda), and Fred (Lavina).

■ MARTHA JOSE (78), Bismarck, ND; born Dec. 4, 1912, to John and Friedericka (Boeschans) Ost, in Beulah, ND; died June 16, 1991; married Carl Jose in

1932; active member, WMF, Sunday school, Bismarck Baptist Church; survived by her husband, Carl; one daughter, Betty Ann Swang, Billings, MT; four sons: Harold (Merle), Atlanta, GA; Calvin, Bismarck; Ralph (Darlene), Fargo, ND; Richard (Bernadine), Bismarck; one sister, Natalia Pfenning; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; the Reverends Ed Bartel and Wes Gerber, pastors, funeral service.

■ MAVIS QUENZER (28), Eureka, SD; born Sept. 15, 1962, in Eureka, SD; died July 12, 1991; predeceased by her father, Adam Quenzer; survived by her mother, Freida (Subold) Quenzer; one brother, Lyle; two sisters: Christal and Joyce; six nieces and nephews; the Reverends Harold E. Salem and Perry Schnabel, pastors, funeral service.

■ FRED ROESLER (85), Plevna, Mt; born June 11, 1905, to Fred and Katherine (Hottman) Roesler; died May 2, 1991; married Martha Kessler, June 27, 1929; member, First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT; predeceased by parents, one son Virgil, four brothers, one granddaughter; survived by his wife, Martha; one son, Freddie, Spokane, WA; one daughter, Evangeline (Archie) Wright, Casper, WY; one brother; two sisters; four grandchildren; six great grandchildren; the Rev. Martin Schmidt, pastor, funeral service.

(continued on page 27)

In Memoriam

(continued from page 26)

■ HELEN RUTH BRENNER SUDENGA (76), George, IA; born Feb. 2, 1915, at Germantown Township, ND, to Otto and Minnie (Brown) Brenner; died July 18, 1991; married Raymond Sudenga, Oct. 31, 1941, who predeceased her in death; dedicated member, pianist, WMF, held various offices, Central Baptist Church; survived by two daughters: Norma Jean (Keith) Koth, Aurora, CO; Ruth Ann (Richard) Schrick, Minneapolis, MN; two brothers: Gordon and Carl Brenner; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; the Rev. Winston Smith, pastor, funeral service.

■ GERTRUD TREICHEL (74), Brookfield, WI; born July 24, 1916, in Lodz, Poland, to August and Elsa Lach; died May 3, 1991; immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1951; married Paul Treichel, Jan. 19, 1952; charter member, secretary, Sunday school teacher, choir director, WMF member, Ridgewood Baptist Church; N.A.B. WMU German Program Packet editor, 1967-1970; predeceased by her son, Mark; survived by her husband, Paul; two daughters: Vera (Reinhard) Schoorman; Kathy Treichel; two granddaughters; one sister; the Rev. Erwin Babbel and Dr. Ronn Read, pastors, funeral service.

■ INEZ EUGENA WAHL (72), Edmonton, AB; born Oct. 11, 1918, in Medicine Hat, AB, to Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Wahl; died May 1, 1991; first office secretary, Christian Training Institute (North American Baptist College), Edmonton; board member, Salem Manor Society; member, office secretary, organist, choir, Sunday school teacher, First Baptist, Central Baptist, and McKernan Baptist, Edmonton; predeceased by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Wahl; sisters: Fay and May; brother, Ivan; survived by one brother, Wallace (Marilyn); two nephews; the Reverend Drs. R. J. Kerstan, Gary V. Nelson, and Paul H. Siewert, pastors, funeral service.

ESTATE PLANNING



"I am so confused by the things I read about wills and estate planning. Isn't there some way that I can understand it better"?

WE'LL HELP ... MAKE SENSE OF WILLS AND TRUSTS

It is confusing, especially when all the information that a person has comes in bits and pieces... an article here, a conversation there, possibly a seminar. We understand the need to provide a simple process to help you understand this subject better.

That's why our staff has prepared a **Will and Trust Planning Guide**, which reviews the estate planning tools available and provides a step-by-step program to help you get started.

Why not take the time to write for your free copy today. There is no cost or obligation.

YES, please send me the **Will and Trust Planning Guide**.
I understand there is no cost or obligation.

Please indicate if

- Your estate is more than \$600,000 or
- You own your own business

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____

Telephone () _____

Birthdate _____ Spouse's birthdate _____

- I have remembered the North American Baptist Conference in my estate plan.

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

LETTERS (continued from page 2)

very encouraged by his vision for the Conference. It was very special for me to have him note, among all the exciting new ethnic works around the continent, that the old mother church (Fleischmann Memorial) had a place in the process. Our original vision here was simply to turn around and grow again.

In the providence of God, some of the same spiritual resources that the Spirit used in our case are not only making their marks in other places in the Conference, but have also become a catalyst for some new church plants. —*Jim Correnti, Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA*

I really appreciated Dr. Binder's message on Wednesday morning. It was strong and very clear and challenging. His emphasis on restoring "our passion for reaching the lost" was especially challenging. I have a great respect for him and our Conference leaders.

—*Larry Burd, Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA*

What a joy it was for us to attend the Triennial . . . I appreciated the evening programs Friday and Saturday . . . I find it hard to express the joy I felt being present and then to experience such powerfully positive evenings. I just thoroughly enjoyed every minute and was deeply moved in my own spiritual life.

The Saturday evening program with the youth was very special. That was a really neat evening for my family and me. My children were encouraged spiritually by the evening. It touched them and has provided an opportunity for some really special family conversations. —*David Korb, Dover, NH*

Thank you for choosing Milwaukee for your Conference. As of July 30, we had never heard of the North American Baptist Churches. My wife and I read that Dr. Bill Hybels was speaking and decided

to hear him. Thank you for having it open to the public. We were very impressed with the people attending the Conference. They are so friendly and open.

My wife attended two seminars and spent some time looking and talking with the table promoters. They were very helpful and provided much information . . . the seminars . . . very good topics.

On Sunday we had the opportunity of hearing Dr. Stowell. Again, a very good choice and encouraging message. We had our 16-year-old son with us who couldn't believe the number of young people.

The beginning result is we will visit Ridgewood and Franklin churches and hopefully learn more about your denomination.

—*A visiting couple from Greenfield, WI, who saw the advertisement in the Milwaukee Journal.*

We thoroughly enjoyed this Triennial Conference and again appreciate all the work that all of you are doing at Oakbrook Terrace, and that as a Conference we are staying true to the Word of God. I so appreciated Dr. Binder's confirmation that the Bible is the Word of God in its entirety. I appreciated being on the General Council and hope the contributions of all of us will further God's work on this earth. Will continue to remember you all in our prayers. —*Gordon Zoschke, Junction City, KS*

Compared to the Conference in Calgary, the quantity was less, but the quality was the same, if not better. Thank you for a wonderful, meaningful, and edifying Conference. The efforts of all have paid off in a beautiful way. —*Reinhold Kerstan, Edmonton, AB*

I feel the Milwaukee Conference was one of the best I ever attended. Positive, motivating, uplifting forces were prominent in each meeting. —*Dr. L. Dale Potratz, Shawnee Mission, KS*

The Letters section provides opportunity to express your views on Conference, Association, or church issues. We'd like your input on changes which you feel are important and how change can best be implemented in the local church, Association, or Conference, as well as in our publications.

Also, if your established church has gone through change, we'd like to know how this was accomplished and the results. This would be helpful to other churches. What are positive ways to bring about meaningful change? What are ways that should be avoided?

Only signed letters will be published. Please limit to 250 words. Editor has the right to edit length if longer.

For following issues, we are looking for articles of 200 to 500 words about "People You Should Know"—people in your church whom you feel are excellent examples of someone who witnesses, cares, or serves. A black and white, sharp, photo of the person "in action" should accompany the article. —*Barbara J. Binder*

**Grace Baptist Church
Medicine Hat, Alberta**

celebrates their

75th anniversary

September 18-20, 1992

**A banquet will be held
September 19.**

**A mass choir
of former choir members
will sing Sunday afternoon.**

*If you are interested in attending
the banquet and/or joining the choir,
please contact*

*Grace Baptist Church
1012 Yuill St. SE
Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 0Z2
Phone: (403) 526-3696
by May 30, 1992.*

Church Merger

■ **The Rev. Daniel Branzai** to senior pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, after the merger of Romanian Baptist Church and Bethel Baptist Church, August 4, 1991.

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Harry Haas** from pastor, First Baptist, Chancellor, SD, effective Sept. 30, 1991. The Haases now reside in Venturia, ND. He is available for a pastorate or special meetings for children and/or adults.

■ **Mr. John Wahl** from youth pastor, First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON, to return to seminary studies.

■ **Mr. Steve White** to associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON, effective Sept. 22, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Don Linnell** to pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, IL, effective Sept. 17, 1991.

■ **The Rev. T. Paul Stanley** from pastor, Valley Stream Baptist Church, NY, effective Sept. 14, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Mark Fisk** from associate pastor, Valley Christian Fellowship, Temecula, CA, effective Sept. 1, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Eldon Schroeder** from pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Carpenterville, IL, to part-time area minister for Illinois and Wisconsin, effective Oct. 31, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Dan Edzards** from pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Harvey, ND, to pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Wessington Springs, SD, effective Oct. 1, 1991.

■ **The Rev. Dieter Gohl** from pastor, Mary Hill Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam, BC, to pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, effective Oct. 1, 1991.

■ **Dr. Brian Trevor** from minister of music, Brentview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, to Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida.

■ **The Rev. Fred Merke** from senior pastor, Humbervale Park Baptist Church, Toronto, ON, to associate pastor, Zion Community Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective September 1991.

■ **Mr. Herb Radke** from minister of music/discipleship, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, to attend Edmonton Baptist Seminary and to serve part-time in music ministry, Meadowlark-Westland Baptist Church, Edmonton. —*Mrs. R. C. Hillock*

■ **The Rev. Rubin Herrmann** from pastor, Redeemer Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN, to part-time chaplain, Meadowlark Christian School, Edmonton, AB, effective October 1991.

■ **Mr. Tim Stevenson** from Campus Ambassadors to part-time staff position as college director, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, effective September 1991, along with heading up a significant campus ministry in the area.

■ **Mr. Don Bradstreet** from educational administration and supervision to business administrator, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton, CA, effective September 1991.

■ **Mr. Percy Keith** to pastor, Creston Baptist Church, BC, effective September 1991.

■ **Mr. Cheyenne Figueroa** to associate pastor, Mountain View Community Church, Fontana, CA.

■ **The Rev. Louis Day** from pastor, Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, TX, to serve a Southern Baptist Convention church effective June 1, 1991.

New Churches

■ **The Rev. Leigh Harrison** from pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, to church planter in NW Minneapolis, MN, Plymouth/Maple Grove area, effective Sept. 1, 1991.

■ On Sunday, July 28, 1991, the **Korean Baptist Church** of Edmonton, AB, voted to seek affiliation with the N.A.B. Conference. The congregation has 285 baptized believers. **The Rev. John Kim** is the pastor of this growing congregation, which meets in the church facilities of **McKernan Baptist Church**.

Elections/Appointments

■ New officers elected during the Triennial Conference for the Ministers' Wives are **Mrs. Sandy Norman**, president, Elk Grove, CA; **Mrs. Virginia Newman**, vice president, Startup, WA; and **Mrs. Linda Ziulkowski**, secretary/treasurer, Paul, ID.

■ Ministers elected **Etan Pelzer**, Apple Valley, MN, president; **Tim Walker**, Carol Stream, IL, vice president; and **Randy Jaspers**, Jamestown, ND, secretary/treasurer, as Ministers' Fellowship officers during their Triennial Conference luncheon.

■ **The N.A.B. Seminary Alumni Association** elected **Art Bollaert**, Sioux Falls, SD, as president; **Reuben Grueneich**, Rock Rapids, IA, as vice president; **Merv Kramer**, Brandon, SD, and **Danny Van Gerpen**, Milbank, SD, members at large

at the Seminary Breakfast held at the Triennial Conference.

■ New personnel beginning with this school term at **North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary** in Edmonton, AB, are **Dr. Glen Scorgie**, NABC academic vice president; **Mr. Darrell Grant**, dean of students; **Mr. Rudy Dyck**, Calgary, vice president for advancement; and **Dr. Rick Laser**, associate professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, EBS. Two part-time staff include **Mrs. Melody Zylla**, vocal ensembles coach, and **Mr. Trevor Martin**, athletic director.

■ On Aug. 6, 1991, **Ann Bolson** joined the counseling staff at Sioux Falls Psychological Services, a counseling center that was donated to North American Baptist Seminary by Dr. Ernie and Dorothy Zimelman in January 1991. Bolson



received a Master of Arts in Counseling from North American Baptist Seminary, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychobiology from Luther College, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University. She is also certified as a psychiatric and mental health nurse by the American Nurses Association.

Recognitions

■ North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, conferred emeritus status upon three persons at its May commencement exercises. **Mrs. Isabelle Long** of Sioux Falls now holds the title of Registrar Emeritus; **Dr. Floyd Moore** of Texas, Emeritus Professor of Christian Education; and **Dr. Roy Seibel** of Minnesota, Emeritus Professor of Evangelism and Church Development.

**NABS breaks ground for
Zimelman Counseling Center**

On Sept. 10, 1991, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, celebrated the groundbreaking of the Zimelman Counseling Center.

Dr. Ernie and Dorothy Zimelman donated this 15-year-old Sioux Falls, SD, counseling service to N.A.B. Seminary on Jan. 1, 1991.

On campus facilities to house this center will provide additional up-to-date resources and supervised counseling opportunities for students in counseling and pastoral care programs. Dr. Zimelman has been Director of the counseling service and Professor of Counseling at NABS for the past 15 years.

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If you think Dallas is just the place where J.R. hangs his hat, or where the Cowboys roam the grid iron, you just don't know Dallas.

Read on and learn some of the more interesting things that have helped make it the number two convention city in the country.

The chicken fajita was first created in Dallas. And the world has been sizzling since.

Dallas has over 60 dance groups who'll keep you on your toes.

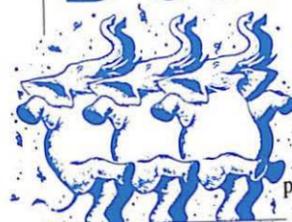


Dallas is one of Mother Nature's favorite sons. We boast over 50,000 acres of parks, and over 40 lakes within a 100-mile radius. And Dallas sunsets are enough to make any mortal wax poetic.

Visit over 140 museums, galleries and artistic attractions in the Dallas area. We make it easy and fun to get "culture-fied."

The famous Cotton Bowl is located in Dallas. It's the only stadium in the world that's been home field for three NFL teams that have won Super Bowls. The first was the original Dallas Texans who became the Kansas City Chiefs. Then there was the 1952 Dallas Texans team that became the Baltimore Colts, who are now the Indianapolis Colts. Are you still with us? And, of course, there's the team that still battles Redskins, our very own Dallas Cowboys, who

THE THINGS MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT DALLAS COULD FILL A PAGE.



The Dallas Zoo has over 1,500 animals performing daily. It's the wildest place in town.

The West End Historic District, a fabulous restoration area, features 83 shops and 55 restaurants. It's one of the hottest spots in the city, with over 5 million people visiting it annually.

Every night, you'll find at least 109 live performances. All the world's a stage in Dallas.

Sixty-five degrees is the mean average temperature in Dallas. Sixty-five degrees is also the nice average temperature in Dallas.

In July of 1958, the computer chip was invented in Dallas, ushering in the computer age. Dallas has the nation's third largest concentration of high-tech companies and employees. We're known as "The Silicon Prairie."



The Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Gardens have over 1,200 different kinds of trees, shrubs and flowers. And they'll sit still and smile so you can snap some pictures of them.

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport is larger than the island of Manhattan. It's the second busiest airport on the planet, and one of the most modern. From it, you're within a three-hour flight of any city in the continental U.S.A.

There are over 40,000 hotel rooms in Dallas. That's a lot of little bars of soap! Over three-fourths of the hotel rooms come complete with a swimming pool or health club.

Every year, Dallas hosts the Texas State Fair, one of the largest annual expositions in the world. The shindig is held at Fair Park, which is the only pre-1950 World's Fair site remaining in the U.S.



We have more shopping space per shopper in Dallas than any other city in the country. The shopping here is definitely not for amateurs.

Dallas has the third largest concentration of corporate headquarters in the country. Big business is big on Dallas.

The idea for the Super Bowl was created in 1966 by Dallasites Lamar Hunt and Tex Schramm. Hunt was a key player in forming the American Football League. Schramm was General Manager of the Dallas Cowboys in the National Football League. The two men discussed merger of the AFL and the NFL, and developed the idea for a championship game. Interestingly, the name "Super Bowl" is attributed to Sharron Hunt, Lamar's daughter, who was playing with a "super ball" the day her father was thinking of a name for the championship game. It's a good thing she wasn't playing with a bowling ball that fateful day.

Perhaps one of the most important historical discoveries of our time took place in Dallas. It was the invention of the frozen margarita, an achievement some people still take with a grain of salt. You'll find over 1,300 places here serving cold beer, wine and adult cocktails.

There are 197 playgrounds in Dallas. Bring your jacks.

play in Texas Stadium. However, the Annual Cotton Bowl game is still played (where else?) in the Cotton Bowl.

You'll find more restaurants per capita in Dallas than in New York City. Bring us your hungry, please!



Dallas offers 250 public tennis courts, 234 of them lighted, and 100 swimming pools. Three hundred twenty-one athletic fields for soccer, football or rugby. You can rent roller skates and skate around Bachman Lake, or rent a paddle boat on White Rock Lake. You can play everything from polo to ping-pong here. But it's pretty tough to play ping-pong on horseback.

A couple of history's most notorious bank robbers lived in Dallas. In the early 1930's, Bonnie and Clyde called West Dallas home. They'd bop around the south knocking off banks and killing people. They didn't get invited to many parties. In 1934, the law finally caught up with the outlaw laws. Clyde Barrow got 27 bullets, Bonnie Parker got 50. And their Ford got 107 bullets. It just goes to show that there really is a substantial penalty for early withdrawals.

We're the number one visitor destination in Texas, attracting over 12 million people a year. Come once, and you'll be back again.

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It was a spirit of thankfulness that prompted the Psalmist to tell others of God's greatness.

A sense of gratitude and wonder moved the Samaritan woman to run to invite those in her village to meet Jesus. "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done," she exclaimed. "Could He be the Messiah?"

Thankful to be healed, a lame man literally bounced into the temple "walking and jumping and praising God." A crowd gathered, and Peter proclaimed the Gospel. Many who heard the message believed.

Joyous and wholehearted thanksgiving is a testimony to people near and far of what God is able to do for us through Jesus Christ.

The Celebration of Gratitude Offering gives you the opportunity to proclaim your thanksgiving to God and to share your blessings with others around the world.

Today, more than ever before, it is vital that the Gospel is proclaimed . . . everywhere! As you reflect on the Lord's goodness and faithfulness to you in the past year, let your thanksgiving offering be a witness—and a blessing—to others.

Celebration of Gratitude Offering 1991



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