

V I S I O N

2000

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST  
HERITAGE COMMISSION

*June 1992*



SERVE

GIVE

CARE

THE BAPTIST HERALD

North American Baptist Conference



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

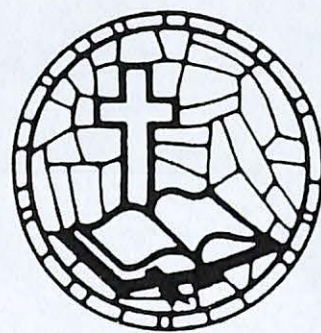
■ We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct; the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself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

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

■ We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will. We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be stewards over His creation. As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect. Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all

## What We BELIEVE

A condensation of the "Statement of Beliefs" of the North American Baptist Conference



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

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

■ We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members. Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Each church is a self-governing body with a congregational form of government under the Lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility. Its ordinances are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

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

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

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

**W**hy does the N.A.B. Conference exist? The vision for the existence of the N.A.B. Conference by its founders in the early 1840s is reaffirmed in **Vision 2000**, adopted by Triennial Conference delegates in 1988.

One answer is summarized in the Mission/Purpose Statement: The strategic focus of the N.A.B. Conference cooperative ministries in **Vision 2000** is

- to evangelize and disciple people globally
- by preparing church ministers and leaders to serve and
- by enhancing ministries in established churches
- and planting new churches that are
- committed to implementing six Biblical Imperatives: To worship, grow, witness, serve, give, and care.

The N.A.B. Conference is a binational conference of almost 400 local churches joined together cooperatively in 20 Associations across Canada and the U.S.A. for mutual encouragement, fellowship, and church planting.

We are a people committed

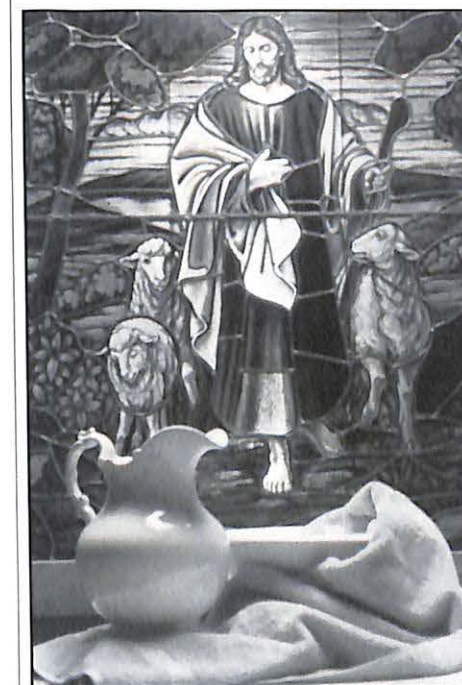
- to bring the Gospel to people of many cultures, heritages, and ethnic backgrounds. Each enriches the other as they worship God together and experience spiritual growth.

- to plant new churches in North America. Of the 213 churches the N.A.B. Conference started since 1952, 172 minister today. These and their first planter/pastor are listed on the time line in this issue. These churches are 44 percent of our present churches.

- to plant churches internationally, presently in at least eight countries.

## A Serving People

- to provide theological education for men and women to serve in a variety of ministries. Cooperatively, we support a college and two seminaries in North America and four seminaries or Bible schools overseas.
- to believers baptized by immersion on confession of faith in Jesus Christ.



- religious freedom and human rights.
- to witness, to a high level of spiritual life, and to fervent prayer—necessary for the growth of healthy churches.
- to conservative theology but are equally concerned about a vital Christian life-style addressing the issues of the day—calling for a recommitment to the moral and spiritual values found in God's Word.
- serving by using sacrificially the excellent gifts bestowed by God for God's glory and the building of His Kingdom.
- to God's work through **Vision 2000**.

Woven throughout this issue, you will see the goals of the various Conference departments focusing on the Biblical Imperative: Compelled to Serve. You will be introduced to the Conference International Office Staff who are serving you.

Who is the N.A.B. Conference? People—churches—Conference leaders—working together to make **Vision 2000** a reality! □

*Dr. John Binder, Conference executive director, recalls that when the International Office was being constructed in Oakbrook Terrace, he proposed to the Building Committee that the symbols of a towel and a basin of water be engraved or carved on the outside of the front entrance. "It would be a most appropriate expression of the role of the Conference staff as servants to God, our churches, and mission fields. Even though there was not money to do this, we, as staff, still try to assume the servant life-style as modeled by our Lord."*

1952

30th  
Triennial Conference  
Philadelphia, PA  
Church Planting re-emphasized  
Daniel Fuchs, director

1952

Humbervale Park  
Toronto, ON  
Heinrich S. Stinner  
Eastern Association

1953

German/Thornhill  
Calgary, AB  
W. E. Ertis  
Alberta Association

1953

Bethel/First  
Prince Rupert, BC  
Alexander Hart  
British Columbia Association

1953

Central  
Kitchener, ON  
John Goetze  
Eastern Association

1953

South Canyon  
Rapid City, SD  
Merle Brenner  
South Dakota Association

1954

Community  
St. Claire Shores, MI  
George M. Crosbie  
Michigan Association

1954

Faith  
Regina, SK  
Richard Grabke  
Saskatchewan Association

1954

(German) Mission  
Hamilton, ON  
John Wahl  
Eastern Association

1955

Grace  
West Fargo, ND  
(G.P. Schroeder, interim)  
Bernard Fritzsche  
Central Dakota-Montana Association





# Capturing a SERVANT LIFE-STYLE

by John Binder

"What's in it for me"? people ask. Seldom do we hear much about serving others.

Jesus, on the other hand, defined Himself as a servant (see Mark 10:45). Wherever He went, He intentionally modeled servanthood before others.

At the Last Supper, however, Jesus performed a simple act that captured the essence of Christian service.

"He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him" (John 13:4-5).

When He washed His disciples' feet, He provided a dramatic illustration of what it means to practice a servant life-style.

## The Servant Life-style Is an Expression of God's Love

People normally think of servanthood as de-meaning. To the early Greeks and Romans, for example, a servant was a captive of

war, a slave, someone without rights or resources.

When Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and washed the disciples' feet, however, He was elevating the servant role to high importance—a way of expressing God's love.

"Having loved his own who were in the world," Scripture explains, "he now showed them the full extent of his love" (John 13:1b).

People in the world don't really know that God loves them. How are they to know? Christ's death on the cross is the fullest and best demonstration. Yet by washing

one another's feet, that is, by means of humble acts of service, Jesus showed us that we, too, can be the instruments of God's love.

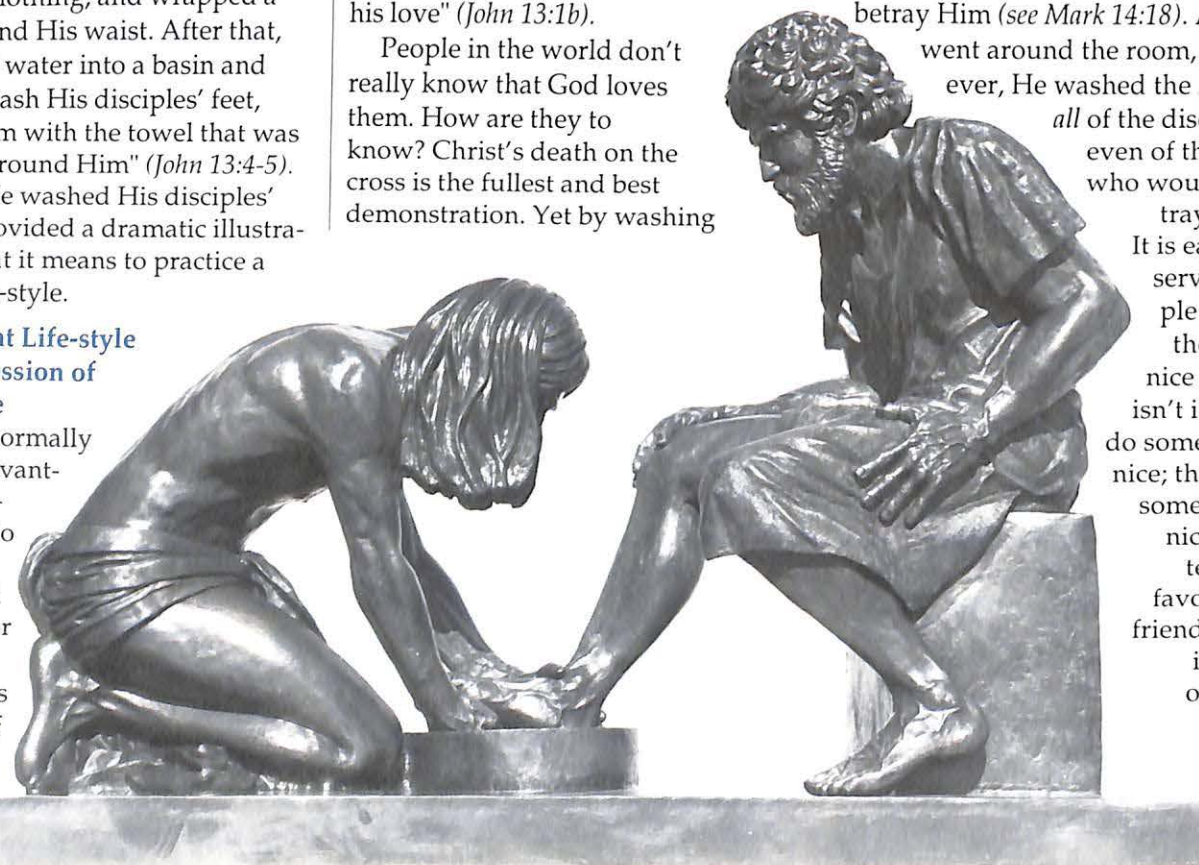
The towel and basin, then, are symbols. We use them every time we meet the needs of others. And every time we do that, we are effectively disclosing God's love to the world.

## A Servant Life-style Shows No Partiality

Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him (see Mark 14:18). As He went around the room, how-

ever, He washed the feet of all of the disciples even of the one who would betray Him.

It is easy to serve people when they are nice to us, isn't it? We do something nice; they do something nice. We tend to favor our friends and ignore others.



But look at what Jesus did. He washed the feet of Judas. That goes contrary to what we would naturally expect. What is the explanation?

## A Servant Life-style Reflects a Christlike Self-identity

Jesus was secure in the knowledge of who He was. He knew His authority, identity, and destiny (John 13:3). He had nothing to prove, nothing to lose. He knew where He was going and that He didn't need to pull strings to get there. Jesus was free to serve others.

If we are always trying to make a name for ourselves, jockeying for position, we will not be able to serve. If we decide that some tasks or people are "beneath us," we will not be able to serve. If we have an emotional blockage, a grudge, something we haven't been freed from, we will not be able to serve.

When our security is in Jesus, we can serve. Nothing to prove, nothing to lose, we are freed by the Holy Spirit. We can serve.

## This Servant Life-style Welcomes the Most Menial Tasks

In Jesus' day, washing feet was slave's work. Yet there He was, the Son of God—the One come to save the world—stooping down to wash the disciples' feet.

Jesus did many other things: He healed, raised people from the dead, and moved toward the cross. But He was not so proud that He was unwilling to do the most menial tasks.

He who always must do great deeds will seldom do any. He who

welcomes small tasks will seldom be idle.

You may know of someone with an "insignificant" need at the office, at home, at the church, in the factory, in the field, or at school. Seek to meet it. Whatever the hurt, be willing to reach out and minister to the person in need.

Jesus showed us that true greatness comes through serving. Indeed,



there are benefits, however small the deed done in His name, if we persevere even in the midst of discouragement and disappointment.

## A Servant Life-style Provides Entrance to Fellowship with Another

When Jesus came to Peter, he objected. "You are not going to wash my feet!"

"Unless I wash you, there is no fellowship, no partnership," Jesus responded. "Unless you let me cleanse you, unless you let me see your soiled feet, your weakness, unless you let me minister to you at the point of your need, you and I cannot have fellowship."

Afterward, Jesus turned to all the disciples and said, "Now that I have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14).

Sometimes people complain, "I

don't have any friends in church. I don't feel close to other people. I don't really feel like I belong." Jesus showed us the servant's solution to this problem. First, we must open ourselves to Him, and secondly, we must open ourselves to one another.

When people open up to each other in honesty and allow others to minister to them, it brings them closer together. If you want to be close to people, admit your need to Christ and to your brothers and sisters. Allow yourself to be ministered to. Then you will find true fellowship. That is what Jesus is saying.

## A Servant Life-style Brings Joy

Jesus concluded His service of footwashing with the words, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:17). Is that possible? Isn't happiness when others serve me?

Here's a startling point. The only way to test the reality of Christ's words is to do them. You don't understand first, you do what the Lord says. Then you will understand and experience the truth that serving, not being served, is the way to joy.

The world is waiting for men and women who will accept the challenge—the privilege—of serving. That, combined with the example of Christ and the dignity, freedom, and joy we discover in His service, is what powerfully compels us to serve.

What better symbol could members of the North American Baptist Conference adopt than a towel and a basin of water to demonstrate our God-given compulsion to serve? □

Dr. John Binder is Executive Director of the North American Baptist Conference.

1956

(German/Zion)  
Zion Baptist Community  
Edmonton, AB  
E.P. Wahl  
Alberta Association

1956

Zion  
Terrace, BC  
Rudy Rapske  
British Columbia Association

1956

Willow Rancho  
Sacramento, CA  
Clarence Walth  
Northern California Association

1956

Magnolia  
Anaheim, CA  
Kenneth Fischer  
Southern California Association

1957

Immanuel  
St. Catharines, ON  
Alexander Hart  
Eastern Association

1958

(German Mission) Mayfair Park  
merged with Foster Avenue  
Northwest Fellowship  
Chicago, IL  
Alvin Radant  
Illinois Association

1958

Portland Avenue  
Tacoma, WA  
Henry Smuland  
Pacific Northwest Association

1958

Calvary  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Joseph Hoden  
Penn-Ohio Association

1959

Ft. George  
Prince George, BC  
Bert Milner  
British Columbia Association

1959

(Glenbard) Village Green  
Glen Ellyn, IL  
Connie Salios  
Illinois Association



**V**ision 2000 grew out of the hearts of N.A.B. Conference people thinking together in regional and international task forces.

They enthusiastically affirmed six Biblical Imperatives with specific and related goals—**Vision 2000**—as the emphasis and direction of the N.A.B. Conference to the year 2000. At the Triennial Conference in 1988, delegates affirmed this unanimously.

**Vision 2000** gives churches focus as they evaluate their ministry and then set goals. Associations focus annual meeting themes on the Biblical Imperatives. Some Associations, such as Alberta, have set their goals to the year 2000 in light of the Biblical Imperatives.

People prominent in their fields serve as resource persons for each Biblical Imperative. Task forces meet annually and suggest resource materials. The emphases run in three-year cycles to give time for study, application, change, and growth in the life of individuals and congregations.

### Called to Worship 1989-91


 The focus on the Biblical Imperative: Called to Worship, launched in 1989, brought a new awareness of the need for laity and ministers to work together in planning and preparing for worship and to understand the elements of worship. Worship committees plan services with more lay people being specifically involved in worship. As a result, 42 percent of Conference churches showed an increase in worship attendance in 1991.

## Vision 2000—& YOU



- Resources on worship include
- a bibliography on worship
  - a manual for worship committees, **The Worship Planning Committee**
  - book reviews
  - articles on worship printed in the **Baptist Herald** and "Link"
  - a diagnostic and consulting system, **Worship Rediscovered**, relating to needs in the local church
  - a video series, **Principles of Worship**, by Robert Webber.

### Challenged to Grow 1990-92

 In 1990 the emphasis focused on the Biblical Imperative: Challenged to Grow. Ministers and lay people met in spiritual renewal retreats and continue to do so annually. Believers continue to be challenged to evaluate their spiritual development and maturity and to focus on spiritual renewal.

- **Challenged to Grow—a Spiritual Renewal Retreat**, compiled by Lewis Petrie and the Development

Department staff, provides resource material for a 24-hour mini retreat. Focusing on the classical spiritual disciplines, the retreat provides an opportunity to meet with God in silence and solitude to become spiritually renewed.

- Articles on the spiritual disciplines, written by members of the Grow Task Force, were published in the **Baptist Herald** and "Link."
- Spiritual disciplines study resources are available.

### Commissioned to Witness 1991-93

 The Task Force for the Biblical Imperative: Commissioned to Witness identified resource materials and met with Dr. Don Posterski of Toronto, author of **Re-inventing Evangelism**. Resource materials and emphases include

- Week of Prayer material
- "Witness Sunday" calling for re-commitment to witness through daily Christian living
- **Billy Graham School of Evangelism**
- Articles published in the **Baptist Herald** and "Link" and bibliographies of material on witnessing
- **Friendship Sunday**—an exciting time for friends of Jesus to reach out to others who need to become His friends. Resource ideas for **Friendship Sunday** are available.

■ North Carrollton Baptist Church in Carrollton, TX, experienced a great Friend Sunday. At least 15 to 29 new friends came to visit.

"On Friend Sunday, our worship

attendance was 195 (45 above our average)," says Howard Anderson, pastor. "Following worship, those who brought friends enjoyed a meal with them. Our people began to realize how few unchurched friends they have and now are willing to begin reaching out."

"I recommend Friend Sunday because we live in a world where friendships are becoming increasingly more difficult. I believe the church will play a key role in the years ahead in helping people 'connect in friendship.' It's a constant challenge to motivate people to touch in some way unchurched individuals. Friend Sunday is one way of motivating them."


■ At First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON, "an eight member team began planning Celebration of Friendship Sunday four months in advance," says Gerald Kuehl, administrative assistant. "The plans were lifted daily to God in prayer."

"The results were overwhelming! Our church was full. Several visitors came—invited by their friends," exclaims Kuehl. "The greatest harvest from this celebration was the promotion of our second service which began on the following Sunday



when 75 people attended. Friendship Sunday motivates each one to obey the command of Jesus, 'Go, therefore and make disciples.'"

### Compelled to Serve 1992-94


 The Area Ministers served as the Task Force for the Biblical Imperative, **Compelled to Serve**. A handbook, **Serve**, includes articles on serve and resources to help people discover their spiritual gifts and to help motivate people to serve in their church and community.

Profiles of people who model serve appear in each issue of the **Baptist Herald**. Resource materials are being distributed through "Link."

### Committed to Give 1993-95

 The Development Department is providing resources for the Biblical Imperative: Committed to Give. The purpose: to encourage individuals and churches to practice Biblical principles of stewardship.

### Commanded to Care 1994-96

 A task force on care will meet in 1993 to provide resource materials for this imperative.

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

1959

Brook Park  
Brooklyn Center, MN  
Adam Huber  
Minnesota-LaCrosse Association

1959

(Swain Oaks) Quail Lakes  
Stockton, CA  
Gustav Rauser  
Northern California Association

1959

Memory Lane  
Wichita, KS  
Edwin Michelson  
Southwestern Association

1960

(Capilano) Hillview  
Edmonton, AB  
E.P. Wahl  
Alberta Association

1960

(Salem) Eastwood  
Kitchener, ON  
Wildemar E. Ertis  
Eastern Association

1960

Holiday Park  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Dale Chaddock  
Penn-Ohio Association

1961

Trinity  
Kelowna, BC  
Joe Kornelewski  
British Columbia Association

1961

(Grant Park) Whyte Ridge  
Winnipeg, MB  
Richard Grabke  
Manitoba Association

1961

(Sterling Hgts.) Fell. Bap. Chapel  
Sterling Heights, MI  
(Paul Meyer, Ralph Jolly, interims)  
Walter Stein  
Michigan Association

1961

Community  
Beavercreek, OH  
John Ziegler  
Penn-Ohio Association





# Compelled to Serve— THE ATTITUDE

by Rick Laser

foundation for all our actions of service. This belief can be exemplified in the three major operations of our life in the Christian community: in caring, in speaking, and in leading (shepherding, communicating, and organizing).



JIM WHITMER PHOTO

To serve authentically, we must extend care with a servant's attitude. One way to do that is through the servanthood of listening. In Luke 10: 38-42, we are given the wonderful narrative of Jesus being in Mary's and Martha's home.

In that incident, Jesus clearly states that "Mary has chosen what is better" (42). Upon further examination, the text reveals the thing that is better: "Mary . . . sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted . . ." (39b-40a). The first point to remember is that in the servanthood of care and listening we need an attitude of honest presence to the other person.

Secondly, we notice that in the priorities of caring and listening there needs to be an attitude of true hospitality. When visiting with people, we can soon feel when we are being sincerely hosted. Not only is there an honest physical presence but also an inner openness as well.

Hosts who are so filled with their own agendas make us feel out of place—like objects of their attention rather than persons of worth. Jesus senses that lack of inner openness to His presence on Martha's part. He simply

says: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things" (v.41).

The final lesson to be learned here is closely related. It is the lesson of humility. Listen to Martha (40b): "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me." Her words were not motivated by servanthood. Rather, Martha desired recognition. When it did not come, she felt discouraged.

Much of our serving may have more to do with the fulfillment of our own ego needs than we are willing to admit. It is not that we leave ourselves and our needs totally out of the picture. Instead, we are asked to re-evaluate whether the driving force of our serving is authentic caring or self-gratification.

One aspect of serving is caring. Caring has to do with listening—listening with an honest presence, with open hospitality, and with humility.

When we think of serving in the context of speaking, i.e., communicating, we must remember the servanthood of acceptance. Despite the admonition to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), we are regularly beset by people who will criticize, disagree, and even slander us. Our normal reaction is to respond defensively, sometimes even in a "pay-back" mode. It is at such times that our attitude of acceptance of such people is at a very low ebb.

When we allow our own negative feelings to be transferred back onto those who have hurt us, we become powerless to serve them. No matter what we may communicate verbally, unless it is acceptance and the desire

to dialogue, our communicative footing is weakened. It is true that it is *not* helpful to be a doormat for people, to internalize our feelings, and never to show our anger.

Instead, we must own up to our feelings, take responsibility for them and learn how to communicate but without simultaneously communicating rejection. Jesus was able to do that in Gethsemane! Peter was not!

**Is the driving force of our serving authentic caring or self-gratification? Much of our serving may have more to do with the fulfillment of our own ego needs than we are willing to admit.**

But when Peter finally learned the servanthood of acceptance, he was able to communicate powerfully to Cornelius and his household (Acts 10). Serving in the context of communicating requires an attitude and readiness to accept others, even if they should choose not to accept us.

Another aspect of serving to consider is in the context of leading. One way to do that is by modeling servanthood as Jesus did: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

How may we model servanthood? By having the attitude Jesus had (Philippians 2:5).

Consider this model of headship. The function of the head in the body,

the way the biblical revelation speaks of it, is to supply the body with light (eyes), air and smell (nose), sound (ears), food and drink (mouth). The head has the nurturing function in the body including the function of bodily co-ordination. The head is, therefore, not a status emblem but a service emblem: ". . . just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

No matter what else one may say about headship or leadership, the pervading motive and attitude is servanthood. As church leaders, teachers, pastors, husbands, wives, and children, we are called to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21). When we seek to model servanthood in that frame of mind, our crisis in leadership will be greatly reduced, for our crisis in leadership is not just quantitative but qualitative.

Let's not be people who merely master the mechanics of service. Instead, let us pray and work to be people who strive for the development of a servant's attitude as we listen, speak, and lead. □



Dr. Rick Laser is Associate Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at Edmonton Baptist Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta.

1961

(Hudson Bay Park) Bay Park  
Saskatoon, SK  
Edmond Hohn  
Saskatchewan Association

1961

(Bible) North Pointe  
(Troy) Warren, MI  
Eugene Stroh  
Michigan Association

1961

Cedarloo  
Cedar Falls, IA  
Bernard R. Fritzke  
Iowa Association

1962

Brentview  
Calgary, AB  
Rubin Herrmann  
Alberta Association

1962

Sierra Heights  
Renton, WA  
Ervin Gerlitz  
Pacific Northwest Association

1963

Rose of Sharon  
Richmond, BC  
Ervin Strauss  
British Columbia Association

1963

Meadowlark  
Edmonton, AB  
William Sibley  
Alberta Association

1963

Melville  
Melville, SK  
Jake Neudorf  
Saskatchewan Association

1963

Sherwood Park  
Greeley, CO  
Raymond Harsch  
Southwestern Association

1963

Lakeshore  
Stevensville, MI  
Berthold Itterman  
Michigan Association



North American Baptist Seminary is a natural training ground to prepare persons to witness and to serve. Faculty members and students have opportunities to model these two vital imperatives.

Dr. Ron Carlson, professor of evangelism and church development at North American Baptist Seminary, takes evangelism and servanthood beyond the walls of the classroom.

Randy Reese, a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program at North American Baptist Seminary, uses his gifts in evangelism to serve—inspiring and discipling others to share their faith.

by Linda Pelzer

## All under the SAME ROOF

For the past seven years, Ron and Marlene Carlson have shared their home with 11 immigrants, refugees, and foreign students. Presently living with the Carlsons is a family from China and two graduate students—one from Japan and the other from Bulgaria.

Under the Carlson roof, love and servanthood cross all cultural barriers. For the Carlson family, going into all the world to preach the gospel isn't a matter of raising financial support and boarding a plane to fly overseas.

The Carlsons first opened their home to a Vietnamese refugee moving into Sioux Falls in 1985. Khoa stayed with the Carlsons for three years. Still considered part of the family, he is now a medical technologist in Minneapolis.

When asked what it's like to live as an international family, Ron and Marlene's 15-year-old son, Peter, and



The Carlson family received a "Family Matters Award" from Family Service, Inc., of Sioux Falls for their work with internationals and for modeling positive family relationships. (Clockwise) Ron and Marlene Carlson; Yoshiko Niino, graduate student, Japan; Peter Carlson; Elly Carlson; and Zornitsa Igoff, N.A.B. Seminary student, Bulgaria.

14-year-old daughter, Elly, say, "It's like having a lot of brothers and sisters—sometimes it's fun, and sometimes it's frustrating."

Communication is one of the challenges the Carlsons face. Neither Ron nor Marlene speaks a second language. In addition, Marlene says, "The American life is so fast-paced that it's difficult to find time to communicate. And we find that communication is the key to a healthy family relationship."

"Since communication is particularly important in maintaining cross-cultural relationships," Ron adds, "we've tried to make time to communicate."

Yoshiko Niino, a student from Japan studying at a local college, says that the Carlson household functions like and offers the security of a family. Zornitsa Igoff, who came from Bulgaria last year to study in the counseling program at N.A.B. Seminary, says the Carlson family was the key to her cultural adjustment. "They accepted me as a member of the family. When they were invited someplace, I was, too."

Each week, the Carlsons' circle of friends extends beyond their own home to include many other internationals living in Sioux Falls. In 1985, they established a regular Friday evening gathering called International Friends. Last October, they began coordinating an international worship service, which meets each Sunday afternoon.

"We receive more in return than we give," says Ron. Through their generous giving, the Carlsons have impacted the lives of many persons from diverse cultures and lands. □

## Taking them to THE VANTAGE POINT

What motivates North American Baptist Seminary student Randy Reese? "I desire to take people to a 'vantage point,' where I can say, 'This is who God is, and this is what He can do through your life.'" Randy believes at this point that God's people can see the vital need to develop personal relationships that lead to evangelistic opportunities.

As Randy disciples youth, he helps them realize they have a responsibility to reach out to their friends at school.

He encourages the youth to bring their friends to a monthly event called "Wild and Weird," an evening of fun that includes a nonthreatening presentation of the gospel.

According to Randy, a program like "Wild and Weird" allows youth to say to their friends, "I can't fully describe what Jesus means to me, but if you come to 'Wild and Weird,' you can experience and get a taste of who God is through one of the topics that is discussed."

Is this program effective? Tara Putnam, a teen in the Oak Hills youth group, took Eric to "Wild and Weird," and Eric "liked what he saw," says Randy. "He liked the fact that people cared for him and were his friends."

After Pastor Art Bollaert presented the gospel in a sermon one Sunday, Randy ushered Eric into the family of God.

At Oak Hills Baptist, experiences like Eric's serve as a living example of how students can make a difference for the kingdom of God. These show that evangelism doesn't need to be "canned" and threatening but can be relational and exciting.

In addition, Randy takes the adults of Oak Hills Baptist to this "vantage point" as he teaches the evangelism training class on Sunday mornings. In cooperation with Dr. Ron Carlson, evangelism professor at N.A.B. Seminary, Randy has launched a pilot project to train laypersons how to share their faith.

"... if I don't take the first step and walk across the street to my neighbor, forget about the other steps of the evangelistic process," says Randy. "People would get an 'A' from me if they came to the class and shared that they walked across the street to meet their neighbor for the first time. They'll get an 'F' if

they memorized all the methodologies that we present yet failed to take the first step in establishing a relationship with someone who doesn't know who Jesus really is."

Randy believes that one aspect of evangelism is a "ministry of presence"—a trust relationship must be formed in order to win the right to be heard and make the gospel relevant to the needs of the individual. "It's more than meeting with them and passing out tracts. It's coming alongside them," says Randy.

How can a church inspire its people to witness and to serve? "When we encounter who God is," says Randy, "then we will reflect who God is through our caring, our serving, our witnessing, and our empathy... Everything we do should reflect who God is. When the church worships, its response to encountering God should be evidenced in what it does as mission." □



As Randy interacts with the youth at Oak Hills Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, he encourages them to share their faith with their peers.

1964

Temple  
Jamestown, ND  
George Robinson  
Central Dakota-Montana Asso.

1964

Highland  
Junction City, KS  
David Priestley  
Southwestern Association

1965

Creston  
Creston, BC  
Jake Neudorf  
British Columbia Association

1965

Winton Road  
Rochester, NY  
Fred Mashner  
Eastern Association

1965

Cypress  
Lynnwood, WA  
Richard Grabke  
Pacific Northwest Association

1965

Esterhazy  
Esterhazy, SK  
Peter Schroeder  
Saskatchewan Association

1966

Hillside  
Dickinson, ND  
Wilfred Dickau  
Central Dakota-Montana Asso.

1966

Evergreen  
Renton, WA  
LeRoy Kiemele  
Pacific Northwest Association

1967

Parkdale  
Drumheller, AB  
Allan Gerber  
Alberta Association

1967

Pineland  
Burlington, ON  
Walter Kerber  
Eastern Association



# Serving in STREET MINISTRY

by Sig Schuster and Kurt Redsclag

"At North American Baptist College, our classrooms have no walls. We encourage our students to translate their learning to the real world outside the classroom. Serving the street people of Edmonton through the ministry of the Mustard Seed Street Church is only one of the many ways in which our students are expressing their faith in the garb of true servanthood," says Kurt Redsclag, director of recruitment and communications, North American Baptist College.

Thirty years ago, the inner city contained many church buildings—each housing a vibrant congregation, but most of these moved out of this area into newer and better facilities to minister to their own kind. In the inner city, poverty, abuse, and violence abounded, but who was left to minister?

Originating out of the vision of two Baptist denominations, the North American Baptist Conference and the Baptist Union of Western Canada, Mustard Seed Street Church provides a transitional church home for those recently released from prison as well as the inhabitants of Edmonton's inner city.

Now meeting in the former facilities of Central Baptist Church, the Church establishes a Christian presence in Edmonton's inner city through weekly inter-denominational worship services, Christian life-style education, coffee house

drop-in ministry, pastoral counseling, street and institutional outreach, support and assistance for those seeking employment, referral to community resources, and special community events.

The Rev. Laurie LaFleur, a graduate of Edmonton Baptist Seminary, serves as pastor/chaplain of Mustard Seed Street Church. Along with his associate, Neal Campbell, they minister to the needs of Edmonton's street people to create a community of caring people where lives are changed.

N.A.B. College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary students have been greatly involved in the frontline ministries of the Mustard Seed Street Church. They have prepared food, answered telephones, provided special music, given testimonies, and preached in some of the worship services, and generally assisted the staff where needed most.

Probably the most satisfying contribution has been the students' one-to-one sharing and counseling with individuals at the coffee house and after regular worship services.

Edmonton Baptist Seminary student Brian E. Kirsch recalls, "As one involved in ministry at the Mustard Seed Street Church, I remember driving through Edmonton to the Church. In a few short blocks, I passed out of the world of shiny office buildings and well-dressed executives and came to a whole new



world . . . the inner city. My eyes were opened as I passed by a man lying in the street as the paramedics were trying to give him physical aid. A prostitute marked out her territory on the corner, while a man in dirty clothes held a bottle in a brown bag to his lips."



"This is where Jesus would be! In poverty, hurt, abuse, sickness, injustice, ignorance, and sin, there must be His compassion, healing, forgiveness, love, and grace," says Brian. "I am so glad for this opportunity to be able to respond to the Imperative Compelled to Serve."

N.A.B. College student Edward Lehman notes, "The giving up of one's time and energy just to serve another person has lost its meaning for most people in our society. "In my volunteer work at the Mustard Seed Street Church, I have come to realize that all I have is from God. Therefore, when I serve others, I am really only sharing what God gave me in the first place. As Christ Himself said, 'Freely you have received, freely give' (Matthew 10:8). By serving the street people of Edmonton,

we are actually rendering service unto our Lord."

"The students built bridges of trust between the church and those in the inner city," says Tom Irwin, coordinator of volunteer ministries. "The Mustard Seed ministry has benefited greatly from the students serving, and we welcome their participation."

Commenting on the schools' relation to the Biblical Imperative, Compelled to Serve, S. H. Schuster, director of church liaison, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, says, "This helps North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary to refocus on our primary reason for existing, namely, to 'Train Leaders . . . Transform Lives' as part of our contribution to help fulfill the Great Commission and Vision 2000." □



1968

Greenfield  
Edmonton, AB  
Jake Leverette  
Alberta Association

1968

Sunshine Ridge  
Surrey, BC  
Edmond Hohn  
British Columbia Association

1968

Twin Pines  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Ronald Derman  
Iowa Association

1968

Anderson Road  
Houston, TX  
Elton Kirstein  
Southern Association

1969

Lakeshore  
St. Catharines, ON  
Henry Schumacher  
Eastern Association

1969

(Twin Grove) Vineyard  
Buffalo Grove, IL  
(William Kresal, interim)  
Arthur Garling  
Illinois Association

1969

Valley View  
Everett, WA  
Herbert Vetter  
Pacific Northwest Association

1971

Faith  
Hillsboro, OR  
Martin Franke  
Central Pacific Association

1971

Community  
So. Calgary, AB  
Frank Berg  
Alberta Association

1971

Mary Hill  
Pt. Coquitlam, BC  
Manfred Taubensee  
British Columbia Association





# Serving in NORTH AMERICA

As the population explodes and major population centers mushroom, the need to share the gospel and establish new churches escalates. Not only are many new churches needed in the growing suburbs but also for the many thousands of immigrants coming to live in North America.

Planting churches is Jesus Christ's program of building His Kingdom.

In Matthew 16:18, He states, "I will build my church . . ." He also commissioned His followers to make disciples of all nations (28:19-20).



"Our goal is to develop healthy,

vigorous, self-propagating churches that will also be full participants in our total N.A.B. Conference outreach ministries," says Bernard Fritzke, associate director for church planting.

The N.A.B. Conference church planting ministry works hand in hand with 25 Church Extension Committees in 20 Associations.

## 33 New Churches Reaching People for Christ

Lives are being changed as people find Christ in 33 new churches. Christians are being discipled and finding meaningful ways to serve.



Through the ministry of these new churches, 230 people received Christ as Savior, 258 dedicated their lives to Christ, and 172 were baptized.

Not only did these 33 churches receive financial support from the N.A.B. Conference Mission and Ministries contributions, but also they contributed \$87,313 for N.A.B. Conference Missions and Ministries.

In December 1991, 22 of these churches averaged 77 in attendance.

From January through April 1992, 43 people accepted Christ as Savior,

54 rededicated their lives to Christ, and 24 were baptized in N.A.B. Conference church planting projects.

- At La Costa Hills Baptist Church in Carlsbad, CA, church planter Larry Lamb tells of the recent celebration welcoming three new members. They told the congregation how they will be serving in this Church. "To join this Church," says Lamb, "each one must indicate how they will serve."
- In Franklin, WI, at Franklin Community Church, John Schindler, church planter, says, "A young

adult who had received Christ three months back invited a young lady suffering from aplastic anemia to Friendship Sunday."

At the Friendship Sunday service, this lady received Christ as did her father, mother, and an aunt. Her fiancé, present at that service, was not ready to respond to Christ. During the following week, however, he surrendered to Christ while visiting with his fiancée and Pastor Schindler at the hospital.

The young man had rallied the Church to participate in a blood drive for her. Because of her need, 37 people from Franklin Community Church offered themselves for a bone marrow test. The Church continues to faithfully pray for her.

## Five New Churches Planted in 1991

Five new churches were planted in the U.S.A. and Canada in 1991 with funds contributed for church planting through the Conference Mission and Ministries budget. They are

- East West Community Church, Anaheim, CA, *Jawahar Gnaniah*



- Stony Creek Church, Shelby Township, MI, *Randy Rheame*
- NewLife Community Church, Lloydminster, AB, *Martin Wagantall*
- ElmCreek Community Church, Maple Grove, MN, *Leigh Harrison*
- New Beginnings Church, Keizer, OR, *Bruce Fields*

## Seven Churches to Begin in 1992

Seven new church planting projects are planned to begin in 1992 if funding and church planters are available. Four of these are presently being planted as of July.

- Harvest Baptist, Ottawa, ON, *Frank Hildebrandt*
- Cascade Baptist Fellowship, Federal Way, WA, *Larry Neufeld*
- WestLake Community Fellowship, Rowlett, TX, *Bradley Grubb*
- Church Planting Project, Modesto, CA, *James Renke*

## Churches Become Self-Supporting

One goal of the Church Planting Division is that churches become self-supporting as soon as possible. "We hope this will happen in three years, but five years of Conference support is the maximum," says Fritzke.

During 1991, nine churches became self-supporting.

- Austin Fellowship, Austin, TX, *Gordon Stork*
- Coppell Fellowship, Coppell, TX, *Dan Heringer*
- Pacific Bible, Dana Point, CA, *Keith McKinney*
- Hope Fellowship, Kansas City, MO, *Dennis Dewey*
- Walnut Grove Baptist, Langley, BC, *Jim Calamunice*
- Christ Community Baptist, Puyallup, WA, *Gordon Bauslaugh*
- Antelope Springs, Sacramento, CA, *Steve Kellar*
- Oak Hills Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD, *Arthur Bollaert*
- Vaca Valley Baptist, Vacaville, CA, *David Wesner*

As of July 1, 1992, two churches become self-supporting.

- Riverside Baptist, Devon, AB, *Larry Froese*
- Mountainview Community, Fontana, CA, *David Bolton*

## Intercultural Church Planting

"Intercultural ministries in the N.A.B. Conference continue to multiply, as churches and Associations faithfully seize the opportunities pre-

1971

Garfield  
Mt. Clemens, MI  
Jack Dundas  
Michigan Association

1972

Parkland  
Spruce Grove, AB  
Harold Weiss  
Alberta Association

1972

Ft. Richmond  
Winnipeg, MB  
Cornie I. Wiebe  
Manitoba Association

1972

Olympic View  
Tacoma, WA  
LeRoy Schauer  
Pacific Northwest Association

1973

Steele Heights  
Edmonton, AB  
Ron Berg  
Alberta Association

1973

Grace  
Carpentersville, IL  
William Kresal  
Illinois Association

1973

Apple Valley  
Apple Valley, MN  
Jake Leverette  
Minnesota-LaCrosse Association

1973

Mountain View  
Spearfish, SD  
Gordon Voegelé  
South Dakota-Montana Asso.

1973

Fountain Valley  
Fountain Valley, CA  
Willis Carrico/Eugene Stroh  
(co-pastors)  
Southern California Association

1974

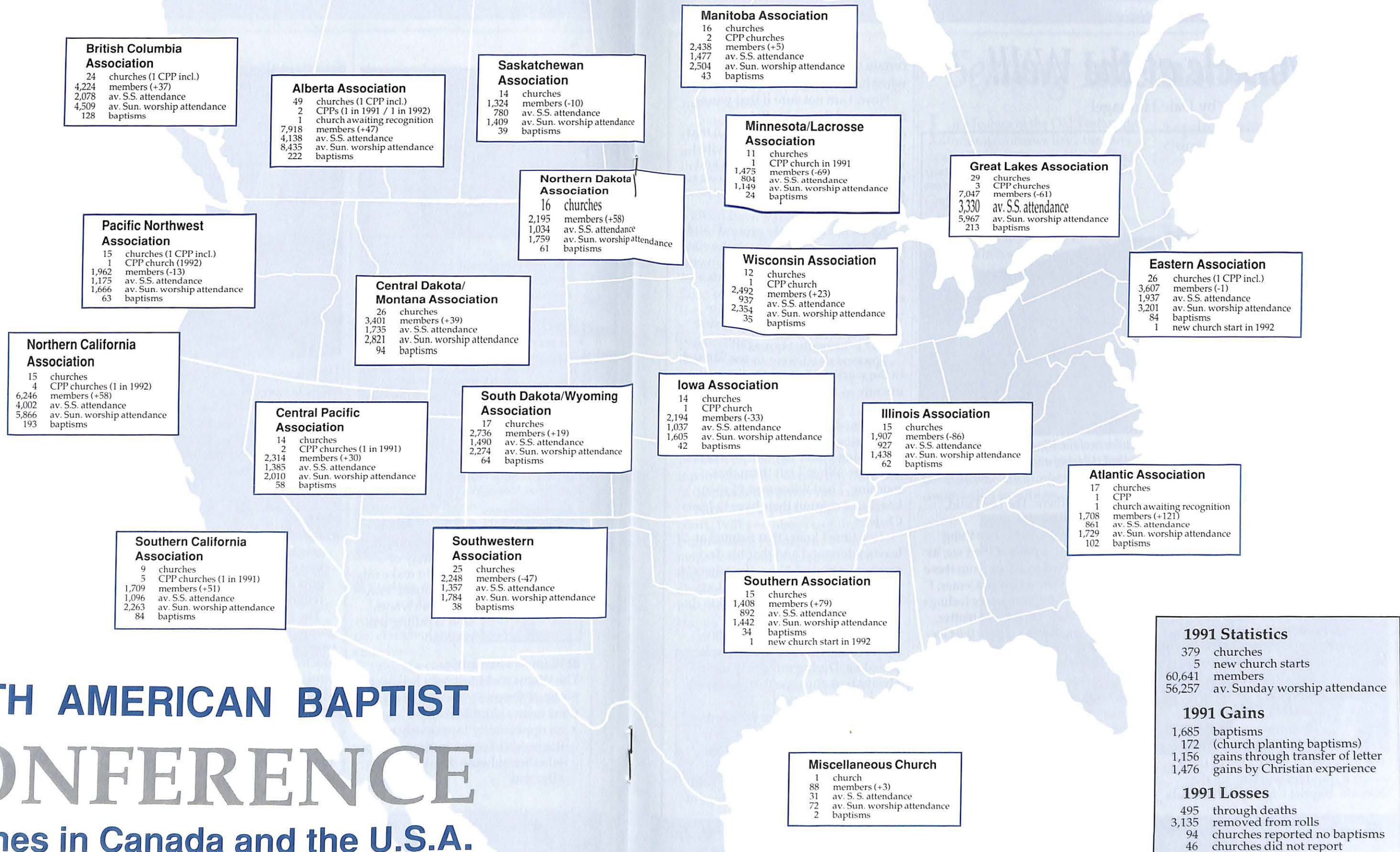
Lakeview Heights  
Kelowna, BC  
Edmond Hohn  
British Columbia Association



# NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

## Churches in Canada and the U.S.A.

*This map reflects the number of churches, membership, average Sunday school and worship attendance, and number of church starts in each Association in 1991. (- under/+over 1990)*



### 1991 Statistics

379 churches  
5 new church starts  
60,641 members  
56,257 av. Sunday worship attendance

### 1991 Gains

1,685 baptisms  
172 (church planting baptisms)  
1,156 gains through transfer of letter  
1,476 gains by Christian experience

### 1991 Losses

495 through deaths  
3,135 removed from rolls  
94 churches reported no baptisms  
46 churches did not report

*Church planting projects are those churches receiving Conference support but not received into the Association as of December 31, 1991.*





sented for such ministries," says the Rev. David Wick, intercultural ministries coordinator (part-time). Established African American, Korean, Chinese, and Polish congregations joined the N.A.B. Conference in 1991 and 1992 and "immeasurably strengthened our ministry," says Wick.



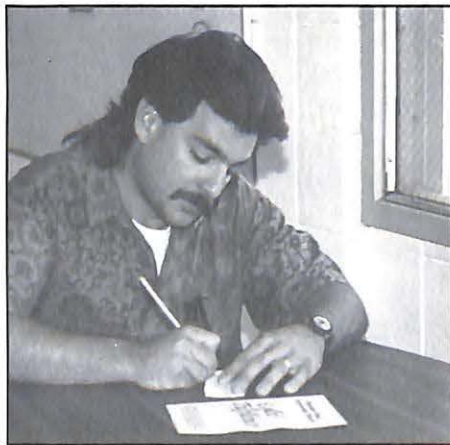
These along with Hispanic, Romanian, Asian Indian, and Messianic Jewish congregations make up 23 intercultural churches who are part of the N.A.B. Conference. Eleven established churches have a multicultural membership/ministry; some include German language ministries, also.

The N.A.B. Conference financially supports intercultural churches in Philadelphia, Detroit, Texas, Colorado, and California. "Indigenous intercultural efforts in the Northern and Southern California, British Columbia, Alberta, Eastern, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Associations demonstrate strong grass roots involvement," says Wick.

- One of these church planters, Samuel Slaffey, serves in a ghetto in South Philadelphia. "I know that it is especially important to build relations with the people in this area," says Slaffey. Remembering that in Matthew 9, Jesus saw people with compassion, Slaffey and his wife started a church with an cocaine addict and an exprostitute. "We saw it as a miracle when the N.A.B. Conference took us into the fold as church planters," notes Slaffey.

This area is a colorful cultural mosaic. "We see doorways of evangelism to Italian mothers, Koreans, Greek merchants, Puerto Rican drug dealers, and young black youth," says Slaffey.

"Your prayers and gifts are making an impact in Philadelphia. Two boys who used to deliver drugs for their mother are now born again. Two young mothers who attended the Atlantic Association women's retreat know they are a part of the N.A.B. Conference. We all say thank you."



- Established churches, such as Whitehaven Road Baptist Church in Grand Island, NY, have linked with others in multicultural ministries. This Church is attempting to reach inner-city Buffalo with a sports ministry that may grow into a church plant.

"A challenge facing some of the intercultural ministries is the need for economic and community development," notes Wick. "Before some of our intercultural works can become self-supporting, they will have to address the cycle of poverty in which

their members live. We hope to provide specialized training in economic development to selected church leaders in 1992."



#### ■ Finding 20 Potential Church Planters

Another goal is to identify 20 potential church planters to pastor new churches.

Who is a church planter? What is that person like? Robert Walther, associate director for church planting, sees this person as one who

- Prays fervently
- Casts a vision for the church planting project and helps others catch this vision



- Desires consistent growth in the church with a goal of the church becoming self-supporting
- Is intrinsically motivated and committed to excellence
- Is responsive to the community—identifying and interpreting the needs of the community
- Utilizes the giftedness of others
- Has spousal cooperation, serving as a team

"People—church planters—called of God and willing to serve are needed to help reach North America for Christ," says Walther. "Consider



serving as a church planter or encouraging someone in your family or church to make this commitment. Pray that those whom God is calling will respond."

#### ■ Women's Ministries

The Women's Missionary Fellowship is one of the most valuable organizations in any church! It offers

- an opportunity to seriously meet the needs of many hurting people, whether at home or internationally; and



The binational Executive Committee of the Women's Missionary Fellowship is committed to modeling service, providing resources, and working together as team members with the women's leadership on the local church and Associational levels. The WMF Executive Committee and WMF office personnel are (standing l. to r.) Dottie Aebi, member-at-large, West US; Coral Lehman, vice-pres. II; Mary Smith, editor, Program Resource; Linda Weber, director; Sue Kiblin, member-at-large, East US; Rose Tolentino, WMF office secretary; Sandy Wilkie, member-at-large, Canada; Pam Arends, vice-pres. I; and Nancy Lennick, president.

- a place for the women of our congregations to be able to discover that God has given them spiritual gifts that He will use as they are willing to serve in His name.

The effectiveness of the women's group comes from involving many women in a myriad of ministries that touch all avenues of the church's outreach. Through the Women's Missionary Fellowship, the women of our churches are provided opportunities for leadership, training, encouragement, and service," says Linda Weber, women's ministries director.

#### ■ Youth Ministries

"Providing a list of youth workers who are willing to network to provide youth topics, resource information, and help with problem-solving is one service of the youth ministries," notes Dan Hamil, youth ministries director. Hamil, who serves one day a week, is coordinating the Triennial Conference Youth Program for 1994.

In 1991, a summer ministry, Compass, provided students an opportunity to teach vacation Bible schools at two church planting projects and one established church.

1974

College Heights  
Prince George, BC  
Wilbert Harsch  
British Columbia Association

1974

Shakopee  
Shakopee, MN  
Reuben Stading  
Minnesota-LaCrosse Association

1974

Sunrise  
Fair Oaks, CA  
Eugene Kern  
Northern California Association

1974

Hollyview  
Boring, OR  
Larrimore Neufeld  
Central Pacific Association

1974

Calvary  
Fremont, OH  
Richard Methner  
Penn-Ohio Association

1974

Meadow Hills  
Aurora, CO  
Victor Gunst  
Southwestern Association

1975

Highland  
Derby, NY  
George Brite  
Eastern Association

1975

Bloomington  
Bloomington, IL  
Phil Yntema  
Illinois Association

1975

Woodland Shores  
Bridgman, MI  
(Norman Berkan, interim)  
Rubin Herrmann  
Michigan Association

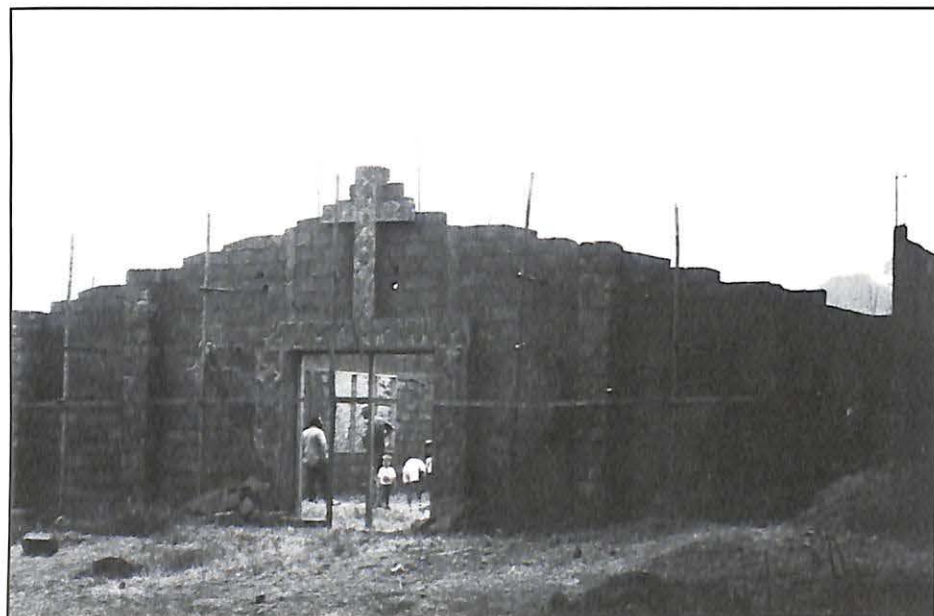
1975

Bernal Road  
San Jose, CA  
Aaron Buhler  
Northern California Association



# Miracle at the Well!

by Dale Hufnagel



A new missionary, Dale Hufnagel, led young builders of the Nkwen Baptist Church to Christ. The Church building, the size of a football field, has a total seating capacity of 4,000. The balcony will seat 1,000.

What a drag! The whole day without water? Welcome to Cameroon, Dale! So, off I went with pail in hand without an inkling of why the Lord had allowed or perhaps even caused this terrible inconvenience.

That's how it all began Friday afternoon, February 14, 1992. We had not even been in Cameroon for one month before the Lord began a rich harvest of souls that we trust is still only the beginning.

As I drew closer to the water, which was spilling out of a small garden hose, I realized that I was not the only one in need. One of the 33 church builders working on the Nkwen Baptist Church in Bamenda

was already there. The Lord said, "ASK if he knows the way!"

Now, I have to make one thing very clear at this point. When we, as a family, moved in across from these young workmen at Baptist Center, I experienced no warm, fuzzy feelings of love for them or, for that matter, any burning desire to share the Gospel with them. Instead, I peered out across the yard at them with distrust. Besides that, our real ministry would not begin until we moved to Bafousam and began French church planting—or so I thought.

In spite of those rather natural yet terribly carnal thoughts and feelings, I took the challenge to ask the young builder whether or not he knew for

certain that he was going to heaven when he died.

Now, I am not sure if that young man named Samuel, a Pidgin speaker, actually understood all that I said, but he was open. So I invited him to trust Christ to save him and to take control of his life. We knelt to pray, and Samuel trusted Christ to save him.

As we left that "holy ground" and made our way back through the site, I was very guardedly excited, if you know what I mean. My thoughts and emotions were all mixed up between, "Wow, my first convert in Africa!" and "Does he really understand? Is he really born again?"

The next day I went to see Samuel in the workers' house. He listened intently as I shared the Gospel more fully.

A crowd began to gather around us. Sensing something important was taking place, 10 other workers joined us. When I left them that morning, I had witnessed 11 men kneel and commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

This time I knew that Samuel at least understood and that his decision was genuine. Now, the others? I was not too sure. Was this real, or was this simply a group decision due to peer pressure?

As we began to meet for follow-up teaching, more of their friends joined us. During our study time, I always took the time to question them about salvation.

As these young men watched their friends come to Christ, they were being prepared to share the Gospel as well, so one night I let them loose. Now, they are the soul-winners, and I have the privilege of

watching my children bear grandchildren. Can you think of anything more exciting?

Since that waterless afternoon at the "well," five have been baptized, and two more have come to Christ, bringing the total to twenty-one new believers, one in process and one rededication. Why? Why did God use a green-horn missionary just off the plane to bring the Gospel to people who spoke Pidgin more comfortably than English? I really do not know, except for one thing, I obeyed the Lord when He said, "Ask them if they know the way."

As I reflect back on my life and pastoral ministry in Canada, I realize that I was too often afraid to simply ask people if they were going to heaven when they die. I really believe that had I asked more, I would have led many more to Christ. North America is far more open to the Gospel than we realize. I tell you, it sure is a lot easier not to ask, but the road of disobedience always is.

Now let me put the ball in your court. Will you obey our Lord and begin asking your friends, your neighbors, your acquaintances if they know the way? This road of obedience is more difficult, but the rewards are infinitely more as well. Happy questioning! □



The Rev. Dale Hufnagel is an N.A.B. missionary serving in Cameroon, West Africa.



## Serving Internationally

Like Joshua in the Old Testament, our missionaries have the burden and vision to serve in the spiritual battle for the Kingdom of God. Joshua challenged the children of God to serve the Lord in sincerity and truth. The constant challenge before him was to confront the enemy so as to win back the territory that God had promised to Israel. In the midst of paganism, he stood firm by holding the banner of God with a servant's heart.

As an N.A.B. Conference, we have more than 70 career and short-term missionaries serving overseas. They are compelled to serve to bring Christ to those who do not know and to disciple Christians to serve. Our missionaries serve side by side with national pastors, teachers, medical workers, and faithful local church laborers who are burdened with the commission to witness.

### Serving through church planting

Making disciples through church planting continues to be the primary focus within each of the seven nations where we serve.

■ In Restinga, a residential section of Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, Mission-



Studying the Bible at a new church in Restinga, RS, Brazil.



Serving in international missions administration (l. to r.) are the Rev. Fred Folkerts, associate director; the Rev. Herman Effa, director; and the Rev. Dale Fuchs, associate director.

1976

Calvary  
Regina, SK  
Robert R. Hoffman  
Saskatchewan Association

1976

Nepean  
Ottawa, ON  
Loren Weber  
Eastern Association

1976

Park Meadows  
Lethbridge, AB  
Bruce Merrifield  
Alberta Association

1976

Sturgeon Valley  
St. Albert, AB  
Erwin Kujat  
Alberta Association

1976

Brooks  
Brooks, AB  
Philip Grabke  
Alberta Association

1976

Evangel  
Boca Raton, FL  
Norman Vernon  
Great Lakes Association

1977

Century  
Bismarck, ND  
S. Donald Ganstrom  
Central Dakota-Montana Asso.

1977

Faith  
Rock Rapids, IA  
Reuben Grueneich  
Iowa Association

1977

(Southside Baptist Temple)  
Southside  
Monclova, OH  
Ron Heisler  
Penn-Ohio Association

1977

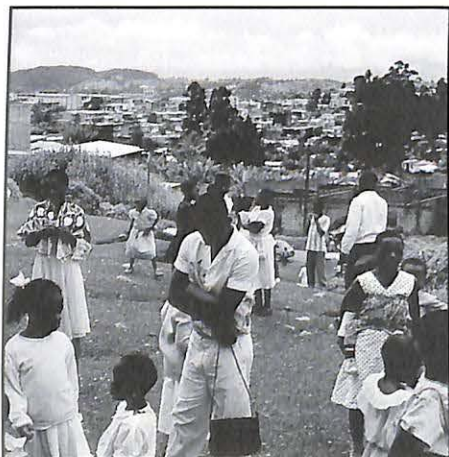
Neshaminy Valley  
Bensalem, PA  
Dennis Kee  
Atlantic Association



aries Keith and Lilyane Bienert are planting a church.

"In 1991, after six months of hard work, we dedicated our new building with no debt. God does beyond what we ask, think, and expect. The day after the dedication, we baptized three people with others waiting for the next baptismal class to start. We thank the Lord for the privilege of serving Him."

Evangelistic home Bible studies, visitation, family counseling, preaching, and teaching are some of Bienerts' responsibilities. "Church planting is very hard, slow work, but it is rewarding to see lives being changed and to have a part in investing in something that is eternal."



■ In Cameroon, Missionaries Dale and Marcy Hufnagel begin their service in 1992 in the city of Bafoussam. Their goal is to plant a French-speaking church there. The Hufnagels are the first N.A.B. Conference missionaries to be called to a French ministry in an urban center.

■ In the year and a half since Missionaries Reimer and Nobuko Clau-

sen moved to Kameoka in Japan to plant a church, "More than 50 non-Christians have attended some function, such as a worship service, Bible study, or special event at the church. A church building has been constructed, and the Sunday School has grown from several children to about fifteen. This Church began with two Christian women and the Clausens. Christians have joined the Church and are serving there."



■ In March 1992, Missionaries Juan and Amanda Luna began their work as church planters in Mexico City. Teaming together with a Mexican Baptist Convention church, they serve several preaching points in south-central Mexico City. There is great need for more evangelical churches in this city of almost 23 million people.

■ A new church was started in Batang, Ligao, Philippines, in 1991. By year end, the Church had a membership of 25. Thirty-nine persons decided to follow Christ, and twenty-four were baptized. "Among those

baptized were several influential community leaders," say Missionaries Greg and Maria Evans. The first church established by our missionaries, Leland and Jennell Bertsch, Albay Bible Community, was expanded to accommodate 100 worshippers.



### Serving the Lord by reaching the unreached

■ A church built and planted in Campeche, SC, Brazil, brought the Gospel to a previously unreached ocean fishing village. In addition, Martha Nelson received permission to teach 200 public school children who previously had no religious education at all. "We praise God for this opportunity," say Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson.

■ Reaching out to new people groups in Cameroon involves placing Missionaries Scott and Ruth Clark in Allat, where they seek to plant a church among the Fulbe people. "I've sold Bibles and have given out several hundred tracts to Fulani neighbors. They like the Gos-

pel of Luke in the Fulfulde language in Arabic the best," says Clark. The Clarks will be instrumental in opening a primary health care center in a 100 percent non-Christian village near them. Another group nearby that has no known Christians were recently discovered—the Wa-Wa people. It is hoped to present the Gospel to these people, also.

■ The Tigon, Ndoro, and Fulani peoples are being reached through church planting efforts of the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria.

■ The Bicol Region remains the second most unreached area in the Philippines with each existing church having only 36 members. "We now have ten Bible study lessons completed in the Bicol dialect. The first time we used them, a whole family came to Christ," say Missionaries Gregg and Maria Evans.



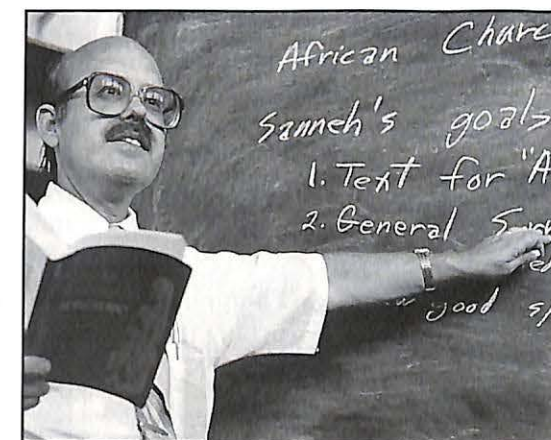
### Serving through discipling leaders

■ Harold Dressler, missionary to Eastern Europe, taught pastoral training seminars in Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Russia and continues this ministry in 1992. He has also been asked to help set up the Baptist Seminary in Moscow, Russia in 1992. "The Lord has been gracious and kind—glory to His name," says Dressler.



■ "Four students are preparing for full-time Christian service at the Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center in the Philippines," according to Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch, who set up the Bible training center several years ago.

■ "It is great to see students employing ministry skills they have been learning at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary," say Missionaries David and Mary June Burgess who serve there.



■ More than 100 students are studying at Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Mbu, Nigeria. Eight teachers including one missionary couple, the Jim Misches, serve there.

### Serving national conventions now missionary senders

■ The Cameroon Baptist Convention conducted a survey on the Island of Bioko (formerly Fernando Po). They plan to send the first Cameroon Baptist Convention missionary couple there in 1992. "The Baptist Church of Bioko with approximately 35 members is pleading for us to come to plant churches," says Missionary Ken Priebe.



1977

(Westland) Meadowlark-Westland  
Edmonton, AB  
Leonard Johnson  
Alberta Association

1977

Tri-Community  
Elk Grove Village, IL  
(William Kresal, interim)  
Marvin Busenius  
Illinois Association

1977

Metropolitan  
Fargo, ND  
Ted Keck  
Central Dakota-Montana Asso.

1978

Brandon Valley  
Brandon, SD  
Mervin Kramer  
South Dakota-Wyoming Asso.

1978

Corona Heights  
Corona, CA  
Ron Hartman  
Southern California Association

1978

(Community Baptist) Unity  
Red Deer, AB  
LeRoy Moser  
Alberta Association

1978

(Community) Sun Prairie Com.  
Sun Prairie, WI  
David Rushton  
Wisconsin Association

1978

Eagle Rock  
Idaho Falls, ID  
Robert Lennick  
Central Pacific Association

1978

Middle Island  
Middle Island, NY  
Henry Wilk  
Atlantic Association

1978

Southdale Community  
Winnipeg, MB  
Jerry Edinger  
Manitoba Association



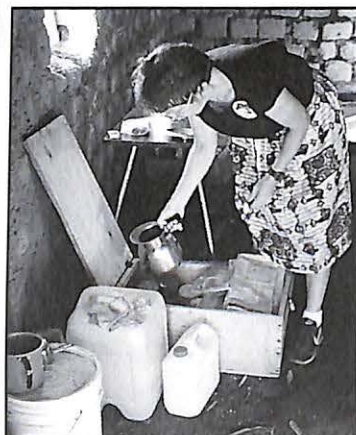
■ "We made great strides in the development of an indigenous mission organization of the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria. More than 30 evangelists plus two full-time Fulani evangelists are now serving," says Missionary Jim Black.

■ In 1991, the Japan Baptist Conference sent funds to the Philippines to support the work of reaching the Bicol people with whom our N.A.B. missionaries work.

### Serving with compassion through medical missions

■ More than 175,000 were treated through medical work on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria in 1991. The physical and spiritual needs of people are met through mobile health clinics held by Medical Director

Zebulon Wanmi and Missionary Barbara Kieper. There are 21 clinics with 56 village health workers. "We also immunized 14,127 children under five years and pregnant mothers," says Wanmi. Prayers for a much needed medical doctor are being answered in 1992 with the appointment of Dr. and Mrs. Ken



Jones, who formerly served in Cameroon.

■ "Though we were busy, I was able to couple and pray with a number of people with spiritual needs," says Trudy Schatz, missionary nurse serving in Cameroon.

■ "We are greatly encouraged by the maturity of the leadership on the Medical Board in Cameroon. The future is bright as long as our commitment to Christ is maintained," reports Missionary Jerry Fluth. Through the medical ministry, 181 came to know Christ.

■ "It is always 'eye-opening' to realize how little is understood of the



### Serving internationally in nontraditional ways

#### ■ National Missionaries

The first national missionary, appointed by the Missions Board, is Miss Florinda Serafin. She is serving by assisting church planting ministries in evangelism and discipleship in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Presently, she serves at the new church planting ministry

in Restinga along with the Bienerts conducting evangelistic home Bible studies.

#### ■ Tentmakers

New avenues for ministering together with those who have opportunities to work overseas yet desire to disciple and be involved in the planting of churches are being explored.

■ The first missionary couple, Matthew and Diane Hussey, were appointed in 1992 to Kazakhstan.

### Short-term missionary service

A servant's heart is needed for those who choose to temporarily lay aside career plans and work along-side nationals in ministry.

■ "To tell of Jesus in English in Japan is difficult, but it was my goal to take those opportunities presented to me and do the best that I could with the help of the Holy Spirit." —Scott Hug

■ "My heart was touched by the young men and women I worked with to train them to be effective in the area of music and worship leadership in the local church in Cameroon." —Louanne Wiens

■ "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Hillcrest School in Jos and my association with the Mambilla Baptist Convention of Nigeria. This has been one of the most positive experiences in my life so far." —Jewell (Roehl) Kidd



#### ■ Gateway

Gateway provides cross-cultural ministry and service opportunities for individuals and groups seeking to become world Christians. In 1991, a pilot project with eight youth served in an Evangelistic English Language Camp in Poland. A team member said, "Being able to share God's love and free gift of salvation to people of a different language and culture in Poland was an experience I will treasure forever. In the future, I pray the Lord opens doors for me to do more in missions."

Projects in Brazil and Poland are scheduled for the summer of 1992. Future projects will be planned.

#### ■ Volunteers in Missions

Approximately 100 people from across our Conference were involved as Volunteers in Missions on our various mission fields. Their volunteer activities ranged from electrical work, carpentry, brick laying, medical work both as doctors and nurses, audio visual technical assistance, discipleship seminars training pastors and lay workers, evangelistic ministry of showing the Jesus film, clerical work, teaching English as a second language, teaching at theological schools, assisting in administration needs. □

### FIELD STATISTICS

1991	churches	baptisms	members
Brazil	103	770	8,500
Cameroon	665	3,857	59,177
Eastern Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a
Japan	8	20	423
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nigeria	168	n/a	16,818
Philippines	2	29	58

1979

Gillette  
Gillette, WY  
Harry Haas  
South Dakota-Wyoming Asso.

1979

Sierra College Blvd.  
Rocklin, CA  
Phil Putz  
Northern California Association

1980

No. Carrollton  
Carrollton, TX  
Bob Walther  
Southern Association

1980

Timberline  
Lacey, WA  
(Kenneth Goodman, interim)  
Larimore Neufeld  
Pacific Northwest Association

1980

Gold Country  
Shingle Springs, CA  
Dale Cundall  
Northern California Association

1980

(West Boca Community)  
merged with Evangel  
Boca Raton, FL  
John Hise  
Great Lakes Association

1981

Summit Drive  
Kamloops, BC  
Werner Lemke  
British Columbia Association

1981

Hartland  
Prince George, BC  
Willis Carrico  
British Columbia Association

1981

Cascade Park  
Vancouver, WA  
(S. Donald Ganstrom, interim)  
Phil Yntema  
Central Pacific Association

1981

Faith Community  
Airdrie, AB  
Harold Weiss  
Alberta Association



# CEIF Serves

20 YEARS

CEIF's loans hit a record high in its 20 year history in 1991—totalling \$14,632,882. CEIF ended 1991 with several record-breaking performances

- \$3,275,103 in loans to 13 N.A.B. Conference churches to purchase, build, repair, and refinance church buildings
- an increase in investments of \$3,376,687
- continuing loans to 96 churches totalling \$11,295,317, and
- consulted with five churches contemplating new landsite purchases.

## Churches see an increase in ministry as the result of receiving loans from CEIF.

- Dennis Dearman, pastor of Valley Community Baptist Church, a former church planting project in Tracy, CA, says, "God has truly blessed this Church. We have seen lives changed, recommitments to our Lord, and reconciliation in relationships." People "saw a church doing something that couldn't have been done without the financial support from CEIF and the vision of those who invested in this ministry."
- CEIF helped make our dream come true," says David Bolton, church planter. "When we moved into the Fontana (CA) YMCA, we were averaging 160 in attendance, and by year's end, we averaged 339 in two services. Helping us acquire this facility with an



"As our people join together as investors, our investments become a place for God's work, where people come to salvation and maturity in Christ," says Robert Mayforth, CEIF director, to Randy Coffland, assistant director of loans, CEIF.

incredible location was an important step of faith for our congregation. Fifteen months after moving in, we've topped 400 in attendance and have gone to a third service in April 1992."

## Investors find joy in using their investments to do the Lord's work.

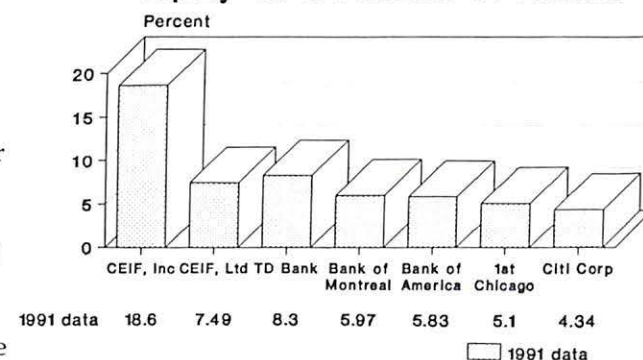
- "We thank the Lord for His goodness to us in making it possible to have funds to invest in CEIF. We are thankful that these monies are helping people find the Lord. After all, that's what life is all about,"

say Roy and Gloria Weiss of Medicine Hat, AB.

- Aimee and Floyd Mittleider of Lodi, CA, find their investments not only "provide us the necessary income but also are being used to help build new churches and aid those already established to expand their facilities. What a joy to know the investments are being used wisely to further God's Word and plan for mankind!"

In reviewing his service with CEIF, Robert Mayforth, director, says, "The greatest joy I have experienced over these 20 years with CEIF is seeing the people of the N.A.B. Conference come together to solve the problem of funding the construction of new church facilities." □

## How Strong is CEIF? Equity as a Percent of Assets



CEIF's strength continues to increase. Its equity is several times stronger than many banks.

# Your investments should do more than just pay interest.

One-dimensional investing—that's when an investment pays you interest and does nothing more.

An investment with Church Extension Investors Fund (CEIF) is more than just one-dimensional. It gives you something other investments don't—an opportunity to serve the Lord. To do something significant with your investment.

CEIF pays you a competitive rate of interest while using your money to make low interest construction loans to NAB churches throughout North America. Loans that spur growth and expansion. Expan-

sion that enables NAB churches to have visible and dynamic outreach into a community.

CEIF provides a safe, solid place for your investment dollars.

Never invested but want to? Consider CEIF. For as little as \$100 you can get a current market rate plus know you are helping build churches.

Where is your investment money right now? Locked up in one-

dimensional investments? Make a difference to more than just your investment portfolio. Invest in the lives of North American Baptist Conference people. Invest with CEIF.



Write or call for FREE helpful information on how to make a sound investment decision.

CEIF

1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

Phone: (708) 495-2000 • Fax: (708) 495-3301.

1981

Whitecourt  
Whitecourt, AB  
Edwin Broadway  
Alberta Association

1982

Hawkwood  
Calgary, AB  
James Leverette  
Alberta Association

1982

Community  
Beiseker, AB  
Alan Johnson  
Alberta Association

1982

Westview  
Lethbridge, AB  
James Erb  
Alberta Association

1982

(Sunrise) Unity  
Red Deer, AB  
Douglas Bittle  
Alberta Association

1983

Gettysburg  
Gettysburg, PA  
Bill Mummert  
Atlantic Association

1983

Silverwood  
Saskatoon, SK  
Erwin Kelbert  
Saskatchewan Association

1984

Oak Hills  
Folsom, CA  
Kent Carlson  
Northern California Association

1984

(Flower Mound) Cross Timbers  
Flower Mound, TX  
Douglas Harsch  
Southern Association

1985

Cornerstone  
Carol Stream, IL  
(Eldon Schroeder, interim)  
Stephen Patrick  
Illinois Association



# Serving through GIVING

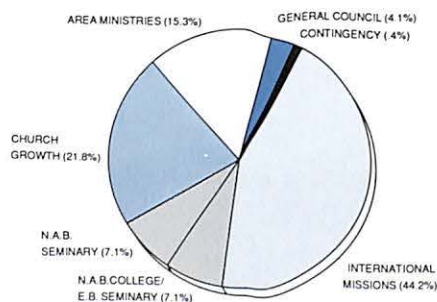
During 1991, North American Baptist Conference churches and individuals gave generously—\$6,585,000—toward the \$6,600,000 goal for missions and ministries at home and overseas. In order to meet all of our commitments, an increase in undesignated funds is needed.

The largest shortfall occurred in the Established Ministries budget, which is funded by undesignated as well as designated dollars. Vital general ministries did not receive adequate funding through undesignated contributions. In 1992, an urgent increase is needed in contributions designated for general Conference ministries.

## ■ Per capita giving in 1991

- Total Conference giving: \$6,584,749 or a per capita of \$108

GIVING GOAL 1991



TOTAL GOAL \$6,600,000

- Total giving to N.A.B. Conference schools' annual funds, Associations, and Conference ministries: \$10,419,432 or a per capita of \$172
- Total giving to local churches, Associations, and Conference:

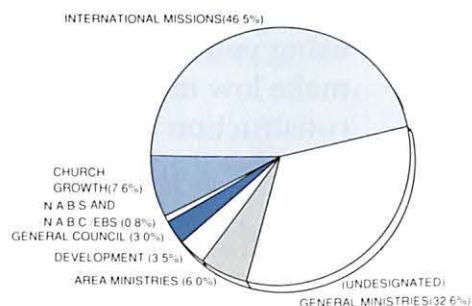
\$52,494,849 or a per capita of \$866, a decrease of \$41 under 1990

- Total all-purpose giving including non-N.A.B. projects: \$55,124,875 or a per capita of \$909, a decrease of \$40 under 1990

## ■ In 1991, the Management Services Department

- Receipted Bequest Income of \$226,700 designated for international missions, church planting, and Conference ministries
- Coordinated Pension Plans with Great-West Life in Canada and Minnesota Mutual in the U.S.A.

1991 INCOME BY DESIGNATIONS



TOTAL INCOME \$6,585,000

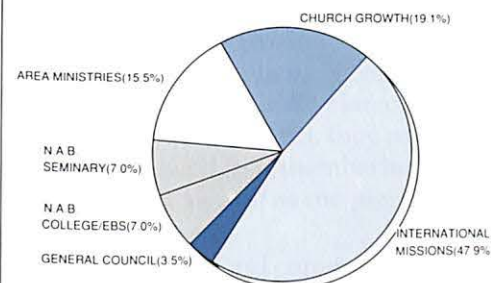
- Distributed year-end pension checks to 158 people totaling \$30,640
- Processed Grant-in-Aid gifts to six retired N.A.B. Conference pastors or spouses in special need

(back row l. to r.) Karen Dickau, assistant director/building operations and insurances; Ron Salzman, management services director; Alfred Keller, data processing manager; (seated l. to r.) Sarah Redlich, staff accountant; William Gingrich, associate director of finance and business



ART HELWIG PHOTO

EXPENSES 1991



TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,415,000

- Selected the auditing firm of Capin, Crouse & Company for the 1991 audit
- Completed a needs study for an integrated, current computer system
- Introduced a new U.S. health insurance carrier and assumed the responsibility of centralized billing

The report by the auditors, Capin, Crouse & Company, is available by writing the Management Services Director, N.A.B. Conference International Office.

It is difficult to separate our stewardship from our service!

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave (servant); you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of my master'" (Matthew 25:21 NASB).

Our very lives are a stewardship from God, and we must learn to serve well. Someone has said, "Life is like a game of tennis, the player who serves well seldom loses."

One way we serve God is through our stewardship. As members of Conference churches, you are effective as well as generous servants—faithfully responding to the financial commitments we have accepted as a Conference.

In tennis, it is polite to describe the opponent's failure to score a point as having "love." Forty to love indicates that the score is 40-0.

In the Christian world, we call the scoring of points "love." Indeed, we serve others by our stewardship

(l. to r.) Rev. Jim Fann, associate director/church relations; Mrs. Barbara Binder, associate director/editor, *Baptist Herald* and "N.A.B. News"; Rev. Arthur Helwig, associate director/communications; Dr. Constantino Salios, associate director/estate planning; Dr. Lewis Petrie, development director; Mrs. Dorothy Ganoung, assistant director/communications/editor, *Moments with God* and "Link."

because of the love that was demonstrated to us by Christ.

In 1991, we met the challenge of serving well as we gave our resources to meet the need to spread the gospel. In 1992 and beyond, further responsibility will be entrusted to us by our Lord.

Together, by supporting the N.A.B. Conference cooperative missions and ministries, we can do more than any one church or individual can accomplish alone. You and your local church play a crucial role in fulfilling the opportunities God has entrusted to all of us, as a Conference of churches. —Lewis Petrie, development director

## Here's what you can do . . .

- Fully support your local church
- Keep abreast of Conference ministries by reading "N.A.B. News" and the *Baptist Herald*
- Increase your church's annual giving goal for Conference missions and ministries
- Participate in the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings for Conference missions and ministries
- Pray that God will expand the work of His kingdom by supplying all the needs of your church and the Conference

1985

Shady Grove  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Jim Arends  
Atlantic Association

1985

New Life Ministry  
Winnipeg, MB  
Harry Lehotsky  
Manitoba Association

1985

Walnut Grove  
Langley, BC  
(Harold Neff/Gordon Stork, interim)  
Jim Calamunice  
British Columbia Association

1985

Twin Oaks  
Stockton, CA  
Greg Myers  
Northern California Association

1986

Coppell Fellowship  
Coppell, TX  
Daniel Heringer  
Southern Association

1987

Hope Fellowship  
(Clay Bowlin, interim)  
Dennis Dewey  
Kansas City, MO  
Southwestern Association

1987

South Austin Fellowship  
Austin, TX  
Gordon Stork  
Southern Association

1987

Christ Community  
Puyallup, WA  
Gordon Bauslaugh  
Pacific Northwest

1987

Valley Community  
Tracy, CA  
Dennis Dearmin  
Northern California Association

1987

Antelope Springs  
Sacramento, CA  
Steve Kellar  
Northern California Association



ESTATE PLANNING

# Serving you in ESTATE PLANNING

Assisting you, as members and friends of N.A.B. Conference churches, by giving you information on how you can best plan your estate is one way the Estate Planning Ministry of the Conference serves you.

"Estate planning is as much a spiritual matter as it is a legal matter. Because this is true, we serve by helping people find God's plan of stewardship for their estates," says Dr. Constantino Salios, associate director for estate planning. Salios and Mel Bergstresser, estate planning representative for Canada, teach the biblical basis of stewardship as well as communicate important information concerning estate planning in seminars. They also serve as they meet privately with individuals or couples concerning their estate.

As people find God's plan of stewardship for their estates, they may become interested in remembering the Lord's work as well as the people whom they love.

The Apostle Paul commended the Corinthian Christians as he said, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but also is overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" (2 Corinthians 9:12). The service mentioned in this text is that of giving funds to support the needy Christians in Jerusalem.

If we may be of service to you personally by assisting you in designing your estate plan or in conducting a seminar in your church, please write or call Dr. Constantino Salios. ☐



"For many years, our parents, Edward and Elizabeth Meister, were involved in the ministry of the N.A.B. Conference," says the Rev. Paul Meister. "Now that they have both gone to their heavenly rewards, they wish to continue their input in our N.A.B. Conference ministry. Please accept this gift from two dedicated Christians who were concerned about the ongoing work of Jesus Christ."

Dr. C. Salios (l.) receives checks from the estate of Edward and Elizabeth Meister from their children, Paul Meister (r.) and Elizabeth Goding (second from r.). Mrs. Janet Meister looks on (second from l.). (Inset: Mel Bergstresser, estate planning representative, Canada.)

## Yes, Dr. Salios, please send me a free "Will and Trust Planning Guide."

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Dr. Constantino Salios • North American Baptist Conference  
1 So. 210 Summit Ave. • Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994  
Phone: (708) 495-2000 • Fax: (708) 495-3301

- Support the 1992 Mission and Ministries Goal through dollars directed toward general (undesignated) Conference ministries as well as designated gifts

In doing so, we, as well as thousands of others, will experience His joy. Then our Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The main ministry focus of the Development Department is to serve others through a variety of ministries. The one service that is paramount is our communications ministry.

The Baptist Herald, Moments

with God, "N.A.B. News," "Update," "Link," audio-visuals, videos, brochures, and the Every Church Visits tell the story of what God is doing through our Conference in North America and internationally.

The staff of the Development Department serve the other Conference departments and our local churches. Each one is willing to serve you. Please call or write. Together, we can impact our communities by serving others in the name of Jesus Christ. ☐

## OUR STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION Total 1992 Giving Goal \$6,600,000

### A. ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES \$5,181,000

Overseas Missions	\$2,282,000
Church Growth Ministries	959,600
Educational Ministries	862,800
Area Ministries	1,005,000
General Council	71,600

- 40 career missionaries
- 23 church planters plus 1 new and 3 established
- 8 full-time and 5 part-time area ministers
- preparing future ministers and missionaries

### B. EXPANSION MINISTRIES\* \$1,109,000

Overseas Missions	\$ 689,000
Church Planting Ministries	420,000

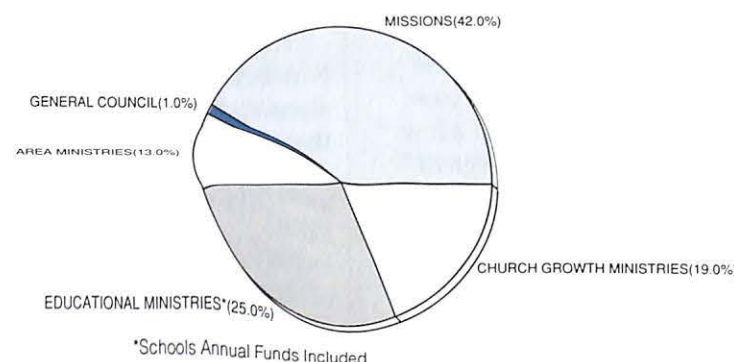
- 24 career missionaries
- 11 short-term missionaries
- 3 existing church planters and 6 new ones

\* (Schools' annual fund goal of \$1,035,000 not included)

### C. SPECIAL PROJECTS \$ 310,000

Overseas Missions	\$ 212,000
Church Growth Ministries	38,000
Auxiliary Ministries	60,000

## TOTAL 1992 CONFERENCE GIVING GOAL



## MY RESPONSE

☐ YES, I (we) want to help make Vision 2000 a reality by making the following gift to N.A.B. Conference mission and ministries for this current year. (Please make check or money order payable to North American Baptists, Inc.):

- ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I (we) would like more information about Vision 2000. ☐ We will pray
- ☐ I (we) request more information about ☐ serving as a missionary internationally ☐ N.A.B. Seminary  
☐ N.A.B. College ☐ Edmonton Baptist Seminary ☐ serving as a volunteer in North America or overseas  
☐ serving on a youth team ☐ planning my (our) estate ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I (we) wish to subscribe to the Baptist Herald: US\$8; CDN\$10.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

1987

Pacific Bible  
Dana Point, CA  
Keith McKinney  
Southern California Association

1987

Mountain View Community  
Fontana, CA  
David Bolton  
Southern California Association

1988

42nd Triennial Conference  
Calgary, AB  
New Churches . . . New Life  
launched

1988

Riverside  
Devon, AB  
Larry Froese  
Alberta Association

1988

Vaca Valley  
Vacaville, CA  
Dave Wesner  
Northern California Association

1988

Okotoks  
Okotoks, AB  
Cornel Van Eyk  
Alberta Association

1988

Oak Hills  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Art Bollaert  
South Dakota-Wyoming Asso.

1988

Calvary  
Penticton, BC  
(Peter Schroeder, interim)  
Leonard Strelau  
British Columbia Association

1989

Crossroads  
Fairfield, CA  
Charles Feeney  
Northern California Association

1989

La Costa Hills  
Carlsbad, CA  
Larry Lamb  
Southern California Association



## Area Ministers *as Servants*

**S**ervice is trying to meet other's needs in the love, power, and name of Christ. The Area Ministers are servants. This requires them to be flexible, cooperative, energetic, visionary, tough, and tender.

These men guide and encourage Associations; help established churches with health and growth issues; assist in replacement of pastoral staff; serve as pastor to pastoral staff; guide and encourage church plants and inter-cultural ministries; bring needed feedback from the churches to the International Office and various Boards; promote the cooperative N.A.B. Conference mission and ministry programs in the local areas; mediate conflict/change in churches and associations; help to celebrate significant ministry passages—church anniversaries, starts, closings, building renovations, ministers' ordinations, inductions, farewells, retirements; and give counsel to auxiliary institutions—camps, N.A.B. Seminary, N.A.B. College, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, and nursing and retirement homes.

In total, Area Ministers traveled 182,956 miles or 294,459 kilometers, made 1,041 visits with pastors, and participated in 318 Association meetings.

The Area Ministries Department serves in a variety of other ways by

- encouraging N.A.B. Conference endorsed chaplains—military, medical, aviation, and general counseling;
- serving as the Serve Task Force

and providing resources on the Biblical Imperative: Compelled to Serve;

- advising the N.A.B. Conference Ministers' Fellowship Executive Committee in planning the 1993 Ministers' Family Conference on "Embracing Change" to be held at the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in July 1993; Dr. Leith Anderson and Dr. Roger Fredrikson are

featured speakers;

- conducting an annual Ministers' Salary Survey;
- participating in seminars, such as "Mediating Conflict and Change" through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. During the next year, special emphasis will be placed on understanding and assisting transitional or plateaued churches. □



*Serving the Associations are (l. to r.) Dr. Ron Mayforth, director; Rev. William Taft, Great Lakes; Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh, Iowa (part-time); Rev. Edmond Hohn, British Columbia; Rev. Robert Walther, South Dakota (part-time); Rev. John Ziegler, Eastern/Atlantic; Rev. Milton Zeeb, Southern/Southwestern/Iowa; Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Central Pacific/Pacific Northwest; Rev. Jake Leverette, Manitoba/Saskatchewan/Northern Dakota; Dr. Charles Littman, Alberta; Rev. Eldon Schroeder, Illinois/Wisconsin (part-time); Dr. Ken Fischer, Northern California/Southern California. Not pictured but serving part-time are Mr. Milton Hildebrandt (volunteer), Minnesota/LaCrosse Association, and Rev. Herb Schauer, Central Dakota/Montana Association.*

ART HELWIG PHOTO

1989

Abundant Life  
Winnipeg, MB  
Erwin Kelbert  
Manitoba Association

1989

Franklin Community  
Franklin, WI  
John Schindler  
Wisconsin Association

1989

Christ Church-Baptist  
West Des Moines, IA  
Elmo Tahrn  
Iowa Association

1989

West Sound Community  
Silverdale, WA  
Rainer Kunz  
Pacific Northwest Association

1989

Oakland Hills  
Rochester Hills, MI  
Randy Beck  
Great Lakes Association

## Serving in *Chaos*

by James Fann

**W**e are *Compelled to Serve* in Christ's name. But how do you do that in a world experiencing radical, sweeping changes like

- **increased "rurbanization"** or the move away from essentially rural values (status quo, sameness, harmony, smallness, and establishment) to urban ones (change, diversity, conflict management, bigness, and mobility).
- **the rise of "minority majorities."** "You'll know it's the 21st Century, says *American Demographics*, "when everyone belongs to a minority group," a tidal "Age Wave." Half of all Americans who have ever lived past age 65 are alive now. Yet as a population percentage, their numbers are expected to double by 2050.
- **the "boomer blossoming."** In ten years, the much heralded baby-boom generation will be firmly in charge. Not only will they flood middle management, white collar posi-

tions as now, but also they will fill strategic corporate, government, and religious leadership roles.

- **a "technosplosion"** of revolutionary and unpredictable breakthroughs in physics, electronics, and biotechnology. Indeed, many experts are predicting that the pace of new developments will increase exponentially this decade.

The First Law of Wing-walking offers comfortable advice. "Never let go of what you've got until you've got hold of something else." Unfortunately, our situation is more like a man on a trapeze. To succeed, we will be required to spend some terrifying time hanging in midair.

Still, according to concerned pastors, church members, and leaders in our Conference, there are significant steps that any congregation can take if they want to provide meaningful service to this highly chaotic generation.

### Create stability zones

Recognize that while numbers of churches are "dying for change," others are dying because of it. Certainly in



JIM WHITMER PHOTO

1989

Romanian  
Sacramento, CA  
John Gug  
Northern California Association

1989

Southfield Memorial  
Southfield, MI  
Dwayne Turner  
Great Lakes Association

1990

Valley Christian Fellowship  
Temecula, CA  
Mike McNeff  
(Mark Fisk, associate)  
Southern California Association

1990

All Nations  
Downsview, ON  
Kenrick Sharpe  
Eastern Association

1990

Central Valley  
Newman, CA  
Dennis Shippy  
Northern California Association



our day, responsive, responsible change is a must.

In established churches, however, that will mean grounding change in an atmosphere of confidence and trust. One member, describing her church, put it like this: "We were able to follow our pastor into the unknown because he didn't try to change everything at once."

Nor are newer, entrepreneurial churches exempt from the need to deal sensitively with change. "Un-churched Harry and Mary are as overwhelmed by change as everyone else," one Conference leader observed. "They need reliable zones of caring, affirmation, and support, too."

Thus, whatever your church type, the advice is the same. Include a strategy to reduce the anxiety that change tends to produce. In today's society, churches that offer stability zones are providing effective, meaningful Christian service.

### Be market responsive

That sounds a bit secular. But it simply means getting to know people, trying to understand them, and discovering ways of relating and communicating with them on their own terms.

Here's how one church planter explained it. "I go door-to-door with questions and really work at getting to know people around the church and community. How do they think? What do they like or dislike? What are their fears? What are their dreams?" His goal is to understand the people he is attempting to reach with the Gospel.

Surprisingly, this is one of the most neglected steps by congregations planning to do outreach ministries. Yet, as George Gallup reported in *The People's Religion*, the un-churched have a "clear sense" of what they want from the church. That includes

- **a sense of community.** Gallup calls North Americans "the loneliest people in the world."
- **support and help for families.** There is a negative side to this, Gallup warns. One reason many singles, especially young people, stay away from church is that they feel they are not wanted because they are not part of a family.

**"We were able to follow our pastor into the unknown because he didn't try to change everything at once."**

- **helping them to find meaning in their lives.**
- **teaching them how to put their faith into practice.** A "plurality" believe the church "is not concerned enough about social issues." But they don't want churches to become "so involved in social justice issues that they lose sight of spirituality."
- **a greater role in church leadership.** Your church will need to gather more specific information from its

community, of course. But the facts are in. Churches that listen and respond intentionally to their "market" community are providing a much-needed Christian service.

### Do a few things—do them well

Quality, not quantity, is job one. "The art," says church consultant Kennon Callahan in *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, "is to never send in plays the players cannot run. The art is to never send in more plays than the players can run."

"We recognize that we cannot do everything," reports one pastor. "So we target our ministry toward the group we believe we are most likely to reach." For some, this will mean focusing on teenagers; for others, on the disabled, or the elderly, or single adults.

Some smaller churches may even band together for these ministries. Their members cry for help, too. One young mother in one of our churches recently wrote: "I'm a single parent of two preschoolers. When will there be something or some support for us? The big churches seem to have this kind of help, but our small one doesn't—and it's discouraging."

Whatever the decision, there is broad agreement that one important part of effective serving in a chaotic world is discovering what you do best and doing it well. □



The Rev. James Fann is Associate Director/Church Relations, Development Department.

## Y'all Come to Texas!

The 44th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist churches will be held in Dallas, Texas, August 2-7, 1994.

"As Local Arrangements chair, I invite you to come to Texas in '94! The LAC is making plans for an ex-



citing, spirit-filled meeting," says Linda Schmeltekopf. "We trust you will join your

N.A.B. family and friends in Texas as we treat you to a big dose of Southern hospitality.

"Come early and stay late to vacation in some of the beautiful and diverse parts of our great State. We also invite you to visit in our Southern Association churches.

"We look forward to hosting you, our N.A.B. friends and coworkers for Christ. See y'all in Texas in '94!" □



"For me, this year presents a challenge to properly lay the foundation for the Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, TX, in 1994," says Gary McCullough, assistant

to the executive director and Triennial Conference manager. "The theme for this Conference will be 'Dare to Care.' We know you will enjoy Dallas and Texas."

## Selected Goals 1988—2000 NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

- Provide resource materials and training opportunities for churches to effectively implement six Biblical Imperatives: Worship, Grow, Witness, Serve, Give, and Care
- Assist Associations to plant 125 churches and raise the necessary expansion ministry funds needed
- Expand the mission commitment of our churches to include a greater emphasis on evangelizing people in Canada and the U.S.A.
- Assist the North American Baptist Seminary and Edmonton Baptist Seminary in implementing church planter tracks to prepare church planters for ministry
- Assist North American Baptist Conference churches in their outreach ministry to increase total worship attendance by 40 percent or about four percent annually
- Research, plan, and initiate church planting ministries among 12 new unreached people groups on our present mission fields as well as establish a new mission field
- Participate in evangelistic efforts internationally resulting in 50,000 recorded decisions for Christ leading to baptism and membership in a local church
- Assist the overseas national conventions to increase the number of churches by a net of 30 percent
- Help train 1,000 national ministers internationally
- Raise and distribute \$1,000,000 for world relief/development
- Assist the international Baptist conventions in discipleship education resulting in self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating churches
- Through our churches recruit and train 500 professional leaders to follow God's call to service in our Conference and the wider Christian body
- Assist churches to plan ministry for meeting the needs and utilizing the potential of the growing number of aging persons
- Encourage North American Baptist Conference educational institutions to cooperatively develop extension theological education opportunities for the laity and ministers
- Adhere to the highest level of accountability and integrity in all financial activities of our Conference, Associations, and our churches
- Encourage churches to develop plans for multicultural ministries
- Work toward religious liberty, justice, and dignity for all people and peace among nations of the world. □

1990

NW Baptist Fellowship  
Vancouver, WA  
Byron Brodeh  
Central Pacific Association

1990

Faith Community  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
Denis Friederich  
Atlantic Association

1990

International City Community  
Philadelphia, PA  
William T. Grier, Jr.  
Atlantic Association

1990

Christian Compassion  
Philadelphia, PA  
Samuel Slaffey  
Atlantic Association

1990

Bible Baptist Fellowship  
Camden, NJ  
Joseph Lewis  
Atlantic Association

1991

New Beginnings Baptist  
Keizer, OR  
Bruce Fields  
Central Pacific Association

1991

East West Community  
Anaheim, CA  
N. Jawahar Gnaniah  
Southern California Association

1991

Stony Creek  
Shelby Township, MI  
Randall G. Rheume  
Great Lakes Association

1991

New Life Community  
Lloydminster, AB  
Martin Wagantall  
Alberta Association

1991

ElmCreek Community  
Maple Grove, MN  
Leigh Harrison  
Minnesota-LaCrosse Association



# Baptist Herald

1 So. 210 Summit Ave.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994  
Telephone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301

Non-profit organization  
second class postage  
paid at Villa Park, IL 60181  
and at additional mailing offices

Registered as Second Class Mail  
under permit #9327 at Norwich, Ontario  
Return postage guaranteed

## *Compelled to* **SERVE**

**DEFINITION:** Service is using God-given gifts and talents in ministry toward advancing the Kingdom of God.

**GOAL 1:** Build an atmosphere in which people understand and catch a vision of servanthood and are motivated for service.

**GOAL 2:** Assist people to identify, affirm, and utilize their spiritual gifts, acquired wisdom, and natural abilities to build the Body of Christ.

**GOAL 3:** Assist local churches to identify and develop relevant service opportunities in the church, community, and the world.

**GOAL 4:** Ensure the reaching of Association and Conference mission goals by strengthening "ownership" of these among local churches and their members.

**GOAL 5:** Foster an attitude of being willing to take some risk in trying new services in the church.

**GOAL 6:** Recruit and train men, women, and youth to follow God's call to professional areas of service in the Body of Christ.

**GOAL 7:** Sustain and encourage people in service through the creation of affirmative feedback systems for service.

**GOAL 8:** Develop ministry plans to meet the needs and utilize the potential of the growing number of aging persons.

**GOAL 9:** Develop ministry plans to meet the needs and utilize the potential of the handicapped and disadvantaged.

**GOAL 10:** Encourage North American Baptist Conference educational institutions to cooperatively develop innovative extension theological education opportunities that address future trends and meet needs for laity and ministers.

*"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them . . ." (Romans 12:4-10, NKJV).*

1992

Church Planting Project  
Federal Way, WA  
Larrimore Neufeld  
Pacific Northwest Association

1992

Harvest Baptist  
Ottawa, ON  
Frank Hildebrandt  
Eastern Association

1992

WestLake Community Fellowship  
Rowlett, TX  
Bradley N. Grubb  
Southern Association

1992

Church Planting Project  
Modesto, CA  
James Renke  
Northern California Association

1992

Church Planting Project  
Calgary, AB  
team planters  
Alberta Association