

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST
HERITAGE COMMISSION

APRIL 1993

BAPTIST HERALD



CHRIST IS RISEN

WORLD

Effa visits new work in Mexico



Missionary Keith Chapman
(l) excitedly shares ministry
plans with a core group.

The Rev. Herman Effa, N.A.B. Conference missions director, visited Sonora State in Mexico, February 26-March 1, for the purpose of discussing the organization of the new N.A.B. Conference mission work there.

"I was very impressed with the maturity of the lay pastors present at the organizational meeting and encouraged with the fellowship that exists between the small independent churches," reports Effa. "The possibilities in Mexico are endless, and the opportunity is present for many of our N.A.B. Conference people to be involved in a mission field that is within driving distance of many of our churches."

Aaldyks obtain visa for Nigeria



On March 5, the Rev. Peter and Mrs. Susan Aaldyk received their visas to enter Nigeria for missionary work on the Mambilla Plateau. They prayerfully waited several months after their first visa applications were denied until a new missionary quota was reissued for Mambilla Baptist Mission.

Nigeria has had restricted visas for all Christian missionaries for the

past eight months, but it now appears that those restrictions are relaxing somewhat. Peter will serve as Field Secretary for the Mission, and Susan will be involved in women's work.

The Aaldyks will replace the Rev. Jim and Mrs. Lisa Black, who left mission work in Mambilla in 1992. He serves as pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Vancouver.

"We praise the Lord for answered prayer," says Fred Folkerts, associate missions director.

Missionaries Ken and Fran Jones are still awaiting visas to enter Nigeria to do medical ministry.

Petrie and Effa visit Bulgaria and Russia

Dr. Lewis Petrie and the Rev. Herman Effa visited Bulgaria and Russia, March 4 through 16, to explore further ministry opportunities

for the North American Baptist Conference there.

In Bulgaria, they met with the Rev. Theodor Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. He introduced them to the Baptist ministry there, and Petrie and Effa attended services at local Baptist churches.

In Russia, they met with the leaders of The Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia along with representatives of Campus Crusade and the International Bible Society. They participated in local churches and helped distribute Bibles in schools.

Petrie is Development Director for the North American Baptist Conference, and Effa serves as International Missions Director.

NORTH AMERICA

135th anniversary celebration reflects on Seminary's rich heritage

"The N.A.B. Seminary, one of the oldest institutions in South Dakota, was founded on the faith and hard work of the pioneers that tamed this country," stated South Dakota Governor George Mickelson in his greeting at the Seminary's 135th anniversary celebration.

N.A.B. Seminary celebrated its 135th anniversary on Feb. 10, 1993. Students, staff, friends, and community leaders shared in the time of reflection and festivities.

Dr. George Dunger, emeritus professor of missions, as keynote speaker, characterized the Seminary as having a "sanctified dream, a dedicated image, an enlightened vision, and an enabled mission."

Originating in Rochester, NY, in 1858, the Seminary moved to Sioux Falls in 1949. N.A.B.S. is an accredited graduate school that prepares persons for church leadership and counseling positions in churches

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As the curtain rises on the first Easter morning, we see a handful of women winding their way to the garden tomb. They carry containers of spices and ointments. And they bear grief. Jesus, their Lord, is dead, and they come to anoint His body.

Though they know a bolder blocks the opening of the grave, they come, hoping that somehow, someone will roll it away. When they arrive, they lift their eyes to confront the stone. What they see makes them gasp. It's gone! The door is open!

Entering, they see a young man wearing white and sitting next to a slab of stone. He speaks to the bewildered women, "Don't be alarmed." And then, he delivers the

Rolled Away!

by G. Roger Schoenhals

first Easter sermon.¹ In that dark, hollow tomb, he proclaims the five affirmations of Easter.

He Lives!

The angel begins at the point of their experience. "You are looking for Jesus. . . He is not here. See the place where they laid him." But along with the obvious, He adds

something new. News heard for the first time. He tells them plainly, "He has risen!"

Three words, three historical words. Words that form the foundation of our faith. Words of life and hope.

Every week, we gather to celebrate these words and to worship the living Christ. And every year when Easter rolls around, we really let it ring. We heartily sing words, such as, "Up from the grave He arose" and "He rose triumphantly, in power and majesty." We nearly yell it, "Jesus Christ lives!"

And because Jesus lives, we live. We experience the results of His atoning death. We enjoy His daily presence. And we have His immeasurable power working inside

of us to mold us into His image and to help us win our daily battles with temptation.

He Sends Us Out!

The second affirmation of Easter takes us outside of ourselves. Again, the angel says it plainly. "Go, tell," he exhorts. Speaking for the Lord, He gives them a mission to spread the good news.

We express our belief in the resurrection not only with our hearts but also with our feet. By sharing the Easter event with others, we fulfill the will of God.

To me, the most vivid picture of Easter is not a tourist's photograph of the garden tomb. It's the portrait John paints of Peter racing to the empty grave. We see his robes flying in the wind. We see his face—eager, excited. He runs with purpose.

Easter reminds us of our highest purpose. Life is more than eating, sleeping, working, and playing. It's even more than enjoying God's love and forgiveness. What matters most is that we take seriously His command to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."²

Maybe we won't literally "Go tell it on the mountain," but we can dust off some other means of getting out the message. Sincerely expressing a word of concern, sharing what God has done for us, offering encouragement, performing a thoughtful deed—these are some of the ways we can make known the realness of Easter.

He Goes Before Us

He sends us out—but not alone. The angel told the women, "He is going ahead of you." And so the third affirmation of Easter is the promise of His leadership.

The empty tomb means we can have confidence in the future. We know that when we get to tomorrow or next year, Jesus is already there. When troubles come or trag-

edy strikes, Jesus knows of it beforehand. He abides both in the present and in the future. The disciples discovered this when they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus called from shore, telling them where to throw their nets. And then He called them to the campfire and to the breakfast He had prepared for them. Heaven will be like that. When we arrive, we will find our Host ready and waiting for us.

Jesus lives to guide us through rough seas and to lead us beside still waters. He lives to lead us in paths of righteousness. We serve a risen Shepherd!

He Reveals Himself!

The angel told the women that if the disciples went to Galilee, they would see Jesus. He would reveal Himself to them. The fourth affirmation of Easter, then, is the possibility of having a personal experience with Jesus Christ. We can know Him.

After leaving the tomb, Mary of Magdala met Jesus in the garden. She thought He was a gardener. But Jesus revealed His identity to her. She saw Him as the Lord.³

And what about the two men who walked along the Emmaus road with the stranger? That evening, as He blessed the meal, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him.⁴

The risen Christ is not hiding. He desires to make Himself known to anyone who will "confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead."⁵

Easter means we can know Jesus as personal Savior and Lord. That's why a popular Easter song ends with the words, "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart."

He Keeps His Word!

Jesus said He would be crucified and buried and on the third day

arise. He said it three times during the week prior to His death. And through His prophets, He said it repeatedly in the Old Testament.

When He rose from the dead, He proved to us He could be trusted. The angel reminded the women of this when he added the words, "just as he told you."

Easter means affirming the faithfulness of God. It means taking fresh hold on the promises of God. Promises about His help in times of temptation. Promises about His going to prepare a place for us in Heaven. Promises about His return.

Friends will let us down. At times, our own family will fail us. But not Jesus. We can count on Him.

When our children were young, we organized an annual Easter egg hunt. We hosted several dozen youngsters from the neighborhood. As the parents scurried around hiding the eggs in the vacant lot next door, I met with the children in a makeshift chapel in our double garage.

During those few moments with the bundled-up, rosy-cheeked children, I tried desperately to hold their attention as I told the Easter story. I showed them a brightly colored egg and attempted to draw comparisons between it and new life and the resurrection.

For some of the children, it was probably their first hearing of the Easter story. Maybe the only hearing. That's not true for most of us. We've heard it over and over.

But how good to hear it again. Five affirmations that lift us and carry us forward. Jesus lives! He sends us out! He goes before us! He reveals himself! He keeps His word! □

G. Roger Schoenhals is a free-lance writer from Seattle, WA.

Scripture references are from the New International Version: ¹Mark 16:6,7; ²Mark 16:15; ³John 20:14-18; ⁴Luke 24:13-35; ⁵Romans 10:9.

Building Self-Esteem in Teens

by Bob Laurent

A successful parent helps teenagers accept themselves, like themselves, and be glad they are who they are. Successful parents help their young people realize their value.

How do you begin? Here are several things you can do to build self-esteem in your teenagers.

■ Give them a sense of belonging

Fitting into most of the social groups, which make up the teenager's world, almost always depends upon performance, looks, economic standing, or conformity. If your son is athletic enough, he is sure to find acceptance among the school "jocks." If your daughter is attractive, other-centered, and willing to conform to the dating system, she can count on popularity among her peers.

There is only one group which does not—or at least should not—insist that teens measure up to its expectations before they are accepted: that is the family. It is possible for you to make your home that one place where your teenagers can fit in—in spite of an acne problem, empty wallet, fumbled football, bouts with depression, or an inability to grasp advanced algebra.

■ Resist the urge to recount your former successes

Zig Zigler reminds us that when we rehearse our accomplishments from the past with our teens, "time dramatically improves our performance." It is not uncommon for teens to become so discouraged with trying to live up to the quixotic stories and embellished achievements of their parents' past that they opt for destructive behavior.

Competing with the past, even if it is not an illusion, is too unrealistic a burden to lay on any teenager. So avoid the temptation to finish any sentence which begins with, "What



do you mean you can't do it? Why, when I was your age—" or "I'm not one to brag, but—."

Your teens are bound to learn about your past laurels from old high school yearbooks, casual banter at family reunions, and diaries that turn up when you pack to move to a new house. If they discover your credits on their own, it is liable to endear you to them and give them a sense of healthy pride. But if you preach your past to them, do not be surprised by their resentment and alienation. Better that you discretely share your blunders than your boasts with your teenagers.

■ Caution them frequently that no one can steal their self-worth without their permission

Neither you nor your teen is responsible for how others mistreat you, but you are accountable for how you react to slander, unjust criticism, and a vindictive spirit.

I had a student with a history of low self-esteem. He was aware of his susceptibility to depression trig-

gered by anyone who criticized his efforts. We talked often about how his true self-worth was derived not from his performance, nor from the opinions of others, but from the fact that God had made him who he was. He had to stop allowing people or circumstance to steal his self-esteem.

One day in my office, I saw the lights go on in his head, and a smile come across his face. It was not long afterwards that I heard he had placed a poster with three meaningful words over the bookshelf in his dorm room: Don't allow it!

St. Augustine once observed, "People travel to wonder at the height of mountains, at the high waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars—and they pass by themselves without wondering."

■ It's never too late to focus on your teenager's inner qualities

We learn not to expect much in the way of physical attractiveness in

our newborns for the first few weeks. Though they grow into fine looking children, each of our babies has been characterized by a head remarkably misshapen from its trip down the birth canal, a scalp as hairless as a billiard ball, and a funny little scowl that could curdle Similax. Cabbage Patch "preemies" have nothing on any of them.

So when our third child was born, I stood outside the hospital nursery window watching the nurse bathe her, thanking God for the smooth delivery, rejoicing in her good health, and praying for God to help us raise our daughter to be a committed Christian woman. Presently, a fellow member of the church softball team came along to view the baby and congratulate me.

It was humorous for me to see him taking in that lopsided head, bald pate, wrinkled brow, and toothless scowl. Not knowing me very well, I'm sure he felt that he had to say something appropriate. He went beyond the call of duty.

"Hey, hey! What beauty, Huh? You're going to have a hard time keeping the guys away from that one. She's going to be a real heart-breaker!"

I knew that he meant no harm, but his comment got me thinking about the imbecilic system we have for evaluating human worth in this country. Almost from the day of their births, we condition our sons and daughters to believe that their self-worth is wrapped up in their physical appearance. I overheard a young woman say that girls do not spend all that time and money on cosmetics because they are dumb or vain. On the contrary, they are intelligent enough to know that guys can see better than they can think!

One of the greatest lessons a child can learn is the meaning behind the verse, "The Lord does not see as man sees. Man looks at the outward

appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." It would be a good idea, when we are with our teens, if we could focus on things which last. Perhaps if we took every opportunity to compliment them on their character, integrity, and the fruit of the Spirit as it is evidenced in their lives, we might see them better handle their struggle with self-esteem.

■ Help them experience satisfaction and find balance with their physical appearance

As crucial as it is to encourage your teen to focus on his internal qualities, the fact is that there will probably be times when he can't see that "eternal" because the "temporary" is driving him to distraction.

Having a teenager who is inordinately vain about his good looks is a problem. But is it less vain or destructive for a teen to be self-consumed with what he considers to be a physical flaw? I was extremely self-conscious and rendered socially dysfunctional in my early teen years by a chipped front tooth. After being teased by some kids at school about my "Bucky Beaver" grin, it became difficult for me to look people straight on when talking with them, and I eventually developed a crooked smile which remains with me today. My confidence level skyrocketed the weekend I had my teeth capped.

Whether you need to connect with an orthodontist for braces, an optometrist for contact lenses, a dermatologist for skin care, or even a plastic surgeon for help with a crooked nose, your teen's appreciation will make the expense worth it. It may free them up to go deeper when they are no longer plagued by a surface problem.

■ Remind them often of their inestimable worth

I believe that it is God's desire that our teens value themselves in

accordance with the price He has placed upon them. Your teenager is worth the death of Jesus Christ.

My 16-year-old son and I have a better understanding of that price because of a severely broken leg he suffered in a skiing accident when he was seven. For some reason, there was no doctor available to set his bone on that raw February evening, so the decision was made to get him through the night with pain shots.

My nerves were on edge, and my heart breaking with compassion as I sat in his darkened hospital room, listening to his quiet weeping turn to crying and eventually to feverish screaming. I felt totally helpless and gladly would have offered both of my legs for breaking if it would have alleviated the smallest part of his suffering.

Eventually, the pain was so intense and his fear of another hypodermic needle so vivid that he called me over to his bed. "Dad," he begged me, "you've got to promise me something!"

"What is it, son?" I replied, unable any longer to restrain my own tears.

"Don't let them stick me again!" he implored.

Scarcely a moment later, the nurse called me into the hallway and said, "Mr. Laurent, your son is waking this whole wing up. I have instructions to help him get to sleep."

I was relieved to hear that and wondered why they hadn't done so earlier. "Fine," I answered, "How are you going to do it?"

"I have to give him another injection. I need you to hold him down for me."

I pinned my son's spindly arms to the bed as the nurses whipped the sheet off his body and, for the fifth time that night, jabbed him in his bottom with the hypodermic.

(Continued on next page)

Middle School— Does Your Program Attract Youth?

by Allen Kjesbo



The transition to Middle School is experienced as upheaval in the lives of many students, their families, and churches. As expectations increase, so does stress. Midweek church activities need to be infused with energy to enable tired Middle School students to thrive.

"Club Mid" is the name of our high energy, competitive, midweek event. It consists of dividing students in teams of eight to ten middle schoolers with one coach. The students are given points for bringing Bibles which they will use throughout the night. The leader of "Club Mid" starts with a 15 minute teaching lesson from which the middle school students are quizzed later on.

Following the teaching time, there are three sets of quizzes. Each quiz section contains three questions followed by a physical challenge. The first question is the easiest of the three with each question

getting more difficult and requiring a sense of teamwork from the team to answer the question. The physical challenges provide a time for middle school students to be active while developing teamwork.

We use *Group and Youth Specialties* as resource material for developing the physical challenges. The challenges need to be affirming of each individual, require everyone to be involved, and allow the kids to be loud and active. After each physical challenge, they return to three more questions as a group. The

last set of questions are more "essay" in format and require the middle school students to make application from the Bible teaching to their lives.

We do not emphasize winners or losers; however, we do award points. Occasionally, we give out small treats, but that is the exception to the rule. The emphasis is on learning from God's Word and having fun while doing it! "Club Mid" has been an activity that channels the energy level of the students in a healthy fashion. □

Allen Kjesbo of Sioux Falls, SD, formerly served as youth pastor at West Meadows Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. He has also served as speaker for young teens at the N.A.B. Triennial Conference. Presently, he serves as youth pastor at First Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD.



Building Self-Esteem . . . (continued from page 7)

His eyes were as big as saucers as he stared at me and let out a scream that pierced me like cold steel: "DA-A-A-A-A-ADD!"

For the first time in my life, I understood the Father's side of the cross.

The day before His death at Golgotha, Jesus informed His best friends that He would be crucified and that, in the end, even they would betray Him. They were vehement in their denial and pledged their loyalty to Him. In view of what happened on Friday, His next words surely came from the human side of the God-Man. "But I will not be alone, for my Father will be with me."

Jesus spoke several times as He hung on the cross for six hours between Heaven and Hell. But to me, His most poignant speech occurred at the moment He fully realized the price which sin was to exact. Bleeding to death for the sins of the world, He became aware of something which had never happened since before the dawn of time. "My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?"

Did God the Father hear His only Son crying, "DA-A-A-A-A-ADD!" when, because Jesus became my sin, His own father turned away from Him?

If I, having been created in the image of God, instinctively was ready to sacrifice all of my limbs that night just to repair my son's leg, what might the Father-heart of God felt on the dark afternoon His Son was murdered? The more basic question, though, is, why did He allow it?

The answer for you and your teenager is that you both are worth the death of Jesus Christ. You are that much loved. □

Dr. Bob Laurent has ministered to teens for more than 20 years. He holds a Ph.D. in Religious Education, specializing in adolescent psychology. This excerpt, reprinted with permission from David C. Cook Publishing Co., is from his book *Improving Your Child's Self-Image* (LifeJourney Books).



COMPELLED TO SERVE

Someone You Should Know

by James Correnti

Four years ago, Al Fletcher, a faithful member of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA, became burdened for the youth in the neighborhood. To begin to meet needs, he asked various church members if they might be willing to start a youth group. Several men responded affirmatively; two of whom continue to serve with him to this day.

"I didn't see myself as a leader; I was just doing what God told me to do," says Al.

Beginning with three teenagers in the group, they gradually hammered out the philosophy and structure of youth work. They have faced all the usual trials of trying to integrate church youth and street youth, converted youth, and uncommitted youth.

In 1991, the Tuesday evening youth group was established as the time to invite new friends with more of a social emphasis in the programming, and Sunday mornings as the study/training time for

the committed core group. The same three youth formed the new core group and became workers in the day camp that year.

As the Tuesday evening recreation activities went out into the park for the summer, attendance increased. Teens that were traveling by would join the volleyball game and then come to the meeting. The youth group was regularly breaking 30 in attendance and had to divide into junior and senior high groups.

The youth group now averages more than 15 on Tuesday evenings, and the core group has grown to nine. There has been a special study established for the girls as well as the beginning of prayer groups.

"My original vision was largely meeting some of the social needs of the kids," says Al. "I hadn't anticipated the spiritual impact, both in their lives and in my own life."

The spiritual impact hit close to home when Al and his wife, Ro, saw three of their children and two of Pastor and Mrs. Correnti's children baptized, as well as the first three youth from the community.

Obviously, the impact of the youth group has been greatest in the lives of the community youth who don't have the primary spiritual influence of a Christian home. The youth group leaders have grown spiritually as well, as they followed through with those who professed faith in Christ.

There was more joy for the Fletchers as Rebecca Lilly, a member of the '91 Kingdom Works team who lives with the Fletchers, was baptized. Al's mother, for whom they have prayed for more than a decade, also made the decision to follow the Lord in baptism. □



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Create a Scripture banner to represent your church at the celebration

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August 4-15, 1993

Participate in an urban service opportunity in Philadelphia

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VBS—Evangelism or Enterprise?

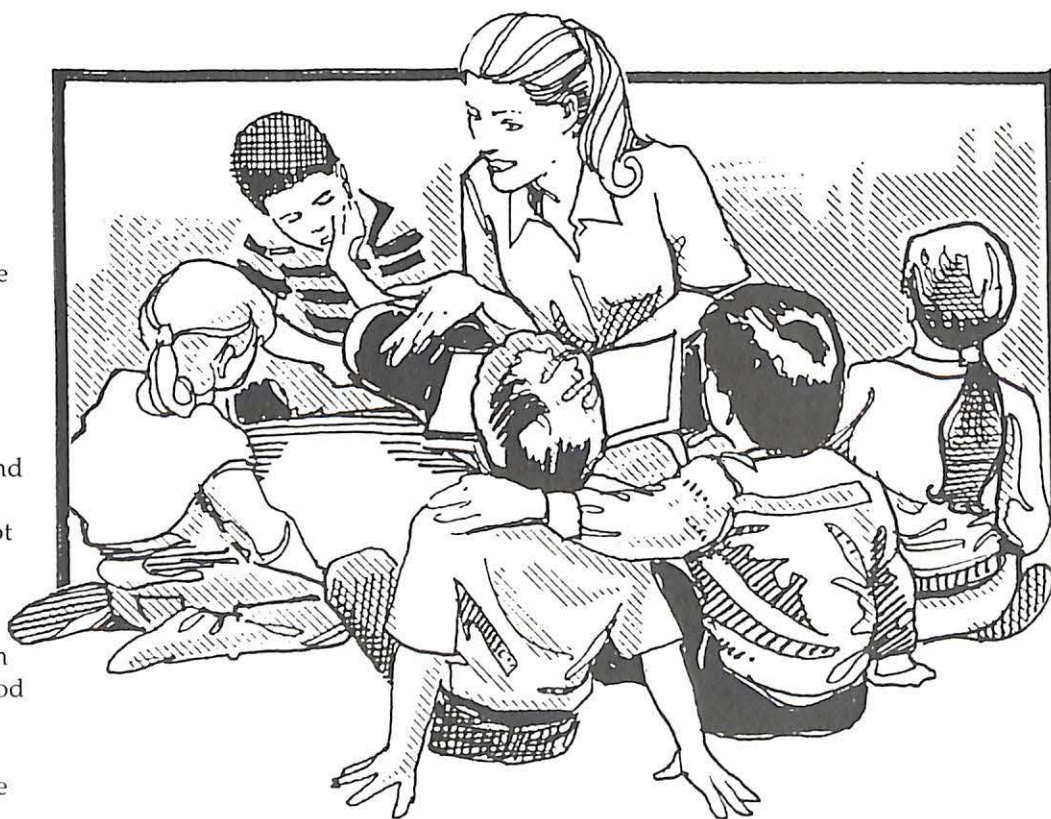
by Dennis Dearmin

It was the spring of 1988 when the subject of Vacation Bible School first arose. Amid the extra toil and struggles, a Church Planter has access to some of the greatest jewels of pastoring: "You can do it your way." To put it more sanctifiedly, you can do it the way the Lord has revealed for you. Truly, He had revealed to me the way we should do VBS. I had strong opinions on what should happen in motivation, message, and method. But my job was to share my vision and understanding—not just to do it all myself.

In the first conversation that spring, the question arose: "Could Valley Community Baptist Church do a VBS?" It also brought a method—a method that was directly opposed to the way I felt we should go. I was excited that people in the Church were already getting involved and wanting more ministry, but I was concerned that we take the right path.

Aside from using some established VBS curriculum, the interested parties would begin with pre-registration—no problem. Then, one week prior to the start of VBS, they would close registration, and no one else could come. Now the alarms started to sound in my mind.

Finally, it would not be any cost to the church because by closing the registration they would know how many children would attend, how many apples, pencils, and crafts would be needed. They could add up these costs as well as curriculum



and preparation fees, divide it by the number of children, and then charge each child accordingly.

Lights, sirens, bells, and whistles went off in my mind—the church and its ministries were to be an enterprise system?

I calmed myself, but I did not truly reveal my inner conflict. I asked, "Why this way?"

Their answer, "It's worked for us before. This type of organization lets us know exactly what's happening—no problems, no unknowns—it's so easy. There's no cost. By restricting the attendance to prere-

gistration, we avoid becoming babysitters—free child care.

Attitudes like "Failure Avoidance" and "Costless Organizational Mismanagement" leaped into my head. Certainly, we would avoid failure, but avoiding failure doesn't ensure success. Truly, it would not cost the body, but why shouldn't it? I couldn't help but think how many persons we would be able to reach for Christ if we added up the costs of the church, divided it up, and then charged admission. What new or prebeliever would come?

This would be organization, and

we need that, but I think sometimes we organize people and ministry right out of the Kingdom of God. I couldn't help but think, "What if we preregistered our people for worship, and those who hadn't preregistered by Monday prior to Sunday couldn't come?" You were excited about last Sunday's services and midweek activities; you wanted to invite your neighbor, but since you had not preregistered them, they couldn't come. The ushers would become church bouncers. But only so many bulletins, song sheets, and what have you, would be needed—no waste, no want.

On the other hand, I had a two-fold purpose in mind in doing VBS. I was motivated by the fact that the children of America are one of the biggest and most important mission fields in the world.

First, I wanted to evangelize the children of our neighborhood, the friends, the family, the acquaintances, and the unknown. Secondly, I wanted to teach our own children to evangelize by going to their friends and neighbors to invite them to come.

The suggested organized program seemed to preclude this. How could I share these thoughts without discouraging their desire and enthusiasm. I said, "Let me pray about this." That always sounds so spiritual, and we always need to pray. But I said, "While I pray, you pray, too, and you think about why you want to do VBS."

During the week, I prayed and

planted. Planted? Yes, I planted seeds of thought as to the way I felt God had directed us.

About a week later during the next meeting, I shared that I had come to peace with the direction we should go and asked the staff to think through the purpose of VBS. Unanimously, they responded: To evangelize, to reach the friends, neighbors, and children of our community, and to teach our own children as well.

I breathed, internally only, a deep sigh of relief. Their response opened the door for me to share in gentleness and love my vision and all the problems and avoidances I saw and felt. I concluded that by operating only under these motives and guidelines would our vision for VBS be accomplished.

With some question, reluctance, and anxiety, the staff set out to minister the gospel to the children through VBS. By Wednesday, the attendance grew to 40 percent above our attendance in Sunday worship. Anxieties were shattered when three children received Jesus Christ as Savior.

Since that year, we have seen more than 62 children make first-time decisions, and twice that many make renewed or growing commitments. New families have come, and our leaders have a new vision. For the last three years, I, as the pastor, have given only minimal

advice and approval, to the plans, preparation, or implementation of this area of ministry for this six-year-old church plant.

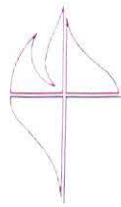
Last year, more than 40 people served in this ministry. Some of our men took vacation time to become involved because, as they said, they see children being won to Christ and their own children learning evangelism at its simplest level—asking their friends to come to something exciting and to meet Jesus.

We have many accounts of children bringing everyone on their block. One first grader invited a neighbor and, on the way, asked her if she had Jesus in her heart. She then told her how she could. Children are excited about what's happening.

Did it cost? You bet. There were a lot of tired people, and the money came right out of the budget. But the Bible says the Kingdom of God belongs to the children. There is probably no problem then in spending some of the money on reaching them. Evangelism or Enterprise—what are you doing? □



The Rev. Dennis Dearmin is pastor at Valley Community Baptist Church, a former church planting ministry in Tracy, CA.



Serving with Gladness

Presenting the class of 1993 of Edmonton Baptist Seminary

by Paul H. Siewert

If you were to solicit the average person on the street to "serve the Lord," he or she would probably respond with a stare of perplexity. We know how to serve our employer, or our family, or the program of the church. But how do we serve the Lord? You can't feed Him, or clothe Him, or lend Him a helping hand. Yet that is the commission of Psalm 100:2, "Serve the Lord."

Let me suggest two rather obvious expositions of this in the Bible. The first is found in Matthew 25. Here the Lord says to His servants, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in . . ." The servants innocently asked, "When did we do this?" And the Lord responds, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." We serve the Lord by being God's vessel of benevolence!

The second obvious avenue of serving the Lord comes from what we call the Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Basically, it is sharing the plan of salva-

tion in such an influential way that people will embrace Jesus Christ, with heart and mind, as Savior and Lord. We serve the Lord by becoming glowing, marketing vessels of His redemption.

The graduates of Edmonton Baptist Seminary have been preparing for this adventure. Now the launching time has come. We offer them to God, our constituency, and the world to "Serve the Lord."

Edmonton Baptist Seminary Graduation Banquet and Commencement ceremonies will be held April 24 and 25, 1993.

Dr. Paul H. Siewert is President of N.A.B. College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary, Edmonton, AB.

My studies at EBS gave me a great opportunity to grow in knowledge and spiritual depth. The professors, coworkers, and fellow students shared their ultimate love and concern for my personal, family, and ministry needs. Once I was blind . . . but Jesus opened my eyes. Now I need to confess my faith to those who are still blind. Jesus still comes to us today as He came to the blind man on the roadside many years ago: to open our eyes. Through the training I

received at EBS, God has opened my eyes. In particular, I see the blindness of my own people in Hong Kong and my desire is to return there to minister to them in the name of Christ's love.

David Chan is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife, Karen, are currently attending Southgate Alliance Church, Edmonton, AB.

Jesus calls us to live lives of loving and worshipping God with every part of who we are and what we do and to demonstrate His salvation to others. The vision for ministry God has instilled in me is to participate in and lead His people

into the maturity of Christ by modeling, equipping, caring, discipling, and proclaiming the Gospel in practical ways (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-13). I would be excited about serving and leading God's people in an associate pastoral ministry.

Brent Eisner is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is single and comes from Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, MB.

I praise my Lord Jesus Christ for Edmonton Baptist Seminary. My wife, Marion, and I will never forget the unending love, the gracious care, and the great advice we received from faculty, staff, and fellow students at EBS. We will also cherish

the challenges and the hardships that God used to make us who we are today. Marion and I are open to serve the Lord wherever He wills. We do have an interest in both pastoral ministry and camp ministry. "For to us, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippines 1:21).

Greg Gaensler is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His home church is Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON.

The Bible is a book about relationships. My motto for ministry is: "Building Relationships that Last." I believe that God has called me to be a shepherd (1 Peter 5:2-4) who serves by leading people into more intimate, effective,

and healthy relationships with God, self, and neighbour (Luke 10:27).

Brian Kirsch is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is single and a member of McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

There are many elements that have influenced my call in life.

I hope to use the pastoral counseling skills I have acquired at EBS in the field of human resources. I hope to take my life experiences and use them to work with

people with special needs—physical and emotional. This is an increasing need in our society and the frontier is boundless. Wherever God leads, I will follow.

Cheryl Leakvold is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies degree program. She is a member of the Wildwood Chapel, Wildwood, AB.

What a great learning and transforming experience my education at EBS has been! My vision at the time of commencing my studies at EBS was to be a pastor for the cause of Jesus Christ. Looking toward graduation very shortly,

my vision is still to serve God's precious people. One of my goals is to seek the needs of others and meet them, for I am called to serve them. I want to lead God's people and help build the strong church of Christ wherever He leads me—through evangelistic preaching, discipleship, and caring.

David Yong Lee is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife, Jae-Seon, attend the Edmonton Korean Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

Andy Leung is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies degree program and hopes to continue to work in a lay capacity in his home church, the Chinese Christian Church, Edmonton, AB.

Robert Toews is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He is already ministering on a part-time basis at the Southgate Alliance Church, Edmonton, AB.

My three years at Edmonton Baptist Seminary have been a challenging and growing experience for me. The learning experiences have also clarified for me my area of ministry. Family and marital problems are on the rise

among Chinese families. I'd like to provide pastoral care for hurting families and help rebuild broken relationships. My prayer is to see that families become heaven on earth.

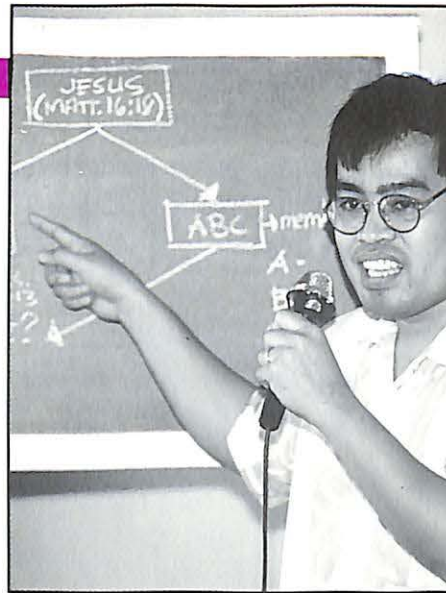
William Leung is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. His wife, Sharon, is graduating from North American Baptist College. Upon graduation, William will serve as associate pastor at Edmonton Chinese Christian Church, Edmonton, AB.

The words from the hymn "Amazing Grace," "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now can see" express my profound sense of gratitude to God for saving a "wretch like me." My mission in ministry, in light

of God's grace to me, is to make Christ known and to know Christ better. I believe God has called me to ministry. My desire is to be faithful and obedient to this call—serving God and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Leon Remus is a senior in the Bachelor of Theology degree program. His home church is First Baptist Church, Arnprior, ON.

"We take our students through 36 rigorous courses, and all the while work with them in ministry on a daily basis," says Bertsch.



Teaching Pastors in the Philippines

by Leland and Jennell Bertsch

Church planting in the Philippines is similar in many ways to church planting in North America . . . make contacts . . . lead home Bible studies . . . find temporary rental space for worship . . . search for a permanent site . . . train members in discipleship . . . develop church organization . . . struggle with limited resources . . . feel the loss of even one member who moves away . . . and enjoy the vitality of something new.

We soon realized, however, that the situation here demanded an additional involvement on our part—training pastors. For a variety of economic and cultural reasons, in order to have pastors to lead the churches being planted, a large percentage must emerge from among the converts and be trained on site.

So in 1988, we organized the Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center or BBTTC. We take our students through 36 rigorous courses, and all the while work with them in ministry on a daily basis. It is a low budget, no frills operation, but it is proving very effective in our ultimate goal of training pastors.

In August 1992, we rejoiced as our first student graduated. Steve Guianan was one of the original group of five who began meeting in our home in 1986. Since then, he has developed into a man of God—discerning, compassionate, and skilled in the Word. He and his wife, Mylas, now have three children. In October, our Legazpi church began to support him part-time as a pastor. He will continue to work at his job at a local university until such time as the church is able to support him fully.

Sometimes we question the amount of time we spend in teaching two or three students at a time. But men like Steve remind us that it is truly worth the effort, and this must remain a high priority for us.

Pray for the other students, especially Rufus, who will graduate next July, and for Rene, a new student who also committed himself to prepare for pastoral ministry. Pray also for others to be called of God from among our members. □

Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch serve as church planters in Legazpi City, Philippines.

Serving with Gladness (continued from page 13)

God willing, upon the completion of my Master of Divinity program, I, my wife, Jodi, and son, Jordan, will find ourselves serving in a full-time ministry within the Baptist Union of Western Canada. I am interested in either a senior or an associate position in a small city or rural church. We hope to be a "light in our community"—ministering to the hurting and the lonely.

Steve Rosluk is a senior in the Master of Divinity degree program. He and his wife, Jodi, attend McLaurin Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB.

Rev. Loren Stark has served several N.A.B. Conference churches in British Columbia and Alberta. While in the Edmonton area, he continued his studies and will be graduating with a Master of Theological Studies degree. He and his wife, Sig, are currently serving the Rabbit Hill Baptist Church, South Edmonton, AB.

The time I spent at EBS has been a challenging and growing period of my life. I have been deeply touched by the commitment and love that the professors and students have shown me. I experienced the love of Christ through these car-

ing people. As I leave the Seminary, I am aware of the strong need for the radical application of the love of Christ in a world which is wounded and hurting. As far as my future plans are concerned, I feel called to a ministry of pastoral counseling in the field of mental health.

Vinod Verghese is a senior in the Master of Theological Studies degree program. He is single and his home church is the Indirangar Methodist Church in Bangalore.

A Volunteer Becomes a Short-term

Leaving for Cameroon as a Volunteer in Missions in December 1992 . . . serving there until his appointment as short-term missionary took effect in March 1993 . . . characterizes the commitment of Daryl Martin to serve Christ and the people of Cameroon.

"Few people would commit themselves to serve several months or years cross-culturally while waiting for the Missions Board appointment to take place. We knew that Daryl was an excellent missionary candidate, but funds were not available in the 1992 budget for him to go," says Bud Fuchs. "But Daryl went anyway as a volunteer."

Daryl had served three times previously as a volunteer in missions with the JESUS film team. Now he serves as the Assistant Evangelism Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

One of Daryl's priorities in Cameroon is to organize crusades to show the JESUS film and to train others for follow-up. Recently, the film was shown to 17,000 people in the Mayo Darle Field, and more than 1,000 people are now followers of Jesus Christ.

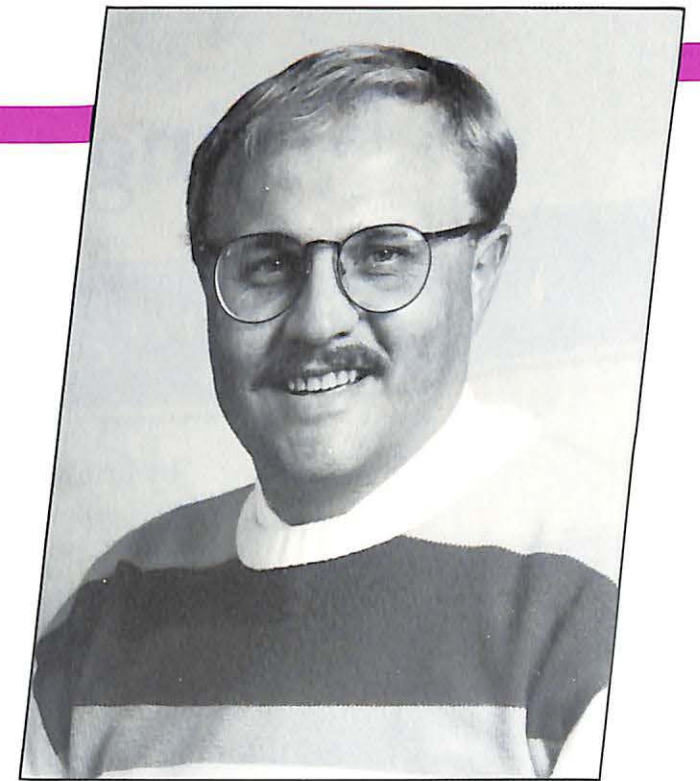
Growing up on a farm in southwest Saskatchewan helped prepare him for missionary work. His parents, Ben and Doris Martin, now live in Medicine Hat, AB. Daryl enjoys listening to music and reading, team sports, racquet sports, riding motorcycle, downhill and cross-country skiing, jogging, and working on a computer. He likes to work on vehi-

cles and tinker with mechanical things.

Through the ministry of Rev. Jake Leverette, Daryl became a Christian at age eight and was baptized at age 15 by Rev. C.T. Remple at Grace Baptist Church in Medicine Hat, AB.

Daryl drifted away from the Lord during high school but returned with enthusiasm, knowing and experiencing God's grace. "Since then I have learned to be more consistent in my faith by abiding in Christ, and keeping short accounts with God and those I live with."

About his growth toward spiritual maturity, Daryl says, "I marvel at how meticulous God is in His will for our lives, knowing every minute detail, how gracious He is . . . how gentle and positive in administering His grace. I wake every day praising God for His blessings in my life. I still have much to learn especially in the area of loving unconditionally as God loves me. I am excited to be a Christian even when the whole world seems so discouraging and hopeless. I have the quiet confidence knowing that I am loved and used by God and that He is still working in me, changing me as I submit to Him."



Church and Christian activities have always been a priority. Daryl served as a church trustee, a choir member, college and career group leader, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, and a worship leader before going to Cameroon.

While at Riverside Baptist in Devon, AB, he served as pastor for junior and senior high youth. Daryl served as a counselor at Pinecrest Bible Camp for five summers and as a summer missionary in Ireland.

About missionary service, Daryl states, "Having firsthand exposure to the actual needs and requirements of the mission field have had great influence on me. While in Cameroon, I was given a fair amount of opportunity to minister as I felt the Lord leading. I also have had fairly close relationships with former and present missionaries who encouraged me. The last three-month visit to Cameroon allowed me to observe that not all people are able to adapt quickly and with compassion to a different culture. I have felt very comfortable and able to minister in the culture and have developed an understanding of the people and a burden for what is yet to be done." □

Mbingo Baptist Hospital, 40 Years Old

A New Maternity Block . . . Another Giant Step Ahead

by Eric Mangek Ngum

The Mission Statement of the Medical Board of the Cameroon Baptist Convention says: "The Cameroon Baptist Convention Medical Board seeks to assist in the provision of Christian love and as a means of witness in order that the needy might be brought to God through Jesus Christ. Thus, the Medical Board shall provide exemplary health care with genuine compassion with an overriding purpose of evangelical witness."

The Medical Department of the Cameroon Baptist Convention is working toward the fulfillment of this Mission Statement.

The 40th World Leprosy Day, celebrated on Jan. 31, 1993, coincided with the 40th anniversary of Mbingo Baptist Hospital. The Hansen's Disease Hospital discharged 28 patients who have been cured. As they came up to receive their treatment certificates, they testified, "We have not only received physical healing, but we have received spiritual healing as well. We thank God and the staff of Mbingo for sending us home with all of our fingers and toes in place." Mbingo Baptist Hospital seeks not only to heal the body but also the soul.

Some patients also received training so they could earn a living after being discharged. They gave thanks for vocational training such

as carpentry, weaving of baskets, manufacturing shoes for leprosy patients, and some knowledge of agriculture.

Husbands, relatives, and friends came to this celebration and to take their loved ones home.

This day also saw the dedication of the new Maternity Block, constructed, thanks to the initiative of Mbingo staff and the Medical Board of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. The Mbingo staff initiated the project with a sum of one million francs, and the rest of the project was funded by the Medical Board. The construction was done by a Cameroonian, a graduate of Baptist Comprehensive College, Njinikijem, Mr. Abraham B. Chiamba.

The Maternity Block has 22 beds,

two private wards, and four labour beds. It is a modern maternity block, highly equipped, both materially and in staffing. It has four well-trained Cameroonian midwives and two ward helpers. Thus efficient care and services are offered.

It is worth noting that all the beds used in the Maternity Block are manufactured by the Rehabilitation Department Workshop of Mbingo Baptist Hospital. They also manufacture some of the best wheelchairs and comfortable tricycles for the handicapped.

What does 40 years mean? Mbingo Baptist Hospital is not 40 seconds, 40 minutes, 40 hours, 40 days, 40 weeks, or 40 months old; it is 40 years old. It is not very much the age that matters, but the deeds that are too imposing to escape the notice of anyone, whoever from wherever, that has stopped at Mbingo Baptist Hospital or heard of it.

Created in 1952 as a New Hope Settlement for leprosy patients in Bamenda, it is today situated on a beautiful fertile slope at the foot of Mbingo Hill. It started basically as a Hansen's Disease Hospital. Since then, it has received and admitted more than 3,000 leprosy patients. More than 2,500 have been treated and discharged, with 28 going home this year.



All beds used in the newly dedicated Maternity Block are manufactured by the Rehabilitation Department Workshop of Mbingo Baptist Hospital.



Dr. Carl Sandberg, MD, FACS, Chief Medical Officer of Mbingo Baptist Hospital, talking on the occasion of hospital's 40th anniversary and 40th World Leprosy Day at Mbingo Baptist Church in Mbingo Baptist Hospital.



Mamy Mathow Paulina, a leprosy patient discharged from Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Next to her is her husband ready to take her home.

Mbingo can now boast of a general hospital with a modern maternity block, a Rehabilitation Department, Agricultural Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, and health centers at Nkwen, Kumba, and Ashong. Thus, the Mission Statement is not only limited to a given area, but also efforts are being put in place to go as far as possible. It is, therefore, fitting to conclude by saying that, if it is true that age is wisdom, then, it is obvious that Mbingo Baptist Hospital is aging well. □

Eric Mangek Ngum works in Bamenda in the Communication Ministry, Cameroon Baptist Convention. He is a graduate of the University of Yaounde.



What Does the Old Testament Say about Tithing?

by Lewis Petrie
Part II in a series

If you had asked me, as a young Christian, "Why do you tithe?" I would have answered, "The Bible tells me I should." Some thought that this was a simplistic answer and that when I matured, I would learn differently.

I heard all the reasons why a Christian did not have to tithe. What stopped me from accepting these reasons was that they were not in the Word of God. I finally came to this conviction: There was no good reason not to tithe.

Very often people object to tithing because they think it is too legalistic—that it pertained to the practice of Israel. It was suggested the New Testament Christian did not have to abide by the practices established in the Old Testament.

I discovered that the Old Testament contains a rich reservoir of truth concerning the tithe.

Old Testament tithing truth grows as one considers the rich history of the tithe. This truth developed and grew in significance and practice over time as God's progressive revelation was given.

In the Old Testament, tithing was established as an acknowledgment. In Genesis 14:14-24, Abraham acknowledges the goodness and rule of God in his life by giving a tenth of the spoils of his conflict with the kings to Melchizedek, the priest of

God. This ancient precept (tithing), established before the giving of the law, was a type of our acknowledgment and response to the Priesthood of Christ who was typified and represented by Melchizedek (cf. Hebrews 7:4-10). Therefore, if tithing was an appropriate response by Abraham, the heir of faith, then we also should consider the tremendous spiritual benefit of tithing in acknowledging God's rule and goodness in our lives.

Tithing is the basis for an administration of life in ancient Israel. The tithe brought a certain order to religious life. In Exodus 20-23, one reads the record of laws and regulations, which gave direction to Israel's development. The tithe was an important element in their understanding of how to live and worship God (see 22:29-30; 23:16,19; cf. Lev. 27:32; Deut. 12:10-14). Tithing assists us to be consistent in our worship of God.

The tithe indicated the worshippers' accountability for their stewardship before God. Malachi 3:10 clearly states the fact that God holds His people accountable for their management of the resources God gives to them as His stewards. Indeed, this may be the most difficult issue of all. God has given everything for us, and He does expect that we will return a portion to Him

that adequately reflects our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We dare not rob God!

In times of recession and economic downturn, people could find it difficult to continue giving to the work of God. In a time of difficulty, a man by the name of Jacob made a commitment to acknowledge God's rule in his life. He managed his life with understanding that God had blessed him and would continue to bless him as he was obedient. Jacob realized he was accountable to God.

"Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee'" (Genesis 28:20-22 NASB).

The Old Testament is full of truth concerning the tithe for today. In order for us to be good stewards for God's kingdom, we need to be open to the teaching of Scripture concerning the tithe. I want to continue to learn more of God's truth of the tithe. □

Dr. Lewis J. Petrie is Development Director, N.A.B. Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



Threads of Continuity in Churches

by Lyle E. Schaller

One of the most significant, but also widely overlooked, differences between large congregations and small churches is in the sources of continuity.

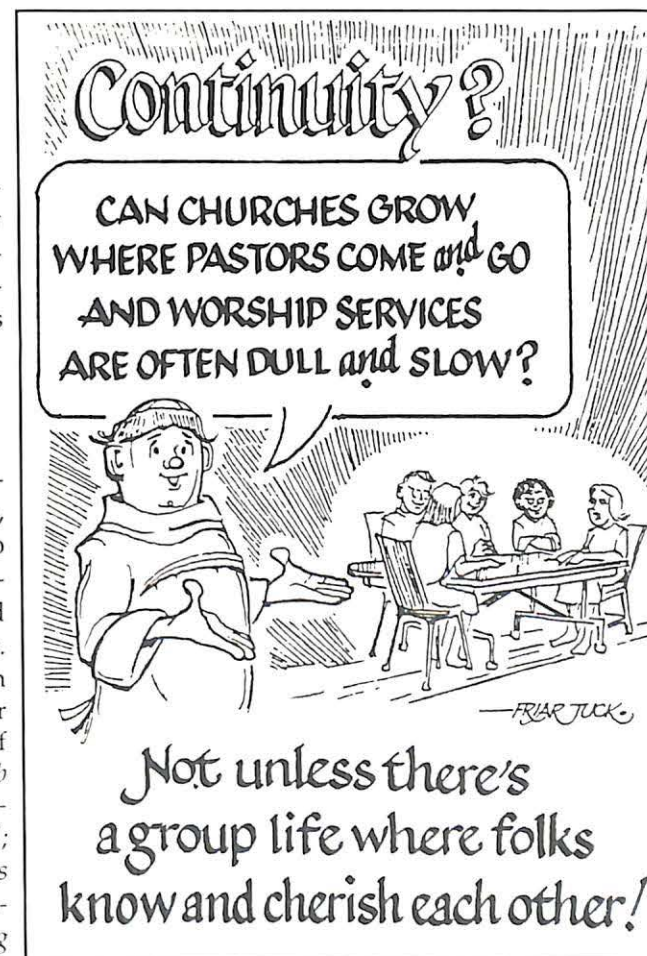
Sources of Continuity Found in Smaller Churches

In many smaller congregations, the sense of continuity, from week to week, month to month, year to year, and decade to decade, is reinforced by a dozen or more threads.

- The same familiar faces in the same pews week after week, or
- the long tenure of many of the volunteers. Herb is in his tenth year as a superintendent of the Sunday school; Evelyn is in her twelfth year as treasurer; Mildred just completed her ninth year teaching the third-and fourth-grade Sunday school class; Ben has served as a trustee for 19 of the past 22 years.

- Or • the cemetery next to the rural church building
- the third and fourth generation of members bearing the same last name as earlier generations
- friendship ties
- the familiar ritual of the annual Christmas Eve service
- denominational identity
- that sacred place filled with hallowed memories
- a common nationality, language, or racial or ethnic heritage
- the dozen or so hymns that are sung most regularly
- the Sunday morning schedule.

Other threads of continuity in that small church may be in the central role of one or two family trees, in the big crowd at the Easter sunrise service, in the potluck dinners,



in that crew of six or eight volunteers who maintain the building, in a huge array of shared experiences and memories, or in that one adult Sunday school class that was organized 37 years ago.

Conspicuously missing from that list is the new minister who arrived last July, following the 27-month pastorate of the Reverend Whatshisname.

Sources of Continuity in Large, Growing Congregations

By contrast in most large and rapidly growing congregations, much of the continuity is in the personality, gifts, and role of the senior minister, plus the contributions of the other members of the paid staff.

A second source of the continuity in large churches is in the program and the group life (choirs, classes, committees, study groups, task forces, and circles). (Incidentally, both of these patterns tend to be more visible in black congregations than they are in white churches.)

A Second Big Difference: One-to-One Relationships

Less obvious, perhaps, but equally significant is another distinction. Many, but not all, small churches place a high premium on one-to-one relationships. These include one-to-one relationships between two close personal friends, among the people in those kinship networks, and between the minister and the individual members.

The importance of these one-to-one relationships was recognized generations ago in the traditional advice given to new pastors, "Your first priority should be to go out and call in every home as soon as possible. Get acquainted with your people!" A simple translation of that advice was to go out and fill the void left by the departure of your predecessor. The Reverend Whatshisname is gone, so go out and build your own network of one-to-one relationships with what are now your people.

By contrast, the life and ministry of the large and rapidly growing congregation is filled with anonymity. It is not one big network of one-

to-one relationships with the pastor at the hub of that network.

Five Alternatives for the Large Church

Before examining a few of the implications of these differences, let's review five basic choices before the large churches. Where do we go from here?

- **Plateau or shrink in size?** After several years of continuous numerical growth, the large congregation either adjusts the style of ministry to accommodate an ever-growing number of people, or it plateaus in size.

- **A few, but an increasing number,** of large congregations have conceptualized themselves as an **ever-growing collection of cells.** Each cell includes eight to twelve adults with a trained volunteer leader. Thus the thousand-member church doubles in size simply by doubling the number of trained volunteer cell leaders and the number of cells. This strategy requires a senior pastor who is completely committed to this style of congregational life and who possesses the skills to make it work. It requires a relatively small paid professional staff, but it represents a high level of religious commitment by the members.

- **Build the ministry** around the magnetic personality and the memorable sermons of the **senior minister.** This alternative often is reinforced by an extensive ministry of music, a high-quality teaching ministry, an exceptionally competent and heavily person-centered associate minister responsible for pastoral care, a strong emphasis on missions and community outreach, and meaningful worship experiences.

- **Create an extensive network of lay-owned and lay-led organizations.** These usually include the Sunday school, task forces on mis-

sions, world hunger and social welfare concerns, a big women's organization with many circles, six to twelve music groups, each with a volunteer director (the choir director may be a paid professional musician), a large men's organization, and a network of lay-led groups for youth and children. The senior pastor specializes in preaching, leadership development, monitoring that elaborate organizational network, pastoral care, and cheerleading.

- **Become a seven-day-a-week program church** that offers a huge range of high-quality ministries, events, activities, and programs in response to a variety of needs. These often include three or four or five choices in worship experiences every weekend, seven to twenty mutual support groups, a multiplicity of adult learning opportunities, seven to fifteen choices for the involvement of teenagers, a dozen different music and drama groups, a broad range of opportunities for involvement in missions and outreach, and dozens of fellowship events.

A large and creative program staff and an emphasis on quality are two of the highly visible characteristics of these seven-day-a-week churches.

Four Implications for Ministry in Today's World

The most obvious implication concerns the newly arrived pastor of that small congregation that has been organized as a network of one-to-one relationships. The new pastor is convinced this congregation can double in size in a decade. One alternative is to move in and fill the vacancy left by the predecessor as the hub of that network of one-to-one relationships. By doubling the number of those one-to-one relationships, that congregation may double in size. The personable, gregarious,

extroverted, and exceptionally productive pastor who works a ninety-to-hundred-hour week can make that happen. When that minister leaves after a nine-year pastorate and is followed by an introverted pastor, the air goes out of that balloon.

A different approach for that new pastor would be to first earn the trust and support of the members and follow that up by transforming this into a congregation of cells or of lay-owned and lay-led organizations or into a seven-day-a-week program church.

A second implication can be seen in the large and growing congregation organized as a collection of cells or as a network of lay-owned and lay-led organizations or as a seven-day-a-week program church. The high-commitment and visionary senior minister who helped make that happen departs. The successor is a minister who enjoys one-to-one relationships and introduces that style of ministry. One consequence is a cutback on program. Another is a slowing of the pace of congregational life. A third is a sharp drop in the number of newcomers. A fourth is a sigh of relief from many of the longtime members who enjoy the slower pace, the reduction in complexity, the lowering of the commitment level, and the expanded emphasis on one-to-one relationships.

By the end of three years, that pastor will have succeeded in 1) shifting the most significant sources of continuity from program or cells or organizations to that network of one-to-one relationships; 2) winning the support of all who prefer a smaller, slower-paced, and lower-commitment church—including some new members who seek a new church home, but do not want church to be central to their daily life—and 3) reducing the frequency

COMPELLED TO SERVE

of worship attendance by many longtime members.

The third and most subtle implication is in the change in the sources of continuity. While no one believed it, those sources of continuity in that small church also tended to be perceived by outsiders as exclusionary barriers. The shift in the style of congregational life initiated by the new minister led to the creation of new points of continuity that also served as attractive entry points for newcomers and also facilitated their assimilation.

Likewise, the new senior minister who changes that large program church into a network of one-to-one relationships usually also 1) secures the enthusiastic support of several of the longtime members; 2) replaces those entry points for newcomers with a closed system; 3) watches the size of that congregation shrink—and wonders why.

Finally, for those interested in church growth, this brief review of the sources of continuity help to explain why some congregations grow in numbers and others remain on a plateau in size or shrink. When the threads of continuity are largely in 1) one-to-one relationships, 2) that sacred place, 3) the past and/or 4) the denominational identity, new members will come largely from those with kinship ties to members or newcomers who carry that denominational identity.

By contrast, when the continuity is in the organizational life or in the attractive personality of that pastor or in membership in a cell or in the program, this usually creates a variety of entry points for newcomers.

What are the most influential threads of continuity in your congregation? □

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How to Design Your Own Charitable Gift



In today's complex world, the desire to give is important. But it is not always enough. How a gift is made, and the property used to make the gift, will be closely related to the effectiveness of the giving. It has been our experience that many individuals can improve the quality and effectiveness of their giving by answering ten very important questions.

- How much should I give? • Should my gift be made from cash or net worth? • Can I make the gift outright, or do I need to retain income? • How long do I need to retain the income? • Do I desire a fixed income or a variable income? • Do I need all the income myself, or can I share it with others? • Would it be better if all the income I receive is taxable, or should I design the gift agreement so that I receive a portion of the income tax-free? • Do I need a large charitable deduction this year, or would it be better to spread the deduction over several years? • Should my gift be coordinated with special future needs? • Do I need to coordinate my gift agreement with my estate tax planning?

Once these questions have been thoroughly explored, your gift can be designed to meet your needs, as well as the needs of our organization.

To assist you in answering these questions, we are making available to you a planning report, **How to Design Your Own Charitable Gift.** It provides additional background on these questions and illustrations of how others have designed their own gifts. It also includes a decision sheet which will assist you in the decision-making process.

You will find this to be both exciting and fulfilling as you attempt to design your gift to achieve maximum results. Please take time now to complete the enclosed coupon and send for your free copy today.

☐ **YES, I want to know more about revocable gifts. Please send me *How to Design Your Own Charitable Gift*.**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Prov. _____ Code _____
Phone: Daytime (____) _____ Evening (____) _____
Birthdate _____ Spouse's birthdate _____

Mail 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

No One Understands . . .

Rita's neighborhood is buzzing with rumors. Ugly, horrible stories about deplorable behavior. It doesn't matter that the rumors are untrue (nobody, not one person, bothered to talk to Rita about the accusations). Everyone chose to believe the stories. Now, after 12 years of good friendships, no one phones Rita. Everyone is "busy" when she phones them. Neighbors' children are not allowed to play in Rita's house or yard or with her children. She's been deserted by some of her best friends. No one can understand the depth of her loneliness.

Your boss has called a meeting of the eight people in your project group. She is announcing some new procedures which will streamline the current project and cut costs by 15 percent, and she credits Jackie, your office mate, with coming up with the changes.

The boss asks Jackie to outline her ideas. Imagine your surprise and hurt when Jackie recites the very changes you had shared with her privately two days ago at lunch—changes you had been developing and revising for a month and were just about ready to submit to the boss.

You fight back the resentment and anger rising in you as Jackie speaks, almost thankful that she is avoiding eye contact with you. How could she undermine you like this? Those are your ideas! No one could understand your feelings of betrayal.

You've been on radiation and chemotherapy for three months now—the halfway mark. Is the pain really worth it? The doctor says the tumor is shrinking. That's good, but the resulting radiation burns to surrounding tissues—constant pain and tenderness, the dysfunction, nausea.

You used to love to take long walks, and food was always a great source of pleasure. But lately, even the thought of food makes you gag, and the walk from your bedroom to the kitchen is torture.

How much pain and discomfort can a person bear? It's your personal nightmare—except you live it 24-hours a day. No one understands the price of pain you are paying to regain your health.

"Look at the Bible freak!" "Oh, one of those holy, holies!" "Watch out! She'll call down fire from

heaven to zap you!" "Leave the poor, misguided lady alone. She's wacko!"

You try to concentrate harder on the Scripture passage and not change your facial expression as the six rowdies pass by you on their way to the back of the subway car, laughing and jeering. You feel all eyes focused on you, and, as you glance up, some of your fellow passengers appear amused at your predicament. You cannot spot one face registering warmth or compassion.

You feel your own face warm and redden. "Oh, Lord," you pray, "I didn't need this humiliation this morning. I'm just trying to honor you." Nobody understands, you think.

Connie has weekend plans on her mind as she quickly recrosses the campus to retrieve her lab book, which she left in the chemistry lab two hours earlier. Relieved to find the room still unlocked, she heads directly for the shelf near her assigned work area, too preoccupied with the details of the weekend dorm party to notice the destruction around her.

As she reaches for her book on the shelf, broken glass crunches underfoot. She finally focuses on her

surroundings; shattered beakers and test tubes litter the countertops and floor; instruments lie trashed; the periodic chart has been ripped off the wall. She hears the faint sound of gas escaping from opened valves at the work stations. Fearing the possibility of an explosion, she flees for the door, colliding with a startled janitor just entering the room on his rounds.

Connie missed the dorm party—spending the evening trying to convince the campus police that she was not responsible for the destruction. "Why me, Lord?" she questions. "I'm innocent!"

Alone in the house now. He said the marriage is over. He wants a divorce. Then he left. He left you. The one you counted on most for companionship and emotional support. The man you depended upon. Turned his back on you. The sting, the pain, the confusion, the anger, the fear of abandonment. How can anyone possibly understand your heartbreak and despair?

We all live with hurts and trials—some private, some public. When we are tempted to think that no one understands our burdens, we can be encouraged by the kinship and example of Jesus—our Savior, our brother, our Lord. He has been tempted and afflicted as we—yet without sin (*Hebrews 4:15*). He was betrayed by a coworker (*Luke 22:47-48*). He was abandoned and

betrayed by his friends (*Mark 14:29-31*). He suffered public humiliation and mockery at his trial (*Mark 15:16-20*). He endured a beating (*Mark 15:15*) and painful crucifixion with pierced hands, feet, and side. He bore the weight of and punishment for our sins, though He was inno-

cent (*Isaiah 53:3-6*). His Father turned away from Him, unable to tolerate the sin He bore (*Mark 15:34*).

Christ is worthy of our gratitude, our worship, and our trust. He understands our troubles and our struggles. Trust Him with your life. No one understands like Jesus! □



Diamonds in the Rough

By Nancy Lennick
WMF president
Dickinson, ND



The hollow sound of hammers pounding filled my mind as the carpenters down the street constructed a new home. I was reminded of the sound of other hammers many years ago on a hill called Calvary. The hammers were pounding nails into the body of my Savior.

The thought of such cruelty to my Lord makes me feel angry. In his song, "Who Nailed Him There?" Ray Boltz beautifully expresses how he came to realize that we all nailed Jesus there by our sins and transgressions. Each of us held a hammer that day to nail Jesus to the cross. It was for our sins that He died.

Acts 2:23 reads: "This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." But isn't it wonderful that we serve a living Lord as verse 24 continues, "God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."

During this Easter season, may we all, with thanksgiving in our hearts, take time to reflect on what the Lord has done for us. □

. . . Like Jesus

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ SOUTHEY, SK. Pastor Darold Sauer baptized and welcomed one youth into the fellowship of Southey Baptist Church. The Church also helped Mr. Gus Schuster, its oldest Church member, celebrate his 100th birthday in February.

■ HERREID, SD. Pastor Merle Hoots baptized two people and welcomed them and one other person by letter of transfer into the membership of Herreid Baptist Church.—*Wanda Berndt*

■ MCINTOSH, SD. Pastor David L. Ling baptized six youth and welcomed them into the fellowship of First Baptist Church.—*Irene M. Schuh*

■ MEDICINE HAT, AB. Seven new members were welcomed into the membership of Temple Baptist Church. The Rev. Irwin Kujat is the senior pastor.—*Madeline Kern*

N.A.B. College drama team visits Tacoma church

■ TACOMA, WA. Members of area N.A.B. Conference churches attended the annual dinner theater at Calvary Baptist Church. There they saw "Travelling Light," a dramatization of Mark's gospel, presented by the North American Baptist College drama team.

The Rev. Don Burnett is the pastor, and John Gonnerman is youth director.—*Earl Shadle*

Flower Mound church invites unsaved to banquet

■ FLOWER MOUND, TX. CrossTimbers Baptist Church hosted a banquet for couples in the Church to invite unsaved couples to hear an evangelistic message. Three people indicated they prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Rev. Ron Presley is the pastor.

Teacher of the Year speaks at Madison church

■ MADISON, SD. Teacher of the Year, Guy Doud, spoke at West Center Street Baptist Church. Doud gave credit to achieving this honor to the prayers and direction his parents and family gave him in Christian upbringing.

"He left a challenge to all to stand firm in Christian faith and grow in Christ," reports Phyllis Frerichs.

The Rev. Elton Kirstein is the interim pastor.

West Center Street youth present musical

■ MADISON, SD. Under the direction of Marli Wiese, 35 young people from the youth group of West Center Street Baptist Church presented the Christian musical, "The Big Picture," about God's providence at the Church and also at several area churches. The Rev. Elton Kirstein is the interim pastor.—*Phyllis Frerichs*

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Napier Parkview begins new men's program

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. Pastor John Kauffield implemented an eight-week program, "Becoming Faithful Men," at Napier Parkview Baptist Church. Fifty men are involved in this study.

According to Pastor Kauffield, "These introductory sessions provide a general survey of the various relationships and commitments of a faithful man's life. An advance series of studies will follow for those interested in a more thorough investigation, and in a specific outlining and implementing of their commitments."

Pastor Kauffield spoke on the theme, "Building Relationships," at the Men's and Boy's Dinner, prepared by the Women's Missionary Fellowship.—*Millie Enders*

Co-dependency series used as outreach

■ DETROIT, MI. "Co-dependency"—is it just another 90s buzz word, or is it an issue that really impacts the lives of believers and nonbelievers alike?

The Rev. J. Kevin Butcher, senior pastor at Grace Community Church, began teaching a series entitled, "What Me! Co-dependent?"

In its broadest definition, co-dependency is an addiction to people, behaviors, or things, and is the latest and most rampant of American epidemics. But God has told us, and Jesus has shown us, how we can live lives free of co-dependency.

"With a record Sunday morning attendance of 996, it is clear that this is a topic that touches the lives of many people," reports L.J.W. McCroskery. "Pastor Butcher, along with the

leadership of Grace Community, is committed to presenting Jesus Christ as the answer to the co-dependency that affects the lives of people on Detroit's east side."

Kelowna church evidences strong growth

■ KELOWNA, BC. One of Pastor Tim Schroeder's dreams for Trinity Baptist Church was to have someone baptized every Sunday of 1992. This dream was almost realized, with 51 people being baptized.

In addition, 41 people transferred their membership to Trinity, and 14 were received by testimony giving Trinity Baptist Church 106 new family members in 1992.

The increase in attendance necessitated changing to two morning worship services.

Trinity Baptist Church's pastoral staff includes six full-time pastors, a youth intern, and a part-time worker with the skateboard ministry. The Church had an increase in budget of 25 percent from 1991, which was completely met.

"At a time when many churches in North America are struggling with the challenge to grow, we give heart-felt thanks for God blessing us with growth, and the faithfulness of His people," reports Sharon Jabs.

Creston church holds Daily Walk Victory Party

■ CRESTON, NE. Pastor and Mrs. Marlin Mohrman hosted a Daily Walk Victory Party at Creston Baptist Church for the 19 members challenged by the Pastor to read through the Bible in 1992.

New Testament Bible Trivia and a video of the

New Testament narrated by Jim Andersen provided the evenings entertainment. Pastor Mohrman also gave each participant a Certificate of Recognition.

"This was a 'first' for the majority of the readers, and many favorable comments and testimonies were expressed," reports Henrietta Scheffler.

Buenning leads Bible study on virtues

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. The Rev. Les Buenning conducted a 10-week Bible study for the Hilltoppers group at McClusky Baptist Church.

The study is based on the book "Hanging by a Thread," by Mark Rutland. The class is challenged to re-evaluate their lifestyle and realize civilization can be lifted back to God by the thread of virtue. Key virtues are studied and compared to the distorted versions or forgotten virtues of today.—*Grace Faul*

Shell Creek church holds deeper life meetings

■ COLUMBUS, NE. The Rev. Jim Zier of Wichita, KS, spoke on "The Grace of God" at the week-long Deeper Life meetings at Shell Creek Baptist Church. The Rev. Richard Lute is the pastor.—*Ruth Ann Behlen*

Iowa youth participate in Back to Basics seminar

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. More than 95 junior and senior high youth, plus leaders, participated in a Back to the Basics seminar at the Iowa Association Fall Youth Retreat held at First Baptist Church, Nov. 20-22, 1992.

Back to the Basics is a practical seminar on how to grow in fundamental Christian disciplines such as quiet time, prayer, scripture memory, note-taking, and life-

style evangelism.

Each of the participants received practical materials such as quiet time guides, scripture memory cards, and a spiritual journal in addition to small group instruction to help them continue in their personal spiritual growth.

"Some of the students made commitments to have a daily quiet time and prayer, and to be an accountability partner with another student," says Warren Roehl, associate pastor.

Kevin Stevens, a student from Northwestern College, led singing and praise times for the retreat and gave a concert following a banquet prepared by the members of First Baptist Church. The Rev. Michael Lerud is the senior pastor.

Atlantic Association holds youth winter retreat

■ GAITHERSBURG, MD. One hundred and fifty-two youth and their sponsors converged on Camp Streamside in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, Jan. 29-31, 1993, for their annual winter retreat. Ten churches in the Atlantic Association were represented at the retreat.

Pastor Gary Grier, International City Community Church, Philadelphia, PA, spoke on the theme of "Power from on High," challenging the youth to appropriate the power available through Jesus Christ, the believer's advantage, to be able to excel in life.

The retreat also featured lively singing, testimonies, team competition, team devotionals, and a variety show," reports Pam Arends.

COMPELLED TO SERVE

New Life Ministries establishes employment program

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Under the direction of Pastor Greg Glatz, New Life Ministries has established a 12-week employment preparation and development program called Real Life.

Real Life is comprised of 12 weekly life-skills sessions and 12 concurrent weekly sessions in spiritual formation and renewal. The overriding objective of Real Life is to see all participants placed in paid, part-time, or full-time positions by the end of the program.

To this end, local business have been solicited, and several self-start projects are being explored. There are currently six individuals enrolled in the program, which completed its first cycle the end of March.

Pilgrim church honors Draeger

■ PHILADELPHIA, PA. Pilgrim Baptist Church honored Otto Draeger for more than 60 years of faithful service as Church treasurer.

Following Pastor Dirk Spalding's message on "Valentines for God—Faithful Servants," Mr. Draeger was presented with a picture of a three-sectional stained glass window engraved, "In honor of 60 years of service, Otto Draeger—Church Treasurer, well done faithful servant."

One hundred members and friends shared a special dinner together followed by a time of reminiscing about all Mr. Draeger had done.—*Joan D. Bellet*

McKernan church honors Trudy Schatz

■ EDMONTON, AB. During McKernan Baptist



Church's Mid-winter Missions Conference, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 1993, Missionary Trudy

Schatz was honored at a retirement banquet commemorating her 33 years of service as a nurse in Cameroon, West Africa.

The Rev. Bud Fuchs, associate director of missions, was the guest speaker. Miss Schatz spoke at the women's meeting.

"We thank the Lord for dedicated missionaries like Trudy, and for her many years of faithful service," reports Joan Salinger. The Rev. Roland Kuhl is the associate pastor.

New Life Ministries implements housing program

■ WINNIPEG, MB. In an effort to increase the availability of safe, clean, inner-city housing, New Life Ministries has created W.A.S.H. (Willing Acceptance of Standards for Housing), a computer-based housing registry that holds both landlords and tenants accountable to standards that protect the interests of both parties.

Listing on the registry is voluntary, and willingness to participate has been strong since W.A.S.H.'s inception. W.A.S.H. was initi-

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

ated by Pastor Harry Lehotsky and Dale Kehler, an intern at New Life, and will be maintained by volunteers from New Life Ministries and the community. —Greg Glatz, associate pastor

Youth with a Mission minister at Medicine Hat church

■ MEDICINE HAT, AB. The "Youth with a Mission" group from Turner Valley, AB, en route to Dominica, West Indies, ministered at Temple Baptist Church. The 25-member group used pantomime to music with costumes to depict A Tale of Two Kingdoms: Darkness and Light. The Rev. Irwin Kujat is senior pastor.

Women of Grace host brunch

■ DETROIT, MI. How do you brighten a cold, dreary day in February? Grace Community Church's

Women of Grace hosted a brunch for 240 mothers and daughters. The program included special music, a "Laura Ashley" fashion show, and guest speaker, Cathy Bergman, who talked about her life as the wife of Detroit Tigers baseball player, Dave Bergman, and her walk with Christ. —L.J.W. McCroskery

Carlson and Dewey speak at Tacoma church

■ TACOMA, WA. Recently Dr. Ron Carlson spoke on evangelism as a lifestyle and Mr. Marvin Dewey on the development of the N.A.B. Seminary at Calvary Baptist Church. Both men met with a Task Force interested in starting a calling and evangelism program in Tacoma. Carlson and Dewey serve at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Don Burnett is the pastor. —Earl R. Shadle

COMMITTED TO GIVE

Flower Mound church pledges record amount

■ FLOWER MOUND, TX. In January, CrossTimbers Baptist Church held a month-long emphasis on missions that concluded by challenging this young congregation to Faith Promise Giving.

The amount the congregation pledged on the final Sunday in January—that which they are trusting God to give through them—was \$25,591.80!

"I couldn't believe it," says Pastor Ron Presley. "I praise God for what He is doing in and through our people. This means almost 30 percent of all giving now goes to missions."

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Detroit church's drama team presents search for Christ

■ DETROIT, MI. What do you do with 881 people, when they're all trying to fit into a building that holds only 700? You squееееее! That was the cozy dilemma that Grace Community Church found itself in on Dec. 20, 1992, during the presentation of "An Evening in December."

Ed Cantrell, director of creative communications, assembled a cast and crew of gifted people to present the story of a girl's search for the meaning of Christmas.

The Drama Team, under the direction of Audrey Brennan and Joan Farago, interpreted mime, comedy, and dance. Varied and unique music was performed by the Celebration Kids, GC Singers, soloists, and the band. "Christ was found, not only by the girl in the story, but by young and old alike, sharing a packed building," reports L.J.W. McCroskery.



Grand Forks church hears Air Force Colonel

■ GRAND FORKS, ND. Approximately 120 people from Grace Baptist Church took part in an elegant banquet and heard guest speaker Col. Dave Slaughter from the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The program also included instrumental and vocal music. —Vickie Haas

■ KATHERINE MEGERT (78), Corn, OK; born Nov. 12, 1914, to John and Elizabeth (DeFehr) Neufeld in Corn, OK; married Oscar L. Megert in 1933, who predeceased her in 1977; active member, president of WMF, Sunday school teacher, Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK; predeceased by one daughter; survived by three daughters; four sisters; one brother; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; the Rev. Bob Burkle, pastor, and son-in-law Rev. Richard Siemens, funeral service.

■ ALVIN SCHMIDT (85), Corn, OK; born April 8, 1908, to Peter D. and Elisabeth (Flaming) Schmidt; married Adina Kliever in 1929, who predeceased her in 1965; married Esther (Schlichting) Friesen in 1966; active member, deacon, teacher, and trustee, Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK; provided a home for his three nieces when his brother died; survived by two daughters; three grandchildren; one step-daughter; one step-grandchild; one step-great grandchild; one brother; the Rev. Bob Burkle, pastor, and son-in-law Floyd Ruhl, funeral service.

■ REV. ALFRED WEISSER (86), Sioux Falls, SD; born March 29, 1906, to Christian B. and Sophia Schiewe Weisser, in Camrose, AB; died Dec. 24, 1992; married Eunice E. McGowan, July 13, 1932, in Camrose; graduated from North American Baptist Seminary, 1933; from Dakota Wesleyan University, 1950; ordained into Christian ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, Stafford, KS, Oct. 19, 1933; served as pastor of Calvary Baptist, Stafford, KS, 1933-41; Calvary Baptist, Carrington, ND, 1941-46; Central Baptist, New Haven, CT, 1946-49; Parkston and Tripp Baptist Churches, SD, 1949-57; Herreid Baptist, SD, 1958-63; one of the founders of North American Baptist Nursing Home, Madison, SD, 1954; served on building committees and Board and later as Administrator, Baptist Home, Bismarck, ND, 1963-72; served on various committees and boards of the State of North Dakota regarding aging, nursing homes, welfare, health, and hospitals; member, Sioux Falls Ministerial Association; member, Board of Trustees of both Sioux Falls College and North American Baptist Seminary; moderator, Dakota and

IN MEMORIAM

Southwestern Conferences and Kansas, North Dakota and New England Associations; Estate Planning Counselor, North American Baptist Conference, 1973-79; member, numerous committees, boards, and General Council of the N.A.B. Conference, including the Archives Committee; editor, **N.A.B. Seminary Alumni Directory**; honored by Dakota Wesleyan University and N.A.B. Conference for distinguished ministry; distinguished Alumni Award, N.A.B. Seminary, 1988; active member, Sunday school teacher, committee member, Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD; predeceased by his parents; two brothers: Ben and Arthur; and two sisters: Hannah Dickau and Frieda Armstrong; survived by his wife, Eunice; two daughters: Barbara (John) Binder, Westchester, IL; Laura (James) Westby, Sioux Falls, SD; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two brothers: Rev. Carl Weisser and Clarence Weisser; three sisters: Esther Henriksen, Helen Mueller, and Lillian Gienow; Dr. Charles M. Hiatt, Dr. George Dunger, Rev. Leon Bill, Dr. Ralph Powell, and Dr. John Binder, funeral service.

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunshine seniors celebrate tenth anniversary

■ SURREY, BC. The Seniors' Fellowship group at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church celebrated its tenth anniversary with a look-back and a look-ahead program. The program included singing and instrumental selections, poems and readings; and a message by Pastor John Neufeld.

During the past ten years, the Sunshine Seniors have donated money to N.A.B. missions, the Seminary, and community projects.

"Two members, Bertha Johnson and Esther Harris, have served the entire ten years on the executive committee," reports Viola Pahl. "Nineteen persons, who served on the executive over the ten-year period participated in a candlelight

ceremony. A few moments were set aside to remember friends and loved ones who have been called to higher service with the Lord."

Sunshine Ridge celebrates 25th anniversary

■ SURREY, BC. Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church is celebrating its 25th anniversary throughout 1993.

Sept. 10-12, 1993, has been set aside for a special commemorative time of reflection and praise to the Lord for the many blessings He has provided to the church family.

In addition, the weekend will serve to encourage the Church as it looks forward to continue in its mission as a "lighthouse to the community."

An open invitation is extended

to all present and former members, pastors, and attenders to join in the celebration and to re-unite in fellowship. For more information, contact the Rev. John Neufeld at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church at (604) 594-5512.

Bethany ladies observed 72nd anniversary

■ HUNTER, KS. The Ladies Mission Circle at Bethany Baptist Church observed its 72nd anniversary in February. To honor the occasion the BYF, parents, and sponsors hosted a banquet.

"During the evening, one of the young people shared her six-month experience with 'Youth with a Mission'," reports Katherine Loofbourrow.

COMMANDED TO CARE

New Life Ministries oppose influx of pawnshops in their community

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Pastors Harry Lehotsky and Greg Glatz of New Life Ministries have appeared before city councilors on repeated occasions in past months to oppose the licensing of additional pawnshops and second-hand dealerships in their community (the West End of Winnipeg).

Lehotsky and Glatz have been disturbed by the recent influx of pawnshops, second-hand dealerships, massage parlors, poolhalls, and

arcades into the West End. Their recent efforts—which generated coverage by local television and radio stations, as well as both Winnipeg newspapers—resulted not only in licenses being denied at a January appeal hearing but also in a resolve by Planning Committee at City Hall to re-evaluate zoning by-laws that only permit pawnshop dealerships in inner-city neighborhoods.

Lehotsky and Glatz are currently pursuing the possibility of legal action against such by-laws as a means of stimulating the re-evaluation process.

Name That Church!

Thanks to those who named previously pictured and unidentified churches • The Rev. Fred W. Mashner identified photo #23 in the December 1992 **Baptist Herald** as the Baptist Church in Gillette, WI, which closed in 1947; and • Rod and Ruth Rosentreter identified photo #24 as Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland, OR.

Our N.A.B. Conference Heritage Commission has many unidentified photos. If you can identify a photo, please send us another picture, present address, and historical data. Refer to the code number of this picture. Send your answers to *N.A.B. Heritage Commission*, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. We would love to hear from you.



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NEWS...

(continued from page 2)

and agencies across North America and around the world.

Anglican and Baptist churches have joint baptismal service

In Medicine Hat, AB, the congregation of St. Barnabas Anglican Church joined with Temple Baptist Church to witness a combined service of water baptism on Feb. 21, 1993. The Rev. Irwin Kujat of Temple Baptist baptized three young adults and the Rev. Ivor Ottrey of St. Barnabas baptized one man by immersion. Each candidate shared a brief testimony, and each pastor gave words of biblical instruction and encouragement. These two pastors and others meet weekly in prayer for the City of Medicine Hat.

Preaching expert to speak at N.A.B. Seminary

"Taking the Listener Seriously in Preaching" will be addressed by Dr. Tom Long at the N.A.B. Seminary's Great Plains Pastors' Conference, April 20-22.

Long is known as one of the top preachers and teachers of preaching in the country.

In addition to the four keynote sessions, five workshops will be offered by Seminary faculty on other relevant ministry topics. Contact the Seminary's public relations office for more information and registration: (605) 336-6588.

Anderson to speak at Ministers' Family Conference

N.A.B. Seminary will host the N.A.B. Ministers' Family Conference, July 27-30, 1993. Dr. Leith Anderson, pastor of Wooddale Church in Minneapolis, MN, and

author of the book, **Dying for Change**, will be the keynote speaker. He will address the issue: Embracing Change.

Dr. Roger Fredrikson, nationally known for conducting renewal weekends in churches and author of **The Church that Refused to Die**, will be the Bible study speaker.

Workshops and children's and youth programs will be highlights of the Conference.

For more information, contact the public relations office at N.A.B. Seminary, 1321 West 22nd St., Sioux Falls, SD, (605) 336-6588.

Wanted: N.A.B. Musicians

Attention vocalists, instrumentalists, soloists, and groups—your presence is requested at the 44th Triennial Conference of N.A.B. Churches in Dallas, TX, next summer, Aug. 1-7, 1994.

Here's your opportunity to perform for up to 3,000 people in both the general sessions and special events, such as, the Monday Night Concert.

Please send an audio- or video-cassette* of a recent performance to:

Wayne Zeitner
WORD, Inc.
5221 N. O'Connor Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039.

Deadline for entries is Dec. 31, 1993. Be sure to include your address and daytime phone number. We'll try to make a time slot available for everyone—but final scheduling will depend upon both the volume and quality of submissions received. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas!

*due to administrative limitations, submitted materials will not be returned

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Marlin Mohrman** from pastor, Creston Baptist, Creston, NE, to pastor, Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, IA, effective May 2, 1993. —*Henrietta Scheffler*

■ **The Rev. Elwin Schuelke** of Palatine, IL, to German pastor, Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI. The installation service was held February 14 with Dr. John Binder, N.A.B. executive director, as guest speaker. The mixed and men's choirs provided worshipful music in the German language.

■ **Mr. Joel Stark** to minister to young families, First Baptist Church, Paul, ID.

■ **Dr. John Hisel** from senior pastor, McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, to senior pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD, effective June 1993.

■ **The Rev. William Heisler, Jr.** from pastor, Bible Baptist Church, LaCrosse, WI, effective March 1, 1993.

■ **The Rev. Bruce Fields** from church planting pastor, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Keizer, OR, to pastor, Terrace Heights Baptist Church, Spokane, WA.

■ **The Rev. Ernest Hoffmann** from chaplain of the Salem Manor Nursing Home, Leduc, AB, effective Feb. 28, 1993, to retire.

■ **The Rev. Roland G. Kuhl** from pastor of care and family ministries, McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective June 1993, to enter Ed.D. program at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL, in September 1993.

■ **The Rev. Douglas Harsch** from associate pastor to senior pastor, Northwest Fellowship Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, effective March 1, 1993.

■ **Mr. Greg Charyna** to director of admissions, North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, effective November 1992.

■ **The Rev. Kenrick Sharpe** from pastor, All Nations Baptist Church, Weston, ON, effective end of February 1993.

■ **The Rev. Dwayne Turner** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Bellwood, IL, effective Feb. 8, 1993.

Installation Services

■ **Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church** welcomed its senior pastor, **the Rev. Richard Yates**, on January 17. He previously ministered for 14 years in the Washington area. Jerry Hirsch, moderator, officially welcomed Richard, his wife Becky, and their daughter Sadie. On behalf of the N.A.B. Conference and the British Columbia Association, the Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister and also the first pastor of Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, gave a challenging word to the

WHAT'S HAPPENING

newly installed pastor and congregation.—*Viola Pahl*

■ **The Rev. Hero Ulrichs** was welcomed by Mission Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON, as its pastor in December 1992 as well as by the Eastern Association in January 1993. Dr. Reinhold Kerstan was the guest speaker. The mixed choir, the instrumental choir, and the male choir, took part in the celebrations. Mr. Frank Neufeld, a member of Mission Baptist, sang in German and in English. —*Irene Noack*

■ **Mission Baptist Church** hosted a reception service for **Dr. Reinhold Kerstan** (r) as Professor of Preaching and Communications at McMaster Divinity College. A most impressive element of the service was a four-part vow between Dr. William Brackney (l), principal; John W. Irwin, chair, Board of Trustees; T. Raymond Hobbs, professor of Old Testament Interpretation; Lynda Graham, a student, all of McMaster Divinity College and Dr. Reinhold Kerstan. The address given by Dr. Kerstan was titled "Divine Words in Human Vessels." Mrs. Carol Giesbrecht sang. —*Irene Noack*



BAPTIST WORLD AID



Funds needed for witness in Eastern Europe

Many changes have taken place in Eastern Europe since 1989, and the churches have been in the forefront of this change. The people of the North American Baptist Conference are being given the opportunity to help fund the spread of the Gospel in Eastern Europe.

New seminaries and Bible schools have been established. Innovative forms of Christian witness are taking place. New opportunities for evangelism and compassion ministries have been taken.

Baptists have been responding to these new opportunities. Through Baptist Response—Europe, funds are being provided as resources for a wide variety of ministries and projects. Much needed goods have been sent to many countries, but a number of constant needs continue. Needs include

• **Bibles and Christian literature**—either the printing of or supplying of.

• **Church buildings**—Many are in desperate need of repair; many new churches need to be built. Baptist Response—Europe has been active in setting up Loan Funds in a number of Baptist Unions in various countries. When the loan is repaid, the loan funds will be used to assist another church in building. You have the opportunity to provide loan funds for church building in Eastern Europe through BWaid.

• **Food, medicines, and equipment**—BWaid has met urgent needs for food and medicines in many places. From January to June 1992, BWaid was involved in a major program of food distribution in Moscow. BWaid continues to coordinate appropriate responses.

• **Personnel costs**—Funds are always needed to support and subsidize Baptist pastors and to provide assistance with training costs and resources to travel to training and fellowship events.

Your contribution designated for Baptist Response—Europe will make a difference by providing much needed assistance. If you specifically want to identify Bibles and Christian literature, church building loan funds, or funds for pastors, you may do so as you send your contribution to N.A.B. Conference, Baptist Response—Europe, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

LETTERS

On Using the Baptist Herald

I believe that the **Baptist Herald** could have a real ministry through wider distribution through Sunday school or other discussion opportunities. Right now, I am teaching the contemporary Christian issues using **Christianity Today** in our adult Sunday school class. I feel that the **Baptist Herald** could be used in a similar way.

I have been reading the November 1992 issue and find the articles on aging of special interest. "Servanthood" emphasizes the need for individuals and for churches to understand aging and the aging process. Understanding that, how can we serve?

"What Decision Is Right for You and Your Loved Ones?" This article spotlights the need of caregivers. These people need help. It would be helpful to discuss this at length in a group.

"Within Reach" is controversial, but necessary. How do we, as believers, minister to AIDS patients? How do we balance the Biblical injunctions with so compelling a need?

The September 1992 issue contains "Starting from Nothing . . . I Love the Challenge!" The emphasis here is church planting. Understanding the Biblical Imperatives for this is needful, but how to help practically is another concern. How do you deal with discouragement in church planting?

"Abuse Is a Robber" deals with child abuse which is on the rise in communities across the land. And sometimes we must cope with this in our churches.

I could mention more . . . Hope this proves helpful.

R.I. Thompson
Aplington, Iowa

If you have additional ideas on how to make the **Baptist Herald** more practical and effective in your life or ministry—individual or local—church, please let us hear from you.

We want to publish those articles that minister to you in an effective way.
—Editor

Hildenbrandts hand over keys of Toyota to Effa

Bob and Gail Hildenbrandt of Calgary, AB, handed the keys of their 1985 Toyota Camry LE to Herman Effa, international missions director. This gift is to be used by missionaries on home assignment.

"This frees the missionary from the hassle of shopping for and buying a used car and reselling it when he or she returns to the field," says Effa. "The International Missions Department will be happy to receive a used car in good condition."

Rather than trading in your car, it can serve effectively for missionaries on home assignment—and the contribution is tax deductible.

Only cars and station wagons in good condition will be considered.



If you are willing to make such a contribution, contact the Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Chancellor, South Dakota

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Matthew 5:16

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Phone: 605-647-2150

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Building Churches into the 21st Century

Tracy church plant obtains building permit

In February, after many years of prayer, Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA, obtained its building permit.

The first phase building on the seven acres is a 10,000 square foot multi-purpose building. It will have a meeting room with a capacity of 375 with eight classrooms on two sides and two more on the second floor. There will be three nursery rooms, four offices, and a small kitchen. The building will be wood frame with stucco exterior.

"We pray that our building project will glorify God and be a great time of fellowship, growth, and encouragement for our members," says John Constant, project manager. "We encourage you to visit us and bring your hammers."

"Sewer and water hookups are available on site in the parking lot for your recreational vehicle if you want to help with construction," invites Pastor Dennis Dearmin.

"God is alive in our congregation, and we have had an impact on this community and will continue to for many years," notes Constant.

This Northern California church

began with the hiring of church planter, Dennis Dearmin, six years ago, and has steadily grown under his leadership.

This Church has significant ministries. Through MOSTLY, the Church works with the city law enforcement agency and with Youth for Christ. "We work with youth who have gotten into trouble with the law and who want help," says Dearmin.

The Church also has an active A.D.A.M. ministry—a Christian 12-step program for those with drug and alcohol problems.

Meeting primarily in homes of members, the Church ministers to 90 to 95 youth. "We've outgrown the homes and badly need the new facilities," stresses Dearmin.

Sunday morning worship attendance runs at 200. Including week-day activities, the Church ministers to 350 people a week.

Noting that 27 percent of Tracy is Hispanic, Dearmin states, "We plan to start an Hispanic ministry as soon as our facility is completed. Hispanics are already involved in our Church with one of the lay ministers being Hispanic."

A pretrained team from the Church ministered in Mexico in December. As a result, 100 people in Sonora State made first-time decisions for Jesus Christ.

When asked about the giving of Valley Community Fellowship, Dearmin declares: "The giving looks good!"

C.E.I.F. provided the construction financing for these facilities. "We are really excited about C.E.I.F.'s involvement in this exciting ministry," states Bob Mayforth, C.E.I.F. director.

If you are interested in serving by helping to construct this facility, contact Dennis Dearmin, pastor, or John Constant, project manager, at (209) 836-9227.

ANNOUNCING A New Revocable Charitable Trust Certificate

Would you like to make a gift to your church, the N.A.B. Conference, your Baptist association, or other N.A.B. Conference ministries upon your death?

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"The congregation will do much of the work," says John Constant. "We started by trenching the footing with rented machinery and now have the reinforcing steel in place and under slab plumbing set in preparation for our first concrete placement."

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committed to GIVE

(Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 and Proverbs 3:9-10)

**Giving is a believer's acknowledgement
of God's ownership of all resources and obedient response
to the biblical teaching on financial stewardship.**

- 1) List seven different ways you give of your time, talent, and money to those in need.

- 2) Now two tough questions:
 - Have you thought through why (and how much) you give to the church and other causes?

 - Which do you find the hardest for you to give away—time, money, talent?

- 3) Write down three *specific* actions you would like to take this year to strengthen your giving: