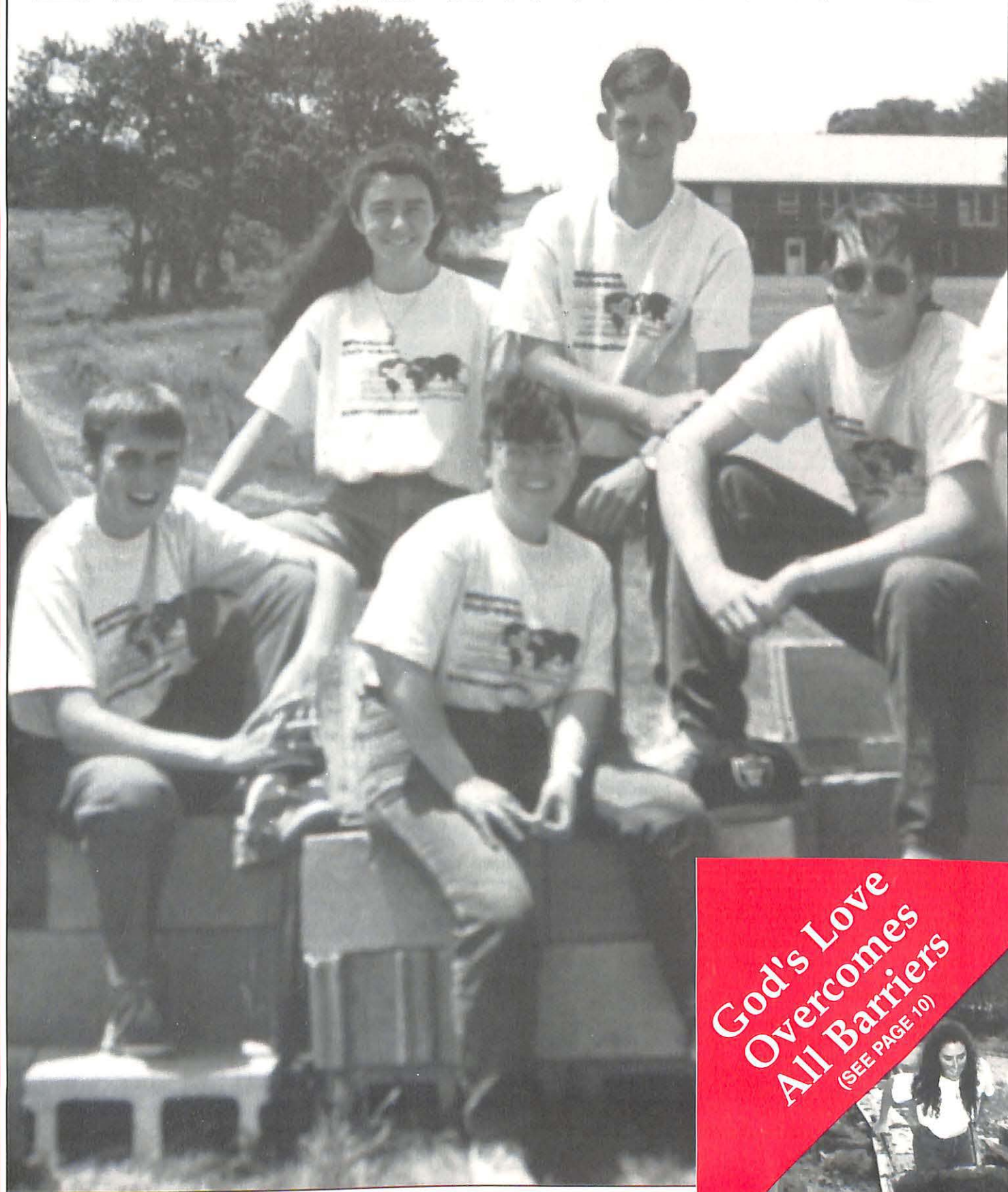


# BAPTISTHERALD

AUGUST 1993



**God's Love  
Overcomes  
All Barriers**  
(SEE PAGE 10)





We try to give generously from cash flow, but are concerned that our estate plan does not reflect God's plan of stewardship.

## We'll Help . . . Review Your Estate Plan

The truth of "God's ownership of all" indicates a stewardship responsibility when it comes to estate planning. However, if you are like most of us . . . wills, trusts, taxation, probate, and property ownership were the main issues when you originally established your estate plan.

If this is your case, then maybe your estate plan does not rest upon a solid foundation.

Many have found our *Will and Trust Planning Guide* to be a helpful tool in the review of their estate plans. We trust that you will, too.

We invite you to write for your free copy today.

☐ **YES! Please send me the Will and Trust Planning Guide. I understand there is no cost or obligation.**

Please indicate if

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

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

### Baptist Seminary in Novi Sad continues despite hardships

NOVI SAD, YUGOSLAVIA (EBP) The Baptist Theological Seminary in Novi Sad, Serbia, is persevering despite many hardships caused by the continuing war in Yugoslavia. Eleven students from five countries of the former Yugoslavia, plus one student from the Central African Republic, received their diplomas on May 30. They successfully completed a one-year program of study sponsored by the Seminary.

Dr. Harold Dressler, N.A.B. Conference missionary to Central and Eastern Europe, delivered the graduation address. Dressler admonished the students never to give up, because "God has called you to be His servants."

### Moscow Bible Institute graduates twenty-five

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (EBP) Twenty-five students received their diplomas on May 28 from Moscow's pastor-training school. The school, now called Bible Institute, developed out of the correspondence courses of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the former Soviet Union. It celebrated its 25th year, also.

The students completed three years of studies. As their predecessors did every year since 1967, they travelled to Moscow from all parts of the Soviet Union twice yearly for two to three weeks of study. Qualified local professors, as well as lecturers from abroad, delivered the intensive class lectures. (Among them was Dr. Harold Dressler, North American Baptist Conference missionary to Central and Eastern Europe).

Since 1968, the Institute has trained 100 students per year. Altogether, 1,084 students have completed the three-year course. Vladimir Ryaguzow replaces Pavel Savchenko, who retired this year as director of the Bible Institute. Ryaguzow and his wife, Irene, are architects with doctorates from Moscow Architecture University. He was a Chief Architect in the state-owned Science Institute for Architecture in Moscow until he resigned to accept the Institute position. He is fluent in German and wants to build a network of Bible institutes to provide quality education for Russian pastors.

### New study possibilities available in the former Soviet Union

Since the immense political changes in 1989 in the former Soviet Union, Christian Bible institutes and seminaries have been established in a number of cities. Some of the fledgling institutions are supported by foreign churches and missions organizations. Other are the work of the Russian Baptist Union and the unions in the other now autonomous republics, such as in Kiev, Ukraine.

Baptist leaders and educators in Russia hope the emphasis they are placing on education and training will in a short time provide well-trained ministers for the thousands of churches which currently have no trained pastors.

The Moscow Bible Institute has had extension centers in many cities—Kiev, Odessa, Minsk, Tomsk, Stavropol, Alma Ata, and Krosnoyarsk, to name a few.

In October, the long-awaited Baptist Theological Seminary in Moscow plans to hold its first classes. The campus in the suburb of Mitishi will not be completed by that time, but classes will begin in the new building of the Russian Baptist Union in Moscow.

For several years in Odessa, Ukraine, on the Black Sea, a training institute has been training hundreds of pastors and lay persons from all parts of Ukraine.

### Myanmar Baptists begin outreach ministry

WASHINGTON, DC. Eleven churches with 970 baptized members have been established since 1991 in the far northwest area, the Chindwein area, since member groups of the Myanmar Baptist Convention began outreach ministry there. Nearly all of the people in this area are Buddhist. The Wa people living near the China border are another target group among whom the Myanmar Baptists are seeking to send 200 evangelists to live among the 100,000 Wa people in that area. In the past, the area was closed to evangelists, but in 1989 a peace agreement was negotiated between the government and the rebel groups in the northern and eastern Shan state, making it possible to present the message of the Gospel.



7



14



16

## 2 News

### 4 Spiritual Renewal: Driving the Pipe Down Deep

Robert Veninga

### 7 A Growing Mission Field in Vancouver

Edmond Hohn and Aymon Chu

### 11 What's the Good Word?

Peggy Davidson

### 12 Jogging Shoes for Feet of Clay

Steven Board

### 14 God's Love Overcomes All Barriers

Edward Lehman

### 16 The Church Is Small Groups

Larry Froese

### 18 The Impact of Rising Expectations

Lyle E. Schaller

### 20 Medical Survey Opens Door to Village of Unreached People

Kathy Kroll

### 21 In Memoriam

### 22 Prepared for Every Opportunity

Jan Fenner

### 23 Diamonds in the Rough

Nancy Lennick

### Share Your Ideas

### 24 Biblical Imperatives in Action

### 28 Binder Announces Retirement

Search Is on for New Executive Director  
 Name That Church  
 Lois Uptigrove

### 29 What's Happening Baptist World Aid

### 30 Excitement Mounts as Plans Are Made for Triennial Conference

Holly Strauss

### 31 Oak Hills Church Builds "A Church for the Non Churched"

Manuel Luz

Barbara J. Binder, editor  
 Phyllis Hill, subscriptions fulfillment  
 Jean Gingrich, assistant  
 Holly Fann, assistant  
 Pam Arends, WMF pages  
 Dorothy Eisaman, typesetting  
 Joyce Wagner, design

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

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

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

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

News reported and views expressed are not necessarily the position of the North American Baptist Conference.

16mm microfilm, 35mm microfilm, and 104mm microfiche are available through University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106.  
 (Printed in the U.S.A.)



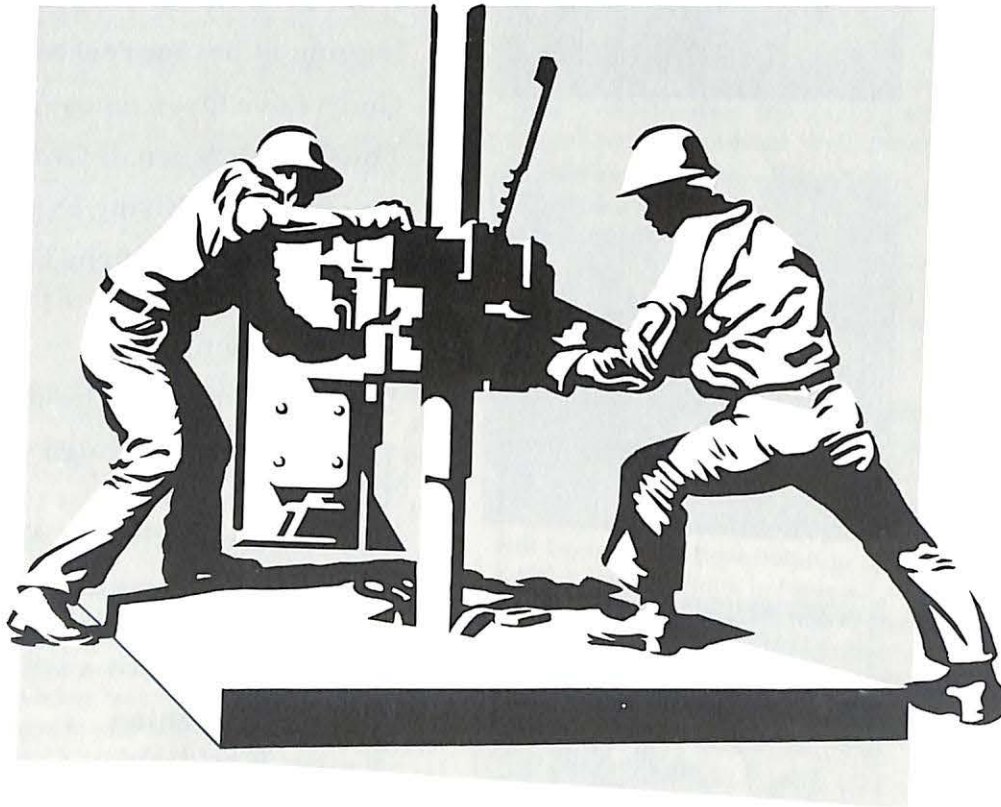
# Spiritual Renewal: Driving the Pipe Down Deep

*If you want to stay psychologically healthy, you need friends.*

*If you want to be successful in your ministry, make certain there is time for meditation and reflection.*

*Your greatest growth will come in the darker moments of life.*

by Robert L. Veninga



When I graduated from the North American Baptist Seminary in 1966, the Seminary looked considerably different than what it does today. The buildings were not as impressive. There were only nine members in the graduating class. And the faculty was much smaller in number compared with today.

But I am immensely thankful for that faculty and the role they played in my life. So I come to you this afternoon as a fellow pilgrim, thankful that this Seminary was a part of my journey.

I have taken my text from John 7: "Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." I selected that text because many people are discouraged, feeling that their soul is parched—devoid of cool, sustaining waters that nurture life. What are the causes of our discouragement? Some are disheartened due to poor family relationships. Others are frustrated in their careers. Still others long for a deeper, more meaningful life.

Members of the clergy are not immune from discouragement. According to one study, 90 percent of

the clergy indicated that they felt discouraged during the past three months. Seventy percent had pondered quitting the ministry. Perhaps most poignantly, the divorce rate for American clergy is now second highest of all professional groups.

The question that I would like to raise, therefore, is this: What do we need to do to stay renewed in our lives whether we be clergy or members of the laity? How do we keep the spark of excitement for our careers alive, whether we be farmers, counselors, or executives? And

what do we need to do to make certain that we are driving our spiritual pipe down deep—so that we are tapping into the strong, cool, sustaining waters of our faith?

## Nurture Your Spirituality

*My first suggestion is to take time to nurture your spirituality.* For unless your own spiritual well is full, there will be little of value to share with others.

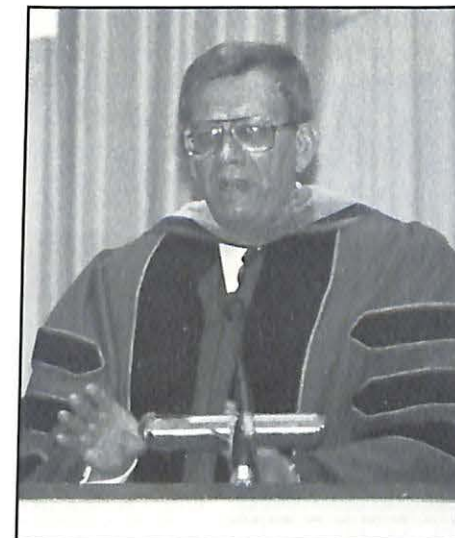
Regretfully, the fast pace of ministerial life often precludes times of quiet reflection. As Dr. Carolyn Gifford, the Chaplain at Northwestern University, stated: "I watch as I fill up every available slot in my appointment book, fill every minute of the day and, not leave time or space to come wholly into the presence of God with my entire being. This is no accident, although I like to pretend that it is. I like to believe that I'm very busy doing God's work, and God, being omniscient, ought to know this and be content to wait until I'm ready to meet, and it looks right now, according to my calendar, as though this meeting might take place sometime in the middle of the spring quarter."

If you want to be successful in your ministry, take time to "center down" on what is important. Make certain that there is time for meditation and quiet reflection. For as Forbes Robbins, a Cambridge teacher, noted at the turn of the century: "To influence, you must love. To love, you must pray."

## Nurture Your Friendships

*Second, if you want to stay renewed in your career, nurture your friendships.* Put simply, if you want to stay psychologically healthy, you need friends.

One of the high points of the past two years was being able to attend the Triennial Conference of the North American Baptist Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1991.



**Unless your own spiritual well is full, there will be little of value to share with others.**

The entire Conference was inspiring. But the session I enjoyed most was the Ministers' Luncheon. The music was stirring. The laughter and good humor were contagious. But what I remember most were the warm greetings and hugs given by

colleagues who hadn't seen one another for awhile.

As I watched the ministers greet one another, I observed their compassion for one another. And I realized again the importance of having a network of people whom you can call on in all the seasons of life.

My hope for each of you in this class is that you make strong friendships throughout your life. For as Elton Mayo, M.D., the founder of the Mayo Clinic, once noted: "One friend, one person who is truly understanding, who takes the time to listen to us as we consider our problems, can change our whole outlook on the world."

## Develop Strong Ties with Creative, Energized People

*My third suggestion for making certain that your ministry is a success is this: develop strong ties with creative, energized people.*

Most communities have staggering social problems. A barometer which measures the social health of the nation has plunged to the lowest level since records were first compiled 21 years ago.

Nevertheless, every community has concerned citizens who are addressing the critical issues in creative ways. They are saying: "We can solve these problems. We can make our community a better place in which to live."

These are the people with whom you want to associate. They may be members of your church, but then again, they may belong to a congregation down the street. It makes no



difference where they worship—you want to ally yourself with the creative forces in your community. In so doing, you will learn from them, and they will learn from you. You will find yourself inspired by their actions. And you, in turn, will have the opportunity to inspire them.

Of course, once you get involved in confronting the critical problems in your community, there will be moments of discouragement. You might even be tempted to say: "There is nothing I can do. The problems are too great."

But when tempted to retreat, I would urge you to remember a wonderful Jewish proverb: "If you help a single person, it's better than trying to save the world. Because if you help a single person, the likelihood of your getting something done is very great. But if you go out to save the world, you'll surely fail."

#### Growth Comes in Darker Moments

Finally, if you want to retain the excitement of this day, remember this important fact: *Your greatest growth will come in the darker moments of life.* As Henry David Thoreau, the American writer, has noted: "Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves." There will be times in your life in which you will find yourself in a psychological desert. Bishop Gerald Kennedy once was asked if he ever felt like quitting the ministry. His reply: "Sure, every Monday." And you will probably make mistakes in life or what Robert McAfree Brown aptly calls "therapeutic errors."

What I want to affirm, however, is this: *Good things happen in the desert.* The Biblical writers understood this fact. Moses was called to the desert before he delivered the

Ten Commandments. Elijah was beckoned to the desert before he could speak for Yahweh. And John the Baptist was not called to a cathedral. He was first called to the desert.

But in the desert, good things happen. For it is in the desert, our priorities are focused. It is in the desert that our values take on new meanings. And it is in the desert that we rediscover a wonderful promise recorded in Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future."

What, then, do we need to do to ensure that we are touching the strong currents of faith that sustain life? • Nurture your faith.

- Develop strong friendships.
- Associate with creative people.
- And never forget that good things often happen in the most difficult moments of life. May your lives be a blessing, and may your message always be rooted in the cool, everlasting waters of your faith. □

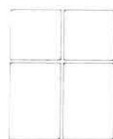
Robert L. Veninga, B.D., M.A., Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Among his books is *The Gift of Hope: How We Survive Our Tragedies*.

The above is a synopsis of an address given at the 135th Commencement of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, on May 22, 1993.

## More Than Head Knowledge

An education at North American Baptist Seminary moves beyond head knowledge to include spiritual development. The 10:1 student faculty ratio allows for strong mentoring relationships and spiritual growth opportunities.

- Doctor of Ministry
- Master of Divinity
- M.A. in Counseling
- M.A. in Christian Education
- M.A. in Religious Studies



### North American Baptist Seminary

1321 West 22nd Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

1-800-843-1300, Ext. 801

# A Growing Mission Field in Vancouver



Ed Hohn in conversation with Pastor Aymon Chu.

**The Rev. Edmond Hohn, area minister of British Columbia, interviews the Rev. Aymon Chu, pastor of Faith Chinese Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, and Chinese students.**

HOHN: Pastor Chu, how is it that you came to Canada?

CHU: I was born in Mainland China in 1951. In 1958, my father and I went to Hong Kong because our family experienced persecution. In 1958, we immigrated to Canada. My family was involved in a grocery business, and that kept all of us busy. I've never been back to Mainland China since; although I have made a few trips back to Hong Kong.

HOHN: I understand that your family was not Christian. How did you become a Christian?

CHU: In 1972, during my second year in university, I was disillusioned by what science had to offer about the meaning of life. That summer I attended a church for three months. During that time, and through contact with Christians, I finally came to know Christ.

HOHN: Did your family belong to any religious faith?

CHU: No, they didn't, other than what the Chinese people would commonly hold to, such as ancestral respect and honor—not really worship. My parents don't have any religious inclination.

HOHN: Are you the only member of your family who is Christian?

CHU: My younger sister became a Christian before I did. Actually, she invited me to church, and it was through her life and testimony that I accepted Christ.

HOHN: How did you sense the call to Christian ministry?

CHU: For six months after I became a Christian, I was joyful and happy. But after that, I experienced almost seven years of separation from the church because of our family business. We were open every day of the year, closing only on Christmas Day. I was expected to be there, so I was cut off from contact with the church.

But it was the Lord who kept me, and I did maintain my Bible reading and devotions. About halfway through those seven years, while meditating on the Word of God, I seemed to hear a voice in my mind that said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you a fisher of men." The thought of serving God in full-time ministry really captured my mind. Somehow, my heart welled up with joy every time I entertained that thought.

So I began to seek affirmation from Christians, especially the



elders of the church. They encouraged me to be patient and to get involved in ministry in the church. I did that for two and one half years.

I was further affirmed when I was in Hong Kong for a few months in 1979. I had the opportunity to serve a small Alliance Church because the pastor was absent. During those two months, the Holy Spirit brought revival to that Church. I saw this as an affirmation of my call.

In 1981, my wife and I took a step of faith and went to Canadian Bible College in Regina, SK, for theological training.

**HOHN:** When you graduated, how did you get involved in actual church ministry?

**CHU:** My church in Vancouver was a Mennonite Brethren Church. After graduation, they called me to serve as interim pastor for seven months. Then they asked me if I would be interested in becoming a church planter.

**CHU:** I accepted the call to pastor the Faith Chinese Evangelical Church of Vancouver. They had been meeting in the Evangelical Church on Fraser Street. But shortly before I came to serve them, they were informed that the Church would no longer be available to them.

The group contacted Ebenezer Baptist Church in Vancouver, and Ebenezer graciously opened its doors and received us to worship in its facilities. I became pastor one month after the Church started meeting in Ebenezer.

**HOHN:** Through this, you came to know Arthur Boymook, then pastor of Ebenezer Baptist.

**CHU:** Yes, we had a very good relationship. We planned joint meetings, and on Thursdays we met for fellowship and prayer. He was most encouraging to me and my people. As I recall, it was Pastor Boymook



*Pastor Aymon Chu and his wife, Shirley.*

who initiated the possibility of affiliating with the North American Baptist Conference, but it was already on my mind. We felt that the loving fellowship we enjoyed with Ebenezer should naturally be followed by joining the Conference.

**HOHN:** I remember meeting with you, Pastor Boymook, and your leaders. One thing that we discussed at that first meeting concerned the fact that the Evangelical Church traditionally does not practice immersion baptism, and you, as pastor, had not been immersed.

**CHU:** Traditionally, the Evangelical Church recognizes three modes of baptism: sprinkling, pouring, and immersion. At the time of my baptism, I, personally, would have preferred immersion.

I feel immersion is most appropriate to Romans 5, which talks about our identification with Christ in His burial and resurrection. Since many of my people were baptized by immersion, the idea of joining the Baptists didn't have much opposition at all.

**HOHN:** I remember the beautiful, bilingual service at Ebenezer when Pastor Boymook immersed you, and you immersed some of your people.

Since your Church is Mandarin Chinese, you use that language in

all of your services. A number of services Ebenezer Baptist and you have had together, such as your recent Ordination Service, were fully bilingual. Are most of the people of your church immigrants?

**CHU:** Yes. Since June 4, 1989, there has been an influx of people from Mainland China. The majority were students, who now can stay in Canada, so they brought their family members over. Ever since 1989, quite a number of Mainland Chinese immigrated to Canada. There are tremendous opportunities to minister.

**HOHN:** You have a unique ministry to University of British Columbia students from Mainland China. Although this is not exclusively a ministry of your Church, you and some of your people are very much involved.

**CHU:** An overseas Chinese Bible study group meets in our Church every second and fourth Friday of the month. About three years ago, two families from the Alliance Church asked me if I would be the counselor; I was glad to be involved.

Ever since I became a Christian, I desired in my heart to minister to my kinsmen. I was surprised to be able to do this in Canada. I am involved in two areas. I meet with the leaders to do the planning; then I am involved in discipleship training.

I believe the best people to evangelize the Mainland Chinese students are the students themselves, those who have become Christians. So, whenever a student becomes a Christian, we immediately begin discipleship training.

**HOHN:** How many students attend the Bible study, and how many are Christians?

**CHU:** About 100, and of these, I would say about 40 percent are Christians, but more are coming all the time. We praise God for this.

**HOHN:** This is a tremendous ministry. My wife, Manetta, and I attended your church's Chinese New Year's Eve celebration on January 22. What a delightful evening that was! With invited friends, there were about 200 people present, starting with a meal, then singing, hearing an adult and a children's choir, and then hearing the testimonies of a number of first generation Christians. We bade farewell to the year of the monkey and ushered in the year of the rooster.

I appreciate interacting with you and your people. As the North

**HOHN:** Tell us about your background and how you became a Christian.

**ZAO DUNG LING:** I came from China to Minneapolis, MN, in 1985. A Christian invited my family and me to church, and we went on occasion. Actually, my parents were nominal Christians, but they never talked about it. I guess they were afraid to, being in a communist country.

In 1988, we moved to Vancouver, BC. A pastor, who was involved with international students, came to

**XIAO TAO SUN:** I came from Shanghai four and a half years ago and from a non-Christian home. I became a Christian a year after I arrived in Canada. Like many other students in China, I wanted to study in another country, especially in North America. I studied engineering, but I now manage a food store, also.

**HOHN:** How did you become a Christian?

**SUN:** When I came to Canada, everything was strange to me. I now know that the Lord directed me to a fine Christian home, where as a student, I received room and board. But I received more than that: I was introduced to the Christian faith.

At first, it seemed strange when they prayed before every meal and went to Church so often. Little by little, I began to understand what they were doing and saying; they were praying for me. So I started attending Bible studies and church with them.

Being an atheist, it took a while to grasp the truths of the Christian faith. But through the love and witness of this family and other Christians, the time came when I accepted Christ.

**HOHN:** I believe this is an example of the value of a Christian family taking in an international student. I encourage that. Sun, you, too, are active in this student ministry and also in your church.

**SUN:** Yes, I am a member of Faith Chinese Baptist Church, and Pastor Chu is my pastor.

**GUO DING:** I also came from Shanghai, where I was born into a non-religious family. I attended university and then became a teacher. I taught history.

**HOHN:** From what perspective did you teach history in a communist country?



*At a joint baptismal service on Dec. 23, 1990, with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; Faith Chinese Baptist Pastor Aymon Chu was baptized by the Rev. Arthur Boymook, then pastor of Ebenezer Baptist. Pastor Chu then baptized three from Faith Chinese Baptist Church.*

American Baptist Conference, we are becoming multicultural, and we have a good beginning here in the Vancouver area.

**CHU:** Thank you for receiving us and for encouraging us. Keep the doors open for other groups. We want to be a part of this cultural mix.

**Hohn also interviewed several students involved in the Bible study group.**

visit my wife and me. He shared about the Christian faith.

I had been taught the evolutionary theory and found it difficult to grasp the truths of Christianity. But the pastor kept witnessing to us, and I did a lot of studying.

I finally came to realize that this world couldn't come into being by chance, but there must be a God. The Holy Spirit opened my heart and mind, and it didn't take long until I accepted Christ.



**DING:** That's a good question. I was always interested in the truth and tried to teach history as factual truth. I had to submit my notes to the Department heads. I would often be told to delete certain sections or change certain comments. But in class, I still presented my notes as they were.

I knew this could cause problems for me. I considered myself a questioning communist at the time and desired to learn firsthand what the rest of the world lives like. I went to Japan first and studied there. That's where I met my wife, and she wanted to come to Canada. She came first, and I came later. That was three and a half years ago.

**HOHN:** How did you become a Christian?

**DING:** In Japan, my sponsor was a Christian, and that's how I was introduced to Christianity. My wife and I were actually married in a church, but I only attended the church twice. At that time, I did not believe in God, but I was a seeker of truth.

In this search, I started reading the Bible and started attending church when I came to Canada. I attended an English church because I wanted to learn the language. I also started attending this Student Fellowship group. In this process, and the work of the Holy Spirit in my life, I realized that I had found the truth in the person of Jesus Christ, and I accepted Him into my life. I now want to be baptized.

**HOHN:** Thank you so much. Let's ask your wife to tell us about her spiritual venture.

**XIAOYAN JIA DING:** I am from northern China, and I come from a Christian family. My grandfather was a pastor, and most of the members of my family are Christian. I remember when I was young we hid the Bible in our home. My grand-

mother told me Bible stories, but she told me not to tell anyone, as she was afraid we would be revealed as Christians and persecuted. So our Christianity was very secretive and confined to the home.

When I was in university, one of my friends said to me that she heard I was a Christian, but I denied it because I was scared. After I graduated from university, I went to Japan. In my heart, I believed there is a God, but I was not yet a Christian, nor did I live the Christian life.

I met my husband in Japan, and, as he said, we were married in a

At first, I tried to put her off by saying that I came from a Christian family. She invited me to church and to the Student Fellowship. I soon realized that, although I believed in God, I needed to personally accept Christ, and I did. I really enjoy this Student Fellowship group and need this for my spiritual growth. I now want to help others, especially students, by sharing the Christian faith.

**HOHN:** This Student Fellowship group is certainly an exciting ministry. This evening, there were four



Through the Bible studies and discussion at the biweekly Student Fellowship meetings, Mainland Chinese are becoming Christians. Pictured are Xiaoyan Jia Ding (l. to r.), Guo Ding, Xiao Tao Sun, Zao Dung Ling, Ed Hohn, and Aymon Chu.

church, but we got caught up with the materialism of the Japanese culture. I only attended church a few times.

I believe God brought me to Canada for a specific purpose. I came alone first; my husband came later. I was looking for a place to live when I met a young woman from Hong Kong. We lived together with a few other young women. She was a strong Christian and shared with me about God and Jesus Christ.

new students who had just recently come from China. I see there are constantly new students to be reached. I appreciate Pastor Chu's and these students' involvement with this ministry. I pray it will continue to be used of God to reach many more coming from Mainland China. □

*The Rev. Edmond Hohn is British Columbia Area Minister.*

# What's the Good Word?

by Peggy Davidson

**S**ometimes he thinks about attitudes or courage, crisis or happiness. Sometimes it's faith or objectivity. Hanukkah or Christmas.

Chaplain (Maj.) David A. Rapske makes no secret about the things he thinks about. He tells anyone who listens to American Forces Network radio what's on his mind. Rapske is an N.A.B. Conference endorsed U.S. Army chaplain.

Rapske's AFN program, *Word in the World*, focuses on the everyday topics of life. He tries to make the early morning messages mean something to the soldier or airman or sailor who may not make it to a formal worship service.

"We (AFN) get complaints from both sides," he said. "You walk a real thin rope because you get people from the very religious right who say, 'It's more world than Word.' At that point, I have to respond that I'm not really talking to them. The person I'm talking to is the soldier who doesn't have his formation until after he's heard *Word in the World*."

"It's the person who's written on the door in the ladies' latrine in Heidelberg, 'Sometimes I think about things like that.' Those are the kind of people I'm really talking to."

Rapske, 42, from Olympia, WA, received his Master of Divinity Degree from N.A.B. Seminary in 1979 and his master's degree in communications from Wheaton College in Illinois before arriving at AFN in June 1990. The 12-year Army veteran is responsible for producing two radio programs and providing the quotes for AFN-TV inspiration spots.

Those spots are a mix of Old and New Testament Scriptures and writing from Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism combined with the words of philosophers such as Voltaire, C. S. Lewis, and Tolstoy.



Chaplain (Maj.) David Rapske lets AFN listeners know what's on his mind.

On *Word in the World*, Rapske slants the program toward whatever religious or secular holiday is approaching. In November, the program highlighted Thanksgiving. Early December highlighted Hanukkah. December highlighted Christmas.

Despite his efforts toward balance, Rapske says he still gets complaints. If the Baptist chaplain doesn't include religions outside his own, he's accused of tokenism.

Despite the criticisms, Rapske says he likes hearing from listeners.

"I'm most critical of the people sitting in the pews on Saturdays and Sundays who say nothing," he said. "One of these days, we're going to lose this kind of ministry, and it's going to be because of apathy and people who are silent."

"When it's gone, they're going to really fight like crazy to get it back and will not get it. That's my fear, not the people who talk."

*Word in the World* airs on weekdays after the 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. news on AFN's AM stations and after the 6 a.m. news on FM. The show recently won first place in the Army's media competition.

*Sounds of Sunday* airs on AM from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. It offers Christian music interspersed with Rapske's comments.

Rapske says he feels his radio and TV efforts complement what the community and unit chaplains do. "We consider ourselves a real part of the big team, the USAREUR team."

Rapske, who works in a crowded office overlooking the front entrance to AFN's headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, is a bit chagrined at the notoriety that goes with being a media personality.

He says that being recognized on the street is uncomfortable.

And he worries that some servicemembers or their families may view him in the same light as stateside televangelists.

In defining his ministry, Rapske said, "I'm not here on this earth to answer a lot of questions. I'm here to pose a lot of questions."

"What we're all called to do is to deal with the questions of life. That's far more important than the answers."

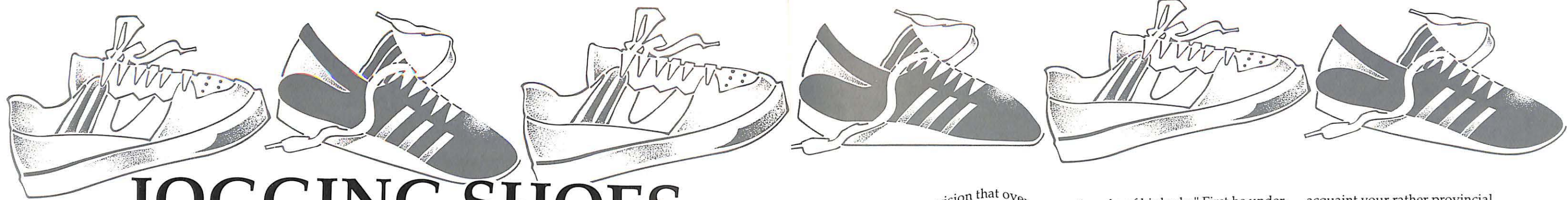
Sometimes, Rapske ponders those unanswered questions of life, sharing his thoughts with the listeners.

He adds with the signoff he uses on radio, "Sometimes I think about things like that." □

Rapske and his family left Germany for his rotation back to the U.S.A. on June 21. He is assigned to Fort Lewis, WA, for at least the next three years.

Peggy Davidson is staff writer for "Stars and Stripes."





# JOGGING SHOES FOR FEET OF CLAY

*Helping Kids Cope with the Great Church Turn-Off*

by Steven Board

**O**n the outside, this church had a lot going for it. It began in the ministry of prominent and gifted leaders. Among its members were some very talented, dedicated people. But the way it developed internally—in plain sight of its most sensitive and idealistic youth—was a tragedy and disgrace. Sex and money scandals, petty divisions, and self-centered people all made this congregation a spiritual eye-sore. It had clay feet clear up to its armpits.

This church should probably go unnamed since it developed into quite a scandal, but I'll identify it later.

## Uncovered Flaws

"I can't get our young people to accept that the Gospel changes lives when it has not changed the lives of some of our charter members," a youth leader was heard to say. Her husband added, "Our kids are pushed into taking sides in church fights and factions that they don't know anything about. The whole

point of Christianity is obscured by these human representatives."

Anyone who works with youth or new Christians has a major problem like this. Young people haven't developed the knack of covering up the flaws of the church. They haven't learned to bracket out the scandal. Some of them even relish those warts on the face of the congregation: "So, all those judgmental, nit-picking older folk have problems of their own! They don't get along with each other, they attack the pastor, and their marriages are shaky. Now they can get off my back!"

In short, when it comes to the visible church—the one most visible to your youth—"glorious things of thee" are not spoken. So what do you do next?

## Honesty

Let's at least be honest with young people. A prominent theologian shocked his audience on one occasion by saying, "The church is like Noah's ark. You can only stand the stink on the inside because of the storm on the outside." We're talking about both a human and a divine institution. Everything

human falls short of the ideal, including governments, families, and churches.

"You may like math but not your math teachers," I told a 13-year-old with exactly that problem. And I knew he liked popular music but did not admire all popular musicians. He liked tennis but not all famous tennis champions. To face the salt-and-pepper mix of the church may itself be the main growing experience a Christian young person needs. And facing it is inevitable.

Equally, they must be honest with us. Their complaints about the church may be a way of deflecting a hassle with their parents, who support the church. The church may be the lightning rod that's catching all the charged-up hostile atmosphere from a strict home or Christian school. Adult leaders can hardly be expected to pick up all that baggage and trudge along sympathetically beside such youth. But we can raise their sights.

## Heady Doctrine

Ask yourself, "How do I handle the hypocrisy, the failings, the disappointment in other Christians?"

Probably you will answer, "I

have a separate vision that overcomes all that." That is, you have an understanding of who Christ is, what He is doing on the earth, what you think He wants you to do—and all that enables you to rise above the problems you see in any local setting.

No higher vantage point on the church can ever be reached than from the altitude of its Head, Christ Himself. This is what Paul urges on his readers in Ephesians when he says Christ is making the church "holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word." Not yet is the church "radiant," "without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish," nor is it yet, in even one instance, "holy and blameless." But that's where things are headed because of the Head of the Church. The journey is already under way.

Some people think doctrine like this is too remote to be useful. But the biblical writers made it useful, and we ought to be able to draw the connections as well. To put handles on that doctrine, however, we will need some practical experiences for the adolescent.

A basic starting point: How vivid is the Head of the Church to your teens? If they can strengthen a living friendship with Christ, the other problems will diminish in importance.

As youth begin to know who Christ is and what He has done, they will be able to serve the church, not just criticize it. After Paul's famous description of Christ in Colossians 1:15-20: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together," he goes on to say, "I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for

the sake of his body." First he understands Christ, then he can serve the people who name Christ.

This argues for some clear content about the Christian faith in our programming. No youth program will do its job if it is merely keeping the kids off the street. Nor can we be content with simply acquainting them with the church as an institution. We have a mission to introduce them to their Saviour and King who will change their lives.

## Other Christians

Next, we can show young Christians a variety of redeemed humanity. Suppose you lived in Jerusalem in the first century. If you met one disciple and he was Judas, what would you think of the Christian cause? How about if you met only Judas and Peter? How about if you met only James and John, while they were trying to call down lightning on whole cities? Or Nicodemus while he was still a secret disciple?

Every additional Christian we meet fleshes out our picture of what the Church is like. In the Letter to the Philippians, Paul did not let two feuding members, Euodia and Syntyche (4:2), dominate the picture he had of this church. He had seen others who paid a great personal price for their Christian commitment, like Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:25).

This may call for biographies of familiar Christians. We are bound to have a bigger picture of Christian people after reading about Corrie ten Boom or Charles Colson. Some help will come through films and videos. You'll want to use guest speakers, camps, conferences, retreats, and trips out of town—all to

acquaint your rather provincial young people with some relevant, dedicated examples to challenge their stereotypes of adult believers.

Jesus talked about disciples who were impatient with the visible "field" of God's people. They wanted to pull up the weeds and just have wheat. He urged patience—wait for God to identify the weeds at the end.

Adolescents are not known for patience. But their involvement will turn their attention to bigger issues, and they will learn patience as a side effect.

Somewhere along the way, a growing Christian teen will get the picture: "Hey, I'm part of something bigger than I thought! The church is not just them; it's me, too." And when that insight breaks through, we need to be ready with ways for youth to invest in the church—to buy into it and consider themselves official stockholders. If we can harness their activism and let them build on to the church they know, whatever form that may take, that very activity will give them ownership in the total cause.

That scandalous church I mentioned at first was not the one in your community you may have been thinking of. It was the church at Corinth in A.D. 60 or so. You know: the one Paul said had its treasure in clay pots. Just like your church. Just like you. And me. □

*Stephen Board is President of Shaw Publishers and former editor of Eternity and His magazines. Steve has two teenage children. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., 850 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.*





# God's Love Overcomes all Barriers



by Edward Lehman

**W**e had been in Brazil for almost four weeks. Only a few days remained. This, however, was our last day on the worksite, and everyone was cleaning up. Both the Brazilians and our team made an extra effort to help each other. After all, this was most likely the last time we would ever work together.

We finished, but we were in no hurry to leave—each person reflected on what he or she had worked on. However, it was not the building of the parsonage we would remember. It was the Brazilian people with whom we had worked. They would be our friends forever.

We gathered in a circle—hand grasping hand—and we bowed as one people before the Lord God Almighty who had made all this possible. Nothing would be able to separate us from the love of God: not language, not color, nor culture. We found no barrier greater than the love of God. The prayers drew to a close—hands held tightly—eyes moistened—the "Amen"s were heard. Part of me shall never leave there, just as part of Brazil will always be near my heart.

Why had we, a GATEWAY team of 12, come to Novo Hamburgo, RS, Brazil? The answer: To aid in the construction of a parsonage. We came equipped with tools . . . everything from tape measure to cement trowels . . . all manual tools as there was no electricity on the worksite.

The most interesting problem I encountered was finding a decent hammer and a straight nail. All nails were to be saved. Many would be used repeatedly to support forms which held drying concrete. After use, the nails would be pulled and straightened to be used later.

Wood was also a scarce commodity. This meant it would be carefully stacked and restacked after use in forms for concrete. Because of the low amount of wood, the entire house—except for portions of the roof—were made of concrete or brick . . . even the shingles were brick.

The parsonage was only half of our mission, for we were not only to meet the physical needs of the people but also the spiritual needs. Our training in drama, music, and balloon art allowed us to offer a wide variety of ministries for children and adults.

Our mission, however, went far beyond the four walls of the Church. For me, the most life-changing event was the outreach into the community—not the programs but the people.

It was Thursday, and it had rained most of the day. Work had been slow because the red clay soil around the worksite was turning to mud. The temperature was cold. "Feels like Canada," I said repeatedly to myself. However, beyond the feeling of wet, cold, dirty clothes sticking to me, I was excited because some Brazilian men asked me to join them on a special outreach that night. I said "yes" in Portuguese and was told to meet them in front of the Church at 7 p.m.

(Let me quickly give some facts: 1) Missionary Ken Bayer always translated for us, but he informed me that he would not be going on this outreach; therefore, I spoke English, and they spoke Portuguese. 2) Ken Bayer had one of the only vehicles in the Church. 3) As a mission team, we slept and ate in the Church.)

So after work that day, I rushed to the Church to get ready to go out for the evening with these men. I had supper . . . almost all Brazilian . . . because our American food was running out. Soon afterward, I grabbed my Bible; 7 p.m. had arrived.

As I stood in front of the small Church, I had not really thought about how they were going to pick me up. It all of a sudden hit me that these men didn't have a vehicle.

It had stopped raining, but the night was here. It was still cold, but I did not have to wait long. My answer to the vehicle question was coming down the street. Two Brazilian men riding bikes.

I didn't have a bike, so I thought this must mean I get to walk. This was not their plan, for they quickly pointed out the rack over the back tire (used for books or carrying other things). Through a lot of gestures and Portuguese, they convinced me to climb on to the bike. So with one bare hand in the cold, I hung on to the rack. With the other hand, I held my Bible, and we biked

off into the night to share the Gospel. We rode for about 15 minutes . . . mostly on cobblestone roads . . . giving me enough time to practice all the Portuguese I knew several times.

Times like this I thought to myself: if only my mother knew what I was doing. However, my mother was in Canada . . . I was in Brazil . . . and the bike had stopped.



We had arrived—and it was not a resort area. The people did not live in houses but run-down tool shacks. As we walked closer to one shack, I noticed I was walking through mud and water . . . definitely no sidewalks here—or water sewers. As for sanitation, I neither saw a toilet inside a house or an outhouse.

Coming from Canada, I had seen pictures like this before, but they were on T.V. Here it was real. The shack we entered was about 15 by 8 feet, if that. One light bulb hung

from the ceiling by its electric wire. There was no window, but that didn't matter because you could see through the big cracks in the wall. Nine of us squeezed into this little shack. The others came from nearby shacks to hear what we had to say. I did draw some attention for a while, but after introductions were made, we got right into a Bible study.

To my own surprise, even with my little Portuguese, I was able to contribute quite a lot to the Bible study. I could recognize the different books in the Portuguese Bible. This way I could follow along in my own Bible and point out other Scriptures important in salvation. There were at least three non-Christians there who had come to hear the Gospel.

For almost two hours, we discussed Scripture and prayed. I don't know if the non-Christians became saved, but I did see them at Church the next Sunday.

Each time our Brazil Team went out to evangelize, the Brazilian people would almost always come to Church the next Sunday. I saw God definitely moving in Brazil. I hope we will allow Him to move fast enough. By God's grace, the Christians in Brazil can still smile not because of worldly treasures but for the one reason that Jesus is in their hearts.

The harvest is ready but the workers are few—pray that God would raise up workers . . . but don't pray unless first you are willing to go yourself. "Here am I Lord, send me . . . !" □

*Edward Lehman is a student at North American Baptist College in Edmonton, AB. He was a member of a GATEWAY team sponsored by the N.A.B. Conference to Brazil. The team received one week of training prior to leaving for Brazil. This included practice in brick laying, cultural differences, and learning ministry skills.*



# The Church Is Small Groups!

by Larry Froese

**A**t Riverside Baptist Church in Devon, Alberta, small groups are not just another program—they are the hub of the church. The Church gathers together on Sunday morning to celebrate the excitement of what God has been doing all week long.

Pastor Larry Froese started training small group leaders in the fall of 1992. "With nine good, trained, dependable leaders, we started the Home Groups in October," says Froese. "Since then, the growth of the Church has been remarkable! We now have four home groups and four support groups: A divorce recovery group for adults (led by myself and my wife, Phyllis; our experience has taught me that it is a good idea to have a solid couple leading a divorce recovery group); a divorce recovery group for children (requiring many different leaders); a support group for Adult Children of Alcoholics; and a support group called Hope in Pain for people in chronic pain.

The key to these exciting ministry groups is good leadership. Church membership is a prerequisite to becoming a small group leader. We provide ongoing leadership for our growth groups, so we began training leaders for the fall in the spring. We recruit all of our leaders, and they are to look for prospective leaders in his/her group.

Through the ministry of these small groups, the following changes occurred: More than 60 percent of our church members are involved in weekly home groups; our Sunday

morning attendance has increased by 30 percent in the last six months; (we are now discussing starting a second Sunday morning worship service); the counseling load from within the church has dropped in half; and the ministry in the community has doubled.

Louise Miller, our coordinator, has been busy developing our own curriculum for the children's divorce recovery group. This group arose out of the request of the children themselves.

Whenever a need is expressed, we check to see if there is enough interest and if there is the leadership; if so, we start a support group. We envision dozens of groups beginning in the next number of years. The home groups are for the church members and adherents. The support groups are designed not only for outreach to the community but also for our own people. We are using the *Serendipity* materials and find them the best for our purposes.

Some exciting things are happening. When someone is sick, different group members bring meals for the family. Others look after the children when someone goes into the hospital. The great thing is that I am not even involved as a pastor. This spontaneous support is going on among the people because they have become bonded in small groups of deep interpersonal relationships.

Each group has an "empty chair" to represent those for whom they should be praying and inviting to the group. For us, small groups are not an option—THEY ARE THE CHURCH! □

*The Rev. Larry Froese is the pastor of a former church planting project, Riverside Baptist Church, Devon, AB. This Church became self-supporting in 1992.*







# The Impact of Rising Expectations for the Church

by Lyle E. Schaller

"People expect more from the churches than they did 40 years ago," reflected the 71-year-old minister who had retired five years earlier. "It's a lot harder to be a pastor today than it was 40 years ago!"

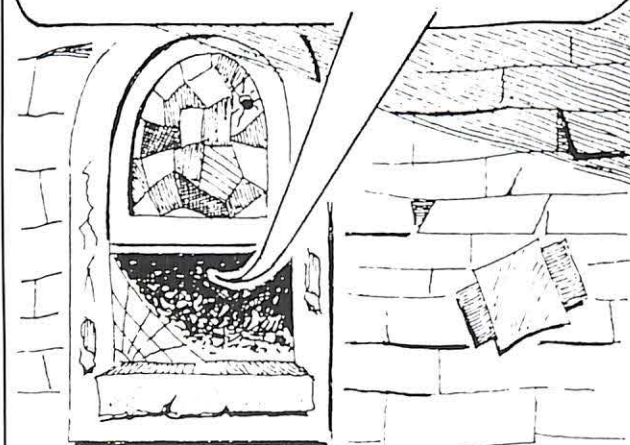
That retired minister is correct. It is far more difficult to be a pastor today than it was in 1953—or even as recently as 1973. Both churchgoers and the general public expect more from the churches. Before exploring those expectations and their impact, it may be useful to define the "typical" or the normative congregation.

One criterion for defining the typical congregation is that it is neither large nor small. One-third of the congregations have a larger crowd at worship and one-third have a smaller crowd. In broad general terms, two-thirds of all congregations in American Protestantism average fewer than 110 at worship (See table).

What do people expect of the churches today? There is no one answer, but the expectations are far greater than they were 40 years ago. It should be noted that not everyone expects every congregation to be able to fulfill every one of these common expectations.

- A meaningful worship experience at least once a week with a rele-

OF COURSE, OUR ATTENDANCE IS DOWN AND OUR GIVING ISN'T RISING, BUT THE SUN IS SHINING and THE BIRDS ARE SINGING...



"...denial is never a source of either hope or creativity!"

—FRANK JUCK

vant, memorable, and meaningful sermon

- Sunday school classes for all children and youth as well as for at least some adults
- Convenient and safe parking
- An adequate level of pastoral care for all members
- While the distance from home to hospital may be increasing and the length of hospitalization has been shortened, the pastor will call on all hospitalized members before

they are discharged

- The quality of the worship experience to be comparable to what can be seen on television
- Intercessory prayer central to the life of that worshipping community
- An effort made to transmit traditional moral values and traditional standards of ethical behavior to the next generation
- Allocate a respectable proportion of all dollar receipts to missions
- Help feed the hungry
- Help shelter the homeless
- Help the unemployed find suitable jobs
- Provide counseling for those seeking it
- Offer choices for adult Bible study
- Offer a range of ministries for youth
- Make available a range of ministries for senior citizens
- Offer an after-school program for children

- Offer a preschool program for two- to four-year old children
- Make available high-quality all-day child care to parents at moderate cost
- The pastor to be a generalist with several specialized skills
- Provide health insurance and suitable housing for the pastor and family as well as a fair cash salary
- The quality of the physical facilities to be comparable to new construction

- Reach and serve people from various cultural, language, racial, and nationality backgrounds
- Attract at least as many new members annually as it loses
- Music ministry to both please and inspire everyone
- Offer both a choice of time and of worship format every Sunday morning
- Be prepared to respond in a meaningful way to a broad range of religious needs
- The teaching ministry to include choices for all ages during the week
- Mutual support groups for a variety of needs
- The vision of congregations as centers of health: People expect help for their spiritual, emotional, physical, prayer, and psychological needs.

That is far from a comprehensive list of expectations. It does illustrate that in recent years the rising expectations have exceeded the resources of the typical Protestant congregation.

## THE MIDDLE THIRD

(By Average Worship Attendance)

American Baptist Churches . . . . .	56-116
Assemblies of God . . . . .	49-100
Baptist General Conference . . . . .	88-155
Christian (Disciples of Christ) . . . . .	58-110
Church of the Nazarene . . . . .	48-105
Episcopal Church . . . . .	68-165
Evangelical Covenant Church . . . . .	68-140
Evangelical Free Church . . . . .	62-201
Ev. Lutheran Church in America . . . . .	79-157
Free Methodist . . . . .	39-73
Lutheran Church—	
Missouri Synod . . . . .	80-160
North American Baptist	
Conference . . . . .	70-141
Presbyterian Church in America . . . . .	63-127
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) . . . . .	51-124
Reformed Church in America . . . . .	97-176
Southern Baptist Convention* . . . . .	52-110
United Church of Christ . . . . .	58-120
United Methodist Church . . . . .	37-89
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran	
Synod . . . . .	66-140

\*Based on Sunday attendance nearest reporting time.

## What Are the Consequences?

What happens when expectations exceed the resources of two-thirds or nine-tenths of all Protestant churches? Among the more highly visible are these

- The majority of Protestant congregations are shrinking in size.
- The very large congregations with an exceptionally high quality seven-day-a-week ministry filled with choices are attracting a disproportionately large number of a) church shoppers, b) adults born after 1955, c) parents with high expectations for their children, and d) those seeking a strong teaching ministry.
- The neighborhood congregation is being replaced by the regional church as churchgoers display a willingness to drive longer distances to have their expectations fulfilled.
- An unprecedented number of pastors are choosing to take early retirement where attractive pension and health insurance programs for early retirees are offered.
- A growing proportion of ministers are leaving the parish ministry before what would be their third pastorate.
- The divorce rate among the clergy has gone up substantially since 1955.
- Pastors are leaving small and middle-sized congregations to accept a call to the staff of the large church.
- The demand for generalists in the church ministry is dropping, and the demand for highly skilled specialists is rising.
- Those denominations that believe in the efficacy of financial subsidies are finding the demand for financial help exceeds their resources.
- Morale has become a serious problem for an increasing number of pastors and congregations.

## What Are the Responses?

1) Denial—the easiest response. Sometimes the denial is outright and

complete, but it is never a source of either hope or creativity.

2) Search for a scapegoat. One scapegoat is the consumer society. People should replace their personal expectations with greater institutional loyalty and stronger support for tradition. Another scapegoat is the pastor. If the pastor would work harder, pray longer, and be more careful in the selection of a spouse, more of the expectations of the people would be met.

3) Place greater expectations on continuing education experiences for both pastors and volunteer leaders.

4) Enlarge the expectations projected of theological seminaries. Most of these are not reasonable expectations. For example, it is unfair to expect a seminary with fewer than 75 graduating seniors going into the church ministry to be able to mobilize the resources necessary to train specialists in a dozen or more specialties in ministry.

5) A growing response is to look to the very large congregations that are filled with hope, optimism, and skill to a) provide continuing education experiences for both clergy and laity, b) prepare people to be staff specialists in other churches, and c) train people to become pastors in high-expectation congregations.

6) Allocate more resources to recruiting people to go to seminary to compensate for the higher attrition rate and the early retirements.

7) Perhaps the most creative and least visible response is to view this as a systemic issue. What is not working in the present systems that means relatively few congregations are able to respond effectively to this rising tide of rising expectations? That could be the most productive beginning point for those seeking change. □

Copyright © 1993 by Lyle E. Schaller, 530 North Brainerd Street, Naperville, IL 60563-3199



# Medical Survey Opens Door to Village of Unreached People

*Me sha shu . . . . . I greet you.  
Me na njiere Shupamom . . . . . I am learning Shupamom.*

by Kathy Kroll

One of our village baseline surveys this year in Cameroon, West Africa, was in a Bamoun village. Since February, God has been opening doors of ministry for me with this primarily Muslim people group. About 400,000 Bamoun people live in the French-speaking part of Cameroon. Since they speak a common language, they are one of the largest language groups in Cameroon. As a neighboring tribe of our local people, many of them come to Banzo for medical care. Today, we admitted 12 of them to the hospital.

After our village visit, I met a number of Bamoun people who are working in this area. Through them, I began meeting their people who are coming to Banzo Baptist Hospital. We find communication difficult because many of them cannot speak English, Pidgin, or French. In answer to prayer for God's direction, He provided a local Bamoun family who are teaching me Shupamom.

Many afternoons when I leave my office at the nurses' training school, I go to the hospital kitchens to visit. The carers of the hospitalized patients cook and sleep there. They offer me a log or one of their mats as a place to sit. Amid the smoke from the open fires and their

exclamations of encouragement, I haltingly practice the few new sentences I have learned. Learning the tones and non-English sounds proves a challenge. I am making slow but definite progress.

The Health Board of the Cameroon Baptist Convention has two health centers near or in the Bamoun area. Two village health posts are supervised by these health centers and an additional village health post will most likely be opened this year.

Many of the people have commented that they appreciate staff taking the time to start the day with prayer and praying for the patients. Watching the rows of Muslim men praying in front of the hospital here five times each day impresses one with the significance of taking time to pray.

Pray that our health care will continue to make a difference, because

it is done in the name of Jesus and that we will reflect the Light of God in a way that will draw people to a personal relationship with Him. □

*Kathy Kroll is an N.A.B. medical missionary serving in Cameroon, West Africa, as Director of CBC Private Training School for Health Personnel.*



■ **ALYCE BIBELHEIMER** (76), Cathay, ND; born Oct. 31, 1915, to Gust and Johanna Reddig; died Aug. 9, 1992; married Louis E. Bibelheimer in 1937; active member, WMF, S.S. superintendent and teacher, deaconess; served on Crystal Springs Camp board; survived by her husband, Louis; one daughter, Janice Shepherd, Scottsdale, AZ; one son, Roy, Cathay; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Otto; four sisters: Lydia Helm, Elizabeth Reddig, Laura Reddig, and Ruth Gille; the Reverends Vernon Schneider and Oliver Bender, pastors, funeral service.

■ **DANIELLE ELENORE HALLDORSSON** (3), Winnipeg, MB; born March 12, 1990, to Mishael and Liana Halldorsson; died May 21, 1993; survived by her parents; one brother, James; her grandparents; great-grandmother; her church family at New Life Ministries, Winnipeg; Gregory Glatz and Hardy Groening, pastors, funeral service.

■ **RUDOLF BUCHHOLZ** (87), Chilliwack, BC; born March 27, 1906; died March 23, 1993; member, Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC; survived by his wife, Rita; one son, Alfred; one daughter, Elli Buchholz; three grandchildren; Mr. Matt Dressler, pastor, funeral service.

■ **HELMUT GEORGE DYMMEL** (93), Salem, OR; born April 24, 1899, to Michael and Matilde Dymmel in Pabianice, Poland; died April 19, 1993; sergeant in the 1920 Bolshevik Campaign in Poland; immigrated to the U.S. in 1923; married Mildred Berger in 1926, who predeceased him in 1976; very active in youth and choir; served on youth committee of the District Baptist Churches of Lodz, Poland; graduated from N.A.B. Seminary, Rochester, NY; received Bachelor of Divinity degree, Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1931; University of Rochester, 1932; Master of Theology degree, Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1934; University of So. California and University of Chicago, 1940-44; ordained at Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR, July 17, 1926; served as assistant pastor, Trinity Baptist, Portland, 1926-28; pastor, Community Church, Hartsville, NY, 1930-32; German pastor, Salem Evangelical Church, Rochester, NY, 1932-38; teacher, N.A.B. Seminary, 1930-32; instructor, N.A.B. Seminary, 1932-38; pastor, Bethel Baptist, Anaheim, CA, 1938-44; Home Mission Secretary, N.A.B. Conference, 1944-46; General Mission Secretary, N.A.B. Conference, 1946-50; in business, Chicago, IL, 1951-62; teacher of modern languages, Kendall College, Evanston, IL, 1962-66; German pastor, Eden United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL, 1968-72; linguist with knowledge of seven languages; an assiduous reader; a lover of music, reading, writing, walking, and photography; a unique person: proper and dignified, interested in people, a conversationalist, one who enjoyed life fully; author, *He Restoreth My Soul*; member, Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, OR; predeceased by his

son, George in 1992; survived by one daughter, Joan (John) Immel, Newtown Square, PA; one brother, Ceasar; two sisters: Selma Loeffler and Lily Herke; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; the Reverends Wally Kroguletz, LeRoy Schauer, Eric Kuhn, and Jacob Gunst, funeral service.

■ **LENA GIESEKE** (70), Aplington, IA; born July 31, 1922, to Otto and Grace Berends Paterni in Butler County; died April 18, 1993; married LeRoy Gieseke, Aug. 23, 1945; active member, church secretary, Aplington Baptist Church; Bible study guide for Stonecroft Ministries, 12 years; served in community organizations; predeceased by her parents; survived by her husband, LeRoy, Aplington; three sons: Lowell (Gayle), Edenton, NC; Leland (Evelyn), Derby, KS; Larry (Diane), Richfield, MN; seven grandchildren; one sister, Jeanette Kliege; two brothers: Lawrence and Bill Paterni; the Rev. Rod Thompson, pastor, funeral service.

■ **ELSIE ELIZABETH JASTER** (82), Chilliwack, BC; born Sept. 28, 1910, at Moses Lake, WA; died March 3, 1993; married the Rev. Robert Jaster, Oct. 27, 1929; member, Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack; served the following churches with her husband: Emmanuel Baptist, Valleyview, AB, 1946-50; Nokomis (SK) Baptist, 1950-54; Regina, SK, 1954-57; Onoway (AB) Baptist, 1958-64; Evergreen Baptist, Chilliwack, BC, 1964-71; Baptist Haven of Rest, Medicine Hat, AB, 1971-75; predeceased by her husband, Robert, and two sons; survived by three sons: Raymond, Kelowna; Eugene, Cranbrook; Harvey, Oakville, ON; three daughters: Carol (John), Blessin, Sardis, BC; Laurie James, San Francisco, CA; Sharon Jaster, Chilliwack; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one brother, Elmer Lehman; two sisters: Alice Bayer and Ann Funk-Potratz; Mr. Matt Dressler and Dr. Helmut Waltereit, pastors, funeral service.

■ **JACOB KIRSCHMAN** (79), born Aug. 12, 1912, Leola, SD; to Jacob and Katherine (Kaul) Kirschman and EMMA KIRSCHMAN (77), born March 31, 1915, to Fred and Louise (Dohn) Loebs of Leola, SD; died June 12, 1992, in a car accident; they were married Oct. 12, 1941; members, Leola (SD) Baptist Church; survived by one daughter, Shelby Jean Johnson, Ellendale, ND; two grandchildren; Jacob survived by three brothers: Edward, Herbert, and Ervin Kaul; three sisters: Lydia Nies, Rose Kopang, Anna Opp; Emma survived by a sister, Ladena Ketterling; the Rev. Perry Schnabel, pastor, funeral service.

■ **GEORGE LAUBACH** (81), Okeene, OK; born Feb. 25, 1912, to Henry and Mollie Laubach; died March 31, 1993; married Elta Laubach, Nov. 23, 1933; faithful member, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK; predeceased by his wife, Elta; survived by one son, Robert George, Okeene; one daughter, Faye Lynn Hoffner, Okeene; four

grandchildren; one step-grandchild; and many great-grandchildren; the Rev. Anthony Dickerson, pastor, funeral service.

■ **EDWIN LOEBS** (82), Leola, SD; born April 30, 1909, to Gottlieb and Katherine (Heupel) Loebs; died Mar. 26, 1992; married Emgard Mund, Sept. 25, 1936; member, Leola (SD) Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Emgard; two sons: the Rev. Leslie Loebs, Beaver City, NE; Melvin, Aberdeen, SD; one daughter, Sharlene (Darrel) Chapman, Greeley, CO; one brother, Albert; three sisters: Martha Heyd, Ella Merkel, and Leona Pinke; four grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; the Reverends Perry Schnabel and Arnold Friez, pastors, funeral service.

■ **ELLA KATHERINE LOEBS** (75), Leola, SD; born Jan. 27, 1918, to Christian and Lydia (Lautt) Opp; died Feb. 1, 1993; married Albert Loebs, Nov. 2, 1941; member, Leola (SD) Baptist Church; survived by her husband, Albert; one son, Jerald, Aberdeen, SD; one daughter, Jo Ann Nixon, Olivehurst, CA; two brothers: Harold and Wilbert Opp; one sister, Caroline Opp; five grandchildren; the Rev. Perry Schnabel, pastor, funeral service.

■ **ALEXANDER RICHTER** (92), Medicine Hat, AB; born June 14, 1900, to August and Eunice Richter in Russia; died Jan. 24, 1993; immigrated to Canada, 1926; married Johanna Felberg in 1933; active member, trustee, deacon, S.S. teacher, Nokomis (SK) Baptist Church; member, Faith Baptist Church, Regina, SK; survived by his wife, Johanna; one sister, Nahida; the Rev. Graham Kern, pastor, funeral service.

■ **EDNA L. ZIMMERMAN** (72), Napoleon, ND; born Oct. 4, 1920, to Fred and Mary (Weber) Pfeifle; died June 6, 1993; married John Zimmerman, Feb. 2, 1940; active member, S.S. teacher, S.S. treasurer, church clerk, Napoleon Baptist Church; predeceased by her parents; her husband, John; one sister; two step-sisters; and four step-brothers; survived by two sons: Arnold (Sandi) and Dwain; one daughter, Phyllis Nygaard; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one brother; two step-brothers; the Rev. Edward Kopf, pastor, funeral service.

■ **MAGDALENA SCHMIERER** (almost 91), Trochu, AB; born May 9, 1902, to John and Barbara Weigum, in Mound City, SD; died May 6, 1993; married John Schmierer, Oct. 31, 1921; loved to sing, active member, S.S. teacher, WMF, Trochu (AB) Baptist Church; predeceased by her husband, John; son, Leroy; her parents; four sisters; and three brothers; survived by three daughters: Irene (Milton) Falkenberg, Richmond, KY; Bernice Stickelmier, Calgary, AB; Ardath (Herman) Effa, Villa Park, IL; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one sister, Elizabeth Sonnenberg; two brothers: Albert and Eugene; the Reverends Dean Eisner, Herman Effa, and Milton Falkenberg, pastors, funeral service.





# Prepared for Every Opportunity

by Jan Fenner, Warren MI

**A** relaxed smile crossed my face as I picked up my mail. My half-day responsibility was finished, and it was time to go home. I waved a brief gesture of good-bye to my supervisor. She responded by asking if I had time to see her in her private office. Having no problems or concerns with my position, I followed her into the office and casually took a seat on the other side of the executive desk. I didn't have time to anticipate the next moment which could hold her eternal destiny.

An overwhelming look of sincerity crossed her face as she stated that ordinarily she would never engage someone in a conversation like this on company time. She explained it would be definitely unethical on her part. Without hardly taking a breath, she said, "However, you are finished for the day, and this will be my lunch hour."

I have to admit that up to that point, I was totally relaxed and poised in the presence of my boss and friend—but now I felt total anxiety. Thoughts were racing through my mind. What would be considered unethical? The landscape of the abrupt meeting was now taking on a rougher terrain. Fast as my thoughts were flying, my heart began to sense a need to get into the race. However, the ball was in her court, until she leaned back in her leather chair and said candidly, "Jan, I want you to tell me exactly what you believe about God and spiritual subjects!"



This is the catalysis that every believer anticipates happening as we live the consistent Christian life. However, I must confess, no one had ever asked me that question. I conjecture to say, if polls were taken among believers, we would immediately change our weakened theories of the productivity of "lifestyle evangelism." In the decades of the 80s and 90s, we have been peacefully pacified with the notion that living a sterling life before the unbeliever will make them chase us down to ask for spiritual direction.

Thrilling indeed was this one experience—to be asked to share my faith, achieving the admonition of the apostle Peter, "... Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have ..." (1 Peter 3:15). I must add, this opportunity had never been mine before, nor has it since.

There's never been a time in my life when I didn't want everyone I met to know Jesus Christ as his or her Savior. As a child, I would round up scores of children in the neighborhood and classroom for VBS and Sunday school promotions. During my teenage years, the enthu-

siasm was still there. Each summer my friends and I would invite the unsaved to attend the large area tent meetings. It was at this time that my favorite cousin (from a religious home) came to know Christ.

In Bible college, I put my enthusiastic evangelism endeavor on hold. Why witness to fellow colleagues who already knew the plan of salvation having mastered Personal Evangelism 101? The daily chapel speaker and professors continued to challenge us with examples of 20th Century witnessing.

Spring and summer came, and I walked two extremely important aisles. One gave me a degree to pursue a career in teaching and the other to become the wife of my college sweetheart and future pastor.

As I juggled my role of wife, teacher in the public school, and piano teacher, I certainly had to put the subject of evangelism on hold. Once again, I found this cloistered life demanded no urgency to proclaim the Gospel truths to our seminary neighbors.

My childhood dreams were being fulfilled in this comfortable lifestyle as we assumed our role as pastor and wife in our first pastorate, a well established church. What a position of honor was mine every Sunday, taking my place beside my pastor husband to greet the hundreds of parishioners who exited the church doors. It was no difficult task loving these who already loved the Lord. Fulfilling, indeed, were the hours spent preparing Sunday school les-

sons to be taught, speaking engagements, entertaining, visiting the sick, and comforting the sorrowing. What an isolated environment was ours as we tended the aquarium and let others do the "fishing for men."

God abruptly removed us from this memorable ministry of love where every pew was filled and church members overwhelmed us in a circle of love. So safe was this ministry that our four-year-old daughter brought a great theological truth to the forefront when she marched around the house singing, "We are more than conquerors," Mel Johnson's theme song. However, we detected some unidentified words and asking for the interpretation found her to be singing, "We are more than comfortable through Christ who loves us so."

Moving to the Detroit Metropolitan area brought a radical change to

our pastoral peace. The challenge before us was not a traditional sanctuary with filled pews, but a temporary all-purpose room filled with folding chairs. Pews give a message of warmth and an appearance of a unified group. An empty chair gives a blatant message. It was not surprising when those empty chairs became purposeful and persuasive. The choices for a successful ministry were now two. One, insist people come through media persuasion, or, two, go to them and confront them individually—and go we did.

My aggressive childhood enthusiasm for evangelism returned. As we walked the streets, I pictured behind the closed doors the very principle of the urgency of evangelism. There is a heaven; there is a hell; there is only one Savior and believing is not enough. Christ must be received as an eternal choice.

This relational approach to evangelism comes straight from the pages of the New Testament. When God wanted to communicate to man, He came and walked among us. God didn't hire a skywriter to fill the air with messages. He became one of us so that we could become one of His (Philippians 2:5-11).

Thus the years of training, Scripture memorization, and a personal confidence to communicate the plan of salvation was in heart and mind on that crucial day. God's power and perfect timing with my boss brought about an opportunity for her to come to a saving knowledge of Christ as Savior.

Many years and witnessing experiences have transpired since that confrontation. Today, I'm more challenged, considering the urgency of the times, to take the initiative to share Christ, and not wait for someone to ask. □



## Diamonds in the Rough

by Nancy Lennick,  
WMF president, Dickinson, ND

It had been a very warm, humid, summer night. I awoke to a loud commotion from our family of killdeer in the back yard. Looking out, I was surprised to see a large black raven in the garden. The killdeer were only a fraction of the size of the raven, yet they were bravely running at him, trying to scare him away.

As I looked closer, I saw feathers and realized the raven had one of the baby killdeer. Even though there was great danger for the adult birds, still they tried their best to protect and care for their own.

It made me wonder how we care for those around us when there is danger, ridicule, or need for us to give our time, talents, or money? When we see those around us who

are facing great obstacles in their lives, is it easier to just walk away? Do I truly care for the young woman who is pregnant and single, or do I hold her at arm's length, not getting involved? Do I truly care for the elderly lady who is a member of our church and now lives in the nursing home? Do I care enough to take time to send her a card or visit her? Do I care enough to give a mentally handicapped lady I know a hug and a word of encouragement that she craves?

The Lord cared for people with needs and had compassion on them. Isaiah 49:13 reads, "... The Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones."

The Lord continues to chip away at my selfishness in these areas of my life, so I will be more available to encourage and help others who

have needs and hurts. Someone has said, "A friend is someone who comes in when the whole world has gone out." Each day, I need to remember His great love for me and be willing to share it with whomever He directs. □

### Share Your Ideas

What Christmas outreach activities have been effective in helping your WMF group minister to the women in your community? We'd like to publish your ideas in a future issue of the **Baptist Herald** to share with the women of our Conference. Send a brief description of the outreach activity/program and the name of the WMF contact person in your church to Pam Arends, 17105 Barnstable Drive, Rockville, MD 20855.



## 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

## COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. Pastor John Kaufield baptized two people and at the same service welcomed three adult members into the fellowship of Napier Parkview Baptist Church. At a different service, three children, were dedicated to the Lord. —Mildred Enders

■ TACOMA, WA. Calvary Baptist Church held two baptismal services in which four young boys, two young adults, and one youth were baptized by the Rev. Don Burnett. —Earl Shadle

■ YORKTON, SK. Youth pastor Kim Martens baptized one youth who was then welcomed into the fellowship of Heritage Baptist Church by the Rev. Robert Sandford. —Hertha Rowden

■ FESSENDEN, ND. Pastor Oliver Bender baptized four youth at First Baptist Church. —Bobbie Wiese

■ EUREKA, SD. Pastor Perry Schnabel baptized and welcomed one youth into the fellowship of First Baptist Church. —Irene Kusler

■ GOODRICH, ND. First Baptist Church and Pastor Kenneth Wutzke welcomed a couple into the fellowship of the Church.

■ WISHEK, ND. Pastor Gordon Huisinga baptized and welcomed one adult and one youth into the fellowship of First Baptist Church. —Peggy Bettenhausen

■ SURREY, BC. Pastor Richard Yates welcomed two people by letter of transfer and baptized six candidates. Pastor Yates recently disciplined at least ten potential candidates during Sunday morning Welcome Classes. "He shares with them information about the N.A.B. Conference and other facets of church life," reports Viola Pahl.

■ PORTLAND, OR. Pastor Randy Kinnison baptized eight children, who had attended baptismal classes led by Ron and Kim Christensen and who have participated in the Awana program at Bethany Baptist Church. Kim Christensen is Director of Children's Ministries at the Church. —Herbert Halstead.

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Three people publicly declared their faith in Christ and were baptized by Pastor Gordon Freiter at Rowandale Baptist Church. —H. Kahler

■ PORT COQUITLAM, BC. Pastor Dave Bootsma baptized four young people at Mary Hill Baptist Church. —Irma Edel

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. Five people, four by baptism and one by confession of faith in Jesus Christ, were welcomed into the fellowship of First Baptist Church. Pastor Michael Lerud also held a child dedication service for five couples who came forward to dedicate their children. —Verna Luiken

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Pastor John Hisel baptized four people and welcomed them into the fellowship of McDermot Ave. Baptist Church. Three of them represented three generations of one family: the grandmother, mother, and daughter. In reality, a fourth generation was represented as it was the legacy of the faith and commitment of the late great-grandmother that led to the conversion of her daughter, who in turn exposed her daughter and granddaughter to the message of God's love. —Maria Rogalski

■ FLOWER MOUND, TX. Pastor Ron Presley and CrossTimbers Baptist Church rejoice in the salvation of two youth who accepted Christ as their Savior at the Southern Association Camp at Forest Glen. Since their mother accepted Christ and was baptized, T. J. and Betsy have asked questions about their mother's faith. Five others accepted Christ as their Savior at camp as well. The Rev. Ron Presley is the pastor.

A father, whose son accepted Christ as his Savior at the Southern Association camp last summer, accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord while in the hospital. His

son was so excited about youth camp that he was instrumental in his parents coming to CrossTimbers Baptist Church eight months ago.

A new Sunday morning attendance record of 185 was set in April at the Church where the Rev. Ron Presley is pastor.

**Family from El Salvador commit lives to Christ**

■ SURREY, BC. At a child dedication service conducted by Pastor Richard Yates at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, a couple from El Salvador brought their three children. When the couple came to Canada, their children remained in El Salvador for several years. During that time, the parents accepted the Lord as their Savior and worshipped with the Spanish ministries at Sunshine Ridge. When the family was reunited, they publicly testified that they and their household wanted to be dedicated to the Lord. —Viola Pahl

**JESUS film shown at McDermot church**

■ WINNIPEG, MB. The JESUS film in English was shown on "International Students Ministry Sunday" at McDermot Ave. Baptist Church. A number of Chinese students from the University of Manitoba Health Sciences Centre attended. One of the students made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. There have been several conversions as a result of this ministry.

One student said, "I prayed to receive Christ in

my own language. I used to be lonely since I came here to study, but now that I have Jesus Christ as my Saviour, I don't feel lonely anymore because Christ is with me." —Maria Rogalski

**Kid's Praise Club presents musical drama**

■ STEAMBOAT ROCK, IA. The Kid's Praise Club, a 36-voice children's choir of First Baptist Church, presented the drama/musical, "Fishin' for Fine Fruit," under the direction of Joanna Lerud and Kim Smith.

An invitation to respond to Christ was given at the performance. The Rev. Michael Lerud is the pastor. —Joanna Lerud

**Sunshine Ridge church sponsors outreach event for youth**

■ SURREY, BC. A youth-sponsored monthly event, "Wildlife," at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church was attended by 160 youth. A majority of youth were from the community.

A guest band, a drama on the power of sin and freedom in Christ, and a challenging talk communicated the gospel to these non-churched youth.

Twenty of the Church youth, along with Glenn Hilton, youth pastor, attended a campout with

other church groups reporting that the inspiration received there was the "best ever."

"Spending time in the Word, at camp and then sharing it (outreach into the community), has promoted growth among our youth," reports Viola Pahl. The Rev. Richard Yates is the pastor.

**Surrey church has active Spanish ministry**

■ SURREY, BC. La Mision Hispana at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church ministers to approximately 40 Spanish-speaking people of all ages on Friday evenings.

The group divides into age groups for Bible teaching, prayer, and praise. Their objective is not to be a church within the church, but rather, to integrate wherever possible with the mainstream activities of Sunshine Ridge.

Representatives from the Spanish group are on the Church's Mission Committee, Long-range Planning Committee, and Women's Ministries.

"Such interaction provides a harmonious relationship and the feeling that regardless of race and language, we are all 'one' in Christ," reports Viola Pahl. The Rev. Richard Yates is the pastor.

**Waco church works on positive relationship with neighborhood in transition**

■ WACO, TX. "In Children's Church, we challenged our neighborhood children 'to give thanks to the Lord' (Psalm 118:1, NIV)," report Stephen and Lois Reilly, volunteers in

missions through Central Baptist Church. "Simple food dyes transformed coffee filters into rainbow-hued rosettes, each framing a praise card from the children. 'I thank God for Mom and Dad and brothers and sisters,' one child shared. Another simply wrote 'friends' in large print."

"When we began work in March 1992, our immediate need was a positive relationship with our neighbors," says Stephen. "We were newcomers. For many years our 'barrio' had been in transition and even our church had become a stranger in its own neighborhood. The playground was fenced, padlocked, and unused."

Through VBS, Recreation Night, Kid's Choir, Sunday School, and Children's Church, the Reillys are enriching the lives of the children in the neighborhood in the name of Christ. They have met many parents. A few have begun to share their joys, pain, and spiritual concerns.

Two youth mission teams shared in VBS and Recreation Week — the neighborhood children exchange letters with these young people.

"The congregation at Central Baptist Church is a great encouragement . . . more than half of the active members shared in VBS and Neighborhood Recreation," says Reilly.

**Men witness to youth in school yard**

■ PORT COQUITLAM, BC. Saturday is almost over. A longing look is cast at the comfortable chair by the TV, but the thought is quickly put aside. A much more important work is needed to be done.

Saturday evenings find John and Randy on a school yard bench in prayer. It's time now to head for the corner of the school yard with Testaments and tracts where a group of young people are gathered.

For a year now, many of these young people have been there listening as



Northridge Baptist Mission team and neighborhood children of Central Baptist Church, Waco, TX, Hispanic ministry.



## 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

these men from Mary Hill Baptist Church share Jesus. Most of them are lonely and searching. The answer is Jesus. So far, one has indicated she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. Is this worth giving up a relaxing Saturday night for? YES!—*Irma Edel*

## COMPELLED TO SERVE

## Yorkton youth plan for Dallas

■ YORKTON, SK. A team of youth from Heritage Baptist Church hosted a Western Night to raise funds for their trip to Dallas for the Triennial Conference in 1994. After a spaghetti supper served by the youth, five members of the team shared testimonies, western songs, and a drama. The team plans on ministering in the Dallas innecity for one week prior to the Triennial Conference, using drama, puppets, and music as they share the gospel with day-club children.

"It's exciting to see the youth share their goals for the trip and their commitment to raising funds so they can go," says Kim Martens, youth pastor.

## Sunshine Ridge WMF host special events

■ SURREY, BC. The Women's Ministries of Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church presented special events such as garage and white elephant sales to raise money for missions and local projects.

A fashion show, attended by 275 women, many of whom were from

the community, featured styles from the 1900s to the present. Seven booth displays of old-fashioned artifacts were spaced around the gymnasium: old furniture, antique typewriters, washing machines, books, clothing, and other household items and crafts from bygone days.

The WMF also celebrated their 25th anniversary in June with six charter members present.—*Viola Pahl*

## West Center Street church honors graduates

■ MADISON, SD. Recognition of graduation for 20 seniors from high school, college, and universities was given at a potluck supper at West Center Street Baptist Church.

A plaque with a Christian symbol made by Dennis DeBoer, moderator of the Church, was presented to each graduate. A response was given by each as to their hopes and plans for the future.

Dr. Roger Fredrickson, Sioux Falls, SD, challenged the seniors as they strive to achieve the goals they have set forth for their future, not to lose sight of their Christian faith and

standards. The Rev. Elton Kirstein is the interim pastor.—*Phyllis Frerichs*

## Youth host fundraising supper

■ MORRIS, MB. The youth of Emmanuel Baptist Church invited the congregation to a spaghetti supper followed by a program of music, skits, and devotionals.

Of the \$400 raised, \$300 was donated to the building project at Lake Nutimik Camp, Seven Sisters, MB, and \$100 was placed in a fund to assist young people to travel to the Triennial Conference in Dallas in 1994. Mr. Dave Kirsch is youth pastor.—*Cynthia Bergstresser*

## Deacons sponsor breakfast for campers

■ TACOMA, WA. The Deacon Board at Calvary Baptist Church sponsored a "Love a Camper" pancake breakfast after a Sunday worship service. All donations went into the camp fund to help as many young people as possible by paying all or part of their way to camp. The Rev. Don Burnett is the pastor.—*Earl Shadle*

## Youth serves with Latin American missions

■ PAUL, ID. Daniel Renz, a member of First Baptist Church, is serving with Latin American Missions (Spearhead) in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Daniel lives with a pastor's family in Mexico and works in a local church with other young leaders. The Rev. John Ziulkowski is the pastor.—*Alice Schenk*

## Dresslers speak at Napier Parkview church

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. Dr. and Mrs. Harold Dressler, missionaries to Eastern Europe, spoke at Napier Parkview Baptist Church. Dr. Dressler spoke on the myths of Easter, outlined the GATEWAY Program of the N.A.B. Conference, and answered questions concerning Dressler's missionary work in Russia and Eastern Europe. The Rev. John Kaufield is the pastor.—*Millie Enders*

## Napier Parkview youth serve in Dominican Republic

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. Three youth and one adult from Napier Parkview Baptist Church spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic helping on construction projects and witnessing to the people. The Rev. John Kaufield is the pastor.—*Millie Enders*

## Leduc church provides supplies for inner-city ministry

■ LEDUC, AB. Temple Baptist Church helps support the Mustard Seed Street Church with supplies for its food bank as well as donations of clothing and money. A report was given of the hardships and blessings in working with street people.

The Church hosted a Berg Chorale concert for an audience of 295. There was also an evening of music by the Potters Clay Male Quartet. The Rev. Gordon Denison is the pastor.—*Violet Fleck*



## Leduc Women do White Cross

■ LEDUC, AB. The WMF of First Baptist Church rolled 1,650 bandages and cut and stacked 11,450 4"x4" squares during two work days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Seventeen people measured, cut, sewed, tore, and rolled," says Margaret Jabs, White Cross chair.

At a special dedication service for the White Cross work, former missionaries from Cameroon and Nigeria, Trudy Schatz and Minnie Kuhn spoke.

## Guess who's coming to dinner?

■ MINOT, ND. A program called, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" was held at First Baptist Church with 175 people participating. People were asked to choose if they preferred to be hosts or guests and then matched for the purpose of fellowship. Hosts didn't know who their guests would be, and the guests brought the food. New and old friends were established and renewed at this unique event.

"The Tapestry of Trust" was the theme at the women's Friendship Tea at

the Church. Guest speaker, Lois Kankovsky, used a tapestry to demonstrate allowing God to weave the tapestry of our lives. The Rev. Douglas Timm is the pastor.—*Inez Rhone*

## Wishek church purchases lot for additional parking

■ WISHEK, ND. Many of the members of First Baptist Church helped tear down a house on the lot the Church purchased for additional parking space. The Rev. Gordon Huisinga is the pastor.—*Peggy Bettenhausen*

## CHALLENGED TO GROW

## Government of Canada helps New Life Ministries in building expansion

■ WINNIPEG, MB. New Life Ministries' proposed building expansion was moved ahead of schedule by two to three years when

the Government of Canada approached the Church with the possibility of funding.

Because of New Life Ministries' commitment to community development, and because of supportive letters of reference submitted by other services and

agencies in the West End of Winnipeg, the Federal Government agreed to underwrite about two-thirds of the cost of expansion.

New Life Ministries has been meeting in a neighbourhood school since it outgrew its existing facility in the fall of 1992. The new facility will be completed by the beginning of July and will almost triple the space previously available to the Church. The Rev. Harry Lehotsky is senior pastor, and Mr. Greg Glatz is associate pastor.

## McDermot church dedicates Christian Life Centre

■ WINNIPEG, MB. McDermot Avenue Baptist Church dedicated its Christian Life Centre to the glory and service of God on May 2, 1993.

The 17,000 square foot multi-purpose addition to the existing church building was erected in response to a long felt need for expanded facilities for the ministries of the Church in the community. It will enable the Church

to minister more effectively through the Awana program (75 percent from the community), provide additional space for Sunday school classes, library, church offices, and handicapped access.

The new facility will also be used as a Christian Child Care Service, a Drop-In Centre for community youth, and a distribution place for food and clothing for the needy.

City dignitaries, the architect, and builder, present at the dedication, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. John Hisel delivered the dedicatory message, "Building for Tomorrow." People from the community as well as friends and members from sister churches also attended.

"We praise the Lord for His faithfulness and guidance throughout the planning stages, building process, the many volunteer hours of our members, and the spirit of sacrifice and financial support from the congregation," says Maria Rogalski.



## 2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives



# Name That Church!

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.

Send your answers to N.A.B. Heritage Commission, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. We would love to hear from you.—Bee Westerman



## Binder announces retirement from executive director position

Dr. John Binder has notified the Executive Committee of the N.A.B. Conference of his wish to retire from the position of Executive Director of the N.A.B. Conference at the conclusion of his three-year term in 1994.

"I am deeply grateful for the privilege and sense of fulfillment that has been mine in serving the N.A.B. Conference in this position since 1979," Binder told the Executive Committee. "Your counsel and support have been invaluable as we together sought to achieve the challenging goals of the Conference."

## Search is on for new executive director

by Lois Uptigrove

On Feb. 19, 1993, the Executive Committee appointed a Nominating Committee to conduct a candidate search and make recommendation to the General Council for the position of Executive Director, N.A.B. Conference. This committee includes the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Minneapolis, chair; the Rev. Dennis Dewey, Kansas City, and Mrs. Lois Uptigrove, Calgary.

This Committee distributed a survey to the General Council representatives, Conference committee members, area ministers, school faculty, and many others involved in a wide variety of Conference ministries. The survey requested comments on the direction of the Conference in the next ten years, the type of person needed as a leader, and the roles or primary functions of the Executive Director. From the 165 surveys returned, the Nominating Committee presented its initial report to the General Council on June 5.

Reflecting our changing world and changing opportunities, our

people call for the new vision and change of emphasis to include

- Promoting evangelistic outreach in North America through church planting, as we acknowledge ethnic diversity, community needs, and sensitivity to the unchurched.
- Prioritizing the functioning of the Conference office as a service body to help local churches strengthen their ministries within their communities in the areas of renewal, revitalization, evangelism, and addressing human needs.
- Refocusing and redefining international mission efforts and targets in light of changing opportunities.
- Acknowledging our unique services while we increase the combining of resources and networking with other Christian groups for increased effectiveness and more responsible stewardship.

These priorities for Conference ministry were seen to require an Executive Director who was first a visionary, then a leader, then a Conference representative and spokesperson. The qualities seen as most important were spiritual maturity, integrity, strong communication skills in both public speaking and interpersonal relationships, optimism grounded in realistic expectations, innovation, managerial experience, and team-building skills.

The task ahead clearly reminds us of our dependence on God for guidance, clarity, and confidence. The greatest need is for the Conference membership to commit this issue to personal and corporate prayer. Your prayer support for the Committee, the candidates that will be considered, the General Council, and Conference ministries is vital. The Nominating Committee welcomes any communication you would like to share. Updates will appear in future issues of *Baptist Herald* and "N.A.B. News." Thank you for your individual and church prayer commitment.

Comments may be sent to the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Faith Baptist Church, 4350 Russell Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412.

## Commencement Exercises

The Rev. Herman Effa, missions director, N.A.B. Conference, received the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at the commencement services at N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, in May.

The Rev. Siegfried Schuster received the earned Doctor of Ministry degree from the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in May.

## Ministerial Changes

The Rev. Richard Yates to pastor, Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church, Surrey, BC.

The Rev. Paul Humphrey from pastor, Gillette Baptist Church, Wyoming.

Mr. Steven Paul Dunkel to pastor, Central Baptist, George, IA.

Mr. Sid Warren to assistant pastor, Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC.

Mr. Andrew McClure to youth director, Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, WA.

Mrs. Camila Treptau to Christian education director, Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN.

The Rev. Dennis Kee from pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA.

Mr. Kirk Schneemann to programming director, Stony Creek Church, Shelby Township, MI.

The Rev. Ben Terlesky to pastor, Summit Drive Baptist Church, Kamloops, BC.

Mr. Michael Bruni to assistant pastor, Middle Island Baptist Church, Middle Island, NY.

The Rev. Bill Zebell from associate pastor, Woodland Shores, Bridgman, MI, to First Baptist Church, Romeo, MI, effective June 14.

Mr. Michael Vauters to pastor, Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlesville, NY.

Mr. Greg Gaensler to associate pastor, Century Meadows Baptist Church, Camrose, AB, effective May 1993.

The Rev. James Derman from pastor, First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD, effective June 1993 to attend Iowa State University to work on a M.A. degree.

The Rev. Terry Blanchard to pastor, Lakeshore Baptist Church, St. Catharines, ON.

Mr. Rick Torkelson to pastor, Washburn Baptist, Washburn, ND.

The Rev. Dorsey Tate, Bellwood, IL, to interim pastor, First Baptist Church, Bellwood, IL, effective July 1993.

## Installation Service

On June 6, 1993, the Rev. Marlin Mohrman was installed as pastor of the Aplington Baptist Church, Aplington, IA. Participants in the service were the Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh, Sheffield, IA, message of commitment; the Rev. Mike Lerud, Steamboat Rock, IA, scripture; the Rev. Harvey Hertz, Aplington, IA, Aplington Ministerial Association representative; the Rev. Dennis Kee, Parkersburg, benediction. The Rev. and Mrs. Marlin Mohrman came to serve the church on May 30, 1993, from Creston Baptist, Creston, NE.—Mabel Lindeman

## Farewell

South Canyon Baptist Church held a farewell for their associate youth minister, John Druckemiller, and family on Sunday evening, March 28. Representatives of the church's various ministry areas took part.—Wanda Decker

## Church Name Change

Calvary Baptist Church of Fremont, Ohio, has changed its name to Collinwood Community Church.

On Feb. 21, 1993, Coppell Fellowship and Coppell Bible Church, Coppell, TX, voted to join their ministries. They held their first worship service as a new church on March 7, and on March 14 selected the name, Northlake Church. Pastors are the Rev. Dan Heringer and the Rev. Philippe Sterling.

## Ordinations

Mr. David Tomm, youth pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR, was ordained into the Christian ministry on Sunday, March 21, 1993, by the Church. David, a graduate of Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, has served Trinity Baptist Church two years part-time and two years full-time. David and his wife Judy have two children.—Donald Richter

Mr. Lloyd Grant, youth pastor, Hollyview Baptist Church, Boring, OR, was ordained on Sunday, March 28, 1993, by the Church. Lloyd completed his studies at Western Conservative Baptist Seminary and looks forward to a ministry with youth or as a pastor in the N.A.B.

Conference. Lloyd is married to Kerri, whose father is the Rev. Frank Berg. The Grants have one child.—Donald Richter

Mr. Eric Spletzer was ordained on May 23, 1993, by First Baptist Church, Golden Prairie, SK. Those participating in the service were the Rev. Rod Masterson, message; the Rev. Irwin Kujat, charge to the congregation; and the Rev. Charles Littman, ordination prayer and ordination certificate presentation. Mr. Spletzer has served at First Baptist Church since January 1991.—Delaine May

Mr. Steven Grant Brown was ordained into the Christian ministry by Moosehorn Baptist Church. The ordination service was held May 9, 1993, at Moosehorn Baptist Church, MB. Participating in the dedication service were Henry Loewen, church moderator; Miss Jacqueline Brown, sister of the candidate, special music; the Rev. Jake Leverette, area minister, ordination message and ordination prayer and certificate; the Rev. Paul Baumbach, pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, SK, charge to pastor; the Rev. Bob Carroll, pastor, Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, song leader and charge to the congregation. Mr. Brown has served as pastor of Moosehorn Baptist Church since 1991.—Mrs. Vera Loewen

## N.A.B. RELIEF NEEDS

### Relief Funds Needed for Midwest U.S. Flood Victims

In order to help alleviate the suffering and great loss of the midwest U.S.A. flood victims, contributions for relief to provide food, clothing, housing, and medicine may be forwarded to the North American Baptist Conference Relief Fund.

Funds will be distributed to those in need through our local churches in the affected areas, as well as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross.

Please make checks payable to North American Baptists, Inc.  
1 So. 210 Summit Ave.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.



## Excitement mounts as plans are made for Triennial Conference

Excitement mounts as we head down the home stretch toward the 44th Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 2-7, 1994. Recently, the Local Arrangements Committee led by Ron Presley, chair, and Dan Heringer, assistant chair, met to report on the progress of the developing programs.

The logo, based on the theme, "A Heart That Cares," is an artistic masterpiece by Ron Eddy of Eddy Design and Illustration. Ron is a member of Northlake Church, Coppell, TX. It clearly conveys N.A.B. Conference's emphasis on Jesus' command to care.

Guest speakers include Calvin Miller, professor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX, as morning Bible study speaker, and Hugh Litchfield, professor, N.A.B. Seminary, as Sunday morning worship speaker.

Exceptional musical talent is being booked by Wayne Zeitner of Word, Inc., and a member of Northlake Church, Coppell, as well as N.A.B. Conference members who have volunteered their musical talents. Exciting children's programs, directed by Karen McKinley, chair for grades one through six, and Anita Hale and Geri Heringer, preschool co-chairs, have

as their goal to create such outstanding programs that the children will never, ever want to miss a Triennial Conference. After hearing the reports, we believe this goal will be realized!

From the availability of Medical Care being organized by SuzAnn Hill, to the transportation needs being arranged by Greg Loehr, and Mike Howard overseeing all the property needs, be assured that everything will be well taken care of during your visit to "Big D."

Area Minister Milton Zeeb is spurring us on, while Treasurer Gregg Boyd makes sure we are within our budgets under the watchful care of Gary McCullough, conference manager.

Plan now to attend the 44th Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX, Aug. 2-7, 1994. We'll be looking for you!

For information on vacationing in Texas, call 1-800-8888-TEX. □

by Holly Strauss

### EDMONTON BAPTIST SEMINARY

#### PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theological Studies
- Bachelor of Theology

#### MINISTRY SPECIALIZATIONS

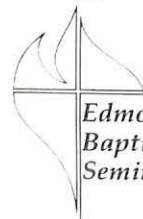
- Biblical Exposition
- Church Planting
- Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Pastoral Counselling

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Cluster Classes
- Evening Classes
- January Session
- Summer School
- External Studies

For further information, contact:  
**KURT REDSCHLAG**  
Edmonton Baptist Seminary  
11525 - 23 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3  
(403) 437-1960

*"Training leaders of integrity for the service of Christ's Kingdom."*



Edmonton Baptist Seminary

- The Canadian Seminary of the North American Baptist Conference
- Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools

### "Celebrating the Past, Envisioning the Future"

You are invited to help *Greenfield Baptist Church of Edmonton, AB*, celebrate its 25th anniversary in October 1993.

- October 8, **Special Music Evening**. Featuring favorite selections
- October 9, **Thanksgiving Banquet**. Speaker: Jake Leverette
- October 10, **Sunday Morning Worship Service**. Speaker: Rev. Tim Schroeder

Come join us for a special time of thanksgiving to our God for what He has done in the past and will continue to do in the future through the ministry of Greenfield Baptist Church!

For more information or tickets, please contact the Church office.

**Greenfield Baptist Church**  
3712 - 114 St.  
Edmonton, AB T6J 1M1  
Phone: (403) 435-1060

## Building Churches into the 21st Century

### Oak Hills Church Builds "A Church for the Non-Churched"

After many years of prayer, planning, sweating, and trusting, Oak Hills Church in Folsom, California, has begun building their first permanent facilities. Oak Hills, home to more than 400 attenders weekly, is an N.A.B. Conference church plant, founded in 1984.

Senior Pastor Kent Carlson remarks, "After nine years of being a church 'on-the-road,' it will be nice to finally have morning services in our own facility." He adds, "These are the most exciting times we've ever had at Oak Hills. And frankly, we can't wait to see what God has in store for us next."

Oak Hills, with the help of the Nor-Cal Association and the Church Extension Investors Fund, purchased 16 acres of land in a prime location in Folsom. Oak Hills has a three phase development plan, which begins with portable modular buildings holding worship for about 300 and ending with a 1,500 seat auditorium on the grounds.

Oak Hills has opted for an unusual and creative plan for getting onto its property quickly. Phase 1B development, which will occur in about a year, will include a 600-seat multi-purpose auditorium, with additional phases adding on class-



rooms and an administrative center, and concluding with the final phase auditorium. But in order to begin meeting on its property quickly, Oak Hills will establish a complex of interim modular buildings. The entire modular building complex itself encompasses 13,000 square feet, including the 300 seat auditorium. As various phases are built and paid for, they will begin selling off the modular buildings.

"It's a real testimony to the people of this Church that we're able to do this," remarks Pastor Carlson. "God has given us a vision of reaching the lost. I am absolutely amazed at the sacrifices our people are making to make this vision a reality. Of course, without the vision and support of

the North American Baptist Conference, the Nor-Cal Association, and CEIF, none of this would have been possible."

Oak Hills is not a typical church. In its short history, it has built a reputation in its community as an unconventional and unique church. Its first official location was in a storefront, between a laundromat and a bar. By 1988, the Church had grown past the point where Sunday morning meeting space was available. The church began

meeting on Sunday afternoons, becoming "The Sunday Afternoon Place To Be."

Beginning in 1991, Oak Hills Church transitioned to a "seeker-targeted church," reaching those non-churched people in the community looking for an alternative to the traditional churches in the area. The Saturday Night seeker service, which has attracted upwards of 300 people at a time, features contemporary Christian music, theater quality drama, and sermon topics, which range from family and marriage issues to money, time management, and ambition. □

—Manuel Luz, associate pastor, arts and worship

### YOUR INVESTMENTS SHOULD DO MORE THAN JUST PAY INTEREST.

An investment with Church Extension Investors Fund (CEIF) is more than one-dimensional.

It gives you something other investments don't—an opportunity to serve the Lord.

- CEIF pays you a competitive rate of interest • Uses your money to make low interest construction loans to N.A.B. churches throughout North America . . . loans that spur growth • Expansion that enables N.A.B. churches to have visible and dynamic outreach into a community

CEIF provides a safe, solid place for your investment dollars. For as little as \$100, you can get a current market rate and know you are helping build churches.

For FREE, helpful information on how to make a sound investment decision, write or call TOLL FREE 1 (800) 543-CEIF



**Church Extension Investors Fund**

1 So. 210 Summit Ave. • Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994  
Phone: (800) 543-CEIF • Fax (708) 495-3301



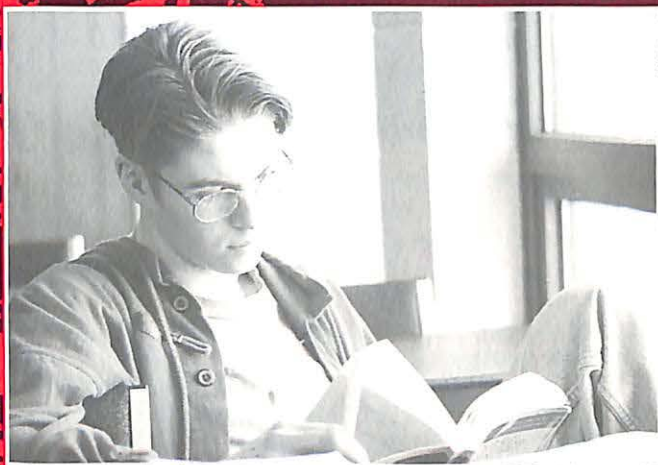
# BAPTISTHERALD

1 So. 210 Summit Ave.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994  
(708) 495-2000

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

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

## NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE



Preparing You For  
*Life*

Affiliated with the University of Alberta

### Choose from 5 programs of study:

- ◆ Bachelor of Religion - 4 year degree program
- ◆ Associate of Arts in Religion - 2 year university transfer in Arts, Elementary Education or Music
- ◆ Diploma in Biblical Studies - 2 year
- ◆ Diploma in Music - 2 year
- ◆ Certificate in Biblical Studies - 1 year

### Questions? Call us!

In Canada: 1-800-567-4988

In U.S.A.: (403) 437-1960

Call the Admissions  
Office collect.

11525 - 23 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T6J 4T3



### Yes! I would like to know more about NABC.

- Please send me: ☐ academic calendar/application  
☐ financial aid information  
☐ information on the next  
Discovery Days  
(held annually first weekend in March)  
☐ other information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ M ☐ F

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Year of high school graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Denominational affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Program you are most interested in: \_\_\_\_\_