

BAPTIST HERALD

DECEMBER 1993



**Open
Gateways**
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Texas Fiesta!

at the 44th Triennial Conference in Dallas, Texas

August 6, 1994

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A HEART THAT CARES



44TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE CHURCHES
DALLAS, TEXAS * AUGUST 2-7, 1994



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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).

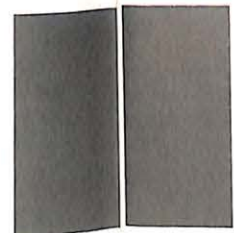
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Six to eight weeks notice required for change of address. Furnish effective date and address label from recent issue. Send address change to Baptist Herald subscriptions, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Member of Evangelical Press Association.

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.)

Open Gateways

by Fred Folkerts



In July 1993, six Canadian and six American youth composed an N.A.B. Conference volunteer youth team, *Gateway*, to serve in Mexico City, Mexico. Randy and Shelly Schmor of Sioux Falls, SD, and Fred and Nancy Folkerts of Glen Ellyn, IL, served as team leaders.



JOHN FRASER PHOTO

The team ministered through the gate of Gethsemane Baptist Church, pastored by missionaries, Juan and Amanda.



DEB FASZER PHOTO

We planned a five-day Vacation Bible School for the neighborhood children. We expected 15 children. To our surprise, 75 pairs of sparkling brown eyes appeared on the first day!



DEB FASZER PHOTO



The Lunas taught the Bible stories and made application to the children's daily life.



LISA GOLDING PHOTO

Through mime and puppetry, we presented the Gospel...

Mexico City has many gates. Every home and most businesses and churches have individual gates. Before *Gateway* arrived in the city, we thought it might be difficult to enter some gateways of ministry, due to the city's unique characteristics.

Mexico City has a population of more than 10,000,000 people, many of whom live in utter poverty... its population doubles every 35 years... there is approximately one evangelical missionary for every 47,000 Mexicans... What effect could our band of 16 have against such odds?

In spite of difficulties, God blessed our ministry! He blessed abundantly more than our small faith had claimed.

and lettered Bible verses in Spanish on placards and made crafts with the children...



JOHN FRASER PHOTO

Then our mime team did a presentation, during which older children and adults left soccer games to watch. After the mime, Amanda Luna challenged the watchers with the Gospel.



LISA GOLDING PHOTO

We refurbished Gethsemane Baptist Church by extending a balcony brick wall, painting the interior, building bathroom doors, and painting the pews. We had not planned to repair the plastic windows, until one prayer meeting night, a rock smashed through one. So we replaced all the windows with sturdier plastic.



JOHN FRASER PHOTO

JOHN FRASER PHOTO



Together, we sang action songs. During this week, 41 children accepted Jesus as their Savior.



We walked through the streets in groups of three with a Spanish speaker. We rang doorbells at gates of homes and distributed Spanish New Testaments. Where appropriate, the Spanish speaker explained the plan of salvation. Two adults prayed to receive Christ as Savior.

We eagerly pushed open the gate to a large park near Juan Luna's home, where our team lived during our three and one-half week stay. Our team members played with the younger children, many of whom we came to know in Vacation Bible School.



DEB FASZER PHOTO

With the Lunas and Augustine, who have a weekly ministry at the prison, we solemnly passed through iron prison gates, which guards opened and locked behind us. Seventy prisoners gathered to watch a mime presentation and hear testimonies by Fred Folkerts and Augustine, a member of Gethsemane Baptist Church. Three prisoners prayed to accept Jesus as Lord.

On our last Sunday, Pastor Luna baptized four adults. The church sparkled with its clean new walls, windows, and clock (a gift from *Gateway*). Our hearts filled with gratitude, knowing that God's name had been glorified. □

The Rev. Fred Folkerts is Associate Missions Director, N.A.B. Conference.

Up in Flames

by Nancy Folkerts

"And now I want to show you the rest of my testimony," Luis said decisively as we finished our meal. Our Gateway team of 16 American and Canadian youth, seated at his dinner table in July 1993, wondered what would happen next.

Two days earlier, we had heard the first part of Luis Prado's testimony at prayer meeting at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Mexico City, where Juan and Amanda Luna serve as missionaries. A middle-aged businessman, Luis had been active in witchcraft and had performed abortions using herbal medicines before he received Jesus as Savior in February, five months earlier. With his wife and three children, he then began attending church.

So, we were enthusiastic when after that prayer meeting, Amanda said, "Luis wants all of us to come to his home for dinner. He has 43 persons living in his house." This was true—a traditional Mexican extended family custom.

And so it was that we were all seated around his generous table enjoying enchiladas and tamarind juice. "To complete my testimony, I must burn my witchcraft books before all of you."

He then walked determinedly into his bedroom, carried an armload full of books into the courtyard, dropped them into a plastic bucket, and set the books on fire.

Following him into the courtyard, we formed a circle around the burning books. Along with Juan and Amanda and several family members, we prayed and sang praise songs while we watched.

God's power permeated that glowing courtyard. As the words of witchcraft changed into ascending fingers of fire, we seemed to hear the powerful words of Hebrews 12:28,29: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

The following Sunday, Pastor Juan Luna joyfully baptized Luis, his wife Socorro, and sister-in-law Veronica. We rejoiced to see God's power working in the life of this man. □

Nancy Folkerts of Glen Ellyn, IL, served as a team leader and is an elementary special education teacher.



JOHN FRASER PHOTO

With his wife and three children, Luis Prado Martinez began attending Gethsemane Baptist Church. Prior to his conversion, he had been active in witchcraft and doing abortions. Now a Home Bible study is held in his home, and more have come to know Christ as Savior.

Join a Youth Ministry Team to Mexico City in July 1994

Senior high and college-age youth are urged to join a Youth Ministry Team to Mexico City during July 1994. Two teams will minister through Scripture distribution, VBS, park witnessing, and prison evangelism.

The team's schedule: meet in Dallas, TX, July 11; orientation, July 12-15; arrive Mexico City, July 16; serve two weeks, July 17-31; debrief, August 1; and return to Dallas, August 2.

After ministry in Mexico City, team members will be in Dallas to report on their ministry and participate in the Triennial Conference if they register to do so.

Cost: US\$1,500, CDN\$1,950.

For more information and an application form, contact: Rev. Fred Folkerts, Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994 • Phone: (708) 495-2000.

New Direction for an Urban Church

The Immanuel Baptist Church Experience
(Vancouver, BC)

*"Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labour in vain who build it . . ." (Psalm 127:1a).*

Many changes and new directions confront Immanuel Baptist in Vancouver, BC. God is blessing our congregations in many new and undreamt ways. He is still the most generous Giver to His children.

During the time of our search for a new pastor, the lack of attendance at evening services showed signs of great apathy and indifference. With deep concern, the members of the Pulpit Committee took the time necessary to do a thorough and prayed-through search and, at the same time, sought to meet the needs of the congregation. Thus, a number of Pulpit Committee members started an ad-hoc committee to explore new ways to reach both our members and their friends, as well as our local community.

The result? A new look for our evening programs and dramatic changes in attendance. Attendance increased more than 100 percent in the evening meetings. New attendees markedly increased in morning services and other church programs. Gradually, attitudes changed toward community outreach and the relevance of the Great Commission for Immanuel Baptist Church.



Immanuel member, Vicente Dominquez, our contact with the Spanish culture, sings with Myriam and Dorothy Godlinski.

New Pastor for a Church in Throes of Change

In January 1993, Immanuel welcomed its new pastor, the Rev. Fred Kahler, his wife Helga, and daughter Christine. Laura, the older daughter, remained in Kitchener due to studies. A church pot-luck dinner and a welcome program provided a warm beginning for a ministry filled with challenges and new vistas. The Rev. Ed Hohn, area

minister, served as guest speaker at the induction service.

Multi-culturalism characterizes Vancouver and Immanuel

Vancouver must be one of North America's most obviously multi-cultural cities. As the major Canadian city on the Pacific Rim, you find a dominance of Asians here. There is also the European compo-

ment—after all, we are called *British Columbia*.

The Kahlers did not take long to identify the location of the church and its surrounding demographics. In getting to know the neighborhood, Pastor Fred made several new contacts. As a result, we have seen an increase in attendance by people of various cultures and racial backgrounds.

Already our church is home to new Canadians from various cultures and racial backgrounds. At a very special celebration, Pastor Kahler baptized several young adults from our community and welcomed them into our church membership.

Evening Programs— a New Way of Outreach

"Unless the Lord builds . . . our labour is in vain . . ." We were encouraged to hear and see that while we were led to change our evening services from the traditional style to a different format, God had prepared the Kahlers and burdened them with a similar sense of direction. This new format allows us to discuss topics concerning the community at large as well as the church body and lets us reach people at the level of their need and interest.

This is the most innovative aspect of Immanuel's new direction. The ministerial staff and lay leaders work together in a harmonious way to discuss and plan events of interest for members to invite their non-churched friends and neighbors, as well as the community living around the church. Examples of the type of events are

- "Town Hall Meetings" dealing with items of special interest, such as the Canadian Constitution and the Right to Live or Die
- Talent Nights: music, drama, and craft exhibits



During "Latin America Today," a Spanish group from Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church sang with Pastor Lois Cruz (top), and the first Latin missionaries, the Lengs, were interviewed (below).



- Ethnic Nights: African Evening, Spanish Night, and Chinese and East Indian Community Awareness
- The Christian and Technology: a discussion and demonstration of computer technology and its effects and possibilities
- Film Nights: "Caught," "The Eye of the Storm," "Focus on the Family" presentations, and "China Cry"
- Healthy Living: A healthy heart and the truth about cholesterol.

In total, the church members have distributed some 17,000 flyers to more than 2,000 homes in the area around the church. Other means of invitation have been used: newspaper ads, telecomputer, and posters placed in community businesses, but most importantly, personal invitations.

Most recently, the church members undertook the Jesus Film Proj-

ect. One thousand homes were visited, and more than 100 families accepted the video for private viewing. We are now in follow-up phase.

Increased Attendance at Evening Services

As a result of creative programming and the extensive marketing (both within and outside of the church), the evening attendance increased dramatically over the last year.

Programs that seem to draw most visitors are the film nights and the music programs. Here we saw the attendance swell by 200 to 300 percent. The most appreciated programs in order of attendance were Music and Drama, Community Related Topics, Educational Topics, and Church Family Topics.

The percent of increase is based on the average attendance during the previous year of 50 to 70 on Sun-



day evenings. These are dramatic increases in evening attendance, when many churches are opting to close their doors on Sunday nights.

English as a Second Language

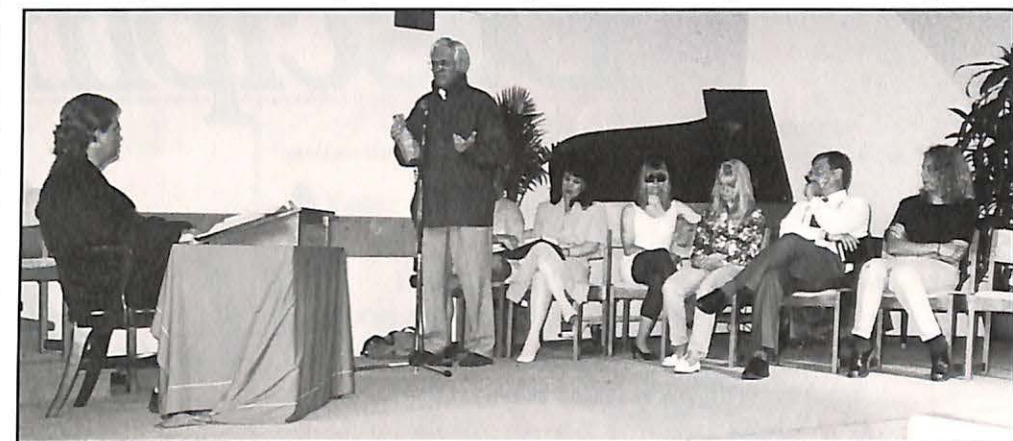
Helga Kahler recognized the need of people in the community for English as a Second Language, and that it could be used as a tool for outreach. Little did she know that the Lord had prepared willing staff with appropriate credentials for this task within the church body.

Drawing on her previous experience, evaluating similar programs of some neighboring churches, and being encouraged by our members, Helga gives this ministry positive direction and leadership. New immigrants of Asian, European, and Central American backgrounds attend these classes.

We expected that only adults would enroll in these classes, but we welcomed whole families. Thus child teaching became an immediate and unplanned-for need which we met with God's grace.

Visitation and Follow-up

Under Pastor Fred, we started a program of practical deacon training—that is, deacons accompanying the pastor on selected pastoral visits and then discussing some of the lessons to be learned. This is not only effective but also very intense. The deacons benefit from one of the most effective teaching methods known in the education field as practiced by our new pastor: role modeling.



Pastor Kahler baptized several adults from the Community (left). Immanuel's drama troupe presents "... And Let God" with Pastor Kahler participating (above).

This model is not new; yet it is somewhat uncommon in our church life. Did not Jesus use this method in developing His 12 disciples? One of the by-products of this training was a Deacons' Open House—a planned event where members and families assigned to each deacon were invited to their deacon's home to establish a deeper sense of caring and fellowship.

Immanuel at the Cutting Edge

We view Immanuel Baptist Church at the cutting edge. We know that we bring to our Church a valued tradition and a European, white Caucasian background. However, the people living around us do not necessarily come from this type of background. Thus we believe that the mission field is no longer "out there," rather it has come to our very doorstep.

Immanuel and Bethany in Unique Cooperation

It would be less than complete to omit a very creative and a rather innovative solution which two churches found with respect to meeting church membership needs. Both Immanuel and Bethany Baptist Churches have sizable and aging German populations. They need to be ministered to in their first lan-

guage of German. To meet this need, both churches called the Rev. Richard Hohensee as Pastor of Seniors' Ministries.

With 50 percent of his salary paid by each congregation, Pastor Hohensee conducts all the German services and provides pastoral services for this new group. Location of the services, based on an agreed schedule, rotates between the two churches every few months. To assist him in planning for this rather unconventional ministry, Pastor Hohensee has a committee of leaders from both churches.

New Frontiers

Already Pastor Fred is exploring possibilities of integrating in the congregation a Spanish-speaking group and, perhaps, an Asian ministry. He has a heart that is filled with the Great Commission and with the love for the Gospel. His energy and commitment have already encouraged us and filled us with new visions and directions. We thank God for His servant and for His grace shown to Immanuel in bringing to us the Kahler Family. □

By S. Naguschewski and W. Rompf who are members of the ad-hoc committee of Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.

Disciplining Your Members in Giving

GIVE THANKS
WITH A
**Grateful
Heart**

"If we understand the parable of the pearl, we give up all our material possessions and invest our entire life in the greatest treasure of all."

by Paul Thompson

Why is it that money is the most sensitive subject in the church? Why is it so private? We don't want anyone to know what our income is, or what we give to the Lord's work! Only the pastor's salary is public knowledge. (In my judgement, it should only be known by the leadership.) The subject of money is something we would rather avoid, yet more than 100 verses in Proverbs refer to money. One out of six verses in the Gospels and one third of the parables address this issue.

My premise is that we have assumed ownership instead of stewardship. It is usually the last area in our life that we surrender to the Lordship of Christ.

But Jesus said, "So if you have not been trustworthy with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11). The principle of stewardship is the very foundation for disciplining members of

Christ's body. We need to acknowledge that when we were transformed by the Holy Spirit through conversion, we gave everything to Christ. We became *managers* of God's resources . . . including all our possessions. Adam and Eve didn't own one square inch of this world. They were to manage this earth for God.

The contrast between the two servants who were given the ten and five talents and the third bears this out. The two servants willingly acknowledged their stewardship role. Because of their love for the Master, they invested in order to return all to Him. The third claimed ownership and hoarded it. His excuse had no substance or validity; "I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow." Imagine a servant saying that to his master!

Even though these parables prin-

cipally apply to salvation, the application is the same with money matters. The principle of stewardship is the key to disciplining, especially in giving.

How then have we implemented stewardship in our disciplining of believers? The following ways are certainly not ingenious by any standards but have worked in our context of ministry:

- We are not afraid to address the issue. Some churches feel that if the pastor preaches good sermons and there is a spirit of vision, the people will give. That is not the case. People need to be taught the basic principles of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.
- In every new members orientation session, we are up front with this principle. We do not insist that everyone tithe, but we point out that if they really want to grow in their relationship with Christ, this is the first step.
- We offer classes on "Managing Your Money." (It should be "Managing His Money," but as they attend, we switch it from "your" to "His.") People are seeking wisdom in this area and want to know how a Christian should manage his money.
- I preach on this topic four times a year.
- We teach our children in Sunday School the principle of tithing.
- We emphasize to our leaders that they must set the example, and in the future, we will ask the financial secretary if they are conscientious and consistent givers without divulging the amount (Luke 16:11).
- We ran a Stewardship Campaign. Even though this was for the

building expansion, the heart of it was "investing in the Kingdom."

- We discovered that preaching and teaching only made people aware of the principle, but they needed that extra motivation. Giving to a project over and above their past norm made the difference. It could be missions projects or starting new ministries or new churches. It gives them that incentive. When the project is completed, they have developed a

new pattern, and it normally continues because of God's blessing.

Our congregation still has a long way to go, but I'm convinced that we have "sold the Gospel too cheaply!" Biblical Christianity does demand sacrifice. It all comes down to the principle of value and price. Anything of *real* value has a cost. If we understand the parable of the pearl, we gave up all our material possessions and invested our entire life in the greatest treasure of all. □



Dr. Paul Thompson is Senior Pastor of Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH.

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Preparing to Serve

Cleo Kulish

On Sunday, August 15, 1993, Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND, celebrated a "Betty Buchholz Day." Betty is a new N.A.B. Conference short-term missionary to Cameroon, West Africa. The afternoon featured a program that included a question and answer time highlighting Betty's ministry.



Q When do you remember being first exposed to Christian service in an overseas mission?

A Betty Buchholz: While I attended Calvary Baptist Church in Aberdeen, SD, a group of missionaries from Africa and Brazil presented a program. I remember Richard and Beth Rabenhorst, dressed in the native garb of the people in Brazil. Their presentation impressed me.

I also heard a challenge to missionary service when I was a camper at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp in North Dakota. My parents often entertained visiting missionaries in our home. Those were very special times for me.

Q How was this missions exposure nurtured?

A During the last several years, Pastor Daryl Dachtler challenged this interest with a statement he often uses: "Lord, I want to serve you with the talents I have."

I was serving the Lord and was active in the children's ministries as well as with the ministry of music. I knew I wanted to serve . . . but I also love accounting.

Last January when Herman Effa, missions director, and Lewis Petrie, development director, were at Hillside Baptist Church, I shared this interest with them. The fruition of this desire came when the "N.A.B. News," placed in the church bulletin, advertised the need for an accountant in Cameroon.

Q What circumstances or situations that you have experienced give evidence to God's call to you for international missions?

A No doubt my interest began with the foster children that my parents had in our home. I also had friends who served in international missions: Jewel Roehl Kidd in Nigeria, Jan Barnhart in Nigeria, and Carma Kulish in Brazil and the United Arab Emirates.

I also know that God placed that desire there. It became unusually real when I verbalized that desire and said, "Here I am, Lord, send me." This verbal response came in February 1993.

Q Was there any special music that brought the message of missions to your attention?

A Music is one of my first loves! I enjoyed singing when I attended Sunday School and Vacation Bible School as a child. I enjoyed playing the piano for the Jubilee and Adult Choirs and for the worship service here at Hillside Baptist.

Specific words from various hymns and songs that spoke to me are "My house is full, but my fields are empty," i.e. the need for workers. Then there were these words: "A volunteer for Jesus, a soldier, too. Others have enlisted, why not you?"

Q How do you see yourself serving the Lord through accounting?

A It's simply fascinating to me that God can use what I love, accounting, and find a place for me to go. It's wonderful that I'll be able to share Jesus with the Cameroonian nationals.

Q What are some of the concerns you have as the time for your departure draws near?

A Even though I'm open to God's leading, I am somewhat apprehensive about the experiences a new culture will present. Since this departure will take me from my family, I have some concern as to how new relationships can be developed. I want to be sensitive to the cultural needs these people may have. This is the unknown at this time, but I can say that God's peace is very evident. With that peace, I'm excited about the expectations that this experience will provide. I know that God's been planning this, and I'm going to do the best I can to work within His plan.

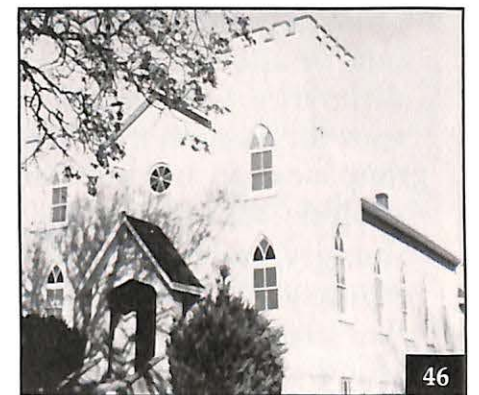
Betty concluded by saying: "I thank Hillside Baptist Church for the encouragement, love, and support the congregation has shown to me throughout the years. It is especially appreciated during this preparation time. Thank you." □

Betty left for Cameroon, November 18, 1993.

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



YOUTH NEWS

by Jay Kesler

"Ultimately, apathetic youth must be allowed to make a difference. Churches that sponsor mission trips, do group cleanup and building projects, take food to the hungry, assist the poor, expose youth to diversity, plan stress camps, employ simulation games, case studies, and creative programs beyond classroom teaching are making a significant impact on young lives caught up in this tragic loss of self-esteem. The Gospel is the key to the turnaround."

Teenagers care only about themselves. They complain that youth meetings are boring; they claim they don't have time to read the Bible; they refuse to show up because their friends won't be there. They're superficial, unconcerned, and apathetic about church, youth group, their relationships with God, and the world at large.

You've heard similar complaints about today's teenagers. You may even have voiced a few yourself. You're not alone. In any analysis of the current youth culture, the word *apathy* appears near the top of the list.

What's causing this epidemic of apathy?

Due to instant communications and a shrinking globe, today's young people are not apathetic out of ignorance. In fact, many do care deeply about the world, their families, and vital issues of life and death, right and wrong. But unlike

youth of former generations, they feel *they* don't matter. Young people suffer from an identity crisis, a feeling of smallness in the midst of overwhelming changes. In the past, parents and grandparents of our young people dealt with issues that hit close to home. They had to help support the family or care for younger siblings and older relatives. Their contributions were concrete. But today's issues are often systemic, global, and catastrophic. Teenagers feel powerless, and the only way they feel they can cope is to withdraw.

The situation has been echoed in the church. In the past, young people were part of the church body; there were no separate youth groups or youth ministries. Today the church may unwittingly contribute to teenagers' apathy. When the "adults" run the programs, young people are left on the sidelines—rellegated to their own group of peers. Often ministry is done to them in-

stead of with them.

There is only one truth in this universe that can ultimately rescue modern man from the identity crisis. That is the fact that the God who created the universe is actually concerned for each of us as individuals. He came to save us from our aloneness and insignificance so we can join Him in His plans to redeem this fallen and desperate world.

As teachers and youth workers, we are faced with the challenge of communicating this central Gospel truth which, when understood and appreciated by a young person, is absolutely life-transforming. We are faced with the task of helping them to take on the challenges of their world in appropriate bite-sized pieces.

Ultimately, apathetic youth must be allowed to make a difference. Churches that sponsor mission trips, do group cleanup and building projects, take food to the hungry, assist the poor, expose youth to diversity, plan stress camps, employ simulation games, case studies, and creative programs beyond classroom teaching are making a significant impact on young lives caught up in this tragic loss of self-esteem. The Gospel is the key to the turnaround. □

Excerpted from Battling Apathy by Jay Kesler and Ben Sharpton. Kesler has worked with youth for more than 30 years. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co.

BATTLING APATHY

REMEMBER THE CONFERENCE IN YOUR WILL

Your gift through your will can be a lasting memory by helping fulfill the commission of Christ through the mission and ministries of the North American Baptist Conference in North America and throughout the world.

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 - Do you need increased income from low or non-income producing property?
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MINISTERING To The Handicapped



by Floyd D. Ash



Ido not believe it is possible to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 without ministering to the handicapped. Those with limitations, and that is really what handicaps are—limitations, are part of the "all nations." Of course, that statement is true as it relates to reaching all people groups.

Recognize the need

The first step in ministering to the handicapped is to recognize the need. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." We must get a vision of the vast number of handicapped people who are in our communities! We absolutely must see their need—physical and spiritual! It is imperative that the leadership in our churches include this segment of our population when thinking of outreach and ministry.

About ten percent of our population has some kind of handicap. You may be surprised at that figure.

We must understand that not all handicaps are visible to others. It is easy for us to stereotype handicapped people as all being in wheel-

chairs or all being mentally retarded or whatever the limitation is with which we are the most familiar.

There are many different kinds of handicaps. Remember, too, that handicaps can be permanent or temporary. The guy who breaks his leg playing football is going to be limited in his activities for a few weeks and is, therefore, classified as handicapped. The number of handicapped people is increasing because of birth defects and alcohol and drug related causes.

Statistics tell us that one of every five families has a handicapped member in it. In families where there is a handicapped child, four out of five of the marriages are falling apart. That makes the situation serious, very serious.

Have an accepting attitude

After we have recognized the need of ministering to those with handicaps, we need to take the next step. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans (15:7), "Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God."

The churches that have minis-

tries to the handicapped must have pastors and congregations that have accepting attitudes. Are you and your church willing to accept people who may walk, talk, look, and act a little different than you? Will you accept them to the point of being willing to talk to them, include them in your circle of close friends, spend time with them? Will you accept them even if it means making some changes in the way you have done things for years? You can't fake it.

I believe that only Jesus can give us an accepting attitude. When we

think of His willingness to accept us, it should affect the way we accept others.

Make your facilities accessible

Now don't write off your facilities too quickly. We have to use our imagination and the experience of others. Determine what kind of handicaps are represented in your church and neighborhood.

Some churches can be made accessible to the handicapped who attend them merely by providing a parking space close to the entrance

to the building. Those churches with narrow aisles can be made more comfortable for wheelchair folks by removing a pew or part of a pew. Those in your congregation who have poor vision will appreciate it if you have your sanctuary and classrooms well lighted. In many cases, it isn't that difficult to ramp curbs and steps.


Be realistic

In our ministry to the handicapped and any other group, we must be realistic. Every church cannot do everything. You must have the personnel and facilities. The architecture and design of some buildings

just will not permit much remodeling in order to become accessible. A very small church often lacks the number of people necessary to minister to certain types of people.

I encourage you to not feel guilty over what you can't do. We need to be faithful to what God has called us to do and be open to venture out into new areas. Jesus has commissioned us to go into all the world. Don't limit your view of the world. It just may include one or more handicapped persons. □


Floyd D. Ash is Associate Pastor for Special Ministries, Sunrise Baptist Church, Fair Oaks, CA.



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Sewing machine used as witnessing tool in Fon's palace



Someone tried to teach the Fon's wives how to use the sewing machine, but the machine did not work. The Fon tried to make it work . . . without success.

"She prayed and God helped to make the sewing machine work," was the comment of Noah, an older Muslim man in the Fon's palace.

"I've been trying to help him understand that we must pray to God in Jesus' name," says Missionary Annemarie Hattenhauer.

Hattenhauer, armed with screwdriver and screws, went to the palace, wondering what might be wrong . . . and prayed. "I was relieved when we discovered the problem, that God answered our



prayer," she says. "We pray that God will continue to use this sewing machine to strengthen relations with the people in the Fon's palace.

One of his wives, Mary, prays that other Fon's wives will accept Jesus as their Savior." □

Mary, balancing the sewing machine on her head is one of the Fon's wives who speaks English and who is taking a Programmed Instruction Bible course. Emilia (shaking Mary's hand) is a relative of one of the Fon's wives and used to help with Bible studies at the Palace.



Joneses begin ministry in Nigeria



Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Frances Jones arrived safely in Kano, Nigeria, on September 22 to begin a medical ministry on the Mambilla Plateau. After a four-hour drive up to the Jos Plateau, they registered with various agencies, got a driver's license, and shopped for staples.

Next came a two day, 1,000 kilometer drive through cornfields studded with clusters of round thatched houses and a ferry crossing of the muddy Benue, a major branch of the mighty Niger River.

"We have found a little leprosy colony and other outpatients, none of whom have yet been started on

multi-drug therapy. They seem to grub out a meager existence with no care for their ulcers by eating corn flour they scrape off the floor of the corn mills. We contacted the public health officer to learn how we can help.

Sand and stones have been collected for the new hospital. "The mud comes free, and when mixed with two percent to ten percent concrete can be pressed into quite presentable bricks. At the moment, both the excavated site and the money available are too small, but the building is needed as a referral center for the many village health posts which Dr. Jones is to visit and evaluate," says Fran.

"Our N.A.B. Conference has given generously to the hospital project. Pray for the building of this rural hospital and that the operating room equipment order comes through, as well as for people to train personnel to staff the hospital," requests Dr. Jones. □



Thank you for praying!

by Sue Baron



Border crossings can be a nerve-racking experience for the missionary, especially when taking in supplies and equipment for use in the ministry as well as one's own personal effects.

Fear gripped my husband Royce, as he recalled bad experiences crossing the border into Mexico in the past. Realizing that this fear was an attack of Satan, we prayed for deliverance. We had asked many of you to pray, not only for a smooth border crossing but also for the trip to Mexico City.



What an awesome God we serve! A very pleasant, female customs agent filled out the papers for the vehicle and

directed us to where to get our tourist papers.

As we approached the building, out walked an older agent, who had frequently been on duty many years ago when we crossed into northern Mexico for ministry. As if placed there by God as a demonstration of His love, the uniformed official greeted us warmly and shook our hands! (It was obvious that some of you were praying!)

With visas and car papers in hand, we followed the customs agent to the truck, where she put a sticker on the windshield.

The worst was yet to come. They still had not inspected the trailer! I paid the man who had been cleaning the windshield, while we waited a bit nervously for the inspector.

Royce finally asked, "Are they going to inspect the trailer?"

"We can't find the inspector," the

Border crossings can be a nerve-racking experience.



agent replied. "You may go. Have a good trip!"

Now wasn't that just like the Lord?! Thank you for praying! □

Sue Baron and her husband Royce had been missionaries in Mexico and recently became N.A.B. Conference missionaries to Mexico City.

Two baptismal services held in Banso area



Thirty-eight people were baptized in two baptismal services in the Banso area of Cameroon, West

Africa. Fifteen persons, including a young lady from the Integrated School for the Blind, were baptized in the Baptist Church.

"We have a good number of outstanding Christian young people coming out of the School for the Blind," says Helen Marie Schmidt, missionary doctor.

For the other baptismal service at Kai, about 20 minutes drive from Banso Baptist Hospital, the Church dammed up a pool in a nearby

stream. Among the 23 baptized were a young couple, a teacher, and two of Japheth Taunjon's children.

Several years ago, Japheth, one of the staff in charge of the Central Pharmacy at the Hospital, was close to death from complications of amoebic liver abscesses that ruptured into his lungs. A steady Christian leader with an exemplary Christian home, he is a testimony to God's healing power.

During the past four years, the Church at Kai has not had a pastor. Under Japheth's leadership, the church has grown.

Five choirs, several neighboring churches, and a large number of hospital workers joined to witness the baptism and praise God for what He is doing in Kai. Their new cement block church—walls and roof only completed—was packed. □





Three Changes in Church Finances

by Lyle E. Schaller

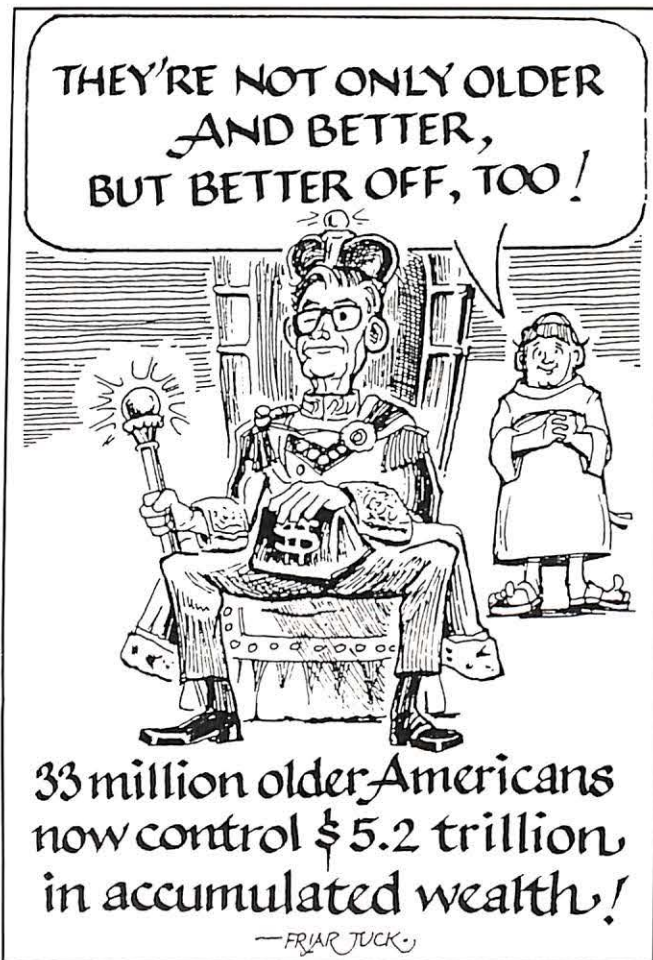
What is the biggest single change in congregational finances between 1955 and today? . . . increased revenue from user fees? . . . increased fringe benefits for pastors? . . . more congregations effectively encouraging tithing? . . . replacing that church-owned house for the pastor with a housing allowance? . . . erosion of support for the unified budget? . . . congregations allocating a substantial proportion of their benevolence funds for local missions rather than denominational missions and ministries?

Bequests Increase by a Billion Dollars

The simplest answer to that opening question is a ten-digit number—\$1,000,000,000. Perhaps the biggest single change is that in 1992 Protestant congregations received at least one billion dollars, in terms of 1992 dollars, more in bequests than were received back in 1952—not including bequests received by denominational agencies, Christian colleges, or theological seminaries.

The 33 million Americans age 65 and over control an estimated \$5.2 trillion dollars in accumulated wealth.

Today's generation of mature adults was heavily influenced by the Great Depression that inculcated the virtue of "saving for a rainy day," grew up in a society that lifted up deferred gratification as a virtue, worked in a rapidly expanding economy during the post-World War II decades when personal in-



come rose at an unprecedented pace, devoted more effort to learning and practicing the skill of saving than was devoted to the skill of spending, and benefited from national economic policies that rewarded borrowers at the expense of savers in the 1940-1965 era and that rewarded savers during the 1975-1987 era.

The American population today includes an unprecedented proportion of mature adults who are financially well off. In addition, the number of Americans, age 65 and over, doubled from 16.5 million in 1960 to over 33 million by the end of 1993.

Note that the generation born in the 1920s has turned out to be the most churchgoing age cohort in American history. That generation displays much stronger loyalty to

both congregations and to denominations than is reflected by any of the younger generations. They also are more likely to give a larger share of their charitable contributions to the church than are subsequent age cohorts. One result of that combination of factors was that in 1992 philanthropic causes received \$8 billion in bequests.

Four Consequences

1. The most obvious consequence of this accumulation of wealth by today's mature adults is that increase of bequests. What does that amount to in dollar terms? One response to that question is revealed by the statistics of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 1990. The regular contributions of the members averaged out to approximately \$1,100 times the average attendance at worship. That means the congregation av-

eraging 300 at worship, with an average level of member giving, received approximately \$330,000 in contributions from living members. Bequests accounted for \$60 per average attender or \$18,000 for the average congregation averaging 300 at worship.

A second example is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), which does not have the long tradition of encouraging bequests that has long been a part of the Presbyterian religious culture. In 1990, parishes affiliated with the ELCA reported a total of \$49.4 million received in bequests. That averaged out to \$30 times the average attendance while regular and designated contributions to parish budgets averaged \$780 times the aver-

age worship attendance. Bequests have become a significant source of the church income.

2. The second consequence is less visible, but in the long term more significant. Frequently, that bequest is not spent but invested. Thus after a dozen years, the typical church may have accumulated from bequests alone an endowment fund worth close to one year's total member contributions—depending on whether the income was spent or re-invested. What this means is that today the typical Protestant congregation in the United States receives as income from investments an amount equal to one and one-half to two times what it receives in bequests.

3. The third consequence requires a long-term perspective. Out of the 33 million Americans, age 65 and over in 1993, a total of 1.6 million died last year. They were replaced by the more than two million who celebrated their 65th birthday in 1992. That inventory of well-to-do mature adults is growing. Which ones will include the church in their will? Some will do it on their own initiative. Most will only if asked.

Increasingly you see in church bulletins: "Have you remembered your church in your will?" Has your long-range planning committed suggested that box be included in your bulletin every week?

4. A fourth consequence is that instead of waiting for bequests to arrive, more and more congregations and denominational agencies are asking for contributions out of accumulated wealth. The typical capital funds appeal of 1958 to finance construction of a new building usually emphasized giving out of current income. Today, it is far more likely to place an equal emphasis on contributions out of accumulated wealth.

One sign of this change is that in thousands of congregations a shrinking share of the annual receipts come in via the offering plate and a growing proportion come in

the form of stock and bond certificates or quarterly or semiannual checks covering that member's contributions for several months.

In summary, one of the big changes in church finances is that accumulated wealth has become the source of a growing proportion of the total income of congregations. This, of course, includes the income from the accumulated wealth in congregational endowment funds. Accumulated wealth also may become the largest single source of income for most of the various national agencies of various denominations. With several that already is true.

The Most Controversial Change

While a few observers fear for the spiritual health of congregations in which income from the dead exceeds income from current living members, contributions from accumulated wealth have not aroused highly divisive debates. Those arguments currently are reserved for the pros and cons of designated giving.

Six comments on the controversial subject of designated giving are as follows: 1) It is an increasingly common practice. 2) An increasing number of contributors will give large sums only if allowed to designate the use of those contributions. 3) Designated giving is the most effective means of raising additional money for capital improvements, missions, specialized ministries, and disaster relief. 4) Whenever designated giving is encouraged, it should be accompanied by a recognition of the legal and moral obligation to make sure those contributions go to that designated cause. 5) It continues to be highly divisive because of the impact on who will control the ultimate destination of the donor's contribution. Few of those who control the ultimate destination of financial contributions are eager to surrender that control.

Finally, an increasing proportion of large designated contributions is being given across congregational

and denominational lines. The two key variables in determining to whom those large designated contributions will be given are the meritorious cause and the persuasive power of its messenger. When the appealing cause is represented by a persuasive messenger, it is easy to contribute across denominational or congregational lines.

The Growth of User Fees

From the perspective of the year 2023, what may appear to be the biggest change is the rapidly expanding reliance on user fees. Obvious examples of user fees are • Tuition for the Christian day school • Fees for materials and the instructor's time for that weekly two-hour Bible study class • Fees for activities and trips designed for senior citizens • Fees to cover materials and refreshments in vacation Bible schools • Fees charged to teenagers who want to go on that ski trip.

One conflict over user fees is illustrated by many theological seminaries. One school seeks large financial gifts so it can be a tuition-free seminary. Another seeks contributions to a scholarship fund so it can offer scholarships to the most promising candidates but continues to charge a high annual tuition. The debate: should the donor's gift go to subsidize the institution that provides the services or the consumer of those services.

For the past six decades, the American culture has gradually been shifting from subsidies for the producers of services to subsidizing the consumer. Most Christian denominations still argue that the subsidies should go to the producer, not the consumer, of services. What is the attitude of people in your congregation on this issue? How are these changes affecting your congregation? □

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What If Jesus Had Not Come?

by Sandy Wilkie, Burlington, ON

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." —Isaiah 9:6

How much does one person's birth impact other people? I'm sure most of you have seen the film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, a tender story of how one man named George Bailey impacts so many people in his little town. Each Christmas I watch this film and ask myself, "What difference has my life made?"

But this year, my focus shifted, and I began to ask myself, "What difference has the birth of Jesus made in my life? What a moving experience it has been to contemplate that question! I would encourage each of you to reflect on how different your life would have been if Jesus had not come, and make a list of your conclusions.

Ironically, my spiritual pilgrimage began with the birth of my baby brother. Due to the uncertainty of my brother's survival, my mother cried out to God to spare this long-awaited son. She promised that if God answered her prayer, she would get us all to church. It took the delivery of one baby boy to point us to the eternal deliverance offered by another baby boy! All six members of my family chose to accept this eternal gift of life, and we became a Christian family—a "first" on my dad's side, and one of very few on my mom's side.

This choice spared me from the influences of alcohol, illicit sex, and crime that so many of my friends fell victim to growing up on the east side of Vancouver, BC. The choice of which university to attend, my involvement in ministry, and meeting my husband of 25 years all came as the result of that one crucial, life-changing decision.

If Jesus had not come, my husband would have pursued dentistry instead of ministry. We would have missed all the rich experiences of seminary, years of ministering in many churches, and so many beautiful friendships. Whom you marry significantly impacts even the children you will have. I praise God for our two precious sons with their unique combination of traits from their father and me.

If Jesus had not come, we would not have been able to cope with my husband's encephalitis, my surgeries, our son's permanently dislocated elbow and resulting limited use, numerous emergencies, my dad's heart attack, burns from an explosion, my parents' cancer and car accident, the death of my saintly mother-in-law, my sister's loss of her four-month-old child, my sister-in-law's cancer and subsequent loss of their baby. If Jesus had not come,

I would have cracked under life's pressures and pain. Jesus' life gives me resiliency to spring back and continue in ministry, so that others may also hear of the difference He can make in their lives.

We've been privileged to touch many lives in Vancouver, BC; Lodi, CA; Edmonton, AB; and now in Burlington, ON. This has been possible only because of that first Christmas morning when Jesus came to be my Wonderful Counselor, my Mighty God, my Everlasting Father, my Prince of Peace. Every aspect of my life has been impacted by the Christ-child born in Bethlehem almost 2000 years ago.

Will you take some time this Christmas season to reflect on the difference Jesus has made in your life? If you do this, I know you will have the most blessed Christmas ever! □

Peace on Earth



Nativity Scenes

In every country around the world where Christmas is celebrated, the nativity story (the story of Christ's birth) is remembered. It is read from Scripture and is acted out in plays and pageants. People dress up as Mary and Joseph, and a doll or a real, live baby is put in a manger to represent the Baby Jesus. There are shepherds, wise men, and sometimes even live animals.

The story of Christ's birth is also shown in a variety of nativity scenes, ranging from the simplest cutout figures to whole rooms full. Sometimes a full-scale outdoor scene with elaborately decorated scenery is set up. Nativity scenes are used as decorations in most countries. In some countries, the nativity scene is considered more important than the Christmas tree.

How can you participate in a nativity scene this season? Work together to make and/or display a nativity scene. Make it a focal point of your celebration. You may do this as individual families at home, as Bible study/care groups, classes of children and youth, or as the entire church family.

Use every opportunity to share the joy of God's love shown by His great gift! May it be filled with meaning that demonstrates the love of God who gave us His Son. □

A Time for Celebration . . . A Time for Joy

This is an idea that has become an exciting tradition for a middler/junior Sunday school department. It is an exciting tradition for the children and their families, the teachers and their families, and the church staff and their families. They serve a simple continental breakfast the Sunday before Christmas. For the most part, the kids do the work. They place an announcement in their church paper or bulletin to announce a "Holiday Happening" in honor of the birth of Jesus. Teachers send information home with the children asking parents to bring juice, rolls, or a breakfast cake, if they would, to make this a special breakfast.

The children make the decorations, play Christmas music, and put up a small tree. The day before the event, teachers, parents, and children, who wish to help, set up tables and chairs in their classrooms and decorate the room using bright paper plates, candles, and Christmas napkins. They set up a serving table for the juice, coffee, and food.

Some come about 45 minutes early that Sunday morning to set up the coffee and juice. Parents usually start coming with their children 30 minutes before Sunday school and church begin. It is exciting and joyous. They play Christmas music and eat, fellowship, laugh, hug, and talk. Everyone is involved in making a memory.

Use your imagination on variations of this idea with any age level. □



2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ ANAMOOSE, ND. Pastor Rod Poppinga baptized three youth. They were welcomed into the fellowship of Anamoose Baptist Church. —Darlene Frueh

■ COLUMBUS, NE. The Rev. Richard Lute baptized four young people who recently committed their lives to Jesus Christ. They have joined the fellowship of Shell Creek Baptist Church. —Ruth Ann Behlen

Sermons from Science serve as bridge to Puyallup community

PUYALLUP, WA. In October, Christ Community Baptist Church hosted four nights of live presentations of Sermons from Science in the school where they meet. Sponsored by Moody Institute of Science, Dean Ortner served as presenter. More than 1,000 persons attended. More than half of

these were not part of the church.

Dean Ortner involved the attenders in his presentations as he clearly presented the Gospel. The presentations included one million volts passing through his body and setting a 2 x 4 on fire, sound shattering glass, and light making music. The response from school administrators and teachers, who came by invitation from students, delighted the church.

Christian videos played on three different televisions as people arrived. These videos were advertised and made available for those who wanted to watch at their own leisure. "We are now involved in opportunities of getting into these homes for follow-up," says Cindy Junkert.

Sermons from Science will be touring in Western Canada during the summer and early autumn of 1995. It can serve as an evangelistic bridge into a community.

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Seniors' rally held at Sunshine Ridge

■ SURREY, BC. The second annual seniors' rally from nine lower mainland churches in British Columbia was held at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church.

In attendance were 230 seniors, who enjoyed a morning session of devotional thoughts interspersed with instrumental and vocal music by the Rev. and Mrs. Harris. He is President of Northwest

Baptist Theological Seminary.

At the afternoon session, each participating church provided a special selection on the theme of "love." —Viola Pahl

Southwestern Michigan churches hold missions conference

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. The five N.A.B. Conference churches in Southwestern Michigan held a joint Missions Conference at the Napier Parkview Baptist Church from October 3-5. Guest speakers included N.A.B. missionaries Dr. Oryn Meinerts, Pat Meinerts, and James Garbat from Cameroon, and Ken and Jerilyn Bayer from Brazil.

Individual churches planned their own programs preceding and following the conference, which opened on Sunday evening with the introduction of the missionaries and a missionary challenge given by Dr. Herman Effa.

The conference was structured as a series of interactive presentations allowing visitors to see demonstrations and interact with missionaries in small groups.

The emphasis on Monday was international mission fields: Japan, Cameroon, and Eastern Europe. On Tuesday, home missions was highlighted.

The Japanese room demonstrated four methods of evangelism: a Japanese home meeting, an English conversation/Bible class, a culture classroom with a tea ceremony, and a church service.

Home missions high-

lighted church planting in North America and various missions projects in our own culture.

Special programs were also planned for children and youth. Comments from visitors indicated that this was one of the most interesting missions conferences they had attended. —Florence Miller

First women's retreat has friendship theme

■ SURREY, BC. A first-ever women's retreat on the theme of "Making Friends" was held at Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church. Of the 55 registered, 12 stayed overnight at the church; the others returned for the following morning.

The Friday evening and Saturday sessions included crafts, meals, an interesting display of Victorian-era linens, garments, and gift items. Four women from the church shared testimonies and Bible study topics.

Vi Stork, coordinator of women's ministries, collected many items for each lady to take home. Having the retreat at the church kept costs to a minimum and eliminated travel time for the women. —Viola Pahl

Mashburn honored by Burton church

■ BURTON, TX. The congregation of Greenvine Baptist Church surprised the Rev. Don and Mrs. Cathy Mashburn with a celebration commemorating their ten years of service at the church. During the morning worship service, several members recalled memories of the Mashburns, including

some of the tense times when Darcy, their youngest daughter, was ill with leukemia. At the close of the service, a commemorative plaque was presented to Pastor Mashburn. —Franklin Effenberger

Pacific Northwest Association holds annual meeting

■ RENTON, WA. Sierra Heights Baptist Church in Renton, WA, and its moderator, Dr. Oscar Schmuland, hosted the Association meetings. He and his committed group are to be commended on the good job of hosting the 16 churches. The Association officially welcomed the Cascade Baptist Fellowship of Federal Way, WA, into its membership and the North American Baptist Conference. The Rev. Larry Neufeld is the church planter.

Dr. Art Brust of Missoula, MT, and Pastor Bruce Field of Spokane, WA, gave devotional messages.

The highlights of the meetings were our speakers: Dr. Herman and Mrs. Ardath Effa.

We heard reports from Marvin Dewey, N.A.B. Seminary, and the Rev. Ervin Gerlitz, N.A.B. College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary. Darrell Schuh of Elk Grove, CA, reported on the forthcoming short-term lay-person mission building programs.

Elected for the 1994-1995 term were Stephen Pollitt of Olympic View Baptist, Tacoma, WA, as Moderator, and the Rev. Larry Neufeld of Cascade Baptist Fellowship, Federal Way, WA, as vice-moderator. The Rev. Leroy Schauer serves as the area minister. —Earl Shadle

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Leduc church starts Christian School of Music

■ LEDUC, AB. Temple Baptist Church started a new venture, the Christian School of Music. Qualified Christian teachers give lessons in piano, organ, keyboard, and voice. The school is off to a good start.

The Children's Church is growing under the direction of Lyndell Campbell, and a Discovery Club begins soon. During the summer, the children visited museums, the Space Center, the zoo, and Dinosaur Park. The Rev. Gordon

Denison is pastor. —Violet Fleck

Youth host outreach; members encourage fellowship at Temple

■ MEDICINE HAT, AB. Associate Pastor Larry Dye of Temple Baptist Church instructs a weekly Intensive Discipleship Team of high school students. They are putting into practice what they learned at a training seminar in Seattle regarding sharing their faith in Christ with fellow students. An outreach concert held Nov. 19 with Kenny Marks is part of their efforts to influence

fellow students for Christ.

On Nov. 7, 1993, a praise service was conducted at Temple to honor the faithfulness of members and friends of Grace Baptist Church, Medicine

Hat, as an encouragement for them to continue active fellowship in the Temple congregation. The Rev. Irwin Kujat is senior pastor. —Madeline Kern

COMMITTED TO GIVE

Thanksgiving offering for missions

■ WINNIPEG, MB. At the Rowandale Baptist Church, nearly 300 persons attended the morning service on Thanksgiving Day. At that time, a missions offering of \$10,396 was received.

This fall, the church hosted a "Growing by Discipling Institute," along with Whyte Ridge Baptist Church, for church leaders and anyone interested in a discipleship ministry in their church. The Rev. Gordon Freiter is pastor. —H. Kahler

Central Baptist celebrates with Thanksgiving offering

■ EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist had their Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday, October 17. People enjoying a potluck supper filled the gymnasium.

The offering goal of \$60,000 was easily surpassed as God's people gave with a grateful heart. Just over \$70,000 was given, with \$25,000 designated for our various missionaries. —Kurt Remus

Morris church raises funds for renovation

■ MORRIS, MB. Emmanuel Baptist Church has in place a three-year plan for major renovations to its facilities. Fundraising activities are planned to help meet the costs. The target for completion of the renovation is July 1996 when the church will observe its 100th anniversary. The Rev. Del Bertsch is pastor.

Temple plans for expansion

■ MEDICINE HAT, AB. Tentative plans for the future expansion of the Temple Baptist Church building were presented to the congregation at its annual Fall Fellowship Feast. The Building Committee urged individuals to reply to a survey indicating the amount of their intended financial support of the project. This would give guidance to the committee as the church prays and seeks various expansion alternatives. The Rev. Irwin Kujat is senior pastor. —Madeline Kern

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMANDED TO CARE

Sharon Glen Receives Zoning Approval for Construction

■ WHEATON, IL. Sharon Glen, a Life-Care Retirement Community in Wheaton, IL, recently received final zoning approval from the DuPage County Board. This clears the way for project construction which should be underway by spring of 1994.

The first phase will include construction of 16 townhomes, 26 coach homes, and 144 apartment-style residences. Upon completion of the project, approximately over the next three years, the end result will be a community with 400 residential units including a 100 bed skilled care nursing facility. —*Jody Lamping*

ANNIVERSARIES

Anamoose Baptist celebrates 90th

■ ANAMOOSE, ND. The WMF of the Anamoose Baptist Church celebrated its 90th anniversary on September 19. Past program booklets and a White Cross display were set up to honor the occasion. —*Darlene Frueh*

"Grace and Gratitude" celebrated at Kitchener church

■ KITCHENER, ON. Central Baptist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary, Oct. 15-17, 1993, with "Grace and Gratitude" as the theme. The church praised the Lord for His faithfulness and grace.

"On Friday evening an excellent slide presentation depicted the past and present of our church life," says Karen Yahn.

Dr. Reinhold Kerstan reminded the church to "think and thank" and to "remember God's grace" at the Gratitude Banquet on Saturday evening. "This church is a monument of a vision of a few," he said. Central, thankful for their faithfulness, recognized some of the founding members who were present for this special evening.

On Sunday morning, the Service of Gratitude was held in three languages: English, German, and Spanish. The Rev. Ron Kelway, pastor, encouraged members to "become tools in God's hand to save the lost to His glory."

In the afternoon, congratulations and good wishes were expressed by neighboring churches. John Ziegler, area minister, challenged the church to "have a vision and to fol-

low in the footsteps of Jesus."

The Rev. Ron Kelway, senior pastor; Rev. Arthur Drewitz, associate pastor; and Mr. Felipe Rodriguez, associate pastor, serve this church.

Wedding Anniversaries

■ Congratulations to the following on the celebration of fifty years of marriage: **Mr. and Mrs. David**

Tessmann, First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, April 8; **Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schmidt**, First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, June 22; **Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Tessmann**, First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, October 31.

■ Celebrating 65 years of marriage: **the Rev. and Mrs. Carston H. Seecamp**, of Cambridge, MN, October 1.

EGYPT - ISRAEL April 23 - May 8, 1994

Visit Cairo: Sphinx and pyramids, Luxor: Valley of the Kings, Aswan: Elephantine Island and botanical gardens, then on to Tel Aviv, Haifa, Acre, Nazareth, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Golan Heights, Caesaria, Philippi, Dan, Jericho, Dead Sea, Qumran, Masada, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Mount Zion, Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Beersheba, Amatzia Caves, Gaza, Hebron, and many other sites.

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VOLHYNIA July 1-12, 1994

An opportunity to visit your place of birth (or your relative's), as well as other historical Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian cities, collective farms, villages, and relatives.

This tour will be organized to accommodate tour participants' wishes within this overall area, and may include Kiev, Zhitomir, Korestin, Heimthal, Kulischi, Barashaw, Slubudka, Pulin, Nova-grad Wolinsk (Zwehl), Lvov, Rovna, and locations in between.

Optional: side tour of St. Petersburg and Moscow (minimum 15).

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IN MEMORIAM

■ BERTSCH, HENRY J. (91), Bismarck, ND; born Aug. 11, 1901, to Jacob G. and Emilie (Klaudt) Bertsch near Venturia, ND; died June 15, 1993; married Lydia Herr on Aug. 29, 1926; farmed until 1945; operated Bertsch's Federated and Fairway Store in partnership with his brothers, Robert and Emil, in Ashley, ND, until 1957; moved to Bismarck in 1978; active member, Bismarck Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Lydia; son, Lloyd (Bette); daughter, Virginia (George) Wallin; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; predeceased by a son, his parents, four brothers, and two sisters. The Rev. Darwin Stahl, pastor, funeral service.

■ DICKAU, RAYMOND F. (76), Chicago, IL; born March 15, 1917, to Gustav and Ruth Dickau in Wetas-kiwin, AB; died Sept. 22, 1993; married Esther Schmuland in 1946; graduated from Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, AB, 1943; graduated from N.A.B. Seminary, Rochester, NY, 1949; served as pastor, Venturia Baptist Church, 1949-1957; Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA, 1957-1969; Grace Baptist Church, West Fargo, ND, 1969-1973; East Side Baptist Church, Chicago IL, 1973-1977; served from a wheelchair as chaplain at Central Baptist Home, Norridge, IL, 1977-1987; survived by wife, Esther; daughters: Sandra, Karen, and Gwendolyn Dickau; three brothers: Clarence (Bertha), Arley (Bernice), and Erwin (Marcine); preceded in death by his parents and brother Donald. The Reverends Eldon Schroeder and Bradley Bacon, funeral service.

■ EPP, ALBERT (78); Corn, OK; born Sept. 24, 1914, in Isabel, OK; died Aug. 5, 1993; married Emily Bartel, deceased 1980; married Alma Franz in 1982; farmed until 1945; graduate, Tabor College, Hillsboro, KS; ordained into ministry in Fairview, OK; superintendent, Elfaro School and pastor, Casita Mennonite Brethren Church in South Texas; professor, Corn Bible Academy, Corn, OK; pastor, Bergthal Church, Corn, OK; pastor, Mennonite Brethren Church, Corn, OK; pastor, Corn Baptist Church, Corn, OK; certified electrician, carpenter, mechanic, bricklayer, and farmer; survived by wife Alma; three daughters: Gloria (Turner) Carter, Atlanta, GA; Mary Lou Hooge, Winona, MN; Barbara (John) Stobbe, Shawnee, OK; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four sisters: Eva Weins, Sara Suderman, Selema Thomas, and Margaret Epp; three step-daughters: Cheryl (Travis) Wilson, Bonnie (Darrel) Trissell, and Marcia (Ralph) Sampson; and six step-grandchildren; preceded in death by grandson, Mike Sisson; son-in-law Ed Hooge; four brothers: Cornelius, A.L., Pete, and Dan; and two sisters: Tina and Carrie. The Rev. Bob Burkle, funeral service.

■ GROSCH, ALVIN (72), McLaughlin, SD; born Aug. 13, 1921, to Albert and Grace (Bangle) Grosch near Mahto, SD; died Sept. 7, 1993; married Ella Wolfer in 1943; occupation: mechanic, farm and ranch worker, businessman; good sense of humor and never complained; faithful member, usher, trustee, choir member, First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD; survived by three sons: Albert, Hill City, SD; Wayne,

Tacoma, WA; and Leo, Mobridge, SD; predeceased by his parents, his wife, two grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren. The Rev. Robert Travis, pastor, funeral service.

■ HUSMANN, LYDIA (91), Columbus, NE; born Feb. 4, 1902, to Antje and Gerd (Heinrich) Husmann in Platte County, NE; died Sept. 18, 1993; member, Creston Baptist Church, Creston, NE; former member and deaconess, First Baptist Church, Lincoln, NE; former member, Redeemer Baptist Church, Columbus, NE; survived by 25 nieces and nephews; preceded in death by her parents, five brothers: Henry, Fred, Ed, John, and George; three sisters: Minnie Brunken, Anna Prang, and Ella Hulsebus. The Rev. William Effa, Columbus, funeral service.

■ MEHLHAFF, HELMUTH (86), Parkston, SD; born Dec. 21, 1906, to Fred and Lydia (Meyer) Mehlhaff in Parkston, SD; died April 28, 1993; married Louise Rueb, Feb. 3, 1929; member, usher, trustee, financial secretary, treasurer, Sunday school treasurer, and honorary deacon, Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD; member, Board of Directors, North American Baptist Home in Madison, SD, and Parkston Protestant Cemetery Board; survived by daughter: Irene Mehlhaff, Sioux Falls, SD; brother: Leonard, Parkston; two sisters: Lena Schoon and Viola Mehlhaff; preceded in death by wife Louise in 1990, his parents, and two brothers. The Rev. Dr. Richard Mayforth, pastor, funeral service.

■ SCHULER, EDNA (SCHELSKE) (81), Jamestown, ND; born May 21, 1912, to Mr. and Mrs. William Schelske in Medina, ND; died Oct. 3, 1993; married Christ Schuler, June 16, 1935; member, WMF, member, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; survived by husband, Christ; three sons: Willis (Nancy), Villard, MN; Robert (Jean) and Gerald (Connie), Rochester, MN; five grandchildren; a brother, Paul; and a sister, Alice Reinhart; preceded in death by her parents; Pastor Randy Jaspers, funeral service.

■ WEISSER, ELMER (72), Lodi, CA; born Dec. 28, 1920, in Martin, ND; died Jan. 11, 1993; married Elsie Leicht, June 28, 1948; member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; survived by wife Elsie; son Daryl of Lodi; two grandchildren; brother, John Weisser of Galt; and sister, Violet Walker of Lodi; preceded in death by son, Larry; three sisters; and a twin brother. The Reverends Aaron Buhler and Merle Brenner, pastors, funeral service.

■ WESTERMAN, REAKA (nee Van Deest) (94), Sioux Falls, SD; born Oct. 6, 1898; died Sept. 24, 1993; married Harm Westerman, Oct. 6, 1919; worked in the kitchen of N.A.B. Seminary; member, Corona Baptist Church, SD, and First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD; joined Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, in 1952; survived by two sons: Raymond, Northfield, MN; Elmer, Darien, IL; two daughters: Louise and Bernice, both Sioux Falls, SD; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren; preceded in death by her husband in 1964. The Rev. Harold Kelm, pastor, funeral service.

Moldova Baptists host European Baptist Federation

(EBF) Moldovan Baptists hosted the European Baptist Federation Council Meeting, the first to be held in a republic of the Commonwealth of Independent States in September.

Outstretched hands hovered over the heads of men kneeling reverently on a theatre stage in Kishinev, Moldova. The audience waited in solemn silence as prayers were offered, thus setting apart 14 new Moldovan Baptist home missionaries.

The experience of September 25 was a deeply meaningful one for the men themselves. But for the more than 2,000 Moldovan Baptists in the audience, the event symbolized the opportunities they now enjoy to spread the Christian message throughout their land. Everyone present realized that only a few years ago such a happening, advertised as it was and complemented with state media coverage, would have been unthinkable.

The 14, most of them young ministers filled with the desire to win others for Christ, will be supported for the first two years through a missionary support program begun by Karl Heinz Walter of the European Baptist Federation. The money will be channelled to EBF by various Baptist-affiliated unions. Each union was represented by one whose "outstretched hands" blessed the new missionaries. Among those unions was the N.A.B. Conference, represented by Dr. John Binder, executive director, and the Rev. Herman Effa, missions director.

During the Council sessions, seven new unions were welcomed as full member bodies of the European Baptist Federation, thus extending the limits of the federation eastward to include Baptists in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, and "Middle Asia" (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbeki-

stan), and southward to include those in Egypt and Syria. Moldova—or Moldavia, as some still prefer—compares in size to Belgium. The population of just over four million is less than half of Belgium's nearly 10 million. The Baptist Union consists of 250 churches scattered throughout Moldova with a membership of 19,000 baptized believers.

Plans made for Russian ministry

In a meeting with the leaders of the Baptist Union of Russia, Dr. John Binder and Dr. Herman Effa discussed the expansion of N.A.B. Conference ministry in Russia, beyond the pastoral training ministry of Missionary Harold Dressler.

Baptist leaders requested that, as a priority, the N.A.B. Conference establish one of seven regional Bible Institutes. This involves providing tuition, room, and board for students as well as faculty for an eight-month teaching program. Faculty will be chosen from select pastors from N.A.B. churches in Canada and the U.S.A. and from faculties of N.A.B. Conference schools to teach in two to four week sessions.

Also discussed was helping in the establishment of the theological seminary in Moscow and partnering with churches in North America to do evangelism and church planting. The latter would provide opportunities for lay/pastor teams from N.A.B. churches to serve.

A goal of \$200,000 for N.A.B. Conference ministry in Eastern and Central Europe has been set for 1994.

Bratislava hosts Baptists

(BWA) Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, one of the newest nations in the world, hosted 75 Baptist leaders with church planting on their minds. The leaders came from

Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria, and Serbia, some with the most moving stories of faithfulness to their churches in extreme difficulty.

"We may have suspected that the major emotion of the conference would have been survival. Not so," said Tony Cupit, BWA Director of Evangelism and leader of the conference team. "Pastors from regions devastated by war were enthusiastic about learning to plant new churches."

"It was significant to see Serbs and Croats in fellowship and prayer together," said Cupit, "and very moving to hear them form a choir and sing, "Abide with me . . . the darkness deepens, Lord with me abide."

Unreached of the world a concern

WASHINGTON. For 2000 years, Christ's haunting words, "Go into all the world" has challenged the Christian church, but the task still awaits, the mandate is not fulfilled.

- 99.9% of all Christian resources are committed to mission and evangelism in the already "evangelized" world.
- .1% of resources are allocated to help the Christian church to reach the as yet unevangelized world. This percentage is growing, but the disparity is alarming.

Two international conferences, sponsored by the BWA, are planned to address this need. This first is in Larnaca, Cyprus, Jan. 20-24, 1994, to concentrate on a Christian response to the North Saharan, Middle East, North East Asian, and other areas where the Islamic religion is dominant. The second is planned for Madras, India, January 1995, to concentrate on a Christian response to the Indian sub-continent, China, and other areas in Asia. □

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Tim Walker** from Cornerstone Community Church, Carol Stream, IL, to pastor, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, effective January 1994.

■ **The Rev. Al Tuley** to youth minister/associate pastor at Apple Valley Baptist Church, Apple Valley, MN, effective Oct. 1, 1993. He is a graduate of Judson College (IL) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and studied at Bethel Seminary.

■ **The Rev. Jakob Koch** to church planting pastor, All Nations Baptist Church, Weston, ON. He was a former N.A.B. missionary to Cameroon.

■ **Dr. Glenn Hilburn** of Baylor University is serving as interim pastor, Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, TX.

■ **The Rev. Curtis Gunther** to pastor, First Baptist Church, Elgin, IA, effective Jan. 1, 1994.

■ **Dr. Dennis Koger** of San Marcos, TX, to part-time interim pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX.

■ **Mr. Gordon Oeste** to associate pastor, Whyte Ridge Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

■ **Mr. Robert Moss** to pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, High Prairie, AB, effective Dec. 1, 1993.

Installations

■ **The Rev. Myron Henschel** to First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB, Sept. 5, 1993. Installed as pastor on September 19, with members and friends of Temple Baptist Church, Swan River; Czeck Baptist Church, Minitonas; and Peoples Bible Church, Minitonas, attending. Participating pastors in the program were Henry Hess and Bruce Schnurr, greetings; Ed Hart, mayor of Minitonas; and Pastor Neal Effa, Swan River, prayer of dedication. A letter of greeting from the Rev. Jake Leverette, area minister, was read.

Pastor Henschel, his wife Cheryl, and children, Zachary and Reagan, moved to Minitonas from Portage la Prairie, MB. —*Monica Muller*

■ **The Rev. Mario Giraldi** from Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, to pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Penticton, BC. Participants in the installa-

tion service were Mr. Gary Graham, church moderator; Mr. Duncan Woods; Rev. John Wollenberg, Kelowna; and Rev. George Breikreuz, Trinity Church in Kelowna; and the Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, speaker, who commended the church for waiting upon God's leading. Both Rev. Wollenberg and Rev. Breikreuz served as interim pastors from Oct. 1, 1992, to Sept. 1, 1993. Various sister churches throughout the Okanagan Valley brought greetings. Calvary Baptist is a church planting project. —*Vicky Laframboise*

■ **Dr. Alan Ingalls** installed as pastor of Creston Baptist Church, Creston, NE, Oct. 3, 1993. Participants in the service were Moderator Rev. Richard Lute of Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE, welcome; Creston Baptist and Evangelical Free Churches of Columbus, special music; Pastor James Witherspoon, First Baptist of Columbus, and Orton Hulsebus, deacon of Creston Baptist, greetings; and the Rev. William Effa, Columbus, prayer. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, guest speaker, chose I Timothy 1:5, for the challenge to the pastor and the church. —*Henrietta Scheffler*

■ **The Rev. Ronald Kelway** installed as senior pastor of Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON, September 19. Guest speaker, the Rev. Arthur Drewitz, interim pastor, reminded the congregation that "a shepherd after God's own heart is a man who is called of God and loves Him supremely." In the afternoon, the Rev. Hero Ulrichs charged the people to "love their pastor, accept him, encourage him, and pray for him." In his response, Mr. Kelway stated, "there is no greater work than the work of the ministry, lifting up the Lord Jesus, proclaiming the Word, and building up the saints." Representatives of neighbouring churches welcomed the Kelways. —*Karen Yahn, reporter*

Retirement

■ **The Rev. Theodore Bretz** retires from active ministry effective Jan. 1, 1994. Ordained by Lincoln Park Baptist, Cincinnati, OH, Feb. 17, 1964, he served the following churches: assistant pastor, Lincoln Park Baptist, Cincinnati, OH, 1963-65; pastor, First Baptist, Wooster, OH, 1965-67; Prospect

Baptist, Prospect, OH, 1967-72; First Baptist, New Martinsville, WV, 1972-78; Calvary Baptist, Omaha, NE, 1978-84; and Shroyer Road Baptist, Dayton, OH, 1984-93.

New churches added to Association

■ The British Columbia Association welcomed the **First Baptist Church of Oroville, WA**, into its fellowship in May.

■ The Northern California Council voted into Association membership the **Romanian Baptist Church of the San Francisco Bay area**. The Church, with more than 130 members, meets in San Leandro.

■ The Alberta Baptist Association welcomed **Leduc Fellowship Baptist Church** into the Association at its annual meeting. The Rev. Larry Warkentin is pastor.

■ The Southern California Association welcomed **East West Community Church of Anaheim, CA**, pastored by Rev. N. Jawahar Gnaniah, into the Association.

■ The Illinois Association welcomed **Edgewater Community Church** into its fellowship in October. It is a merger of Tri-Community Baptist Church of Elk Grove Village and Bloomingdale Baptist Church. The pastor is Rev. Jim Vyleta.

Ordination

■ **Mr. James Vyleta** was ordained into the Christian ministry September 12, by Edgewater Community Church, Bloomingdale, IL. Participating in the dedication service were Dr. John Binder, ordination message; and the Rev. Eldon Schroeder, ordination prayer and certificate and charge to the congregation. The Rev. Bob Jones and Joe Vyleta, Jim's father, also participated in the laying on of hands. Mr. Vyleta has served as pastor of Edgewater Community Church since Aug. 23, 1992. —*Karyn Hilborn*

Church Withdraws

■ **Faust Gospel Chapel, Kinuso, AB**, withdrew from the Alberta Association.



BAPTIST WORLD AID

Baptist Center needed in Sofia, Bulgaria

Since the end of the communist regime, Bulgarian Baptists have been expanding their work into many new areas. New churches are being established, and old ones rebuilt.

Bulgarian Baptists are now building a comprehensive Baptist Center in Sofia. The project consists of

- A children's home for 40 children
- A Christian school for about 200 children
- Offices for the Baptist Union
- An Education Center encompassing institutes of theology, business, music and language
- A Church

With the offer of a 17,000 sq. meter piece of land, the Union is anxious to establish the different sections of the project step by step.

Already, the German Baptists have purchased the ground. ABWAid has donated \$25,000 towards the Children's Home, and a U.S. church has given \$20,000. The Reformed Church in the Netherlands has committed \$210,000 over four years.

BWAid has set funding goals to assist this important and strategic ministry of Bulgarian Baptists and has so far received \$45,000 toward its four year goal of \$177,100.

If you desire to help with this development project, send your contributions for Baptist Center in Sofia (project 209210-92) to North American Baptist Conference, 1 S. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

Volhynian Ancestral Village Adventure May 12-30, 1994

Visit old Polish and Russian Volhynia in an unforgettable opportunity to go back to the little German villages from which your ancestral family came. The tour, accompanied by local English-speaking Ukrainian guides/interpreters, will visit villages of tour members roughly within a 50-60 km radius of Zhitomir, Novograd-Volinsky, and Rovna. The tour will also include traditional sight-seeing in Kiev and the opportunity for additional excursions and/or stopovers.



Estimated cost of the 19-day tour, including international airfare, accommodations, most meals, land transportation, visa processing and insurance is: \$3,150 (Edmonton departure), \$3,200 (Seattle departure), and \$2,950 (New York departure). A report of last year's successful tour is available on request. All prices are in US Dollars.



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A HEART THAT CARES



44TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE CHURCHES
DALLAS, TEXAS • AUGUST 2-7, 1994

Music sought for Triennial Conference

One of the many highlights at the 44th Triennial Conference, meeting in Dallas, TX, August 2-7, 1994, will be music. Delegates and visitors have the opportunity to participate not only in a large group, but also through listening to solos, ensembles, choirs, and instrumentals.

If you would like to participate, send your tape(s) to: the Rev. Art Bollaert, Music Review Committee, Oak Hills Baptist Church Office, 707 East 41st St., Suite 218, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6050, as soon as possible.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of an unforgettable worship experience.



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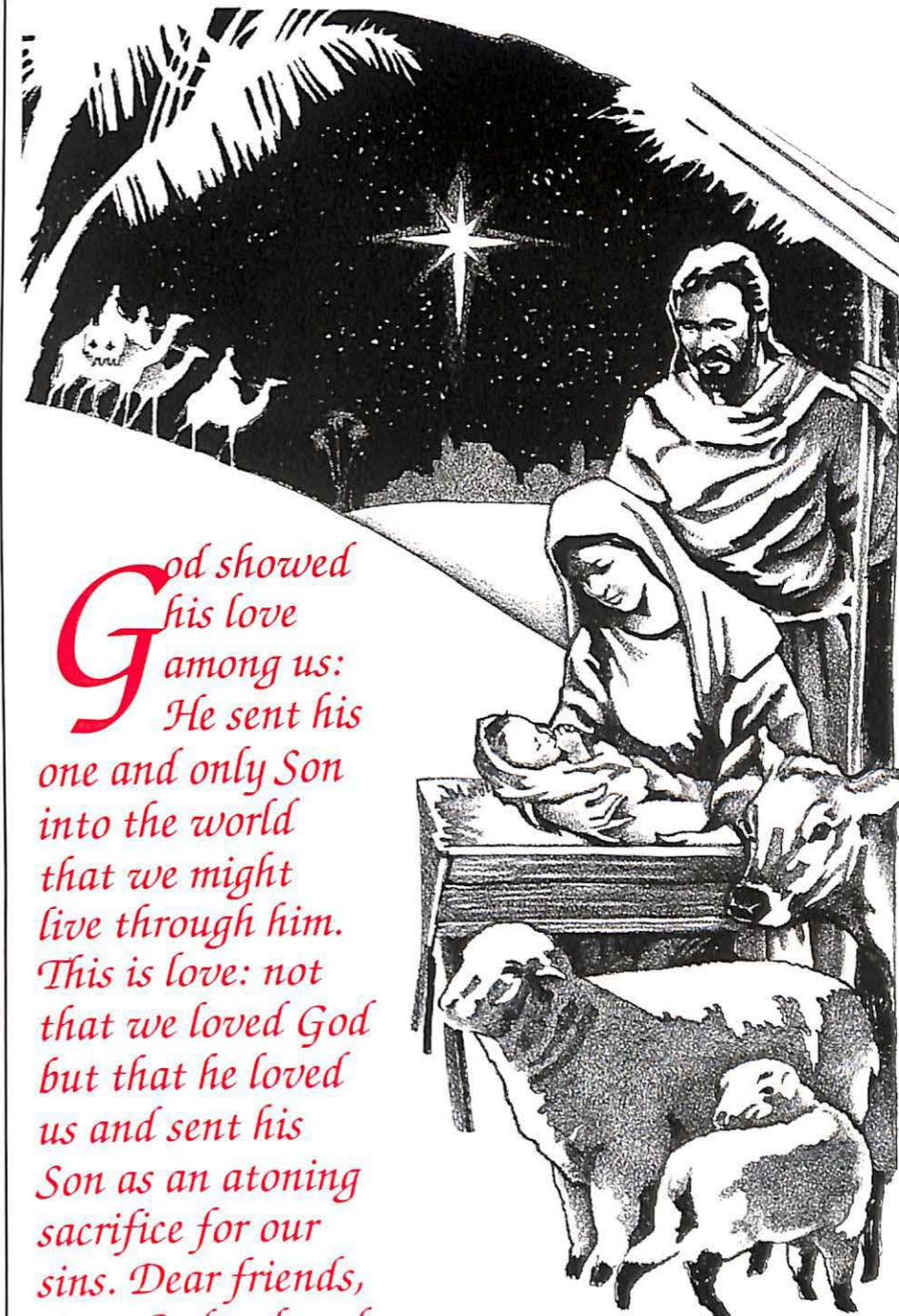
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(I John 4:9-11).

Thank you for your partnership in spreading the Good News. May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love through Jesus Christ, God's Son, be with you throughout 1994.

The Staff of the
North American Baptist International Office

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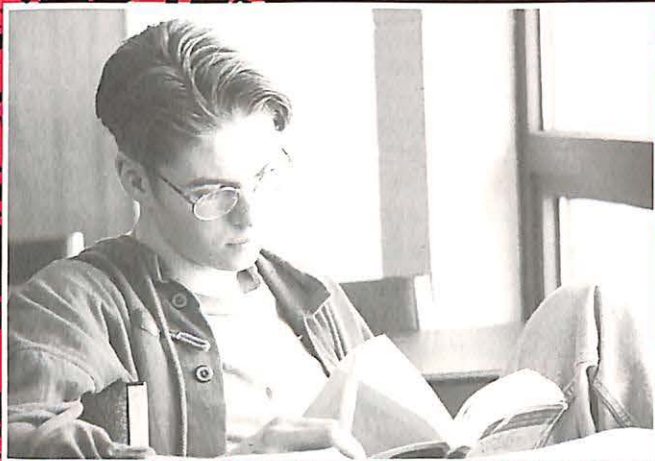
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