

V I S I O N

June July 1993

2000



GROW  
WITNESSES  
GIVE  
SERVE  
CARE

THE BAPTIST HERALD

North American Baptist Conference



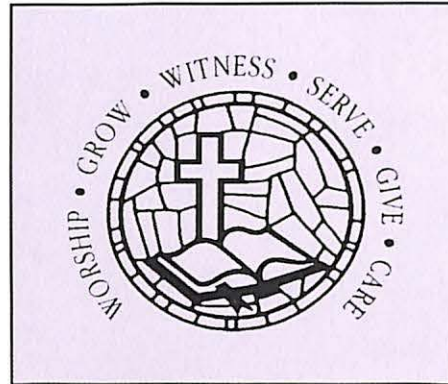


## What We BELIEVE

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

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

- We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct. It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity.
- We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and love. He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence, and redemption.
- We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will. We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be stewards over His creation. As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect. Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this



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

- We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death. It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members. Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture,

service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Each church is a self-governing body with a congregational form of government under the Lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility. Its ordinances are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

- We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God. Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other.
- We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society. We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability.
- We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth. The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally, and visibly in glory according to His promise. The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness. □

*The complete "Statement of Beliefs" and a study guide are available from the North American Baptist Conference International Office.*



## VISION 1993

by John Binder

**S**ome ask, "Why should a Church be a part of a Conference like N.A.B.?"

I feel it is the best expression of the Biblical concept of the church as a body of believers (1 Cor. 12:12-31, Eph. 2:11-22 and 4:1-16).

When I was born, I became part of a particular human family. These roots are of very high value to me. Likewise, when I became a Christian, I was adopted (born) into God's family, a local church, and a fellowship of churches (the N.A.B. Conference). I believe these spiritual families are vital to our growth and development as responsible followers (disciples) of Christ.

The N.A.B. Conference leadership team seeks to respond to the needs of our day and the concerns expressed throughout our churches. With our minds and hearts sincerely intent on being obedient to the Lord who gave us the six Biblical Imperatives, we have developed ministry goals for 1993 (see page 4). With the help of the Lord and, you, the people of the N.A.B. Conference, they will be achieved.

It is affirming to hear a prominent church consultant, list six primary functions of every local church. These parallel our six Biblical Imperatives: to worship, to grow, to witness, to serve, to give, and to care.

Every goal represents a profound desire for growth—spiritual and numerical—in the ministry we share together. Every goal is reachable as



God empowers His people to engage in ministry opportunities found in the local church and beyond.

As a member of an N.A.B. Conference church, your participation in this ministry is vitally important. I invite you to do your part by being concerned about and contributing toward the goals outlined in this issue of the *Baptist Herald*.

Some Christian leaders are discouraged and fearful about the economic setbacks and the threat of paganism in North America. It is very possible that we will face some very tough times when it will be more difficult to be a Christian.

The church of Christ has gone through periods of pain and suffering in the past. None of us want it or like it, but we also need to realize that the church has often grown in numbers and maturity during difficult times.

When I was in China four years ago, the leaders reported that even though Christians in China had

suffered severely during the past 40 years, their numbers skyrocketed from less than one million when the communists took over in 1949 to an estimated 50 million or more today.

It is critical that we seek the Lord's direction through prayer to keep our focus clear on the priorities and not waste energy, time, and resources on secondary matters.

Also, we need to assume the role of encouragers one to another. Many, today, feel overworked and underappreciated. We, as believers, are called to the ministry of encouragement. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact, you are doing" (1 Thess. 5:11). Also we are told to "Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Heb. 3:13).

Too much of the opposite goes on in churches today. Internal church conflicts, polarization on political issues, and involuntary terminations of pastors are very serious issues that need resolution.

May God bless as we continue building our Lord's Kingdom through telling the good news, praying, inviting people to follow Christ, and through planting new churches in North America and on seven international mission fields. □

*Dr. John Binder is Executive Director of the N.A.B. Conference.*





## Vision 2000 & YOU

"We need a vision!"  
"The Conference needs a vision!"

And so, **Vision 2000** grew out of the hearts of North American Baptist Conference people thinking together prayerfully in task forces across Canada and the U.S.A. They answered two questions

- What, do you feel, is important for your church and the Conference?
- What is needed in your church, family, and personal life?

Enthusiastically, these people said that six Biblical Imperatives: Worship, Grow, Witness, Serve, Give, and Care—with specific and related goals—**Vision 2000**—should be the emphasis and direction of the N.A.B. Conference to the year 2000. Delegates to the Triennial Conference in 1988 unanimously affirmed this. And so, **Vision 2000** became the strategic Bible-based ministry focus of the N.A.B. Conference of churches.

One Biblical Imperative has been launched each year since 1989. It is hoped that churches and individuals will continue to grow and mature in each imperative already introduced—responding to each imperative as Christ commanded and finding challenge in evaluation, joy in growth, and a fervency in outreach to others.

Resource articles on the imperatives continue to be printed in the *Baptist Herald* and "Link." In 1993 resources are being provided for "Committed to Give" and in 1994 for "Commanded to Care." Other resource materials are available



from the Development and the Church Ministries Departments. The Conference Staff are eager to serve you by helping your church effectively implement the six Biblical Imperatives.

Consider your commitment to the mission of **Vision 2000**? How can you or will you make these commands of Christ a priority in your personal life, your home, your church, and your community?

### Where are we going in 1993?

As we realize and commit ourselves to the ministry that we do together as N.A.B. Conference churches, we touch people's lives.

The following are primary goals for 1993:

- Call for consistent prayer ministry focused specifically on spiritual awakening and world evangelization
- Invite people to follow Christ and to encourage them to become a vital part of a local church
- Build spiritually healthy churches by seeking and responding to the

Holy Spirit's direction in all administrative and ministry decisions

- Plant at least 42 new churches globally through the work of missionaries and church planters and provide ongoing support services to 23 new churches
- Train as many new church leaders as possible globally through N.A.B. College, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, N.A.B. Seminary, as well as

the Bible training centers and seminaries in Cameroon, Nigeria, Philippines, Brazil, Mexico, Central and Eastern Europe, and Japan

- Encourage youth and adults to participate in "Gateway" and Volunteers in Missions projects
- Affirm religious liberty, justice, and human dignity for all people
- Seek to increase the number of people who give generously to the local church and N.A.B. Conference ministries through modeling generous giving, teaching stewardship, and reporting ministry results. Further, to ask churches and individuals to do their part through prayer and financial giving to meet the mission and ministry budget goal of \$6,100,000.

What can you and your church do in 1993-1994 to help achieve these goals?

The following pages will give you a glimpse into how God is working through these goals to further His Kingdom. □



## Call for consistent prayer ministry focused specifically on spiritual awakening and world evangelization.



"Real praying isn't easy. Sometimes it can be agonizingly difficult," says William Brownson in his book, *Courage to Pray*. "All of us need wisdom to pray rightly, discipline to structure our efforts, strength to rouse ourselves for the task. But perhaps most of all, we need courage to keep at it."

Jesus told his friends: that they ought always to pray and not lose heart (*Luke 18:1*).

Realizing and experiencing the power of prayer, we are called to be in prayer for the many around the world who need Christ, for His empowerment as we witness of His saving grace, for His strength and guidance in other people's lives as well as in our own, in our church, home, and in God's work around the world, for the leaders in government in our communities, countries, and nations.

Some ways we can do this is by

- Setting aside a special time each day for prayer
- Using a daily prayer journal to record praises, requests, and answers to prayer
- Praying for people in our church by using our church directory, as well as for visitors in our church
- Praying that young people would answer the call to prepare for ministry and to serve churches in North America and on our mission fields
- Praying for the church planters and missionaries listed each Sunday in *Moments with God*
- Praying for the churches in our Association and for pastors and churches listed daily in *Moments with God*, the N.A.B. Conference quarterly devotional guide.
- Using "N.A.B. News" and "Update" as a prayer guide
- Praying for justice, human rights, and religious liberty for people around the world

- Celebrating or praising God for who He is
- Remembering God's mercies as we thank Him
- Asking God for forgiveness as we confess our sins
- Offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God—to do His will—by making a commitment to a task or person(s)
- Asking God to meet needs
- Participating in prayer retreats, summits, and schools of prayer
- Leading or participating in a concert of prayer in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and listening
- Committing ourselves to participate in the prayer services of our church
- Being in an attitude of prayer throughout the day as we seek God's guidance in our daily tasks and decisions or asking Him to bless those with whom we speak on the phone or in person or as we write a letter.

As we pray, we encourage those for whom we pray, and in return, they encourage us as we hear responses like the one from Larry Neufeld, church planter in Federal Way, WA: "Thank you for your prayers. I know that your prayers have made a big difference in our ministry. I hope the discipline and commitment to pray daily for us has been a source of growth in your lives."

Another church planter writes: "It is almost as if after a year of praying and working that God is ready to let us begin growing."

"Our God reigns! It is our daily joy and conviction," says Oryn Meinerts, serving in Cameroon. "He has done and is doing great things."

Let's continue in prayer and praise to God, also! □





Jesus promises that His followers will see extraordinary results as they witness to others. He does not ask us to do this in our own power but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Witnessing is showing and telling what God has done for us.

The primary reason for the existence of the N.A.B. Conference is to witness to those who do not know Christ—to the lost—to give them opportunities to become children of God.

As churches united together to witness, we have made it possible for people like . . .

**Invite people to follow Christ and to encourage them to become a vital part of a local church.**

■ The three teams of approximately six people who went to seven outlying villages each to show the *Jesus* film in Cameroon. "It was incredible to see how God continues to reach out to people in their lost state," reflects Barry Newman, a short-term missionary from Canada, serving in the Central Treasury. One of the team members remarked how the Gospel impacted him in a whole new way when he heard it in his first language. "Now we are giving that opportunity to many people who had never had the Gospel presented in Pidgin English before," says Barry.

The impact of the combination of drama and familiar language moved more than 20 percent of the viewers to make commitments to Jesus. Of the 17,350 that viewed and heard the Gospel through the film, 1,035 indicated they prayed to receive Christ as Savior. At an unscheduled showing of the film, a young woman working with the U.S. Peace Corps received Christ. She had travelled more than 6,700 miles to hear the Gospel and respond to it. "God still moves, and He is not limited by time or distance," says Barry.

During the past three or four years, the Cameroon Sunrise project has taken a major step in mass evangelism and discipleship follow-up. "In my follow-up after the film was shown in the Bankim area, the counselors were already leading 600 of the 1,023 people who made decisions in Bible studies," says Daryl Martin, acting crusade ministries coordinator. (1)

(1)



CAMPUS CRUSADE PHOTO

(2)



(3)



■ Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson, who work with the fishermen and their families in Florianopolis, SC, Brazil. Recently, Nelson baptized people in an inland waterway. This year, the Nelsons are bringing the Gospel to a previously unreached people group in Ingleses on the north of the Island of Florianopolis. Toward the end of November 1993, a group being led by Dr. Walter Kerber of Calgary, AB, plans to construct a building for this new church plant. (2)

■ Yuri Nakano, a short-term missionary from Canada, who takes opportunities to answer questions about Jesus Christ in her English class of Mie University students in Japan. A recent class went 40 minutes overtime as students stayed to hear Yuri's answers about who Jesus is. "It is a wonderful opportunity to share the fact that Jesus was truly an historical person who lived on the earth about 2,000 years ago as God incarnate to save us from our sins and to establish a personal relationship with us." (3)

■ Ron and Joan Stoller, missionaries to Japan, who for years worked with the Mie University Bible Club, and witnessed to students. Fruits of their labors are evident. This year, the Stollers and guests celebrated the marriage of one of these Christian University students to a Christian woman. Seeing another Christian

home started as a result of the ministry the Stollers were involved with in Student Evangelism brought great joy. Six of the former students came to rejoice with the bride and groom on this special day. In June, Ron brought the message at another wedding ceremony for two Christians who are former University Bible Club members. (4)

(4)



(5)

■ For Aymon Chu, who in addition to pastoring Faith Chinese Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC, ministers to Chinese students studying at the University of British Columbia. Through a Bible Club meeting at Ebenezer Baptist Church, he ministers to about 100 students from Mainland China. Of this Bible study group of 100, 40 percent have become Christians.

"Ever since I became a Christian, I had a desire in my heart to minister to my kinsmen. I was surprised to be able to do this in Canada." Chu meets with the leaders of the Bible study group to do the planning and serves in discipleship training.

"I believe the best people to evangelize the Mainland Chinese are the Chinese students who have become Christians. So, whenever a student becomes a Christian, we immediately begin discipleship training." Some of these students have been baptized and have joined Faith Chinese Baptist Church. Thank you to Ebenezer Baptist Church," says Pastor Chu. (5)

■ Debbie Kern, a short-term missionary from Canada serving in Japan, who says, "It's great to see the Japanese open up to the Gospel. One young man, who was baptized recently, has been a student of various missionaries through the years. Christians in





his town were very good witnesses of Christ to him, also. Praise God that he has finally decided to follow Christ." Others in Debbie's English class show interest in Christ by attending church and asking questions about Christianity.

Many, especially, in Debbie's advanced class, know what is involved in becoming a Christian and only need to take that step of faith. "One student, before being transferred not only thanked me over and over again for teaching him English but also for inspiring him spiritually," says Debbie. Another person wants to join her class not to learn English but to watch her Christian lifestyle. (6)

- Gregg and Maria Evans, who are missionaries serving in church planting and leadership training in the Philippines. "When Mr. de la Cruz arrived at the introductory Bible study I was leading," says Gregg, "he made clear to me at the outset that he did not want to learn about Joseph Smith, gold plates, or the angel Moroni. He had been with the Mormons for a while and didn't want anything more to do with them. This time he wanted nothing but the Bible." Mr. de la Cruz enthusiastically studied the Bible, intent on completing the lesson in spite of his failing vision and hearing. He went at it with determination. "Maybe at 80-plus years, he realized that he did not have time for a more leisurely approach," reflects Gregg.

Through the introductory session, people get a taste of Gregg's Bible study method. They are then given a week or two to decide if they want to study the six-lesson series. Usually a group begins the series in earnest one or two weeks after the introductory session, but in San Ramon, due to unusual circumstances, the study was delayed six weeks.

"Mr. de la Cruz could hardly wait for the six weeks to pass," says Gregg. He repeatedly urged his neighbors to inform him as soon as I returned to the barrio. In fact, he gave instructions that I was to be sent to his house immediately upon my arrival. Such was his eagerness for Bible study. But I never got the privilege of sharing the gospel with Mr. de la Cruz. He died suddenly just a week before the series was to begin. Bible study had been delayed too long.

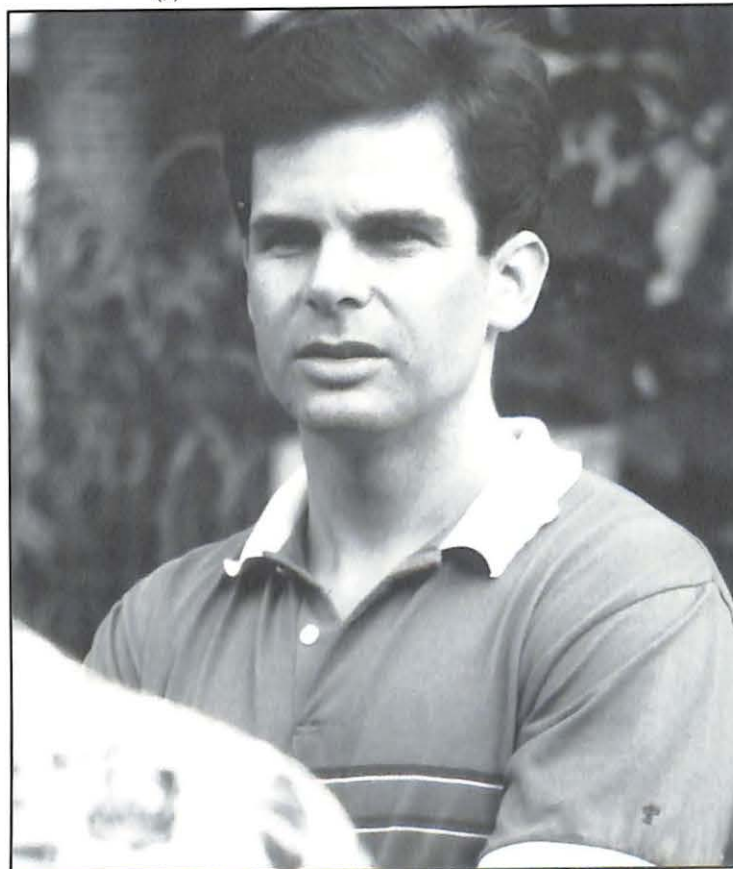
"In the weeks and months to come, as I lead many to Christ in San Ramon, I will remember Mr. de la Cruz—his eagerness for Bible study, his death, the missed opportunity and the urgency of our mission. Evangelists often remind unbelievers that they don't necessarily have tomorrow. Mr. de la Cruz reminded me that evangelists don't necessarily have tomorrow either." (7)

- Missionary Richard Rabenhorst who was involved in a Spiritual Awakening and Evangelism Crusade in Porto

(6)



(7)



(8)



(9)



Alegre, RS, Brazil. He led people in their spiritual preparation for the Crusade, promoted the Crusade, and served as a counselor. Of the 130 people who made decisions, 69 accepted Christ as Savior, 18 reconciled with God, and 18 decided to be baptized. During this time, Rabenhorst had the opportunity to share the Gospel personally with the mayor of Porto Alegre. Another 53 youth and children made decisions for Christ at the Baptist school. (8)

- Missionary Kenelee Proctor, a school principal/teacher in Japan, who has heard that a student to whom she had witnessed in Japan, has accepted Christ and has been baptized. "I was absolutely amazed . . . The Lord has blessed this young woman's transition to the American college routine. Thank you for your prayers on her behalf. I knew I could count on the Lord, and as usual, He did it in a magnificent way." (9)
- Missionaries Ralph and Martha Nelson who tell of Andrea, who received Christ through their witness. Now zealous in witnessing, Andrea led a girlfriend in a Bible study. Afterward, they walked through the public square in Florianopolis, SC, Brazil. A man, holding a poisonous snake in his hand, yelled at the crowd that only Satan could protect them from the snake. Andrea stood up to him and told him that he was wrong: Only God had that power. He threatened to release the snake, but Andrea, holding her Bible in her hand, told him she was not afraid. The crowd clapped. Later, Andrea's friend called her to tell her that due to Andrea's courage and witness, she had accepted Christ and that she had led another friend to Christ, also. Andrea's mother had refused to consent to Andrea's being baptized. When the mother asked her what she wanted for her birthday, Andrea, now 12, said: "Baptism," so her mother consented. Andrea brought her cousin to Church, and now her cousin does not want to miss Ralph's class on the Book of Isaiah. Andrea, a witness, gives others a reason for the hope she has in Christ.
- James Gongon, a Nigerian seminary graduate, who ministers to unreached people in Nigeria. A married man with three children, he works as a Fulani evangelist in Mbanga. Helping at the local Mambilla Baptist Convention Health Center, he calls out the names of patients, does open air evangelism, and visits the compounds of the patients and their families to offer help in understanding the Gospel message. □





Across Canada and the U.S.A. and on mission fields around the world, people are ministering and discipling—helping people and churches mature in their Christian faith. People like . . .

Build spiritually healthy churches by seeking and responding to the Holy Spirit's direction in all administrative and ministry decisions.

■ Dennis, one of the emerging leaders of the Baptist youth group in Legazpi City, Philippines. About a year ago, Dennis eagerly accepted the Lord as he attended a neighborhood Bible study for the first time. At first, Missionary Lee Bertsch doubted if such a quick decision was sincere, but Dennis seemed to understand quite well. Later, Lee discovered why Dennis was so prepared. His house was right next to the one where the Bible study was being held every week. At the scheduled time, he would sit in the room nearest to his neighbor's house and listen to the Bible study. His growing interest finally overcame his fears, and he asked to join the Bible study.

"We've observed and heard about Dennis taking other big steps of faith," report Missionaries Jon and Elizabeth Duba. "He helped make the arrangements with local officials so that our church could hold an evangelistic concert in his neighborhood. Now he is leading an evangelistic Bible study as part of the follow-up after this exciting concert."

Active in local youth politics, Dennis recently told his peers that he would give double time to other projects, but he would not support their plans for a prayer vigil to a saint. He said, "If you knew something was wrong, and you went ahead and did it anyway, what kind of leader would you be?" Dennis is just one of the young Christians who are part of the new young churches in the Philippines. (1)

■ Missionary Elizabeth Duba meets with a teenage girl named Bing to help her grow. As a Christian, Bing, who has leadership potential, is excited about her faith. Elizabeth encouraged her to have a personal quiet time and to memorize Scripture. After their first meeting, Bing enthusiastically memorized five verses in one week. (2)

■ Short-term missionary Barry Newman serving in Cameroon as Assistant Comptroller. Upon arriving in Cameroon, his desire was to disciple some of the local

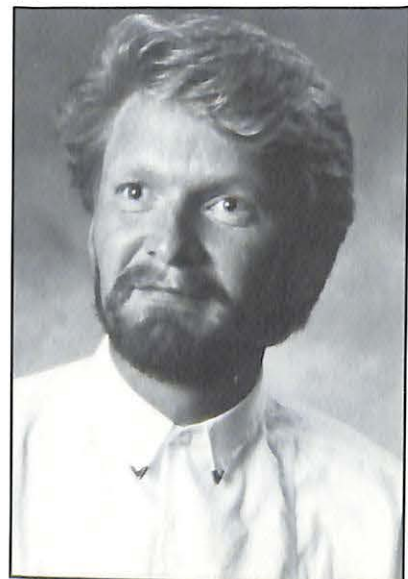
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youth. So Barry led two youth through a Theological Education by Extension course, "New Testament Survey." Tailored for studies in African culture, the course helps students easily understand most Biblical principles. In addition to their regular responsibilities, missionaries in Cameroon personally lead discipleship groups. (3)

■ Pastor Larry Froese, who started training small group leaders at Riverside Baptist Church in Devon, AB. "Small groups are the hub of this Church," says Froese. "With nine good, trained, dependable leaders, we started the Home Groups in October 1992. Since then, the growth of the Church has been remarkable." More than 60 percent of the church members are involved in four weekly home groups; Sunday morning attendance has increased by 30 percent; the counseling load from within the Church has dropped in half; and the ministry in the community has doubled. Four support groups deal with divorce recovery, divorce recovery for children, adult children of alcoholics, and chronic pain. (4)

■ Five theological school students, Missionary Jim Mische and family, and Rev. Jumvuh, the principal of Mambilla Baptist Theological School, headed cross river and down a little used bush road on their way to a Bible conference in Kwara-Kwara in Nigeria. Nearly 2,000 Christians gathered there.

On the way, Rev. Jumvuh pointed out a grove of huge trees. In their shade, stood a number of very large pots. Local ju-ju practitioners use these pots to forecast the kind of crops, which people will get in the following year. The many footpaths to this grove are neatly kept up and swept.

In a nearby village, stands a dead tree marking the spot where, more than 50 years ago, the first church on the Mambilla Plateau was planted. All that remains of it is a roughly rectangular mound of earth covered with tall grass.

What has happened? Old leaders, whose faith was formed during times of strong persecution and heavy missionary involvement, have passed from the scene.

A new generation of Christian leaders has grown up with the church as a social/political institution and are now being called upon to equip the saints for their work. They face the combined challenges of resurgent tribalism, materialism, and a disas-



trous economic situation—vastly more complex than what was here "in those days." The mission has seen to it that they have been trained—but God is making sure that they are faithful. (5)

■ Daryl Martin and the Rev. Isaac Kome, who serve in the Evangelism Ministry of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. They administer direction and aid to just under 700 churches and prayer groups. "We provide evangelism training and various other helps in order for the local bodies to grow both spiritually and numerically. Many of the churches have no trained pastors, so we provide aid to the lay preachers with as much help as we can," says Daryl. Radio programs, produced each week in the two recording studios in Buea and in Bamenda, provide additional spiritual enrichment. (6)

■ Mrs. Setsuko Yamahata, who recently was baptized in the Heijo Christian Church, Japan, continues to grow in her faith. (7)

■ The 980 Christians representing all 686 Cameroon Baptist Convention churches meeting for the Triennial General Session at Nkwen in March. Delegates heard that Convention membership increased by about 10,000 and the number of churches by 32 in three years. "For the first time, we heard reports of missionary outreach to the Muslims, to the francophone people, and to those in Equatorial Guinea, where we have our first missionaries from Cameroon," says Oryn Meinerts, N.A.B. field secretary for Cameroon. "This outreach is in line with our CBC goals to reach Unreached People Groups, plant churches in urban areas, and to do pioneer missions." (8)

■ Dan Hamil and the youth program committee planning for the youth program of the Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX, in 1994. The theme is "Life . . . Gotta Get It, Gotta Have It, Gotta Live It!" "We invite all high school and college-age students to this life-changing triennial youth program," says Dan Hamil, youth program chair. "See you in Dallas, Texas, August 2-7, 1994." (9)

■ Nancy Grover, a missionary teacher in Cameroon, who twice in one week experienced unexpected visitors at her door. "Each time, it was a former student . . . one now a lawyer and the other a neuropsychologist," says Nancy. "Also, I saw evidence of Christian growth, when we dedicated the new deacons at church," says Nancy. "Two of them were former students, and one of the deaconesses was the wife of another. It is a thrill to see these now take top leadership roles in the local church. They are committed to serving God."

■ Jacob Hufnagel, a volunteer from Canada, and his son, Missionary Dale Hufnagel, and others who led pastors in Teach '93. They taught 50 to 100 pastors and church leaders at each of the seven different centers. Attentively listening through two days of teaching, "they begged us to come back again next year," says Jacob Hufnagel.



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hoods, nation, and the world for Jesus Christ." "All planning must take into consideration the purpose and the needs of your women, your church, your community," says Linda Weber, associate director for women's ministries. (10)



(11)

**Church Ministries Department staff:** (l. to r. front row): Dr. Ronald Mayforth, Rev. Edmond Hohn; (l. to r. second row): Rev. Robert Walther, Rev. Jacob Ehman, Rev. John Ziegler, Rev. Milton Zeeb; (l. to r. back row): Rev. Jake Leverette, Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh, Rev. LeRoy Schauer, Mrs. Linda Weber, Mr. Dan Hamil, Rev. Eldon Schroeder. (Not pictured): Dr. Kenneth Fischer, Dr. Charles Littman, Rev. Herb Schauer, Rev. Harry Haas, Mr. Milton Hildebrandt. (11)

■ The Church Ministries Department serving churches in North America. "The church is the Body of Christ. That body can be strong and reproductive or ailing, weak, and/or dying. Each Christian is concerned about the health of the body. How is he or she contributing to its health . . . passing on vitality, energy, and strength to those within the church (*Ephesians 4:16*)?" asks Ron Mayforth, director, Church Ministries Department.

This Department is in the health business. Area Ministers, Women's Ministries, and Youth Ministries focus most of their service on the well-being of local churches by

■ The women of our churches in North America. The Women's Missionary Fellowship provides stable, ongoing programs and activities to provide opportunities for Christian growth, to unite the women in our churches in Christian fellowship, and to provide an outreach ministry at home and overseas. Its primary purpose is "to reach women in our neighbor-

- Producing and suggesting ministry resources like the W.M.F. annual resource packet and the annual Biblical Imperative Resource handbook

- Suggesting persons who might be used as a renewal catalyst—speakers, consultants, or seminar leaders

- Suggesting readily available reading materials as well as books to be used in small groups to help a church check its vital health signs

- Working with Ministers' and Ministers' Wives' Fellowships to develop a stimulating and refreshing conference every three years.

- Visiting a church to

- Review and celebrate its past
- Check its vital health signs—strengths, weaknesses, health, illness
- Check the vitality of each organization—ministry
- Look together at its mission statement—its dream, purpose, focus

- Look together at the church's fields—exegete its community

- Celebrate who we are and what we have and develop creative ways to spend these for Christ in our worlds

- Encourage leaders and workers in positive directions

- Pray with, love, listen to, wonder with, and plan with

- Encourage the integration of the Biblical Imperatives

- Help create an environment and an owned process for change

- Help churches deal constructively with conflict

- Help churches take their spiritual temperatures

- Help churches look for new pastoral staff which will fit their needs, possibilities, and mission.

"We are servants of Christ willing to come into your midst to seek His smile and sense together His direction," says Mayforth.

"Call us." □





**Planting new churches is the most effective way to introduce people to Christ and to bring back those who have been indifferent—and then to nurture/disciple them in the faith. New churches result in a vibrant witness for Christ and changed lives. Attesting to this are church planters like . . .**

**Plant at least 42 new churches globally through the work of missionaries and church planters and provide ongoing support services to 23 new churches.**

- Ken and Jerilyn Bayer, missionaries in Brazil, who planted a healthy, new church during their three-year term in Novo Hamburgo, RS. To accomplish this with the Lord's help and against many odds, they • developed a core group • visited prospects • trained men's leaders • formed visitation teams • formed music groups • built a church building • developed programs of evangelism and discipleship • organized into a church • organized a women's work and leadership • organized a children's work and leadership • organized a youth group and leadership • built a parsonage and • in 1993, called a pastor, Carlos Artur Holstein. (b)

"Twenty-three baptisms and nine transfers have given us a 30 percent growth rate this past year," say the Bayers. Many volunteers from North America served in a variety of ministries at this church as well as in its construction. (a)

- Randy Rheame, church planter, who says, "It was exciting to see four people baptized in February. God is moving, and we are thankful for what He has done! We have more than doubled our Seeker Service attendance at Stony Creek Church in the past year and have nearly doubled our New Community attendance. At three out of four Seeker Services, we had a larger attendance than our old record. We've had to rent more classrooms to accommodate our children's ministry growth." In early 1993, 15 people took the membership orientation class at this Church in Shelby Township, Michigan. (c)

- Church planter Brad Grubb and his wife, Karen, who acted on their vision and purchased an entire office park. The Church rents out sections of the office buildings

(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



and uses another section as the home of this new Church. Thirty-nine people attended the first service of WestLake Community Church in Garland, Texas, on Dec. 13, 1992. In these past months, attendance has climbed to 65.

"A church is more than attenders," says Grubb. "It is a body of people who have committed themselves to ministry." In February, all 22 adults attending the first Ministry Partnership seminar at the Church, signed commitment cards to become a part of the ministry at WestLake Community Church. These Ministry Partners committed

themselves to stewardship by supporting the church financially, to discipleship and servanthood, to ministry themselves, and to the vision of planting a church whose ultimate goal will be to reach the unchurched in eastern Dallas county. It is the group's goal to have 50 Ministry Partners who will form the core leadership team to prepare for the Seeker Centered Service beginning in September 1993. (d)

- Missionaries Doug and Sharon Woyke, who moved into their new home in Tondabayashi City, Japan, in May to plant a new church in Knogo. "We praise God for how He is leading in the start of the new church planting project in Southern Osaka," say the Woykes. "We held our first meeting there on Easter Sunday and had a dedication service on April 25." In a three mile radius around the church (pictured), there are more than 34,000 homes. Specific answers to prayer are the purchase of a lovely mission home at a reasonable price; the sale of the mission home in Ikeda—just in time so the money was available for the final payment on the home. "Over the years, many of you have given financial support and prayed for the mission work in Japan. God is blessing your faithfulness!"(e)
- Job Soto, a young Mexican pastor, leading a new church plant in North Guaymas, Sonora State, Mexico. The average age of those attending is early 20s, reflecting much promise for the future.

In the remote fishing village of El Choyudo, just north of San Carlos, a small group of believers meet as a result of those with vision who started about 27 churches in Sonora State, Mexico. The El Choyudo church is in process of building its own church building. They are praying for a pastor.

Another outreach ministry is that of the Christian Cultural Center, in addition to serving as a Bible Group Center, holding worship services, it has a Soccer League. This ministry, designed to expose young men to the gospel, involves more than 80 unsaved.

Another new church, located about 15 minutes south of San Carlos, is experi-



encing the Lord at work in its midst. That Church plans and prays that it will be able to have its own piece of land. (f)

■ Missionaries Scott and Ruth Clark, who live in Cameroon in a remote area populated by Fulbe people. Well received, they serve the Fulbe by teaching them how to read their language, helping to establish medical work, and loving and helping the people. The Clarks sow the seed of the gospel in many ways, including reading the Bible aloud along the roadside as Scott practices the local language and showing the *Jesus* film. The Clarks are there to preach Jesus Christ, who came to serve His people and to establish a church in Allat. (g)



■ Missionary Dale Hufnagel and Pastor Moise Ngijoe, who are establishing churches among the Francophones respectively in Bafoussam and Yaounde, Cameroon. Twelve young people accepted Christ in Bafoussam recently, and the congregation in Yaounde has grown from 20 to 135 in seven months. (h)

(h)



■ Missionaries Leland and Jennell Bertsch, who encountered opposition by an influential resident of Binanauhan, a district of Legazpi City, Philippines. This forced a last minute change in the location of an outreach ministry—an outdoor musical presentation.

"It proved to be a much better place in the end," says Lee. "As a result of this outreach, about 40 people expressed interest in and are now attending Bible studies." Five new believers were baptized as this new church met at a beach for the worship and baptismal service. All gave clear testimony of their new life in Christ. Some 15 first-time visitors came to listen and observe. (i)

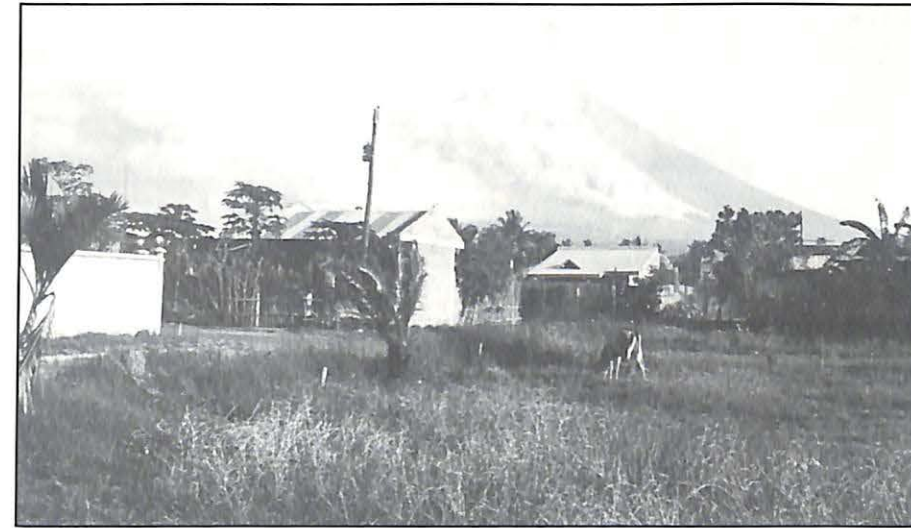
(i)



■ Our missionaries in the Philippines who were instrumental in organizing a third church in the thriving business community of Naga City in the Bicol Region of the Philippines. Their Pastor and Mrs. William Taghap are reaching whole families for Christ. This Church of 35 members is searching for property on which to build.

■ Bob Montas, a Filipino co-worker with our missionaries, who since June serves as pastor of a new church in Iriga City, Philippines. This city of more than 70,000 is located about an hour's drive from Legazpi City. "The mayor of Iriga City recently announced his conversion to a false cult so we are aware of the spiritual battle in which we are about to engage," says Leland Bertsch, missionary working with Montas. (j)

(j)



■ Keith and Lilyane Bienert, who about three years ago started a new church with eight ladies in Restinga, RS, Brazil, in a termite-ridden shack. Its capacity . . . 15 people. Keith even served as president of the women's group. Now in this suburb of 200,000 people, there is a church meeting in a newly constructed building. Here people continue to receive Christ as Savior and be nurtured in the faith. An average of 70 people attend Sunday School, which meets Sunday mornings. The Sunday worship service is held in the evening, a tradition there. National missionary, Florinda Serafin, serves here.

Many people are entangled with spiritism in Brazil. "Showing and explaining

the grace and mercy of God, pointing out that God is stronger than Satan, and seeing that a person does not need to be a slave to evil are the most effective ways to lead a spiritist to Christ," says Bienert.

In July 1993, the Bienerts begin a new church planting ministry in the Porto Alegre area, the most needy capital city in Brazil. (k)

■ For church planters like John Schindler in Franklin, Wisconsin, probably the most exciting aspect of his ministry at Franklin Community Church has been to see lives changed by Jesus Christ. "About one-half of those who attend came to Christ during the last

three years since our Church was founded. One common way we have been able to reach the lost is by inviting family or friends to church. Other unchurched people have come in response to advertising done via door-to-door or bulk mailings. Through sports activities, such as basketball or co-ed softball, friendships have been built and barriers broken down. As a church planting pastor, I have seen people come to Christ both through evangelistic preaching or a visit to their home (or the hospital). One evening, I even had the joy of leading my neighbor to the Lord prior to a game of Joe Montana video football. I like to use the Billy Graham tract, 'Steps to Peace with God,' when I visit the unsaved in their homes."

Some principles Schindler likes to use when sharing the gospel either through preaching or in a one-on-one situation are • address a felt need—especially the gnawing sense of emptiness • emphasize the perfect and complete work of Christ on the cross • emphasize man's need for a spiritual birth • invite them to accept Christ, and • personally exhibit the love of Christ. (l)

■ In our new N.A.B. churches in North America, 30 to 50 percent of the new people were previously unchurched. An encouraging number of seekers return each week to the services. Several of the church planting churches hold or plan to hold two worship services on Sunday morning or Sunday morning and Saturday evening.

"Prayer has played the most significant part in our church planting efforts," says Robert Walther, associate church planting director. "I encourage you to pick one or two church planters and their congregations to pray for every day."

Has your church considered reproducing itself by 1995? If so, contact the Church Planting Department. □

(k)



(l)

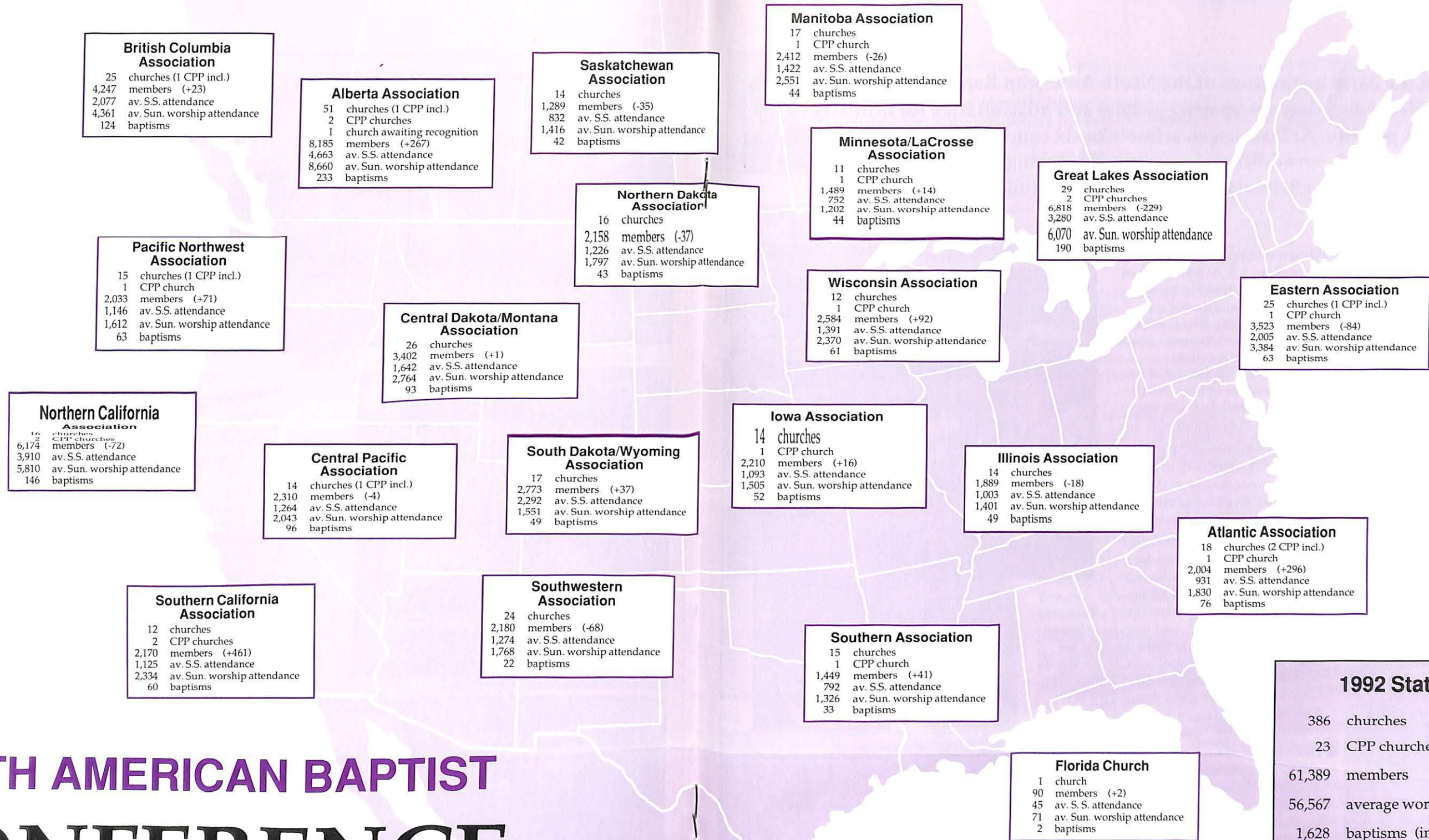




# NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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

*This map reflects the number of churches, membership, average Sunday school and worship attendance, and number of church starts in each Association in 1992. (- under / + over 1991)*



| 1992 Statistics |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 386             | churches                   |
| 23              | CPP churches               |
| 61,389          | members                    |
| 56,567          | average worship attendance |
| 1,628           | baptisms (includes CPP)    |
| 3,352           | other gains                |
| 4,189           | losses                     |
| 748             | total gain                 |

*CPP (church planting projects) not "included with the churches" have not been recognized as a church by an Association as of December 31, 1992.*





From the early beginnings of the North American Baptist Conference, theological education—preparing pastors and missionaries for ministry—has been a priority. At least seven schools in six countries plus seminars held in more than seven additional countries preparing pastors keep this as a priority: Schools, missionaries, and students like . . .

Train as many new church leaders as possible globally through North American Baptist College, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, North American Baptist Seminary, and overseas theological and Bible schools

- Edmonton Baptist Seminary in Edmonton, AB, is characterized by three priorities. Dr. Paul Siewert, (b) president of the Seminary, states: "First, it is our aim to help our students acquire a solid grounding in the Scriptures and in the rich theological heritage of the Church. Second, we seek to foster the deepening of our students' personal relationship with the Lord and their growth in grace. Third, we encourage students to become involved in ministry to develop their abilities through an extensive program of field education and internship. By preparing persons who have a good grasp of what the Bible teaches, who have spiritual lives which are vibrant and growing, and who have honed their ministry skills through practice, we hope to train leaders who will, in the words of William Carey, 'expect great things from God' and 'attempt great things for God.'" This Seminary trained 58 students in 1992-93. (a) (c)
- Herb Radke of Calgary, AB, who enrolled in Edmonton Baptist Seminary after serving for five years as a Minister of Music and Discipleship. His theological training had been limited to a two-year Diploma of Music. "I felt God prompting me to take further studies. Edmonton Baptist Seminary seemed to be the ideal place at which to pursue such studies. I have found my studies to be most helpful in further preparing me for the ministry to which God has called me." (d)

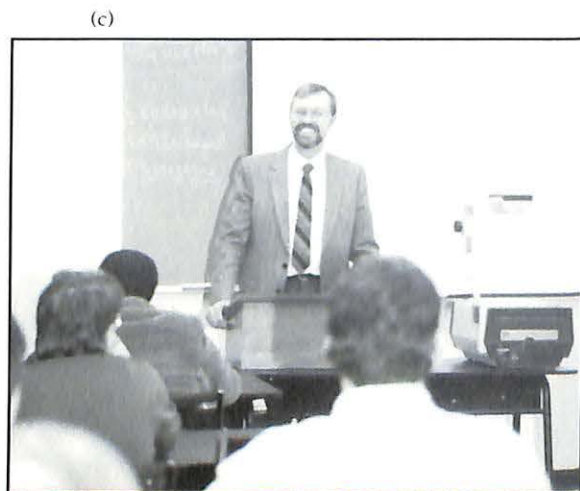


(a)



(d)

(b)



(c)



(e)

■ Steve Rosluk, who enrolled at Edmonton Baptist Seminary to satisfy the M.Div. requirement for ministry in his denomination. "As I immersed myself in my studies," says Rosluk, "I realized how truly beneficial my education is, how it helps to prepare me to deal with the practical challenges and stresses that come with being a pastor in today's society. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to learn from some very godly individuals who have influenced me in my academic preparation and spiritual pilgrimage with my Lord." (e)



(f)

■ Sheryl Grunwald, who found going to Edmonton Baptist Seminary an easy choice. "I knew that God was leading me in the direction of further training for ministry," says Sheryl. "After two years of missionary service overseas, I wanted a school close to home. EBS fits all the requirements. EBS is a tremendous caring community. The encouragement I have received from peers and professors has affirmed, time and time again, the direction I see God leading me. Their support means a great deal to me." (f)



(g)

■ Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary, located on a 7,000 foot high mountain in Ndu, Cameroon, West Africa, prepares persons to minister to the churches of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. "We anticipate an enrollment of 150 to 160 for the 1993-94 school year," reports Missionary David Burgess, tutor and librarian. At the end of the first term of every school year, each student is required to participate in evangelism either in his home area or in house-to-house evangelism in another area or in the *Jesus* film ministry.

A survey revealed that of the graduates in the last ten years, 95 percent are either pastoring churches, serving in Convention administration, serving as chaplains in schools or hospitals, or taking further theological education.

"In June 1993, ten men and two women graduated in the first Diploma of Theology class," reports Missionary teacher Anne Marie Hattenhauer. "They are now putting their training into practice."

The need for more pastors is evident as "The Convention opened 32 new churches in several years. We are not keeping up with the growth," says Burgess. "It's definitely not the time to pull back in mission work in Cameroon."

Seminary class projects provide needed teaching materials for not only the churches but also the schools. A recent Seminary graduate in charge of Bible teaching for the secondary schools in his area gratefully received the new series of 38 Bible lessons written for youth by Miss Hattenhauer's class on Acts. (g)



(h)

■ The graduates of the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Seminary in Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, of whom 80 to 90 percent are in full-time ministry.

This past school year, 58 students studied in one of three special courses: Pastoral Ministry, Missions, or Christian Education. Of the 22 teachers, 16 are Brazilian. Missionaries Richard Rabenhorst and Florinda Serafin teach part-time, and since July 1993, Missionary Keith Bienert teaches there full-time. At this Seminary, students work at their full-time secular jobs during the day and attend Seminary classes from about 7:15 to 10:30 each evening, Monday through Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays, they serve in local churches or church planting projects, putting their classroom training into practical service. Five students



received the Bachelor of Theology degree, and two the Basic Course certificate in 1993. (h)

■ Theological training centers in Central and Eastern Europe, where Missionary Harold Dressler teaches pastors and church leaders in one- or two-week seminars. Most have never had any formal theological training previously. Dressler teaches in Bible training centers and seminaries in Austria, Serbia, Hungary, Czechien, Poland, Romania, and Russia. "The purpose of this teaching ministry is to prepare students and pastors to be instrumental in furthering the Kingdom of God to the glory of God," says Dressler.

■ Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center in Legazpi City, Philippines. In this young training center, 12 subjects were offered to three full-time and four part-time students this past year. One student, Bob Montas, who graduated in 1993, began a new church planting ministry in Iriga City. During the past three years, he received a scholarship made available through a special project for theological education. A previous graduate, Rufus, and Missionary Gregg Evans conduct a six-week series of evangelistic Bible studies in previously unreached areas, praying that these will develop into new churches. (i)

■ The Mambilla Baptist Theological School, which continues to grow. Staff consists entirely of Nigerians, except for Rev. John Nfor, a missionary from Cameroon. Missionary Jim Mische writes materials to be used in the MBTS classes and in the Theological Education by Extension program. Fifteen of the 60 men who have graduated from MBTS in the past three years are presently serving as pastors. The need for pastoral training is evident. Of the 158 churches in the Mambilla Baptist Convention, 70 are without pastors.

Practical application of seminary training includes ministry in two nearby villages within walking distance of the School. MBTS students planted a church in one and continue to witness to a group of unreached people, highly resistant to Christianity, at another village.

Another method of training pastors is through Theological Education by Extension. Through these courses, Missionaries Peter and Sue Aaldyk train pastors, lay leaders, and youth workers. (j)

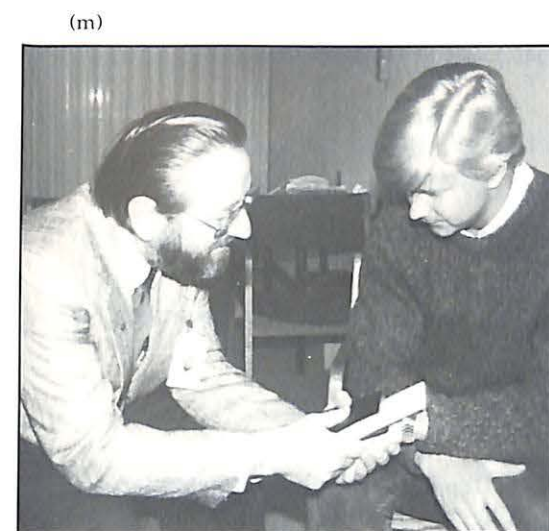
■ North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. "We believe it is our mission to train leaders who can be used by God's Spirit to transform lives," says President Charles Hiatt. (l) "Three key



(i)



(k)



(m)



(n)



(o)



(p)



(l)

values shape this planning process: • To foster the spiritual formation and character development of students, staff, faculty, and administration through spiritual development groups, chapels, retreats, classes that address spiritual development, and partnership with local churches. "It is our goal to take growing believers to higher levels of spiritual maturity," says Hiatt. "Graduates return to local churches to bring new believers into the kingdom, carefully discipling them, and creating worship experiences of the highest quality. • To receive students from diverse cultural experiences and to teach and model acceptance of this diversity amidst our unity in Christ. In many towns, suburbs, and inner cities, pastors from many denominations are learning the benefits of cooperation in the intense battle against evil. • To maintain a meaningful presence in all our grassroots constituencies so that we may adapt more quickly to changing conditions. We stay in touch with the local church in order

to constantly refine our curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs faced by God's people in the pews of His churches." (k) (m) (n)

■ Edward and Dawn Dennis of California, students at N.A.B. Seminary. "For a young family of four, seminary seemed like an unrealistic dream. My wife and I always wanted to study the Bible so that we might be better able to minister to God's people and the world He loves," says Edward. "Yet our commitment to a strong family life and marriage always seemed to be opposed to going to seminary, until we discovered North American Baptist Seminary. The staff provided us with a nice house only two doors from the school and helped us finance our education. Sioux Falls is an excellent place to raise a family.

"Seminary life is challenging, but our family continues to thrive. God continues to mold us into His image for His service." (o)

■ Larry Froese, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Devon, AB, from the moment he enrolled at N.A.B.S. felt highly valued as a person. The secretaries, faculty, library staff, support staff, and the executives administering the Doctor of Ministry program made him feel special and went out of their way to help make his stay enjoyable.

"Through the Doctor of Ministry program, designed to help busy pastors, my ministry skills have been enhanced, especially my leadership ability, through good training and interaction," says Froese.

"I am able to complete all of my course work for the program with only three trips to Sioux Falls, because courses run simultaneously with conferences and are available through extension courses in the Edmonton area." (p)





As churches and individuals pray and give to meet the 1993 budget goal of \$6,100,000, the goals featured on the previous pages will be achieved.

An average gift of \$102 from every N. A. B. Conference church member will meet the need.

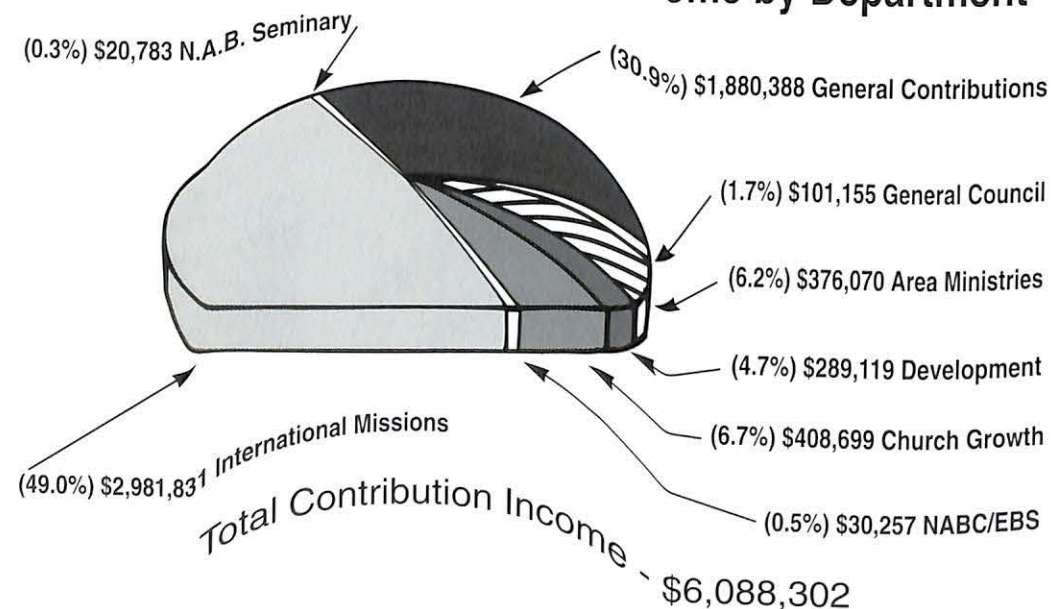
Many are challenged to give more with joy knowing that God will be honored by the generosity of His people. Christians not only in North America but also on our mission fields give with joy and give generously . . . people like

Seek to increase the number of people who give generously to the local church and N.A.B. Conference ministries through modeling stewardship, teaching stewardship, and reporting ministry results

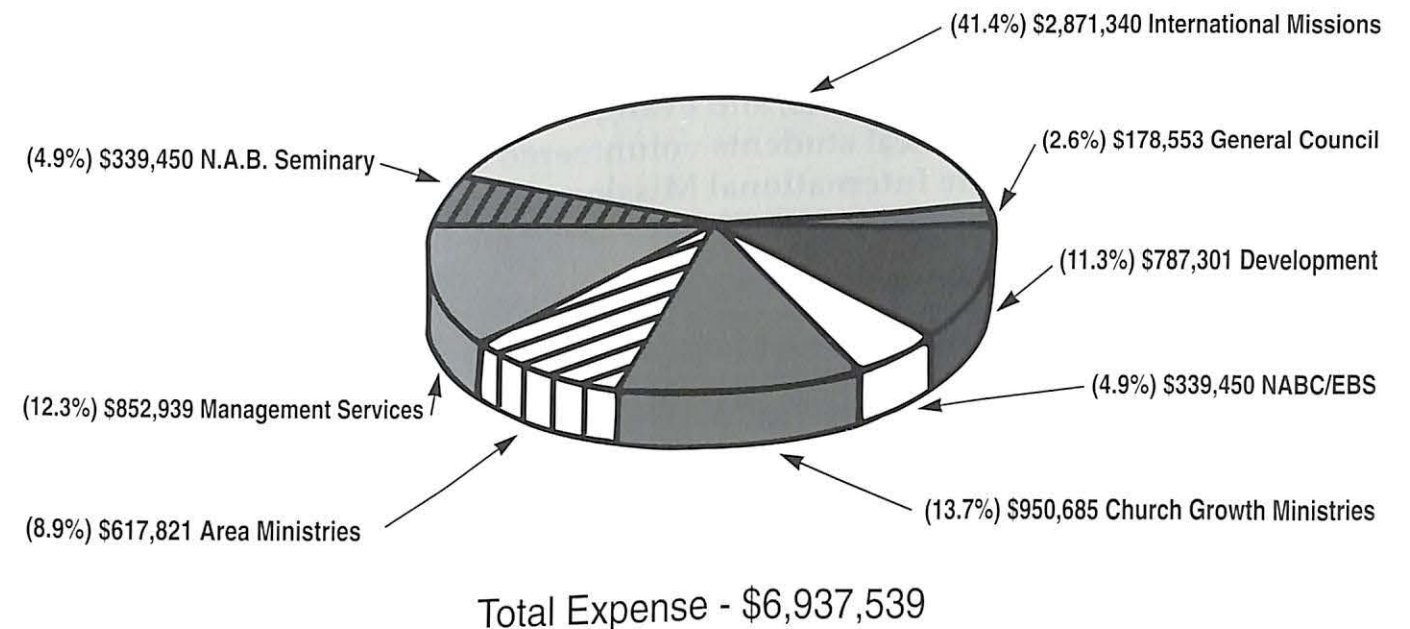
- N.A.B. Conference people who in 1992 gave \$56,421,670, averaging \$927 per member. Their giving was designated as follows:
  - \$44,768,574 for their local church ministries
  - \$6,088,301 for N.A.B. Conference missions and ministries (per capita giving dropped from \$109 in 1991 to \$99 in 1992)
  - \$1,321,154 to North American Baptist Conference Association ministries

- \$1,156,478 to North American Baptist College, Edmonton Baptist Seminary, and North American Baptist Seminary
- \$433,075 for N.A.B. Conference related ministries
- \$2,654,086 for ministries not related to the North American Baptist Conference
- \$492,667 for other projects
- Note: Giving in 1992 was eight percent less than in 1991

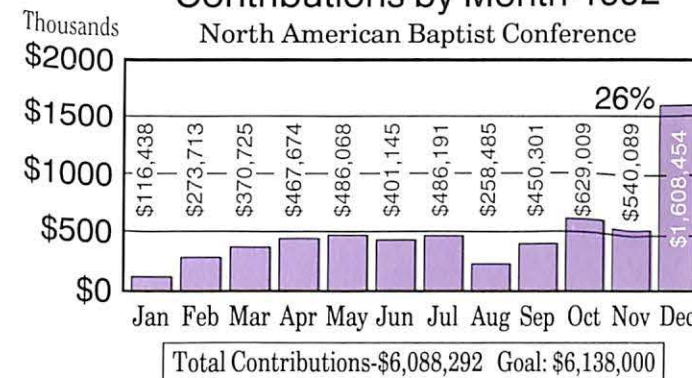
### 1992 Designated Contribution Income by Department



### 1992 Expense by Department



### Contributions by Month-1992



■ In 1992, the N.A.B. Conference experienced a year-end fiscal miracle. Our people reached deep into their spiritual and financial resources to help the Conference come close to meeting the \$6,138,000 giving goal by giving \$6,088,302. The economic downturn, uncertainty about the future, and pessimism contributed to the lack of growth in many circles.

In 1993, we are trusting God to provide the \$6,100,000 adopted as the budget giving goal. Our people are the most generous people in the world. Your help is needed to share the message of Christ and the ministry of the N.A.B. Conference to every area of it. Thank you for your willingness to be a supportive part of the mission and ministry vision of the N.A.B. Conference. Through the ministries of N.A.B. Conference, we have an opportunity to provide encouragement and help for people around the world.

### N.A.B. Conference Mission and Ministry Goal for 1993

- Church Ministries** . . . . . \$1,071,306  
*Ministries to established churches, pastors, youth, Women's Missionary Fellowships, church leadership development, area ministers*
- Church Planting in North America** . . . . . \$922,380  
*Support of 27 church planting projects and developing a maximum of four new church planting projects in 1993*
- International Missions** . . . . . \$3,395,919  
*Support for seven mission fields (Cameroon and Nigeria, West Africa; Brazil; Japan; the Philippines; Central and Eastern Europe; and Mexico) providing field ministry funds, missionary salaries, support services, volunteers in missions, White Cross, world relief, short-term youth missions ministries, and administrative expenses*
- Theological and College Education Subsidies** . \$710,395  
*Ministry support to North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary, Edmonton, AB*
- Total 1993 Giving Goal** . . . . . \$6,100,000  
*The above figures reflect the entire mission and ministry financial needs of the Conference. Ministry support services and administrative expenses are included in the \$6,100,000 giving goal.*





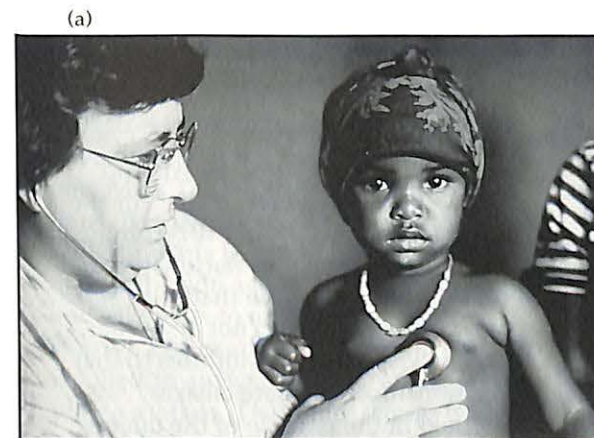
N.A.B.s find fulfillment in volunteering their services to provide much needed ministry working alongside missionaries and church planters in North America or overseas. They are involved in a variety of ministries—construction, medical work, teaching, pastors' seminars, and evangelistic ministries. More than 27 people including five medical students volunteered their services for a variety of ministries through the International Missions Department in 1992. During the first half of 1993, 44 people have served . . . people like . . .

Encourage more youth and adults to participate in **GATEWAY** and Volunteers in Missions projects

- Dr. and Mrs. Manuel Mariano from Grace Baptist Church in Grand Forks, ND. An ophthalmologist, Mariano volunteered his expertise in the Philippines during January and February in 1991 and 1992. He views his work as an outreach ministry to open doors for the missionaries to begin Bible studies and eventually churches. The Marianos share the missionaries' desire for the medical ministry to enhance rather than eclipse the evangelistic ministry. The new outreach ministry in San Ramon is a direct result of the Marianos' medical ministry, and the outreach in Masarawag got a real boost from the eye clinic held there. While Mariano conducts eye clinics, Missionaries Gregg Evans or Leland Bertsch present Bible studies to the patients. Mariano held four eye clinics in rural barrios and performed more than 100 eye surgeries, including treatment for glaucoma, cataract removal, lens implants, excision of severely damaged/infected eyes, and correction of severely crossed eyes. (a)
- Elmer and Ellen Breitreuz of West Meadows Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, who volunteered to serve in administration in Cameroon in 1993-1994. Elmer is serving as acting field secretary while Missionary Oryn Meinerts and his wife Pat are on home assignment.
- Sixteen youth from Canada and the U.S.A., who served in Mexico City with Missionary Juan Luna in July 1993 through the GATEWAY program. Their service varied: children's and youth ministry, *Jesus* film showing, and repairing the church building.
- Darrell Schuh and a team of 16 from California put a new roof on Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA, repaired the interior, and conducted children's programs. Their volunteer service in May helped prepare the Church for its 150th anniversary celebration in July.



Through providing medical service and vocational training, and networking with other organizations to work for religious liberty and human rights, where there has been a curb on freedom, and to protect religious freedom in North America, people and groups like . . .



- Missionary nurse/midwife Barbara Kieper, who along with Zebulon Wamni, medical director for the Mambilla Baptist Convention in Nigeria, provided medical care for 42,496 patients, immunized 6,021 persons, and saw 2,853 women in prenatal visits. (a)
- Baptist Christians, who at a Health Fair in Bamenda, Cameroon, showed God's love in action. At the Blood Pressure and Exercise Booth, they took 555 blood pressures. Those at the Spiritual Health Booth distributed tracts and talked to 1,262 people.
- The Baptist World Alliance, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. The N.A.B. Conference networks with these and other groups.
- Baptist World Aid, who provided channels to distribute the \$86,000 our people gave for relief and disaster needs, Bible distribution, and restoring church buildings in Eastern Europe, as well as development projects overseas in 1992. (b)
- Mbingo Baptist Hospital and Leprosy Hospital, through which vocational training programs help restore dignity to leprosy patients as they learn a trade to support themselves. For Buba and Hassan, young Muslims, dignity is restored as they learn a trade to support themselves. Their years at Mbingo, immersed in Christian caring, led them to give their lives to Christ and be baptized. (c)

Affirm religious liberty, justice, and human dignity for all people





## Developing a Life-style of Giving

**F**ive scriptural steps serve as a guide in developing a giving life-style.

### ■ Recognize that the basis of all stewardship is work

Early in the Scriptures, Genesis 3:19 states, "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food." And in Proverbs 28:19, Solomon states, "He who works his land will have abundant food, but the one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty."

So important is work, that it appears in the Scriptures more than 500 times. Therefore, at the base of a Christian life-style also must be the development of excellence in the marketplace.

### ■ We take a percentage of that which we earn from our labors and give it

The first reason why we give is that giving is worship. The first time the word worship is used in the Scriptures is in Genesis 22:5, when Abraham took his son, Isaac, to the mountain to make a sacrifice. From that point on, the word sacrifice is used frequently in relationship to worship.

Secondly, giving a percentage of what we earn recognizes God's ownership of all. And we give because it is part of God's plan to meet the needs of His people and to take the gospel into all the world.

### ■ Our gifts are of the firstfruits on the first day

Leviticus 23:9-14 describes the feast of the firstfruits and gives an interesting overview of what God

expected from the children of Israel.

As believers, firstfruits giving is an indication that we have placed God first in our lives. No other form of giving does this. When we honor God with our firstfruits, He promises to protect the rest for our use.

**The foundation of our life-style of giving is the recognition that the property we possess is not really ours.**

**It is God's. We are stewards—trustees, caretakers, managers—not owners—of that accumulated wealth.**

### ■ God is not only honored but also obligated by His word to prosper and bless us when we follow this system

There are many Scriptures which confirm God's desire to bless His people financially . . . Proverbs 3, Malachi 3, 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. But my favorite promise pertaining to giving is from Philippians 4:17.

Paul was doing God's work here on earth, and people gave to him, "Not that he desired a gift, but he desired fruit that will abound to their accounts." Many of God's blessings are financial, but probably the greatest of all blessings are when our gifts are used by those doing God's work here on earth to bear fruit.

### ■ God has placed man in a position of stewardship—not ownership—of His accumulated wealth

Early in the Scriptures, we find that God is the owner of all. "For the earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Therefore, our relationship to that property must be that of a steward or caretaker, not an owner. And we have responsibilities to that relationship which are clearly defined in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-27).

**From our study of this parable, we arrive at our definition of stewardship: Using God-given abilities to manage God-owned property to accomplish God-ordained results.**

When we embrace this definition, it becomes apparent that every financial decision we make is also a spiritual decision. Whether it's our gifts of firstfruits, money we spend for living, or distribution of the property which God has entrusted to us at the time of death, to be found faithful we must determine what the owner wishes to accomplish through us.

And when we use our labor and skills to accomplish those results, we will be worthy of His reward, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." □



*Dr. Constantino Salios is Associate Director/Estimate Planning, N.A.B. Conference.*

## We'll Help . . . Plan Your Will

"If you don't have a will, the government has one for you, and it will distribute it according to rules of its laws of descent. If there are no relatives, it goes to the State," says Mel Bergstresser, estate planning representative for Canada, who lives in Winnipeg, MB. "Therefore, I believe, as Christians, it is irresponsible not to have a will. It means that you forfeit all rights of distribution according to your desires and all rights to anything going to charity. For example, if a young couple is killed in an accident, the assets go the wife's mother. That State deems that the husband is older than his wife so he died first. We're available to provide you with a full list of considerations in making a Christian will and, we feel, according to what the Lord would want you to do."

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

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

**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, will, 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 the N.A.B. Conference "Will and Trust Planning Guide" to be a helpful tool in the review of their estate plans. We invite you to write for your free copy today. There is no cost or obligation.** □

## Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, August 2-7, 1994

The Southern Association extends a TEXAS-size invitation to all N.A.B.s to attend the 44th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches, Aug. 2-7, 1994, in Dallas, TX. This Conference includes the events that have traditionally made the Triennial Conference so special.

In addition, a Fiesta fellowship extravaganza on Saturday evening adds a new dimension. This festive, family evening meal includes a top name in concert, activities for the children and parents, and exhibits by the various N.A.B. Conference ethnic ministries.

Through workshops, exhibits, worship, drama, music, and speakers, you will be exposed to ideas and programs successful in reaching the unsaved through caring concern.

On Tuesday evening, Jeanette Clift George, keynote speaker, and the A.D. Players, will dramatically present what it means to care. Dr. Calvin Miller, professor, Southwestern Theological Seminary, will lead the daily Bible studies. Wednesday and Friday evenings are set aside for church growth, church planting, and missions presentations.

The Triennial Conference in Dallas features an outstanding program coupled with plenty of opportunities for fellowship. All are designed to build, equip, and unify the N.A.B. Conference family to enable individuals and churches to be bolder, more caring witnesses to God's glory. Other special programs are planned for singles, youth, young teens, children, preschool, and nursery age.

We look forward to seeing y' all in Dallas!

*Ron Presley, local arrangements chair, 44th Triennial Conference, and pastor, CrossTimbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, TX. □*

**YES!** Please send me the "Will and Trust Planning Guide." For additional information on estate tax and business planning, please indicate if

Your estate is more than \$600,000 or

You own your own business

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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*





## How Should We Give?

by Lewis Petrie

"Help us in any way that you can!" This was the request of almost everyone Herman Effa and I met while traveling through Bulgaria and Russia this past March.

We witnessed firsthand the tremendous openness of the people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including those in the highest echelon of government. People willingly listened to the good news of Jesus Christ. In the schools, children and teachers gladly received Bibles and the message of the gospel. In the orphanages, hundreds of children listened to the gospel—fascinated by the simplicity of the love of God—demonstrated by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. In the local churches, we worshipped with believers who have a deep concern to reach family and friends with the gospel yet have few resources to accomplish the job. We received an invitation to work with five million people in Ryazan State in Russia.

The needs in Europe are compounded as we think of the many unreached people for Christ in Cameroon, Nigeria, Brazil, the Philippines, Japan, and Mexico as well as Canada and the U.S.A. With each N.A.B. Conference church giving a very large and sacrificial gift, we would still fall far short of meeting the tremendous needs.

As a Conference of churches, we are involved in **Vision 2000**, this year launching the Biblical Imperative, "Committed to Give."

What can we, as a Conference of churches, do to help? Let's consider how we should give.

Paul the Apostle was faced with a similar problem in 2 Corinthians 8. The saints in Jerusalem were in tremendous need. How could the suffering be alleviated? Paul, sent with Barnabas to raise funds for the church in Jerusalem, appealed to the Corinthians to consider how they could give to help in this mission.

In some places of the world, one sees the ravages of famine. In other places, one notes a great shortage of the Word of God.

In our own communities, people struggle with emotional and



Paul outlined three issues, which need to characterize our giving as stewards and servants of God.

### ■ Be Deliberate in Our Giving (2 Corinthians 8:3)

Paul points out that the Macedonian believers were deliberate in their giving. God had blessed them, and of their own free will, they gave from what they had. Paul says, "Beyond their ability they gave of their own accord."

I am always pleased when I see one of my own children give of her own free will.

Jesus taught us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*). The needs around the world are great. We need to deliberately set aside resources to help. We do not know how long we will have

spiritual issues; they do not know which way to turn. How can we, as believers, assist those in need? For various reasons, people are not receiving the help they need.

the opportunity to give. Let us be deliberate in our giving.

### ■ Be Definite in Our Giving (2 Corinthians 8:4)

Once we have given "careful consideration" and are aware of the consequences, we will want to be definite in our giving. We are not to hesitate but to be definite (*see verses 10-11*).

C.H. Spurgeon wrote, "It is a very serious thing to grow rich! Of all the temptations to which God's children are exposed, it is the worst, because it is one that they do not dread. Therefore, it is the more subtle temptation."

Although we were told not to give to the beggars on the streets in Moscow. One of the group could not resist giving. He said, "I cannot walk by these poor creatures and not give anything." He was definite in his resolve to help.

Recently, while ministering in Fargo, ND, I was impressed with the new housing starts in the community. Our North American Baptist Conference church, Metropolitan Baptist, pastored by Dennis Hoffman, is attempting to address many of the needs represented in those homes. They are "carefully considering" how they can reach people with the gospel.

### ■ Be Dedicated in Our Giving (2 Corinthians 8:5)

We do not enter into the ministry of stewardship until we bring ourselves as living sacrifices to God (*see Romans 12:1*). We cannot be "Committed to Give" until we are first "Committed to God." The example of Jesus leads us in becoming good stewards.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (*2 Corinthians 8:9*).

I preached in a school in the city of Ryazan, Russia. After I finished, I handed out Bibles to the students. In the hallway, an older Russian woman approached me. She was a widow with a very sick, teenage daughter. She reached into her pocketbook and handed me a 200 ruble banknote. I refused to take it from her. I felt she needed it more than I did. But she was deliberate and definite in her gift. Finally, she was able to say in halting English, "For your mission."

The gift of 200 rubles amounted to 30 cents in American money. I remembered the widow's mite and how Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all . . ." (*Mark 12:43*). This Russian woman was dedicated in her giving to her Lord. I take very seriously

my stewardship of her gift to North American Baptist Conference ministries.

I know many committed North American Baptist Conference people who exercise the same level of dedication. I have the privilege of witnessing this kind of dedication in many of our local churches. In Lethbridge, AB, believers gave sacrificially to meet their Thanksgiving offering goals. In Wisconsin, a local church stretched to meet its capital fund needs to expand its facilities to reach out with the gospel. Countless dollars have been given to send missionaries, appoint church planters, and educate students for ministry in our Conference.

As a North American Baptist, I desire to be God's kind of giver: To be able to do all that I can as a faithful steward to further the progress of the Kingdom of God. Join me in becoming a deliberate, definite, and dedicated giver for the common goals—ministries—of our Conference. □



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

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# Seven Reasons Why People Give

■ Anger ■ Fear ■ Guilt ■ Greed  
■ Don't know ■ Obedience ■ Gratitude

by James Fann

**W**hy do people give? The answer: For a variety of motives. Several of the reasons may shock you.

■ People give because they are **ANGRY**. "It is not unusual for people to use their wills to express anger," one financial advisor has observed. "Large sums of money are often given away because parents or spouses refuse to leave anything to their 'good-for-nothing' children or an alienated mate." Consider the man who reportedly left his estate to his wife on one condition—that she remarry. "That way," he explained, "there will be one man on this planet who will mourn my death."

■ A second reason for giving is **FEAR**. The fear may be of losing something valuable—a sick child, a job, needed crops. Or, as when a well-known televangelist told his viewers that he might die if they failed to donate \$8 million, it may be of experiencing personal adversity or even death.

Whatever the cause, some people apparently believe that they need to give to appease God. Their motto is "God always gets His off the top."

■ **GUILT** is a third reason why people give. They are like the man in the story who wrote to the Internal Revenue Service. "Five years ago, I did not pay all my taxes," he confessed. "Enclosed is a check for 50 dollars. If I still can't sleep, I'll send the other half." We laugh. But guilt is a powerful—if bitter—motivator.

■ **GREED** is a fourth reason for giving. That is to say, some people give because they believe God will prosper them if they do. Their giving is an investment, not really a way of honoring God.

Kennon Callahan's explanation is closer to the truth. "As we give, we grow. We become fuller, deeper people . . . The reward is the giving." Yet material blessing can be an aspect of that reward.

"You will be made rich in every way," the Apostle Paul assured the Corinthians, "so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV). The temptation is that we will personally lay claim to the blessings and greedily hoard them for ourselves.

■ The most disturbing answer to the question why Christian people give is that they **DO NOT KNOW**. In a recent survey, 41

percent of those asked were unable to offer a single biblical or theological reason why they gave money to their church. That may help to explain why per member giving to the church at large has decreased by 8.5 percent since 1968. During the same period, disposable after-tax income increased by nearly a third.

There is much more at stake here than meeting the church budget, however. The greater tragedy is that such a large number of believers have failed to be fully disciplined. If trends continue, the present opportunity for significant local and international Christian mission will be missed.

So perhaps we need to refocus the question. The issue is not why do people give? The truly important issue is why should they?

■ The most obvious answer is that **God commands it**. Giving is a matter of Christian **OBEDIENCE**. Properly understood, that is not a legalism. It is designed to bring fulfillment to our lives.

"Command those who are rich in this present world . . . to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be willing to share," 1 Timothy states. Why? "So that they may

take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

"We live best as we give our strengths, gifts, and competencies in God's service," someone recently has said. "Living is giving. That is the first principle for giving—and life."

■ Yet if obedience is the most obvious reason for giving, **GRATITUDE** is more fundamental. As John Wesley once put it, "If people were more alive to God, they would be more liberal." It is surprising how misunderstood that fact is. For one thing, people who give for positive reasons regularly cite gratitude as their chief motive.

Christian people, especially, seem to have a built-in desire to say thank you. They like to give—and actually give best—when they are reminded of how much they have received and how freely.

That is perfectly understandable. Carl Henry has pointed out that of all the newly acquired feelings of the new convert to Christ, none is so natural as a sense of gratitude. "Whoever does not venture the Christian life primarily out of grateful recollection misunderstands the price of His redemption. Gratitude excludes so completely the motive of salvation by works."

Since the time of St. Augustine, theologians have repeatedly emphasized the fundamental importance of gratitude for Christian service . . . including giving. "Grateful love to the redeeming God is the deepest ground of virtue," one of them has said. "All other motives for Christian living are only properly understood as they are referred to this." According to the Heidelberg Cate-

chism, all of Christian ethics can be summarized under the heading of gratitude.

Indeed, the theme of grateful love is woven throughout the fabric of scripture. The words grace and gratitude, for example, are at root one (*charis*). They are two sides of the same Greek word. Because God's *charis* (grace) is poured out on us, *charis* (gratitude) springs up in our hearts, manifesting itself in

**Paul pointed out that thanklessness, or ingratitude, is one of the two great sins of a fallen race: "they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks" (Romans 1:21, NIV). The key to Christian giving, then, is gratitude—responding to God's initiative in my life with a thankful heart.**

thankful devotion to God and dedication to His service. The writer of Hebrews graphically expressed this thought: "Wherefore, receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have gratitude whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God" (Hebrews 12:28, KJV). On the other hand, Paul pointed out that thanklessness, or ingratitude, is one of the two great sins of a fallen race: "they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks" (Romans 1:21, NIV).

The key to Christian giving, then, is gratitude—responding to God's initiative in my life with a thankful heart. That is the root of all other legitimate motives for giving. Affirming this, we are freed to do

our giving as the Bible indicates that we should. We can give . . .

• **cheerfully**, each one of us giving "what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

• **liberally**, with our generosity resulting in further thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:11).

• **sacrificially**, remembering the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who "for your sakes became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

• **proportionately**, according to what we have, not according to what we do not have (2 Corinthians 8:12).

• **systematically**, laying aside on the first day of every week a sum of money in keeping with our income (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Many fund-raising programs begin with the assumption that people give out of identifiable self-interest. As we have seen, some people do give for all the wrong motives. I would like to recommend a better, more biblical reason for giving. Why not simply give in grateful response to God's love.

In other words, "I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy . . ." to give (Romans 12:1-2). □



The Rev. James Fann is Church Planting Director, N.A.B. Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.





## Giving Through Loaning Your Money

"It is truly an awesome responsibility to manage the investments of the CEIF investors," reflects Robert Mayforth, director, Church Extension Investors Fund. "It is no different with the churches that receive the loans.

"God has allowed CEIF to surge ahead in recent years. Year end, Dec. 31, 1990, loans provided by CEIF stood at \$12,217,774. Year end, Dec. 31, 1992, they stood at \$16,524,844 or an increase of more than \$4,300,000 or 26 percent. As of Dec. 31, 1992, we had \$2,399,451 in undisbursed loan commitments."

The growth in investments has been similarly impressive. In 1990, certificates rose 12.4 percent or \$1,543,501. In 1991, they rose \$3,376,687 or 24.2 percent, and in 1992, they rose \$1,575,640 or 9.1 percent. That is total growth of nearly \$6.5 million in the last three years, or 52 percent growth.

All of us are aware of financial institutions that surged ahead only to fall apart because of poor quality investments. How is CEIF doing on that front? CEIF's past due loans were at historical lows on Dec. 31, 1992. And, at year end, CEIF's cash reserves stood at more than \$5,000,000.

CEIF has continued to invest in technology to hold down its operating expenses. As a result, CEIF absorbed the rapid growth without changes in staff size.

At CEIF's annual meeting in March, Mr. Mayforth told the Board, "The people and management of the N.A.B. Conference have allowed CEIF to serve them for the past 20 years. I believe that these have been '20 Years of Excellence'."

What about the next 20 years? George Barna in his book, *The Power of Vision*, says, "Vision concentrates on the future. It focuses on thinking ahead rather than on dwelling upon or seeking to replicate the past. Vision for ministry is a reflection of what God wants to accomplish through you to build His Kingdom. Vision reflects a realistic perspective."

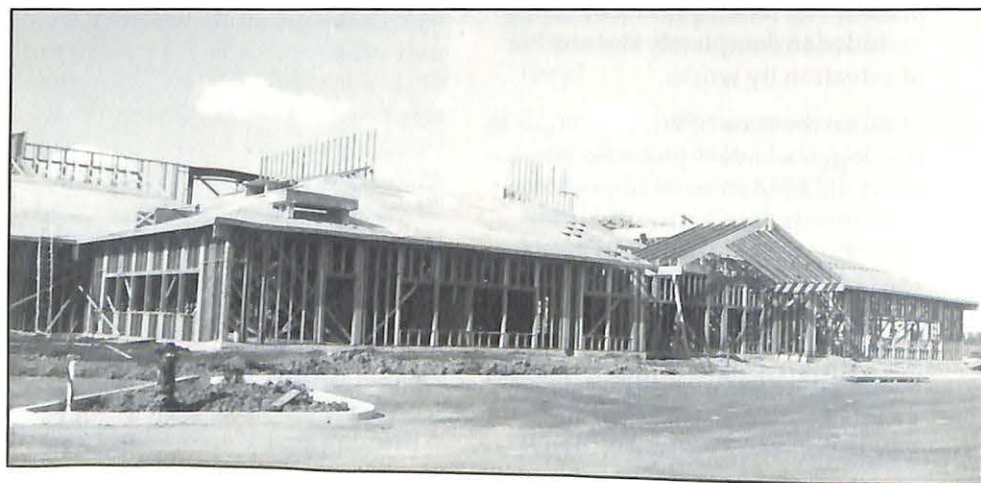
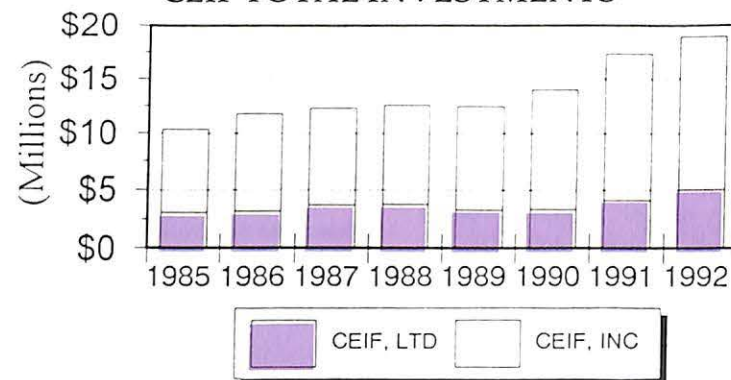
From consultations, which the CEIF staff has had with various churches across the Conference, Mr. Mayforth reports, "I see an opportunity to grant between three

and five million dollars in new loans." These consultations have led me to the following vision for our work together as N.A.B.s:

- Pastors and people looking to the future as they touch people's lives with the Good News of our Christ
- CEIF bringing together investors and churches that need facilities
- The CEIF Board providing responsible leadership for this vision

"As the CEIF Board, we must formulate the 'most possible dream' for the next 20 years." □

CEIF TOTAL INVESTMENTS



# ANNOUNCING

## A New Revocable Charitable Trust Certificate

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## *committed to* **GIVE**

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"*  
(2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV).

*"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine"*  
(Proverbs 3:9, 10, RSV).

*"Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this gracious work also"*  
(2 Corinthians 8:7, RSV).

### **DEFINITION:**

Giving is an act of worshipping God, whom we acknowledge as owner of everything. As believers and churches, we will be more mature and healthy as we excel in the grace of giving.

- ▶ **GOAL 1:** Enable believers in the local church to truly worship God in their giving.
- ▶ **GOAL 2:** Teach believers in the local church the biblical principles of giving.
- ▶ **GOAL 3:** Encourage believers in the local church to be examples to one another by excelling in generous giving.
- ▶ **GOAL 4:** Help believers understand how adopting biblical giving practices and money management principles contribute to spiritual growth and general quality of life.
- ▶ **GOAL 5:** Encourage believers to adopt challenging individual annual giving goals.
- ▶ **GOAL 6:** Help believers and churches to be involved in adopting and achieving challenging annual giving goals for the local church, association, and Conference.
- ▶ **GOAL 7:** Encourage the local churches, associations, and the North American Baptist Conference, its departments, and cooperating organizations to adhere to the highest level of integrity in all of their financial activities.
- ▶ **GOAL 8:** Encourage churches to establish guidelines in responding to outside Conference financial appeals directed at North American Baptist Conference churches and individuals.