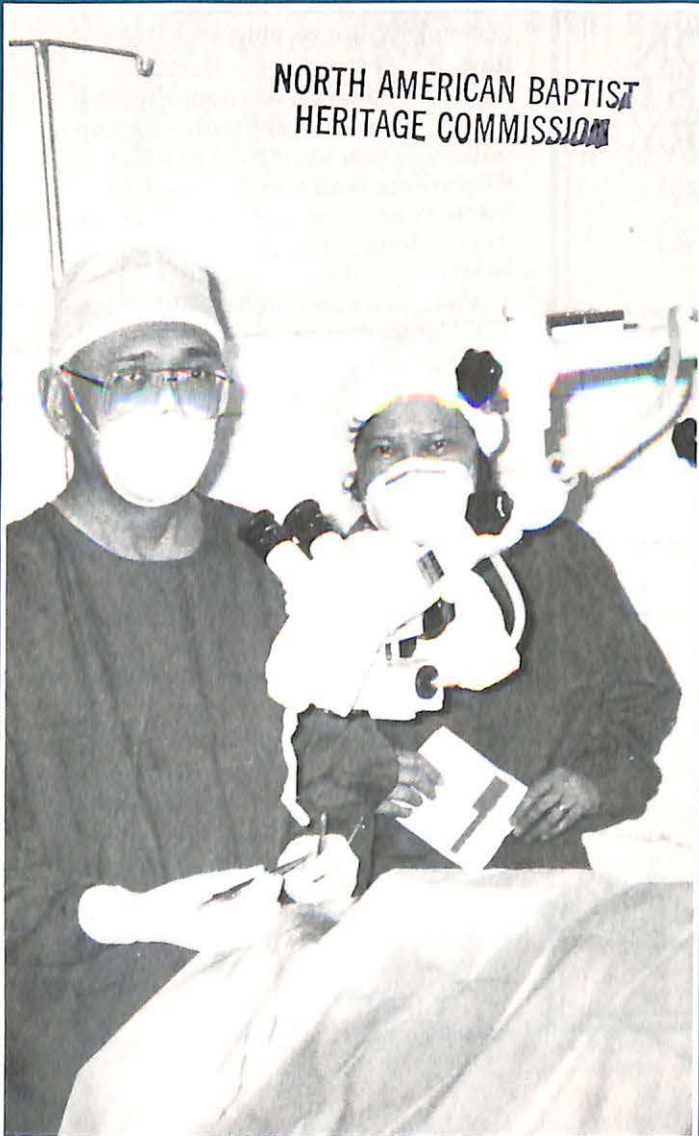


# BAPTIST HERALD

SEPTEMBER 1993



NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST  
HERITAGE COMMISSION



## An Eye Surgeon, A Missionary, And A New Church!

*See what happens when  
volunteers combine  
their gifts with the  
missionaries.*

(see page 4)

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE NEWS

# Excitement mounts as plans are made for Triennial Conference

by Holly Strauss

Planning continues for the 44th Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 2-7, 1994.

Recently, the Local Arrangements Committee led by Ron Presley, chair, and Dan Heringer, assistant chair, heard reports on the progress of the developing programs.

Young Teens Co-chairs, Glenn and Connie Curlett; Youth Committee Chair, Dan Hamil; and Singles Committee Co-Chairs, Amy and

Holly Strauss, expressed their commitment to the goals of a lot of participation, increased spiritual growth, and outstanding fellowship in their programs.

Women's Events, headed by Janell Klingenberg of Houston, TX, promise to be a special highlight for the women.

SuzAnn Hill and Rita Hipp are focusing on the Fellowship Fiesta, featuring a special southwest flavor in food, fun, fellowship, and some big-name musical talent for Saturday evening, August 6.

The Conference Decorations Committee, headed by Karen Guillory of Eunice, LA, and Kyle Nations of Kyle, TX, are working with the theme, "A Heart That Cares," to ensure that the stage is truly set for a wonderful week you won't want to miss.

Les Gerber of North Carrollton Baptist Church, usher committee chair, says he will have a special seat reserved just for YOU!

Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming registration information being mailed in January 1994 from the N.A.B. Conference International Office.

Karl and Frances Bieber of DeSoto, TX, are serving as co-registrars.

Promotional videos depicting the overall program and youth program will show you what the Triennial Conference is all about. Your area minister has a copy for you to show to your total congregation as well as to small groups.

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

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

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## Baptist Herald

September 1993 Volume 71 / Number 7



4



12



16

- 2 Excitement mounts as plans are made for Triennial Conference *Holly Strauss*
- 4 An eye surgeon, a missionary, and a new church! *Barbara Binder*
- 7 Celebration *Maria Rogalski*
- 8 Signs of Spiritual Awakening in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania *Larry Burd*
- 10 The Literate Home: An Encouraging Environment *Elaine K. McEwan*
- 12 The Management of Grief *Joe Bayly*
- 13 Job gives car for missions
- 14 Evidences of Sacrificial Giving *Herman L. Effa*
- 15 Tithing—God's Truth for Today *Lewis J. Petrie*
- 16 Meet Your New Missionaries *Herman L. Effa*
- 18 Reducing or Avoiding Federal Estate Taxes Name that Church
- 19 Youth News
- 20 Is Your Church a High-Commitment Church? *Lyle E. Schaller*
- 22 A Letter to Parents from a School Administrator *Linda Hill Schmeltekopf*
- 23 Diamonds in the Rough *Nancy Lennick*
- Share Your Ideas
- 24 Biblical Imperatives in Action
- 28 In Memoriam
- 29 What's Happening
- 30 New Texas church buys office park *Bradley Grubb*
- 31 News

Barbara J. Binder, editor  
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Dr. Mariano (second from right, front row) poses with his post-operative cataract patients at Ligao Albay Hospital.



Dr. Mariano visits the surgical ward of the Hospital. Here assisted by a nurse, he changes the eye bandage.

# An eye surgeon, a missionary, and a new church!

by Barbara Binder

Each year—during January and February—Dr. Manuel Mariano, an ophthalmologist, leaves Grand Forks, ND, for the Philippines for a two month stay—to do eye surgery. Filipino by birth, Dr. Mariano says these people are close to his heart. "I always wanted to be a missionary, so I decided that when I retire, I will be one," says Mariano.

"But before I reached retirement age, I had a heart attack. That forced me to take some time off. Some would look at this as a setback," reflects Mariano, "but I see it as God giving me two months off from my regular work each year to go to the Philippines to serve."

"My wife and I always have had a burden to help our missionaries by doing eye mission work." The Marianos' main aim is to help the

missionaries in their work—"to open doors for them."

Mariano came to the U.S.A. from the Philippines in 1968 to further his medical studies. "I finished my Ophthalmology Residency training in 1973 in Minnesota with all the intentions of going back to the Philippines, but the implementation of Martial Law there prevented us from doing so," explains Mariano. "Raising three children, clinical practice responsibilities plus other factors made us so busy for the next 14 years that our burden to go on a short-term eye mission had to be put on hold. This kept going until September 1986 when I was slowed down by a heart ailment that needed by-pass surgery. With the pressure of work and my heart problem, I finally decided to work only part-time. This newfound,

extra free time created the new possibility to do short-term eye mission work."

In 1990, Dr. Mariano met Leland Bertsch, an N.A.B. Conference missionary to the Philippines, at Grace Baptist Church in Grand Forks, ND, where the Marianos are members. Bertsch told of the mission work and the needs in the Philippines. This contact with Bertsch opened the door for Mariano to use his gifts in the Philippines.

To prepare for Mariano's visit to various villages in the Bicol Region of the Philippines, Missionaries Leland Bertsch and Gregg Evans contacted the barrio captain of each village. They asked permission to conduct outpatient eye clinics. "If you don't ask permission, you're in trouble," states Mariano.

In 1991, during Mariano's first

visit to the area, he talked with the regional director and the medical director of the government hospital. "They gave me permission to do the necessary eye surgery in the hospital," says Mariano. "God provided all the contacts and the use of the hospital . . . our eye mission was on its way."

Since then, Mariano coordinates his work with the Government's Blindness Prevention Program. With the help of the Association of Philippine Ophthalmologists of America, he contacted a local Medical School, which has an eye surgical residency training program, to assist him in the eye mission.

"The eye residents have been a tremendous help for me, since I cannot possibly physically handle all of the patient load," Mariano volunteers. "In return, I teach and give them the opportunity to learn and perform different surgical procedures."

The surgery is done at Pio Duran District Hospital in Ligao Albay . . . a hospital, which serves about five districts with about 300,000 people. "There had been no sight saving surgery done in this hospital before," reports Mariano. "All eye cases were sent to the provincial hospital in Legazpi City."

In January 1992, when Mariano returned to serve again in the Philippines, he brought along an old, but still working, examination microscope (Slit Lamp) and an operating surgical microscope. "The government does not supply medications and needed surgical supplies and instruments," explains Mariano. He solicits almost all the supplies from eye drops, anesthetics, antibiotics, eye sutures, syringes, needles, eye pads, eye shields, drugs used in surgery, tapes, eye drops, to intraocular lens implants here before I leave for the Philippines. "We use lens implants because they can be functional visually even without

Dr. Manuel Mariano (left) examines the eyes of a patient in the outpatient department of the Hospital as Missionary Gregg Evans, who helps transport people to the Hospital, looks on.



glasses," says Mariano. "Buying a pair of glasses is a hardship for the patients. Most of them can see the moment their eye bandages are removed the following day."

"All the surgical cases we screen in the outpatient clinics are brought to the district hospital for the needed operations," says Mariano. "Lee and Gregg each drive some patients to and from the hospital, because the patients lack money for transportation."

"These people remain blind from five to twenty-one years without even seeing a doctor, much more having surgery," reports Mariano. "An elderly woman, blind from cataracts, had not seen her daughter since birth 21 years ago. It was a sight to behold the day we removed her eye bandage, and she saw her daughter. They also could not afford the bus fare of about 40 cents, or buy pain pills, so we gave them our supply of Tylenol. We did not charge the patients."

The exciting part of the ministry for Mariano is that while he is seeing patients in the clinics in the villages, a missionary,

"The operating microscope is the one my wife Lily (right) and I brought to the Hospital at Ligao Albay," says Mariano. "Here we are doing surgery on a cataract patient."

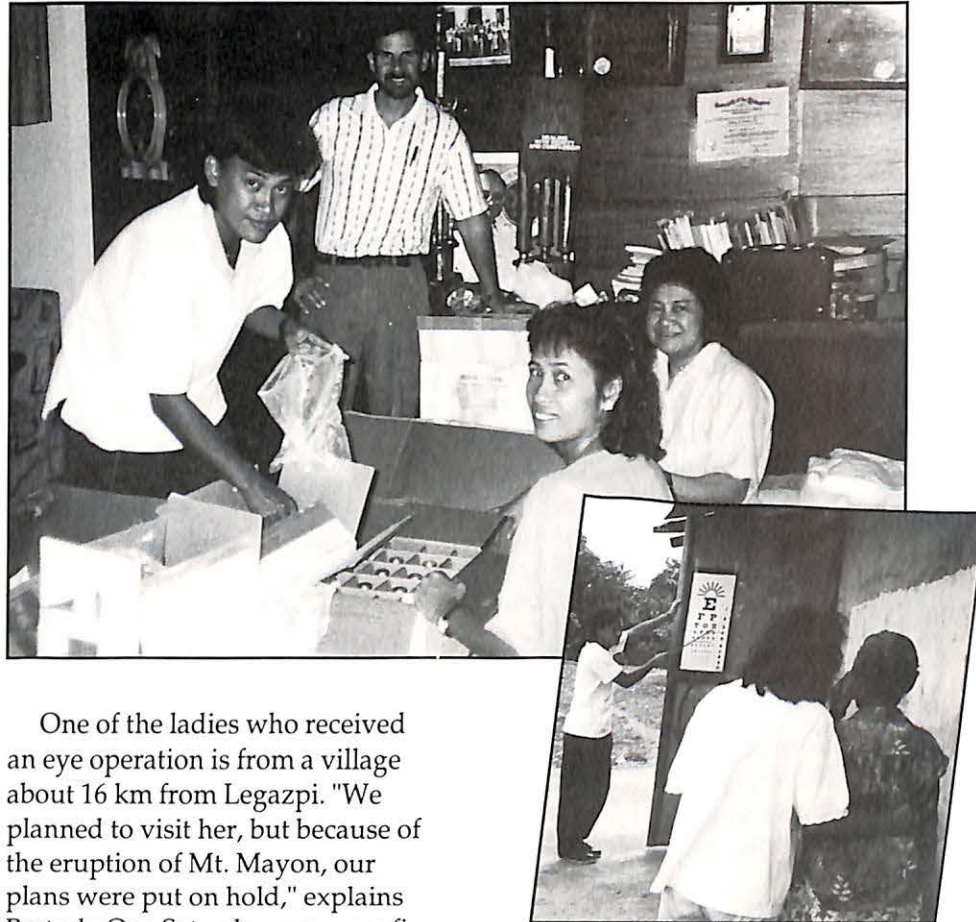


Gregg Evans or Leland Bertsch, invites patients and/or their companions to join a Bible study group. An introductory lesson in their dialect is given right on the spot.

"This simple personal approach provides opportunities for our missionaries and basically fulfills our main purpose as laypersons to help in sharing the gospel," comments Mariano. "It is our hope that the Bible study group will become a nucleus for a new church. That's one way we are planting churches in the Bicol Region."

"Dr. and Mrs. Mariano's ministry in 1993 was even a greater success than last year," reports Evans. "We

Rufus (left to right), Gregg Evans, and Celina with Lily Mariano sort out the medical supplies that the Marianos brought along with them from Grand Forks. The Medical Director of the Ligao Albay Hospital graciously loaned his office to them for this sorting process.



had targeted four rural villages for the eye clinics. More than 100 operations were performed including treatment for glaucoma, cataract removals, lens implants, excision of severely damaged/infected eyes, and even correction of severely crossed eyes."

"Both Manny and Lily do a wonderful job of representing Jesus Christ throughout their stay," comments Lee Bertsch. "They develop excellent rapport both with the medical personnel as well as with the indigent patients. The Director of the Hospital is especially appreciative of their work and gives us an open invitation to conduct any further such medical missions in his area. At one point, he even suggested that we put up a chapel on the hospital compound!"

"Especially exciting was the successful operation of Nanay, a member of our church in Legazpi," recalls Bertsch. "At age 79, she remains among our most highly motivated members. She was discouraged by her almost total blindness, but so concerned about the lost that she would ask others to be her eyes so she could do visitation and conduct Bible studies. Now she can see again and is absolutely thrilled. The rest of us have to hustle to keep up with her."

The spiritual results of the Marianos' work continue to be felt. "Given that we integrated their ministry with the Government Blindness Prevention Program, we have plenty of contact with medical personnel. In fact, the bulk of our evangelistic opportunities the first year were among them rather than among the patients," recalls Bertsch.

One of the ladies who received an eye operation is from a village about 16 km from Legazpi. "We planned to visit her, but because of the eruption of Mt. Mayon, our plans were put on hold," explains Bertsch. One Saturday, we were finally able to visit her. When we arrived, we found 15 people waiting for their first Bible study—including the baranggay Captain! So we are excited by the prospects in that place."

"The San Ramon Bible study outreach is a direct result of the Marianos' ministry," reports Evans. "Our on-again, off-again outreach in Masarawag got a real boost from the eye clinic held there. The Marianos share our desire for the medical ministry to enhance rather than eclipse the evangelistic ministry."

"The main problem is having enough personnel to do personal follow-up in some areas," declares Mariano.

Even with all of the logistical problems, inconveniences like electrical brownouts during surgery, and the Mayon volcano eruptions, the Marianos state: "Our last eye mission trip has been a joy. Especially as we hear from Lee and

*"Outpatient eye clinics provide many opportunities to mingle and talk with patients," says Bertsch. At a clinic held at Batang Bible Community Church, Rufus along with Missionary Maria Evans check the visual acuity of a patient. Rufus, a Bicol Bible school student, helps Gregg pastor the new Batang Church.*

Gregg about the response of the people hearing the gospel after we left," states Mariano. "Patients crying with joy as they can see again is also a tremendous blessing."

With a glimmer in his eye and a broad smile, Mariano says, "We are looking forward to January 1994, God willing, when we will be in the Philippines again for another short-term eye mission trip." □

# CELEBRATION!

by Maria Rogalski

**I**t was a sermon for the eyes and for the heart. A young mother crouched beside her child, a pretty little girl of about two with bouncy ponytails framing her sweet face. The mother was showing her young daughter how to throw a penny into the shallow fountain at the mall. I stopped to watch the magic of that tender moment.

The tot tossed the penny into the air, but it fell far short of the goal—landing right in front of her feet. Undaunted, the mother picked up the coin and carefully placed it into the tiny hands a second time. Another try—another failure. It took several attempts by the little girl with the patient and gentle coaching of her mother before the challenging feat was accomplished. The magic penny had joined all the other keepers of secret dreams and desires at the bottom of the wishing well.

At this success, the celebration began. The mother broke into enthusiastic cheering and applause in

praise of this achievement. "You did it! See, I knew you could do it! Good girl!" And the little girl's face began to glow.

I could hear the prolonged cheering ringing through the mall even as I hurried along on my errands, warmed by the positive demonstration of affirmation I had just witnessed.

This brought to mind another celebration and rejoicing—one that Jesus spoke about in Luke 15 when he said, "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7, NAS). I could almost hear the cheering as I visualized the joy.

I couldn't help but wonder whether not only my coming to Jesus in repentance and faith was cause for celebration in heaven and in the heart of God, but also every victory as well. Through the incredibly patient help and encouragement

of the Holy Spirit, I daily meet the challenges of my new life in Christ.

This "sermon" strengthened my resolve not to give in to discouragement by failure but to go from strength to strength following the example of the Apostle Paul. To the Philippians, Paul said, "Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14, NAS).

Reaching that goal will be cause for yet another celebration. □

*Maria Rogalski of Winnipeg, MB, is a freelance writer and a member of the McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.*

# Signs of Spiritual Awakening in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

by Larry Burd



On Sunday, May 2, 1993, Pastor Larry Burd dramatically portrayed Jonathan Edwards' famous sermon of 1741, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

**I**t all began on Sunday, Jan. 20, 1991. It had only been four days since the Persian Gulf War began. Tens of thousands of American troops were rapidly being transported to the Middle East to be engaged in war. As loved ones, friends, and neighbors were leaving, a sense of awe filled the hearts of many people. Would we ever see them again? Would they be killed in combat? Would the Persian Gulf War light the fatal fuse to begin World War III? As we assembled for worship that Sunday, these thoughts were racing through our minds.

I believe God used the Persian Gulf War to reveal His mercy, to capture our attention, and to show us our need of Him. Hearts became open to the Lord. Unbelievers found salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Christians rededicated their lives to Christ.

God's Spirit moved in a wonderful way. Incredible power was experienced in preaching the Gospel. Week after week, when the invitation was given, large numbers of people responded to God's call in their lives.

At Easter time in 1991, 46 people requested to be baptized. We held two baptismal services with 23 baptized in each service. In the midst of this Spiritual Awakening, it seemed

like Acts 2:47 was being repeated as "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

God used the revival ministry of Life Action Ministries from Buchanan, Michigan, to further the work of Spiritual Awakening in the spring of 1991. For more than two weeks, a crusade was conducted with incredible attendance at each service. Many lives were changed as people turned to the Lord in genuine humility, repentance, faith, and obedience.

Over the past two years, the signs of Spiritual Awakening have continued. Souls are being saved. Lives are being changed. One hundred and four people have been baptized, and 165 have joined the church.

Although the church went through a major expansion program, space is limited again. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

What is the secret to Spiritual Awakening in our church?

Jonathan Edwards, one of the leaders of the First Great Awakening in America during the early 1700s, once said, "When God has something very great for His church, it is His will that there should precede it the extraordinary prayers of His people."

I believe that when God's people pray extraordinary prayers, they will experience extraordinary things happening. Extraordinary prayer has been taking place in our church and community.

For the past 13 months, a monthly Prayer and Praise Service has been held the first Sunday night of each month following the regular evening service. It is thrilling to have more and more people attending this service—drawn by God's Spirit to prayer. Even after two or three hours of singing, sharing, and praying, people do not seem to want to go home. This is a work of God.

**W**hat are some of the signs that Spiritual Awakening is taking place in our community?

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was founded by the Moravians in 1741. Their founder, Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf believed in extraordinary prayer to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ. Around-the-clock prayer vigils were held continuously for more than 100 years.

Again, this kind of extraordinary prayer is being revived in our community through the ministry of the Coalition of Prayer Warriors. More than 70 people from various churches have committed themselves to pray for one hour weekly concerning spiritual awakening in our community and country. We are praying that before long there will be 168 Christians committed to this intercessory prayer ministry. Can you imagine the powerful effects of prayer being offered every hour of the week?

For the past eight months, Thursday Noon Community Prayer Meetings have been held in various Bethlehem Churches. God is drawing Christians from many different denominations to join together in earnest, fervent prayer. Pastors from many different churches are praying together and finding great joy as they pray for each other and for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in our community.

The week of April 30 - May 6, 1993, was designated as "A Week of Awakening" in our community. Various events included a Mountain Top Prayer Gathering at the Iacocca Hall Observation Tower in Bethlehem, a Day of Prayer and Fasting held in various Bethlehem churches, a Communionfest Service, a Mayor's Citizens' Prayer Breakfast, and a National Day of Prayer Rally held at the Bethlehem

City Hall Plaza on May 6 at 12:15 p.m.

God greatly blessed these events and used them to fan the sparks of Spiritual Awakening that we are experiencing in our community. Recent newspaper articles have included headlines that read: "Rebuilding Bethlehem's Spiritual Legacy, Round the Clock Prayer Revived," "Prayer Gathering Opens Week of Awakening," "Hundreds Attend Citizens Prayer Breakfast," "Student-led Prayer Groups at Schools Rise Above Restrictions," and "City Marks Day of Prayer, Hundreds Ask for Spiritual Awakening."

**W**e desperately need a moral and spiritual awakening today. In Ephesians 5:14, the Lord said, "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." The Lord is awakening His church to the need for genuine repentance, humility, faith, obedience, and "Extraordinary Prayer." David Bryant, the founder of Concerts of Prayer International, believes that "the most hopeful sign of our times is a growing prayer movement that points America toward spiritual revival."

The spiritual awakening we are experiencing in Bethlehem is just a small part of what God is doing in many churches and communities throughout North America and the world. I am thrilled to see some of the hopeful signs of spiritual awakening in our day. We have not experienced a downpour yet, but the "showers of blessing" have begun to fall. Let's continue to turn to the Lord in "Extraordinary Prayer" and watch how He will fan the sparks of Spiritual Awakening into flames. □

Larry E. Burd is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA.

# The Literate Home:



## An Encouraging Environment

by Elaine K. McEwan

Researchers have always been fascinated by children who came to school already knowing how to read. Some teachers were delighted. Some were annoyed. "That's our job," they said. "Parents should leave the teaching of reading to the professionals." What many teachers didn't realize, as in the case of my daughter, was that we didn't deliberately teach them—they learned on their own.

What was happening in the homes of these children that was different from what was taking place in other homes? Researchers

interviewed parents to discover the common elements:

- Reading took place in the home. Parents read to children regularly. They themselves read. Reading was a part of the family life-style.
- A wide range of printed materials was available in the home. Books of all kinds, magazines, and newspapers were part of the interior decorating scheme.
- Children had lots of contact with paper and pencil. (Perhaps in this modern age, our learners will have contact with computer terminals and word processors.) Chil-

dren were able to produce their own scribbles and scrawls and do their own "writing."

- All adults in the environment responded to what the child was trying to do. They took very seriously his attempts to make sense out of the written and spoken word.

### Finding Time to Read Aloud

The kindergarten teacher in my elementary school has developed a very effective technique to encourage those parents who think they don't have time to read aloud to their children.

The children fill out slips for each book their parents read aloud to them. When they turn in the slips to their teacher, they receive stars on a chart. When they have a certain number of stars, they receive a certificate. Soon the children are relentlessly hounding their parents to read aloud. The parents give in just to get peace.

We do have the time to read aloud to our children—we just don't use it. How about the waiting room at the doctor's office? How about while you're waiting for that long freight train? Whenever you're out of entertainment ideas, try a book.

One of our favorite times was just before bed. I could almost feel the stress and tension leave our bodies and our minds as we quietly read aloud. Reading aloud is a wonderful transition between an active, busy day and your child's willing trip up the stairs to bed.

### Reading Instruction: Trained Teachers or You?

You can leave the formal reading instruction to the schools. But think of all of the shared experiences, background, and knowledge your child will bring to formal instruction

if you begin reading aloud in infancy. We can never go back to those precious years with their enormous potential for learning once they are gone.

You don't need degrees and diplomas. You don't need the trappings of technology. You don't need to be remarkably learned about education and psychology. You only need a remarkable respect for the mind of a child, a willingness to be consistent, and lots of patience.

### What Else Can You Do?

Many of the things you can do in addition to reading aloud are noted in the following checklist. Use it to test your commitment to raising a reader.

- Do I help my children seek their own solutions to problems?
- Am I open-minded and receptive to my child's ideas?
- Do I have places in my home for relaxing and reading both for children and adults?
- Do I have a family bulletin board or a place for the children's projects and written work to be displayed? (The refrigerator with colorful magnets is an ideal spot.)
- Do my children have a special place where they can store their own books to read whenever they want?
- Do I talk to my children about my work and explain what I am doing and why? (The kitchen and workshop are wonderful places to talk.)
- Do I provide experiences for my children that are reading related—such as library story hours, listening to read-aloud cassettes and records?
- Do I provide writing materials and give my children an opportunity to create their own stories? An old typewriter provided a

place for my daughter to "write books." She filled pages with random letters, drew illustrations, and told her stories to me.

- Do I capture every opportunity for reading as we take trips and run errands together—such as reading street signs, grocery store displays, and other types of informational signs?
- Do I know what my children's interests are, and do I capitalize on those interests to stimulate reading—such as zoo animals, trucks, dinosaurs?
- Do I use the printed materials that come home from Sunday school as read-aloud materials during the week?
- Am I sensitive to the curious nature of my child's mind and heart regarding spiritual matters, and do I use the read-aloud experience to help answer these questions?
- Do I choose to read books, including God's Word, and make printed materials a part of my home?

If you're a teacher, grandparent, or spend time with children in any other capacity, begin now to plan how you can add the read-aloud experience to the time you share with these children. Having raised two readers of my own, I know that you and your children will be blessed and enriched as you spend time reading aloud together. □

*Dr. Elaine K. McEwan is a school principal and author of Will My Child Be Ready for School? (David C. Cook), Raising Balanced Children in an Unbalanced World (David C. Cook), and How to Raise a Reader? (David C. Cook). (Excerpted from Helping Your Child Love to Read by Dr. Elaine K. McEwan.) Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL 60120.*

# The Management of Grief

by Joe Bayly



**"Any natural response to death is proper and healthy; any unnatural one may delay the healing process and be potentially dangerous."**

Death is a wound to the living. Months after our eighteen-year-old son died, the sight of a boy's arm resting on the sill of a car window up ahead was enough to make me pull over to the side of the road because I could no longer see to drive.

A friend lost her husband after a few years of marriage. Years after he died, she told us that she could still be moved with fresh grief by witnessing a total stranger perform an act of care and thoughtfulness for his wife.

These responses to death are normal, or at least, normal for a person who deeply loved the one who died.

It could be said that any natural response to death is proper and healthy; any unnatural one may delay the healing process and be potentially dangerous.

## But what is a natural response?

Grief. Tears. An overwhelming sense of loss. Desire to be alone, or to have social contacts severely restricted.

For some—including the very religious—it may be to question God's wisdom, even His love. When Job lost his children, his possessions, and his health, he "curled the day of his birth. And Job said, '... Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?'"

Job's wife, mother of the children who died, was even more direct, "Curse God and die!" she shouted at her husband.

C. S. Lewis, brilliant apologist for the Christian faith, had an equally honest reaction to the wound of death. A bachelor until middle life, Lewis found near-ecstatic happiness and completion in his brief marriage to a woman who died of cancer a few years later.

"O God, God," wrote Mr. Lewis, "why did You take such trouble to force this creature out of its shell if it is now doomed to crawl back—to be sucked back—into it?"

This sort of honesty does not turn God away from us, but brings Him near. And it may hasten the healing process. Being brave, putting up a front, pretending that we have no problem may delay healing.

Guilt is another natural response to death's wound. All of us hurt the person we love, one way or another: We say sharp words, are inconsiderate and impatient, act selfishly. In life, we have a chance to straighten things out with "I'm sorry, please forgive me," with gifts and surprises and special acts of love.

Death closes the door on making amends, opens the door to a flood of "If only ..." thoughts.

These thoughts are not necessarily related to major ways in which we hurt the one who died. They may be quite trivial. I remember a nagging feeling of guilt for months because I had procrastinated in framing and mounting a scenic mural in the room of a son who died, and never did get the job done.

If we feel guilty, we must find forgiveness. We can't say "I'm sorry" to the one who has died, but we can say it to God. King David, after he had been an accessory to the death of the husband of a woman with whom he had committed adultery, and after the infant son born of the adulterous relationship had died, cried to God for forgiveness.

The person who does not experience forgiveness, who continues after months of acute grief to be filled with "Why didn't I?" thoughts and "If only I could just have it all to do again" is in a potentially dangerous position.

Dr. Eugene Kahn, Baylor Medical School authority in psychiatry, suggests that the solution to self-pity is to feel pity for someone else and move in the direction of helping that person.

This sort of emotional investment may be a large part of the healing we need for death's wound. Our thoughts will no longer be on what might have been, or on visiting a cemetery plot, or keeping a room "just as it was the last time he or she was in it," or on our own pains and fears of death. We will be freed from bondage to the past to move in a meaningful forward direction.

And when the wounds of death begin to heal, most people find that their memory of the one who died is freed from sickbed and casket to recall the person he really was: Laughing, frowning, encouraging, aging, working, playing, life-size. □

*Excerpted from The Last Thing We Talk About (David C. Cook) by Joe Bayly who, before his death, served as president of David C. Cook. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co.*

## Job gives car for missions

Missionaries on home assignment need transportation. Purchasing and selling a car for a short time involves considerable loss in depreciation. The Missions Department makes donated vehicles available to the missionaries thus saving considerable cost. The vehicles, received as a contribution from the donor(s), are tax deductible.



Handing the keys to a 1987 Plymouth Reliant to Missionary Ken Bayer (r.), is Mr. Eugene Job (l.) of Winnipeg, MB. If you have a good used vehicle to donate to this ministry, please contact the Missions Department, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Phone: (708) 495-2000.

## More Than Head Knowledge

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# Evidences of Sacrificial Giving

by Herman L. Effa



**Our Lord said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break through to steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."**

**I**n my opportunities to minister in local churches, overseas, and now in the capacity of Missions Director, I have seen marvelous examples of sacrificial giving. Generally, the majority of the population in the Third World countries are the poor. About 80 to 85 percent of their income is spent on food. That leaves 15 to 20 percent for housing, clothing, transportation, health, education, and miscellaneous. Savings accounts and retirement programs are not even a part of their daily vocabulary. More often words like "existence, survival, emergency, and miracle" are daily expressions of concern or gratitude.

Upon conversion, many of these people faithfully bring a tithe (10 percent) to God's house to support the ministry. As I saw them place their gift on the altar, I knew that they were not just bringing a tithe, but they were making a sacrifice. Deep within my heart, I was aware of the fact that they would eat less that coming week.

Recently, a note came to my desk from Kelowna, BC, regarding our White Cross ministry. It read, "These 305 recycled plastic pill containers were collected, cleaned, and packed by one of Trinity Baptist Church's senior members." One 80-year-old member sewed all 14 quota jackets for this year. Much of the astounding success of the White Cross projects is due to the sacrificial giving of time and resources.

On another one of my mission travels, I happened to be in a

church service where the congregation had outgrown its facilities. The church was voting to vacate its building and purchase land for a new one. The cost of the land was extremely expensive.

That very day, one of the ladies, who was a part of the building/planning committee, made a commitment to give. She offered her lifetime savings to that new venture in ministry if the church voted favorably. She would contribute one-sixth of the total cost of the new land. For years, she had saved her funds with the hope that someday she might own her own apartment. On that day, she offered all of her savings for the church's ministry. The expression of inner peace and joy that I observed on her face was far greater than any peace or contentment that ever comes to someone who is tallying up his investment portfolio.

Our Lord said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break through to steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." By this, the Lord is not saying that we should be negligent in planning, but He did say that our emphasis must be on the Kingdom of God and that emphasis expresses itself in giving. □

*The Rev. Herman L. Effa is Missions Director, North American Baptist Conference.*



# Tithing—God's Truth for Today

by Lewis J. Petrie

**"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."**

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

**R**ecently, I attended a stewardship seminar where the leaders from more than 30 denominations and ministries gathered to examine the issue of denominational funding. It was interesting to see the struggles that were common to each denomination as they strove to fund the mission and ministry challenges God had called them to fulfill.

As we discussed our various problems at our table, we were all surprised when one denominational leader volunteered to tell us that his denomination had no problems in funding their cooperative ministries.

He pointed out that every pastor in his denomination was required to tithe to the denominational office under the very real prospect of losing his pastoral credentials. Those of us at the table chuckled at the "innovative" idea. (Each denominational representative agreed that this would be an excellent idea, but despaired of the reality that it would not work among their pastors!)

This particular leader pointed out over our laughter that because each church member already knew that their pastor tithed they were more likely to give more to

their respective local church. Soon there was less laughter, and more attention given to this quiet denominational leader.

It is important that the pastor model principles of faithful stewardship. It is difficult to be teaching and preaching on a subject if one is not at least striving to meet the minimum level of obedience, especially in the area of finances. It is probably true there would be less worry over financial shortfalls if church leaders would take their responsibility as stewards more seriously.

I am sure there is another spiritual principle I am overlooking in this denomination's practice of requiring their pastors to tithe.

I tithe because I believe it honors God. William L. Hendricks wrote, "In the final analysis, the Christian's relation to tithing can be proper only if his understanding and experience of God and the redemptive action of God is right. From a true knowledge of God grows an adequate concept of stewardship and only in this broader view can tithing be meaningful for the Christian."

Paul wrote, "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Unfortunately, even the scriptural, spiritual practice of tithing can be misunderstood by the sincerest Christian in his or her zeal to be good stewards before God. Our goal in applying the truth of the tithe in our stewardship today is to glorify and honor God in our giving to support the work of building the Church of Jesus Christ.

Determine today to implement God's truth of tithing in your life! □



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

# Meet Your New Missionaries

by Herman L. Effa

*The Missions Board appointed four missionaries to begin serving this fall: Betty Buchholz and Walter Grob to minister in Cameroon and Royce and Sue Baron to Mexico. Herman Effa, missions director, introduces them through biographical sketches.*

## Walter Grob— Cameroon



Walter Grob and his parents, Hans and Ursula Grob, are active in Mission Baptist

Church, Hamilton, Ontario. Being raised in a Christian home, it was natural for Walter to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. After his baptism, he joined Mission Baptist Church.

About his growth as a Christian, Walter says, "In my later teens, I began to have doubts of the validity of the Christian faith. However, God's control of things was confirmed to me through the role model example of my youth leader, Mark Woods, and the conversion of my sister.

An active church member, Walter

served as a Sunday school teacher, an executive in the youth program, usher, deacon, and a member of the finance and mission committees. Walter's interest in missions became clearly focused when he went on a youth mission venture to Nepal. Later, from 1988-91, he served as a short-term missionary at Central Treasury in Kumba. Those three years at Kumba prepared him to serve as the Comptroller for Cameroon Baptist Convention and Field Treasurer for N.A.B. Conference missions in Cameroon beginning Dec. 19, 1993.

Pray for Walter as he assumes this important position on behalf of our missionaries in Cameroon and the Cameroon Baptist Convention. □

Royce studied at Briercrest Bible College, Rio Grande Bible Institute, University of Texas, University of the Americas, and Northeastern State University of Tahlequah. Sue received her education at Grace College of the Bible and North Eastern State University.

More than 20 years ago, God called Royce and Sue to missionary

work in Mexico. Since the North American Baptist Conference had no ministry in Mexico at that time, they served under Gospel Missionary Union and later on with "Go Ye" Mission. Their gifts of music, caring, evangelism, and discipleship have been used of God to establish churches as well as train church leaders in Mexico.

The N.A.B. Conference Missions Board appointed Sue and Royce as missionaries in March 1993. They returned to Mexico in September to join Missionaries Juan and Amanda Luna in church planting and discipleship ministry in Mexico City. □

## Betty Buchholz— Cameroon



"God spoke to me at a Billy Graham Crusade. To my amazement, I answered the call to receive

Christ. Things have never been the same. I shall never forget the day I was baptized. It was New Year's Eve. That feeling of cleanness is not describable."

This testimonial marks the beginning of an exciting and consistent walk with God for Betty. Betty's parents, Alfred and Alma Buchholz, formerly of Aberdeen, South Dakota, reside in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Calvary Baptist Church in Aberdeen, pastored at the time by the Rev. Eugene Kern, saw Betty through those initial growing periods of her Christian life. Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson and its pastor, the Rev. Daryl Dachtler, were influential in her continued spiritual growth and challenge to ministry. Her ministry includes serving as a Sunday school teacher, pianist, youth sponsor, coordinator of chime choir, a camp counselor, and vacation Bible school teacher.

During her college years, she was involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Professionally, she is a member of the North Dakota and Dickinson chapters of CPAs.

For approximately the last four years, Betty considered missionary service. "I believe God has prompted me," she says, "and Pastor Daryl Dachtler has also been an influence. I have a heart for service. I believe this is a gift from God—I must use it."

Betty will fill an urgent need as a short-term missionary at Central Treasury in Kumba, Cameroon, West Africa. The Central Treasury serves as a support ministry for all of our missionaries as well as the national church in Cameroon.

We urge you to pray for her as she uses her accounting skills at the Treasury and her ministry skills in the Kumba church and with its youth group as well as in association ministries. Appointed by the Missions Board in March 1993, Betty leaves for Cameroon in early November. □

## Royce and Sue Baron—Mexico



At seven years of age, Royce Baron received Christ as his personal Savior. The Rev. Henry Schumacher baptized Royce when Royce was 12 years old in Fenwood, Saskatchewan, where he was born.

At the Fenwood Baptist Church, the Rev. Jake Neudorf challenged Royce, as a young man, to see opportunities for witness and ministry in Melville, Saskatchewan. It was through the beginning of a Sunday school, followed by evening services, that eventually led to the transfer of the activities of Fenwood Baptist Church to the city of Melville, Saskatchewan. Royce says of his call to missions, "Mother and Dad (William and Bertha Baron)

prayed and encouraged our involvement in missions."

Sue Risley Baron writes about her conversion experience, "I was saved in the kitchen at home when I was almost four years old. I realized that Jesus loved me and died for me. I asked Him to come into my life, to forgive my sin, and make me His child." At the age of nine, Sue was baptized at First Baptist Church, Omaha, Nebraska. Her parents are Theron and Amenette Risley of Omaha.

Royce and Sue were married in June 1964. They have three daughters and one son. Two of their daughters are missionaries in Mexico.

## Reducing or Avoiding Federal Estate Taxes

Many individuals do not realize that estate taxes are optional taxes. You can 1) pay the tax, 2) postpone the tax, or 3) avoid the tax completely.

When you choose to avoid the tax completely, you are really saying that Uncle Sam is not your charity of choice. For the federal government is, in fact, a charitable organization.

For an individual, there is no federal estate tax payable for an estate valued at less than \$600,000. Or for a married couple, if the estate is planned properly, taxes can be avoided on the first \$1.2 million.

Everything else is subject to tax, and the tax rate starts at 37 percent, and increases to 55 percent on estates in excess of \$3 million.

Now, back to your three choices. If your estate is in excess of these values, you can

- **Pay the tax**, and obviously that's the most expensive alternative for the estate. Or
- **Postpone the tax**. Under certain circumstances, where there is a family business, there is an option which allows you to postpone estate taxes for up to 15 years, with interest only for the first five years at rates as low as 4 percent. Or
- **Avoid the tax**. To avoid the tax, the property subject to tax is transferred to a specially designed charitable trust that pays income to a charitable organization for a period of years. At the end of the trust period, the property is distributed to the family members, either at a greatly reduced tax or totally tax-free, depending upon the design of the trust.

So now you know, you have a choice. Is Uncle Sam your charity of choice? If not, then you should know that our staff has prepared a special planning report, *How to Save Estate and Gift Taxes Using a Charitable Trust*, which we would like to make available to you at no cost or obligation.

(Neither the Development Department nor the N.A.B. Conference is engaged in rendering legal or tax advice. For advice or assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney should be obtained. The purpose of this article is to provide information of a general character only.)

☐ **YES!** Please send me the special planning report, *How to Save Estate and Gift Taxes Using a Charitable Trust*. I understand there is no cost or obligation.

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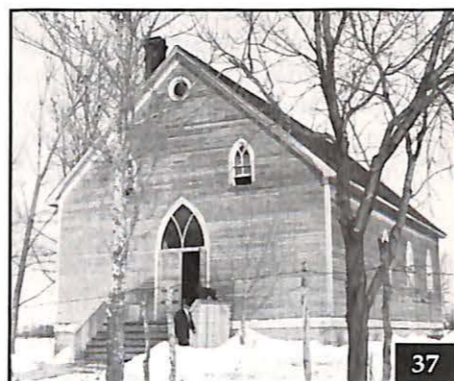
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## Name That Church!

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



## Two Whitecourt youth serve in Mexico

■ WHITECOURT, AB. Lisa Golding and Jason Eisbrenner, two of Whitecourt Baptist Church's youth served in Mexico City on a summer mission trip. They were part of the GATEWAY team led by Randy and Shelley Schmor and Fred and Nancy Folkerts. They joined team members Mony Fangrad, Mike Lehman, Deb Faszer, Gretchen Korb, Christa Ohlmann, Ronda Ohlmann, and Jesse Salzman. They served by distributing Bibles, doing home visitation evangelism, conducting VBS, and remodeling the church building—and experienced spiritual growth.—Arlene Dickau

## Winnipeg youth take "urban plunge"

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Eight youth from Fort Richmond Baptist Church, ages 12-25, led by Youth Pastor Michael Tachuk went on an Urban Plunge. They worked with Harry Lehotsky and New Life Ministries, living downtown in Winnipeg for a week in August. The youth put on a VBS program.

"We do not have to go across the world or even out of our city to get that mission experience," says Pastor Mike.

# YOUTH NEWS

The mission trip started off with a lot party. The entire team planned this event. One of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers shared his testimony. The event drew 250 people who enjoyed music, free hotdogs, and a great time of building relationships.

By the end of the trip, the team had developed lasting relationships with each other, the people from New Life Ministries, and the children they served.

One team member reported, "It was just great to serve the Lord, and help one of our sister churches for the sake of showing God's love and not expecting anything in return!"

"This mission trip was perhaps the most memorable event that FRBC youth have ever done," says Tachuk. "It will have lasting effects on the people that it was touched by

both in our church, New Life Ministries, and our inner-city.

## Youth serve on mission project

■ ALPENA, MI. A team of 22 high school youth and adult leaders from Word of Life Baptist Church spent a week in Reynosa, Mexico, to build two houses and conduct a VBS program.

Associate Pastor Tim Powell was one of the church leaders accompanying the team. The Rev. Fred Sweet is the pastor.—Judy Priest

## Alberta youth experience "Mountain Madness"

■ CALGARY, AB. Senior highs of Brentview Baptist, Calgary; Central Baptist, Edmonton; and Park Meadows Baptist, Leth-

bridge, participated in a special weekend retreat, "Mountain Madness."

"About 40 youth went into the Rockies to the Kananaskis region by chartered bus. A nature hike, a bear hunt to Troll Falls, and a treasure hunt in King Creek Canyon kept us busy all day," reports Harry Hiller. The day ended with a great picnic by the creek in the shadows of the mountains and devotions led by Pastor Doug Meyer of Lethbridge.

Sunday morning, Carl Bland of the Calgary Stampers shared from his own experiences as a Christian athlete. At noon, a family potluck concluded the weekend with 120 in attendance. "It was a great time to get together with senior highs we did not know before," says Hiller. □





# Is Your Church a High-Commitment Church?

by Lyle E. Schaller

**D**uring the past quarter century, thousands of congregations affiliated with one of the "mainline" Protestant denominations have watched as their membership decreased, their worship attendance dropped, and the size of the Sunday school plummeted. Concurrently, thousands of other churches . . . have grown rapidly in size . . . attracting relatively large numbers of people born after 1955. This contrast has evoked considerable speculation, but the reason behind the growth of some congregations and the numerical decline of others can be summarized in two words: *Expectations and commitment.*

What is the difference between the 400-member, 90-year-old congregation that now averages 145 at worship and 65 in Sunday school, down from 275 in worship and 235 in Sunday school 30 years ago, and the 15-year-old, 300-member church that meets in a building two miles away and averages 425 in worship and 400 in Sunday school?

One part of the answer often includes words and phrases such as *quality, preaching, relevance, enthusiasm, the teaching ministry, the attractiveness of the pastor, evangelism, reaching the unchurched, intercessory prayer, Bible study, and music.*

Equally important, however, are the expectations projected by the leaders, both paid and volunteer, in that younger, larger, and growing church. The leaders project high ex-



pectations, both by word and by their actions. The leaders are deeply committed Christians who typically place the living-out of their faith high on their own personal priority list. The pastor and staff model that priority.

It is not at all unusual to hear a volunteer leader explain, "I have three priorities in my life: My family, my church, and my job, in that order." Occasionally, a hobby will replace the job as the third priority. Some critics, and at least a few employers or family members, may correct that sequence to be church, family, and hobby, in that order.

## What Is the Most Visible Sign?

It is impossible for sinful human beings to look into the hearts, souls, and minds of individuals to measure a person's commitment to Jesus Christ. Therefore, the easiest-to-measure signals that emanate from the high-commitment churches are behavioral.

The simplest, and perhaps the most highly visible sign, comes from the expectations projected for Sunday morning. The typical Christian church in North America expects everyone to come together for the corporate worship of God and hopes at least a few will also attend Sunday school. A fair number see that as an extravagant expectation. In these congregations, the Sunday morning schedule is designed to project the expectation that everyone will

come either for worship or for Sunday school, since both are scheduled for the same hour.

The low-commitment churches project the expectation that at least one-half of today's members will not attend worship by scheduling only one service in a room that will accommodate no more than one-half of the current membership.

A variety of means can be used to discourage the attendance of visitors, such as advertising worship at eleven o'clock on the bulletin board in front of the building and/or in the Yellow Pages and/or in the local newspaper and beginning a half

hour earlier or by choosing unfamiliar or tuneless hymns or by skipping parts of the liturgy (without announcement) found in the worship book or by dull, wandering, and pointless sermons, or by ignoring strangers.

By contrast, the high-commitment churches expect everyone to be present for both Sunday school and worship. Many of them design a three-period schedule that enables volunteers to be involved in an adult class, teach in the children's division, and also participate in corporate worship. The expectation is that everyone will be present for two or three periods of time on Sunday morning. If the space is limited, the Sunday morning schedule may be extended to four periods of time.

A redundant system is used to invite, welcome, and follow up on first-time visitors. The expectation that first-time visitors will be present may be reinforced by the choice of a well-known and easy-to-sing opening hymn; by printing the complete order of service in the bulletin; by wording all announcements to make sense to a stranger; by *not* reprimanding the members for their shortcomings; by *not* presenting bad news about the state of that church's finances; by designing the worship experience to speak to the religious needs of pilgrims, searchers, seekers, and others on a religious quest; and by meaningful (to a stranger) prayers of intercession.

## What It Is Not

Uninformed critics of these high-commitment churches sometimes confuse the issue by identifying them as highly legalistic or fundamentalist or as cults. This is far from accurate. A classic example of a legalistic approach to this subject came in 1610, when the colonial legislature in Virginia adopted a three-level series of penalties for failure to

attend Sunday morning worship. One failure was punished with forfeiture of one week's provisions. Skipping church twice was punished by a whipping. The punishment for three unexcused absences was death (Witold Rybczynski, *Waiting for the Weekend*, Viking, 1991, p.74).

In today's highly permissive society, legalisms are not effective motivators except in a few ultraconservative religious traditions.

## What Is Expected?

The vast majority of today's high-commitment churches are organized not around legalisms but, rather, around *expectations*. People, both members and constituents, are expected to take seriously the teachings of Jesus. These churches expect that the life of the believer will be transformed by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

These churches expect believers to live out their faith. That is one reason so many people from high-commitment churches volunteer to feed the hungry, to spend a few weeks working in a mission post on another continent, to shelter the homeless, to return their tithe to the Lord via that congregation, to pray for others, to be engaged in a serious and continuing study of the Scriptures, to visit those in jail, to help plant new missions, to express compassion toward those in need, to attend an adult class while their children are in Sunday school rather than to gather in a corner to drink coffee and talk, to invite others to come to their church, to welcome strangers, to make substantial personal sacrifices in support of the ministry of their church, and to witness to their faith in their place of work.

## What Are the Results?

Products of these high expectations are • A high level of religious

and personal commitment by the members • Worship attendance frequently exceeds the membership • A comparatively high level of both personal and financial support for missions • A disproportionately large number of leaders and members born after 1945 • Minimal participation in the contemporary ecumenical movement, which tends to attract leaders from low-commitment religious traditions • Strong group life, where many people find the intimacy, sharing, support, and nurture they seek • Seven-day-a-week programming • According to economist Laurence Iannaccone, members are convinced that their investment of time, money, commitment, skills, and energy produces personal benefits to themselves that more than justify that investment. The members view their high commitment as a positive cost-benefit relationship. This is one reason, according to Iannaccone, that members of high-commitment churches tend to be happier than the members of low-commitment churches.

These patterns of behavior also may help to explain why members of high-commitment churches are more likely than the general population to serve as volunteers in non-sectarian charitable organizations in the community in which they reside.

Finally, it should be added that while normal institutional pressures tend to cause a high-commitment congregation (or denomination) to drift in the direction of low-commitment, a substantial number of long-established congregations today are in the process of reversing that pattern as they project higher expectations of their members. □

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The author of the following article, Linda Hill Schmeltekopf, is Assistant Principal for Counseling and Instruction at Hays High School, Kyle, Texas, with 1,200 students in grades 9 through 12. She is also a mother and a grandmother. Linda and her husband, Morris, are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Kyle.

## A Letter to Parents from a School Administrator

Dear Parents,

God has blessed me with the opportunity to teach, guide, serve, discipline, and work with parents and young people for the past 25 years. My experiences and my blessings have been many as I have worked in this "mission field." I cannot tell you that all of these experiences were good; some were sorrowful, tearful, and stressful. But God armed me with strength, and His right hand sustained me (*Psalms 18:32, 35*).

It is from these experiences, both positive and negative, that I write this letter with the prayer that it will influence you, as parents, to guide your child to the successful completion of his education and on to his choice of life experiences that are rewarding, satisfying, and pleasing to God.

### Accept, love, and live for the Lord

There are what I call "Two Musts" of parenting. The first "Must" is accept the Lord, love the Lord, and live your life for the Lord. If you haven't accepted Christ and His saving grace, do so right now. All of us have sinned, and the wages of our sin is death (*Romans 3:23; 6:23*), but God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners,

Christ died for us (*Romans 5:8*). Ephesians 2:8 explains that if we put our faith in Jesus, we can be saved. I pray you will trust Christ as your Savior and invite Him into your heart right now by praying to Him. You and your child both need Him!

If and when you have accepted Christ, then live your life (whatever the circumstances) for Him. Children need examples and role models of dedicated Christians. My experience shows that people emulate what they see in action. If your child sees you living a life of dedication to Christ and of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*), he is strengthened to follow your example.

I do not believe God ever intended for us to parent in isolation. Whatever your family style situation, when you believe in God and walk with Him, He is there to help you in your parenting role, whether it be as a single parent, two-parent family, blended family, or extended family. Lean on and trust God to lead and direct you in your parenting role. Pray and ask for God's guidance in your decisions and actions daily. Pray for your child that he may grow in love and knowledge and please Him in every way (*Colossians 1:10*).

### Love your child and tell him or her

The second "Must" is that you love your child and tell him or her every day. Parenting is a full-time responsibility that has no room for loving and caring about yourself first. If you are part of the "me first" culture, get over it immediately. I believe that when we have children, we sign a 20-year contract with the child and with God, the maker of this child, to love the child and dedicate our lives to the rearing of this child in a Christ-like manner and Christian atmosphere.

Additional advice, given as an educator, who has observed the successes and failures of parents as well as listened to the revelations of students as they share their thoughts and feelings with me, is as follows:

1) Know your child's teachers, principals, and counselors, and enlist them as part of your team for your child. Visit them before a problem arises. Let them know you pray for them, support them, and appreciate their dedication to your child. Stop by for an informal visit on your way to work. Take them out for lunch or dinner—with no strings attached! Invite them to your church. Principals want to be involved in the activities of the community and would enjoy a chance to visit your church.

2) Encourage involvement of your child as well as yourself. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities make better grades and have less time to be involved with the temptations in the world. Give of your time and be involved in your child's school and its activities. Demonstrate your interest and desire to be a part of your child's activities.

I have observed that when parents are at their child's school and involved in the activities, the students have higher academic achievement and fewer behavioral problems. Give up a vacation day to volunteer in your child's school.

3) Support your child's teacher as an authority figure whom your child needs to respect. Don't talk negatively of the teacher and school in front of your child. If you have a concern or a complaint, talk about it to the teacher or principal.

4) Provide a place and time for

your child to study. Be involved in the child's studies. Be interested in their lessons, discuss class activities, and ask your child to explain class lectures, homework problems, and readings to you. Visit with the teacher or principal if the nature of the information is in violation of what you and the community believe should be taught in schools.

5) Be sure your child is in school unless he is seriously ill. Never allow him to skip school and never, never write a bogus note. When you allow skipping or truancy, you are teaching poor work habits and modeling dishonesty, deceitfulness, and lying.

6) Teach decision-making, problem solving, and responsibility. A child needs to know that he is responsible for his possessions, his homework, and his actions. Make the child face his consequences. Don't lie for him. Don't do it for him. It may hurt (you and him), but

it is the way he learns and matures. Trust your child, but recognize that he can make mistakes and wrong decisions. If a problem occurs, do not blame others (school, police, friends, etc.), but realize that the child is responsible for his own actions and must face the consequences. Do not bail him out of any wrongdoing. Make him responsible!

As you give your child guidance through these years of growth and education, I pray these suggestions are helpful and will support you in your parenting role.

Proverbs 22:6 gives a challenge and a promise. May you accept the challenge to train your child according to God's will, so he will develop into adulthood as a believer and follower of Christ. God bless you and your child.

Sincerely,  
Linda Hill Schmeltekopf □



## Diamonds in the Rough

by Nancy Lennick  
WMF president  
Dickinson, ND

Whenever our 1993 Biblical Imperative, "Committed to Give," is mentioned, people begin to see, in their minds, little dollar bills floating around. And financial giving is a very important way in which we further the Lord's work toward the end that lives are changed.

Many times, however, it is harder for us to give of our time and talents than it is to place our money in an offering plate and go on about our busy lives.

In his song, "Thank you," Ray Boltz beautifully expresses what will happen when we get to heaven:

We will be thanked by those whose lives have been changed by little things we have said or done, unnoticed on earth, but proclaimed in heaven.

We often feel we could not make a difference in someone else's life, but each of us is given gifts to use: "... Each man has his own gift from God" (*1 Corinthians 7:7*). We need to remember that our ability is not so important as our availability. If we will make ourselves available, the Lord will do the rest. This is told of the Macedonian church: "I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability" (*2 Corinthians 8:3*).

Each day, may we be aware of people who need an extra smile, a hug, or another need met in their

lives. Then someday, either on this earth or in heaven, someone will say to us, "Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed." □

### Share Your Ideas

What Christmas outreach activities have been effective in helping your WMF group minister to the women in your community? We'd like to publish your ideas in a future issue of the *Baptist Herald* to share with the women of our Conference.

Send a brief description of the outreach activity/program and the name of the WMF contact person in your church to Pam Arends, 17105 Barnstable Drive, Rockville, MD 20855.

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

## CHALLENGED TO GROW

**Iowa Association holds annual ladies retreat**

■ LANSING, IA. The 16th annual Iowa Association Ladies Retreat was held at Village Creek Bible Camp, Lansing, IA. Forty-two women enjoyed musical numbers, skits, readings, and crafts.

Guest speaker, Mrs. Helen Zurbriggen, Elgin, IA, spoke about reconciling yourself to your family, the people in the community, and God and how to be a more effective witness to the lost.

An offering of \$825 was presented to the Camp. Next year, the retreat will be April 8-10.—*Barbara Hackmann*

**Portland church participates in 50 Day Adventure**

■ PORTLAND, OR. Dr. Donald Richter, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, led more than half of the congregation in the 50 Day Adventure daily devotion plan.

**Morris church chases away blues**

■ MORRIS, MB. The congregation of Morris Baptist Church participated in a variety of activities during one month last winter.

They took a trip to Hawaii on a mockup jet plane complete with sound effects and flight personnel. They landed at a beautiful

beach with blue sky and ocean, flowers, palm trees, and beach furniture. The vacationers wore appropriate dress, and enjoyed games, songs, a travel video, and Hawaiian lunch.

They visited a local senior citizens home where a church member showed slides of Australia.

At the annual WMF program, Pastor Del and Mrs. Evelyn Bertsch showed slides of their trip to Cameroon.

Two church ladies planned a Family Night with music, skits, a meditation, and refreshments.

Two other events included celebrating church birthdays with a Musical Request Night and sampling 20 decorated birthday cakes as well as an evening at the local ice arena for skating and hockey.—*Cynthia Bergstresser*

**Minitonas church has "Drive-in Church" during the summer**

■ MINITONAS, MB. For the past two years, First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB, has held evening services on the parking lot of the Church. A flatbed trailer is pulled to an appropriate place against the building and a sound system hooked up for the eight piece musical combo, the "Minitones."

The Minitones start

playing at 7:20 and continue into the service time of 7:30 until 7:40. That allows plenty of time for cars to drive onto the lot where they are aided in parking by the ushers. People can chose to stay in their vehicles or sit in seats provided in front of the platform. Some bring their own chairs and sit by their cars. What people do is partly dictated by the weather.

The service consists of six special numbers, some brief, relevant announcements, and a message 20 minutes long that presents the gospel. The message is broken into two parts by two special numbers. This keeps the service light. One of the announcements, given earlier, is that there will be coffee and cookies after the service. This is repeated after the service is closed by a final special number and prayer. Coffee time is probably the most fruitful period of the service. It gives opportunity for church and unchurched to fellowship.

The attraction of the service is that it is different. Using the name "Drive-in Church" captures people's imagination. "Though not everyone agrees with it, most of our people enjoy it and throw their weight behind it," comments Pastor Ron Kelway, at the time.

It is useful in that the meeting is advertised, "Come in your car; come as you are." People come, especially the members of First Baptist, others who have no evening services, and many who don't go to church at all. They hear the gospel. As our Church touches more unchurched people, this kind of service

as well as meetings like Sunday school picnics will serve to build a bridge for new ones to cross into the regular services of the Church," says Kelway.

**Emery church holds family life conference**

■ EMERY, SD. Dennis and Jill Eenigenburg, pastor and wife at North Highlands Bible Church, Dallas, TX, were the guest speakers at the Family Life Conference at First Baptist Church.

The topics included "Husband," "Wife," "Five Purposes of Marriage," "Five Threats to a Healthy Marriage," "God's Plan for Marriage," "Communication," and "Intimacy and Building a Heritage." The Rev. Charles P. Davis was pastor at the time.—*Margie Fluth*

**Round Lake church purchases land**

■ GLADWIN, MI. The Round Lake Baptist Church (a rural church) purchased 20 acres of land one mile from the city limits. Groundbreaking is projected for spring 1994. More than 150 people attended the Land Dedication Service and Sunday school picnic held at the new site. The Rev. Robert Brown is the pastor.—*Mrs. Jean Jurgensen*

**Muller speaks at Minitonas church**

■ MINITONAS, MB. Dr. Willy Muller spoke on family and communication at First Baptist Church.

"The talks were dynamic, and those attending were left with many principles to apply to their ev-

eryday lives," reports Monica Muller.

**South Canyon church expands its ministry**

■ RAPID CITY, SD. South Canyon Baptist Church has added church planters, Denis and Lori Friederich, in Mechanicsburg, PA, to its mission budget.

Missionaries David and Mary June Burgess, Cameroon, were the speakers at the Church's missions conference.

The membership care ministry expanded with H.O.M.E. (helping others meet emergencies), which provides meals to Church people in times of illness and help for homes with new babies. The care sections were sub-divided with care leaders for smaller groups to provide a greater level of support.

A new Church constitution has been adopted with new elders chosen and new ministry teams appointed for worship, discipleship, fellowship, witness, stewardship, and spiritual gifts. The spiritual gifts ministry team, a year-round personnel management group, helps a maximum number of people find a place for ministry.

"Our vision as a Church is to have our ministry teams provide devotional Bible study and prayer, support for members within the group, and handle administrative duties for our teaching, training, service, and witness goals," reports Wanda Decker. "The supreme goal is to be a community of LOVE where worship to God, care for each other, and concern for others outside our Church motivate us to

be truly UNSELFISH in likeness to our Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ."

Eight new members were welcomed into the fellowship of South Canyon Baptist Church. The Rev. Ralph Cooke is pastor.

**Central Baptist hosts German Faith Conference**

■ KITCHENER, ON. The annual German Faith Conference was held at Central Baptist Church, with Dr. Reinhold Kerstan as the guest speaker.

"Although it is always a happy occasion to greet and worship with our brothers and sisters from neighboring churches, it is, however, sad to see that since the decision was made to speak only German at the Faith Conference and only English at the Eastern Association sessions, the German group has been declining. The Mass Choir, not a mass choir anymore, is now a fair choir of some 60 people," reports Irene Noack, Mission Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON.

**Napier Parkview teens attend Word of Life Camp**

■ BENTON HARBOR, MI. Youth Pastor Cal Alderink along with other sponsors, took eight teens to the Word of Life Camp in Schroon Lake, NY.

"Most of the teens renewed their commitment to Christ with one teen making a decision of salvation," reports Millie Enders. "Some made a vow to maintain sexual purity until marriage." The Rev.

John Kaufeld is the senior pastor.

## COMPELLED TO SERVE

**Hamilton members attend area meetings**

■ HAMILTON, ON. The annual Ladies' Retreat of the Eastern Association was held June 11-13 in Guelph, ON.

Many of Mission Baptist Church gathered for the annual Family Camp at Miller Lake, ON—a special time to interact informally.

About 170 German seniors of the Golden Horse-shoe churches met at Mission Baptist for fellowship and dinner with the Rev. John Goetz as speaker.

The German Seniors of area N.A.B. Conference churches camped at Miller Lake and enjoyed the fellowship.

A special evening of music and testimony program by "Integrity" of N.A.B. College was a welcome change at the Church.

Serving two language groups, Mission Baptist Church ministers to an average of 97 in the German service and 118 in the English Sunday morning service.

The Church plans a 40th anniversary celebration in March 1994. You are invited!—*Irene Noack*

**Missionaries visit Boca Raton church**

■ BOCA RATON, FL. Among the missionaries

visiting Evangel Baptist Church have been the Richard Kaiser family, who served in Brazil; Florence Miller, retired after 30 years in Japan; and David Burgess, who served in Africa. The Rev. Paul Meister serves as the pastor.—*Bea Pankratz*

**Native Camp has successful summer**

■ SPRINGSIDE, SK. Good Spirit Native Camp was a great success again this summer with many decisions, many conflicts with the spiritual enemy, and many visible demonstrations of Christ's power.

The Camp was not able to accommodate all the Native children who registered—31 had to be turned away.

Pastor Alan Powell is serving as the new director of the Camp, succeeding Pastor Richard Grabke. Deanne Anaka has served for a number of years as coordinator of the Camp.—*Richard Grabke*

**Redeemer celebrates 100 years of ministry**

■ ST. PAUL, MN. Having roots in the First Baptist Church of St. Paul, MN, 16 German Baptists began a church at the corner of 13th and Canada Streets in St. Paul on Aug. 3, 1873.

Twenty years later, this

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

congregation built a new building on the east side of St. Paul at Fifth and Mendota. To identify with the new neighborhood, the First German Baptist Church changed its name to Dayton's Bluff Baptist Church.

In 1968, the congregation built a larger building in Oakdale, MN, and it is presently called Redeemer Baptist. On Aug. 1, 1993, the congregation celebrated its anniversary with a personal thanksgiving communion worship service—a time of remembrance and renewed faith.

With the beginning of 1993, the congregation began collecting coins each day to be given to the Baptist World Alliance for world hunger. The final collection day was the anniversary Sunday, Aug. 1. Following the potluck dinner, the Church counted up the coins for a total of \$865.

The focus of the potluck dinner was to help the congregation understand the depth of world hunger. The morning church bulletins, printed on three different colors of paper, represented three populations

of the world. Half of the congregation received a color that placed them in the poverty-stricken people group. A majority of the second half were of the developing countries, and a small minority received the color of the productive countries. This smaller productive section was served at a fine table set with china and silver. A piano provided warm, friendly music as the table server provided this minority with a feast.

The other less fortunate sections dined on bread and water. The poverty-stricken group met in a hot, close room with one loaf of bread and a pail of dirty (tea stained) water.

"Once some explanation was given concerning the conditions of each group, the curtains were opened so all could see the other groups. It helped people to understand the lack of as well as the abundance of food," says Pastor Eric Coulon.

September 19 was a second special day of anniversary celebration with Dick and Dottie Anthony representing a sacred concert.

ings and services included a series of excellent messages on the Biblical Imperative, "Committed to Give," given by the Rev. James Fann, church planting director, N.A.B. Conference," reports June Hunt. "Mr. Fann used unique and thought-provoking scripture and illustrations in challenging us to give back to the Lord our time, talents, and financial resources."

The Association has become multi-cultural with two Chinese congregations. Reports were given from various ethnic groups currently meeting in N.A.B. churches: Filipino groups in two churches, a Spanish Mission, a Hungarian Mission, a Cantonese Chinese group, a North American Indian group, and possibly a Portuguese group amalgamating with another church.

The hand of fellowship was extended to First Baptist Church of Oroville, WA, as this Church was welcomed into the British Columbia Association.

#### Saskatchewan Association holds annual meeting

■ EBENEZER, SK. Ebenezer Baptist Church hosted the Saskatchewan Association annual meeting with the theme, "Committed to Give."

Eighty-five ladies attended the ladies' luncheon and annual meeting with the theme, "The Gift Goes On." Mrs. Lilyane Bienert, missionary to Brazil, was the guest speaker.

Forty men attended the men's luncheon and heard guest speaker, the Rev. James Fann, church plant-

ing director of the N.A.B. Conference.

An offering of \$565 was taken for the Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Seminary (Brazil) Scholarship Program.

Two workshops were conducted: "Rich Enough to Invest," by James Fann, and "Invest Enough to Be Rich," Missionary Keith Bienert.

On Friday evening, 130 people heard special musical selections from various churches and speaker Lilyane Bienert.

New officers were installed. One item of business that was encouraged to continue to pursue was W.O.R.D. Ministries—Winning Our Rural Districts for Christ.

The Rev. Kurt Redschlag of Edmonton Baptist Seminary, spoke to 110 people at the Association banquet.

Mr. Fann spoke at the Sunday morning worship service at Ebenezer Baptist Church and again at the closing rally. The Rev. Wayne Jorstad is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.—*Martha Dreger*

#### Jamesburg church burns mortgage

■ JAMESBURG, NJ. First Baptist Church held a mortgage burning ceremony to retire the mortgage obtained 17 years ago for building their present facility.

The Rev. John Ziegler, area minister, brought the message that the power of the presence of the Lord is always with us. A time of reflection and recognition followed the service. The Rev. Fred Fowler is the pastor.—*Irma Norman*

#### Herreid church gives for camp ministry

■ HERREID, SD. An annual chili/knoepfla soup, sandwich, and pie dinner was held to sponsor two days of camp at Crystal

Springs Baptist Youth Camp in Medina, ND. The offering given was \$831—exceeding the goal once again this year.—*Wanda Berndt*

### COMMANDED TO CARE

#### Central Baptist Home receives top rating

■ NORRIDGE, IL. In March 1993, the Illinois State Inspection of Care Team did its annual survey at Central Baptist Home, Norridge, IL, and the Home received one of the best ratings ever. One State employee described Central Baptist Home as the "Cadillac of nursing homes."

An independent consultant did a multi-day review and said, "CBH, in all

levels of care, rates extremely high and is being provided for by caring and sensitive staff who are certainly operating in the best interest of the residents."

A survey done for AAHA homes by Ernst & Young related data for comparison purposes which shows Central Baptist Home's rate increases for entrance fees and monthly rates, for the past five years, to be one percent less per year than the national average.

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### Lehr Church marks 75 years

■ LEHR, ND. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Lehr, ND, celebrated its 75th anniversary June 26-27, 1993. Dr. Gideon Zimmerman, Louisville, KY, was the guest speaker at the banquet.

Zimmerman, a son of the Church, spoke on "Our Faith Journey," and how 35 million people in the U.S. trace their history back to Russia and the Bessarabia, including the people in McIntosh County. It was their faith in God and hope for a better future that brought them to this country. Prayer and love for one another sustained them through the many

trials they encountered through the years. The Reverends Ben Zimmerman and Jacob Ehman, also sons of the Church, spoke.

Ehman, speaking on "Thus Far Up to This Time," stated that God has been with us, blessed us, and will continue to bless us. "The Berlin Baptist Church of Fredonia was the mother church of Ebenezer. At one time, there were four stations plus the Lehr Church. Out of these stations, 11 men entered the ministry and one woman was a member of God's Volunteer Team. The Rev. Arnold M. Friez is the pastor.—*Grace Friez*

#### Chancellor church celebrates 100 years of ministry

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. First Baptist Church celebrated 100 years of ministry, July 30-Aug. 1. The theme, "Reflecting the Light," was emphasized through music and messages. Matthew 5:16, the challenge verse, kept attention focused on the reason for our existence. Several services also emphasized memories and history of the Church.

Former pastors, Dr. Herman Effa, N.A.B. missions director, and Rev. Harry Haas, South Dakota area minister, served as guest speakers.

To provide a living memory in honor of those who preceded in the ministry, a spruce tree was planted.

Former pastor, the Rev. Steve Corum, presided at the dedication of a new communion set and led in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

"The challenge was apparent, though 100 years have passed, our work as God's vehicle of ministry is not diminished," reports Ray DeNeui. "It is our commitment that as long as we are granted time and opportunity, we will 'reflect the light'."

#### Vancouver women celebrate 65 years

■ VANCOUVER, BC. The Ladies Missionary Society of Ebenezer Baptist

Church celebrated their 65th anniversary, June 13. The guest speaker was Bernice Strohschein, wife of Interim Pastor Allan Strohschein. The program included scripture reading, prayer, musical numbers, highlights of the past, recognition of one charter member, and a time of looking ahead.

"We are grateful and thankful to the Lord for His grace, guidance, and love through 65 years of serving Him," reports Delila Cichon.

#### Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following on the celebration of 50 years of marriage:

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith, First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock, IA; Mr. and Mrs. Wally Stabbert, Springfield, OR, former members of Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA, February 1993; Mr. and Mrs. Herb Donst, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, May 8; Mr. and Mrs. Al Birchman, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA, June 11.

Celebrating more than 50 years of marriage are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zinser, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, 65 years, May 8, and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Guddat, Evangel Baptist Church, Boca Raton, FL, 60 years.

### COMMITTED TO GIVE

#### BC Association holds 45th annual meeting

■ KELOWNA, BC. Lakeview Heights Baptist Church hosted the 45th annual British Columbia Association meetings. One

hundred and fifty-five delegates registered, and representatives from the International Office, College, Seminaries, and Green Bay Camp were recognized as special guests.

"Highlights of the meet-

■ **JOHN BURKHARDT** (91), Bismarck, ND; born April 14, 1902, to Reinhard and Magdalena (Walker) Burkhardt in Odessa, Russia; died Aug. 3, 1993; immigrated to America settling in Linton, ND; married Beatta Wacker in 1934, who predeceased him in 1979; active member, deacon board—three terms, Bismarck Baptist Church; survived by three daughters: Colleen (Jim) Bader, Eau Claire, WI; Charollette (Jim) Stuber, Lakewood, CO; Alberta (Will) Pfenning, Casper, WY; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; the Rev. Darwin Stahl and Dr. John Thielenhaus, pastors, funeral service.

■ **CARL FISCHER** (94), Aberdeen, SD; born Jan. 14, 1899, to Christian and Friedricka (Trefz) Fischer near Ashley, ND; died Aug. 24, 1993; married Ida Schrenk, Oct. 29, 1922, who predeceased him Jan. 18, 1984; member, Johannestal Baptist Church; served on rural school board; active member, chair of the board of trustees, chair of building committee, men's quartet, and choir, Ashley (ND) Baptist Church; predeceased by his parents, four brothers, and two sisters; survived by his son, Wayne (Donna); two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two brothers, Sam and Emmanuel; Dr. Harold E. Salem, pastor, funeral service.

■ **HENRY HUFNAGEL** (67), Valleyview, AB; born Feb. 28, 1926, to Christian and Christina Hufnagel in Bonyhad, Hungary; died May 12, 1993; married Adina Florkowski April 3, 1954; active member, man of prayer, Sunday School teacher, choir member, deacon, treasurer, trustee, men's quartets, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Valleyview, AB; survived by his wife, Adina; two sons: Daniel (Bonnie) and David (Theresa); two grandchildren; and seven sisters: Christina Schatz, Lydia (Martin) Tepper, Kathy (Herb) Schlitt, Helen (Bob) Thompson, Evelyn (Eberhard) Hees, Ruth, Marilyn (David) Westworth; three brothers: Joseph (Lydia), Daniel (Evelyn), Jacob (Bertha).

■ **LYDIA SCHUH** (101), Napoleon, ND; born Nov. 25, 1891, to Frederich and Katherine (Grenz) Haas in McIntosh County, ND; died July 21, 1993; married Gottlieb Zimmerman in 1913, who predeceased her in 1940; married Adam Schuh in 1943; charter member, faithful, eager to serve, Sunday School teacher, WMF, Napoleon Bap-

tist Church; survived by two sons; five daughters-in-law, 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one sister; the Rev. Edward Kopf, pastor, funeral service.

■ **EMMA KIRSCHMAN** (77), Leola, SD; born March 31, 1915, to Fred and Louise (Dohn) Loebs; died June 12, 1992; married Jacob Kirschman, Oct. 12, 1941; member, Leola (SD) Baptist Church; survived by one daughter, Shelby Jean Johnston, Ellendale, ND; two grandchildren; one sister, Ladena Ketterling; the Rev. Perry Schnabel, pastor, funeral service.

■ **CAROLYN ONTJES SHERMAN** (85), Waverly, IA; born Jan. 1, 1908, to Andrew and Louise Ontjes in Aplington, IA; died July 18, 1993; married Harm H. Sherman, June 2, 1936; active member, Aplington Baptist Church; editor of "Broadcast" and English program packet; National President of Women's Missionary Union, N.A.B. Conference, 1961-64; member, N.A.B. Conference Long-Range Planning Committee; secretary to Dr. Frank Veninga, former president, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; superintendent, Aplington Community Bible School for 29 years; active in Iowa Association, Northwestern Conference; active in music; Sunday school teacher; high school teacher; survived by three sisters: Freda Chestnut, Evelyn (Walter) Paul, Dr. Eunice Schmidt; sister-in-law, Gertrude Ontjes; the Reverends Marlin Mohrman and Donald Patet, pastors, funeral service.

■ **OTILA MAUCH VENINGA** (80), Minneapolis, MN; born Sept. 17, 1912, to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mauch of Goodrich, ND; died June 5, 1993; married Frank Veninga, Sept. 1, 1940; member, Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN; sought-after speaker during the 1940s-1960s for Baptist and interdenominational women's groups; gifted vocalist; member, Sunshine Gospel Trio in the 1930s, performing at churches, colleges, retreats, and on radio stations, performed at the 1939 World's Fair, New York City; graduate, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago; attended Wheaton College Conservatory, Wheaton, IL; pastor's wife, first woman elected to the General Council of the N.A.B. Conference; director of Christian education and music, First Christian Church, Sioux Falls, SD; organized N.A.B. Seminary Guild

for student wives; team-teacher with husband Frank, president of N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; author, a booklet, *God's Grace Is Sufficient*; predeceased by one brother and two sisters; survived by her husband, Frank; two sons: Robert (Karen), St. Paul; James (Catherine), Austin, TX; one daughter, Joyce (Gerald) Anderson, Salem, OR; three grandchildren; two sisters: Alma George and Patricia Buckholtz; two brothers: Edward and Herman (Margaret); brother-in-law, Herbert Scott, the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, pastor, funeral service.

*Memorial gifts may be designated for a scholarship for a female student at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in her name.*

■ **MARGARETHA WIESCHOLLEK** (72), Holiday, FL; born Oct. 8, 1921, to Johann and Aloisia Polzer in Giesshueber/Olmuetz, Maehren; died April 27, 1993; married the Rev. Wilhelm Wieschollek, May 10, 1940; served with her husband at several Baptist churches in Germany; immigrated to Canada in 1957; ministered as a loving wife and helpmate and with her gifts ministered with her husband to many German-speaking Baptist churches in Canada and U.S.A.; member, Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI; survived by her husband, Wilhelm; three daughters: Ingrid Sawall; Ruth (Herbert) Herzog; Ilse (Robert) Sanders; one son, Norbert (Elli); 12 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; Dr. Ronald Read and the Rev. Elvin Schuelke, pastors, memorial service.

■ **LYNDA ZIMMERMAN** (76), Kelowna, BC; born April 19, 1916, to the Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Rempel in Whitemouth, MB; died April 2, 1993; struck with polio and paralyzed from the waist down, 1928; her commitment to Christ enabled her to face life's challenges and disappointments; married Oscar Zimmerman in 1956; baptized in 1936 by the Rev. Edmond Mittelstedt; graduated Christian Training Institute, Edmonton, AB, 1946; received ARCT music degree; authored, *When the Hedges Are Down*; moved to Kelowna, BC, from Morris, MB, 1968; faithful member, music gifts, Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; survived by her husband, Oscar; one brother, Waldemar (Olive) Rempel; the Reverends Randy Heinrichs and Ed Hohn, pastors, funeral service.

## Ordination

■ **Mr. Kenneth David Peterson** was ordained into the Christian ministry on Sunday, April 16, 1993, at River-view Baptist Church, West St. Paul, MN. From 1988 to 1991, he served as part-time youth pastor, and following his graduation from Bethel Seminary in 1991 became full-time assistant pastor for education and outreach. Participating in the service were senior pastor, the Rev. Harold Lang, ordination message and prayer; the Rev. Harvey Mehlhaff, Faith Baptist Church, Minneapolis, charges to the church and candidate; and the Rev. Eric Coulon, Redeemer Baptist Church, Oakdale, MN, ordination certificate.—*Patti Nelson*

■ **Mr. Dennis Gulley** was ordained into the Christian ministry, June 13, 1993. He is the youth pastor at Bethany Baptist, Portland, OR.

■ **Mr. Steve Burrell** was ordained into the Christian ministry on May 15, 1993, by Cypress Baptist Church, Lynnwood, WA. Participating in the service were the Reverends William Neumann, sermon; Larry Neufeld, charge to the candidate; Gordon Bauslaugh, charge to the church; and LeRoy Schauer, prayer.

■ **Mr. Roland Grenier** was ordained into the Christian ministry, May 23, 1993, by Mission Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

## Retirements

■ **The Rev. Manuel D. Wolff** retired from active ministry, July 31, 1993. Ordained at Grace Baptist, Grand Forks, ND, May 27, 1953, he served the following churches: pastor, Grace Baptist, Gackle and Alfred, ND, 1953-58; assistant pastor, Grosse Pointe Baptist, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, 1958-60; pastor, First Baptist, Auburn, MI, 1960-67; First Baptist, Emery, SD, 1967-73; First Baptist, Ellinwood, KS, 1973-81; Bismarck Baptist, ND, 1981-88; and Turtle Lake Baptist, ND, 1989-1993. He served as an interim teacher, Mambilla Baptist Theological School, Nigeria, West Africa. The Wolffs reside in Tulsa, OK.—*Phyllis Bauer*

■ **The Rev. Gordon J. Voegelé** retired from the pastorate of Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND. Ordained by First Baptist, Hebron, ND, on June 2, 1958, Pastor Voegelé served the following churches: Germantown Baptist, Cathay, ND, 1958-60; First Baptist, Underwood, ND, 1960-63; Memory Lane Baptist, Wichita, KS, 1963-68; Temple Baptist, Jamestown, ND, 1968-73; Mountain View Baptist, Spearfish, SD, 1973-77; Walnut Hills Baptist, Englewood, CO, 1977-79; Immanuel Baptist, Beulah, ND, 1979-90; and Ashley Baptist, ND, 1990-1993. He and his wife reside in Bismarck, ND.

## Transition

■ **Mrs. William (Delores) Boutwell**, former N.A.B. Conference missionary to Cameroon, died July 18, 1993.

## Ministerial Changes

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

■ **The Rev. Dale (Bud) Fuchs** from associate director, Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference International Office, to associate pastor for youth and ministry development, Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, effective Aug. 1, 1993.—*Dorothy Trost*

■ **The Rev. Ron Kelway** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Minitonas, MB, to senior pastor, Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON, effective Aug. 15, 1993.

■ **Mr. John Stolz** to pastor of youth ministries, Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA, effective July 1, 1993. He previously served as director of student ministries at Central Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. John is a 1993 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.—*Steve Opp*

■ **The Rev. Patrick H. Clarey** from youth pastor, Round Lake Baptist Church since 1986 to pastor, Evangelical Free Church, Clearwater, KS, effective, Aug. 22, 1993.—*Jean Jurgensen*

■ **The Rev. Robert Weiss** from pastor, Immanuel Baptist, Kyle, TX, to pastor, Brook Park Baptist Church, Brooklyn Center, MN, effective July 11, 1993.

■ **Dr. John Thielenhaus** from pastor, Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, to senior pastor, Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, effective August 1993.

■ **The Rev. Steve Vetter** from pastor, Strassburg Baptist, Marion, KS, to pastor, West Center Street Baptist Church, Madison, SD, effective September 7.

■ **Mr. Dan Hamil** from associate pastor, Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, to associate pastor, Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND, effective August 1993.

■ **The Rev. Andy Dietrich** to associate pastor of family ministries, Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, effective Aug. 1, 1993.

■ **Miss Laura Walther** to director of family ministries, Northgate Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective July 1993.

■ **The Rev. Charles Davis, Jr.**, from pastor, First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, to senior pastor, South Austin Fellowship, Austin, TX, effective July 1993.

■ **The Rev. Harry Haas** of Venturia, ND, to part-time Area Minister for South Dakota Association, effective July 1, 1993.

## Installation Service

■ On Sunday, June 13, 1993, **Pastor Ben Kohrs** was installed as the new pastor of Bethany Baptist Church of Hunter, KS. The Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, gave the installation message and welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Kohrs and Jenica into the Church family.—*Clara Sulsar*

## Farewell Service

■ On June 27, 1993, Central Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON, held a farewell service for the **Rev. Michael Igo**. Church group leaders thanked him and his wife June for their many years of dedicated and faithful service as well as their friendship. Area minister, the Rev. John Ziegler, emphasized "God's Grace" as a worthy and best gift, as the Igos look toward a new ministry.—*Karen Yahn, reporter*

## Building Churches into the 21st Century

### New Texas church buys office park

by Bradley Grubb

As I reflect back on these first nine months, God has been incredibly gracious during the start of Westlake Community Church in Garland, Texas. I still remember that feeling of uneasiness on December 13, as Karen and I stood at the landing waiting to greet whoever might show up. I'm glad I don't have to repeat that feeling often. We had mailed 10,000 fliers to the surrounding community and had no idea who might come, who might respond. But 39 people responded that first Sunday, and our numbers have continued to climb ever since.

In these past months, we've seen our attendance climb from an average of 35 that first month to 65 during the month of April. We have seen the offerings go from just a few dollars in the plate to a high of nearly \$3,400 in the past month. On Easter Sunday, we had a high attendance of 78, topped two months later by a high of 104.

But perhaps most exciting of all is that we have nearly reached completion of phase one of the Westlake Church planting strategy. God has been gracious in that our goal of 50 ministry partners has been realized. Since we own our own property—the entire office park, in fact, it has been exciting to watch as God has sent us new tenants. These five or six new tenants we signed in 1993 formed the financial base for our loan from CEIF this summer—a loan enabling us to finish our main church facility. This provides us with an auditorium that seats up to 400 as we begin a special seeker service this fall. In addition, it gives us classroom space of up to



Pastor Brad Grubb works diligently to fulfill his responsibility of preparing the Ministry Partners of WestLake Community Church to minister to each other and the world.

*The goal of WestLake Community Church is to reach all the surrounding communities for Christ—not just "Christians" looking for a new or closer church, but all who are seeking answers to life's questions and are open to investigating the claims of Christ. God made available Oaks Trail Office Park, a non-traditional "church" property. Delivery men call a second time for directions: "Oh yeah, we drove by that building, but we were looking for a steeple."*



*Getting acquainted—The first step in building a vital "community." "We desire WestLake Community Church to be a safe place to build a deeper relationship with God and others, a place of encouragement and support in our mobile, fast-paced culture," says Pastor Grubb.*



*The Church plans to conduct public morning worship services beginning in October.*

16,000 square feet. All of this is paid for by other people—people who don't even go to our church!

We ask for your continued prayers in the weeks and months ahead, as we begin to move from a church plant to the feel of a real and established church. Pray that God sends us the right people; pray that our vision does not become clouded; pray that I might have wisdom as pastor, that my leadership skills might be enhanced as we move from this next step of 50 to 200.

We thank the N.A.B. Conference for your support. We thank you, our friends, who have prayed for us and who have given to the Conference, particularly the Church Planting Department, that Westlake might become a reality. □

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## NEWS

### Resolutions sought for Triennial Conference

"It isn't too early to begin thinking about the resolutions we, as the N.A.B. Conference of churches, would like to affirm and proclaim during the 44th Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX, Aug. 2-7, 1994," says David Steinhart, chair, Resolutions Committee.

"Collectively, we have the opportunity to voice our concerns and take a stand on the issues that impact our world. These resolutions not only define our values as North American Baptists, but also they encourage each of us to walk worthy of our Lord."

The Resolutions Committee will be working through the year to formulate the resolutions as suggestions are received. Every individual or local congregation is invited to submit suggestions or proposals for resolutions no later than April 1, 1994. The Resolutions Committee will consider your suggestions and prepare the selected suggestions for presentation to the delegates at Dallas.

Send suggestions for resolutions to the Rev. David Steinhart, chair, Resolutions Committee, Forest Park Baptist Church, 133 South Harlem Ave., Forest Park, IL 60130.

### Cameroon Baptists elect new general secretary

by Ngum Eric Mangek

Both delegates and observers to the 22nd General Session of the Cameroon Baptist Convention have described it as the most remarkable of the Sessions ever held since its conception. Three reasons account for this.

Unlike in other General Sessions where people have either secretly or openly campaigned for posts, creating an atmosphere of panic, the 22nd General Session saw the spirit of love, brotherliness, worship, and the desire for everyone to be ready to be

used by the Spirit of God. It was a real time of fellowship and instruction with the election time being the best ever witnessed in the life of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. The theme was "Clay in the Potter's Hand" from Jeremiah 18:6.

Secondly, the delegates unanimously adopted the revised Constitution of the CBC. It is the most liberal constitution that suits the current times allowing more room for the Word of God to be spread to all the corners of the earth. The constitution makes provision for two new boards: The Communication Board, headed by a Communication Secretary, and a Christian Education Board, headed by a Christian Education Secretary. The CBC is ignoring the financial hardships by supporting missionaries in Bioko, Equatorial Guinea, and in Mambilla, Nigeria. In a spirit of love, peace, and with songs of praise and hope, the more than 900 delegates unanimously elected the Rev. Peter N. Nyumnloh as the new General Secretary of the CBC. A veteran pastor, born in 1946 in Jirt, he was nurtured to maturity in Wowo, North West Province. He is a Bachelor of Theology graduate of Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. Most recently, he served as youth pastor and Ndu Field pastor. He is married and has four children.

Working in close collaboration with the Chief Executive of the CBC are the President, Mr. Samuel Becke, a devoted and veteran Baptist teacher and principal. He recently retired from the civil service after serving ten years as Cultural Attache in the Cameroon Embassy in Moscow, Russia. Serving as vice president is Dr. Mbah Isaac, an associate professor in education and vice principal of Government Teacher's Training College in Bamenda. The treasurer, holding the post now for the third time running, is Mr. E. C. Nyahkeh, principal of Baptist Comprehensive College. He holds a MBA degree in economics and finance. □

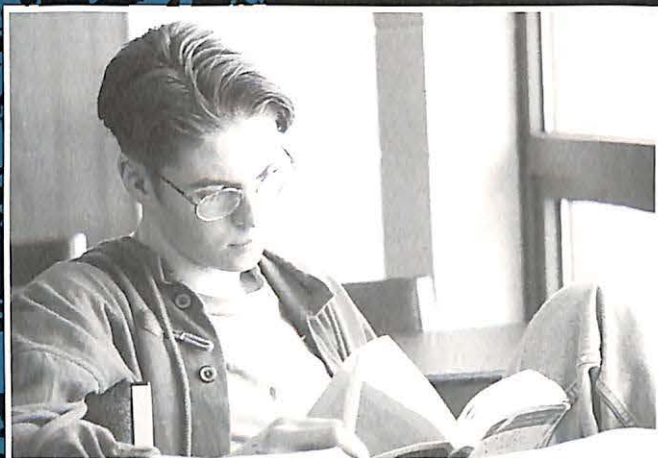
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