

BAPTIST HERALD

APRIL 1994

How the Church Can Help Children of Divorce

(See Page 6)



Freedom Threatened Again in Eastern Europe!

by Denton Lotz

The European Baptist Federation sponsored a Human Rights Forum in Dorfweil, Germany, Jan. 26-29, 1994, which dealt specifically with the situation in the newly freed countries of Eastern Europe. Bulgaria is one country which since the fall of communism experienced a new freedom and which saw a remarkable growth of the Baptist movement. However, there is now great concern. This was expressed by the Baptists' president, Theo Angelov.

A crisis situation has developed where the mass media has presented a negative view of evangelicals, lumping them all together as sects. A prominent member of parliament has written against Baptists and other groups as being foreign. They are considered American, whereas the true Bulgarian is Orthodox. The officially recognized religions are Islam, Judaism, and Catholicism. Although in Bulgaria for more than 100 years, evangelicals are accused by this parliamentarian of destroying the heritage of the past. The old communist line of "national security" is used to denigrate evangelicals. This type of public censure of evangelicals has had a negative effect upon evangelism. Nevertheless, Baptists and other evangelicals continue to grow. When communism fell three years ago, there were eight Baptist churches with 750 members. Today there are 3,000 members in 30 churches and other mission points.

The use of public halls, which had been used for worship by the newly formed Baptist churches, is now being denied by the government. Sometimes believers have to worship outside in the cold because they are now denied access to these buildings. Congregationalists were denied permission to complete their building.

Protestant missionaries are denied visas. At the time when President Mitterand of France was making an official visit to Bulgaria, the government forced a young French evangelical missionary to leave the country.

The Bulgarian Baptists and Evangelical Alliance of Bulgaria have used all means available to them in Bulgaria to protest this prejudicial treatment. They have met with government leaders and parliamentarians. The Baptist World Alliance has joined the protest and written to the President of Bulgaria with copies to President Clinton. In addition, evangelicals have written a special resolution to the Orthodox Church,

all to no avail. As a result, Bulgarian Baptists are requesting that their brothers and sisters around the world protest to their governments. They appreciate the support of the many letters they receive which encourage them and assure them of their prayers.

Bozhidar Igoff, Bulgarian Baptist general secretary, added more details to the new repression of evangelicals in Bulgaria: Previous work in the prisons is now prevented. Scurrilous articles in the newspapers accuse Baptists of brainwashing children in Sunday School, misleading them with chocolate, and teaching them foreign culture. He has

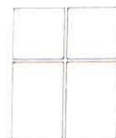
(continued on page 28)



More Than Head Knowledge

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

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



North American Baptist Seminary

1321 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
1-800-843-1300, Ext. 801



4



6



10

2 News

Freedom Threatened Again in Eastern Europe!

Denton Lotz

4 Are You Listening? Jim Black

6 How the Church Can Help Children of Divorce

Interview with Judith Wallerstein

8 Caleb's Triumph Calvin Campbell as told to Robert Sandford

10 A Visit to New Churches in Sonora Sue Baron

12 A Legacy of Faith Maria Rogalski

14 "Love, Mom" John Laeger

15 Youth News

Iowa Youth Consider "The Fight" Brad and Melissa Blyth

16 Why Choose North American Baptist College?

18 Ten Benefits of Tithing G. Roger Schoenhals

Giving and Liking It Paul H. Siewert

19 The Power of Positive . . . Doing Gregg Evans

20 What Is Your Reference Point? Lyle E. Schaller

22 The Reality of Easter Edna E. Kramer

24 Biblical Imperatives in Action

27 In Memoriam

28 News

A Texas Welcome Awaits Children in August

29 What's Happening

Baptist World Aid for Burundi/Rwanda

31 Memory Lane Baptist Church: Building Disciples

COVER PHOTO: Cleo Photo

Barbara J. Binder, editor
Phyllis Hill, subscriptions fulfillment

Amie Gray, assistant
Jean Gingrich, assistant
Pam Arends, WMF pages
Dorothy Eisaman, typesetting

Joyce Wagner, design

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARE YOU LISTENING?

by Jim Black



**"All of us
get so busy that
often the first thing
that goes is not
our sleep time, not our
eating time, not our
recreation time,
but our conversation
time with God."**

January 1990. We had just returned to Nigeria from five weeks in Cameroon. We had taken our little boy Daniel to Bansa Baptist Hospital and then went on to Bamenda for the Cameroon Missionary Fellowship.

A large pile of work stared at me from my desk. I was making final preparations for a capital funds drive to begin February 16 . . . and three visitors from North America were to arrive. I experienced a lot of stress and busyness.

During that time, something happened to me. I got a very sore throat and a high fever. After a week, it went away, and I went back to work. About a week later, it hit again and nailed me for another week. I got better and took off for Jos to meet the visitors. Five days later, I saw them off, and we began to launch the capital funds drive.

Just before the launching, the high fever and sore throat hit me again. I asked God, "Do you really know what You are doing? I am too busy for this."

I was about to tell the man I work with that he would have to deliver the capital funds drive speech, but the next day, I felt much better. Our meeting lasted from morning to night. The following day, it hit me again after church.

I went to bed and stayed there the rest of the day. I prayed the kind of prayer people do when in despair: "Lord, what's going on? Why are You doing this? I'm too busy for this."

Lisa, my wife, brought me a tape that we use with our children. She

said, "Just lie there, listen to the tape, and be quiet. I'll keep the children out of your face."

I turned the tape on and listened to it—three or four times. As I listened, the Lord ministered to me. As I lay there, I asked, "Is it possible, Lord, that you have put me on the sidelines for a reason? If so, speak to me now and show me the reason."

The Lord took me up on my invitation. He began to speak to me as He never had before. He showed me very clearly that I had allowed myself to become so busy that I had pushed my time with God out of my daily schedule. He told me that the reason I was frustrated in ministry was that I was not using my primary spiritual gift. I was not used to having God speak to me like that. But there is a time in all of our lives, perhaps, that God corners us. There is no getting around it. We have to listen. I was impeding the work of the Holy Spirit, and I needed to listen and allow God to show me why.

All of us get so busy that often the first thing that goes is not our sleep time, not our eating time, not our recreation time, but our conversation time with God.

After this experience, Lisa and I began spending time especially in the evening, listening together, meditating over the Scriptures, and waiting on God. It was a fresh, new revelation for us—a dynamic for our spiritual lives that was eye-opening and empowering in terms of our walk with God and ministering.



What kind of tools do you use for your prayer life?

For years and years, I have used the ACTS acronym—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

- **Adoration** (spending time, first of all, with God in adoration, simply worshiping God for who God is).

- **Confession** (spending time before the Lord praying something like the prayer of David, as recorded in Psalm 139:23,24. The flesh and the devil will tell us, "You are a fool, a jerk, you are useless," But when the searchlight of the Spirit shines on our heart, the Lord does not condemn us but points specifically to something with which we need to deal. When I started listening in prayer, the Lord began to do that with me.)

- **Thanksgiving** (coming to a point of thankfulness to God for everything in life, whether I feel these things meet my needs and expectations or not.)

Now, I have added another letter to my neat little acronym. The letter

is "L," and it stands for "Listen."

Listen to God (say, "God I don't care about what I am going to experience. What I want to know is that I am walking with You, and there is nothing between my soul and the Savior. Whatever, God, You want to do in my life, that's what I want.")

Sometimes we, as conservative evangelicals, get hung up on this. There is a side of us that says, "Yes, I want the demonstration of the Spirit and power and all that without a lot of hype; yet I don't want to be an experience seeker, looking for the next emotional high with God." But do we really want to encounter the living God, to have the Spirit of God shining His light into our lives and empowering us not only for godly living but also for the demonstration of the Spirit and His power to help other people know who God really is and that He lives in us?

I returned to North America from Nigeria thinking, "I have to share this, but people will think I am weird. Then someone from

Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton sent me the book, *Honest to God*, by Bill Hybels. As I started to read it, I discovered that God was doing the same thing in Bill's life, challenging Bill to wait on God, to listen to God, to tune the ear to the voice of the Spirit.

I saw that perhaps the Spirit of God is doing other things among my brothers and sisters in Christ who are of similar tradition as I. I felt a little more at ease with what the Spirit was saying to me.

I don't know where you are in terms of your listening. Sometimes we come to our quiet moments with God, and we sit down, open our Bible, read, and say, "God bless the missionaries. God bless my family. Oh my, goodness, I've 15 minutes to get to work."

I challenge you to enter into an atmosphere of prayer and focus your attention on the Lord. This will only happen as you and I make sacrifices in our schedules to make time to wait on God. This aspect becomes intensely practical.

Take time to listen to God as He speaks to you through the written Word. As you read it and meditate on key verses, ask God to direct your steps, to focus your attention, and to help you to know Him more fully. Ask the Spirit of God to speak to you specifically about your personal ministry, your family life, your vocation, your marriage, and other key areas of life. As you do so, I expect that God is going to surprise you with joy as you tune your ear to hear the still small voice of God. □

Jim Black served for three years as an N.A.B. Conference missionary in Nigeria. Since 1992 he pastors Pilgrim Baptist Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, a multi-cultural church.

How the Church Can Help Children of Divorce

Interview with Judith Wallerstein

Q What prompted you as a psychologist to get interested in the subject of children of divorce?

A It was during the early 70s, when I had just moved to California from a very stable community in the midwest. I suddenly saw a landscape full of different kinds of families where divorce, separation, and remarriage were becoming increasingly common. This was the beginning of the divorce explosion that has affected our entire society.

Q What should pastors and other church leaders do to effectively assist children of divorce?

A First and foremost, they need to be available at the time the family breaks up. And they need to be able, without awkwardness and embarrassment, to say to a child, "Things are very hard right now in your family, and I know that. I hope it's going to get better. Let's talk about some of the things." By saying this, you give the child some hope, and you help him or her acknowledge that it is a very difficult experience, but that it's something that's okay to talk about.

You don't need to be a trained therapist to provide this nurturing, healing presence in a child's life. In fact, a pastor (or lay leader) can often be more acceptable and less threatening.

I don't think the church should

have separate classes or groups for the children of divorced parents. It is much healthier to have all types of kids learning, playing, doing drama or art together. The primary purpose is to integrate these kids into the mainstream.

Q It seems that there is already a form of isolation that children in single-parent families feel. How can that best be overcome?

A What the pastor, leader, or youth worker has to know is that divorced parents, with the best of intentions, are less available to their children. They're more stressed and strained after the divorce. Someone in some way—be it through the extended family or the institution of the church, school, or community organization—has to step in to help be a parent for the child during that critical period. Otherwise, the child is alone with all these terrible anxieties, wondering what's going to happen tomorrow. Be sure to check back. Don't assume that a one-time effort will fix the situation. There are more crises, and the single-parent family has fewer resources. Develop a follow-up program that keeps in touch with children on an ongoing basis.

When the youngster reaches adolescence, I think it would be extremely helpful to be very old-fashioned about it. Have a group of adolescent kids talk about relationships and discuss what "good" means. Discussions like this can be a big help.

Q What is something we could do to help children of divorce survive and grow in healthy ways?

A Children need mentors. Very few have one today. Children from divorced homes especially need them. I'm not talking about big brothers or big sisters. I'm talking about mentors, older adults who exercise a moral, intellectual and emotional influence, a teacher role.

Q Could this be like an important aunt, uncle, or grandparent?

A It could be. It could also be an adult in the church or community. We found in our study that children from divorced homes had very few mentors. They didn't have them in the church or the school. Although there were some who seemed to benefit enormously from mentoring grandparents, this was a small minority.

Mentoring can make a big difference. The children in our study who had mentors stood out. One was a football star. His coach was his mentor. His coach loved him; the girls loved him; people came from all over to watch him play. He did very well with his supportive environment and a good coach for a mentor. Another person was a young woman who was a brilliant student in chemistry. She had key mentors all along the line. But few kids have this kind of mentoring relationship.

Q What is the value of a mentoring relationship?

A The mentoring relationship communicates that you are loved and have something of worth. It's also intellectual, a teacher-student relationship. There's a wish that you will follow in the teacher's footsteps. I'm a chemist—you'll be a chemist. I'm a football player—you'll be a football player. Or, maybe we both do stamp collecting. It's almost like a father-child or mother-child relationship around a particular line of interest. It's not just that you are loved but that you are also in some way my heir. You are carrying on an important tradition where we are both part of the chain. This gives a child a tremendous sense of purpose, direction, and continuity.

The sky's the limit for all the various mentoring relationship possibilities. Pair up children and adults with similar interests. It can be anything from musical instruments to drawing or painting, stamp collecting, computers, or photography.

I'm not saying that the minister should take on the role of mentoring every divorced kid in the community. But it would be wonderful if the church constituency could be mobilized to have couples and singles take on a mentoring role with one or two children. It would provide stability and support for kids from divorced homes—and help reverse the destructive divorce cycle.

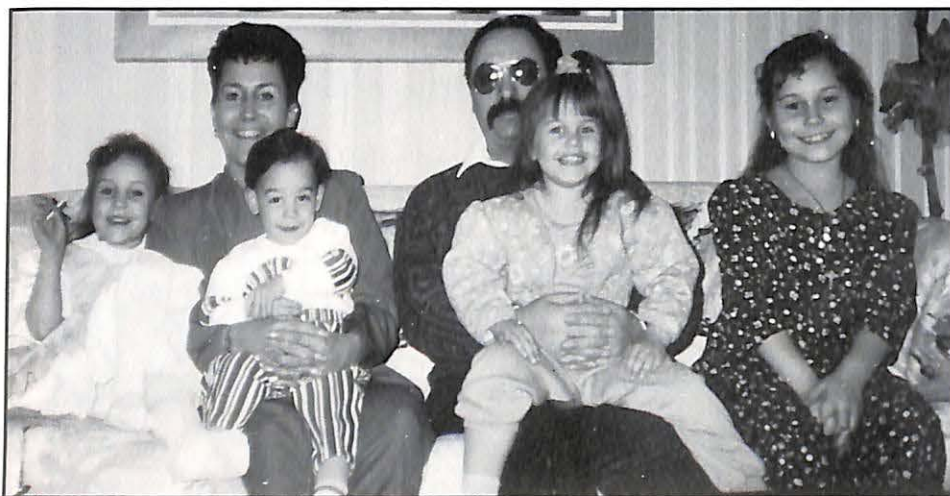
We have to realize that we are dealing with a new kind of family. Learning to help blended and divorced families survive and be healthy is going to be a challenge. □

*Judith Wallerstein is Executive Director of the Center for Family in Transition, Corte Madera, CA. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., 850 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL 60120. Excerpted from *Single Adult Ministry* (David C. Cook).*





CALEB'S TRIUMPH



Courtney, Heather, Caleb, Calvin, Kelsey, and Kirstin Campbell.

by Calvin Campbell
as told to Robert Sandford

What a glorious day! January 3, 1993 . . . the Lord's day . . . and our son's first birthday. You might think, "So what? He turned one."

My wife Heather and I had been blessed with three healthy daughters. But my wife's heart ached to carry a son to term. I thought having a son was not in God's plan for us. And having been a Christian for only a few months, how could I dare to ask God for a son?

Twice we had experienced the pain of losing a son through miscarriage. I buried those memories deep inside so I would not have to deal with them. At least, I thought they were buried, until two people asked me to a father/son banquet at church. As a banker, I trained myself to keep my emotions in check. This time, however, it was too much. I wept.

After listening to me, they encouraged me to pray. Prayer did provide a great source of comfort.

Less than two months later, the doctor told my wife that she was pregnant again. On Dec. 31, 1991, Heather was admitted to the local hospital in premature labor. Even with the most up-to-date medications, the labor would not stop.

On the evening of January 2, the doctor stated that my wife would need to go by ambulance to a large city hospital. We had grave concerns about this two hour trip to the city, since in previous pregnancies, she had delivered in 25 minutes. Our baby was in a transverse position, making a normal delivery impossible. To further complicate matters, our baby was lying on the umbilical cord. I asked the doctor what would happen if the labor progressed while she was in the ambulance. The look in his eyes told me I should be concerned for the safety of Heather and our baby.

My wife and I prayed to God for

guidance. Quietly, a nurse slipped back into the room and told us that if a cesarean section were performed in this hospital, there was little danger to Heather, but the baby would not likely survive unless he had the facilities of the city hospital.

The Lord works even through those who may not believe in Him! If He had not sent that nurse back into the room to give us His answer, Heather would have stayed put that night. Inside of ten minutes, a nurse, our doctor, and my wife left in an ambulance for the city. On the way, Heather's medication had to be reduced as her heart rate peaked at over 200 beats per minute.

I was unable to go with Heather that night as I had to stop at work the next morning to return my keys and combinations. I arranged for my parents to come from their home a half day's drive away to stay with our children. Several people of our church called to express their concerns and offer everything from prayers to food and free babysitting.

Our pastor and his wife arrived at our house to wait with me for news of my wife's arrival at the hospital. They managed to calm me, and we spent the balance of the evening praying and talking. The pastor shared Psalm 27 with me. In verse 14, I found great comfort: "Wait for the Lord. Be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

At 12:30 a.m., I received word that Heather had arrived safely in the city. After praising God and giving me some more words of encouragement, our pastor and his wife went home. That night, I did not sleep!

By 10 a.m. the next morning, I was on the road making the two hour trip to the city. Alone in the car, the reality of the situation swept over me in waves. Between bouts of uncontrollable sobbing, I prayed. I begged God for the life of our baby. I offered Him my own life if He would spare my child. I asked God, if willing, to allow Heather and me to at least hold the baby before He took him to heaven.

At 12:30 p.m., I arrived at the hospital. Our pastor had already been there to visit Heather. Heather's sister had been to sit with her as well.

Heather's labor, which had never fully stopped, progressed quickly, resulting in a cesarean section being performed that afternoon. The operating room was crammed with 12 doctors and nurses. One nurse was assigned to me alone to make sure I stayed out of the way! I was shocked, yet excited, when the doctor congratulated me on the birth of a son!

I followed the team of doctors and nurses to the neonatal unit, which would be his home for the first month of life. His chances of survival had been decreased to 40 percent.

I was unprepared for what I saw; tubes and machines were hooked up all over him. At a mere three pounds, three ounces, he looked so fragile. I did rejoice that he had all his fingers and toes! And hair! Caleb had a full head of black, curly hair.

When Heather awoke, I told her of our son. She wept and praised God. However, because of her pain, the nurses would not allow her to see Caleb until the next day.

The next morning Heather was taken to see Caleb. His weight had dropped to two pounds, eight ounces. To allow for an additional IV line, his hair had been shaved off. He had a catheter in his navel. He also was on a respirator . . . which is a big tube going into his mouth and down into his lungs. A heart moni-

tor and an oxygen monitor had been set up, too. With his jaundice mask on, you could hardly see any part of his face. We were only able to hold his hand and speak to him through a door in the incubator. It was almost more than we could bear.

Over the next six days, the doctors removed and attached the respirator twice. He had to be started on a heart medication. On January 11, Caleb's eighth day of life, once more his respirator was back on because he was not breathing strongly on his own. The staff fought to save his life. We felt so selfish asking the Lord not to take our son, but deep down we knew God's will would prevail. We were blessed once again by Caleb's recovery.

By evening, he looked quite well, considering what he had been through that day. Caleb's baby finger was no bigger than my pinkie fingernail. His hand was so small he could not even wrap it around my little finger. Caleb's leg was the same circumference as my thumb, and his head was smaller than the palm of my hand. Neither Heather nor I had held our son. He progressed slowly over the next week, with many bouts of brady-cardia and apnea.

On January 17, the doctors took Caleb off the respirator so he could breathe on his own. We were terribly afraid, but we knew if God was willing, He would let Caleb breathe on his own and keep his little heart beating. We thank God that Caleb progressed through that step, though there were still many ups and downs to follow.

On January 19, Caleb's sixteenth day of life, Heather held our son for the very first time . . . for 30 seconds. Heather was back and forth between the hospital and our home over the next few weeks.

After one month, Caleb was placed in the intermediate stage of

the intensive care unit—still in the incubator. He now weighed four pounds two ounces. Shortly after, we and our three daughters were allowed to hold him. Our little miracle boy progressed very slowly over the next month.

On February 25, we took our son home. It was scary, because Caleb was sent home on a heart monitor and with heart medication. Heather and I knew that the Lord, working through the doctors and staff of the hospital and through the prayers of the people of our church, had gotten us that far. He would surely take us the rest of the way.

Today Caleb suffers no long-term effects of the struggles of those first days and weeks of his life, although his size and development skills make him seem younger than he is. Caleb still visits the fetal assessment clinic in the city regularly.

Mere words cannot express our thanks to everyone who allowed themselves to become caring instruments of God's peace and love during those days. All the prayers, visits, and food helped our family through a very trying time.

One miracle opened the door for a second miracle, this one in the life of my mother. The love my mom witnessed displayed in the lives of God's people from our church, Heritage Baptist Church, has encouraged her to return to her church, where she has once again become an active member after many years of drifting spiritually.

As a Christian family, we praise God for the wonder of His ways, His will, and His love, all of which we became more deeply aware of throughout one year, Caleb's year of triumph. □

Calvin and Heather Campbell are members of Heritage Baptist Church, Yorkton, SK, where the Rev. Robert Sandford is pastor.

A VISIT TO NEW CHURCHES IN SONORA

by Sue Baron

As we made the three-day trip from Mexico City to Sonora State in Mexico, with fellow missionaries, Juan and Amanda Luna, we prayed, "God, You know the needs of the people there. Please make us sensitive to their needs and help us minister to them."

We arrived in the coastal town of San Carlos in time for Royce to speak at the Thursday night prayer meeting. While he was speaking, a poisonous snake came slithering into the room. Juan killed it with a stick.

Our hearts were warmed by the friendliness and hospitality of the Christians and their pastor, Oscar Rangel (*front row*), in San Carlos. We found their desire to serve God refreshing. They sacrifice so much to let their light shine. We knew that God had truly knit us together in His love.

Alma (*near right*), a single missionary, talks about her "car" . . . a bike that she rides many miles every week to run errands and conduct Bible studies. As we drove to the fishing village of la Manga, we passed men working on a bumpy dirt road. "They're all in my Bible study in la Manga," Alma said, as she waved to them.

Porfilio, who was no longer able to fish because of liver problems, welcomed us into his home. He used to be a drunkard and very abusive to his family. Before he received Christ as Savior, he hung his children by ropes around their necks. When his wife, Paola, tried to keep him from pulling the chairs out from under their feet, he beat her. But God saved the children's lives that day! Porfilio has since gone to



be with the Lord.

Paola filleted fresh fish (*upper right*), then fried it outside their little shack. What a feast we had!

Some of the ladies and children invited Amanda and Sue to join them on a hike into the woods (*right*), to pick very hot, little, round chili peppers. Woe is she who toucheth her face while picking those tiny balls of fire! We were grateful for four dogs that accompanied us. Hopefully, they would warn us of a nearby snake!



One day we returned to Pastor Oscar and Rosa's home to find two frightened little neighbor girls. The six-year old told us, "My mother is sick. She picked up my little (three-year old) sister and threw her to the ground, like this." With that, she enacted the horrible scene they had just experienced.

The girls responded to our love like little sponges in water. Both wanted to crawl into my lap and be loved. Before their father took them away to another town for safety, the six-year-old planted a big kiss on my cheek.



As we swam in the ocean just a few yards from the pastor's home, our hearts were burdened for this village of some 60 people, represented by the row of poor, bamboo shanties along the coast.

We took the opportunity to interact and share with several groups of young people. On Alma's birthday, no one was spared the fun of being smeared with frosting! A 4-inch long scorpion interrupted an exciting game my husband

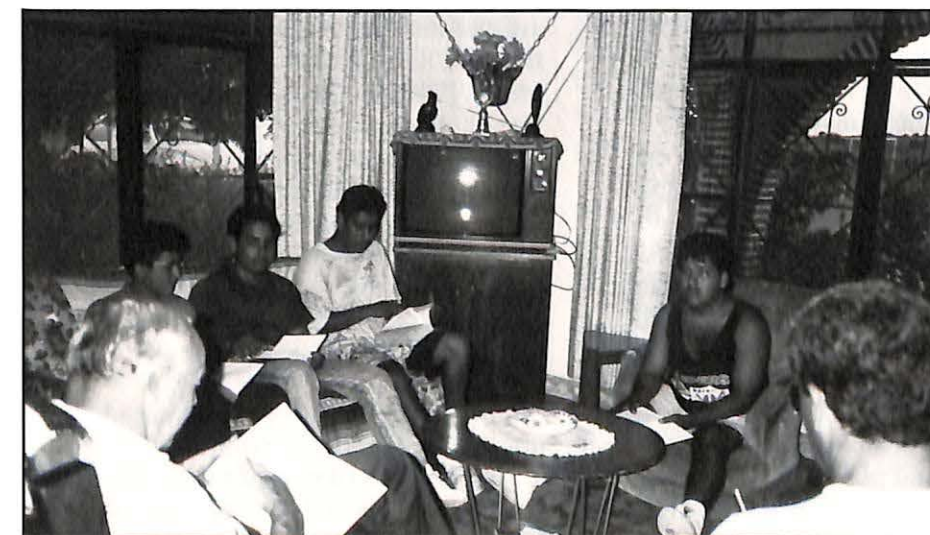
Royce and I were playing with the San Carlos young people one night. The morning we left the Lunas killed a poisonous centipede in their bedroom.



On Sunday morning, we worshipped with the group of believers who meet in the home of Pastor Job and his beautiful wife. During the service, he dedicated a baby to the Lord (*far left*). Job's burden for the many unsaved in his town of Guaymas is a challenge to us. His church is very small—mostly young men.

To be able to feed his family (*near left*), long hours of secular work make it impossible for Pastor Job to visit in homes as he would like.

While in Guaymas, Royce (*left*) led a young men's Bible study group. This group in Guaymas is one of 26 small church plants in the Sonora area asking for help and encouragement. Pray that God will strengthen the national Christians to be a dynamic witness to those around them. □



Sue and Royce Baron, N.A.B. Conference missionaries, serve in Mexico City, but during January through April, they are serving in Sonora State.

A Legacy of Faith

by Maria Rogalski

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies . . . her children rise up and call her blessed” (*Proverbs 31:10, 28*).

At a baptismal service at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, three generations of daughters gave witness to the far-reaching legacy of faith of their late godly great-grandmother Ottilia Gering. Her commitment to God and her spiritual influence has reached into the fourth generation.

This underscores the truth of God’s word that “one generation shall praise thy works to another and shall declare thy mighty acts” (*Psalms 145:4*).



Grandmother Clara Miller (right), daughter Judy Miller (left), and granddaughter Karen Miller (center) give witness to the far-reaching legacy of the faith of Ottilia Gering.

Growing up in a Christian family, I believed in God, but I did not know Him. I lived my life for myself.

I married and had two children. With my mother’s coaching, I sent them to Sunday school. Sometimes I went along, but I got nothing out of going to church, so I soon lost interest . . . but I still believed in God.

Years passed quickly. My mother grew more frail and needed more attention. I went to her every day to see to her needs. Each time I saw her, the Bible would be open, and she would be reading. Each time I left, I thought to myself, “What on earth does she get from the Bible?”

For a long time, I had felt something was missing in my life. So I decided I would start reading the

Bible to see what my mother saw in there. Of course, I didn’t understand it. I wanted to learn, so I wrote away for a Bible study course, but it did not give me the answers I wanted.

By now, my mother was in Meadowood Manor (a nursing/retirement home) with a broken hip. She suffered so much; she prayed to die. I could not understand why God let my Christian mother suffer so. I wanted answers.

I shared my concern with my friend who invited me to a Bible study. My first study was wonderful—I did not want the afternoon to come to an end, as I knew I had to wait a whole week to hear more of God’s love. I could not understand or remember all the Bible study leader taught us, so with her permission, I taped our Bible studies, came home, and played the tape. When I did not understand something, I

called her, and we had another Bible study on the phone.

I learned to understand that God loves me just as I am, that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for me! It was so personal . . . so overwhelming. That afternoon I learned that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, and that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God as our intercessor. I learned that salvation is a free gift to anyone . . . a gift to receive God’s eternal love and life.

I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior; I wanted to shout it out to everyone.

How thankful I was that I could go to my mother’s sick bed to tell her I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Overjoyed, she said, “Now you take over my place and pray for the rest of our family.”

My mother had prayed for me all these years. Her Bible was a silent

witness to her wonderful faith.

She passed away shortly after, leaving me to continue to pray for my family. I do pray for each one.

—Clara Miller, Ottilia’s daughter

As a little girl, I sat on my grandmother’s lap as she rocked me in her rocking chair. She talked to me about how wonderful God is and how He loved us so much that He gave His only Son to die on the cross for us. She talked of how wonderful heaven would be, and that if we believed in Him, we would have a place there. That is my earliest remembrance of my relationship with God.

My parents didn’t go to church at that time. As a child, it used to frighten me that I could live an eternal life in heaven, but my parents might not be in heaven with me. I didn’t think that I wanted to go to heaven without them. Because of that fear, it took years for me to be able to make the commitment of accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior and asking Him into my life. My grandmother used to assure me that everything would be all right, but we had to keep praying.

My mother always sent my brother and me to Sunday school at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. The best times of my youth were attending young people’s group and sharing in God’s word.

When I was 18, I married. For 10 years, I did not attend church, but I never forgot about God’s love. Through many illnesses and trials in my life, God gave me strength, and my faith continued to grow.

When our daughter Karen was born, I felt she was a true gift from God and a blessing for which we thank Him every day. When Karen was three years old, I returned to McDermot Ave. Baptist Church.

Another of my prayers was answered when my mother began attending a Bible study. Together, we grew in the word of God. What I had known all my life was reinforced.

My grandmother became extremely ill. For a long time, I could not accept the thought of her dying. But as I grew in the faith, I came to accept her dying, not as an ending but a new beginning. I remembered her words of assurance to pray, and everything would work out all right. It gave me great comfort.

Sometimes life can be very difficult. We question and wonder if we are acceptable to God when we are at our worst. I know that with all my faults, God loves me for who I am. I am a Christian, but I am not, nor will ever be, perfect. But He loves me, and He loves you, too.

I am thankful that both my parents now attend church, and that I share a wonderful spiritual relationship with my daughter and my mother. I continue to pray for the other members of my family so that one day they, too, will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

—Judy Muller, Clara’s daughter

For as long as I can remember, McDermot Avenue Baptist Church has been a part of my life. I grew up attending Sunday school, learning Bible verses, and participating in Christmas pageants.

As a young girl, I made my own cross at Easter . . . just two pieces of wood and a couple of nails. But to me, it meant that Jesus had died on a cross for me. This awareness came through the love and support of my family . . . especially my mom, who encouraged my spiritual growth, taught me right from wrong, and most of all, always loved me.

My grandmother’s encourage-

ment came through shared prayers and her abundant love. I remember her reading *Little Visits with God* to my cousins and me.

Although I had been christened as a baby, I felt that I needed to make my own declaration of love towards God, so about four or five years ago, I prepared to be baptized.

Unfortunately, even after pre-membership classes, I postponed it. My father thought that I should wait until I was older. I didn’t feel as though I belonged. From then until now, God has continued to show His love for me and others. He also helped me through many personal tribulations, including illness. He has blessed me with the support of many people in this Church family.

By following Jesus’ example in baptism, I am outwardly expressing my love and dedication to God. It is a big step in Christian life, but I still have more to learn. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the ages.” I know He’ll always be with me for guidance and love.

—Karen Muller, Judy’s daughter

“The generation of the upright shall be blessed” (*Psalms 112:2*). Three generations of the descendants of Ottilia Gering are experiencing this blessing of God in their lives as they have laid claim to their inheritance of faith and put their trust in God personally and individually. She has not only given them roots but also wings of faith to help them rise up above the mundane level of earthly existence to walk their life of faith with the Lord.

“Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” (*Proverbs 31:30*).

"Love, Mom"

by John Laeger

This letter told me many special moments forever impressed on my mom's heart. Like how my dad came into my mom's room after I was born, put his head on my mom, and cried because now they had a son. She told me that I was always a "daddy's boy" and "that's okay." She said she would get mad at me, and I would grin and do something silly (me?) and make it hard for her to stay mad.

She even reminded me of the time I made her so mad that she chased me through the house. I ran out the front door, and she locked the door behind me! She didn't even remember what it was that made her mad at me. (Don't tell her, but I had just swung my little sister through the air, with great airplane form, and she hit and broke my mom's favorite lamp!) She said that this letter may sound silly to me. Tears filled my eyes as I read it and placed it where I would always have it close. It was signed, "Love, Mom."

This letter reminded me, as we draw close to Mother's Day, of two unique characteristics of a mom.

First is a mom's love. No one loves like a mom. Mom can give that special touch and sensitivity that no one else on the face of the earth can give. A mom's love is 1 Corinthians 13 love. A mom's love is from the God of love. In her letter, my mom said, "It is hard to put into words feelings for you except to say there is no greater love than what our

heavenly Father has for us if we will love and follow Him. And this mother has her Father's love so she is able to love her son."

Second is a mom's prayers. Just as no one loves like a mom, no one prays like a mom. God has gifted moms with a very special heart of quiet but strong and powerful intercession bridging the gap between her earthly children and her heavenly Father. My mom closed her letter to me with one of these quiet, strong, and powerful prayers.

"Dear Jesus. I want to thank you for the love you have given me and for the family you have given me to love. I ask you to be with John as he serves you. Guide him and hold him up in time of trouble, keep him strong, help him to love his family and the people you put before him. Open doors where you want him to go to serve you and show him the way. Thank you, Lord, for John, my son. Amen."

Why not send your mom a letter expressing your love and prayers for her? Why not go before our great and heavenly Father and thank Him for your mom?

If you are a mom, why not ask God to manifest His love through you to your children? Why not ask Him to give you His heart to be that intercessory bridge your children need so desperately?

"Dear Jesus, thank you for the love you have given me and for the mom you have given me to love. I ask you to be with her as she serves you. Guide her and hold her up in time of trouble, keep her strong, help her to love my dad and the people you put before her. Open doors where you want her to go to serve you and show her the way. Thank you Lord for Carol, my mom. Amen." □

The Rev. John Laeger is senior pastor at ValleyView Baptist Church, Shakopee, MN.

YOUTH NEWS

by Brad and Melissa Blyth

"To be a true, authentic follower of Jesus Christ, we must discipline ourselves in the guidelines Jesus left for us in the Bible, pointed out Gregg Hemmen, guest speaker at the annual Iowa Youth Retreat. "We must choose to pursue this goal in the same determined way we develop our physical and intellectual skills through athletics and academics. It is a fight to be a Christian in America and in Iowa. As youth, you are constantly challenged in your beliefs at school and in your daily life. At some point, you must stand up and fight for your belief in Jesus Christ and live it out."

The theme of the weekend, "The Fight," based on 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the fight . . . I have kept the faith!" was the main focus of the weekend. Hemmen blended a healthy mixture of biblical instruction with his own experiences in "the fight." He is a senior in the dual Master's Program at N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD.

Almost a year of planning by the people of First Baptist Church,

George, Iowa, helped to make this a God-honoring weekend of spiritual examination and renewal for the youth, ranging in age from junior high to high school. The youth were housed all over the George-Little Rock area. Many of the members of the Church took in seven to ten people. The Church helped to prepare the meals on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon, also. With the help of many volunteers, the Saturday night banquet was a success.

The youth of the Iowa Association experienced a tremendous weekend as they worshipped, played, and developed friendships together at this retreat. They skated at a roller rink to Christian music that ranged from rap to rock to country. After a spaghetti banquet, the youth heard a fantastic concert by the band, "Cross Reference."

Many prayed diligently that Jesus Christ would be glorified and that those who came to the retreat would have a renewed hunger for the things of God. Both sponsors and youth left with a sense that they are not alone in "The Fight" to be a dis-

ciplined and excited follower of Jesus. All the games, music, and discussion were aimed at achieving this goal. □

Brad and Melissa Blyth are youth leaders at First Baptist Church, George, IA, and students at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The youth were treated to a strange, but dynamic superhero called Captain Challenge. He was often found in yellow tights, a flashy blue cape, and a protective helmet. His entrances into the meetings (cross-country skis, a scooter) were as varied as the challenges that he required of the youth. One such challenge found the two unsuspecting participants making lemonade . . . in their stomachs! To complete the challenge and win the Christian tape of their choice, the contestants had to eat and swallow half a lemon, eat approximately three teaspoons of sugar, then drink a cup of water. Jump up and down once or twice . . . and there you have it—lemonade!

IOWA YOUTH CONSIDER "THE FIGHT"



A few years ago, I received a letter in the mail. The return address simply said, "Mom." When the first sentence said, "I don't think I have ever written you a letter to tell you that I am so thankful that you are our SON," I knew this was no ordinary letter.

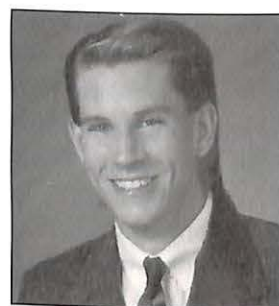


WHY CHOOSE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE?

Some Parent and Student Perspectives

Since 1939, NABC's motto has been *Pro Deo et Veritate* - "For God and Truth". We are thankful to God for the young men and women He has brought to our community of faith and learning - where He has shaped their character and sharpened their minds through a dedicated and caring faculty. Our professors - Terry Fossen, Walter Goltz, Daryl Grant, Richard Paetzel, Carol Potratz, Peter Ristau, Glen Scorgie, Mel Unger, Werner Waitkus, Aileen Wright - are committed to guiding students towards God and truth. I believe God has blessed our College through the years by bringing together committed faculty and motivated students. After reading the comments from parents and students, I hope you will agree.

Paul Siewert, President



Bryce Eben
Freshman
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

I come from an NAB church and have always heard about NABC when I was growing up. The people here are even more friendly than I expected and both staff and students really take an interest in each other. Because it's a small college, friendships extend far into the community with my involvement on the basketball team and the chapel worship band. Classes are very challenging and I have found the professors to be accessible and approachable. I like the fact that NABC has a strong Christian commitment, the class sizes are small, and the cost is very reasonable for U.S. students. The possibility of transferring back to the United States is also attractive.

Dr. Harry H. Hiller
Professor of Sociology
Calgary, Alberta

As a professor in a large public university of more than 20,000 students, you might ask how I feel about our son attending a small Christian college?

In the first place, the decision was his decision with little influence from me. He had become familiar with NABC through students attending there from our church, at camp from other counselors, and through attending Triennials. This network of friendships steered him in that direction.

From an academic point of view, NABC provides a unique blend of scholarly challenge and spiritual development. The university transfer courses that NABC provides is important; yet at the same time, students can select courses that contribute to spiritual growth and knowledge about their faith. For example, the course on Spiritual Formation provides a great foundation for personal spiritual growth for any young adult.

Socially, NABC provides a small caring community of students that is still big enough to be interesting. You do not have to be an all-star to play on the sports teams which build superb school spirit. There are great service opportunities and music and drama teams which allow for development in these areas. Dorm life is also an experience that no teenager should miss! Most of all, I like the great friends that our son has made at NABC. I am sure these friendships will last a life-time!

Eric and Trudy Patzer
Patzer Office Equipment
Winnipeg, Manitoba

It was evident to us as parents that our daughter was not sure what direction her life should take, so we encouraged her to seriously consider a year or two at Bible college.

We have been impressed with how the professors and staff at NABC have helped Carla recognize her own individuality and allowed her to develop, grow and appreciate her own personhood. Having the freedom to be the person God created you to be and not being squeezed into a mold others want you to fit is a concept NABC seems to embrace and one we applaud. The openness and the comfortable feeling the students have in being able to approach the staff regarding any questions or difficulty they might have is reassuring to us as parents given that dialogue is such an important part of learning and growing.

Carla has especially enjoyed the counselling classes she has participated in and the experience of answering a 24-Hour Crisis telephone line has given her and the girls in her dorm an opportunity to apply Christian principles to a practical life situation. Learning to share a room, along with learning to care and pray for each other has been a very positive experience and the friendships formed will be cherished life-time memories.

Carla feels her time spent at NABC has been very worth while, both for her spiritual growth and her personal growth. As parents, it is our prayer that she will continue to build on what she has learned and experienced.



FACTS ABOUT N.A.B.C.

Affiliated with the University of Alberta

Member, American Association of Bible Colleges

Campus: 26 acres in the southwest of Edmonton, Alberta's capital city.

Enrollment: (1993) 320 with almost equal numbers of men and women, 45% residents.

Tuition: approximately \$1500 (\$CAD) per semester.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

Bachelor of Religion

Associate of Arts in Religion

Diploma in Music

Certificate in Biblical Studies

1-800-567-4988

11525 - 23 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3
Telephone (403) 437-1960 Fax (403) 436-9416

A University Affiliated Centre for Christian Studies

Ten Benefits of Tithing

Part I

by G. Roger Schoenhals

Forty years ago, my parents went camping in the Olympic National Park. On Sunday morning, they drove to a little church in nearby Port Angeles, WA. The pastor preached a simple message on Christian stewardship.

Driving back to their campsite, they talked about the sermon. That evening, in the quietness of the forest, they decided to go beyond the tithe and begin giving a higher percentage to the Lord's work.

Economically, the decision didn't make sense, but they chose to do it anyway—cheerfully. And, according to my dad, they experienced a delightful sense of liberation. The practice continued from then on, the percentage ranging higher in later years.

But before you can go beyond the tithe, you've got to get the tithing habit. And that means a consistent practice of giving ten percent of your income to the Lord's work.

Why ten percent? Why not five percent? Why not "according to our means?" Is not tithing a legalistic carry-over from the Old Testament?

Whatever you think about this, read on and see how you react to these ten benefits of tithing. They're not new, but taken together they may be valuable as you sort out this issue yourself. The first reason:

Tithing Honors Scripture

In the book of Romans, when Paul wants to explain the meaning of faith, he refers his readers back to Genesis and the example of Abraham. When James wants to illustrate what he means by Christian works, he points back to father

Abraham. And, when the subject of tithing comes up in the book of Hebrews, again we find Abraham.

The word, "tithe," first appears in Genesis 14:20. Here, Abraham gives Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High, a tithe of what he had gained from his military victory. He seems to give it willingly and gratefully.

The practice of giving ten percent to God was later established as part of the Mosaic Law. We see it continuing throughout the Old Testament. In the final book of Malachi, we're told that failure to pay the tithe is nothing less than robbing God. In the New Testament, the subject of tithing appears in three settings: the Hebrews' reference to Abraham and Melchizedek; Luke's description of the self-righteous Pharisee; and the account of Jesus confronting the Pharisees about their scrupulous legalism.

In this latter reference, Jesus refuses to condemn the practice of tithing. After denouncing the Pharisees for their failure to observe such weighty matters as justice, mercy, and faith, he tells them that in addition to doing these things they should continue to tithe. At least that's the implication.

While one may argue whether the Bible actually commands tithing for Christians today, the believer who earnestly seeks guidance will be thankful for any direction the Bible provides. A biblical reference to the tithe is a welcome sign post for those seeking help. □

(Continued in next issue)

G. Roger Schoenhals is a freelance writer from Seattle, WA.

Giving and Liking It

by Paul H. Siewert

Do you like giving? Many people do! Not long ago, I spoke at a church event. After the service, a man greeted me warmly and pressed some money in my hand. Somewhat taken back, I told him I didn't take individual gifts for my services. His response: "I just wanted to give you something!"

Some years ago, I spent considerable time in the hospital with a family as they watched a loved one pass away. The husband thanked me earnestly for all I had done for the family. My response was that I hadn't really done much except for being there. His response: "You gave hours of your time; that's a big gift."

Early last year, I gave the tribute at our mother's funeral service. As we gathered after the service, my sister thanked me generously on behalf of the family. I indicated it was a privilege for me. Her response: "You did what the rest of us wanted done but were not able to do."

Giving is great! It expands our lives, enriches our hearts and blesses others. "Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly nor under compulsion, for God loves the man who gives cheerfully" (1 Corinthians 9:7).

It is my hope that we will foster a generous spirit on our N.A.B. College/Edmonton Baptist Seminary campus. A grudging and greedy spirit has a poisonous effect on society. A generous spirit is a tribute to God and blesses our ministry for Christ. □



Dr. Paul H. Siewert is President of the North American Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary, Edmonton, AB.

The Power of Positive DOING

By Gregg Evans

The power of positive . . . doing makes a difference in people's lives. We have found this to be true in our ministry as missionaries in the Philippines. The power of positive . . . doing opened doors to start three new Bible study groups in new areas recently.

Dr. and Mrs. Manuel Mariano, N.A.B.ers from Grand Forks, ND, come to the Philippines year after year at great personal expense to conduct eye clinics and surgeries for poor barrio people. Their incredible ministry gives us a great public relations boost, helps us to open new outreaches, and restores sight to scores of blind people.

Though the clinics are conducted in rural barrios, one Batang Baptist Church member, who works in Ligao town, reports that the Marianos' ministry is talked about and widely respected there. The power of positive . . . DOING!

Nestor, a notorious drinker and no friend of Batang Baptist Chapel, suddenly went blind last October at the age of 52. After being examined by Dr. Mariano at a free clinic at the Batang Baptist Chapel, surgery was scheduled. His vision was restored within a couple of days.

Nestor is full of thanks for the Batang Baptist Chapel. The kindness shown to him has been the talk of the barrio. The power of positive . . . DOING!

Pedro is the chief of the peace-



Dr. Manuel Mariano conducts an eye clinic with Missionary Gregg Evans looking on. Through these eye clinic outreaches, Bible study groups are started, it is hoped that these will eventually become churches.

keeping and security force in Batang. Although he was one of the carpenters who attended my original Bible studies three and a half years ago, he hasn't been around much since then.

He came to the Batang Baptist Chapel last Sunday. After the worship service, he talked to me. He thanked me personally for the help we provided to Nestor. One comment really blessed my heart: "There are now many churches, but yours is the only one that helps people." The power of positive . . . DOING!

With the eye clinics and surgeries

finished for another year, we are now returning to the barrios with reading glasses for those in need. We have been well-received wherever we've gone. In fact, as a result of the glasses distribution, three new Bible studies have been started with the whole-hearted approval of the respective barrio captains. We expect to start a fourth and possibly a fifth Bible study in the coming few weeks. The power of positive . . . DOING! □

Gregg Evans is an N.A.B. Conference church planting missionary to the Philippines.



What Is Your Reference Point?

by Lyle E. Schaller

"The church we were in before we moved here had worship at 8:30 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:30 with the second service beginning at 10:45. I think that would be a good schedule for us here," urged a recent new member.

The time had come in this numerically growing congregation to change from one worship service on Sunday morning to two. Space considerations had made this an urgent issue. A committee of five members had been appointed to prepare a specific recommendation for the new Sunday morning schedule.

"When we moved here 25 years ago, this church had two services every Sunday morning. The first was at nine o'clock followed by Sunday school at ten and the second service at eleven," recalled a longtime member. "That would meet the current need and also be consistent with our past traditions. When our numbers began to shrink about ten years ago, we cut back to one service."

"I'm not convinced this is needed," declared a third member of the group. "Sure, we've had to set up chairs in the aisles and behind the rear pews about half the Sundays over the past few months, but a full church adds to the excitement. It also improves congregational singing and means our choir only has to sing once. As a choir member, I have zero interest in singing at both services! Today, we have the best choir this church has ever had; we shouldn't do anything to undermine it. Someone has suggested we split



the choir and ask half to sing at the early service and half at the second, but that is simply a way of replacing one excellent choir with two tiny second-rate choirs."

"Our son and his wife are in a church a little larger than ours. They added a second worship service and scheduled it for Saturday evening," explained a fourth person.

* * *

"Reverend Reynolds was the best pastor I've ever known," reflected the 61-year-old member, as he commented on the ministry of the pastor, who had just retired after a 22-year tenure. He was talking with the new minister who had arrived two weeks earlier. "If you can be a carbon copy of Bob Reynolds, you'll be a success here."

The next day, Martha Williams explained to the new pastor, "Bob Reynolds was an excellent minister for his day, but for the past several years, this congregation has been growing smaller and smaller. We need a fresh start here if we are going to reach and serve new generations of younger people. Your job is to bring us a vision of a new tomorrow and rally the resources needed to implement that vision. Grace Church over in Harrisburg is an excellent model of the church of tomorrow. If you could take a couple of days off to study Grace Church, you would agree that should be the model we try to emulate."

A couple of days later, Joe Johnson suggested to the new minister, "The best days of this congregation were back in the late 1950s and early 1960s when Ralph Swanson was our pastor. If you can recapture that era, we'll all be in your debt."

After listening to these and similar comments, this 39-year-old minister silently concluded, "I've had two highly successful pastorates since I graduated from seminary 15 years ago. I think I will try to do here what worked so well for us in my last pastorate."

What Is the Central Thread?

The central thread running through both of these scenarios consists of three strands. 1) We all tend to use reference points from our own personal experiences. 2) The absence of common reference points often is a barrier to agreement on a course of action. 3) Both scenarios illustrate how attractive a past orien-

tation can be when planning for the future.

"Let's do yesterday over again, only better" is a popular goal. It not only is a popular goal; it often is a formula that facilitates growing older and smaller.

What Are the Alternatives?

- Perhaps the most effective alternative, yet perceived to be the most difficult, is for the leaders to share in a new experience that becomes the common reference point for all. For example, instead of relying on their own individual past experiences and preferences regarding scheduling, it may be more useful for those five committee members to visit two or three or four congregations that have expanded their schedules. 1) A congregation of the same denomination and about the same size that recently has been forced to expand the Sunday morning schedule because of the increase in worship attendance. 2) A church the size this congregation hopes to be in five years—one that expanded its schedule several years ago and thus has longer experience with that more complicated schedule. 3) A congregation that offers two concurrent worship services followed by a late worship service. 4) A congregation that has had at least two or three years of experience with Saturday evening worship.

That would enable the visitors to examine an alternative that none had even thought about. Instead of thinking only in terms of a sequential expansion, look at the possibility of a concurrent expansion.

- Likewise that recently arrived pastor might be able to dampen the references to the good old days by encouraging all of the leaders to visit and worship with at least two other congregations of comparable type

and size. This could encourage these leaders to replace the past with contemporary reality as their reference point.

A better strategy would be for that new minister to identify three or four congregations that could be useful models for tomorrow for this congregation, spend a day or two studying each one, pick the one the new minister concludes would be the best model, and subsequently serve as the tour guide for a group of seven to twelve leaders who would spend a couple of days studying that congregation. When they returned, the new minister and those leaders would share a common reference in planning for a new tomorrow.

- A more structured approach would be for that new minister to launch the process by encouraging the creation of a long-range planning committee. After gathering and studying a collection of data about this congregation, the members of the planning committee would begin by seeking a common definition of contemporary reality.

This is one step in a three-part planning process that asks the committee to 1) agree on contemporary reality ("You can't get there from here unless you know where here is"), 2) agree on a common vision of a new tomorrow ("You can't get there from here unless you know where you want to go"), and 3) agree on a strategy for getting from here to there. The visit to that model church would come between steps one and two in this sequence. By completing that first step before the visit, the committee members will be equipped to ask more and better questions that will feed their deliberations in steps two and three. They may want to visit a second model or teaching church between steps two and three.

- An easier, and often less influential, alternative is for all members of this planning committee to agree to read the same two or three books before beginning their deliberations. The content of these books can 1) temper the natural tendency to rely excessively on personal past reference points, 2) encourage a stronger future orientation, and, most importantly, 3) provide a series of common reference points for all members of that committee.

- A fifth approach would be to encourage several leaders to participate in a two-day workshop designed for both lay and clergy from a precisely defined type of congregation. For one group of congregational leaders, the best choice might be to attend a two-day event that focuses on the future of the ex-neighborhood church. For others, it might be the workshop on expanding the teaching ministry as a means of reaching the generations born after 1942. For a third group of leaders, the logical choice would be the event designed for emerging regional churches. For many, it is the workshop that concentrates on the future of congregations averaging 60 to 120 at worship. For some, the most useful experience will be the one designed to present various choices in worship and music. When these leaders return home, they will share a common reference point.

All five of these approaches utilize the power of shared experiences in creating a set of common reference points. How do you encourage your leaders to use common reference points in planning for the future of your congregation? □

Copyright © 1994 by Lyle E. Schaller, 530 North Brainard Street, Naperville, IL 60563-3199.



The Reality of Easter

by Edna E. Kramer

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus constitute the message of Easter. Just as surely as Jesus came to Bethlehem for His birth, He came to Jerusalem for the crucifixion, as foretold by the prophets. The plan designed in eternity for our redemption began to unfold.

Ever since Mary, Jesus' mother, heard the angelic announcement of the incarnation, she had been submissive and responsive to the message. Her reply, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said" (*Luke 1:38*). She, along with many in Israel, awaited the coming of the Messiah.

On the night of the Savior's birth, the awesome events that surrounded the night were specially remembered. "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (*Luke 2:19*).

By the time of Jesus' first miracle in Cana of Galilee, Mary wisely commented to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." God trusted Mary with a special responsibility, and she was faithful.

Our responses to the choices we must make determine our success or failure. In the temple presentation of Jesus, Mary heard from the lips of Simeon that "a sword would pierce her heart, too," speaking of the Messiah and His death. Joseph and Mary just stood there, marveling at what was being said about Jesus (*Luke 2:33*).

Now, as Mary stood by the cross, it was so clear, so real. The timing is precise; the domino effect from



beginning to end fits perfectly the eternal plan of God as prophesied in the Old Testament.

It was as Jesus said to Pilate, "You would have no power at all over me unless it were given to you from above." Pilate was NOT in charge.

The divine love story was being orchestrated from the court of heaven. Mary felt the pain of the nails driven into the hands now stretched out on the cross. How often she had smoothed the brow of Jesus, but now it was pierced with cruel thorns.

To others, He was a criminal, an imposter, as He hung there in shame. But to Mary, He was her son. Sometimes grief numbs and blinds us, but this was no ordinary scene on Golgotha's hill. All nature convulsed as the Creator laid down His life. Even the captain of the Roman military unit handling the

executions recognized the innocence of Jesus.

And then Jesus turned and spoke to Mary. He was not asking anything for Himself, but He said, "Behold your son" as He made provision for her care.

To John He said, "Behold your mother." He understood well His responsibility as the oldest son, and John responded by taking Mary home from then on. Jesus was personal in His care for His mother as He is in His care for us.

There's a lesson for us. The cross bestows a sense of care as we see ourselves in the light of Calvary love.

In comparing the four Gospels, a beautiful, complete story unfolds of the ones who remained near Jesus throughout this time of suffering. Among these were "many women who had come down from Galilee to care for His needs" (*Matthew 27:55*). They followed Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to the garden tomb where Jesus' body was lovingly prepared for burial in a new, borrowed tomb. The women watched to see where He was laid, having a plan to add their own embalming later (*Mark 15: 46-47*). Now they went home to comply with the Sabbath and to await the first day of the week. Good Friday was almost over.

Mary Magdalene had been gloriously touched by Christ when He cast out seven demons from her. She is a heart-warming example of grateful living. Mary Magdalene was among the first to arrive at the

empty tomb on Sunday morning. The stone had already been rolled away by an angel following an earthquake. Mary stood by the grave weeping.

As she looked into the tomb, the angel asked, "Why are you crying?" "Because they have taken away my Lord and I don't know where they have laid Him," was her reply. Over her shoulder, she saw someone whom she thought to be the gardener. "Tell me where you have put him."

He simply spoke her name, "Mary." In so doing, she recognized the risen Christ. She was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection.

Jesus did not treat women according to the culture of His day. Womanhood has forever been exalted by Christ.

As the women hurried with the good news of the resurrection, Salome asked, "Will they believe us?" Mary answered that they probably would not believe them at first. They were not sent to convince the disciples but to simply tell, "He is risen." Mary's simple testimony to the disciples: "I have seen the Lord."

Easter faith is not someone else's experience. It is experiencing the living Christ when you receive Him. Only then does He become real to you.

I've stood in a windswept Cree and Inuit village on the shores of the mighty Hudson Bay in northern Quebec. I saw the handmade casket lowered in the sandy soil following a service in an almost totally unfamiliar language. The cross on the casket was a symbol of hope.

I've stood on the windswept prairie of Saskatchewan on a chilly December day, the cemetery

covered with snow, when voices of believers mingled in a song of celebration and triumph:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives."

—William J. Gaither

Again, the resurrection sustained us.

I've stood in a hospital room as life slowly slipped away, and I have

seen the glory of the immortal in that moment.

One of the distinctives of the Christian faith is its living Founder.

I repeat, Easter faith is not someone else's experience. It's experiencing the risen Christ when you receive Him. Only then does He become real to you. □

*Edna E. Kramer is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Regina, Saskatchewan. She is a mother of four children and a grandmother of ten. Edna is the author of two books of poetry, **Treasures of the Heart**.*

Triennial Conference Women's Activities Dallas, Texas - August 2-7, 1994

Special Workshops - August 3

"Everything but the Kitchen Sink" — Exciting and practical insights on how to plan an effective women's ministry that networks with women around the world.

"Planning a Prayer Ministry with Women" — Adding the "how-tos" to the desire to pray, with practical steps in planning specific prayer ministries, including how to plan a Day of Prayer.

"Breathing Vitality into Your Women's Ministry" — Appealing ideas which involve and meet the needs of women, enabling them to reach out and show Christ to the women in their communities.

WMF Luncheon - August 6

On Saturday, August 6, 1,000 women will gather together to be inspired to develop a heart that cares. Jennifer Sudderth, NABWU president, will be the featured speaker.

An offering will be taken for the special Triennial Project to construct a Christian education building for the Church in Restinga, where WMF missionary, Florinda Serafin, serves in Brazil.

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ APLINGTON, IA. Pastor Marlin Mohrman baptized one youth and three adults and welcomed them into Aplington Baptist Church. —*Mabel Lindeman*

■ DRAKE, ND. Rosenfeld Baptist Church welcomed two people into its fellowship. Pastor Rod Poppinga baptized one person, and one person came by her testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. —*Arlean Martin*

■ WINNIPEG, MB. On the last day of the year, McDermont Avenue Baptist Church assembled for a special service including baptism and communion. A couple, Christians for many years, were baptized and welcomed into the Church by the Rev. Werner Dietrich, associate pastor of the Church. Their decision to follow Christ in baptism was the result of Deeper Life meetings held in October with the Rev. Larry Burd, Bethlehem, PA. —*Maria Rogalski*

■ NOKOMIS, SK. Pastor Graham Kern baptized a 53-year-old man who trusted Christ for eternal life this past August. "It was an exciting day for his wife and Nokomis Baptist Church as this man had attempted to take his life, but

God rescued him; now he is a new creation," says Pastor Kern.

■ FLOWER MOUND, TX. "We praise the Lord for two more coming to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior at Cross-Timbers Baptist Church!" reports Pastor Ron Presley. "I led a lady who is a young mother and was suicidal to place her hope and faith in Christ."

Another woman, recently baptized, visited a dying aunt to share Christ with her one more time. The aunt asked Jesus into her heart!

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

■ VERNON, BC. Pastor Elmer Fehr baptized ten people—three youth and seven adults, and wel-



comed eight people into the membership of Faith Baptist Church. "We thank the Lord for His loving kindness," says Angie Glinsbockel.

■ EDMONTON, AB. The Rev. Howard Lawrence baptized 15 young people and adults in January. They, along with several others, were welcomed into the fellowship of Central Baptist Church. —*Kurt Remus*

■ LORRAINE, KS. The Rev. Monty Loudenslager baptized ten people from a new members class and welcomed them into First Baptist Church. —*Betty Craig*

■ MORRIS, MB. The congregation and friends of Emmanuel Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of ten persons. Upon their confession of faith, they entered the baptismal waters, signifying their intention to follow the Lord. They were accepted into the Church and welcomed

as members by the Rev. Del Bertsch, pastor. —*Cynthia Bergstresser*

■ LINTON, ND. The Rev. Alan Steier of First Baptist Church welcomed four new members into the congregation by baptism. —*Alvina Huber*

■ BEAUSEJOUR, MB. Elim Baptist Church welcomed Pastor James Regehr and his wife, Betty Ann, into the Church in November 1993. Since his installation, he has held three baptismal services, baptizing a total of 13 people, of whom 11 became members. "Our congregation has been enriched by Pastor James' ministry. We are looking forward to his continued service in our church," declares Daphne Keck.

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Dewey speaks at Shell Creek Baptist Church

■ COLUMBUS, NE. Special meetings were held at Shell Creek Baptist Church, with the Rev. Dennis Dewey of Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, MO, bringing the spiritual renewal messages titled "Godly Living in an Ungodly World," based on the book of Esther. The Rev. Richard Lute is pastor. —*Ruth Ann Behlen*

Northgate Baptist adds service; welcomes Asian congregation

■ EDMONTON, AB. Northgate Baptist Church has welcomed an Asian Christian congregation to meet weekly in its fellowship hall. The new con-

gregation consists of 50 evangelical Christians of East Indian and Pakistani backgrounds. They speak the language of Urdu and share a common goal of evangelizing others with the same ethnic background.

To solve the problem of overcrowding in the 11 a.m. service, Northgate holds a "Morning Glory" service at 9:30 a.m. This service provides an opportunity to worship God in a less traditional format. "Our prayer is that those in the community who would like to attend church, but feel nervous and uncomfortable in the traditional service will find a place of worship with us at this time," says Lori Reiter.

The music, led by a praise team, is more contemporary than traditional. The message is presented through dramatic presentations and other art forms as well as through teaching sessions that are more informal than the traditional sermon. "We encourage each other and glorify God by giving, as we are led, short faith talks that exemplify God's working and love in our personal lives," says Reiter.

Following the service, the Sunday school hour focuses on God's word. "We fellowship with one another and encourage and pray for one another, usually with a cup of coffee," reports Reiter. "Sometimes we have special seminars or Bible studies at this time, often those requested by members of the congregation. Our mother congregation, the 11 a.m. worshippers, pray for us and we for them, as we endeavor to provide yet another arm to reach out in love to those in our community," declares Reiter.

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Northern Dakota Association cluster meeting held in McClusky

■ MCCLUSKY, ND. McClusky Baptist Church hosted the Northern Dakota Association Cluster Meeting in January. Association pastors and church leaders met with Conference personnel, including Dr. John Binder,

Fann speaks at Calvary in Tacoma

■ TACOMA, WA. The Rev. Jim Fann, church planting director of the N.A.B. Conference, spoke on "Health Indicators for the Family" at Calvary Baptist Church.

The annual meeting, held during the evening service, took on a different format this year. During the first hour, members enjoyed refreshments, fellowship, singing hymns, and reading through the annual reports. Following the business meeting, led by Moderator Dave Gibson, Pastor Don Burnett assembled the moderator and chairpersons from each board for a panel discussion: "Are We at Calvary Building Our Programs around Family Values?" Mr. Fann also took part in the discussion adding several good suggestions.

Some of the activities Calvary is involved in are Awana Clubs, orchestra, choir, singing groups, young people's programs, drama team, sports, safe streets program, and Women's Bible Fellowship. —*Earl Shadle*

Buenning is pastor of the McClusky Church. —*Grace Paul*

Emmanuel Baptist WMF enjoys 1800s program

■ MORRIS, MB. Women's Ministries of Emmanuel Baptist Church enjoyed a special supper prepared and served by the Church's youth group. Many people came dressed appropriately to celebrate the theme of the evening—the 1800s.

"We enjoyed a drama written and produced by

one of our members, Laura Bergstresser, says Cynthia Bergstresser. An offering was received for Hispanic Ministries.

Tacoma church ministers to 120 children

■ TACOMA, WA. Matt and Jill Burgher, Calvary Baptist Church, reach more than 120 children through the Church's club program.

Recently, Darrell and Robin Weiland of Awana were guest speakers. The Rev. Don Burnett is pastor. —*Earl Shadle*

COMMITTED TO GIVE

Durham church celebrates mortgage burning



The Rev. Elton Kirstein, interim pastor, asked all who had served on the committees to come forward for the burning of the mortgage.

■ DURHAM, KS. First Baptist Church held a mortgage burning ceremony after the remodeling of the front entrance to the sanctuary was completed. Kem Chisolm, building committee chair, summa-

rized the remodeling process begun in 1989 and recognized those who served on the committees. He thanked the congregation for its support through prayers, work, and finances. —*Pearl Koch*

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

Lorraine church holds mission festival

■ LORRAINE, KS. At the annual Harvest Mission Festival, the Rev. Jim Mische, missionary to Nigeria, served as guest speaker.

"We decorated our church with fruits and vegetables to show how thankful we were for what the Lord had given us the past year," reports Betty Craig.

COMMANDED TO CARE

Washington church celebrates sanctity of life

■ TACOMA, WA. Calvary Baptist Church recently celebrated "Sanctity of Life" Sunday.

Pastor Don Burnett's message was "His Eye Is on the Unborn." Representatives of two groups, Mrs. Linda Clark, Tacoma Pregnancy Care Center, and Chaplain Stacy Miller, Love Your Neighbor Ministries, also spoke. The purpose of both groups is an outreach of compassion—to young pregnant women and senior citizens in nursing homes. —Earl Shadle

Central Baptist holds concert to benefit Mustard Seed Street Church

■ EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist Church held a benefit concert to help support the Mustard Seed Street Church in Edmonton. Jens Lindemann, a son of Central and winner of several international trumpet competitions, presented a varied repertoire of sacred, classical, and secular music.

The concert raised \$4,300 to help the ministries of the six-year-old Mustard Seed Street Church, a cooperative work of the N.A.B. Conference and the Baptist Union of Western Canada.

Their 82-year-old church building (previously the home of Central Baptist) is a mission providing a variety of services to the residents of the inner city: worship services, coffee house, counseling, job training, food bank, and prison visitation. —Kurt Remus

Petrie speaks at Berlin Baptist

■ FREDONIA, ND. "Once again I saw prayers answered and God's care for people manifested as lives were touched by the ministry of Dr. Lewis Petrie," declares Pastor Joseph Noe of Berlin Baptist Church. "Every person at the church was at the altar. Confessions were made; commitments stated; and love and care for one another was demonstrated at the conclusion of the Sunday morning service."

As one person in the

congregation testified, "I praise God for these services because I was touched and challenged by what He is doing in my heart, and I truly do want to be a person who is committed to care for others."

"As this new fire burns within us, I believe that

with God's continued help and direction, we will be a church that is truly 'committed to care.' Thank God for this new work He is doing in our hearts," declares Pastor Noe.

Berlin Baptist Church is a rural North Dakota Church.

ANNIVERSARIES

Rosenfeld celebrates 90th Anniversary

■ DRAKE, ND. Rosenfeld Baptist Church celebrated its 90th Anniversary in the fall of celebrated its Harvest Mis-

sion Festival in a combined service. The Rev. Rod Poppinga is pastor. —Arlean Martin

(Continued on page 28)

VOLHYNIA - July 1-12, 1994

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

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

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

MEL BERGSTRESSER'S FOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL EXPERIENCES TO RUSSIA are your assurance of well-organized tours and memorable experiences.



For more information contact:

• Mel Bergstresser, 16 Glengarry Dr., Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2J6. Phone or Fax: (204) 269-0190 or
• Assiniboine Travel Services, Attention: John Schroeder, 1317 A Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3G 0V3. Phone: (204) 775-0271 Fax: (204) 783-0898

■ ANING, TRESSA KRULL (67); Mesa, AZ; born April 29, 1926, to Harm and Rachael (Stubbe) Krull, in George, IA; died Jan. 25, 1994; married Benard Aning, May 20, 1946; drove school bus for 24 years; active member, Central Baptist Church, George, IA; survived by her husband, Benard; six children: Jake B. Aning, Brookings, SD; Gloria Aning, San Antonio, TX; Harm (Donna) Aning, Roseville, CA; Bruce (Jane) Aning, Rock Rapids, IA; Terry (Arlene) Aning, Cedar Rapids, IA; Twila (Bob) Feldman, George, IA; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; special mother, Sena Krull; four brothers: Filbert Krull, John Krull, Kenneth Krull, Arthur Krull; preceded in death by her parents and one granddaughter, Peggy; Dr. Robert Lueck and Pastor Steve Dunkel, funeral service.

■ BEHLEN, MARVIN (78); Milbank, SD; born July 31, 1915, to John and Mary (Hanssen) Behlen in rural Columbus, NE; died Jan. 4, 1994; married Anna DeBoer, Sept. 14, 1945; member, deacon, and trustee, Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE; member, trustee, and choir member, First Baptist Church, Corona, SD; member, Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD; survived by his wife, Anna; a daughter, Gloria (Mark) Boerger, Rapid City, SD; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one brother, Edwin Behlen; several nieces and nephews; preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Harvey Behlen; Pastor Darryl Van Gerpen, funeral service.

■ DANNEBOHM, STANLEY (86); Ellinwood, KS; born Aug. 28, 1907, to John and Emma (Fischer) Dannebohm in Ellinwood, KS; died Nov. 20, 1993; married Irene Parker, Nov. 6, 1929; member, First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS; survived by his wife, Irene; four sons:

Donald, Robert, Gary, and Larry, all of Ellinwood, KS; one daughter, Marilyn Meyer, Garden City, KS; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; the Rev. George Redington, pastor, funeral service.

■ HEERTS, LUELLA H. HACK (93); Aplington, IA; born Jan. 18, 1901, to the Rev. Raymond and Amanda (Kuenstler) Hack in Elgin, IA; died Feb. 4, 1994; married Bert Heerts, March 16, 1922; faithful member, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA; survived by her daughter, Mildred Boyenga; her son-in-law, A.T. Adams; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; preceded in death by her parents, husband Bert, son William, daughter Berdine Adams, five brothers and one sister; the Reverends Jerry Johnson, Martin Dewey, and Lyle Huisinga, funeral service.

■ JANSSEN, MARIAN L. (78); Lorraine, KS; born Aug. 3, 1915, to Roscoe and Nellie (Henry) Craig in Holyrood, KS; died Dec. 10, 1993; married Herschel Janssen, Nov. 16, 1935; member, First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS; member, Women's Missionary Society; survived by her husband, Herschel; two sons: Arlo, Eldon, NE; Richard, Ellsworth, KS; three daughters: Arva Jo Walker, Canton, KS; Rachel Lucille Meitler, Great Bend, KS; Joyce Ann Cotton, New Orleans, LA; two brothers: Roscoe Craig Jr. and Ivan Craig; sister, Lois Swofford; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; the Rev. Monty Loudenslager, pastor, funeral service.

■ LANGE, ELSA (88); Winnipeg, MB; born Jan. 14, 1905, to Daniel and Emilie Lange in Neudorf, Ukraine; died May 3, 1993; married Julius Lange, Oct. 23, 1925; immigrated to Canada in 1950; faithful member, Mission

Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB; survived by a son, Erich (Helen) Lange, Oakbank, MB; two daughters: Ada (Sieg-mund) Gross, Winnipeg, MB; Ursula (David) Hitchcock, Wetaskiwin, AB; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Berta Schlander; the Reverends E. Hamm and E. Hees, funeral service.

■ MARTIN, EMMA (89); Lodi, CA; born May 1, 1904, to Fred and Marie Broschat in Cathay, ND; died Jan. 8, 1994; married Emil Martin, Nov. 10, 1921; member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; survived by two daughters: Mavis (Levi) Goehring and Loris (Elden) Enzminger, all Lodi, CA; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Ella Martin; preceded in death by her husband, Emil; four brothers; and six sisters; the Reverends David Mitchell and Aaron Buhler, pastors, funeral service.

■ MOSER, HARRY (70); Jamestown, ND; born July 16, 1923, to William and Pauline (Meisch) Moser in Medina, ND; died Jan. 19, 1994; married Donna Kunz, March 9, 1946; member, head usher, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; member, Gideons International; survived by his wife, Donna; two daughters: Diana (Curtis) Trautman and Linda (Ron) Weickum of Denver, CO; two sons: Gary Moser, Castro Valley, CA, and Bruce (Delise) Moser, Denver, CO; nine grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four sisters: Viola Seidel, Virginia Ackerman, Esther Bender, Evangeline Freeman; four brothers: Clarence, Leslie, Curtis, Jerry; preceded in death by his parents, two sons, a great-grandson, and three brothers; the Rev. Randy Jaspers, pastor, funeral service.

■ RIEDLINGER, ELSIE (83); Casper, WY; born March 1, 1910, to Christ and Henrietta (Gregor) Vilhauer in Bowdle, SD; died July 13, 1993; married Robert Riedlinger, Jan. 31, 1935; faithful member, First Baptist Church, McIntosh, SD; survived by her son, Duane Reidlinger, Pierre, SD; daughter, Arlene Pridgen, Mills, WY; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; three sisters: Zella Bullock, Esther Smith, and Norma Brenner; one step-sister, Mary-Lou Brenner; one half-brother, Harvey Vilhauer; one foster brother, Rudy Wagner; the Reverends Perry Schnabel and David Ling, funeral service.

■ SCHAUER, EDWARD (84); Ashley, ND; born Aug. 21, 1909, to John and Elizabeth (Bertsch) Schauer near Ashley, ND; died Jan. 7, 1994; married Martha Bertsch, Oct. 18, 1934; active member, Sunday school teacher, deacon, men's chorus member, Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND; survived by his wife, Martha; daughter, Betty (Lyle) Hansen, Jamestown, ND; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and four sisters; the Reverends Darwin Stahl, Randall Tschetter, and Herb Schauer, funeral service.

■ WOLFER, PAULINE (91); McLaughlin, SD; born April 13, 1902, to Adam and Katherine (Mauch) Pfeifer near Herreid, SD; died Dec. 22, 1993; married August Wolfer, Nov. 29, 1924; faithful member, First Baptist Church, McLaughlin, SD; member, WMF; survived by her son, Carlos (Liz) Wolfer, McLaughlin, SD; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Freda Freidel; predeceased by her parents; her husband, August; daughter, Kathleen; three brothers and three sisters; the Rev. Robert Travis, pastor, funeral service.



A Texas Welcome Awaits Children in August

A Texas welcome awaits first through sixth graders at the 44th Triennial Conference of N.A.B. Churches to be held in Dallas, Texas, August 2-7, 1994. On-site activities will be held in the historic Union Station, connected by underground walk-way to the Hyatt Regency-Dallas, where the adult activities will be held.

While the Conference theme for the week is "A Heart That Cares," the children's theme is "I Care, God Cares," which appears on the children's T-shirts.

During this action-packed week, children will participate in various action centers including crafts, games, skits, and an on-site spacewalk. A story center features missionaries, Texas storytellers, puppets, or clowns.

Two puppet teams, the famous *P.O.W.E.R. Company* of Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and a new puppet team, *Ambassadors at Arms*, from CrossTimbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, Texas, will be featured.

On Friday, the children leave at 9 a.m. by bus to visit the renowned Dallas Zoo, and return about 3 p.m. Sack lunches will be provided for those children making this trip.

On Saturday, the children will travel by bus to the Samuel Dude Ranch. Sack lunches will be provided for those children making this trip. Some of the activities at the dude ranch include a picnic, hayrides, volleyball, a petting zoo of farm animals, and lots of acres to run and play in. The weather will probably be 90+ degrees, so the wearing wear cool sports clothes and drinking plenty of liquids are necessary. The group will leave about 9 a.m. and return about 3 p.m.

The Children's Program is cochaired by Geri Heringer, Northlake Church, Coppell Texas, and Anita Hale, CrossTimbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, Texas.

Children will have a fun, safe, and interesting week at the 44th Triennial Conference in Dallas, Texas. "Please send your registration forms as soon as possible, so we can plan for all of the children accordingly," request Geri and Anita. "We look forward to meeting your children and making lots of new friends. Our wish is that your children will make many friends and memories and will never want to miss a Triennial Conference again." □

Freedom Threatened . . . (from page 2)

even been accused of "eating small children for breakfast!" Igoff stated that under communism he was accused of many lies but never of cannibalism! The media has created an atmosphere where people are afraid to come to worship.

What can you do? Please write to your congressional or parliamentary representatives. Write to your government leaders and protest now the suppression of religious freedom in Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries! □

Denton Lotz, Washington, DC, is the general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Reprinted by permission.

Anniversaries . . . (continued from page 26)

Wedding Anniversaries

■ Congratulations to the following who celebrated 50 years of marriage: **Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bender**, Temple Baptist Church, Leduc, AB; **Mr. and Mrs. Eugene G. Fischer**, First Baptist Church, Eureka, SD, July 11, 1993; **the Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Gerthe**, Alexandria, MN, October 24; **Mr. and Mrs. Benny Nies**, First Baptist Church, Eureka, SD, Nov. 14, 1993; **Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Pankratz**, Evangel Baptist Church, Boca Raton, FL, Feb. 12, 1994; and **Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wittman**, McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND, Nov. 21, 1993.

■ Celebrating more than 50 years of marriage are **Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kupsch**, Mary Hill Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam, BC, 60 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Theophil Fandrich**, Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC, Sept. 23, 1993, 60 years; **Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ohlmann**, Temple Baptist Church, Leduc, AB, 65 years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ministerial Changes

■ **Mr. Robin Houts** to pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA, effective February 1994.

■ **Mr. Derril Steele** to business manager, Harbor Trinity Baptist Church, Costa Mesa, CA.

■ **Mr. David Groff** from youth pastor, Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB.

■ **The Rev. Arthur Bollaert** from pastor, Oak Hills Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, effective Jan. 30, 1994.

■ **The Rev. Ralph Cooke**, senior pastor, and **the Rev. Jon Cooke**, associate pastor, were installed Oct. 24, 1993, at South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD. Participating in the service were the Rev. Merle Brenner, installation message, and the Rev. Harry Haas, charges to the church and pastors.

■ **The Rev. Daniel Heringer** of Goodrich, ND, was installed as pastor of First Baptist Church, Mercer, SD, on Jan. 30, 1994. He served as interim pastor there for several months. The Rev. Herbert Schauer, area minister, served as guest speaker. Representatives and pastors of neighboring churches participated in the program. —*Mary Fiedler*

■ **The Rev. Elmer Fehr** was installed as senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC, on Oct. 17, 1993. Participants in the installation service were Mr. Heinz Weiss, church moderator; the Rev. Ed Brandt, Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC; and the Rev. Siegfried Hoppe, Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC. All brought words of encouragement and praise to God for His leading. The Rev. Ed Brandt served as interim pastor from June 1 to October 17. —*Angie Glinsbockel*

Ordination

■ **The Rev. Matthias Dressler** was ordained into the Christian ministry by the Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC. Participating in the service were the Rev. Jim Calamunice, chair of the Ministerial Association; Dr. Harold Dressler, father of the candidate, charge to the church and to the candidate; the Rev. Ed Hohn, area minister, Ordination Certificate, greetings from N.A.B. Conference and British Columbia Association, and hand of fellowship; Dr. Helmut Waltereit, ordination prayer and laying on of hands. —*June Hunt*

Werner Waitkus Retires



A milestone in the history of N.A.B. College is the only adequate way to describe Professor Werner Waitkus's recent announcement that he intends to retire, effective June 30, 1994.

Professor Waitkus presently serves at N.A.B. College, Edmonton, AB, as Registrar and Professor of Theology and Philosophy. He has exercised a great and godly influence on the lives of literally hundreds of students (and colleagues) since joining the faculty some 27 years ago in 1967. He was educated at the Christian Training Institute and the University of Alberta following his emigration from Germany in the 1950s.

Werner and his wife Louise have tentative plans to spend next year in Europe, with possible involvement in North American Baptist Conference ministries there. A formal farewell is scheduled to coincide with the College graduation on April 24.

BAPTIST WORLD AID



HELP NEEDED FOR VICTIMS OF CIVIL WAR

An urgent appeal for prayer has come from Baptists in Rwanda who are again struggling to help with the more than 400,000 refugees from Burundi in camps on their border. These refugees have fled their country's brutal civil war.

According to Eleazar Ziharambere, BWA regional secretary for Africa and general secretary for the Union of Baptist Churches in Rwanda, many of them came with dysentery and an average of 100 people die every day. This dysentery has also affected Rwandans, and one Baptist pastor reported the loss of 110 members since the arrival of the refugees. "Our clinics are full of people," Ziharambere writes, "and we do not have any medicine, and these people cannot afford the medical expenses so they die."

As if this were not enough, there are still more than 450,000 Rwandans homeless in their country because of civil war. It is estimated that more than 800,000 risk starvation daily.

Baptist World Aid is working to help through the Danish Baptist Union. Your contributions designated for Burundi/Rwanda Aid, may be sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

You are invited to . . .



For more information call or write:
Okanagan Bible College
Box 407
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 7N8
Phone: (604) 768-4410
or Fax: (604) 768-0631

OBC's new and innovative Christian Life and Witness Program

A three trimester program designed to provide students with a solid Biblical foundation for their faith and the practical tools to effectively share that faith.

- a one week practicum in the first and third trimesters
- a three week, cross-cultural missions experience
- campus on the shore of beautiful Lake Okanagan
- well qualified and committed faculty and staff
- more affordable than most colleges

Focus on Ministry

EDMONTON BAPTIST SEMINARY

Edmonton Baptist Seminary is the Canadian seminary of the North American Baptist Conference. It also cooperates with the Baptist Union of Western Canada in theological education and is an associate member of the Association of Theological Schools.

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

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theological Studies
- Bachelor of Theology
- Diploma in Christian Studies

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Cluster Classes
- Evening Classes
- January Intersession
- Spring Session
- External Studies

If you would like to explore your ministry aspirations or receive further information about EBS, please contact:

Kurt Redschlag
EDMONTON BAPTIST SEMINARY
11525 - 23 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3
Phone (403) 437-1960 • Fax (403) 436-9416



NAPOLEON BAPTIST CHURCH

Napoleon, North Dakota
invites former members, friends,
and pastors
to attend its

75th Anniversary

June 12, 1994

Theme:
"Carrying on the Work"

History booklets will be available.

For more information contact

Rev. Edward Kopf

Box B

Napoleon, ND 58561

Phone: (701) 754-2627

N.A.B.C. FACULTY VACANCIES

North American Baptist College invites applications for two full-time, tenure-track faculty positions (ranks open), effective Fall 1994:

Registrar and Professor

The position combines half-time duties as Registrar with teaching responsibilities in a university-transfer discipline, preferably Music. The successful applicant must have aptitude for academic administration in a computerized records environment and possess the scholarly qualifications to teach at the post-secondary level.

Professor of English

Candidates should possess a Ph.D. in English, a commitment to the integration of Christian faith and learning, an ability to teach at the post-secondary level, scholarly promise, and a compatibility with the evangelical Baptist ethos of the college.

Address inquiries, with full curriculum vitae, to:

Dr. Glen G. Scorgie, academic dean, North American Baptist College, 11525 - 23 Ave., Edmonton, AB T6J 4T3, CANADA; FAX (403) 436-9416

The selection process will begin by mid-April and continue until the positions are filled.

Building Churches into the 21st Century

Memory Lane Baptist Church: Building Disciples

Rain, hail, snow, loss of pastor, and differing opinions could not stop the building God intended for Memory Lane Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas. This 1961 N.A.B. Conference church plant grew until 1987 when people began to leave because there was no room. Immediate action was needed.

A building committee began to address the need for new facilities. The Church had no large room for children's ministries or fellowship—one-third of the congregation could not attend potlucks for lack of space—and more education rooms were needed. The Church also wanted to expand for future ministry.

Surveys pinpointed needs. The vision for expansion grew, but two differing views of how to expand emerged. One wanted to see all the money in hand prior to building. The other wanted to step out in faith through financing. The Church attempted fundraising but did not raise enough money, and progress slowed. Then, the pastor left. Memory Lane found itself in a state of limbo.

God led Pastor Jim Zier to Memory Lane in 1989. Zier encouraged the church to respond to the vision and move forward. The Church decided to remodel the present facility, doubling its size



with an addition including a fellowship hall, kitchen, nursery, and six classrooms.

Though several families left, the remaining church family committed itself to seeing the construction project through. The new addition was constructed in 1992 amid hail and rain storms and dedicated Jan. 10, 1993, following a snowstorm.

Memory Lane was partially financed through Church Extension Investors Fund of the N.A.B. Conference. "It was a way of borrowing money from our own," said Carol Riffel, a member of the building committee.

Results of Memory Lane's vision are beginning to appear. Worship and Sunday school attendance has grown, and an intensive two-year discipleship program has been initiated. Pioneer Clubs, small Bible study groups, and a Family Conference are some of their outreach methods.

Zier says the focus of their new building is ministry, and the focus

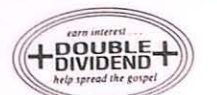
of their ministry is discipleship: Training and equipping people for ministry. "It's great to have the building," said Riffel. "We see it as a tool to further expand Christ's kingdom." □

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

- CEIF gives you something other investments don't—an opportunity to serve the Lord.
- Pays you a competitive rate of interest
- Uses your money to make low interest construction loans to N.A.B. churches throughout North America—loans that spur growth
- Enables N.A.B. churches to have visible and dynamic outreach into a community

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

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



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



BAPTISTHERALD

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

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

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

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST COLLEGE

*Pro Deo et
Veritate*

"For God and Truth"



*A University Affiliated
Centre for Christian Studies*

This has been the motto of the College since it was established in 1939. Regardless of your career plans, an educational experience at North American Baptist College will lay the foundation for a life-time by preparing you spiritually and academically for your future. Take courses in biblical and theological studies, English, history, philosophy, economics, sociology, psychology, and the fine arts — all designed to help you relate your Christian faith to every area of your life. Study at NABC for the pursuit of knowledge and a growing spiritual life, for the integration of faith with learning, and for the establishment of life-long friendships. Make NABC *YOUR* place — for God and truth.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY:

- Bachelor of Religion
- Associate of Arts in Religion —
Two year university transfer in Arts,
Elementary Education, and Music
- Diploma in Music
- Certificate in Biblical Studies

For information on programs and admissions,
call toll-free in Canada and the United States:

1-800-567-4988

11523 - 23 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6J 4T3
Telephone (403) 437-1960 Fax (403) 436-9416

See you in Dallas!