

# BAPTIST HERALD

MAY 1994

## AVAILABLE & FLEXIBLE!



(see page 16)



### Task Force on Change meets

A Task Force on Change, appointed by the Conference Executive Committee, met February 12 in Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

The Committee is evaluating the various components of the purpose and mission of the N.A.B. Conference in light of the changes taking place today in the Conference and society. It is assessing the reasons for the decline of support for Conference ministries and is in the process of proposing suggested solutions. The Committee's task is to propose suggested changes concerning the philosophy of ministry and organizational renewal needed for the future and set priorities.

The Committee made its preliminary report to the Executive Committee at its February meeting. Chairing the Committee is the Rev. Phil Yntema of Vancouver, WA. Other members of the Committee are the Rev. David Wick, Detroit, MI; Barbara Fiegas, Lynbrook, NY; the Rev. Ron Norman, Elk Grove, CA; Ray Seutter, Edmonton, AB; and Richard Russell, Conference moderator, ex officio.

"If you, as an N.A.B. church member, have an observation as to where we need to be in the next decade, please put it in writing and mail it to me," requests the Rev. Phil Yntema, c/o Cascade Park Baptist Church, 1201 SE 136th Ave., Vancouver, WA, 98684.

### New believers baptized in Lithuania

One hundred and ten new believers were baptized last year in the six congregations of the union of Baptist churches in Lithuania. The union was founded 60 years ago in the Klaipeda Evangelical Baptist Church.

"We want to learn the Bible, preach, and share the Gospel with others, and learn other languages to have more opportunities for friendship," says the chair of the group, Albertas Latuzis.

### Bulgarian youth leaders denied visas

When European youth and children's Baptist leaders met in January in Belgium, their Bulgarian colleagues were not there because the Bulgarian government refused to grant them a visa.

The youth leaders called on the Bulgarian government to officially recognize the Baptist Union of Bulgaria as a church body.

### Baptists meet in Cyprus to plan to reach unevangelized

More than 100 Baptists from 30 countries met in Cyprus in January for a "Baptist International Conference on Unevangelized People." It is reported that 1.3 billion people have not once heard about Jesus Christ.

The focus for unevangelized people is the central and northern parts

of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, also described as "the most resistant belt" to the Gospel.

The reasons for this are that most of these areas are dominated by non-Christian religions; many of the people are illiterate; Christian mission agencies have allocated few resources for this area; and converts in these areas face persecution, intimidation, and harassment.

Mission-sending agencies are being encouraged to look at their personnel and resources in light of the 1.3 billion unevangelized and to recruit new missionaries to reach them. It was also recommended that more women missionaries be sent to unevangelized areas, because in many of the countries, only women can speak to women due to cultural restrictions.

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## More Than Head Knowledge

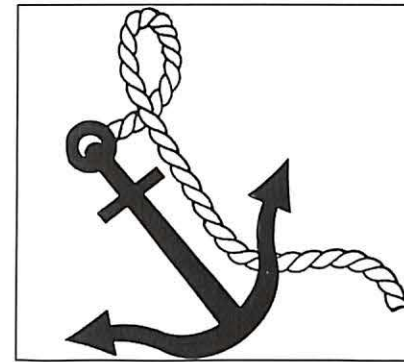
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BAPTIST HERALD (USPS 042560) (ISSN-0 005-5700) is published monthly (except January/February and July/August bi-monthly) by the North American Baptist Conference, a binational conference of churches in Canada and the United States, 1 So. 210 Summit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

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

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

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

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

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



Are you in the valley of despair, fear, failure, fatigue?  
Frank Veninga offers encouragement from the life of Elijah in

# SPIRITUAL ANCHORS for Tough Times



**T**he more I study Scripture and the longer I am in the ministry, the more aware I am of a recurring theme running all the way from the book of Genesis through the book of Revelation—namely, God's concern and care for the individual. God's desire is always the best for us—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

An issue of *Modern Maturity* magazine indicated that there are now more than 64 million people age 50 or older. Individuals over 85 are the fastest growing age group in the United States and Canada. The prediction is that one million baby boomers will live to be 100 years of

age, and by 2010, "elder care will eclipse kindercare."

Seniors have seen the best of times and the worst of times. Let me state three catastrophes seniors, especially older seniors, faced in their lifetime. 1) They vividly remember the scars, the battles, and the bitterness of World War I (1914-1918). They recall the hunger and starvation that followed. Because of this world-wide chaos, many left their beloved homelands to come to the promising shores of the U.S.A. and Canada.

2) The Great Depression (1929-1934) remains a dark cloud to them. Seniors recall its devastating effect, the long unemployment lines, the bank closures, the suicides, the apple stands on New York streets, the P.W.A. projects, and the sagging spirits of those years.

3) World War II (1935-1945) remains a vivid memory for many. Once again the geographical landscape of Europe changed. Hunger, starvation, and death followed in its path. Scores of young people laid down their lives for freedom and democracy. All this gave seniors what the Germans call a *weltansicht*—a world view—a particular attitude toward life and reality. Many remained optimists, for they had anchors in the midst of life's storms. Yes, they had anchors for tough

times and tough situations. They were able to stay positive in a negative world.

What of today in the nineties? Can we still say, "We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure"? Many find it difficult to cope. *U.S. News and World Report*, March 16, 1992, stated, "The national mood today is one of despair, anxiety, uncertainty, even anger. The root is the loss of faith."

Robert Veninga stated in *Your Renaissance Years*: "We become so preoccupied with tomorrow's battles that we fail to enjoy today's tranquility."

Delord in *Green Pastures* said it well, "Everything nailed down is coming loose"—our integrity, our honesty, our decency, and our morality.

The mood of our day is well expressed by the prophet in Joel 1:12, "Surely the joy of the people is withered away."

With this background, let me call attention to an exciting setting in Scripture and to a man whose spiritual anchors gave security in the midst of national and personal storms. In 1 Kings 18-19, Elijah, the prophet, is embroiled in a tremendous theological storm. The question: Who is in control? Who is in charge? Is it the god of the priests of Baal or the God of Elijah? Elijah

made a daring proposal. The priests of Baal, 450 of them, took it—hook, line, and sinker.

**W**e say, "Elijah, be sure your anchors hold and grip the solid rock." What are his spiritual anchors? There is, first of all, *The Anchor of Courage*. He was no weakling. Though Elijah was in the minority—facing a 450 majority, his courage ultimately led to victory. This courage was beautifully illustrated by the early Christians as they faced tremendous opposition yet marched across the Roman Empire with the Good News that changed the world.

The second anchor: *The Anchor of a Daring Spirit*. Elijah gives the prescription for building the two altars. When completed, the priests of Baal call upon the name of their god, and Elijah calls upon the name of his God. Here's the proposition: "The God who answers by fire, let him be God."

Elijah took center stage. The priests of Baal prepared the altar, and Elijah repaired a formerly consecrated, broken-down altar. The next two anchors are foundational in sustaining his courage and maintaining his daring spirit. Without these, he would have failed.

The third anchor: *The Anchor of Faith*. "O Lord, let it be known that you are God." People of faith are people of accomplishment. People of faith are the optimists of their day. People of faith add meaningful dimension to life.

The fourth anchor: *The Anchor of Prayer*. We move from the frenzied priests of Baal to the calm, cool, tranquil prophet as he turns to his God. "O Lord, answer me, so that these people will know that you are God." And the fire fell and destroyed the altar.

The four anchors brought a positive confirmation of the presence

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**"Recapture your spiritual anchors: courage, daring spirit, faith, and prayer—the anchors that hold in the midst of life's storms."**

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and power of the living God. "When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The Lord, he is God!'"

While living in the glow and aftermath of this miracle, Elijah took drastic action. He slaughtered 450 priests of Baal. When Jezebel (the queen) heard what the prophet had done, she was furious. Here's her message to Elijah, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

What was Elijah's response? He wilted. The unflappable, unflinching prophet tumbled, toppled, fell, and came to the most devastating experience of his life. *He lost his grip on God, on self, and his circumstances.* "He ran for his life—he hid in the desert, he sat under the broom tree, and asked that he might die." He found himself in the pit of despair. He traded anchors! The good, solid, secure anchors—gone. What did he trade?

He replaced *The Anchor of Faith* with *The Anchor of Fear*. Elijah exemplifies the classic example of the crippling curse of fear. Fear destroys . . . annihilates . . . cripples . . . de-

presses. Fear brings us into the lowlands of life.

He replaced *The Anchors of Courage and Daring Spirit* with *The Anchor of Fatigue*. He travelled all day, cross and distressed, and he wished to die. "I have had enough, Lord, take away my life."

He replaced *The Anchor of Prayer* with *The Anchor of Failure*—a dark, dismal outlook. The man of success became a total failure—to God, to self, and to a cause.

**L**et me repeat what was said in the beginning, namely, God's concern and care for the individual. It is interesting to note that God never left Elijah. The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." God did not say to go into the plains or the valley, but *Go and stand on the mountain*. Elijah, get out of the valley of despair. Get out of the lowlands of life. Recapture your spiritual anchors: courage, daring spirit, faith, and prayer—the anchors that hold in the midst of life's storms.

Where are you today? Do you have spiritual anchors that hold in the storms of life? Or are you in the valley of despair, depression, bereavement, loneliness, fear, fatigue, failure? Listen, there is a remedy.

God's remedy for Elijah remains the same for you today. "*Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.*" □

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*Dr. Frank Veninga of Minneapolis, MN, served as President of N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, 1959-70 and 1981-82 and as Executive Vice President of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as pastored several N.A.B. Conference churches before his retirement. He continues to serve by providing pulpit supply.*



# Finally...a real SENIOR pastor

by Kent Carlson



**"Forty is kind of a magical birthday... I can finally be a legitimate pastor. I've got lots of gray hair now; I'm beginning to notice some of those creeping signs of age, and some people are even beginning to respect what I say..."**

**I** turned 40 on February 28! Contrary to others of my age, I have not dreaded this day; in fact, I've looked forward to it. For ten years now, I've had to put up with people telling me I'm too young to be a pastor. But 40 is kind of a magical birthday. It puts me up over the hump (notice I didn't say "hill"), and I can finally be a legitimate pastor. I've got lots of gray hair now. I'm beginning to notice some of those creeping signs of age; some people are even beginning to respect what I say. Well, it's true! Some people are easily fooled.

I was asked the other day if I were planning to have a "mid-life crisis." I checked my Daytimer and

told them that I really didn't have the time for one, and that I'd have to skip the "mid-life crisis" and settle for an "end-of-life crisis" in about 40 years. But the question forced me to do some reflecting about my life.

It is my understanding that one of the main causes of a mid-life crisis comes from a creeping sense of our own mortality, and a recognition that many of our dreams may never be accomplished. So to combat this, a number of years ago, I asked myself this question: When I come to the end of my days, and I look back on my life, what would cause me to reflect with deep satisfaction on how my life was spent? In other words, what do I want to be known for?

As I tried to interact honestly with these questions, I was impressed with how it was the simpler and more basic things in life that I desired to be known for. And I boiled them down to five. I list them in the order of priority:

- 1) An intimate, growing, and authentic relationship with God;
- 2) An intimate, growing, and authentic relationship with my wife, Diane;
- 3) An intimate, growing, and authentic relationship with my daughters, Holly and Heidi;
- 4) Leading a church that is known for
  - a) Intimate, authentic, and inspiring worship of God;
  - b) developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ;
  - c) significantly reaching lost people with the gospel.
- 5) This last one is a secret. It's actually one of my dreams. It used to be to play third base for the Chicago Cubs. But turning 40 has finally caused me to switch dreams. Ask me about it in about 15 years. Hopefully, I will have done something about it by then; The scary thing that I've noticed, though, is that there is an awful temptation to spend my life chasing lesser priorities than the five listed above. With the exception of number four (which I have the privilege of pursuing as a career), it is entirely possible for me to neglect that which I have recognized as my ultimate priority. I don't want that to happen.

So on my 40th birthday, I've renewed my deal with God. "You've only given me one life. I promise I won't waste it."

So who am I? I realize that question is so much bigger than what I do. Actually, it is more accurately reflected in who and what I love. I am Kent Carlson, lover of God, Diane, Holly, and Heidi, Oak Hills Church, and one little dream. □

*Kent Carlson is senior pastor at Oak Hills Church, Folsom, CA.*

## Opening Tired Eyes: Relief for Caregivers

Mary Vaughn Armstrong

**"W**e are so tired," a caregiving

daughter sighed during a Saturday morning phone call to me. Her voice trembled as she recounted her nearly blind father's surgery for colon cancer. Six days had passed, during which he nearly died. Now he was out of intensive care, but long months of difficult convalescence lay ahead.

"All the decisions... it's exhausting. So two nights ago on the spur of the moment, Mark and I made up our minds to grill dinner on the beach. Dad would be all right—and we needed some time out!"

Her voice became animated as she recounted the evening. "The friends we called were able to meet us, and guess what happened? While we were eating, a school of dolphins entertained us in the moonlight for an hour and a half! It was God's serendipity gift to us!"

A caregiving season can go on for months—even years without changing. Inevitable crises can compress memories and decisions into hours, leaving the caregiver numb with fatigue. Yet whatever is taking place, God never turns away. His open hand stretches toward us, casting no shadow. One day at a time, He sends a serendipity present to every caregiver: A blooming yellow rose, a child's sweet kiss, graceful dolphins arching into a silver sea. Look around. What present has He sent you, special delivery, just for today? □

*Excerpted from Quiet Moments for Parents and Other Caregivers (LifeJourney Books, a division of David C. Cook Publishing Company, used by permission.)*





One of the Baptist distinctives and a primary goal for the North American Baptist Conference is religious freedom . . . Larry Chesser reports that

# Religious Freedom Advances Are Mixed

**R**eligious freedom had a mixed outcome in 1993, according to an annual report by the U.S. State Department. Among the countries listed in the report are

**AZERBAIJAN.** Most Azerbaijanis are Muslim, but all religions freely practice their faith with one exception—Armenian churches. Many Armenian churches have been vandalized in recent years and remain closed. Even if they are open, few Armenians would feel safe enough to attend worship, the report says.

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.** The region has had a tradition of religious tolerance for 500 years, but the civil war and "ethnic cleansing" has changed that. Religion became a basis for battle. Citizens in government-controlled areas had the greatest religious freedom during 1993.

In October, between 25 and 50 villagers, including women and children, were killed at Stupni Dol. Early in the year, the Bosnian Serb forces targeted local civic and religious leaders to try to destroy Muslim society. Muslims represent 44 percent of the region's population. At least ten international relief workers were shot and killed in 1993. Religious institutions—nearly all mosques and Roman Catholic churches—were destroyed or defaced.

Bosnian Muslim women com-

plained of soldiers on both sides committing "mass rape." Reports indicate that at least 130 young Muslim women have been confined and continually abused.

**CUBA.** The totalitarian state has amended its constitution to curb religious discrimination but continues religious persecution.

In recent years, Cuba has allowed religious adherents to join the Communist Party, while amending the constitution to prohibit religious discrimination. The Protestant Ecumenical Council praised these steps, but the Catholic Church expressed concern about the government's failure to practice what it preaches.

For example, Cuban military personnel cannot allow members of their household to practice religion. The government also openly persecutes Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists.

Despite government's efforts to restrict and control church activities, attendance has grown rapidly.

Religious groups must register and may hold activities at government designated locations. Construction of new churches and religious holidays are prohibited, and churches are denied access to mass media.

**CHINA.** Religious freedom in China is restricted in varying degrees. The constitution affirms toleration of beliefs, but the government

restricts practice outside official religious groups. Official religious organizations administer instructional institutions for Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and Buddhists.

After suppressing all religious observances during the 1966-76 revolution, the government started to restore confiscated places of worship.

The government oversees publication of religious material.

Buddhists are by far the largest religious body in China with 100 million adherents.

Occasional repression seems to indicate the government's inability to control the rapid growth of Christian groups. In 1993 reports said authorities tried to rein in activities of the "unapproved Catholic and Protestant movements," including raiding and closing a number of unregistered churches. In March, security officials disrupted a Protestant gathering, beating many participants—one of whom died.

In many areas, officials tolerate unofficial churches if they remain small and discreet. In 1993, some religious activists were released from prison, but many remain incarcerated.

**KUWAIT.** The state religion of Islam is the undergirding source of Kuwait's laws and public policy. A tiny Arab Christian minority is allowed to practice its faith. Minority religions that are not sanctioned by

the Koran, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, may worship in their homes but not publicly.

Missionaries may not proselytize but may enter the country to work with non-Muslim congregations. Only Islam is allowed to be taught openly.

**CROATIA.** The Republic of Croatia declared independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. Under law all religions are equal and separate from the state. Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox Christianity, and Islam are the largest groups.

Religion is so closely tied with ethnicity that warring parties have targeted religious institutions. For example, an Orthodox Church was bombed. The area governor denounced the act and vowed to give aid to rebuild the church.

A majority of Orthodox clergy left at the start of the war in 1991.

Most Catholic churches in the Serbian-controlled areas were destroyed.

Serious human rights abuses in Croatia were perpetuated against Muslims, who make up less than one percent of the population.

On the Dalmatian Coast, Muslim leaders were harassed and threatened by police. Muslim shops and homes were damaged or destroyed in Dubrovnik, Split, and Zagreb. Massive influx of refugees from Bosnia dramatically increased the number of Muslims and the hostilities toward them. Nearly 200 Muslims arbitrarily were denied citizenship.

**GEORGIA.** Georgia widely observed religious freedom and worship in 1993. But representatives of the Georgian Catholic Church still are trying to regain buildings lost during the Soviet-era repression of religion. Those facilities were given to the Orthodox Church, and none have been returned to date.

Attempts to build new mosques met with some resistance that has since begun to wane. While religious leaders and groups must register with the government to receive

benefits, there is no requirement that they do so.

In general, Georgia's struggle for democracy was hampered in 1993 with political instability.

**GERMANY.** The government does not restrict religious practice. Nearly 50 denominations exist, but most of the population is Catholic or Protestant. Along with a small Jewish community, these churches have special legal status as corporate bodies so they can participate in a state-administered church tax system.

The government subsidizes church-run schools, providing religious instruction in Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths.

Members of the Church of Scientology say they have been fired from jobs and expelled from political parties because of their religion. They have successfully taken such grievances to court.

**IRAQ.** With an "abysmal record on human rights," Iraq closely regulates and monitors Islamic affairs with authority over places of worship, appointment of clergy, publication of religious literature and religious councils and meetings.

Despite legal guarantees of sectarian equality, the government attacks members of the Shi'ite faith. In 1993, Iraqi security forces were still guarding a shrine that is one of the Shi'ite's holiest sites.

A United Nations representative cited several abuses of religious rights in 1993: ban on call to prayer, ban on broadcast of Shi'a programs on government radio and television, ban on publication of Shi'a books and prohibition of public meetings commemorating holy days.

Iraq also is less intrusive in the religious affairs of Christians, who number about 300,000. Christians may not proselytize or hold meetings outside the church premises.

The Jewish community, which at its height numbered about 150,000, virtually has disappeared, the report says. A few hundred remain and are clustered in Baghdad.

**ISRAEL.** Israel has been in a formal state of war with its Arab neighbors since 1948. On Sept. 13, 1993, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed a Declaration of Principles for bringing peace to the war-torn region.

Israeli law protects religious freedom of all faiths. About 82 percent of its citizens are Jewish, and the other 18 percent are Muslims, Christians, Druze, and others.

Missionaries may work freely in Israel. While there is an anti-proselytizing law on the books, it has not been enforced in years.

Israeli citizens have civil rights but many of the country's problems arise from its policies in the occupied territories. Arab citizens are not granted equal rights with Jewish citizens. But in 1993, the government began to address the imbalances.

**MOROCCO.** Morocco, a monarchy with a pluralistic political system, took steps in 1993 to address human rights concerns, but religious freedom is still limited. Islam is the official religion of the country, and conversion from Islam is prohibited. Those caught proselytizing Muslims can be imprisoned.

In October, a Moroccan Muslim, Mustapha Zmamda, received a three-year sentence for continuing correspondence with a Christian radio program. A Brazilian missionary who hosted a Bible study that Zmamda attended was fired from a teaching position.

Koranic schools and mosque sermons are monitored by the government. The Jewish and Christian faiths are permitted to practice their religion if they refrain from missionary activities with Muslims. The country's laws provide freedom of worship but only Islam, Judaism, and Christianity are tolerated: The king declared all other religions "heresies." □

Larry Chesser is editor, Baptist News Service, Washington, DC.

(Continued in next issue.)



# Caring through hospital ministry

by Kathy Kroll



My limited ability to speak Shupamom has provided me with opportunities to share the life-changing difference Jesus has made in my life and the power of answered prayer.

Recently, a Muslim woman came to Bansa Baptist Hospital with her son. On several occasions, I had prayed with them. After I was gone for several days of meetings, I returned to find the mother very distraught and crying. Her son had just been taken to surgery for what was discovered to be bowel perforations.

I sat with her and a number of her country people several hours on the hospital veranda until the surgery was finished. I prayed with them, and I silently prayed for much of that time.

The woman made some observations about how I talked to God, and He answered my prayers. Through that I was able to share my testimony.

After the surgery was finished, I learned from the surgeon that the

man had stopped breathing for more than 20 minutes during the time we had been praying. Following surgery, the man's hospital recovery period took three weeks. He was discharged, and he is well.

God has been glorified through this experience. This Muslim family is insistent that I continue to visit them in their village.

We pray that experiences like these will continue to open doors in this community . . . and that people will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and not just a prophet. □

*Kathy Kroll is an N.A.B. Conference missionary nurse/midwife/teacher serving at the Cameroon Baptist Convention Private Training School for Health Personnel in Bansa, Cameroon.*

## Physical needs sometimes overwhelming

by Julie Stone



The physical needs presented to us at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Cameroon are often overwhelming. Yet, as I serve in

Cameroon, I'm slowly becoming more attuned to the spiritual climate here as well.

Recently, one of our Cameroonian hospital workers came to the outpatient department of Bansa Baptist Hospital. She and her husband are among the most upright and dependable members of our hospital staff. Their commitment to the Lord is seen in the quality of

their work. Well into the third trimester of pregnancy and nearing delivery, the consultation card revealed that the midwife had been unable to hear the fetal heart. She requested an ultrasound evaluation.

The ultrasound exam, which should have taken five minutes, took closer to fifteen, as I scanned the uterus looking everywhere for a beating fetal heart. It was difficult to

believe what the complete absence of fetal movement was telling me. There was no choice but to affirm to her the very thing she feared . . . having noticed cessation of the baby's kicking that morning. Instead of the shrill, high-pitched wailing so typical of grieving here, she broke into a muffled sob. We found her husband and gave them time to themselves in the exam room while patients continued to line up outside. The reason for the fetal demise is unclear, but malaria probably accounts for a majority of the stillbirths we see.

Later, I discovered that this couple faces more than just the loss

of a child. About three years previously, her first pregnancy resulted in a neonatal death. Following this child's death, she and her husband incurred a lot of pressure from family members to "do country fashion." Namely, they were expected to consult a traditional healer (an individual we might call a "witch doctor") to determine why the death occurred. The traditional healer would then insist on their making appropriate sacrifices to placate the offended spirits.

By refusing to engage in these occult activities three years ago, they came under censure by family members. It's quite likely that the

couple's earlier failure to participate in traditional rites will be linked to their present loss by the same family members. To many, it may seem inconceivable that Christians here would be tempted to indulge in occult practices which are pointedly condemned in Deuteronomy 18. Yet these practices are so deeply entrenched here that only the most committed believers stay the tide. □

*Julie Stone is an N.A.B. Conference missionary medical doctor serving at Bansa Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, West Africa.*

## Caring through prayer



**"Your prayers have strengthened our faith"**  
—Doug and Sharon Woyke

Often we wonder how we would respond if we were told we had a life-threatening disease, such as cancer. Missionary Douglas Woyke found out in September that he had malignant melanoma. "I am convinced that if we are Christians the Lord gives us strength to recognize such a situation as 1) being in His sovereign will; 2) being an opportunity to witness to the fact that He has given us faith, joy, and peace for all circumstances of life; and 3) being something, because of the first two things mentioned above, that I can actually be thankful for!"

"As far as I know, surgery took all cancer cells out of my body," says Doug, "but with melanoma, we will not know for sure for three years. I

continue to pray for patience as I undergo ongoing treatment."

Woyke continues to receive treatment once or twice a week. He expresses his deep gratitude to all who have and continue to faithfully pray for his well-being in his struggle with melanoma.

"I hope you understand I cannot answer all of the cards and letters sent to us . . . accept my warm thanks . . . Your prayers have strengthened our faith, and each card, letter, and assurance of prayer has given us tremendous joy. What a privilege it is to belong to 'the Family of God.'"

Doug and Sharon Woyke are planting a new church in Kongo, Japan. □



# YOUTH NEWS

**Q** Is everyone "gifted"? What responsibility accompanies gifts?

**A** When we think of "gifted" people, we usually mean that someone has an unusual ability in some area—or even in a number of areas. Those of us who have never been labeled "gifted" may feel we don't have much to offer. And even the so-called "gifted" may feel pressured into a career niche that isn't right for them.

According to the Bible, every person is "gifted." In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explains that everyone has at least one gift. And every gift is important. The world needs your gifts! You owe it to other people as well as yourself, to find out what they are and use them. You have a certain design to fulfill. You hold the key to unlocking not only a fulfilling life for yourself, but also a treasure chest of good things that will benefit others.

**Q** Do people need college to get a good job?

**A** While college may not be the right route for everyone, today



Cleo Photo

everyone does need some sort of post-high school training. The world is changing fast, and without further

training, you are really limiting your options.

**Q** What don't they teach you in school?

**A** Indirectly, your years in school can provide the opportunity to develop social skills. Working on projects with others, or on a sports team, will help you to learn teamwork. Interacting with teachers and professors helps you learn how to work under authority. All these will be essential to later success in a career. But there are a few things you may have to unlearn in order to succeed in the world of work. Those who study successful people have discovered that there are other skills that separate those who succeed and grow in their careers from those who simply do their jobs and go nowhere. These two skills are risk-taking and being able to connect with people.

**Q** Where does God's guidance fit into the life of a young person and decision-making?

**A** First of all, know that God Himself eagerly wants to guide you. In Isaiah 42:16, God promises, "I will lead the blind by paths they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them." Again and again in Scripture, we find a variation of this fact: "For this God is our God for ever and ever, He will be our guide even to the end" (Psalm 48:14).

## DISCOVER YOUR BEST FUTURE

His will is not some mystery hidden in secret code. He invites us to ask Him to reveal Himself. These steps will help you in any decision you need to make:

1. Pray
2. Seek God's counsel (through His Word) and the counsel of mature Christians
3. Clarify what you want most,

your objective

4. Study the situation or problem
5. Compare alternative A with the objective
6. Compare alternative B with the objective
7. Discover alternative C
8. Compare alternative C with the objective
9. Now compare all three (or

more) alternatives with each other

10. Pick the most attractive alternative

11. Take action, trusting that God will be with you. □

From the book, *Discovering Your Best Possible Future*, by Diane Eble and Richard Hagstrom, Zondervan Publishing House, 1993. Reprinted by permission.

## Young Teens 1994 Triennial Conference Preview

An action-packed program is planned for Young Teens (entering grades 7-9) at the 44th Triennial Conference of North American Baptist Churches scheduled for August 2-7, 1994, in Dallas, Texas.

Tuesday August 2	Wednesday August 3	Thursday August 4	Friday August 5	Saturday August 6	Sunday August 7
Regis- tration+	9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Austin Ranch  David Larsen  (Lunch included)	David Dean  David Larsen  Family Day+ in Dallas	9 a.m.-9 p.m. *Six Flags Over Texas  (Lunch included)	David Larsen  Pizza Party  Ice Skating ----- 3 p.m. Free time+	Worship Service+ with adults
Dinner+	Dinner+	Afternoon and Evening with parents or chaperone	Must purchase dinner	5 p.m. *Texas Fiesta+	
6:45 p.m. Welcome David Larsen	+You are on your own or with your family/ chaperone for these events, as the Young Teens Program is not responsible for these events.			Concert+ by Bruce Carroll (free)	
Ice Cream Social					

**DAVID LARSEN**, a dynamic speaker, communicates effectively with audiences of all ages. He has served 11 years as a pastor. His topics include "You Can Care for All, Including You," "You Can Care for All, Including God," "You Can Care for All, Including Your Neighbor," and "Care Power."

Wednesday, August 3, will be a

day of fun in the sun for young teens. They will be transported to the \***AUSTIN RANCH**, a Texas Dude Ranch, where they will participate in exciting activities, games, and horseback riding, as well as a big western lunch. **Fee: \$15.**

**DAVID DEAN**, a well-known comedian, will be featured on Thursday morning as he uses juggling and humor to emphasize spiritual truths.

**FAMILY DAY IN DALLAS:** Thursday (afternoon and evening),

August 4, is free to take in the sights and sounds of Texas. Young teens will spend this time with their parents or chaperones.

\***SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS:**

Friday, August 5, young teens have the opportunity to enjoy Six Flags Over Texas theme park. Lunch is included in the registration fee, but not dinner. Bring sunscreen! **Fee: \$15.**

**Pizza Party** (free); **Ice Skating** \$5.00: Saturday, August 6.

\***TEXAS FIESTA:** Food, fun, and fellowship for the whole family on Saturday evening features Mexican cuisine (\$14.95 each) and a concert with Christian artist Bruce Carroll (no charge).

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Young Teens (entering grades 7-9, housed with registered adults) \$30 for entire week (includes T-shirt).

Several hotels are available. See pre-registration form for rates. Example: Hyatt Regency-Dallas rates @ \$65/night. Attendees not arriving with parents must have an adult sponsor staying with them in the hotel room.

If you have any additional questions or special music/skit to share with the young teens, or if you can attend one or more activities as an adult sponsor, please notify Glenn and Connie Curlett, 116 Trails End, Highland Village, TX 75067 • (214) 317-1440.



# DUBA HEADS FIRST BICOL BIBLE CAMP

**J**on Duba, missionary to the Philippines, recently directed the first Bicol Bible Camp in the Philippines. Although the camp was well-planned in advance, several last-minute circumstances caused the staff to rely on God's plans rather than their own.

A major storm a week before the camp was scheduled to begin knocked out water and electricity and washed out the road to the facility. "In one day, we examined three possible new locations and chose one. The phones were out, so we drove to inform other workers of the change in plans," Duba remembers.

Another storm hit the area on the first day of camp. The featured speaker's flight was cancelled, and several youth were unable to come. "I was happy that we had registered 48 campers, and I had 12 staff to help me," Duba declares. The speaker was never able to make it, so Duba and two other workers took care of the normal speaking responsibilities.



**We make plans,  
but God works  
out the details and  
does the work  
of challenging and  
changing lives."**

"Since this was our first camp and the first camp many of the youth had ever attended, I looked forward to hearing their feelings," says Duba. Many youth were not

ready to go home at the end of camp, and many addresses were exchanged.

The youth shared about their experiences: "I learned how to be a better witness" . . . "I accepted Christ as my Savior" . . . "The workshops were really good and challenged me" . . . "Camp challenged me to get more involved in my church." Some of the workers shared that camp "really gave a boost to the young people in our church."

"We make plans, but God works out the details and does the work of challenging and changing lives," Duba declares. □

*Jon Duba serves in the Bicol region of the Philippines with his wife, Elizabeth.*

## Ten Benefits of Tithing

by G. Roger Schoenhals

### Part II

**T**he ten benefits of tithing are not new, but taken together they may be valuable as you sort out this issue for yourself. We discussed benefit one: **Tithing Honors Scripture** in the April 1994 issue. Benefits two and three are listed below.

#### 2. Tithing Reveals Obedience

The conscientious Christian who accepts the biblical pattern of tithing will perform that practice, believing he is honoring God. Thus, tithing can, and often does, reveal a sincere desire to obey the perceived will of God.

A man was about to be baptized. Just before being lowered into the tank, he grabbed his wallet out of his pocket and held it up. Everything went under but his money. The obedient heart surrenders everything, including money. Tithing becomes a cheerful response to God's clear design that we invest in His cause.

#### 3. Tithing Expresses Gratitude

As redeemed children, hopelessly in debt to our loving Father, we come to the Bible for guidance in knowing how to express our gratitude. Tithing is one outlet for us.

I once heard a college professor talk on the subject, "I Am in Debt."

He had recently returned from a trip overseas, and his topic made us wonder whether he was going to take a collection.

Instead, he spoke of his sense of gratitude and obligation to the many people who had helped him along the way. He said his only hope of repaying them for their many kindnesses was to follow their example and do unto others as they had done unto him.

The verse immediately preceding the Ten Commandments reminded the Israelites that God had graciously delivered them from bondage. Then follows the list of specific responses He expected of them. It's as though God laid out some practical ways His children could appropriately say, "Thank you."

John said, "We love, because He first loved us." The cheerful tither says, "I give to the Lord's work because He has given so much to me. I give to Him because, though He was rich, for my sake He became poor." □

(continued in next issue)

## Warm Up Your Church: Ways to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

- 1) Plan for ushers to seat visitors by people the same age or by people with children the same age as the visitors. Specific families might volunteer to be welcoming families for a month.
- 2) Invite visitors home for lunch. Families could be assigned a Sunday every six months; for that day they could plan expandable meals.
- 3) Show a visitor where coffee is served after the service. Chat with the visitor and introduce him or her to two other people.
- 4) Invite a church visitor to attend Sunday school and make a date to meet the person at a specific time and place in the church so you can enter class together. Better yet, make a date for breakfast before Sunday school. Call during the week to confirm your meeting.
- 5) Make a big deal of the second visit.
- 6) Invite a newcomer to a church social activity and make sure he or she has directions or a ride. □

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# AVAILABLE & FLEXIBLE!

Key words to a challenging and satisfying experience

by Minnie Kuhn

What brings you to this country? Excitement? New experiences? New challenges? Comradery while working on a church building? An opportunity to present Christ as the only way of reconciling the world to God?

On our arrival at the town of Campeche, Brazil, where we stayed, we were asked if we would like to join a team going out to minister with the JESUS film.

"No, not really," was my first reaction. "I came to work on the building site." That, to me, was more challenging and exciting. However, although I had opportunity to work at the site a day or two, it was on a JESUS film team that I spent most of my time. Each day brought new challenges and stretched our flexibility.

Florianapolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, presented many contrasts. Great poverty versus great riches. Large Catholic cathedrals and very small evangelical churches. Great fear and darkness versus great faith. European



materialism and atheism along with African spiritism, and the occult versus a great openness to the Gospel. High fences, barred windows, double locks, yet a great friendliness and hospitality.

We were told, "The bus will take all five teams to the shopping mall in Florianapolis, and you will be assigned your place of service and your translator when you get there."



A variety of experiences awaited us. Four evenings the first week and five the next week plus all mornings taken up with training sessions kept us very busy.

Some went to the university campus; others to a church in downtown Florianapolis, to the slums, to schools, or to an orphanage. Some went on a 45 minute drive down what is called "the highway of death" to fishing villages along the coast. Others went to the suburbs.

On arrival at our place of assignment at about 4:00 p.m., we wondered, "Where do we go with the flyers? What time do we need to be back to set up our equipment?"

After a time of prayer, off we went. At each gate, we clapped our hands until someone in the house came out to talk to us. Then we presented the invitation flyer:

*A Historia De Jesus*

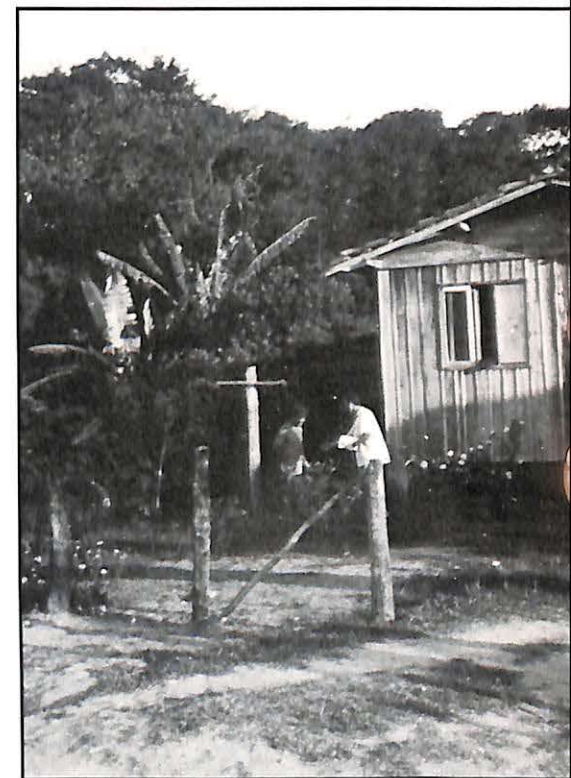
*O Homem Que Mudou o Rumo.*

*Da Humanidade*

*"JESUS"*

*O Filme mais Autentico Sobre Jesus*

It was very hot, and we walked many miles. The response was tremendous. (Continued on next page.)







One team waited a long time for two team members to return for the nightly set-up. When they returned at last, they explained that they had led two women to Christ! Two older ladies were unable to come to see the film, so they invited the team members in for coffee and asked to hear more about Jesus. This happened in a village where only one

woman was a believer. She had made all the arrangements for our visit and had us set up our equipment at the entrance to The Grotto of My Lady Fatima. More than 300 people viewed the film that night; 109 made commitments to Christ. Alessandra, our translator that evening, decided to bring some people back later in the week to follow up

on the new believers. She has only been a Christian for four years.

Another team's translator, Rodriguez, was just out of high school. He was not a believer, but on the second to last evening, his team leader led him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Was it worth the effort of early morning sessions, travel, and getting home after midnight too tired to do anything except fall into bed? Yes—on our day off we helped the building crew; on their day off, they joined our teams! Together, we built a church building, 6,916 people saw the JESUS film, and 991 decision cards were filled out.

Be flexible, be available! God will have many challenges for you and many, many blessings. □

*Miss Minnie Kuhn is a North American Baptist Conference retired missionary. She served in Cameroon and Nigeria.*



Ricardo, another translator, was only five months old in the faith. He had come out of drug and alcohol addiction.

"Athletes in Action," a group of young people travelling in an old bus from Sao Paulo, were an inspiration to all of us. They carried portable basketball equipment with them and were a great attraction to the youth. One couple in this group was travelling with their severely

handicapped child. What faith and concern they have for their lost people!

In one village, the town bully, alcoholic, and drug addict, was asked to give his testimony of how his life was changed after he accepted Christ. He had been a star soccer player until a car accident terminated his career. The applause from the audience was tremendous.

# Laborers in Training

by Kenelee Proctor

It has been interesting for me to see that when God calls families to the field, He does more than call "mom and dad" into service. My experiences at Kansai Christian School in Japan have shown me that God touches the children of missionaries at early ages and begins to develop in them the heart, skills, and attitudes necessary for international mission work. In essence, He is developing His international missionary army on the field.

What could be better?

These children develop the powerful cross-cultural communication skills, in a very natural manner, that mission organizations expend countless dollars on in the training of the prospective missionary adult.

The children spend hours within the culture assimilating not only the language but also developing a great depth of cultural understanding. With their parents, they also encounter the joys and struggles of mission work. Most importantly, however, they experience God's faithfulness and regularly witness the transforming power of Jesus Christ in the lives of those to whom their parents and they, themselves, minister.

Take, for instance, Becky Lengefeld. God has given her an amazing ability in Japanese, both written and oral. She loves living in Japan. She loves the food, the country, the people, and the culture. She has



*Becky Lengefeld loves living in Japan as is evidenced by her interest in watching the harvesting of rice.*

grown up in the Japan Baptist church, was baptized recently, and, I'm sure, considers Japan her home.

**"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).**

**I assure you,  
God is at work!**

In case you are wondering, she definitely hopes to return to Japan as a missionary, just like her parents.

This is not an unusual story even in a small school like KCS. We know that at least 27 percent of our graduates, as well as several other MKs that have crossed our path, are currently involved in mission work somewhere in the world. This is amazing to some, but to others, it is the expected evidence of a sovereign God.

So what does this mean for you and me? The answer is simple. God has chosen these young people and has spent several years molding the perfect cross-cultural individual needed in our world today. We become a vital part of God's training program when we support a family on the field or when we support, in a general sense, the ministries of the missionary children's school. Through our financial support, letters of encouragement, and prayers, we are assisting God in the development of a powerful group called to reach others for Christ. No doubt about it, God is bringing His laborers to the harvest. □

*Kenelee Proctor is an N.A.B. Conference missionary serving as principal of Kansai Christian School, a school for missionary children, in Japan.*





# Responding to a Changing World

by Lyle E. Schaller

One of the bits of wisdom offered many generations of teenagers is you should dance with the person who brought you to the party.

The contemporary restatement of that conventional wisdom in many churches is "We're not going to abandon the strategy that brought us to where we are today."

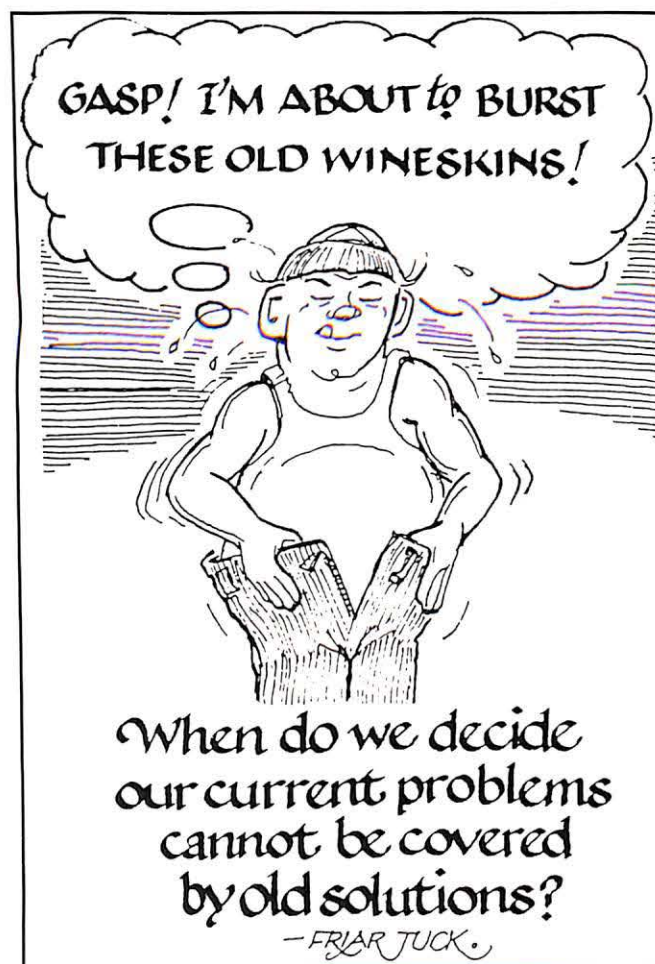
Four common examples of that point are summarized in these paragraphs.

"We built this congregation on strong preaching, great classical church music, and a strong Sunday school. That made us what we are today. We're not going to abandon that formula."

"This congregation was started back in 1922 to serve the people living in the neighborhood. We're going to continue concentrating our efforts on being a neighborhood church. The fact that our worship attendance has dropped from an average of 200 in 1955 to 120 in 1975 to 60 today simply means we have to work harder to reach newcomers in this neighborhood."

"We began as a farming community church in 1871. That was our role until around 1960. The farms are now about five times the size they were in 1940. That means we have to increase our service area to perhaps a ten-mile radius, but we still have a future with farmers."

"We began as a new church in 1983 with a seeker-driven style of worship. We're now averaging close to 700 on Sunday morning. We're convinced we can triple in size if we keep our focus on what brought us to this point. We must continue to



no. This can be illustrated by a second look at the four examples.

Great preaching, superior classical church music, and an attractive Sunday school was close to a guaranteed formula for building a big congregation in 1955. To be more precise, it was an appropriate strategy for reaching large numbers of Protestant churchgoers born in the 1880-1925 era. It still is a relevant strategy for reaching that age cohort. The problem is many of the churchgoers born in the 1880-1925 era are now in nursing homes and cemeteries, so attendance is down.

## What's the same? What's different?

Lucid, memorable, relevant, visual, and meaningful sermons are at least as influential today as they

were in 1955 in attracting new generations of churchgoers.

Differences are 1) many of the children and grandchildren of the churchgoers of 1955 are not as enthusiastic about classical church music as were the churchgoers born in the 1880-1925 era; 2) they expect a convenient off-street parking space will be awaiting them at the end of every journey by automobile; 3) many expect choices in the teaching ministry; 4) they seek churches with a seven-day-a-week program over those that still concentrate everything in Sunday morning; and 5) many prefer participatory worship to the presentation approach of the 1950s.

In summary, the strategy that was so effective with one generation of churchgoers may not be as

effective with the next. The future of those great Sunday morning churches of 1955 will be dependent on their ability to implement a seven-day-a-week program and maintain high quality.

## How Do You Define Community?

The neighborhood church flourished in an era when community was defined largely in geographical terms. People "neighbored" with their neighbors. The automobile, the disappearance of the small neighborhood school, the increase in the number of married women in the labor force, the sharp rise in the number of childless families, the erosion of nationality and language ties, higher education, employment, mobility, and other factors have combined to change that scenario.

The journey to work is getting longer as is the journey to shopping, to recreation, and to worship. The primary source of new friendships is no longer the neighborhood. It is the place of work, the place of recreation, and the place of education.

The future of the ex-neighborhood church will be determined largely by its ability to build a non-geographical worshipping community and/or in carving out a specialized niche in ministry or in growing into the role of a regional church with exceptionally high quality preaching and teaching, not in seeking to recreate 1925.

## The Farmer Has Gone to Town

A parallel set of changes has transformed the role of the farming community church. Among these are the mechanization of agriculture, the automobile, the sharp increase in the number of college-educated farmers, paved roads, the huge number of women with full-time employment off the farm who are married to farmers and find their workplace offers many opportunities to meet and make friends, the

sharp decrease in the number of farmers, the farm children who are bused to a consolidated school 12 miles away where they meet and make friends with children from a church in town, the emergence of the small city with retailers, medical clinics, newspapers, radio stations, and churches designed to serve a clientele from a 30-mile radius, and the model of a contemporary Christian congregation brought into that farmer's home by cable television.

That trip into the small city 10 to 30 miles distant once was a monthly or quarterly adventure. Now it is an almost daily occurrence. So why not go into town to church? That is where many of our friends worship.

In response to these changes, thousands of farming community churches have closed; others have merged; a growing number are served by a bivocational minister; and many are struggling to survive. For some, a new role has emerged with that increased number of retirees living in the community who prefer a small church. Others have redefined their role to attract seasonal residents and tourists. A few have grown into and accepted the role as regional church.

## What If It Works?

One of the success stories of recent years has been the seeker-driven worship service. This is the worship service designed to reach the unchurched rather than already committed Christians. Scores of congregations have found it to be an effective means of attracting hundreds of people in a relatively short time, many of whom had not been active in any church for years. One component of that strategy is preaching designed to introduce people to the basic beliefs of the Christian faith.

What if it works? Should that continue to be the strategy? Maybe yes and maybe no. If the goal is to continue to concentrate on reaching seekers, the answer is clearly yes! If,

however, some of those seekers become deeply committed Christians, experience suggests the strategic plan must be expanded. The new design will include both worship experiences and adult classes planned to meet the changing needs of those pilgrims as their journeys continue toward full commitment and discipleship.

What brought the seeker may not be an adequate menu for the new convert or the fully committed disciple. This usually means, among other changes, a shift to seven-day-a-week programming, a more complex schedule, two or three or four different worship experiences every weekend, an ever expanding array of choices in the teaching ministry, and a variety of opportunities to be engaged in doing ministry.

## The Common Thread

All four of these examples illustrate the same point. Change brings new challenges. Common responses to change are 1) to deny it and seek to perpetuate yesterday; 2) to watch passively as the membership grows older and fewer in number; 3) to search for a scapegoat; 4) to engage in a diversionary internal quarrel; 5) to build the agenda to planning groups around the word "should." This is how the children *should* respond . . . what the pastor *should* do . . . the obligations that newcomers to our community *should* assume . . . or what our leaders *should* do.

A more constructive, and far more difficult alternative, is to redefine a new role for a new day by seeking to identify and respond to the religious needs of new generations of people and the new structures of our society.

Has the time come for your congregation to redefine its role and to reshape its ministry? □

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# Thanks Mom!



by Jerilyn Bayer  
missionary in Brazil

I strained to lift my heavy briefcase full of scribbles, books, and pens. I was not looking forward to school that day in fourth grade. Rita\* did not like me, and I did not know why.

During recess and snack breaks, I would go to the classroom where my friend and neighbor Marilia\* studied. But every day this week, when I came back from recess, I found all the snack garbage—banana peels, crusts of buttered bread, apple cores—stuffed under my desk all over my books.

Tears and anger welled up in me as I quietly cleaned up the mess.

How could she be so mean? As I walked home, tears began to flow as I thought of a hundred ways to get even. Sobbing loudly, I ran into my mother's open, comforting arms.

Patiently listening to my anger and schemes, Mom quoted Romans 12:21, "... Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." Then we prayed. She sent me out to play while she thought of what we could do. The next morning excitement was high! Mom and I went out to the garden and picked three of her prized, long stem rose buds—perfectly pink and kissed with dew. We wrapped them carefully and placed them on top of my books.

During recess, I did not leave the classroom. I ate my snack quietly and prayed so hard that Rita would leave the classroom to use the bathroom. She did. I quickly placed the roses on top of her books under her desk.

Rita returned. As she reached for her books, she felt the roses and held them gently. Slowly, she looked at me with a "yellow smile" (a Brazilian expression for an embarrassed, humbled smile). I smiled. Rita and I were now friends.

Thanks Mom, for a lesson I never forgot... and never will. □

*The author, daughter of then missionaries to Brazil, Herman and Ardath Effa, grew up in Brazil. Today, Jerilyn and her husband, Ken, are missionaries in Brazil. \*Names have been changed.*

## Motherhood— excerpts from a mother's journal

by Donalda Lily Rohde



Today I learned that I am entering another phase of womanhood: I'm going to have a baby! Praise the Lord! I am only a few weeks along, but already there are marvelous things happening. All of my baby's characteristics—sex, hair color, blood type—have been determined. Your father and I are so pleased that God has blessed us with a new life—with you!

The continual waves of nausea remind me that within me is a growing, thriving human being. It is a hidden work. It is incredible to think that each tiny cell is performing the correct action to create a little person. You are real, vibrant, and have a special purpose and calling. God told Jeremiah that He knew and approved of him before he was formed in the womb, and you have a special place in God's heart, too. I pray that you will be a light to your generation, that you will walk closely with Jesus. I pray that all the sorrow, pain, and heartaches you will encounter will strengthen you to grow in God's grace and love.

The wonders of ultrasound have allowed us to get a glimpse of you even before we can hold you. It is incredible to see how tiny, yet perfectly formed you are! Your little heart was just pumping away at a regular, strong, beat. You would wave and kick as you rolled around. Hello, little one!

Lord, may this baby continue to develop into a healthy child, that each part being formed would perform the function properly and normally.

As I sit in the rocking chair singing and dreaming of you, my mind tries to imagine what you will be like. I wonder if your nose will be like mine or your father's. Will you have dark eyes, or blue eyes like Grandma and Opa? Will people say you look like your mother or your father? I think of a time when you will be scampering through the prickly grass in your bare feet or carrying a school bag over your

shoulder. I look forward to laughing with you and sharing the simple joys of life as you discover them for the first time. I have so many hopes and dreams for us as a family. Quietly, I commit all these things to Him whose storehouse is far richer than I can imagine. I pray I will be able to let you grow into the person you were designed to be. You are God's creation with special gifts and talents. I cannot and do not possess you. Even now you are part of me, but you are separate. I house your body, but not your soul. Your thoughts, your feelings, and your dreams belong to you. I want to be able to appreciate and respect you as an individual and, even though I am your parent, I want us to be good friends, always.

We've been together for almost nine months now. I think I may actually miss not having you as part of me. I smile when I think how I waddle through stores, proud of my large girth. This will probably be the only time I will have the pleasure of being BIG. Soon this will all change for me, as you leave the safety and comfort of my womb.

Well, you have arrived, and I am still alive to tell about it! The nurses laid you on my abdomen following delivery, and you just looked at me. You made no sound but blinked your large eyes at me as if to say, "Hey, Mom, I'm here!" Surprisingly, I knew you would look just the way you did. I was amazed at the love I felt for you at that instant. Thank you, Lord, for our healthy baby.

Throughout these days and months, you have brought us incredible joy. Your father and I

were prepared for the changes and adjustments as much as we could be prior to your birth. Yet all these sleepless nights and colicky phases have not shadowed the love we feel for you.

I now have a glimpse of the depth of love God has for His children. How He must hurt when we hurt; how He must cry when we cry; how He must laugh when we laugh. In His great mercy and compassion, He willingly gave us His only begotten Son, allowed Him to suffer greatly and then be shamefully crucified. How deep is His love for us, His children.

I pray that, as your mother, I will grow in this unconditional love toward you. As we see you grow and develop, we pray more diligently for wisdom and practical instruction to raise you. We want to shape your will but not break your spirit.

I love you, Sarah! —Mom □

*Donalda is married to Harry Rohde, and they have one daughter, Sarah, age two and one half. The Rohde's second child is due May 11. The family attends Faith Baptist Church, Regina, SK.*

### THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN OF WMF!

*We, the members of the Cameroon Missionary Fellowship (and Nigeria), express our sincere thanks to you for sending us the Baptist Herald. We appreciate very much these excellent works, and the way they keep us in touch with you and visa versa.*

*When we finish reading them (or before), the Cameroonians are scrambling to see if they can have them.*

*Thank you for this gift in addition to everything else you do to support and encourage us.*

—In Christ, Pat Lenz for CMF



## COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ **BEULAH, ND.** Pastor Terry Midkiff baptized one adult and welcomed two additional members into the fellowship of Immanuel Baptist Church.

The youth at Immanuel hosted a dinner to raise money for their trip to the Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX. Approximately one hundred people attended. —*Ottillia Allmer*

■ **RAPID CITY, SD.** Pastor Ralph Cooke baptized 14 people and welcomed seven additional members into the fellowship of South Canyon Baptist Church. —*Wanda Decker*

■ **CRESTON, NE.** Pastor Alan Ingalls welcomed two new members by letter of transfer into the fellowship of Creston Baptist Church. —*Henrietta Scheffler*

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** Mission Baptist Church extended the hand of fellowship to six new members: three through baptism, one by testimony, and two through transfer. "We thank God for opportunities to reach out," declares Anne Pohl. The Rev. Richard Grabke serves as senior pastor.

■ **SULTAN, WA.** Since Hillcrest Baptist Church moved to its new building one year ago, the Rev. William Neuman has baptized five adults and four youth and welcomed one adult by letter of transfer. —*Deanna L. Rode*

■ **PENTICTON, BC.** Calvary Baptist Church received three new members recently. The Church is a church planting project under the leadership of Mario Giraldi. —*Vicky Laframboise*

**Texas church continues to reach Mexican-American community**

Reynaldo and Antonia Hinojosa

"God continues blessing the work of Garcia's Ranch Baptist Church in Rio Grande City, TX, with new people making decisions to receive Christ as Savior," says Pastor Reynaldo Hinojosa. "The pillars of the Church have been maintaining strong with God's blessing. Also, the mission in Mexico, Villa Nueva, has been blessed strongly by God. It continues to win new souls—both children and women."

**Carrington church "dares to dream"**

■ **CARRINGTON, ND.** Forty people signed up for "Daring to Dream Again,"

a fifty day spiritual adventure. During this time, the congregation has experienced an exciting time of growth.

"The eight specific skills addressed have helped us rediscover the joy of trusting God and dreaming His dreams for us again. We're thankful for the daily encouragement and blessings it has given us," says Pastor Loren D. Franchuk. —*Vi Pepple*

**Hillside Baptist hosts inductive Bible study training**

■ **DICKINSON, ND.** Hillside Baptist Church recently hosted an inductive Bible study course. Classes were held for three days, seven hours per day.

The basic premise of the training is that "the Word is the Word's best commentary." Three steps—observation, interpretation, and application, allow readers to discover what the Bible says, what it means, and how they can live it out.

JoAnne Carter served as the liaison between the church and Precept Ministries, the organization that conducted the training. The Rev. Daryl Dachtler is senior pastor. —*Cleo Kulish*

## COMPELLED TO SERVE

**South Canyon Baptist holds Missions Conference; commissions two families**

■ **RAPID CITY, SD.** The 1994 World Mission Conference, with the theme "Commanded to Care," was held at South Canyon Baptist Church. Dr. Herman Effa, N.A.B. Con-

ference missions director, reported on various mission fields, especially the open door in Russia. Several missionaries made presentations, including Daphne Dunger, Cameroon; Clyde Zimbelman, Nigeria; Rob and Vicki Anthony, Chad; and Doug and Beth Snyder, church planters in Calgary, AB.

The youth participated in games with a missions emphasis.

The Rev. Corey Sateren of Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD, led the commissioning of Gary and Sue Bertsch and their children in preparation for short-term ministry in church planting in Garland, TX.

Leonard and Barbara Geidel were commissioned for their trip to Kenya, where they assisted in a construction project.

The Rev. Ralph E. Cooke and the Rev. Jon Cooke are pastors of the Rapid City Church. —*Wanda Decker*

**Older adults enjoy Soup & Share at Sultan church**

■ **SULTAN, WA.** Every Wednesday, Hillcrest Baptist Church holds a Soup & Share for older adults. Those in attendance share a soup lunch and then a time of Bible study follows the meal. It has been welcomed as an excellent way to combine fellowship, food, and study of God's Word. The Rev. William Neuman is pastor. —*Deanna L. Rode*

of ministry at South Canyon Baptist Church.

The celebration ended with a time of fellowship following the installation service for their new pastors: the Rev. Ralph Cooke, senior pastor, and the Rev. Jon Cooke, associate pastor. —*Wanda Decker*

**Oak Street Baptist Church to celebrate 125th anniversary**

■ **BURLINGTON, IA.** Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, will celebrate its 125th anniversary, Nov. 10-13, 1994. The weekend will start with an old-fashioned prayer meeting and end with a dinner following the Sunday morning service.

Shortly after the Civil War, a group of 11 German Baptists from Brome, Germany, left their fatherland and came to the Burlington area. Brother Heinerich Rieke was chosen as their leader. At first, they met in Brother Rieke's home. This temporary organization incorporated as First German Baptist Church of Burlington, Iowa, on Nov. 15, 1869. Brother Rieke gave land on Oak Street for the

first church, and it was dedicated debt-free in 1870. The Rev. John Kohrs was called from Germany to be the first pastor.

By 1890, the membership was 280. The church was taken down, and a new church was built for \$10,000 and again dedicated free of debt. This forms part of the present church building.

The Rev. O.E. Krueger served the church for the most years, from 1910 to 1925. During this time, the educational wing was built. Gradually the services were held in the English language, and the name of the church was changed to Oak Street Baptist Church. The membership was 532 in 1925.

The centennial was celebrated in 1969 under the pastorate of the Rev. John Ziegler. In 1970, another section was added to the south side of the church.

The present pastors are the Rev. Gregg Donaldson, senior pastor, the Rev. Joey Link, minister of family life, and Mr. Tim Stark, youth pastor. —*Mildred Rieke Ross*

## COMMITTED TO GIVE

**Fountain Valley church burns mortgage**

■ **FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA.** In a special service on March 20, 1994, Pat Freeman, finance board chair, burned the mortgage, making Fountain Valley Baptist Church a debt-free congregation. Immediately following the service, the Church hosted a lunch to express appreciation to the congregation.

The two-building facility currently is also home to one Chinese and two Samoan congregations and houses a Carden School as

well as being used by several civic organizations. —*Marilyn Barker*

**Strauss speaks at fundraiser**

■ **PENTICTON, BC.** About 52 people attended a fundraising banquet at Calvary Baptist Church. The Rev. Ervin Strauss, Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC, served as the keynote speaker. An offering of \$1,049 was given to reduce the church mortgage. Mario Giraldi serves as pastor. —*Vicky Laframboise*

## ANNIVERSARIES

**South Canyon Baptist Church celebrates 40th Anniversary**

■ **RAPID CITY, SD.** South Canyon Baptist Church recently celebrated "New Life at Forty." Former pas-

tors, the Rev. Merle Brenner, the Rev. Wil Dachtler, the Rev. George Robinson, the Rev. Elmo Tahrn, and the Rev. Walter Hoffman joined members, former members, and friends for a look back at four decades

## AN INVITATION

**The Cameroon Baptist Convention is celebrating its 40th anniversary between December 11 and 18, 1994. Any and all former missionaries are cordially invited as well as any other interested persons.**



## YOUTH NEWS . . .

(Continued from page 13)

### Youth group reaches unchurched friends

■ SULTAN, WA. The youth group at Hillcrest Baptist Church has developed an outreach to youth outside the Church. The youth plan events to invite their friends to, such as game nights with team competitions often focusing more on making a mess than athletic skill. Many youth continue to attend weekly meetings.

The Church also has a youth band that has encouraged many youth to participate. —Deanna L. Rode

### Puyallup church produces video for teens

■ PUYALLUP, WA. Over the past two years, Christ Community Baptist Church has prayerfully and gracefully addressed the issue of so-called "safe sex" presentations with the Puyallup Public School District. Washington State Schools agree with abstinence, yet often encourage other methods.

The school district has been very receptive to working together on this concern. As a result, Christ Community has produced a two-hour presentation on youth relationships and promoting abstinence.

The City of Puyallup has two high schools, each having two student camera clubs. The camera clubs, with adult supervision, had two live high school classes participating in the very receptive

and creative presentation of Puyallup's Young Life director, Brad Henning. This was video-taped for our Conference churches to use.

Our church has shown this to our young people. Young people and their parents give it five stars!

The video is now available in four different Washington State School Districts. This is a must-see for any young people's group. The Rev. Gordon Bauslaugh is pastor. Call Christ Community Baptist Church at (206) 531-4007 if interested or for more information. (Minor charge for duplication and postage only.)

### West Center Street youth perform "Live at the Palace"

■ MADISON, SD. "Live at the Palace," a musical about teens who want to be accepted by a Christian youth group, was presented by the junior and senior high of West Center Street Baptist Church. The theme is that Christians often make mistakes, no one is perfect, and we all need to find the Lord in our own way and in our own time. The performance took place at the Dakota Prairie Playhouse in Madison and was attended by many area teens. Marli Wiese directed the musical. The Rev. Steve Vetter is pastor. —P. Frerichs

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■ ALSWAGER, GEORGE (97); Columbus, NE; born April 15, 1896, to Wilhelm and Heneriette Alswager in Hamburg, Germany; died July 21, 1993; married Selma Wetgen on Feb. 2, 1926; member, trustee, Sunday school teacher, pianist, organist, choir and male quartet member, Shell Creek Baptist Church, Columbus, NE; pianist, German Gospel Hour Radio; survived by his daughter, Eleanor Behlen; son, Lyle Alswager, both of Columbus, NE; one sister, Erika Drews; seven grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren; preceded in death by his wife, Selma; two brothers, and one sister; the Rev. Richard Lute, pastor, and the Rev. Herman Effa, funeral service.

■ ARMBRUSTER, OLGA (85); Mount Sterling, MO; born March 17, 1908, to William and Emilia Kludt Kuhn, USSR; died Dec. 17, 1993; married the Rev. Frank Armbruster on June 25, 1942, in Lansing, MI; member, Pin Oak Baptist Church, Mount Sterling, MO; survived by her husband, the Rev. Frank; daughter, Sherah Heidbrink, Linn, MO; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; preceded in death by her son, Bruce Nelson; the Rev. Warren Rikard and Dr. Wilbur Thorlakson, pastors, funeral service.

■ BERG, KATHERINE MARGARET (JANZ) (80); Calgary, AB; died Feb. 18, 1994; married the Rev. David Berg; together they served churches in Washburn, ND; Trochu, AB; Morris, MB; Wetaskiwin, AB; Kelowna, BC; member, South Calgary Community Baptist Church, Calgary, AB; survived by her husband, David; three sons, all pastors: Ron (Ruth) Berg, Edmonton, AB; Frank (Joanne) Berg, Seattle, WA; Steve (Karen) Berg, Calgary, AB; one daughter, Genny

(Rev. Dwight) Steele, Portland, OR; 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; predeceased by her son Ferd, 1992; the Rev. Jim Wallace, and her children, funeral service; a scholarship fund for pastors' children has been set up in her memory at Edmonton Baptist Seminary.

■ BIEBRICH, HARVEY ARVID (83); Vancouver, BC; born Oct. 7, 1909, to Adolph and Emelia Biebrich in Gluckstal, Ukraine; died Sept. 13, 1993; immigrated to Canada in 1928; married Irma Gassner in 1946; deacon, trustee, Sunday school teacher, and male choir member, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; survived by his wife, Irma; two daughters: Beverly and Kathleen; two sons: Ronald and Robert; three grandchildren; one sister and one brother; the Rev. Allan Stroschein, pastor, funeral service.

■ ISELI, JOHN (81); Vancouver, BC; born Nov. 21, 1912, to Andrew and Mary Iseli in Sentevan, Yugoslavia; died Jan. 7, 1994; immigrated to Edenwold, SK, in 1928; married Teofelia Sonnenberg in October 1939; former active member, Edenwold Baptist Church; First Baptist of Minionas, MB; Temple Baptist of Swan River, MB; active member, deacon, male choir member, Ebenezer Baptist, Vancouver, BC; survived by his wife, Teofelia; three daughters: Wilma Huebert, Penticton, BC; Margaret (Len) Strelau, Kelowna, BC; Doreen (Mervin) McCune, Vancouver, BC; one son: John (Sharon), Richmond, BC; three brothers and two sisters; the Rev. Allan Stroschein, pastor, funeral service.

■ KITTLER, HILDA (76); Underwood, ND; born Dec. 19, 1917, in McClusky, ND; died Feb. 4, 1994; married Emil Kittler on Feb. 18, 1941;

member, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; member, treasurer, secretary, WMF; survived by her son, Harold (Barb) Kittler, Turtle Lake, ND; her daughter, Alice Leonard, Minot, ND; four grandchildren, and one great-grandson; preceded in death by her husband, Emil, 1980; the Reverends Orville Meth and David Scarff, pastors, funeral service.

■ KLEIN, ELLA (SCHRENK) (87); Sacramento, CA; born July 19, 1906, to Jacob and Katherine Schrenk in Ashley, ND; died Feb. 26, 1994; married the Rev. Fred E. Klein on Sept. 26, 1926; active partner as pastor's wife in ministries to N.A.B. Conference churches for 67 years in Bismarck, ND; Washburn, ND; Wasco, CA; Stafford, KS; Colfax, WA; St. Bonifacius, MN; Hope, KS, and Elk Grove, CA; held leadership roles in sanctuary choir, children's choir, VBS, Sunday school, children's church, and Women's Missionary Society; member, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA; survived by her husband, Fred; her daughter, Florence E. Royer, Huntsville, AL; her son, Eldon D., Penryn, CA; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson; the Reverends Ron Norman, Ed Bartel, and Merle Brenner, pastors, funeral services.

■ LINDTEIGEN, MERLE (75); Turtle Lake, ND; born Sept. 22, 1918, to Ole and Anna (Rygh) Lindteigen in Turtle Lake, ND; died Feb. 20, 1994; married Doris Makeeff on Nov. 4, 1956; member, usher, trustee, deacon, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Doris; one son, Wesley (Delly) Lindteigen, Turtle Lake, ND; one daughter, Fern Lindteigen, Bismarck, ND; three granddaughters; two brothers: Clarence and Leland; preceded in death by his parents;

the Rev. Gordon Voegelé, pastor, funeral service.

■ POTRATZ, T. GENEVIEVE (88); Sumner, IA; born Aug. 19, 1905, in rural Chickasaw County, IA; died Feb. 7, 1994; married Martin B. Potratz, Jan. 4, 1938; charter member, First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA; held several church offices and taught Sunday school; survived by one son, Howard, St. Louis, MO; two grandchildren: Jennifer and Martin; several nieces and nephews; predeceased by her husband, parents, infant daughter, and two brothers; the Reverends Willis Potratz and Arnold Kirschner, funeral services.

■ SCHLIMMER, HATTIE (95); Odessa, WA; born Feb. 15, 1899, to Jacob and Christine (Ulmer) Schorzman near Menno, SD; died Feb. 21, 1994; married Conrad Schlummer on Jan. 2, 1920; active member, teacher, WMF, pianist, choir member, treasurer, Odessa Baptist Church; survived by her son, Loren; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; preceded in death by her husband, Conrad; a son, Roger; a daughter, Myra; nine brothers; and four sisters; the Rev. Charles Smith, pastor, funeral service.

■ SIEMENS, EDWIN R. "BUD" (80); Corn, OK; born April 6, 1913, to A.W. and Marie (Richert) Siemens; died Jan. 31, 1994; married Martha Schlichting in 1936; charter member, clerk, deacon, trustee, and choir member, Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK; survived by his wife, Martha; twin sons: Roger D. (Geneva) Siemens, Houston, TX; Richard L. Siemens, San Juan, CA; four grandchildren; one brother, Allen G. Siemens; one sister, Beth Jordan.



### First Baptist church started in Mongolia

The first Baptist church in Mongolia was officially started on February 24. Greetings to the Prime Minister of Mongolia and the church were sent by Denton Lotz of the Baptist World Alliance and Billy Kim of Korea, congratulating Mongolia for religious freedom since democracy came in 1992.

### Litchfield chosen as Sunday morning speaker for Triennial Conference



Dr. Hugh Litchfield of Sioux Falls, SD, has been chosen as the Sunday morning worship service speaker for the 44th Triennial Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas, August 2-7, 1994.

Litchfield is known not only as a strong, practical preacher of the Gospel but also as a person

full of fun and energy. He is Professor of Homiletics at the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, where he has served since 1988.

Litchfield has written three books: *Preaching the Easter Story*, *Preaching the Christmas Story*, and *Sermons on Those Other Special Days*, published by Broadman Press.

### Bruce Carroll to be in concert at Triennial Conference



The Program Committee announces that Bruce Carroll, singer and composer, will be in concert on Saturday evening during the Triennial Conference in Dallas, Texas, August 6. His concert will follow the *Texas Fiesta* at the Hyatt Regency—Dallas. Admission to the concert is free.

Bruce Carroll's music prompts many labels. He's been described as an acoustic pop artist, a contemporary country singer, and an inspirational performer. His fourth album, *Sometimes Miracles Hide*, continues to inspire listeners. He earned a Grammy Award in 1991, and in 1989 he became the first recipient of the Gospel Music Association's Country Album of the Year Award.

Carroll's songs are strong in values. "It is so important to me that Christianity is at the center of what I do," he says. "Everything else is really secondary to my relationship with God."

## BAPTIST WORLD AID

### Funds needed to feed displaced Liberian children

Since December 1989, Liberia has been embroiled in a civil war. Sixty thousand have been murdered, and more than 500,000 persons have fled to the neighboring countries. In the Ivory Coast, Liberian refugees are located in several areas including Danane. The stresses of living in a strange environment are many: the language barrier, an inability to work and generate income, and a large number of orphans, widows, elderly, and young adults without hope.

A group of Liberian refugees organized the Union Baptist Church in Danane in 1991 to provide a means of spiritual growth, worship, fellowship, recreation, and ministries to meet the needs of the refugees. Their strength is in their desire to help themselves.

Funds are needed to help feed the children for one year. Your contributions are welcome. Designate your contributions for "Child Feeding Program—Danane, Ivory Coast" (639120-93), and send to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

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### Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Brian Reynolds** to interim pastor, Balgonie Baptist Church, Balgonie, SK.

■ **Mr. Paul Doucet** to youth pastor, Balgonie Baptist Church, Balgonie, SK.

■ **Mr. Kevin Hercula** to minister of worship and youth, North Pointe Baptist Church, Warren, MI.

■ **The Rev. Henry Ramus** from pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI, effective August 1994.

■ **The Rev. Arnie Kirschner** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA, effective May 29.

■ **The Rev. Robert Scott** to pastor, Canaan Baptist Church, Crawford, TX.

■ **The Rev. Ray Erickson** to interim pastor, Nepean Baptist Church, Ottawa, ON.

■ **Mr. Steve Curran** from Vancouver, WA, to church planter, new church planting project, Moreno Valley, CA, Feb. 1, 1994.

■ **Mr. Rob Houts** to pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA, effective Feb. 20, 1994.

■ **The Rev. Stephen Donoghue** to pastor, Oakridge Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI.

■ **The Rev. Ed Hohn** from British Columbia area minister since 1981 to pastor, Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church, Richmond, BC, effective October 1994.

■ **The Rev. Jake Leverette** from Manitoba/Saskatchewan area minister since 1988 to part-time Saskatchewan area minister and pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Regina, SK, effective September 1994.

■ **The Rev. Phil Holbrook** installed as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Wetaskiwin, AB, on Sunday January 30. He and his wife Patricia and daughter Brittany came from White Rock, BC. — Audrey Littman

### E. K. Martin, founding father of education in Cameroon, dies



Dr. Ernest Kofele Martin, architect of education in Cameroon, former Cameroon Baptist Convention President, and pioneer CBC Education

Secretary, passed away on Sunday, March 13, 1994, at the age of 88.

He was a widely traveled Christian, politician, and human rights activist.

Described by many as brilliant, patient, hard-working, and morally upright, Ernest Kofele Martin is said to have been a pillar of education in the former West Cameroon and the driving force behind the rapid growth of the Baptist Church in Cameroon. He was the first African to become Education Officer in Cameroon and is said to have been instrumental to the opening of several government and mission schools in the North West and South West Provinces. Among these is Saker Baptist College in Limbe. He was also the first Cameroonian Principal of the Normal College in Kake, which later became Government Teacher Training College in Kumba.

As a visiting teacher, he toured the entire Southern Cameroons, supervising the work of teachers and inspecting the activities of the Provinces' schools.

He was awarded a British Council Scholarship for a Diploma in Education at the University of London. After serving in various capacities in the Cameroon Education Office, he soon was promoted to Education Officer, the first African to hold that post in the then Southern Cameroons.

He served as a member of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly and as C.D.C. Board mem-

ber. During his long service in the public and private sectors, his ambitions to serve the Lord in all righteousness led him into creating inroads for the foundation of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

The North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, awarded him an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities in 1977.

Dr. Martin was born on Jan. 27, 1906, to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Luma Martin. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Hanah Nene Martin, a brother, Samuel Luma Martin, and eight children.

(Material drawn from *Cameroon Tribune* article by Peter Ngea Beng.)

### Littman relinquishes area minister's position



Dr. Charles Littman, Alberta area minister, was advised by his doctor to discontinue all work effective Jan. 12, 1994.

Littman says, "God has wonderfully enriched and blessed our lives through various ministries since my graduation from N.A.B. Seminary, in Sioux Falls, SD, 37 years ago."

During these years, Littman served as senior pastor of three churches: Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS, where he was ordained (1957-63); McKernan Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, (1963-69); and First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, MI, (1969-80). He also served as North Central Area Minister from 1980-85 and Alberta Area Minister from 1985-1994. In 1990, N.A.B. Divinity School awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

The Alumni Association of the North American Baptist Seminary

(Continued on page 30)



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## What's Happening ... (continued from page 29)

selected him to receive a "Citation of Recognition and Honor" at the Triennial Conference in 1985. The North American Baptist Divinity School (EBS) honored him by granting the degree of Doctor of Divinity at its 1990 graduation exercises.

"In our total ministries, we have had the privilege of making many wonderful friends. Our review of ministries makes us most grateful for God's goodness, blessing, and peace."

His wife Audrey has been an excellent prayer support and encourager throughout their ministry.

## Ron Berg appointed new Alberta area minister



Dr. John Binder announces the appointment of the Rev. Ron Berg of Edmonton, AB, as Alberta Area Minister effective July 1, 1994. He was appointed by the

N.A.B. Conference Executive Committee upon nomination by the Alberta Baptist Association Executive Committee. Berg has served as senior pastor of Steele Heights Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, for 22 years.

## Kostboth resigns from Seminary position

Allan Kostboth announced his resignation as Director of Current Gifts and Alumni to the Board of Trustees of N.A.B. Seminary at its meeting, March 18. He has served in this position since January 1993. He became Director of Admissions at the Seminary in January 1988.

Kostboth has accepted the position of Director of Annual Fund at Sioux Falls College, SD, effective July 1, 1994.

## Building Churches into the 21st Century

### Building Continues at Oak Hills Church

Since Oak Hills Church moved into its new facilities on Dec. 19, 1993, its Sunday morning attendance has multiplied from 200 to more than 650. Its Sunday morning seeker services communicate the message of Christ in a way non-churched people understand. One recent sermon series on the family, "Home Improvement," illustrated Biblical perspectives with drama sketches based on the popular TV program. Many of the new attendees have been non-churched from five to twenty years. They not only come but also bring friends.

Oak Hills began as a church-planting project in a store-front ten years ago. In 1988, the Church moved to another church's facility and met on Sunday afternoons. In 1991, they added a Saturday night seeker service.

The Church obtained its own property in 1992, on which they constructed cost-effective modular units for classrooms, offices, restrooms, and an auditorium. Currently, church members are finishing the plumbing and developing the grounds. Executive Pastor Rick Leary coordinates the project, called "God's Vision, Our Passion."

Oak Hills now offers a Thursday night New Community Service featuring Bible teaching and worship, and two Sunday morning seeker services. They plan to add a third this year.

Manuel Luz, associate pastor of



The Church held special services Jan. 20-23, 1994, to dedicate its new grounds and facilities. "We have done this through the tremendous help of CEIF," said Carlson.

arts and worship, coordinates the "Arts in Worship" program, which uses multi-media presentations, video, drama, and music to enhance worship. Other ministries include Adventure Clubs for children, The Welcome Team to promote hospitality, New Members Classes, and IMPACT (Inspired Music Production, Audio, Communications, and Theater) players.

As the Church seeks to develop spiritual integrity and values, Oak Hills' primary emphasis remains prayer, not programs. Luz attributes the Church's growth to the faithfulness and prayers of the core group.

It's been an extraordinary experience," said Carlson. "It's everything we hoped for and 10 times more." —Melissa Krispense



The Church plans to build larger, more permanent facilities in the near future. "We can't wait to see what God has in store for us next," says Kent Carlson, (l.) senior pastor. "Indeed, God's building plan has turned out to be more than anyone could guess."

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