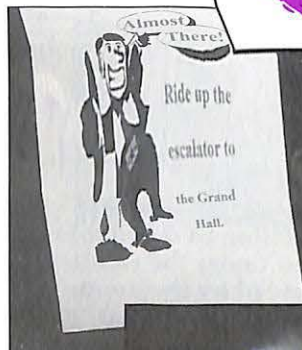


BAPTIST HERALD

NOVEMBER 1994



A ☆ HEART ☆ THAT ☆ CARES



TRIENNIAL
CONFERENCE
HIGHLIGHTS
(See page 12)

Churches to be Affected by New Tax Laws

by Mark Wingfield

WASHINGTON. (BJC) Church financial secretaries should be preparing to help donors comply with new U.S. tax laws related to charitable giving.

Effective Jan. 1, 1994, any single contribution of \$250 or more to a charity must be substantiated in writing by that charity. The documentation also must indicate whether the donor received any goods or services in exchange for the contribution.

Because of this new law, church officials will want to get out donor statements as soon as possible each quarter or at year-end, said Karin Gross, a senior technician reviewer

with the U.S. IRS chief counsel.

Deductibility is not changed. The new law relates only to documentation of deductions. The law affects only single contributions of \$250 or more. For example, two people give \$5,200 annually to their churches. One person gives \$100 every week to the church and is not affected by the new law. The other person gives \$433 once each month and is affected by the new law.

Documentation is required. Before filing a tax return, a donor must obtain from the church a statement that lists all contributions of \$250 or more and reports any goods

or services given to the donor in return. A donor's canceled checks will not be considered adequate documentation because they do not indicate whether any goods or services were received in return.

Compliance is the goal. The no-goods-or-services requirement is key to the new law. For example, a person might pay the church more than \$250 to participate in a mission trip. That payment differs from a regular tithe or offering, which is given without expecting to receive any goods or services in return. For the mission trip, the money paid is not a contribution to the church but provides lodging, food, and transportation services.

Mixed gifts have a different standard. Payments to a church of more than \$75 that are part charity and part payment for goods and services must be reported and documented as such. The charity must provide a written disclosure informing the donor that a deduction is limited to the excess contribution over the value of the goods or services and provide a good faith estimate of the goods and services. For example, should a church hold a fund-raiser where individuals pay \$100 to attend a concert, the donor could deduct as a contribution only the amount of that \$100 that didn't cover the value of the concert.

Documentation of charitable gifts required under the new law must be received by the donor before the tax return is filed. The church must issue receipts/documentation to the individuals before the individuals can file their returns; otherwise the individuals cannot take the deduction.

The IRS has no standard format churches must use to report contributions. Any form will suffice, so long as it provides enough information to substantiate the amount of the deductible contribution and a statement about whether goods or services were received in return. □

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A Heart That Cares

A condensation of Dr. Hugh Litchfield's message during the closing worship service of the 44th Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX.

Where do we go from here? What do we do now? I liken our experience at the Triennial Conference to that moment when Jesus went up to the Mount of Transfiguration . . . away from the rush and pressures of life. He took Peter, James, and John with Him. There they had an amazing experience, but then, they had to go back down the mountain.

As I think about us, I think their experience will answer the question, "What do we do now?" I see this in three stages.

Affirmation

In our scripture, Jesus is nearing the end. In Mark's gospel, this account comes after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah. Then Jesus talked about suffering and death. They didn't understand. They were confused.

So Jesus went up the mountain and was transfigured. Moses and Elijah appear. The disciples talked about what was going on. I think Jesus wondered, "Is this the way I should go . . . the

cross? Am I doing what the Father wants me to do?" In those moments, He received an answer: "Beloved Son." He was affirmed. He was doing God's will.

This was a time of affirmation for the disciples, also. They had left all to follow

Where do we go from here? We leave the place—or places—where we have affirmed that Christ is Savior and Lord and go out to face the frustration that is in this world. As we depend upon the power of God, healing is on its way.

Christ. They didn't understand Jesus' talk about suffering and dying. Had they made the wrong choice . . . following the wrong one? They needed to know.

On the mountain, they received their affirmation.

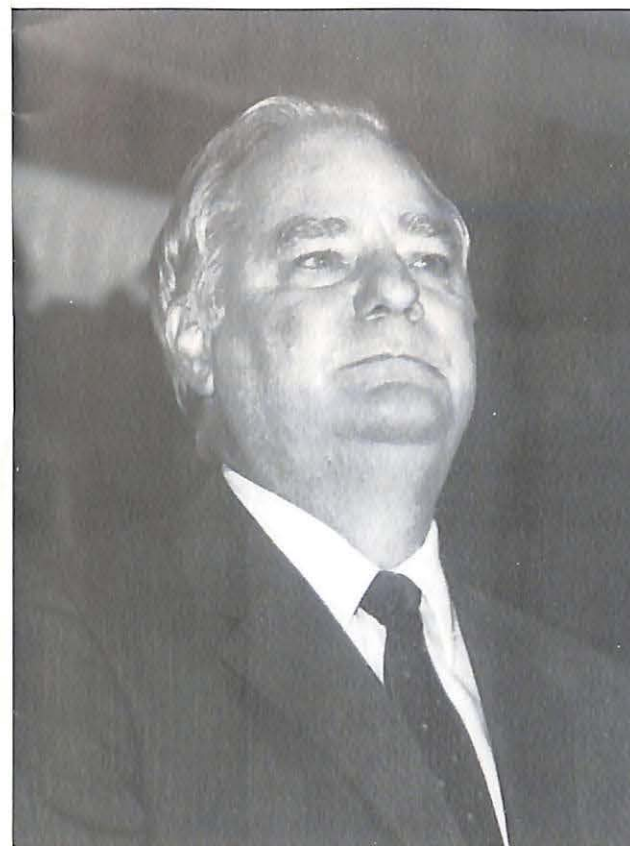
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him, obey Him, follow Him, trust Him. You have made the right choice. You are following the right One."

Have we affirmed once again that Jesus Christ is the One whom we should follow? Our Lord and Savior. We need to do that. Sometimes with the busyness and responsibilities of life, Jesus gets pushed to the fringes. No longer is He at the center of our lives.

We wonder: Where is God in all of this? What is He doing? Does God know what is going on? We need a time to remember Who it is who loves, forgives, and cares for us . . . Who gives us life abundant and life eternal. To remember, yes, we chose rightly. We are following the right One.

Someone was at the gates of heaven complaining to St. Peter. "It's not fair," he said. "You gave Moses a burning bush, and he experienced the presence of God, but I didn't see any."

St. Peter took him to a section of heaven, and he



end it, heal it.

I suspect that happens to us. We go back into our world to all of the problems that were there before we had the mountain-top experience. They have not disappeared. Sometimes, it is overwhelming.

And we add the terrifying pictures of the suffering all over the world to our personal problems . . . sickness . . . death . . . broken families . . . churches that sometimes forget how to be a church with a heart that cares . . . where people say of the church . . . "See how they love one another."

We fight against an evil, but it does not fall. We feed one hungry person, and ten more come to the table. We try to love, and we get back hate. We wonder: How can the healing come? We are not able. It is frustrating.

Power

So from affirmation and frustration, we move to evidence of power and the hope of it.

Jesus said, "What's going on?" They told him. Jesus seemed to get upset. "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?"

Maybe Jesus was upset because as those disciples were coming down the mountain they were splitting theological hair. Has Elijah come? Will Elijah come? When? All the time, Jesus was trying to say, "Here I am." They missed the point. Some feel He may have been upset because once again they misunderstood Him . . . only thinking of Jesus in terms of meeting physical needs and not spiritual needs.

Some have said that Jesus may have been upset because they were putting limits to the power of God. But we see Jesus bring healing. The boy's sickness goes away. Still con-

fused, the disciples say to Jesus, "Why couldn't we do it?"

The disciples were trying to heal out of their own power and abilities. And Jesus told them that healing comes only through prayer, by intimate dependence upon God and the power of God. They did not understand this. Through the power of the Spirit, Christ goes with us. This is our hope.

All of our programs, as good as they are, all of our talent as gifted as we may be, all of our activities as important as they are, will amount to nothing if we have not learned, only through prayer, this intimate dependence upon the power of God. God is not trying to keep that power away from us. God is trying to give power to us to work through us, to do something with us . . . to bring about healing.

Will we depend intimately upon the power of God first and foremost? What can we do about Rwanda, Bosnia, Haiti? What can we do about brokenness at home, crime, violence, homelessness? What can we do about broken churches and broken families?

We can open ourselves to the power of God and see what God will do through us. And God will give us the power of a heart that cares . . . that will feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give drink to the thirsty. That will work to let justice and righteousness flow down like a mighty stream . . . that will forgive seven times seventy and more. That will love one another as we have been loved . . . that will seek to make this world a better place for all and to seek to help people become better than they have been. The power of God can do that.

I am not saying that when we depend upon the power of God all the problems disappear. Some might. Miracles of grace happen daily. Some sicknesses heal; some evil falls. Some churches overcome their brokenness. But for most of us,

(Continued on page 30)

A HEART THAT CARES

A condensation of the speech given by Tony Cupit during the International Missions Evening of the Triennial Conference

"By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

A young Indian lady, Leena, has a heart that cares. She attended the Baptist World Youth Congress in Zimbabwe last year. Leena, moved and challenged by that international experience, determined to live solely for Jesus upon her return to her home in India.

Visiting hospitals, she witnessed to her faith in Jesus Christ. She spoke to people in the market-place and on trains and buses.

One day she witnessed, about her love for her Savior to a lady with a little boy. She asked whether her son went to school but was told that because the mother was a prostitute, and because she could not name the child's father, the boy was not allowed to attend school.

So Leena commenced a school for the children of the prostitutes of her city.

Leena wrote to the BWA seeking a small amount of money to conduct a "social evangelism" ministry right in the middle of a great Hindu festival. Recently, she also conducted Vacation Bible Schools for 400 children and evangelistic ministries in a number of villages. Leena has a heart that cares.

A heart that cares does not just happen. Three vital elements are needed.

All around the world, our Baptist brothers and sisters are inhibited from witness because of a raised gun. In the West, we are inhibited from witness by a raised eye-brow!

A Divine Example

A heart that cares finds its inspiration from the Father's heart. Our God is a God who cares, a God of love, a God of mercy, a God of compassion. If we are people with hearts that care, it is because we have a Divine Example.

Not every Christian has a heart that cares, and not every person with a heart that cares would claim to be a Christian. Let's compare those whose lives and attitudes challenge the very idea and spirit of caring with those whose relationship with Christ has given them a heart that cares.

Recently, I heard the bizarre story about Rev. Mason, a Baptist minister from Monrovia, Liberia. He was an outspoken critic of the then Liberian president, Doe.

President Doe summoned this Baptist pastor to his palace and



demanding his co-operation. When the brave man told the President he should act with justice and obey God's laws, he was literally thrown to the lions in President Doe's palace courtyard. Under this man's regime, in one day, 600 Christians were herded into a Lutheran Church building and massacred.

Compare that uncaring and callous attitude, which sees no value in human life, to the self-sacrificial service of so many from your own Conference who leave home and family and go forward to serve Jesus Christ and His people. Compare the attitude of those who engage in genocide in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, with the courage and faith of so many Baptists around the world whose hearts are full of love even for those who persecute them.

A Dynamic Experience

It is because people have a dynamic experience of Jesus Christ who urges us to love even our enemies, that this spirit of care and compassion can be seen even in the most unlikely places.

Jesus makes radical claims on us: to be obedient witnesses, to be engaged in mission and ministry, to take up a cross daily and follow Him. A heart that cares does so because of the Divine Example that our Father God offers, and because of the Dynamic Experience, fellowship with Christ produces.

The dynamic experience of Christ's love that really makes a difference is evidenced in the life of a young Romanian pastor, who told me his story.

Under Romanian dictator Ceausescu's regime, Christians were often treated like second class citizens. When Cornel's wife contracted cancer, and Cornel sought permission for her to travel to London for a bone marrow operation, the Communist authorities said she could go if she turned her back on her Christian faith.

She replied: "My husband, I love you, and I love our young daughter, but I love Jesus too much to turn my back on Him."

Cornel's wife died one week after the dictator Ceausescu was overthrown. She was a woman whose dynamic experience of Jesus was more important even than life itself.

There can be great cost in possessing a caring heart. Think of the cost to God Himself when Jesus, His Son, was suspended between earth and heaven, held there by rusty spikes and dirty thongs! It may cost us . . .

A Decisive Encounter

Jesus calls us to engage in a decisive encounter with people in the name of Jesus Christ and for His sake.

Jesus has a heart that cares for us and offers us the possibility of a dynamic experience of Him that can transform our lives. He calls us to seek those decisive encounters with unsaved people that can help draw them into the Kingdom.

An encounter suggests a real coming together to explore and explain the great realities of faith and life and the wonderful mysteries of the life of the believer.

A friend told me about a plane flight with a Muslim sitting alongside that lasted for some 18 hours. "How do I witness to my faith without being intrusive and arrogant?" he wondered.

Finally, he asked the Muslim to explain to him about the Islamic religion. He listened patiently. Then the Muslim asked him to tell about his religious convictions.

He had a sister in California who had become a Christian and had told her brother that she was praying that he, too, would become a believer in Jesus. So the Muslim man was responsive, and my friend led him to Christ.

This was a true encounter. He took the other person seriously, listened carefully, and only when invited, shared his faith in Jesus Christ. But the Lord had already prepared the man's heart.

Billy Graham says that the most

effective evangelism is the loving, faithful witness of God's people sharing their faith with friends, relatives, and acquaintances. This can become a decisive encounter, something in which we all can engage.

All around the world, our Baptist brothers and sisters are inhibited from witness because of a raised gun. In the West, we are inhibited from witness by a raised eye-brow!

Jesus has a heart that cares for us and offers us the possibility of a dynamic experience of Him that can transform our lives. He calls us to seek those decisive encounters with unsaved people that can help draw them into the Kingdom. It may be here; it may be elsewhere.

There is enormous need to engage in missionary endeavour all over the globe . . . a need for God's best hearts and minds to commit themselves to be missionaries of the Cross in the Philippines, in Japan, in the former Soviet Union, and to the uttermost parts of the world. There is a need to stand with national church planters, national missionaries and evangelists, to strengthen them in their task.

There is the need to exhibit a caring heart for the millions who have never heard that the Son of God shed His blood on a lonely Cross outside Jerusalem.

And there is a need to exhibit a caring heart for my spouse, son, daughter, neighbor, or fellow student who needs to experience the love and grace of God.

Does my heart . . . does your heart . . . really care for the Lord and His people? O God, give me a heart that cares. □

Dr. Tony Cupit, a former missionary, is Director of Evangelism and Education, Baptist World Alliance, Washington, DC.

MAKE DISCIPLE MAKERS

A condensation of Phil Yntema's address to the Conference delegates Wednesday evening. Later in the week, he was elected executive director of the N.A.B. Conference.

Iwish making disciples was easy . . . walk into church . . . spend a hour with the person . . . walk out the other side as a disciple. It is not that easy. Look at Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

The only command in the Great Commission is "to make disciples."

What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who learns of someone else. Our job is to produce people who learn of Jesus Christ and who actually follow Jesus Christ.

We have people who go through our Sunday schools and through our youth groups, but they never really learn about Jesus Christ and learn to be a follower of Christ.

Discipleship is more than receiving Christ as your personal Saviour. It is following Jesus Christ. John says, "Many believed, and some followed."

Notice that Christ's command is

an active command; he says, "Make disciples." I find this a very curious command. God turns this important responsibility over to you and to me. We are to be part of the process: to make disciples.

How do we make disciples? These three things need to happen: going, baptizing, and teaching.

Baptizing

Two invisible things happened inside you when you found Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

First, the old you was dead and buried with Jesus Christ. Every sin you ever committed past, present, and future was buried with Jesus. When you are baptized, you identify with the death of Jesus Christ. When you come out of the waters, you identify with a new life in Christ. As Jesus was resurrected and is alive, so your spirit will live forever with Him. Old things are passed away; behold all things have become new.

A public identification with Jesus Christ is very important. It is the first command given to any new believer. It is "put up or shut up"

time for anyone who says he or she believes in Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour.

Being baptized publicly witnesses to the fact that Jesus died for you and was resurrected for you and that your life has been changed completely. To become a disciple takes a public proclamation of your faith in Jesus Christ. To deny someone of that or to demean that experience is to rob that person of an essential step in his or her walk with Jesus Christ.

Teaching

The second invisible thing is teaching: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." How to have a happy marriage . . . how to have good solid kids . . . how to spend your money . . . how to be healthy . . . how to walk with God.

Teach them all things. And nothing less than "all things." To lower the expectations of God so that we can easily succeed is a great travesty. A mediocre attempt at following Jesus isn't good enough. People who help people find Jesus Christ

as Saviour and who don't teach them "all things" are selling them short and selling Jesus short.

There needs to be accountability, a voluntary subjecting of yourself to someone else who will look over your shoulder. Not to hold someone accountable is to take away the motivation needed. As a pastor, every Monday morning I met with four other men. They asked me embarrassing questions. Each week they asked about my temptations.

They held me accountable to observe the things I was taught by Jesus. Not to offer that to someone is to make it more difficult for the person to follow Jesus.

Going

The third thing: The going. If you backtrack a couple of verses, you find the disciples had an experience with Jesus Christ that transformed their lives . . . a worship service. The command "to go" was not necessary; they naturally did go because of their association with Jesus Christ.

Three things happened to me that caused me to share it with people. My daughters, Carrie, Beth, and Dawna, were born. Because the news was so wonderful, I could not help but share it with other people.

When I meet with Jesus Christ, He fills me with His very self. He proves to me once again that He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and everything in between. There is a joy in my soul that causes me to share with anyone with whom I come in contact.

Discipling

Discipling is not an informational problem with us. We don't need another class before we feel we can go. The problem with most of us is our relationship with Jesus Christ. He is not the center of our existence. There is not a vibrancy in our faith that would motivate us natu-



meant by Jesus Christ to be given to someone else to help them in the process of disciple making.

As we begin to make disciples, extra special faithful people will float to the top in different order. It is an opportunity for everyone. It is not an exclusive. As these faithful people go through the process, you can identify them. You pour yourself in a special way into their lives so that they might learn to make disciples themselves. Some will be especially gifted. Those will be our pastors; those will be our missionaries.

Our churches are not producing pastors. More than half of our pastors come from outside of our N.A.B. Conference.

I believe I received most of my theological education before I was 12 years of age. Two of my pastors went door to door. They took my folks with them. As I saw that, I was being discipled.

My parents went every other week to a mission in downtown Detroit. I saw them do that. My father opened the Bible, read a chapter, and prayed with us at every meal. I saw that. And I saw those two dear people live their Christian life in front of me day after day.

I was a part of a far from perfect church, but a church where I saw enough good examples to where without ever going to a discipling class I learned to be a disciple and a disciple maker. We need to be those kinds of people.

It has to start with dads. God is expecting you to disciple your wife and your own family as well as other men He brings into your path. Ladies, you need to do the same thing.

The point is this: Make disciple makers. Let's never lose sight of that. We are commanded to care in that way. □

rally to go.

I have had dreams and aspirations in my life. I wanted to go to seminary. I wanted to graduate and get my first church. I thought that would bring me great joy. It didn't. I thought all I lacked was being a part of a fast growing church. I got that. And I found again the only thing that brings me joy and satisfaction is Jesus. He is the fullness of my spirit. He is the motivation of my life. And when I meet with Him, I go. The basis for discipleship: We are to make disciples.

In II Timothy 2:2: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." Notice the four generations in that verse: Paul taught Timothy; Timothy taught faithful men; and faithful men taught others.

We have succeeded in our discipling process when we have made that disciple and disciple maker. And that person, in turn, is going and discipling.

The gospel message you embrace and that cleansed your soul was given to you "in trust." It was

Les Cook Photo

CELEBRATING INWARDNESS

Dr. Calvin Miller addressed the theme, "Celebrating Inwardness," during the Triennial Conference daily Bible study sessions.

Drawing from 1 Corinthians, he pointed out that none of the rulers of this age understand the mystery that welds us into one. "Jesus died because He lived in a secular world. We haven't received the spirit of this world. It's a cold spirit. Aren't you glad you have the Spirit of God?" he asked.

The problem with church people is that there is an absence of inwardness. He noted that Baptists who don't get along don't spend enough time with Jesus Christ. "We don't have to give a blow by blow account of our sins, because Jesus knows them. What we must do is admit them." He reminded his listeners that the Spirit searches all things in one's life. We get exterior with God and forget to bend the knee. Testimonies often become "bragamonies." We've trained ourselves that conversion has to be spectacular . . . redeemed from the dregs of life.

Using the illustration of a diving bell, he noted that on the surface, one will find trash, rough waves, foam, and storms, but as one descends in the bell, it becomes quiet. "It is like that with God. In the quiet, you will experience the

deep things of God."

Think about what Jesus asked the church to be . . . not like a good fresh chicken whose head has been cut off running wildly about. "This is a symbol of separation . . . a kind of madness indicating we've lost contact with the depth of God's Spirit."

"Maybe God is saying to you in regard to your church: Your cage is too small."

"Believers should be characterized by a spirit of leisure, but not a 'holy' leisure where we run into prayer meetings, lay down our requests and demands and leave, and we haven't even seen the face of God," said Miller. "I wonder if we wouldn't win more people to Christ if we took the time to really look authentically into people's eyes . . . really saw them instead of staying inside sanctified Baptist walls . . . busy doing things. It's time to let God mold us. By the time we run through the strictures that shallow our lives, we don't appear to be people of real joy. God wants us to have joy."

"I think we would win more people to Christ, if we backed off sometimes." A used car salesman told Miller: "You are so concerned about your past sin and next sin that you are not radiating the love of Jesus Christ."

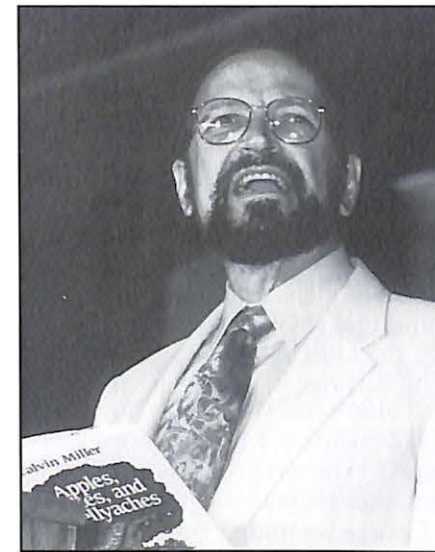
"Don't let your intensity give the

idea that you do not have joy," said Miller. "I'm uncomfortable with people without a smile. We are so busy working that we don't have time to celebrate God. Learn to enjoy life. Paul reminds us that all things are ours; we are Christ's; and Christ is God's. Let joy mark your life as a believer."

It is a strange paradox: To be serious about winning the lost, and at the same time, learning to be at ease . . . throwing our burdens on Him . . . trusting Him. It's a cold world, but in spite of this, "I suspect Christ would like to see His children smile."

Miller referred to I Corinthians 3 to the problem of spiritual immaturity in the church. Paul had to address the Corinthians as infants and not as Christians who were always growing. He likened spiritual immaturity in a Christian to a baby. "Nothing is more exciting than an infant, but the worst thing is to see that after 16 years, the child is still an infant. The same is true for Christians. We need to grow up. Do we know Christians like that?" he asked.

"There is nothing you can't have if you're willing to be filled with the Spirit of Christ. There is nothing God won't give us—or the church—if we are fully committed to grow,"



LES COOK PHOTOS

stated Miller. "Over-programming in the church is a symptom of decay. The key pattern for the Church is Jesus Christ. We must pick the right hero . . . Jesus Christ the foundation. We are God's temple."

Paul asked the Corinthian Christians: "Aren't you acting like mere men?" No one can lay any foundation other than on Jesus Christ. Most of us would rather be popular than to tell it like it is and take the consequences. You can be user friendly, but watering down theology to draw a crowd lacks permanence."

Miller told the story of St. Paul's Cathedral in London where Sir Christopher Wren preached. It was built of stone in 1661, where it presided over a city of wooden houses. Throughout the summer of 1661, the bubonic plague left rats dying in the streets, and 7,000 people a week died. It happened again in 1662. In September, a baker's maid left the kindling too close to a fire place, and the city burned for seven days. Only six people died in the fire, and the plague was over. As the ashes settled on the city, the Cathedral stood white and undamaged.

Miller called the church to be like that. "We stand in the midst of a burning culture. We serve a living God, and the key for us is obedience. We must be obedient, strong,

and true. When you go out into the world, people won't see your church, but you . . . Christ reaching out through you."

Corinthians was written to a carnal congregation in Corinth . . . quarrels, dissension. We need to realize the price of immaturity and realize the need for a good sound foundation in Jesus Christ. Miller prayed that God would make us faithful about the right things.

Referred to I Corinthians 3: 16: "Don't you know you are God's temple?" Miller stated: "God uses anyone who says, 'Lord, I'll be your temple.' We need to be the kind of person that cold and storm can't defeat. There can be no inconsequential actions from a person who wants to be the temple of God."

"Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Jesus Christ," said Miller. "Before you speak, make the words bow down in obedience."

Miller addressed pastors specifically as he said: "Walk gently on the earth. Surrender intensity. Win more to Christ. Some don't have much fun in life. Don't drive people around with a whip. I'm uncomfortable about people who never smile when talking about Jesus Christ."

Miller pointed out that we are so

busy working that we never have any time for fun. "Learn to enjoy God. All things are yours. You are Christ's; Christ is God's. Smell the roses, see the hummingbirds, enjoy the Lord. Praise God and enjoy Him."

Using I Corinthians 9:16 as his text, he reminded his listeners that "you were washed, justified, and sanctified." Paul stated, "Woe to me if I do not preach, and the reward is to be able to offer the gospel free of charge."

We need to be all things to all men. How do we do this when we are in danger of being weaned away? Discipline is the answer, says Paul: "I beat my body and make it my slave." Paul changed the world because of his passion and his endurance.

"When we are most blessed by God, there is a compulsion on us. Sometimes preachers preach because they are filled with the Spirit; other times it is because it is 11 a.m. It doesn't matter why we speak the truth. We have not led anyone to Jesus Christ whom He has not first drawn to Himself. It is important to enter into relationships with people. He noted that all runners run—one gets the prize. He challenged the group to run with a purpose. "Let discipline be equal to your woe point in Jesus Christ." □

Highlights

"Memo," a treat at pre-concert

■ The music/drama group from Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church in San Francisco presented "Memo," a riveting original musical drama, at the pre-Conference concert Monday evening.



"We're passionately presenting Christ!"

■ "Because you cared, a church was planted in Silverdale, WA," said Rainer Kunz, church planter. Now more than 200 worship with us each Sunday. "Because you cared, N.A.B.s gave finances to reach one of the most unchurched counties in North America. We're passionately presenting Christianity. This is producing fully devoted followers of Jesus, who can reproduce. Many who vowed never to go to church again, now come. We're building bridges to new agers, baby boomers, and husbands and wives by providing a safe place for pre-Christians to hear about Jesus Christ. Because you cared to invest in this project, 77 people have been baptized in four years."

A man, who formerly was an abuser of alcohol and had a failing marriage, has given up drinking, and his marriage is growing. He dreams of one day going into full-time Christian ministry. God is making it happen because you care. When you give and pray, don't ever think it isn't worth it. Planting new churches is a primary way to reach others for Christ."



"Joy is God's business!"

■ "I love the Bible; I'm excited about the Bible," said Jeanette Clift George, Tuesday evening opening night speaker. The Bible tells us to be examples of good—not evil—to be role models. George said she found that she is doing what she told the Lord she would not do. "The surprise to me has been the joy," emphasized George. "Joy is God's business. My business is obedience. Wherever there is obedience, there is joy."

George reminded her listeners

that the drama of our testimony occurred on the cross. "God equips every believer to do His will, to obey him, to love. Not all questions have answers; not all hurts heal; not all breaks mend," emphasized George. "There is joy in what God has equipped us to do: His will. Through grace, we are equipped to love and to love right."



Exciting duo performs

■ An exciting duo, Jim and Mary Kay Altizer, from Stockton, CA, presented a special concert Thursday evening. He introduced many of the musical numbers with Scripture. The concert demonstrated her mastery in arranging music. In one piece, she presented Handel's, Brahms', and her own renditions of the same musical theme for the



piano. Jim's presentations highlighted his mastery on both the trumpet and flute. Their tapes include one of the lullabys (using

Scripture) for children, a collection of favorites, and a Christmas tape.

Jim served as worship/music leader throughout the conference, and Mary Kay served on the piano.

"God gave a burning passion"

■ "God gave me a burning passion to plant a Baptist church in Rowlette, TX," said Brad Grubb, church planter. "Our goal is to reach those presently not attending church. For us, Sunday morning is a celebration event of what God has done

for us. We seek to reach out to touch lives." In 20 months, between 120 and 140 people became part of the ministry. "Dozens have come to Christ, and many have come back to Christ," notes Grubb.

"A year ago, CEIF made finances available so we could purchase an office park, rent out part of it, and renovate a section to use for services."

From urban storefront to college campus

■ Dr. Chanson Lau, pastor of Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church in San Francisco, told the 63 attending the Church Planters' Luncheon that the Church started in an urban storefront, surrounded by bars and theaters. The people of the church closed out their checking and savings accounts to purchase a college campus, which now serves as the home of their church and school. More than 600 people worship in the four services held at the Church. The school, which started with six children, has grown to 800. This Church has parented a church in Canada, Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church in Richmond, BC.



Highlights

God calls us to care . . . not necessarily cure . . .

■ Missionary doctor Rod Zimmerman told the 200 who attended the Missions Breakfast that "God has called us to care, not necessarily to cure. God has not called us to do what only He can do. Jesus Christ gives us the cure for the penalty of our sins."

Zimmerman said that he accepted Christ as Savior at the age of nine because someone cared. During the last year of medical school, he realized that Jesus was not Lord of his life. Through two people in Minot, ND, who cared, he learned that "Jesus is Lord."

A former missionary doctor challenged him to consider missionary service. "Had that person not spoken

to me, I probably would not have responded to God's call. Through caring, all of us have gained a better understanding of Christ as Lord," said Zimmerman. "What really counts is that God cares. Only what is offered to God is of any use."



Russians are coming in great numbers

■ The Rev. Teodoro Karpiec, born in Poland, pastors First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church in Sacramento, CA. This Church, formed in 1963, called Karpiec as pastor. During his ministry, he has worked at a secular job to support his family and the ministry.

"Russians are coming to the U.S.A. in great numbers," he said. "The Church has grown to 939 members who worship in four services. In the three weeks prior to the Triennial Conference, 11 came to Christ." He told of the moving of God as the Church was given a funeral home that was to be demolished as well as a new foundation for it. Now this building is too small.

They are purchasing and worshiping in the former Willow Rancho Baptist Church building.

"We want to build a Bible school in Sacramento for Russia since many want to go back to Russia as missionaries. When we



send someone to Bible school, and he preaches 40 to 50 years and brings souls to Christ, and they bring others, what kind of investment is this?" (This Church was received into the Northern California Association in September 1994 as an N.A.B. Church.)

Ndonyi expresses thanks from CBC

■ Andrew Ndonyi, director of development for the Cameroon Baptist Convention, thanked all for their part in his becoming a Christian. Having served in the Government for many years he experienced tension between a desire to serve God and serve in the Government. "The Cameroon Baptist Convention is where it is



today because of the N.A.B. Conference that gave birth to the Cameroon Baptist Mission. This gave birth to the Cameroon Baptist Convention, and it has given birth to mission work on the Island of Bioko. The CBC is celebrating its 40th anniversary in December."

God is so good!

■ "God is so good to all of us," said Dr. Moses Seth, a former lieutenant colonel in the Cambodian army and former Buddhist monk, who met Christ in a refugee camp. "He brings us all from east, west, north, south . . . white, black, brown, red, and thank God, yellow."

At first, Seth thought Christianity was a western religion, but after studying, he decided to believe in Christ as his Savior. "I just believed, but I loved my job and money more than Christ. All these things did not

bring joy, peace, or love of Christ."

Following the war, Seth decided to serve Christ. Since Seth has been ministering with the Cambodians at Quail Lakes, 63 have received Christ as Savior. "We are working in education, have a Bible school to train leaders, and are publishing booklets, which we send to Cambodia. Through this, people are accepting Christ."



Cameroonians held hostage!

■ Missionary Scott Clark stated: "Satan is holding the unreached peoples of Cameroon hostage. It is our mission to free them from the bondage of sin with the living Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"Millions of unreached people in Cameroon have not yet had a chance to choose Jesus. Among the 275 different language groups in Cameroon, we have growing churches in only 10 of them. One N.A.B. Conference missionary couple works among the 1.7 million Bamilekes, who have at least 10 completely distinct language groups. In one of these groups alone are 400,000 people with no Bible in their language and no evangelical church."

"Our mission recently started a medical work among another unreached group of 250,000 people. One of our medical missionaries

Highlights

spends her vacation among these people to struggle to learn their language so she can bring the Good News to them.

"The task is so overwhelming that the Cameroon Baptist Convention wants to continue to partner with us so we can finish the task. We need to send new church planting missionaries into these areas.

"For years, we have been using English and Pidgin English to communicate. Now what we have left are all the difficult groups that do not understand Pidgin English. There are no shortcuts. It will take three hard years of learning the language to

expose unreached people groups to Christ.

"Another need: In many cases, the Bible isn't translated yet for the unreached people—or if translated, it is not available, or they don't know it exists—or how to read or explain it to others. We have to give these people the tools, skills, and abilities to let the gospel expand naturally within their own language and culture.

"In America, almost everyone will have a chance to be exposed to the Gospel at least once. But because of political unrest and linguistic/cultural chasms, millions of people have not even been given the chance to be

exposed to the Gospel. Let's join hands with the Cameroon Baptist Convention and fulfill the Great Commission that there should be growing disciples in every people group in Cameroon."



Mitrovich emphasizes mentoring

■ Randy Mitrovich emphasized the importance of mentoring as he recalled the influence and encouragement of various mentors on his life. Speaking on the topic, "How Do You Multiply Yourself as a Leader?", he urged those attending the N.A.B. Seminary Breakfast to "be cognizant of those who are watching you . . . know that you are influencing potential full-time Christian leaders and others in Christian ministry. Mitrovich, who is senior pastor at Century Baptist Church in Bismarck, ND, referred to Mother Theresa's statement: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier."

"Everyone should have a mission statement for life," Mitrovich said. "I will help others as best I can."

"There may be young people in your congregation who have potential for Christian ministry. Look for them. Keep your mind on them," said Mitrovich. "How are you helping that person(s) along the way?" His mentors were there for

him not only on special occasions of his life but also were only a phone call away when he needed help. They instilled in him an enthusiasm for theology. They pushed him further as he was challenged to write a spiritual biography and a daily spiritual journal, which he still does today.

Serving under a senior pastor became the most important years of his life as that pastor modelled a passion for ministry. "I learned as much or more from this man—his hope and his vision for ministry—as I did from his sermons." From another, he learned how to be a servant, a shepherd.

"The ministry is the most exciting, rewarding vocation on earth. Walk in openness with those you mentor. You and they will experience the grace of God and the leading and discernment of God. You will want to steer them to N.A.B. Seminary without apology. How are you investing your life in others?" Mitrovich asked.

Baptists work together

■ "Only through the Baptist World Alliance is it possible to get Baptists of countries with opposing political views together to worship and fel-

lowship," stated Dr. Tony Cupit, director of evangelism and education, study and research, BWA. The BWA's four emphases are fellowship, providing relief through Baptist World Aid, working for justice in countries where Baptists are beleaguered and seeking religious freedom, and evangelism.

What the Spirit is saying to the church today is evident in three paradigm shifts: new evangelistic opportunities are available through church planting; reaching out to the unevangelized world, where one fifth of the world lives and dies without hearing about Jesus Christ; and the emergence of countries where Baptist groups, who have missionaries sent to them, are now sending missionaries to other countries.

Singles: Take leadership says Reese

■ At the Singles' Breakfast, planned by Amy Strauss and Holly Plank, 53 singles heard Randy Reese of Sioux Falls encourage them to take



time to experience God and to take leadership roles in the church.

"A heart that is passionate to follow Christ, He will bless," said Reese. "Listen and watch for what God has to say to you and be willing to follow Christ." — Karen Dickau

RECOGNITIONS

■ Moderator Richard Russell (r.) presented a book of letters from individuals and churches to Dr. John Binder (l.) expressing appreciation for his years of ministry as he served the Lord through the N.A.B. Conference.

When John Binder became executive director in 1979, "the Conference was in the hole one million dollars," said Russell. "Changes were made under his leadership, and we got out of that debt. He



kept a steady hand, and the ship of N.A.B. followed a true and steady course."

Russell commended Binder for his leadership in helping the various departments of the Conference to work together as a team.

Following this, P.O.W.E.R. Company of Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, mimed the song, "Thank You," by Ray Boltz in a powerful, moving way to express appreciation to Dr. Binder.

■ The Missions Board acknowledged 25 years of distinguished missionary service of Dr. Helen



Marie Schmidt as a medical doctor with a specialty in surgery in Cameroon. Through her

dedicated ministry, she touched the lives of tens of thousands and demonstrated unusual professional skills. She carried out her ministry with compassion and the love of her Savior Jesus Christ.

■ The Missions Board acknowledged 24 years of distinguished missionary service in Brazil by the Rev. Ralph and Mrs. Martha Nelson. They serve primarily in evangelism and church planting in



Santa Catarina and in the past in Rio Grande do Sul. They also serve as secretary and treasurer of the mission in Brazil.

■ On behalf of the N.A.B. Seminary alumni, Danny Van Gerpen presented distinguished alumni awards to the Rev. Isador Faszer



Gene Kern

of Calgary, AB, and the Rev. Gene Kern of Fair Oaks, CA. Faszer served as pastor, retirement home chaplain, area minister, and short-term missionary since his graduation from N.A.B. Seminary in 1949. Kern has served as a pastor of established churches and church planter of Sunrise Baptist Church, which he now serves.



Isador Faszer

He is a past Conference moderator and Executive Committee member.

■ "There need to be signs of our love for God and others in a deficient world," said Jennifer Sud-

derth, president of the North American Baptist Women's Union, who served as guest speaker at the Women's Luncheon. She referred to Dionne Warwick's song: "What the world needs now is love, sweet love." "The world does need love," said Sudderth, "but loving others can only be done with God's strength . . . not through religions or rituals. . . but as we open up to God."

She pointed out that we need to love ourselves. "That is the starting point for the horizontal aspect. If you do not love and appreciate yourself, if you cannot see God's handiwork in you, then you cannot see God's handiwork in others. When the world sees us, the world should see agape love . . . the Lord's love. This goes beyond our senses and desires. It is a deliberate, conscious commitment to love unconditionally . . . to endure injury."

"If women make commitments to love one another unconditionally . . . inspired by selfless sacrifice . . . if women under adverse circumstances find ways to show love, what about us?" she asked. "Each one of us must make deliberate decisions to love God, ourselves, and our neighbor, if the world would see Jesus in us. I pray God would give you a vision to push your love to the extreme." □



■ The Rev. Ron Presley, chair, and the Local Arrangements Committee as well as the Southern Association



did a magnificent job of hosting the Triennial Conference. Everyone enjoyed your hospitality. Thanks!

Eight hundred and eighty-three delegates acted on constitutional changes, adopted resolutions and elected officers.

"Change is always a difficult concept," said Phil Yntema, chair of the Task Force on Change. "Change is inevitable. We are here to vote on whether we will manage change or not." Members of the Task Force on Change were Yntema, Rev. Ron Norman, Miss Barbara Fiegas, Dr. Ray Seutter, and Rev. David Wick.

The Task Force felt that it had written a purpose statement that everyone could memorize: "The purpose of the N.A.B. Conference is to glorify God by making disciples at home and abroad • by stimulating Associations and churches to make disciples, • by facilitating the interdependence of member churches, and • by providing services that are best done collectively." Delegates voted to adopt the motion with the words "Jesus Christ" added after disciples.

The Constitutional Changes, as adopted, designate the General Council as the decision-making body of the Conference by integrating the Church Growth Ministries Board and the Missions Board into the General Council. This means that these Boards will be committees no longer elected by the Triennial Conference delegates but appointed from the General Council membership. The General Council can appoint people with expertise in these areas from outside the Council when it deems necessary.

Delegates also approved separating the Conference Constitution from the Bylaws. This gives the Council the authority to change, add, or remove entire departments as necessary within trienniums. The Triennial Conference delegates can still reverse anything that the General Council chooses to do.

The delegates also approved cutting the size of the General Council by half. Prior to this change, each association had two members on the Council; now each will send only one representative. It grants

Canada the right to send two additional representatives at large. The General Council is to meet in Canada every three years.

There was considerable discussion concerning the possibility that with only one representative from each association that there would not be equal representation of laypersons and pastors. This has been the strength of the General Council and Boards in the past. There is the concern that the Council would be dominated by pastors.

There was also discussion that General Council members should serve at least three years, so there would be continuity on the Council and the new Church Growth and International Missions Committees.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Committee chair, Rev. David Steinhart, presented resolutions dealing with family emphases, family violence, homosexuality, and gambling. Delegates approved the following:

On Family Emphases

Since God created and established the family as the basic foundation of society through which men and women can be nurtured to productive and meaningful maturity . . . and since the family is facing unprecedented challenges to its health and existence . . . the Conference resolves to dedicate the year 1996 as "Family Emphasis Year." The resolution calls for the Conference leaders to prepare appropriate emphases and resources to assist the churches in this emphasis.

A question was asked concerning the definition of family with an amendment proposed that a family be defined as being a heterosexual couple and their children. It was then pointed out by another delegate that not all families are couples with children, and that some families are single parents with children.

Mr. Steinhart replied that the definition should come in the emphases and resources provided by the Conference. The amendment failed, and

the resolution was adopted.

On Family Violence

Recognizing the prevalence of family violence, particularly spousal assault and the abuse of children; and that this problem frequently remains hidden among evangelical Christians, and that many perpetrators of this violence are unwilling to face their responsibility for such actions, be it resolved that North American Baptists will make available and promote the use of audio-visual and written resources to educate our members concerning this issue; convene workshops at appropriate pastors' gatherings to educate and equip our pastors to recognize and deal with the problem; print educational articles in denominational publications dealing with this topic; publish the names of individuals throughout our Conference who are qualified to assist victims and inflictors of family violence; and seek to respond to families experiencing family violence with Christian compassion and intervention. The resolution was adopted.

On Homosexuality

Recognizing the pervasive influence that homosexual men and women have on every level of our society, including the evangelical church, its colleges and seminaries; and the intrusive presence of the militant gay-lesbian "agenda"; and once the homosexual tendency is acted on, it is very difficult to reverse . . . We affirm our desire to sincerely address homosexuality from a Biblical perspective and to minister to homosexual men and women with the love and purity of Jesus Christ.

We affirm our belief that Scripture clearly views homosexual



Delegates vote . . .

behavior as sin (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9) and that homosexual behavior contradicts the normal heterosexual relationships God intentionally established at Creation (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:19-25). Further, we affirm the redemptive power of Jesus Christ, who is able and willing to save all who

believe in Him. Through surrender to Jesus Christ and the support of His followers, we believe that homosexual men and women can be delivered from the sin of homosexual behavior.

Recognizing that homosexual men and women are people valued and loved by God, it grieves us when we hear of hate crimes being perpetrated against homosexual persons. It also grieves us and gives cause for alarm that certain groups are seeking to promote the approval and acceptance of homosexual behavior, both by society at large and within the Christian Church. We cannot ignore the facts that the homosexual agenda is destructive of the family and that the homosexual lifestyle is unhealthy and promotes the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

We believe it is the role of the church to be a redemptive community calling homosexual men and women into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. We oppose homosexual behavior in the same way that we oppose heterosexual immorality. We commit ourselves to welcome homosexual men and women to our worship services and to welcome redeemed homosexual men and women who are no longer participating in homosexual activity into our congregational memberships.

On Gambling

In view of the urgency of countering gambling and the serious

impact it has in our society, be it resolved that North American Baptists will 1) personally resist the temptation to become or remain involved in this practice which is contrary to Christian principles; 2) whenever possible, oppose gambling as a method of raising revenue; 3) whenever possible, support responsible measures of meeting human needs and services; 4) support educational initiatives aimed at recognizing the signs of gambling addiction and promote counseling and other recovery efforts for gambling addicts and their families.

On Women's Ordination

From the floor, a resolution on ordination of women called for the Conference to "take a clear historical stand on the issue of ordination of women." It called for churches and/or their associations to not ordain or place women into positions of teaching in the public assembly or into any office of elder or pastor in the local church, in keeping with the biblically historical practice of the Conference, and that the Conference not recognize any such ordinations. After much discussion, pro and con, the resolution on ordination of women was tabled.

ELECTIONS



■ **Conference Officers:** Rev. Ron Norman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA, *moderator*; Mr. Wayne Wegner, attorney, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, *vice moderator*; Mr. Jackie Loewer, farming, Eunice, LA, *treasurer*; Rev. Phil Yntema, former pastor, Cascade Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA, *executive director*.

■ **N.A.B. Seminary Board of Trustees:** Mr. Earl Backhaus, Bismarck, ND; Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, Forest Park, IL; Dr. Roger Reed, Madison, SD; Rev. Eugene Kern, Fair Oaks, CA; Rev. Robert Klein, Lacey, WA; Rev. Phyllip Putz, Grand Forks, ND; Dr. Harry Hiller, Calgary, AB; Dr. Kenneth MacDonald, Edmonton, AB.

■ **North American Baptist College/Edmonton Baptist Seminary Board of Trustees:** Dr. David Hall, Edmonton, AB; Mrs. Luella Reese, Edmonton, AB; Mrs. Cathy Walker, Glen Ellyn, IL; Rev. Ervin Gerlitz, Tacoma, WA; Dr. Jerry Hirsch, Surrey, BC; Mr. Ed Sardachuk, Calgary, AB; Rev. James Liske, Arnprior, ON; and Rev. Marvin Rust, Vancouver, BC.

■ **N.A.B. Seminary Alumni:** Tim Walker, Emery, SD, *president*; Danny Van Gerpen, Milbank, SD, *vice president*; Daniel Edzards, Wessington Springs, SD, and Merv Kramer, Brandon, SD, *members at large*.

■ **N.A.B. Ministers' Wives' Officers:** Cheryl Leverette, Edmonton, AB, *president*; Elsie Kerber, Calgary, AB, *vice president*; and Eunice Leach, Red Deer, AB, *secretary-treasurer*.

■ **N.A.B. Ministers' Fellowship Officers:** Steve Vetter, Madison, SD, *president*; James Leverette, Edmonton, AB, *vice president*; Mike LeRud, Steamboat Rock, IA, *secretary-treasurer*.

Moderator Richard Russell listens to a delegate's remarks.



youth news

Youth experience spiritual growth at Triennial Conference

More than 900 youth meet at Denton

More than 900 high school and college age youth and sponsors met at Texas Women's University in Denton, TX, during the Triennial Conference week. Due to the unexpected number of youth attending, motels in the Denton area were enlisted to help house the youth. Included in the total number were 119 youth who came from Canada, of those 52 were from Saskatchewan; 150 from Kansas, 99 from North Dakota, 71 from South Dakota, 52 from Wisconsin, 48 from California, and 38 each from British Columbia and Minnesota.

Imagine yourself with more than 900 youth striving for one thing—to get closer to God. We had the same purpose, same goals, and the same questions. We found we were also gaining a common bond with our loving God.

The theme for this youth conference was "Life . . . Gotta Get It, Gotta Have It, and Gotta Live It." We learned many things from many people.

Billy Beacham, the main speaker, gave us a journal for Quiet Time. "To have God as Number One in your life," said Beacham, you must make time for Him every day. "The morning is the best so that you start the day with Him." Beacham talked about almost every topic a teenager needs to hear. It's like when an older person tells you that you never stop



Erin Petrie Photo

learning even though you are out of school, it is the same with God. You need to learn more about God, other than just on Sunday. A Quiet Time helps you to learn and seek what God has done and will be doing for the rest of our lives.

Concerts by Acappella, Al Denson, and Halo were great.

Every afternoon, the youth had a different activity. One day we spent at Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park, and another afternoon was spent doing a service project. Some helped raise funds for the Greater Lewisville YMCA by holding a car wash; others weeded the flower beds around Flower Mound City Hall or helped dig up the sod around the sidewalks at the Greater

Lewisville YMCA's playground.

On behalf of the many youth, I say a special thank you to those who took the time to plan these great six days and for working so hard at making this week such a great experience. Thank you! I look forward to Edmonton in 1997.

—Tarina Dachtler, Dickinson, ND.

The week of the Youth Conference can be described as spiritually uplifting.

We had a lot of fun listening to powerful speakers, beautiful music, and fellowship. We rediscovered some old friends and found new friends.

Our day at Six Flags Over Texas was a load of fun (except for when the power went out), but God took care of us.

Billy Beacham, Bob Laurent, and David Dean did a good job of keeping the purpose of the week in front of our minds. I think everyone changed a little for the better due to their persuasive words. Billy Beacham asked the youth to spend up to ten minutes a day with the Lord in quiet time and later took a count. The majority of the youth promised to do this.

The energy that was stored from the long plane, bus, and car rides was released as Acappella sang on the opening night.

We had a "Wild West Activity Day" in which the youth choose an event in which to participate. Some of the choices included a trip to the mall, miniature golf, the zoo, and



Les Cook Photo

the indoor or outdoor pool. Everyone appeared to have fun.

The words of the popular Michael W. Smith song, "Friends," goes: "Friends are friends forever, if the Lord is the lord of them." This best describes the youth part of the Triennial Conference.—Kari Smith

Young Teens enjoy a variety in program

The young teens' program began the week with a message from Dr. Lewis Petrie, N.A.B. Conference development director. Petrie spoke from I Chronicles 4:9-10, assuring the teens that God cares for everyone, including them. Petrie also spoke about caring for others.

One evening, they watched the A.D. Players and enjoyed an ice cream social. They participated in a trail ride and played games.

Young teens heard Dr. Rodney Zimmerman tell about his life as a missionary doctor in Cameroon. He said he had not wanted to be a missionary at first, but God changed his mind.

David Dean, a Christian comic, told hilarious jokes and gave an "easy to listen" sermon.

Lou Petrie sent the youth on a bear hunt and used inspirational

stories from his life and others to show it is necessary to listen to God, not Satan.

Another evening, they joined the youth to hear a concert by Al Denson.

A day at the Samuel Dude Ranch gave young teens a variety of things to do, such as a petting zoo, feeding animals, going on a hayride, and a tug of war.—Joy Salzman



Erin Petrie Photo

Visit Brazil and Argentina

July 31 to August 15, 1995

A unique opportunity to see missions in action in Brazil, visit some of Brazil's unique attractions, and attend the Baptist World Alliance sessions in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For information contact Dr. Herman Effa, International Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Phone (708) 495-2000; Fax (708) 495-3301.

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Ministered Unto . . .

In an instant our retirement plans were changed, when my husband Larry fell ten feet from a ladder, fracturing five vertebrae and three ribs, resulting in permanent paralysis from the chest down.

Tests, surgery, and hospital days became a blur as we faced this strange and unknown situation. We heard the words of what life would be like, but full comprehension did not come until we were away from the security of the hospital and then we prayed hard about everything.

Moving

It became obvious early on, that wheelchair living would not work in our New Jersey home, nor with our earlier decision to move back

by Sally Prast
Phoenix, AZ



to our childhood home in Michigan to be near family. The only door open was a major change and move to Arizona.

Dear friends drove us from the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

to the airport, and we flew directly to Phoenix where our daughter had prepared for us to move in with her until our home would be ready some months later.

While Larry was hospitalized, I commuted from New Jersey to Detroit and sorted out and packed up 25 years of living.

Help came from surprising quarter—family, friends, and former church members. Thank you. I could not have done it without you!

I thought of you again, with love and gratitude, as I unpacked your boxes in our new house. Later, new neighbors and friends helped move and unpack, too.

Sharing

Lives are bound together by experiences, prayer, and need.

Forty-five years of marriage and ministry have prepared us for this time in life. Remember the picture of the boy carrying the smaller boy, saying, "He ain't heavy, mister. He's my brother." Love truly lightens the load. Similarly, Larry always remembers to say, "Thanks for taking care of me today."

My formerly independent husband now needs help to move from bed to wheelchair to almost anywhere. Balance now is a problem, since only arm and shoulder muscles work. We wheel around bumps. Even when I'm driving alone, I am cautious because now I must hurry but still get myself home safely to care for Larry.

The old rule of supply and demand works daily. Prayers for a greater need bring a greater supply of strength, wisdom, patience and some understanding of a trying situation. Thank you, God, is whispered often. Small victories are sometimes like a milestone. Scripture verses and hymns come to mind unexpectedly. I don't have time to question our lot, because I can't get behind in my chores. So much depends on me, and a thankful attitude can set the tone for the household.

There have been only a few sleepless nights thanks to many prayers for the caregiver. Often I'd fall asleep expressing praises and thanks and only get to the requests at the two o'clock duty time. Thinking back to when the girls needed two o'clock feedings, I knew that would change soon. This adult caregiving goes around the clock and for all the days ahead. It also awakens one to the similar needs and pressures of others, such as single parents and those who

live alone.

Living

Our house, here in the valley of the sun, is user friendly, thanks to our daughter, Sylvia, and her expertise in interior design. We have no thresholds and all hallways, doors, and sidewalks are wider. There is a roll-under sink and counter; a roll-in shower and all the modern appliances we could manage to lighten the necessary physical household tasks. Vinyl is on the floor in high traffic areas and low knap commercial carpeting elsewhere for easier wheeling.

Our E150 Ford van rolls along nicely when Larry needs transport. The mechanical lift surely beats manual transfer from wheelchair to car.

Why do we have a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness? We have the continued prayer and support of family and friends, near and far. While in the hospital, pastoral calls, visits, phone calls, cards, and letters assured us of prayers and bound us to you in love across the miles. And at some later time, we'll learn of the many secret closet prayers, as well.

We had a caring hospital staff, and we found a Christian nurse on each shift. They watched and waited for us to make the first testimonial. What a reminder that we must have consistent lives. Someone is always watching or needing to see God's hand in your life at a time of trial or a smile and assurance that God is near. I also had the opportunity to visit other para and quadriplegics on Larry's floor and hear them acknowledge their need of God's grace. We have doctors and therapists who are caring, skillful, and family oriented.

Providing

Even finances have been provided, along with the practice of "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul" till deadlines are met.

Through it all, Larry's positive attitude and immediate acceptance that God would be his help in his paralysis has been a marvel to me. There have been some gloomy times, but we try to avoid both of us feeling downhearted at the same time.

Words cannot express the blessings we received attending the Triennial Conference in Dallas, thanks to some loving friends. Larry was able to greet Atlantic Association friends and co-workers he had not been able to say goodbye to, having come directly to Arizona from the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan. Inspirational messages and Bible studies offered food for the soul, and seeing old friends and making new ones was precious.

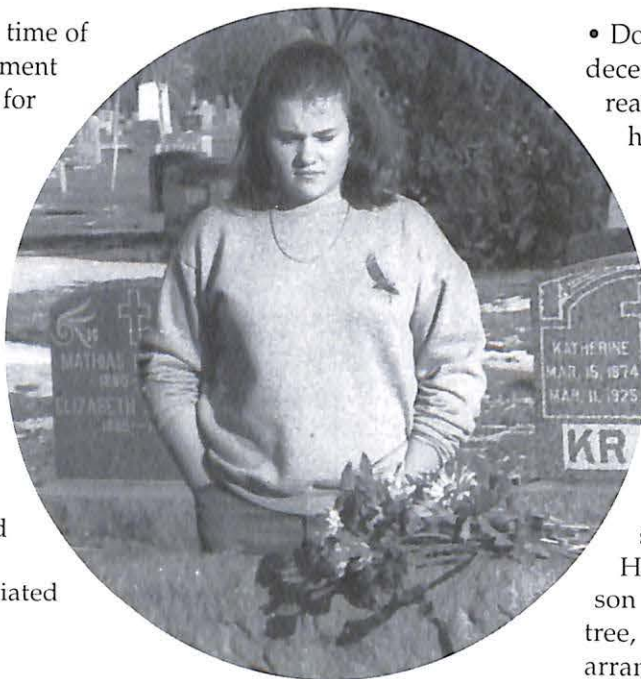
We're grateful for Arizona winters that are warm, clean, and sunny and don't require bundling Larry up against the cold or cleaning mud or snow from wheelchair treads.

Changed retirement plans? I don't understand yet why the abrupt change of lifestyle, but I also don't have time to question God's choice. He has provided amazing direction to fit us into His plan. He has supplied needs before we realized them and sent so many helpers along the way that we can only praise Him. Truly, we have been ministered unto, and we know that always underneath us are His everlasting arms. □

How to Help the Grieving through the Holidays

For most people, the Christmas season is a time of celebration and enjoyment with family and friends. But for those who have lost a loved one during the past year, the holidays can be an especially difficult time. Here are some suggestions to help someone you care about deal with their grief at Christmas time:

- Give a gift of memories. A scrapbook filled with photos and other memorabilia of the departed gathered from family and friends will make a treasured and appreciated gift.
- Help your friend think about and decide which holiday traditions to keep and which ones to change. Sometimes it's a good idea to change certain traditions so that the absence of a loved one is less painful. Suggest starting some new ones, such as attending a concert, joining a choral group for caroling, or going on a sleigh ride.
- If the bereaved is far away, include them in your celebrations by sending an audio or videotape of your family decorating the tree, reading a Christmas story or performing in a church Christmas pageant.
- Plan an outing to the gravesite. Bring along a small pine tree, holly, an evergreen floral arrangement, or



Cleo Freelance Photo

other greenery to decorate it for the season.

- For some, the loss of a loved one can leave them feeling less needed. Volunteer at a local soup kitchen or children's hospital and invite the grieving person to go with you. Or, take him or her shopping for food, clothing, or toys to give to a charity.
- Remember that the grieving process lasts a long time, and in some ways, never ends. No matter how long it has been since the loss of a loved one, they are always especially missed during the holidays. Send a living plant or fresh flower arrangement to the deceased's family's home to let them know you are thinking of

them.

- Don't be afraid to mention the deceased's name—it's important to reassure the bereaved that you haven't (and won't) forget their loved one. Drop them a note acknowledging that this is a difficult time for them or encourage the grieving to reminisce about favorite holiday memories with you.

- Christmas trees, lights, candles, and other holiday decorations are usually neglected in homes where someone has passed away. Help them bring some of the season indoors by sending a small tree, wreath, or evergreen floral arrangement.

- Attend religious services with the bereaved. Religious communities often provide a strong support network, and the services may be comforting to someone in grief.

- Encourage the bereaved to spend their Christmas with you and your family. Many people who are grieving don't feel like celebrating, but being alone during the holidays can be even more difficult. Offer to bring the celebration (guests, food, decorations) to their home, if they aren't ready to go out. □

FTD professional florist asked social psychologist and professor at Boston College, Marianne LaFrance, to offer suggestions. —Cone Communications

MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT BEFORE DECEMBER 31

Many individuals are unaware of the substantial benefits available for gifts made at year end. Let's look at some of these advantages.

Increased Tax Savings from a Charitable Deduction

You may need additional deductions this year, since many of the standard deductions you previously took on your income tax returns are no longer available.

Giving from Cash Flow

You can receive an income tax deduction by giving cash. This is most beneficial to N.A.B. Conference. It may be the easiest way for you to give.

Give of Net Worth

Charitable deduction tax savings are available when you make gifts of property . . . insurance policies that you no longer need . . . stocks, bonds, mutual funds . . . real estate . . . tangible personal property related to our exempt function. Each of these gifts will provide a tax deduction this year if given before December 31.

Many times you can make a larger gift of property, receiving a substantially higher tax deduction.

You can also create an income tax charitable deduction, which will provide substantial tax savings by simply guaranteeing today that certain properties, such as your home or investment properties, which will be distributed to charity at your death.

Avoidance of Capital Gains Tax

The property you have available for giving may have substantially appreciated in value, and you would pay a capital gain tax up to 28 percent.

However, if you contribute the property rather than selling it, you can receive a charitable deduction for the full value of the property and avoid the capital gain tax.

An Income Tax Deduction now for Future Gifts

If your income tax bracket is higher this year than it will be in future years, or if you need an additional deduction this year, you can establish a specially designed trust. Property is transferred to the trust with income payable to a charitable organization for a period of years. At the end of the trust period, the property will be returned to you.

When the trust is properly designed, you can receive an income tax deduction this year, for the current value of the future income gifts to charity.

Increased Income from Your Charitable Gift

Many find that their investment interest has dropped substantially. Others have property that pays little or no return. High appreciation keeps them from selling the assets and investing to achieve a higher return.

But charitable gift annuities have maintained their high rate of return. Many individuals find this a more attractive investment.

Or property can be placed in a specially designed charitable trust, providing a substantial income tax charitable deduction. The property can then be sold by the trust, avoiding tax on the capital gain. And the trustee can invest in high income producing assets, resulting in a considerably higher income.

The assets are invested to provide income for you and are not actually transferred to the charitable organization until the end of the trust period (which is usually at your death).

Personal Satisfaction

An additional advantage is knowing that you are receiving substantial personal benefit, as you are helping the N.A.B. Conference accomplish our mission.

MAY WE HELP?

To receive more detailed information on each of these planning concepts, complete the response form and mail it to the address below. Or you may telephone our office at (708) 495-2000, or Fax us at (708) 495-3301, if that is more convenient.

YES, please send me information on:

- ☐ Gifts of appreciated property
- ☐ How to take a deduction for future gifts
- ☐ Gifts with retained benefits

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Birthdate (male) _____ (female) _____
Telephone: Daytime _____
Evening _____

Mail to: Dr. Connie Salios, N.A.B. Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301.

WITNESS

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

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Mission Baptist Church had the joy of baptizing and receiving into fellowship a husband and wife and one young person. Richard Grabke, Eberhard Hees, and Sean Sagert serve as pastors. — *Anne Pohl*

■ LEDUC, AB. "It's great to have new families attending Temple Baptist Church," says Violet Fleck. "A couple joined the Church, and Dr. Gordon Denison, pastor, baptized two of their children as well as a senior gentleman of 81 years, who recently accepted the Lord."

■ MERCER, ND. Pastor Dan Heringer baptized five young people in an outdoor baptismal service at Brush Lake and welcomed them into First Baptist Church.

A group of youth and Pastor and Mrs. Heringer attended the Triennial Conference in Dallas. "They brought back some interesting reports and shared some of the blessings," reports Mary Fiedler.

■ SACRAMENTO, CA. Three persons accepted Christ and a fourth followed the Lord in baptism at First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church. The Church has four services each Sunday with well over 1,000 in attendance. The 939 members raised \$100,000 as a down payment to purchase the building of Willow Rancho Baptist Church, which is relocating. The Rev. Teodoro Karpien serves as pastor.

■ CALGARY, AB. In the first two baptismal services of Country Hills Community Church, a church planting ministry, ten adults and four students "went public" with their recent decisions to follow Christ. The service was held at the home of one of the elders, who owns a swimming pool.

After some fellowship and sing-ing, those being baptized shared their testimonies. "It was refreshing to hear them describe the im-pact God is making on their lives," says Pastor Bryan Hochhalter. In a powerful demonstration of celebration and community, the crowd clapped and cheered for all 14 people as they came out of the water, giving public testimony of their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"The evening was marked by tears, smiles, and sincere joy at the love of God," reports Hochhalter.

One of those baptized described how she refused to believe God existed following the death of her father, but how God continued to make Himself known to her, and how she decided to live for Him in spite of her grief. Several shared about their upbringing in abusive homes, about living on the streets, or about contemplating suicide before being changed by the grace of God. Others recounted tales of failed marriages, materialistic priorities, and selfish agendas, which have been altered by God, His Son, and His Word.

■ OTTAWA, ON. The Rev. Frank Hildebrandt, church planter, welcomed seven new members into Harvest Baptist Church. More than 40 new visitors worshipped with this Church this past summer.

■ ANAMOOSE, ND. The Rev. Rod Poppinga welcomed one new member into Anamoose Baptist Church. — *Darlene Frueh*

Grand Forks churches join in revival crusade

■ GRAND FORKS, ND. Grace Baptist Church has a great opportunity to win, train, and "send" individuals to nearly every part of the world, since the Grand Forks Air Force Base, the University of North Dakota, and people being

transferred in and out of Grand Forks because of employment are touched through the ministry of Grace Baptist Church.

"We are intentionally beginning to shape our ministries for just such a purpose. Before we do this, we must be right with Him and with each other," says Pastor Phyl Putz. "As a result, our Church joined three other local churches for a revival crusade with the Sutera Twins, October 21 - November 9.

"I've never seen anything like this," reports Putz. "Hundreds of people have gone to the prayer room. The restorative power of God has been at work as marriages were saved, as people within the church reconciled with one another, and relationships with the Lord have been restored. One of the most powerful workings of the Lord came through the testimonies of people."

"Sutera pointed out that we concentrate so much on the Word of God that we neglect the Works and the Wonders of God. As we see the Word of God authenticated by the Works of God, we see the Wonders," says Putz.

Winnipeg church holds block party

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Mission Baptist Church held a neighborhood block party on its parking lot in August. The Church provided a puppet show, various prizes, free hotdogs and drink, and a musical band called the Christian cowboys. Approximately 200 neighbors and friends attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

"Many contacts have been made through this effort and are being followed up," says Anne Pohl. "Many attended Vacation Bible School the following week. We thank God for this outreach."

The Church is pastored by Richard Grabke, Eberhard Hees, and Sean Sagert.

Eureka church holds evangelistic meetings

■ EUREKA, SD. Evangelistic meetings were held at First Baptist Church with Jerry Beltz, international evangelist, conducting the services. During the devotional part of the services, he painted a

picture with acrylic paints. By the use of colored lights and black light, the pictures changed from day to night.

Beltz' inspiring messages were helpful in leading souls to Christ and rededications. Perry Schnabel is pastor. — *Irene H. Kusler*

WORSHIP

Answers to prayer result in commitments to Christ

■ CALGARY, AB. God answers prayer. On June 10, a group of people from Country Hills Community joined together for an evening of prayer specifically for the salvation of unchurched people who had been attending the Church.

"At our Sunday service nine days later, ten people responded to God's invitation and committed their lives to Christ," says Church Planter Bryan Hochhalter. "A few months before, none of these people were attending a church. Most had never been involved with Christianity. Because of God's answer to prayer, their lives were changed."

Several started attending Country Hills because a believer started a sincere friendship with them. Others came in response to a flyer sent through the mail. One came

because God sent her. In a Sunday morning service, in response to the invitation of Church Planter Doug Snyder, ten came to the front to receive Christ. "God answers prayers. Thank you to all who are supporting the ministry of church planting with your prayers," says Hochhalter.

Alpena church celebrates agape meal

■ ALPENA, MI. The congregation of Word of Life Baptist Church gathered around tables in the Fellowship Hall to participate in a Communion Service. The meal consisted of Bible-time foods, such as dates, grapes, olives, and breads. The people at each table discussed "What each of us appreciates about our church." A video presentation by Twyla Paris led the group in worship. Following this, the Lord's Supper, led by Pastor Fred Sweet, was observed. — *Helen Ehman*

CARE

Calgary church holds family camp

■ CALGARY, AB. Temple Baptist Church held its annual Family Camp at Camp Caroline using the film series, "Turn Your Heart Toward Home," a James Dobson production.

The women of the Church held a spruce tea with Natalie MacDonald as speaker on hair and beauty tips. It was viewed as an outreach evening. — *Irene Wirzba*

Kitchener church ministers to community children

■ KITCHENER, ON. Playgroup, a one and one half-year-old ministry of Eastwood Baptist Church, is a ministry to parents and their preschool children in the community around the Church. Implemented by the pastor's wife, Debbie Rist, the ministry provides a safe place to play, make friends, and share the Gospel. "This program is an opportunity to reach parents and children who hesitate to come to

church on Sunday," says Angie Baumgaertner.

The group meets once a week in the Church basement. A group of four women runs the weekly event. "At times, we have hosted 50 adults and children," says Baumgaertner. Emmanuel Bible College students help with the children by entertaining them with games, puppet shows, and crafts to free up the parents for a short Bible study.

"This is an excellent program to let the community know that we, as a Church, care and love our neighborhood," says Baumgaertner.

Waco Church celebrates Triennial Conference

■ WACO, TX. Central Baptist Church had a Triennial Dinner and Report Session, August 28. Anyone who had purchased Triennial Conference cookbooks picked out one or more recipes and brought the cooked dishes to the meeting.

"After the dinner, we heard reports and saw pictures and literature from the Triennial Conference meetings. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and concluded that we had all enjoyed the Triennial Conference very much," reports Gay Luning.

DISCIPLING

Lodi Church plans how to implement their mission

■ LODI, CA. "Going into our community, turning non-believers into believers in Christ, then making fully committed followers of Christ." The staff and leadership of Temple Baptist Church is planning effective ways to implement this Church's mission statement and involve each member in the process.

The group is seeking to find the most effective ways to penetrate the Church's community, contacting people and presenting the

MAKING DISCIPLES

Good News of the Gospel. How can we encourage them to consider the claims of Christ and the value of spiritual growth for them and their families? How do we improve our discipleship ministry and utilize the facilities God has blessed us with to teach the truth of God's Word? How do we best invest resources into promotional and outreach materials to impact

our neighbors for Christ? What special events should we continue to provide during the year to give us the opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers?

"The foundation for all of this comes back to prayer," says Pastor Lee Hamby. "We must pray that God will give us a heart to reach the unbelievers in Lodi."

GROW

Alberta women meet at Lake Louise

■ LAKE LOUISE, AB. Margaret Jensen, storyteller and author, spoke to the 430 women attending the 38th Annual Alberta Baptist Women's Retreat at the Chateau in May. Jensen said that when dealing with hurts, we must go back to the fork in the road, where it all began, and there God's forgiveness is found. Christian life is a battle in which we must put on the whole armour of God. The theme for the weekend was "God Is Able . . . But If Not."

Malcolm and Cindy Bell presented a special musical package on the vibraharp with slides and Scripture.

As she shared about church planting in Brazil, Missionary Jerilyn Bayer told how God protected her and her family through many difficult experiences there.

When Satan's power seemed so strong, God won the victory. Natalie closed the retreat with the challenge: "What are we doing in our women's ministry to make it a safe place for women?"—*Edith Kerber*

CORE groups exceed goal for 1994

■ MAPLE GROVE, MN. The growth of the CORE (small) groups at Elm Creek Community Church, a church planting project, exceeded the Church's goals in 1994 by bringing the Church to a possible total of seven groups by November.

More than 90 percent of those attending this Church are involved in some area of ministry. The Minnesota-LaCrosse Association granted this Church \$100,000 toward the purchase of land/buildings. The Church is seeking direction in this. The Rev. Leigh Harrison is church planter.

SERVE

Missions presentation heard at Chancellor church

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. During their visit to First Baptist Church, Missionaries Jon and Elizabeth Duba related blessings and needs they experienced in the Philippines.

Associate Director of Missions, the Rev. Fred Folkerts, presented an update of N.A.B. Conference missions and "reminded us of the privilege of sharing the Gospel of Christ throughout the world," says Ray DeNeui.

Lodi youth serve in Mexico

■ LODI, CA. On October 8 through 15, 21 youth and ten adult sponsors travelled to Rancho Agua Viva, a camp near Encinada, Mexico, to conduct a ministry outreach.

Several dimensions to their work included a teaching ministry with children in the area as they conducted a week long Vacation Bible School. They put a roof on the Pastor's house and did other odd jobs around the camp.

Distributing clothing, which they had brought along, to needy families was also part of the ministry. The youth provided a mini-clinic with Dr. Bob Howen.

Salomons serves in Zaire

■ ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, AB. Michael J. Salomons began a three-year Mennonite Central Committee assignment in Kehemba, Zaire, serving as a community and agricultural development worker. He is a member of Central Baptist Church in Edmonton.

ANNIVERSARIES

Iowa women celebrate 50 years

■ LANSING, IA. The Iowa Association of the Women's Missionary Fellowship celebrated its 50-year anniversary at the Iowa Association meetings at Village Creek Bible Camp, August 26-28. All of the women received a "Reflections of the Last 50 Years," which is a condensed version of the minutes of those years.

"It was exciting to see how the Lord worked in the last 50 years. We are looking forward to the next 50 and for what the Lord has in store," says Linda Bergman, secretary/treasurer.

Becky Dewey, guest speaker, spoke on "Remembrances," using Psalm 111 and 112. She reminded the women of the faithfulness of God and that He keeps working with His people.

Wedding Anniversary



The Rev. and Mrs. David Littke of Florida celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on

Sept. 16, 1994. They served churches for many years in the N.A.B. Conference. —*Delma Belflower*

IN MEMORIAM

■ ANDERSON, JALMER (79), Gackle, ND; born Feb. 2, 1915, southwest of Gackle to Victor and Ida (Rauhala) Anderson; died Aug. 29, 1994, in Jamestown, ND; married Elizabeth (Betty) Schlichenmayer, Sept. 5, 1948, in Jamestown; served at Northern Gospel Mission, Angora, MN, and James Valley Christian School, Huron, SD; head resident, Jamestown College; Sunday school teacher, church officer, Grace Baptist Church, Gackle; member, Gideons International; member, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; survived by his wife; four sons: William (Carol), Shenandoah, IA, Jonathan (Shelly), Gackle, ND, James, Jamestown, and Carlton (Jill), Waterloo, IA; four daughters: Sheila (Rory) Metz, Alfred, ND, Jean (Bob) Langhorne, PA, and Carleen Oswald, Lynnwood, WA; 16 grandchildren; one sister, Hilda Wuotinen; preceded in death by parents, three brothers, and two sisters; the Reverends Randy Jaspers and Bill Anderson, officiating, funeral service.

■ DEBOER, LEONARD (91), Milbank, SD; born Sept. 17, 1902, in Little Rock, IA; died July 30, 1994; married Jeanette Poppen, Sept. 25, 1926; member, Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD; survived by two sons: David (Marlene) DeBoer, Milbank, SD, and Paul (Sherry) DeBoer, Corona, SD; three daughters: Evelyn (Maynard) Hoekman, Corona, SD; Lorraine (Bernard) Fritzke, Beaverton, OR, and Ruby (Dale) Rott, St. Paul, MN; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren; Pastor Danny VanGerpen, officiating, funeral service.

■ HAIT, BERTHA (95), born Jan. 17, 1899, to Karl and Emilia Fritzke in Volhynian, Russia; died Aug. 14, 1994; immigrated in 1903 with his family to Yorkton, SK, area in Canada; member, Fenwood Baptist Church, SK; married Karl Hait, Dec. 10, 1918; farmed near Ebenezer, SK; moved to Kelowna, BC, 1936; member, Ladies Missionary Society, Ladies Choir, Grace Baptist Church, Kelowna; predeceased by husband, Karl, in 1984; seven brothers, and four sisters; survived by one sister, Mrs. Martha Schmuland, Windsor, ON; the Reverends Siegfried Hoppe and Ervin Strauss, officiating, funeral service.

■ BRENNEISE, EMANUEL (94), Jamestown, ND; born Nov. 24, 1899, to Philip and Marie (Frank) Brenneise in South Russia; died July 27, 1994; married Christine Finkbeiner, Dec. 3, 1920, at Streeter, ND; she predeceased him in 1970; member, trustee, First Baptist Church, Streeter, ND, and later Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; married Caroline (Finkbeiner) Chambers of Circle, MT, September 1970; she predeceased him in 1994; survived by two daughters: Leona Meisch, Jamestown, ND, and Jean (Eugene) Solt, Ft. Myers, FL; one stepson, George (Barbara) Chambers, Omaha, NE; three step-daughters: Vonnice (Bob) Guldborg, Brockway, MT; Delores (Bill) Westrum, Fromberg, MT; and Pearl Kucera, Federal Way, WA; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; preceded in death by his parents; a son, Elmer; one daughter, Evangeline; six sisters; one brother; one half-brother; and one half-sister; Pastors Randy Jaspers and Jim Dick, officiating, funeral service.

■ KNOWLES, FRANK (85), Cleveland, OH; born Feb. 21, 1909, in Birmingham, England; died July 17, 1994; immigrated with his family to

Brockway, MT; Delores (Bill) Westrum, Fromberg, MT; and Pearl Kucera, Federal Way, WA; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; preceded in death by his parents; a son, Elmer; one daughter, Evangeline; six sisters; one brother; one half-brother; and one half-sister; Pastors Randy Jaspers and Jim Dick, officiating, funeral service.

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■ KNOWLES, FRANK (85), Cleveland, OH; born Feb. 21, 1909, in Birmingham, England; died July 17, 1994; immigrated with his family to

Victoria, BC, in 1911 and to Cleveland, OH, in 1914; member, Sunday school superintendent, deacon, trustee, teacher, and choir member, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Cleveland; Church Extension chair, Penn-Ohio Association; survived by wife of 58 years, Lillian; son, William; and daughter, Maureen Schoch; the Rev. William McLatchie, officiating, funeral service.

■ LUIKEN, HARRIET (78), Steamboat Rock, IA; died May 4, 1994, Waterloo, IA; born west of Steamboat Rock, IA, Feb. 20, 1916, to Tom J. and Hattie Green Eilers; attended Moody Bible Institute, married Harry C. Luiken, Feb. 14, 1938; Sunday school teacher, pianist, organist, member of Dorcas Society, youth sponsor, First Baptist Church, Steamboat Rock; survived by husband, Harry, Steamboat Rock, IA; two daughters: Patricia, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Beverly (Brian) Shevkenek, Calgary, AB; one son, George (Sheila), Coronado, CA; one brother: George (Tessie) Eilers, San Diego, CA; three grandsons; two sisters-in-law: Deane Luiken and Wilma Luiken, Steamboat Rock; preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Robert; the Rev. Mike Lerud, officiating, funeral service.

■ PATZIA, ELSIE (nee Hein) (86), Winnipeg, MB; born, Millet, AB, 1908; died July 27, 1994; member, First Baptist Church, Leduc, AB; married William Patzia, 1934; moved to Winnipeg, 1944; active member, White Cross work, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, Winnipeg; survivors include her husband, William; daughters: Elizabeth Friesen, White Rock, BC; Gerda Streuber, Winnipeg, MB; Geraldine Klatt, Peterborough, ON; Joanne Neumann, Morris,

MB; two sons: Norman, Winnipeg, MB, and Arthur, Redwood City, CA; 20 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sister, Myrtle Funnell; brother, Milton Hein; the Reverends Arthur Patzia and Helmut Poschwatta, officiating, funeral service.

■ STABBERT, HERBERT H. (90), Laguna Niguel, CA; born Sept. 19, 1903, to Otto and Mary Stabbert in Fargo, ND; died July 15, 1994; married Adele Schroeder, Aug. 29, 1931, in Anaheim, CA; long-time active member, Sunday school teacher; Deacon Board chair, Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA; moderator, Southern California Association; chair, Church Planting Committee; member, Board of Trustees, N.A.B. Seminary; member, N.A.B. Conference Finance Committee; predeceased by his wife, Adele, in 1986; survived by Joan (Roger) Dermody, Capistrano Beach, CA, and Donna Stevens, San Clemente, CA; one sister, Ella Butler; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; the Reverends Thomas Jones and Connie Salios, officiating, funeral service.

■ TIMM, HELMUT ARTHUR (71), Winnipeg, MB; born Sept. 3, 1922, in Gumbinnen, Ostpreussen; died May 27, 1994; immigrated to Canada, 1957; married Elsie Edel, Oct. 23, 1959; faithful member, McDermot Ave. Baptist Church; predeceased by his parents, Ewald and Margarette, and sister, Elsbeth; survivors include his wife, Elsie; two daughters: Barbara (Marc) Sardachuk, Calgary, AB, and Marlene (Kelly) Neufeld, Edmonton, AB; three grandchildren; in-laws: Albert and Julia Edel, Morris, MB; brother: Gerhard (Irma) Timm, Kelowna, BC; the Rev. Wermer Dietrich, officiating, funeral service.

Seminary Dedicates Worship and Leadership Centre

Photos and text
by Linda Outka

North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, dedicated its new Worship and Leadership Centre September 7-10. This facility was made possible by the "Foundations for the Future" campaign. (1)



1

Dedication events began with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, September 7. Building committee members (l. to r.) were Vice President Gordon Harris, Vice President Betty Poppens, President Charles Hiatt, Professor Ted Faszer, Professor Denise Muir Kjesbo, and Vice President Ben Engbrecht. (2)



2

President Charles Hiatt welcomed those who came to dedicate the Worship and Leadership Centre for the glory of God and the preparation of ministers. (3)



3

International Campaign Chair, Dr. Peter Fehr, reported that 630 donors gave/pledged \$2.4 million to enhance leadership training. (4)



5

Nearly 70 volunteers were a part of the campaign team that relayed the Seminary story to the donors. Those who attended the recognition gala are pictured. (5)



4

The N.A.B. Seminary presidents of the past 35 years celebrated this event: Dr. Frank Veninga (l. to r.), Dr. Charles Hiatt, and Dr. David Draewell. (6)



6



7

Dr. David Draewell delivered a message on obeying Christ's command to love as the basis for ministry at the dedication service Saturday, September 10. (7)

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Kenneth L. Damon** to pastor, Shroyer Road Baptist Church, Dayton, OH, effective November 1994.

■ **The Rev. Howard Anderson** from pastor, North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, TX, effective October 15.

■ **The Rev. Milton Zeeb** to interim pastor, North Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton, TX, effective October.

■ **The Rev. David Glass** to pastor of Christian education and outreach, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

■ **Mr. Glen Barnes** to youth pastor, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

■ **Mr. Brian Hook** to pastor of student ministries, Grace Community Church, Detroit, MI.

■ **Dr. Hartmut Sunderwald** to pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, St. Catharines, ON, effective September 1994.

■ **The Rev. Ken Orban** to pastor, Balgonie Baptist Church, Balgonie, SK.

■ **Mr. Steve Dunkel** from pastor, Central Baptist Church, George, IA, effective October 1994.

■ **Mr. Jason Esposito** to youth director, Grace Baptist Church, Racine, WI.

■ **The Rev. Rick Wilson** to pastor, Community Baptist Church, Beavercreek, OH.

■ **Mr. Wally Fus** to director of visitation outreach and discipleship, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB.

■ **Mr. Michael Mowry** to pastor of youth, Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

■ **Mr. J. Scott Gardner** to youth director, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

■ **The Rev. Anthony J. Salazar** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Avon, SD, to accept a full-time position with Dakota Wesleyan University of Mitchell, SD, as the Counselor for Minority Students effective October 1994.

■ **Miss Jackie Aebi** from director of children's ministries, Redeemer Baptist Church, Warren, MI, to development ministries, Trinity Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ **Mr. Jeff Mills** to director of youth ministries, First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD. Jeff is a student at N.A.B. Seminary.—Ray DeNeui

■ **Dr. Ron Mahood** to pastor, Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA, on September 1.

■ **Mr. Randy Ames** to music minister, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, effective September 1.

■ **The Rev. David Wesner** from Vaca Valley Baptist Church, Vacaville, CA, to First Baptist Church, Ellinwood, KS, effective end of October.

Installations

■ **The Rev. Harald Gruber** was installed as pastor, First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD, August 28. The Rev. Harry Haas, area minister, presided at the installation service.

■ First Baptist Church installed the **Rev. Douglas Sathren** as pastor on September 25. The Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh, area minister, delivered the message. "We praise God for answering our prayers in bringing pastor Doug, his wife Arlyce, and son Justin to our church and community," reports Retha Menke.

Farewell

■ On June 26, the congregations of First Baptist in Minitonas, MB, and Temple Baptist in Swan River, MB, joined together to bid farewell to the **Rev. and Mrs. Jake Leverette**. The outdoor service, led by Pastor Myron Henschel, included special numbers and testimonials.



Leverette has served as Manitoba Area Minister for the past several years. He and his wife Peggy now live in Regina, SK, where he pastors Calvary Baptist Church and serves as Saskatchewan Area Minister.

Myron Henschel is pastor of First Baptist and Neal Effa of Temple Baptist.—Monica Muller

Ordinations

■ **The Rev. La Rue Jundt** was ordained Aug. 26, 1994, by Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. Jundt is the Protestant Chaplain at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. He is a 1994 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The service included musical selection by the Reverends Fred Fuchs, Bert Itterman, and Harold Kelm; ordination message, Rick Torkelson, pastor, Washburn (ND) Baptist Church; and charge to the candidate, Sister Norma Norton, director of pastoral care, McKennan Hospital.

■ **Mr. Dave Bootsma** was ordained into the Gospel Ministry, June 12, 1994, by Mary Hill Baptist Church, Port Coquitlam, BC. Participating in the service were the Rev. John Butcher, charge to the candidate; and the Rev. Keith Chapman, laying on of hands. The ordination certificate and a Bible were presented to Mr. Bootsma who led in closing prayer and benediction.—Irma Edel

Church closing

■ **Calvary Baptist Church** of Penticton, BC, closed on Sept. 30, 1994. "We thank all those who have been a part of this ministry. Over the years, we have been blessed with wonderful pastors, and we have seen many answered prayers. We have been encouraged by the support of many people from the N.A.B. Conference and our British Columbia Association. Although a time of sadness for us, we thank God for the privilege of serving and the fellowship that we enjoyed at Calvary Baptist Church," says Vicky Laframboise.

Kujat appointed BC Area Minister

■ The Rev. Irwin Kujat has been appointed British Columbia Area Minister effective November 15. The appointment was made by the Conference Executive

Committee upon recommendation of the British Columbia Association Executive Committee.

Kujat is a 1972 graduate of the N.A.B. Seminary. He has served as pastor of East Olds Baptist Church, Olds, AB, where he was ordained in 1973; Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB; and Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB.

Kujat served on the Central and Northern Alberta Church Planting Councils; as vice moderator, Alberta Baptist Association; and as a member and vice chair of the Conference Church and Ministries Board.

A Heart That Cares

(Continued from page 5)

it is going to be a lifetime process of serving God . . . of trying to deal with the brokenness.

But God has said to us in Christ the power has come. Christ set in motion all of the power of God that will help bring in the kingdom, and it's on its way. It cannot be stopped. Every word we speak, every deed we do in the name of Christ, is not a word or deed that is in vain. It matters, because in ways that often we cannot see, it is bringing in the kingdom.

All we have is the power of God to depend upon. But Jesus is trying to say to these disciples and to us, "It's here. Depend upon it. Trust it. Open yourself up to it. See what happens."

Norman Vincent Peale told of a visit to a concentration camp in Belgium. The guide described the things that went on there. Peale

said, "I don't know how they could stand it."

The guide replied, "They had a secret." He took Peale to a distant corner in one of the barracks, where he saw some benches and a little stone wall.

The guide said, "Get down on your knees, reach under the bench, and rub your hand against that stone wall. What do you feel?" Peale did what he was asked and said, "I feel a carving." The guide said, "It is a carving of the face of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

This was their secret. People came, bent down, and rubbed their hands over that face . . . especially the night before many of them thought the next day would be their day to face death. This way they could remember that they were not alone . . . that the power of God was with them.

I hope we will find our secret place . . . where we can bend down and run our hands over the face of Christ . . . and remember in all that

we try to do we are not alone. The power of God is with us. If we remember that when we go out into the darkness, we will take light, and that light will never be put out.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Where do we go from here? We leave the place—or places—where we have affirmed that Christ is Savior and Lord and go out to face the frustration that is in this world. As we depend upon the power of God, healing is on its way.

When I was a teenager, our church in Virginia heard about an African-American family who had struggles and trouble. We wanted to do something to breach the racial barrier that was there in those days. We gathered gifts, food, and clothes to help them through this difficult time. As a teenager, I helped to carry the stuff into the house.

In the home was a four or five-year-old boy who was confused by these strangers coming into his home. He asked his mother, "Who are these people?" She said, "They are Baptists from the church over here, and they have come to help us." "Why?" the boy asked. After a moment, she said, "Because they love us, that's why." That little boy came to me, looked up at me out of those big bright eyes, and said, "Mister, do you love me?"

How would you answer that? They are still there: The lonely, the oppressed, the sick, the sinful, the different, the hard. They are looking at us in our churches, and they are asking, "N.A.B.er, do you love me?" And because we depend upon the power of God, we will go to them and say in God's name, "Yes! Yes!"

They and the world will discover what they need to know . . . that those people who love Jesus really do . . . really do . . . have a heart that cares. □

Dr. Hugh Litchfield is Professor of Homiletics at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

BUILDING CHURCHES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

A Church's Expansion Plan

by Melissa Krispense

In 1992, Parma Heights Baptist Church, Parma Heights, OH, dared to put a dream in action. They developed a plan for expansion including a Family Life Center and classroom facility. With the help of a loan from Church Extension Investors Fund, they moved ahead with construction.

In the 1994 January/February issue of the **Baptist Herald**, CEIF featured Parma Heights' planning strategy.

1994 brought the initial results of that strategy. August 17, 1994, was final building inspection day for the Church's 14,196 sq. ft. Family Life Center with classrooms, kitchen, gymnasium, and mezzanine. Parma Heights Christian Academy, grades K - 8, began classes in the new facility August 30. October 23 marked the special dedication of the facility.

CEIF is glad to share in the pictures the results of the vision and strategy God gave Parma Heights.



Front view of the Family Life Center

To the faithful CEIF investors who helped make this possible, CEIF and Parma Heights say, "When I pray for you, my heart is full of joy, be-cause of all your wonderful help in making known the Good News about Christ . . ." (Philippians 1:4) The eternal results are yet to be known. □

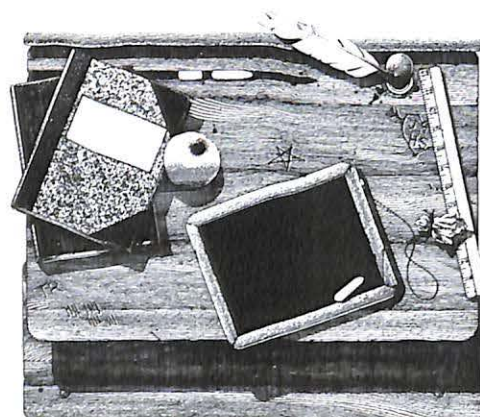


Parma Heights Christian Academy classroom



Back view of the Family Life Center

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