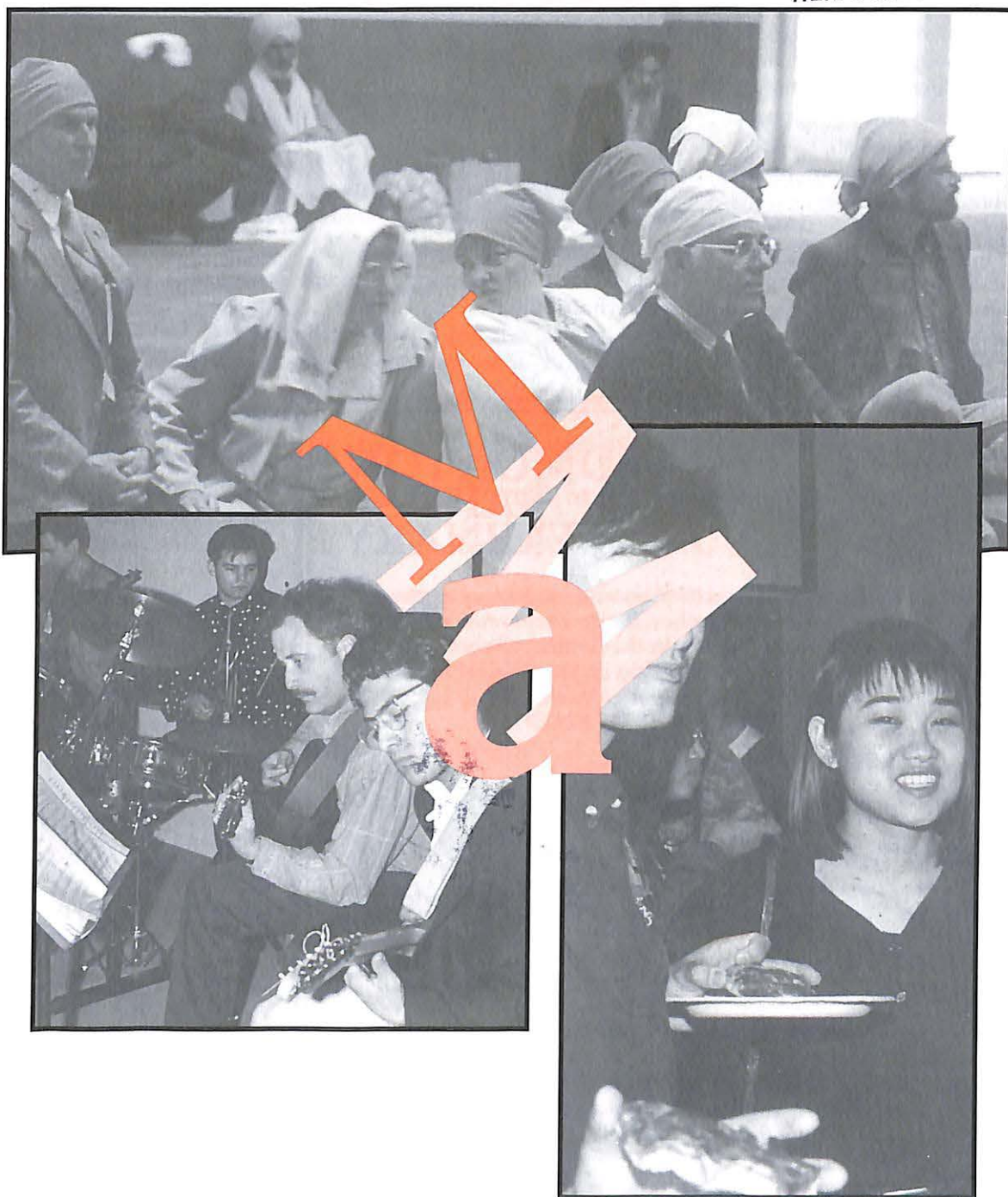


BAPTIST HERALD

SEPTEMBER 1994

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST
HERITAGE COMMISSION



Multicultural Ministry in Action

(See page 16)

N.A.B. Conference supports church planting in Bulgaria

Through the Wardin Endowment Fund, the N.A.B. Conference supports two national church planters in Bulgaria. Theo Angelov (right), president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria, told John Binder, N.A.B. executive director (left), that one of these men serves in Dubnizda where he is developing not only a church but also a ministry to people in the surrounding area.

This new group has purchased a private house to renovate to serve as a meeting place.

"The Bulgarian government refuses to give permission to Baptist Churches to purchase land on which to build churches," says Angelov. "As a result, Baptists purchase private



homes to renovate as churches.

The N.A.B. Conference had made some contributions to Balkan missions, including Bulgaria, before the First World War according to Albert

Wardin, professor, Belmont College in Nashville.

"Between the First and Second World Wars, the N.A.B. Conference gave Bulgaria important grants for pastoral support and chapels. Not only were buildings constructed in such strategic centers as Sofia, Lom, and the Black Sea port of Varna, but also for the Gypsy work at Glinzi near Lom." The Rev. Carl

Fuellbrandt spoke at the dedication of this Church on September 28, 1930.

"The Second World War suddenly cut off all monetary assistance. After the War, Communist pressures forced the young Bulgarian king into exile, and the Communists established the People's Republic of Bulgaria," reports Wardin.

Angelov said that the Baptist Church in Golinzi is the oldest Gypsy church. It now has a Gypsy preacher who serves a large community. Two other Gypsy congregations exist with one recently welcoming a young man as pastor. There are several mixed congregations of Bulgarians and gypsies, also.

Angelov said that Baptists began to build an orphanage in Sofia, but the Orthodox Church has told people that the orphanage will be a dangerous place, and it will bring spiritual poison to those in the surrounding area.

Other abuses of religious liberty include limiting visas for only 30 days to missionaries. "They have to leave Bulgaria and go to Greece, then after a time return again to Bulgaria," says Angelov. The Bulgarian government has also prohibited parachurch organizations such as Gideons International and Child Evangelism Fellowship from working in Bulgaria. □

(continued on page 28)

*Focus
on
Ministry*

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A New Bible School Begins in Russia

The first term of the new Bible school in Samara, Russia, begins October 3 and runs to December 23. The second term begins January 9 and terminates June 2. Daily instruction will be for six hours, five days a week. The curriculum will be basic. No doubt, our instructors will have a challenging task: To teach motivated, eager students who want to learn as much as possible in a short period of time to be able to take the gospel to their countrymen. Everything they learn must be practical, yet the foundation must be laid on which they can build in the future through personal study. This is a venture which needs to be supported by the prayers of our people at home!

by Harold Dressler

Last year the Baptist Union of Russia recognized the great need for Bible schools to train pastors and missionaries to assume pastoral responsibilities, plant churches, and take the good news to the people in their vast country. This would be the only viable way of making some headway in evangelism and church planting. However, the Union realized at the same time that they had no funds to back up the proposal, but that they were completely dependent on foreign assistance. This help needed to come not only in terms of financial support but also with regard to theological instructors.

This proposition was submitted to our N.A.B. Conference almost as quickly as it was conceived. The next step was to determine the location for the Bible School we would sponsor.

God had led me to the city of Samara on the Volga River in 1992, about 1000 km east of Moscow, where I had met the senior pastor of the Baptist church, Rev. Victor Ryaguzov. There I saw a thriving church in action, and I had the opportunity to lecture in one of the universities. My personal inclinations pointed in the direction of establishing a Bible school in Samara.

Samara is an ancient city on the confluence of the Samara River and the Volga River. It contains six universities and 25 colleges, which emphasize aerospace technologies.

In 1993, the mayor of the city had invited Pastor Ryaguzov to conduct information meetings about Christianity. This resulted in 300 baptisms.

March 1994: Suitcases, travel bags, tripod case, metal cases, all piled up on the platform as we arrived by train from Moscow, having had a restful ride in our compartment: Dr. Vladimir Ryaguzov; his 15-year old son, Michael; Rev. Art Helwig, development department; Eric Blematl, videographer; and I, having completed two weeks of teaching in Moscow. We piled into two cars for the ride to an apartment near the center of the city, about seven minutes by car from Transfiguration Baptist Church.

The schedule for these few days: a little hectic. We viewed the Transfiguration Baptist Church building and its new addition . . . then drove 100 kilometers to the city of Pagliatti for the Saturday afternoon service. At 5 p.m., the church was packed.

"How long should the sermon be, Vladimir?"

"Harold, these people expect a long sermon from you. Together with my translation, it should be about one and one half to two hours. Then I will preach. Afterwards, we should have an open forum for questions and answers." We settled down for a long service



Dr. Dressler (left) met with about ten young people, interested in becoming students in the new Bible school.

. . . actually an exception made for guests.

After the service, we met with about ten young people who are interested in the new Bible school in Samara. We answered their questions and explained the purpose and goal of the training program.

The following day, we visited the Transfiguration Church with about 400 people in attendance. With three guest speakers, the service was longer than usual, also. A young lady who had gone to Siberia into a town without any church, gave her testimony:

"I was very lonely and prayed to the Lord that He would let me meet one person with whom I could fellowship. I prayed and prayed. I was often desperately lonely. But then Jesus opened some hearts. Now there are 60 believers in this town. Twenty more want to be baptized. Perhaps the Lord will send a pastor soon. We will keep praying."

After the service, we met about 30 young people who had some questions about the Bible school: What is the age limit? What are the entrance requirements? What will the school do for the hearing and speech impaired? Will English be taught? Which subjects will be taught? Will the school do something for people in prison?

The last question was asked by a short, broad-shouldered, tough-looking woman who had been in prison for 30 years for a life of crime, and who had come to the Lord just last year. She regularly goes to the prison to visit and speak of the love of Jesus which had changed her life. Eager faces, dedicated young people; it will be difficult to select those who should attend the Bible school.

While at the Church, we discussed the various aspects of the Bible school with Pastor Ryaguvozh and his deacons. Although we, as N.A.B. Conference, would sponsor this school jointly with the Baptist General Conference, we insisted that this Bible School be the complete responsibility of the Baptist Church in Samara. A careful process of interviewing and screening students would also be the responsibility of the Church. Due to some limitations with regard to accommodations and dining room, the first class of students will be limited to twenty, with equal consideration given to males and females.

The evening service at 6 p.m. was only attended by about 300 people, again 80 percent women. Special music, a choir, young people,



A government building in Samara



The pastor of Transfiguration Baptist Church is a vigorous person in his 40s. He is planting the great-granddaughter of this Church in the public library.



Transfiguration Baptist Church built an addition (left) to house the new Bible school in Samara.



"We visited and worshipped with the congregation of the Baptist Church in Pagliatti on Saturday afternoon," says Prof. Dressler.



A former Olympic runner (right) who won gold medals in Munich inquires if training will be provided for the hearing and speech impaired at the Bible school. He, himself, not able to hear or speak, serves as a pastor and travels from place to place to teach signing.



Thirty years in prison . . . After her release, she accepted Christ as Savior. She regularly goes to the prison to speak of the love of Jesus who changed her life.



Dr. Dressler (top right) discusses the new Bible school with the deacons of Transfiguration Baptist Church. Classrooms, dining room, kitchen, and dormitory will be under the immediate supervision of the Church.



Worshipping in Samara

and two sermons made it a time blessed by the Lord.

Transfiguration Baptist Church parents new churches having become a grandmother (daughter: Grace; granddaughter: Anastasia) and would in the near future become a great-grandmother. Victor Ryaguzov, a vigorous pastor in his forties, now plans to move into the public library where the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses meet.

"Thank you, Victor, for your hospitality. Everything looks fine for the fall. Let me know your fax number so that you do get my letters. The last one I wrote you in November still hasn't come. God bless you as you interview and select students! Good-bye!"

"Hope to see you in October, Harold. We'll be in touch. God be with you!" replied Victor.

It has been most gratifying to see that our churches and pastors have wholeheartedly supported the concept and initiation of such a training institution for future pastors and missionaries. The immediate response of our professors and pastors has been very encouraging, even though each instructor will raise his own support. N.A.B. persons teaching during 1994-1995 include: the Rev. Perry Kallis, the Rev. Waldemar Kroguletz, Prof. Ed Kern, Prof. Richard Paetzel, and former N.A.B. pastor, Dr. Chris Creech. A Ken Priebe JESUS film team will serve in January and in May.

We encourage all of you to pray for the help of the Holy Spirit in sorting out some very practical logistical problems, for the preparation of young hearts toward this urgent ministry in Russia and Siberia, for the granting of wisdom and health to those who will travel and teach, and for our Lord's help in accomplishing the goal of winning many souls into the Kingdom of God.

As Christ's disciples, we have been commissioned by Him to "Go . . . and teach . . ." As a Conference, we want to be obedient to this high calling in this location: Samara in Russia. □

Prof. Dr. Harold H.P. Dressler is the N.A.B. missionary representative to Central and Eastern Europe.

A Cameroonian Odyssey

PHOTOS BY WALTER BERKAN

by Walter Berkan

It was Friday, February 25, 9:30 p.m. The captain of Air France Flight 7018 had just touched down at Douala. Thirteen weary travelers of Darrell Schuh's Gateway Team carried their suitcases through the oppressive tropical night to the airport, through customs, to be greeted by Kuyuh Nsah, Darrell Martin, and Charles Asah. Three months of planning, praying, working, and a flight of more than 10,000 miles . . . our African Odyssey was about to begin.

We opened our eyes Saturday morning in a guest house in Douala . . . air conditioning, plumbing, screens on the windows, a cement floor, and even a swimming pool. Fresh pineapples, mangoes, bananas, bread, and coffee revived our weary bodies.

We leisurely drove through the countryside, past roadside markets, villages, plantations, orchards, and forests, arriving at Saker Baptist College, a prestigious school of 800 girls. Wilma Binder, N.A.B. missionary, serves here.



Fresh pineapples, mangoes, bananas, bread, and coffee revived our weary bodies.

In the afternoon, we turned off the main highway onto horrendous, bone-jarring roads to Camp Bimbina on the Atlantic Ocean. The area: wild, rugged beauty; neatly assembled bungalows; 100 percent

humidity; and indescribably refreshing swimming. This camp was built by Darrell Schuh and his youth team under great difficulty. It serves as a gathering place for various Christian groups to obtain rest and to plan for the continued work of Christ in the country.

Sunday morning, we entered the transportation system of Africa . . . a Toyota van with a capacity of 16 adults plus three feet of luggage piled on the roof. We headed for Nkongsomba, a full day early, in order to escape the imminent country-wide taxi strike.

Walking masses of humanity carrying their goods and performing the vital functions of the day crowded the sides of the road. We drove through towns, over toll roads, through police posts and marketplaces, past goats, chickens, bicycles, trucks, red

mud brick houses, and some breathtaking scenery. We observed the smoke of a thousand cooking fires and the intermittent Sahara winds darkening the horizon with particles of dust. We were tormented with van claustrophobia, saddle sores, and the desire to be

absent from our bodies for the moment. Flat tires, food shopping, and the Sahara thirst . . . but we persevered.

At dusk, our buses pulled into our lodging place at Nkongsomba. Hundreds of eager smiling Africans surrounded us. Pastor Lucas Nji, the people of Ebouh Barre Baptist Church, and the villagers saw to it that



Driving through the countryside, we saw roadside markets, villages, plantations, and forests.



Washing clothes on the rocks in the stream.



Putting a roof on the Baptist Church at Nkongsomba.

we felt welcome and needed. For Dr. Earl Ahrens, who was pursuing his dream to revisit the haunts of his earlier pioneer missionary years in Cameroon, this was sweet music indeed.

At Nkongsomba, 13 Americans set up housekeeping for ten days,

sleeping on cots, cooking African food, boiling water, washing clothes on the rocks in the stream, taking sponge baths in plastic tubs, toiling in the equatorial sun with the Africans, and succeeding or failing as we utilized our physical, spiritual, and mental strengths.

The mighty works of God were revealed through the humble Christians at Nkongsomba who waited for ten years to complete a building. They thought that God had forgotten them. Then God spanned 10,000 miles of land and water, and joined Africans and Americans under the hot equatorial sun to complete this project, "Build a Roof," in a remote village.

Word traveled far and wide that miracles were occurring at Nkongsomba.

Seven days later, 500 village people met to rejoice in the Lord with singing and dancing that echoed to the portals of heaven. These humble Christians rejoiced that God had answered their prayers.

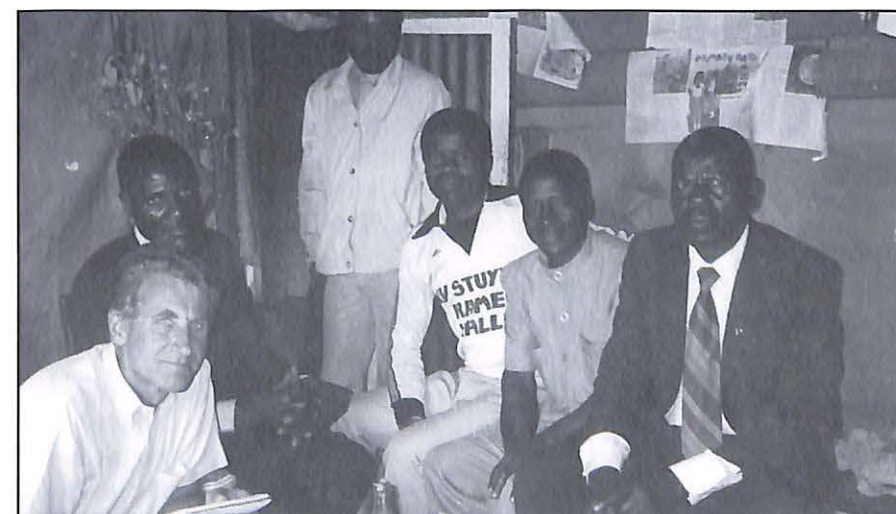
On Wednesday, we journeyed to Bamenda, the national headquarters of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, headed by Samuel N. Becke. We accepted the gracious hospitality of Acting Field Secretary Elmer and Ellen Breitkruez and the wonderful mission staff. Our tour of the complex revealed to us the workings of God with His people.



In a remote village, Africans and Americans joined together under the hot equatorial sun to complete the projects and "build a roof."



Celebrating the completion of the new church roof.



Darrell Schuh (left) meets with leaders.

We saw a large church pastored by Johnson Ndi, missionary houses, administrative buildings, schools, and structures in which various phases of the work were carried on. We must not forget the facilities where weary workers from the provinces were housed and fed, rejuvenated to resume their duties as soldiers of Jesus Christ.

From Bamenda we drove to Mbingo for a visit to Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Dr. Rod and April Zimmerman, Pat Lenz, a loyal staff of doctors, nurses, teachers, and technicians are healing bodies, reaching souls for Christ and rehabilitating the disabled to more productive lives. Many of the patients from here go to New Hope, a leper settlement, where they become part of a community that is self-sustaining in most ways.

The drive from Bamenda to Banzo was a "body destruction derby." Much later, we arrived to view the saga of our missionary heroes—doctors, nurses, workers, doing what they were trained to do and doing it well. Dr. Helen Schmidt, the Eschenauers, and some other good ladies provided us with a good lunch. Finally, we were off to Ndu—too late to see this marvelous complex which turns out seminarians. We were fed, housed for the night, given a delicious breakfast, and sent on our way to Banzo for church. Then we were off to Douala for a night's rest. We boarded the airplane, retraced our flight to Paris, enjoyed an evening tour of the city, and then arrived home.

Weeks later, as we enjoy the comfort levels of our homes, our minds span the great gulf to Africa. We think of Africa, and we rejoice for Africa. The kaleidoscope of images overwhelms our minds and endears to us our Africa! □

Walter Berkan, Gateway team member, is a member of First Baptist Church of Elk Grove, CA.

Talking to Kids

by Steve Dickie

You come home from one of your junior high events and ask yourself the classic youth worker question: "Why am I doing this?" Your best game failed; the Bible study you worked on all week was met with little interest; and your most dependable kids were the ones creating the problems. Sound familiar? You sometimes wonder if it's all really worth it.

Something always comes along to remind me of my focus . . . an eighth-grade boy discovering and understanding a truth from the Bible . . . a seventh-grade girl tells about how she is sharing her faith with her friends. I'm gently reminded why I do young teen ministry—to help kids fall in love with Jesus.

Many of us are afraid of helping young teens discover faith. The process it takes to get there can be pretty frightening. This is largely due to the fact that these kids are at a place of outrageous change. They are beginning to leave the world of concrete operations (reasoning based on symbols and

principles). In a sense, they are learning to "think about thinking."

Growth Takes Time

Have you ever noticed that when you look at old photos of your house, you're always amazed at how much the plants and trees have grown? While the daily change isn't always noticeable, when you're able to see the long-term perspective you realize that growth was happening all the time.

Growing faith in junior high kids is very similar. Even though we may not see a lot going on in the spiritual lives of our kids, we have to trust that our faithfulness will be rewarded later on.

Tough Questions

Recently, a young teen expressed some doubts he was having about his faith. He shared his thoughts almost apologetically, as if God would stomp on him for questioning. I told him he didn't need to be afraid of asking tough faith questions because God wasn't afraid of them. After all, if God is Truth (and I certainly believe that He is), then Truth can stand up to our doubts. As a

matter of fact, I believe God respects tough questions because it shows we're thinking.

In this light, we should encourage faith questions rather than attempting to discourage them.

Leading by Example

When I was a teenager, I lived for the opportunity to hang out with the leaders of my church youth group. I probably made deeper commitments in my faith while cruising around in Marlin's van or shooting hoops at Dan's garage than I did in any meeting. The same holds true for many kids today, as I discovered when I became a youth worker. I learned early on that a discussion around a basketball court or over a hamburger and shake often outweighed a year's worth of programs. It makes sense—real-life ministry happens when we invest our lives in young people between meetings.

The terms mentoring and discipling define this ministry investment. While it is an investment of our time, the apostle Paul also describes it in 1 Thessalonians 2:8 as an investment of our lives.

about Their Faith

Putting Faith into Action

One of the most important principles in nurturing faith is that kids will believe what they do more than they will do what they believe. It is essential that we offer opportunities for young teens to own their faith firsthand. Instead of merely "transmitting knowledge," we have to use our creative energies to come up with strategies for kids to experience faith.

Try getting kids involved with missions and local outreach. Powerful things occur in kids' lives when they wrestle with issues of injustice and compassion. Take them to a nursing home, have them serve food to the homeless, or sponsor a child through a mission program. The possibilities are limitless.

The Tools of Faith

When I take care of plants in our house, I take great care to provide them with all the elements they need. I place them near

adequate light and supply them with the proper amounts of water and minerals.

I've learned that without the right elements, plants just don't grow.

In a similar way, we need to provide spiritual nourishment for kids. The good news is that

become "rooted...in Him" (Colossians 2:6,7).

A Final Word of Encouragement

I've been in youth ministry a long time, and it's still painful for me when I think I'm not getting through to my kids. But my years in ministry have also given me another perspective. Older kids come back to me and tell me what a difference I made in their lives. It never ceases to amaze me. It also never ceases to cause me to look heavenward and acknowledge that God knew what He was doing all the time. The things we do and say really matter to kids. Don't give up—you are making a difference. □

The basic tools that will help a young person grow in his or her faith are an understanding of the Bible, a realization of the power of prayer, a commitment to fellowship in the church, and a grasp of the importance of sharing our faith with others.

kids can learn how to feed themselves—if we provide the tools.

The basic tools that will help a young person grow in his or her faith are an understanding of the Bible, a realization of the power of prayer, a commitment to fellowship in the church, and a grasp of the importance of sharing our faith with others. A solid foothold on these will allow a young person to

Steve Dickie has over 12 years of full-time young teen ministry experience. Currently serving at Bel Air Presbyterian Church in California, Steve is also a well-known speaker and seminar leader. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL.

CARING MINISTRY IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

by Dennis Dewey

"Police! Open up! We have a search warrant!" CRASH! The door was knocked in as the Street Narcotics Unit raided a Drug House looking for drugs and guns. I watched from the safety of the police van until the house was "secure" and the occupants were handcuffed, but my heart still pounded.

"Just think how the members of the SWAT team must feel," I thought to myself. "They're the ones in danger." As a recently appointed Police Chaplain for the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, I was doing this ride-along . . . trying to learn to know

the officers and to better understand the types of things police officers experience in the line of duty.

New opportunities in the ministry of caring opened up for me on August 26, 1993, when I was sworn in by the Chief of Police to serve as one of seven volunteer Police Chaplains. My appointment was part of an increased effort to provide caring within the police department.

Earlier in the year, I had helped provide the initial training for about 180 Department employees who had volunteered to become part of a newly formed "Police Care Team." Following that training, I was invited to become a Police Chaplain and a member of the Care Team.

The goal of the Care Team is to organize volunteers from within the Police Department who would "care" for other employees and their families during times of need providing things like food, transportation, child-care, or a listening ear at a time of sickness, death, or retirement, or providing support at the occurrence of a critical incident.

The Care Team concept sounded like a great idea to me. In fact, it appeared to me that such a group would function much like members of a church family would in responding to the needs of its members.

My role as a Police Chaplain includes some "ceremonial" duties, like praying at the Police Commissioner's meetings and recruit graduations or speaking at the Police Memorial Service, but my primary role is to be available to the members of the Department and respond to special needs.

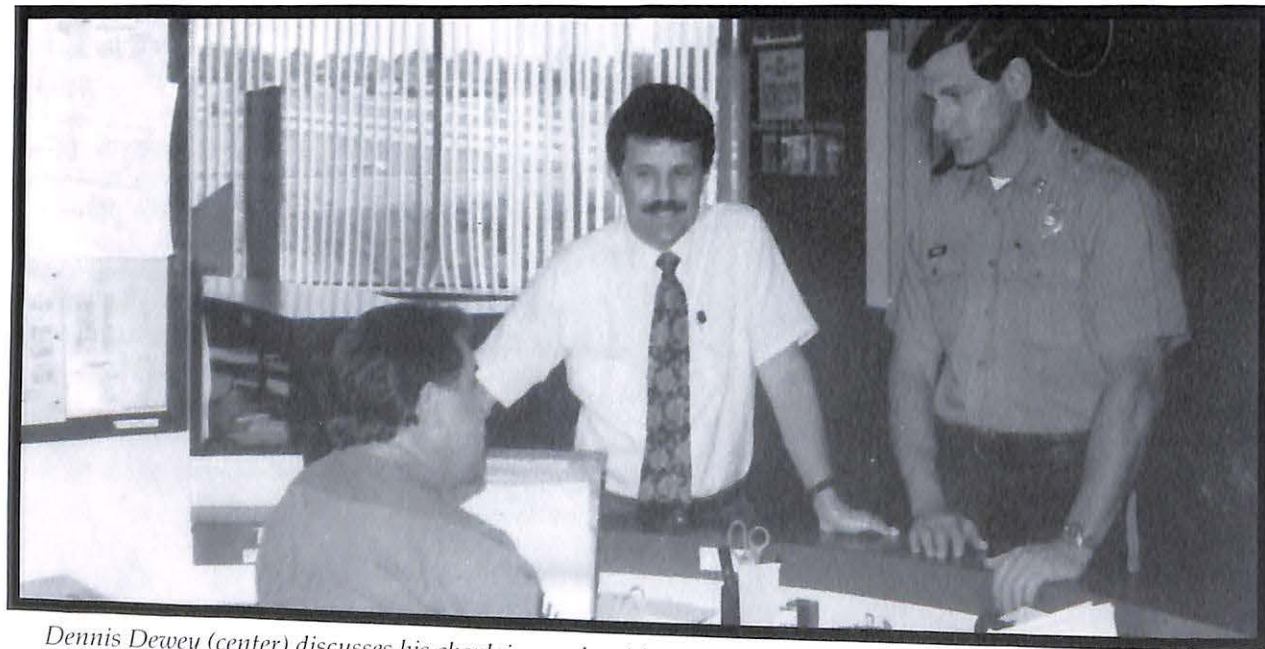
One particular way of doing that has been through hospital visitation. Recently, I was called to the hospital to be with the family members and friends of a 41-year-old officer suffering from a heart attack. By praying with them and being there, I was able to show Christ's love and let them know that I cared. A couple of days later, a detective, who is a Christian, said, "Thanks for being at the hospital; that really meant a lot. I've passed the word around that if any of the officers need somebody to talk to, you are someone they can trust."

By going on ride-alongs with officers, sitting on roll calls, touring police facilities, and attending special functions, I become accessible to the more than 1,800 employees of the Kansas City Police Department. As with any large group of people, they have many needs relating to job pressures, broken marriages, addictions, sickness, and death. By their own admissions, many officers are cynical about life, since they constantly see the worst parts of society. They also are expected to have control of their emotions in times of stress and often have the perception that they need to handle life on their own—that needing help is a sign of weakness.

As a Chaplain and a member of the Care Team, I work together with others to try to help break through those misperceptions to show that we all need each other, that we have spiritual needs, and that it is all right to feel, and to care, and to help each other.

As I do that personally, I look for opportunities to let them know that the reason I care is because Christ lives in me. □

The Rev. Dennis Dewey, a graduate of N.A.B. Seminary, is pastor of Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, MO; a member of the N.A.B. Conference Executive Committee, and was an Executive Director Search Committee member.



Dennis Dewey (center) discusses his chaplaincy role with Sergeant David Staffer (seated) and Captain Dave Bremson (right) at the North Patrol in Kansas City, MO, before Dewey's ride-along with one of the officers.

Ten Benefits

of Tithing

by G. Roger Schoenhals

Part III

The ten benefits of tithing are not new. We discussed benefit one, "Tithing Honors Scripture," (April 1994 *Baptist Herald*) and benefits two and three, "Tithing Reveals Obedience" and "Tithing Expresses Gratitude", (May 1994 *Baptist Herald*). Benefits four and five are discussed below.

4. Tithing Demonstrates Faith

"Put your money where your mouth is." Tithing is a way of doing that. It helps us externalize and affirm our faith. When we rightfully place money in the offering plate, we proclaim, "I believe in You, Lord. I honor You as the God of creation, the God Most High."

Tithing also reveals our faith in God's provision. By giving money we could use for our own benefit, we consciously make ourselves a bit more vulnerable and dependent on God.

For one who hasn't practiced tithing, the leap can be terrifying. It requires an abundance of faith. Some people have felt more comfortable working up to a tenth, adding a percentage or two each month.

After pay day, my wife and I write our first check to the Lord's Work. By putting this "obligation" at the top of the list, we are always able to meet that commitment. If we run out of money before the other bills are paid, we deal with that necessity as best we can. Sometimes we borrow money; sometimes we adjust our plans and do without. Who are we to trifle with God's work by putting our tithe at the bottom of the list?

5. Tithing Recognizes Rightful Ownership

You and I occupy this globe as stewards of God's creation. But how do we express this stewardship when it comes to the weekly or monthly inflow of money?

Tithing is a simple, methodical way to help us keep the record straight. Each time we give God the "first fruits of our labors, we affirm His Lordship and our Servanthood. Scripture tells us that the tithe is the Lord's (*Leviticus 27:30*). While all things belong to Him, He apparently lays special claim to that first 10 percent of our gain. However, we understand this, we dare not take it lightly. □

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

A Rural Church Makes a Difference in Stafford

by Don Hildebrand and Brad Seifert

As an outreach to the community, Calvary Baptist Church of Stafford, Kansas, established a day-care ministry called Cornerstone. In operation for three years, the sole purpose of the day-care ministry is to fulfill God's call to care for the community's children through providing affordable, quality, Christ-centered child care.

Calvary Baptist Church, a rural church, serves Stafford (population 1,500) and the surrounding rural area. The Church had already been reaching out to the community and its children through Vacation Bible School and an AWANA program.

In the early fall of 1990, James Derman, then pastor, asked a committee of young mothers in the congregation to identify other possible areas for children's outreach. The committee identified the difficulty of finding qualified, caring people to take care of small children in our area. The idea of a day-care center, Cornerstone, was founded with the intent of giving children a firm foundation for social, emotional, physical, and especially spiritual growth with Jesus as their cornerstone.

During the next year, a Cornerstone Day Care Board was appointed and charged with establishing a child care center. An empty building in Stafford was purchased and renovated. Much of the work was done by Calvary Baptist Church members. Donations of money, equipment, and supplies were received; state

child care licensing requirements were met; and a director and staff were hired. Through God's blessing, an initial idea became a reality. In the beginning, it was hoped that Cornerstone would be a self-supporting ministry. God provided and made the day care financially sound and has also furnished a strong and dedicated staff.

Cornerstone started out with a license allowing it to provide care for 12 children. Because of demand, God's blessings, and opening the proper doors, today Cornerstone Child Care Center is licensed to serve 24 children, ages 12 months to 11 years.

When children attend Cornerstone, they receive loving care from the staff, fun learning experiences

For Calvary Baptist Church, day-care ministry is a visible way of showing Jesus' love and caring to the people of the community.

from the pre-school curriculum, and good home cooked meals – all in Christian surroundings. Pastor Brad Seifert and his wife, Tami, visit the children each week to sing choruses and tell a Bible story.



Director Anita Meschberger and her staff serve as a resource and minister to single parents and other parents needing support and encouragement.

The number of children attending has steadily increased so that the day care is operating at nearly full capacity. Director Anita Meschberger is assisted by three full-time and three part-time helpers.

Cornerstone is also making an impact in the community. The children of Cornerstone participate in community events. They sing at the Oktoberfest and Christmas festival, as well as host a Chamber of Commerce coffee. For Vacation Bible School, the children help make cookies. They visit the rest home and do small projects around town. People comment: "How can such a large group of children be so well behaved?"

More than Caring for Children

It did not take long to find out that a day-care center is more than caring for children. The ministry of Cornerstone has reached beyond the children and touched their families as well. Anita and the staff serve as a resource and minister to single parents and other parents needing support and encouragement.

"Cornerstone is a ministry that Calvary has rallied around. It has been exciting to see the people stay true to the calling of Cornerstone's ministry, for when needs arise, the people step forward to meet them," says Pastor Brad Seifert.

The church family has been supportive of Cornerstone and their families in various ways. Church members volunteer time as maintenance crew, cookie bakers, and story tellers as well as supply donations.

"Each year, a special Sunday is designated as Cornerstone Sunday. During the Sunday morning service, we give thanks to God for giving us the ministry. The evening service includes a time of staff recognition, thanks, and fellowship for the children of Cornerstone and their families.

"A successful Christian day care does not function apart from two things: First, you need a strong band of prayer warriors to uphold the day care on a daily basis. Secondly, a director with strong Christian convictions and a heart for the ministry is needed.

"We are fortunate; we have both of these," says Pastor Brad.

Director Anita Meschberger says, "Cornerstone has truly been a ministry for the children and their families." For Calvary Baptist of Stafford, this ministry is a visible way of showing Jesus' love and caring to the people of our community. □

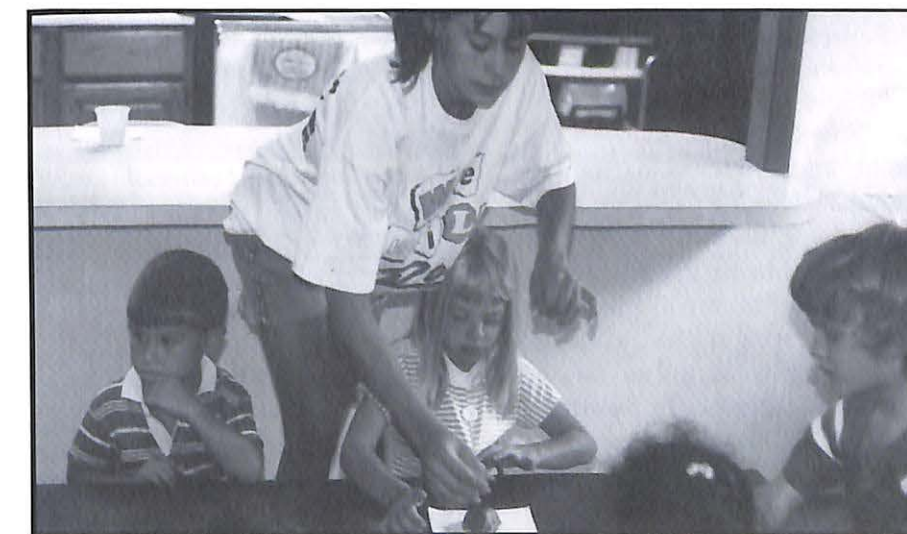
Don Hildebrand is President of Cornerstone Day Care Board, and the Rev. Brad Seifert is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Stafford, KS.



Day care children study motion as they pretend they are swimming.



Children receive loving care from the staff . . .



. . . and fun learning experiences from the pre-school curriculum.

Multicultural Ministry in Action . . .

BC Association



by Fred Kahler
and June Hunt

Immanuel Baptist Church in Vancouver, BC, hosted this year's British Columbia Association meeting. Under the capable leadership of Mr. Siggy Naguschewski, many local church members participated with their special gifts to care for the delegates and to make it a memorable event.

Representatives from the N.A.B. Conference International Office, our College and Seminaries, Green Bay Bible Camp and Evergreen Home, and two missionaries were seated as delegates, making a total of 149 delegates in attendance.

Dr. Ron Mayforth challenged the delegates to care like Jesus, to become a caring person, to care for our hurting world, to care for one-self. Our Conference imperative, Commanded to Care, was reflected in reports, business sessions, and even free-time activities.

Even the pastors took time to have a group picture taken. (a)



(a)

Caring in Vancouver today must take on a multicultural dimension. (b) Metropolitan Vancouver has become an increasingly Asian community. Pastor Jim Black of Pilgrim Baptist Church reported on the integration of a Portuguese congregation in his church and possible ministry to an Iranian group. Pastor Lyle Anderson, married to a Native Canadian of Cree background, shared about their unusual ministry in Stewart, the most northern British Columbia community near Alaska.

One activity took delegates on a "hands on" cross-cultural tour. (c) They visited the East Indian Punjabi market, a few blocks from the Church, and also sat cross-legged on the carpet of a Sikh temple. They saw the elegant new Chinese shopping mall in



(b)

Richmond. The tour ended at the construction site of the new Cornerstone Evangelical Church, a congregation of young second generation Chinese families.



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)

On one occasion, Merv and Merla Watson (d) gave a concert of their original music with an Israeli flair. The Immanuel choir and the men's choir, led by Win Rompf, were also featured.

During the Association meetings, a special Youth Track was organized by Pastor Doug Schultz of Zion Baptist Church and the Greater Vancouver Youth Council. This provided an opportunity for interaction of young people of different backgrounds. (e)

A new feature of the Association was the video presentation on Friday night, called "Churches Alive." Using modern video technology, each church gave a visual report on its "cutting edge" ministry. Delegates could "see" what God is doing in our various British Columbia churches.

The Association took this opportunity to express its deepest appreciation to Pastor Ed Hohn (center) and his wife Manetta (left), for his many years of service as Area Minister of British Columbia. Pastor Cliff Pedersen (right) thanks Hohn for his ministry (f). Through Pastor Hohn's visionary leadership, a number of church planting projects were undertaken. These are now at the forefront of new ministries.

"The multicultural flavor of our Association continues to expand as more and more ethnic groups are being ministered to in our churches. We thank God that He has brought this mission field to us," declares June Hunt, recording secretary.

Pastor Len Strelau, director of the Green Bay Camp, was voted in as Association moderator. □

The Rev. Fred Kahler is pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, and June Hunt is the British Columbia Association recording secretary.

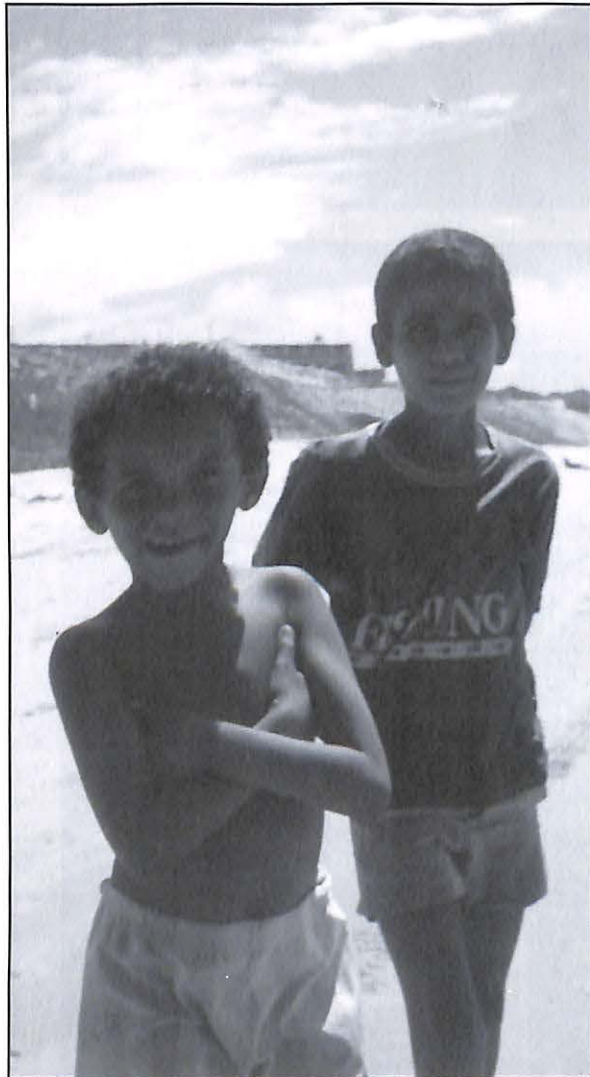
Caring for Street Children in Brazil

Imagine all the inhabitants of British Columbia under the age of 18. Imagine all of Alberta and a portion of Saskatchewan also under 18, without a place to go . . . no certainty of where their next meal will come from. Welcome to Brazil.

"The Lord has pointed us in a new direction. During our first two terms in Brazil, we planted two churches. Now the Lord has opened our eyes to ministry with street children. There are about eight million children living on the streets of Brazil. Through seeing and interacting with some of them, we have seen their great need. If someone does not care for them, they may turn into criminals in order to eke out an existence, or be shot to death," says Missionary Ken Bayer.

While on home assignment this past year, Ken and his wife Jerilyn told of the plans they devised with the Good News Baptist Church in Novo Hamburgo, Rio Grande do Sul, and the Board of Directors of the proposed homes for these children. The Church is located in the Vale dos Sinos (Valley of the Bells), which contains 45 percent of the state's population of 9,000,000.

"We returned to Brazil in June with 18 boxes of clothing for infants through age five and commitments to build four of the five to ten homes for abandoned children," says Bayer. Negotiations for a land site are progressing well. As soon as the title has been cleared, building of the homes will commence.



"We expect the Women's Missionary Fellowship of the Conference to provide funding for one home, and the first group of builders from Central Baptist Church in Edmonton, AB, plans to come in February 1995," reports Bayer.

CHAIN (Christian Homes for Abandoned Infants in Need) of Love Ministry will begin in a rented home and move into permanent homes as they are built. Each home will house ten children with a Brazilian Christian couple serving as houseparents at each home. This

will give the children a safe place to live in contrast to the dangerous streets as well as the opportunity to learn Christian values and come to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

"The children will live in homes until age 18. As each gets older, he or she will learn responsibility by helping with the younger children and learning a trade such as woodworking, shoemaking, or gardening," states Bayer.

The CHAIN of Love Directors are interviewing prospective house parents and negotiating to rent a home so they can begin receiving children.

The local church plans to work with parents or relatives of the children to help rehabilitate dysfunctional parents and to work toward bringing families back together where possible. In cases where this is not possible, an adoption program will be set up. "Most

importantly, the greatest gift of all, God's love, care, and salvation, will become a reality for these children," says Bayer. □



Ken and Jerilyn Bayer are N.A.B. Conference missionaries to Brazil.

youth Caring by Ministering with Youth

When Elizabeth and Jon Duba moved to Legazpi City in the Philippines in 1993 as new missionaries, they knew they wanted to become involved in youth

ministry. "High school and college students in the Philippines tend to be open to the Gospel," says Duba.

When the Dubas arrived, they found that the youth group at Albay Bible Community Church had stopped meeting regularly and were down to a small Bible study group that met on Sundays. "We spent a few days listening to the youth involved with the group before and leaders of the church to determine the direction to take. We wanted the group to be active again and be an effective outreach of the church."

Duba designed some helpful guidelines for leading a youth fellowship meeting, an outline for giving a testimony, and a guide for the leaders to get more people

involved in each meeting.

Several weeks later, and after much prayer, they chose a name for the group: "Doulos, servant of Christ."

"We began planning the meetings

students attend each meeting, which lasts about two hours. They spend hours preparing. Just before Christmas, they went caroling every night for a week and invited the whole church to a special

Christmas program, which they had prepared. Many visitors came, also.

Another highlight occurred when 58 students attended their Valentine fellowship; 25 of these were visitors.

"We have encouraged

discipleship Bible study groups to provide an opportunity for the youth to grow in their Christian walk," says Duba. "My role has been an encourager and resource person. Youth ministry is different in the Philippines, because it is the 'event' that happens on Friday nights. Since the youth take an active role in the ministry, it is really a youth-led group. They have lived up to the name, 'Duolos.' They truly are servants for Christ."



for Friday evenings every two weeks," says Duba. "The youth set the date and time of the meetings and chose the topics, the speakers, and the youth who would lead the meetings. I was excited when I saw the first meeting. It was excellent with singing, a skit, special music, games, and a Biblical message...all done by the young people except for the message. More than 20 youth attended."

Since that time, more than 20

Slumber Parties or Meetings?

by Lyle E. Schaller

"Every congregation needs meetings, but every congregation also needs a party."

What Is the Common Thread?

Today's church members do not want to attend meetings. Why? "A lot more men have two jobs." "So many high school kids work after school and on weekends." "The majority of women today work outside the home." "Only rarely do we have all members in attendance at a church board meeting." "Television tempts people to stay home and ignore their obligations to the church." "People aren't as committed today as they were when I was young." "Twice in the last three years we failed to have a quorum at the regularly scheduled annual meeting, so we had to hold a specially called meeting after church on Sunday in order to adopt a budget." "The church used to be at the center of life, now it's out on the edge, and people find it easy to ignore their church."

Comments such as these may a) help to explain the current reality, b) make the person offering that comment feel better, and c) shift the burden of responsibility from the leaders to the absentees, but they do not offer the kind of diagnosis that can lead to a relevant prescription. That may be found in three other conversations.

Women's Groups

"Our women's fellowship schedules two slumber parties every year: One in late September, the other in March," explained



Betty Williams, a woman in her early 60s who is an officer of the women's group at North Church. "You're a little old for slumber parties, aren't you?" challenged her golf partner.

"If you can still play golf, you're not too old for a slumber party," retorted Betty. "We use the slumber party as our way to welcome newcomers into the fellowship. We begin at seven o'clock Friday evening and adjourn after breakfast on Saturday."

"How many women come?" inquired the friend skeptically.

"That's one of our problems," admitted Betty. "The first couple of times we did it, we had about 14 to 16 of our members and six prospective new members. Now we're running close to 60 including a dozen or so prospective new

members. We used to gather for the night at someone's house, but we've outgrown that. Now we have it at the church. One end of our building includes the fellowship hall, a big classroom, the kitchen, the church parlor, and restrooms. We simply take over that end of the building and post NO TRESPASSING signs for 15 hours. We eat together, but the group is now too large to make it easy to assimilate the newcomers. So one group now meets, talks, prays, snacks, and sleeps in the fellowship hall; another meets in the parlor; and the third gathers in that large classroom. We give the fellowship hall to mothers who bring babies and toddlers."

"How do you divide the rest into two groups?" asked her friend. "Age? Marital status?"

"Nope," chuckled Betty.

"That would raise too many objections. The women who sleep in nightgowns go into the parlor, and those who sleep in pajamas meet in that big classroom. We divide into three groups so each group will be small enough for the newcomers to become well acquainted with the women who have been part of our organization for years," continued Betty. "Our thesis is that most people find it easy to come to any event where they will be with close friends, and harder to make the effort to come if most of those present are between strangers and acquaintances. Our slumber parties are our number one resource for making friends out of people who barely knew each other before.

Church Councils/Boards

"Our church year runs from August 1 through July 31," explained Sandy Jackson. "That is for program planning, for finances, and for the term of office for all leaders and teachers. The newly elected members of our church council take office at our August meeting every year. That used to mean about half of the new officers missed the meeting because it was the second Tuesday evening of the month. Three years ago, we made two changes.

"First, we switched the August meeting to the last weekend of the month. That means it coincides with the first week of school or the week before the public schools open. Thus nearly everyone is back from vacation.

"Second, we moved the meeting from the church to a lake about 60 miles away where two families in our congregation have summer homes next to one another. We begin with a meal about 6:30 on Friday evening and adjourn in the middle of the afternoon on Saturday. These two families let us use their vacation homes. When the weather permits, we eat and meet outside, and we sleep on the floors or in the beds of the two cottages.

"We have a great time. By noon Saturday, we are one big happy family. We have 15 council members and one-third rotate off every year. Instead of the five members feeling isolated for the first meeting or two, they are quickly assimilated into the group. While no one can prove the cause-and-effect relationship, we used to have three or four absentees at every meeting of the church council. Now we rarely have more than one member who is absent from any regular meeting."

Youth Meetings

"I've been a volunteer youth

counselor at our church for nine years now," reflected the 34-year-old Pat Sheridan. "In the typical year, the membership roll of our church lists the names of about 30 high school students, but our attendance at Sunday evening youth group meetings seldom exceeded 15 or 16. It was the same seven, eight, or nine regulars. At our district youth rallies, other counselors reported the same experience. The majority of the kids from member families stay away from the meetings of the youth groups."

"That's not our experience," declared the 41-year-old Chris Hanson, a volunteer youth counselor for five years at another church. "We also have about 30 high school kids from member families. When I began to help with the program, we averaged about a dozen at our weekly meetings. At the end of that first year, we made four changes.

"First, we created a new group for eighth- and ninth-graders. We had found that when the ninth-graders came, all of the senior boys and all but a couple of the senior girls stayed away. That reduced our inventory of kids to about 20.

"Second, every spring we pick out five or six of that year's sophomores and juniors and train them to be peer leaders beginning in June.

"Third, that changed the role of adults from leaders to coaches. That meant replacing two volunteers who insisted on leading and could not or would not coach.

"Fourth, we schedule a slumber party over the first Saturday night before school begins. We urge every youngster to invite a friend who is not from a member family. About 14 or 15 of our own kids attend. They bring another dozen who are not from our church. Usually two or three decide this group is not for them, but eight or

nine decide to become a part of our group. One or two of our own kids also usually drop out because their schedules are too full, but by the middle of October, we have a closely knit group of about 20 kids who stick together for the rest of the year. We've found that most of the new friendships among high school kids begin in the first few weeks of the new school year. We try to get ahead of that by scheduling the slumber party for the first week-end before school starts in the fall".

Back in 1990, the first-grade teachers in a suburban elementary school decided the pace of the December schedule was creating excessive stress for both teachers and pupils. One source of that stress was the big winter program schedule for the last Wednesday before the beginning of the Christmas vacation period. The next day is a natural letdown for everyone.

What can be done to make that Thursday a more relaxed and enjoyable day for everyone? The teachers decided one possibility would be to spend the day in pajamas. So on that Thursday, all the first-graders come to school in pajamas, nightgowns, and one-piece sleepers. The teachers model this custom. Last year, one came in a red plaid nightgown, a second in green flannel pajamas, and a third in teddy-bear pajamas.

Every congregation needs meetings for administration, for prayer, for planning, for policymaking, for worship, for learning, and for work. Every congregation also needs an occasional party. What is the balance between the two in your congregation? Which serve as the most attractive entry points for newcomers? □

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Caring for the Elderly

by Dan Kiblin

Caring for the elderly may seem to be a strange concept. After all, the people who are now elderly have always cared for us. Whether it be our parents, grandparents, other relatives, or older friends, it seems strange to be in the role of caring for them. I think that is why, in my ministry as Chaplain of Central Baptist Home for the Aged in Norridge, Illinois, I feel as though I am walking on holy ground.

It is holy ground not only just because they are elderly and we are taught to respect older adults, but also because they are God's special treasures to our world today. They have lived to 70, 80, 90, and some of the older adults in our Home, even to 100 years and more. Many of them have walked the majority of their lives with the Lord. Now we see the value of this treasure to us.

Caring for the elderly is a very special privilege whether you work in a Nursing Home, care for them at churches, home, or visit them as a part of your church's ministry. The care we give an older adult takes many forms: nursing care, bathing, assisting them to maintain mobility, taking an older

adult out to dinner or to church, providing interesting activities for them to participate in and enjoy, leading a group in which they can express their feelings and work through changes that have occurred in their lives, just visiting and letting them know you care, or picking something up at the store for them.

But caring for the older adult is not just preserving them as we might do with an antique car, although all of us can do with a little TLC now and then. I see the most important part of caring for older adults to be, first, reminding them of who they are (children of God, saved by His grace). They belong to God. Nothing has changed that, especially not old age.

A second important factor is to help them realize they are as valuable to God now as they have been all their lives, maybe even more so with their years of experience walking with Him. Our society today puts much emphasis on performance. When we get a little older, we cannot perform as we used to. We also do not have all the opportunities to do what we used to do. But with God, our value is not

found in what we do, but in the fact that God sent His Son to die for us while we were still sinners.

Third, realizing that God does love us and that we are valuable to Him inspires us to want to serve Him in whatever way we can. We still want to know that we have a purpose in this life. This I see as the most exciting part of caring for older adults - seeing them put all those years of faith in God to work for Him in new and different ways or in the old ways with a new twist.

To see their faith and experience of walking with God shine through despite illness, loneliness, disabilities, and change, becoming a light that guides others to faith in Jesus Christ brings the most joy to my heart. Can this happen? It certainly can! I saw an elderly saint, on her deathbed, lead a young nurse's aide to the Lord - and that is just one of many examples I could share with you.

Who has the most effective ministry to older adults in our facility? You guessed it - other older adults. It is no wonder that I describe "caring for the elderly" as "walking on holy ground." My wife Susan and I come away with a feeling of the presence of God when we "care for the elderly." □

The Rev. Dan Kiblin serves as chaplain and assistant administrator at Central Baptist Home, Norridge, IL.



Continuing Ministry

Looking at the years of experience in women's ministry represented by the women of Central Baptist Home, Sue Kiblin, wife of the chaplain and a member of the WMF Executive Committee, was inspired to begin a Women's Missionary Fellowship group. Coming from a variety of denominational backgrounds, many women residents at the Home expressed the sense of loss they felt in leaving their home churches and the ministries in which they had been involved.

Fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach opportunities are the focus of their time together. Each November, they participate in the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer service with area N.A.B. Conference women. Sue also invited women from some of the area churches to demonstrate to the Central Baptist Home women how to do White Cross work for International Missions. □



Sue Kiblin leading a meeting of the Central Baptist Home Women's Missionary Fellowship.

TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

52 Ways to Show Aging Parents You Care by Tracy Green and Todd Temple, Oliver Nelson Publishers.

This book is filled with simple ways to help you do your best for your mom or dad—or aunt or uncle or grandparents or neighbor! You will find practical ideas and information that will help you understand the needs and feelings of older folks and, in the process, keep your relationships going strong. These ideas can be easily adapted by your women's ministry as an outreach opportunity. Some ideas are learning a new skill together, making a video, giving your mom a make-over, mailing a party package if you can't be there in person, or inspiring exercise by organizing an afternoon walking group.

Parent Care by Ruth Bathauer, Regal Books

This is a guide to help adult children provide care and support for their aging parents with ideas and suggestions for encouraging parents to remain active and involved, finding the best living situation for your parent, and dealing with the maze of extended care and finances.

Among the questions addressed are the following: When do I decide that my aged parent can no longer live alone? How much should I do for my parent, and how much can he or she do? When my parent can no longer live alone, is my only option to bring him or her into my home? What outside resources are available? How do I select a nursing home? □

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

COMMISSIONED TO WITNESS

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

■ **ABERDEEN, SD.** Calvary Baptist Church extended the hand of fellowship to 14 new members in the first six months of 1994: 11 through baptism, two by testimony, and one by transfer.

"Our new members challenge us to be continually sharing the Good News," declares Eleanor Weisenburger. Dr. John Hisel is the senior pastor.

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

■ **CALGARY, AB.** "The Lord brought a very special pastor to our Thornhill Baptist Church, the Rev. Don Harder," says Renè Weiss. "God has given Pastor Harder much wisdom, and he is very much a servant of God. There is excitement in the air."

In the five months since Harder's arrival, he baptized six people and received five new members into membership.

"God is especially working in the hearts of our Junior Youth, as there are five new candidates attending baptismal classes. We praise God for this!" Weiss declares.

The morning service attendance at Thornhill has increased. "God is doing exciting things, and several newcomers have said that they sense that the Holy Spirit is present and at work in this congregation. We thank God for His care and concern and are anticipating many new and exciting happenings at Thornhill," says Weiss.

■ **COLUMBUS, NE.** Pastor Richard Lute baptized one teenager, whose mother was also received by statement of faith into the fellowship of Shell Creek Baptist Church. —*Ruth Ann Behlen*

■ **HOPE, KS.** Pastor Chester Strobel baptized two youth and welcomed them into the fellowship of the First Baptist Church of Dickinson County. —*Lawana Kohman*

■ **PORTLAND, OR.** The Rev. Jason Haas baptized four people—two adults and two young people. The hand of fellowship was also extended recently to three adults and three young people. They were heartily welcomed into the fellowship of Glencullen Baptist Church. —*Virginia Jones*

■ **SIOUX FALLS, SD.** Pastor Gordon Stork of Trinity Baptist Church recently baptized three adults and three youth.

In the 15 months of his ministry, he has welcomed 36 people into the church, 13 by baptism, and 23 by letter of transfer. —*MarJean Johnson*

■ **SUMNER, IA.** The Rev. Arnie Kirschner baptized a father and his daughter at First Baptist Church and extended the hand of fellowship. "We praise God for His saving grace. It is still wonderfully evident today," says Retha Menke.

■ **SWAN RIVER, MB.** The Rev. Neal Effa welcomed four new members into the congregation of Temple Baptist Church, three by baptism and one by letter of transfer. —*Evelyn Bredin*

■ **TRENTON, IL.** Three special observances were included in one Sunday morning service at Grace Community Baptist Church. Pastor Steve Beardsley baptized six people, who were given the hand of fellowship by church members. A dedication service and the ordinance of communion were also held. "What a special day!" declares Mrs. Gene Luginbuhl.

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** Pastor Gordon Freiter baptized three couples as a recommitment of their faith. This was a first for Rowandale Baptist Church to witness this event of persons who had been baptized previously in another congregation. Seven sets of parents and their children were dedicated during a morning worship service at Rowandale.

Ken Dueck, associate pastor, announced the beginning of a fourth growth group in September.

Greg McGraw, youth pastor, and a group of young people organized several fundraising events to cover expenses for the youth to travel to and participate in the Triennial Conference.

The Junior High School Class helped to renovate an apartment in the inner city in conjunction with New Life Ministries.

"It is exciting to see the youth learning that there is more to Christianity than just sitting in Sunday school and warming the pew," says McGraw. —*Helga Kahler*

Wishek church hosts family crusade

■ **WISHEK, ND.** The First Baptist Church held a family crusade this summer. During this week, The Light Company (Willie and Mavis Watts of University Park, IA.) ministered through puppets, music, stories, object lessons, and contests. Each evening, a number of children and young people made decisions for Christ. —*Peggy Bettenhausen*

McDermot Ave. children present outreach musical

■ **WINNIPEG, MB.** One hundred ten children, ages three to thirteen, from McDermot Ave. Baptist Church, enthusiastically presented the musical/drama, "G.T. and the Halo Express," to approximately 300 people at each of two performances. The children enthusiastically sang the Scripture verse

songs. Many non-churched community people attended. Rev. W.

Dietrich is associate pastor. —*S. Mueller*

COMMITTED TO GIVE

Alpena church hosts concert for California earthquake victims

■ **ALPENA, MI.** The Word of Life Baptist Church hosted a Musical Interlude, which included most of the churches in the community. Each church provided special music. The Church was filled to capacity for the service, which featured a combined choir. A freewill offering was received for the California Earthquake Relief Fund. The Rev. Fred Sweet is senior pastor. —*Helen Ehman*

Wishek church kicks off new building project

■ **WISHEK, ND.** The First Baptist Church kicked-off a new building project with a celebration. It included a potluck dinner and a film showing the building of the original church.

The new building project includes expanding the foyer, putting in upstairs restrooms, and making the church handicap accessible. —*Peggy Bettenhausen*

COMMANDED TO CARE

Spletzer talked about importance of prayer and example

■ **GOLDEN PRAIRIE, SK.** Two children were dedicated recently by the Rev. Eric Spletzer, who addressed the parents on their vital roles of prayer and example. —*Eric Spletzer*

Church sends pastor to Israel

■ **GRAND FORKS, ND.** Grace Baptist Church and the Putz family surprised pastor Phyl Putz and his wife Jo on their 25th wedding anniversary with a ten-day trip to Israel. They witnessed first hand the tensions between Jews and Arabs. —*Vickie Haas*

CHALLENGED TO GROW

Valleyview church spends a week in fasting and prayer

■ **VALLEYVIEW, AB.** Emmanuel Baptist Church observed a Week of Fasting and Prayer. Encouraged to fast for one day that week, the congregation was also invited to

pray at the altar each morning from 7 to 8 a.m. and each afternoon from 5 to 6 p.m., and anytime Saturday.

For two or three Sundays prior to this, the leadership encouraged members to fill in prayer request cards, which were

used throughout the week of prayer. About 60 cards were received, some with several requests on them.

"Oh, how the Lord met us!" exclaims Pastor Allen Unger. "The following Sunday we had the type of service that I think I have never witnessed in my whole life! In fact, we were about ten minutes into the planned Order of Service when God broke through and literally took over. People started sharing. People made things right. People asked for prayer. People said they needed to come forward. All of this with little more than being asked to share how God had spoken to them the previous week. One man stood up and said that he had decided never to come forward in this church, but he knew he had to come now. In fact, he was sitting in the balcony and down he came to pray at the Lord's Throne of Mercy and Grace. It was absolutely amazing! God really spoke to us."

Thornhill catches vision for growth

■ **CALGARY, AB.** The Board and Diaconate Board of Thornhill Baptist Church met together at Camp Caroline, Caroline, AB, for a weekend "Visioning Workshop." The Board and Diaconate recognized that in order for the church to grow and go forward, a vision had to be in place for everyone to pull in the

same direction and work toward the same goals. With unity among the Lay and Pastoral Leadership, they developed a vision statement, which they ultimately presented to the church body.

The Vision Statement recognizes Thornhill Baptist Church's uniqueness, identifies how God could use Thornhill to fulfill its Purpose Statement, and focuses on supporting an articulated vision instead of assuming all have the same vision. Thornhill's purpose statement, developed four years ago, states, "As Thornhill Baptist Church, we are committed to look UPWARD to worship and glorify God, work INWARD to build the body in fellowship and discipleship, reach OUTWARD through love, evangelism, and missions."

With this in mind, the Board put together the Vision Statement as follows:

"UPWARD: Our vision at Thornhill Baptist Church is of a gracious community of believers growing in increasing circles of ministry as each member glorifies God through their life.

"INWARD: This community, as a church family, will be nurtured for ministry by relevant Bible teaching, celebrative worship, and cultivation of belonging and caring through various group ministries.

2000

Our Strategic Focus On The Biblical Imperatives

"OUTWARD: Our church family will reach out to demonstrate God's welcome by accepting diversity, as a reflection of God's richness, by pursuing fresh ministries as a reflection of God's creativity, and by caring practically for our neighborhood and friends as a reflection of God's Love for all.

We are now working within all of Thornhill's ministry groups to identify what each group can and will do to support our Vision.

Finally, our Lay and Pastoral Leadership have put in place a measurement mechanism to hold ourselves accountable for advancing God's vision for Thornhill. We look forward to serving God with renewed focus and enthusiasm. The Rev. Don Harder is senior pastor. —Fred and Renè Weiss

"Saturday Night Life" held at Word of Life

■ ALPENA, MI. The Rev. Timothy Powell, associate pastor of Word of Life Baptist Church, leads "Saturday Night Life," a new contemporary style service held every third Saturday of the month.

At one of these services, different people were interviewed at a downtown mall. They were asked, "How do you fill the Black Hole?" It was interesting to hear what "the Black Hole" meant to different people.

Pastor Tim explained at the service that everyone needs to fill the Black Hole, but not with temporary things. Only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can fill this Black Hole to satisfy and bring fulfillment. —Helen Ehman

McDermot Church hosts "Dare to Be the Best"

■ WINNIPEG, MB. McDermot Avenue Baptist Church hosted a weekend Christian Education Conference, "Dare to Be the Best." Approximately 100 people from various churches in Winnipeg and southern Manitoba were in attendance.

Guest speaker, the Rev. Jonathan Thigpen, Chicago, IL, spoke on children, youth, and adult ministries. He challenged attendees to use their skills and abilities to be the best educators they can be. The Rev. Werner Dietrich is associate pastor. —S. Mueller

Aberdeen women learn to seek loving relationships

■ ABERDEEN, SD. A one-day women's retreat was held at Calvary Baptist Church. Despite bad weather and roads, 70 women gathered to watch a video series, "Hidden Keys to Loving Relationships."

"Good food, fellowship, sharing, and praying together strengthened us in our relationships with each other," says E. Weisenburger.

Word of Life dedicates new building

■ ALPENA, MI. Word of Life Baptist Church dedicated its new building to the honor and glory of our Lord. Members and friends celebrated the completion of the 25,500 sq. ft. facility, located on 18 acres along the Thunder Bay River. The sanctuary seats 550 (720 when the balcony is finished). The facility also includes a fellowship hall, seating 260, classrooms, and offices.

The event started with a combined Sunday school musical. Special speakers included Dr. John Binder, N.A.B. Conference executive director, and Dr. Herman Effa, N.A.B. Conference missions director. Each brought inspiring messages, emphasizing a new church with a new vision.

Displays informed the community of some of the programs available.

At the Dedication Service, preceded by a performance of a handbell choir from a local church, Effa gave the invocation, Rev. Jake Ehman, area minister and former pastor, the prayer of dedication, and Dr. John Binder delivered the challenge, "A New Vision."

The Church has been the Ripley Blvd. Baptist Church in the past. With a new location, the Church changed its name to the Word of Life Baptist Church. The theme throughout the years has been "Holding Forth the Word of Life" (Philippians 2:16). The Rev. Fred Sweet is pastor; the Rev. Tim Powell, associate pastor. —Judy Priest and Helen Ehman

Moore speaks at Ridgewood Baptist

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. Ridgewood Baptist Church held a Woman's Banquet, featuring guest speaker Betty Moore.

"How Can We Say No?" Moore asked. When we are in God's will, and He gives us a direction in which to go, how can we say no? "Sometimes God's plans are challenges, but we need to be willing to wait and listen to His direction, and then be obedient to His call. Have faith in God and His timing for your life," says Moore.

"At the end of the banquet, I doubt if there was one person who hadn't made a new commitment to God and His plan for their lives," says Barbara Boswell.

COMPELLED TO SERVE

Moosehorn church celebrates 75th anniversary

■ MOOSEHORN, MB. Moosehorn Baptist Church celebrated its 75th anniversary August 21-22, 1994. Former pastors, the Rev. Bert Milner and the Rev. Bruno Voss served as

keynote speakers.

The weekend began with a barbecue, followed by a time of reminiscing. Sunday concluded with a morning worship service, dinner, and an afternoon celebration. The Rev. Steven Brown is pastor. —Vera Loewen

IN MEMORIAM

■ BATKE, HEINRICH (90); Edmonton, AB; born Aug. 30, 1903, in Antonowka, Poland; died Feb. 8, 1994; married Lydia Batke in December 1926; member, Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB; survived by his wife, Lydia; four sons: Daniel (Erma), Benjamin, Adolf (Elke), and Paul (Dorothy), all of Edmonton, AB; one daughter, Tabea (Willy) Schulz, Sherwood Park, AB; daughter-in-law, Rita, Edmonton, AB; fifteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; preceded in death by two infants and one son, Rudy, 1987; the Reverends Fred Merke and Jake Leverette, pastors, funeral service.

■ KLEIN, FREDERICK E. (94); Sacramento, CA; born Nov. 1, 1899, to Wilhelm and Fredericka Klein in Hoffnungstal, South Russia; died April 26, 1994; married Ella Schrenk on Sept. 26, 1926; graduated from N.A.B. Seminary, 1926; ordained Oct. 13, 1926, Bismarck, ND; active and interim pastor for more than 60 years, with ministries to N.A.B. Conference churches in Bismarck, ND; Washburn, ND; Wasco, CA; Stafford, KS; Colfax, WA; St. Bonifacius, MN; Hope, KS; and Elk Grove, CA; member, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, CA; survived by one daughter, Mrs. Florence E. Royer of Huntsville, AL; one son, Eldon D. Klein of Penryn, CA; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; preceded in death by his wife, Ella, Feb. 26, 1994; Pastors Ron Norman, Ed Bartel, and Merle Brenner, funeral services.

■ MAY, WILLIAM (BILL) THOMAS (93); Jacksonville, AR; born Nov. 1, 1900, to Lee and Henrietta (Densmore) May in Milledgeville, TN; died April 5, 1994; married Mary Garrett on April 28, 1927; member, First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA; survived by his wife, Mary; one daughter, Marie M. Dunn, Jacksonville, AR; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two brothers; one sister; preceded in death by a son, William C. May; the Rev. Dr. David Mitchell and the Rev. Merle Brenner, funeral service.

■ OTTO, EWALD; White Rock, BC; born in Alexandronka, Russia, to Wilhelm and Marie Otto; died April 16, 1994; married Gertrude Stober in February 1928; immigrated to Canada in 1928; faithful member, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris, MB; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC; survived by his wife, Gertrude; three daughters: Frieda (Arthur) Zink, Coquitlam, BC; Eleanore (Richard) Carson, Toronto, ON; Donna (David) Spence, Port Moody, BC; one brother; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; the Rev. Allan Strohschein, pastor, funeral service.

■ PRITZKAU, JENNIE (92); Napoleon, ND; born Feb. 2, 1902, to Edward and Grace (Peters) Lubbers in Worthing, SD; died April 2, 1994; married William Pritzkau, Feb. 23, 1921; faithful member, Sunday school teacher, Women's Missionary Fellowship, Napoleon Baptist Church, ND; survived by three daughters: Dorothy (Don) Ganoung; Shirley (Ken)

Cook; Janice (Jack) Beaver; three grandchildren; preceded in death by her husband, William, in 1992; Pastor Edward Kopf, funeral service.

■ SIELER, ROSE M. (77); Plevna, MT; born May 23, 1916, to Jacob and Caroline Freier Schopp in Plevna, MT; died April 30, 1994; married Arthur Sieler on June 2, 1938; member, First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT; survived by two daughters: Ruth (Gale) Pust, Sidney, MT; Naomi Sieler, Plevna, MT; and four grandsons; preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arthur; four sisters; and a brother; Pastor Martin Schmidt and Pastor Mike Backhaus, funeral service.

■ SEIDEL, ELMER H. (73); Aberdeen, SD; born March 5, 1920, to Carl and Pauline (Zeeb) Seidel in Streeter, ND; died Feb. 9, 1994; married Viola Moser on May 30, 1939; active member, trustee, Sunday school superintendent and teacher, deacon, choir member, Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD; board member, trustee, and counselor, Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Medina, ND; survived by his wife, Viola; three daughters, LaJune (Edward) Eifert, Scottsdale, AZ; Diana (Dub) Sweat, Ft. Walton Beach, FL; Sheryl (Lyle) Grenz, Sioux Falls, SD; one brother; one sister; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; preceded in death by his parents; one son, Lester; one brother and two sisters; the Reverends John Hisel and Steve Miller, pastors, funeral service.

■ TETZ, ARTHUR (74); Trochu, AB; born Dec. 23, 1919, to Fred and Sophie Tetz, east of Trochu, AB; died March 14, 1994; married Lilly Hein on Jan. 10, 1943; served as trustee, moderator, deacon, and Sunday school teacher, Trochu Baptist Church; survived by his wife Lilly; two daughters: June (Mirrel) Haller, Trochu, AB; Donna (Alan) Mascord, Portland, OR; one son, Ken (Judy) Tetz, Hinton, AB; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two brothers; one sister; predeceased by his parents; the Rev. Dean Eisner, pastor, funeral service.

■ THIESSEN, EDNA (80); Kelowna, BC; died Dec. 9, 1993; member, Trinity Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC; survived by her husband, Ed; two daughters: Bev Fee (Brian Lainchbury), Westbank, BC; Myrna (Norm) McDougall, Saskatoon, SK; two sons: Ken (Kathy) Thiessen, Drayton Valley, AB; Murray (Susan) Thiessen, Surrey, BC; nine grandchildren; one brother; five sisters; many friends and large extended family; predeceased by her parents and two sisters; The Rev. Dr. P. Tim Schroeder and the Rev. George Breikreuz; funeral service.

■ WERTH, ALBERT (81); Tacoma, WA; died March 29, 1994; married Lydia Werth on Dec. 29, 1943; faithful member, deacon, and greeter, Calvary Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA; survived by his wife, Lydia; two daughters: Marlene Werth, Taos, NM; Linda (Donald) Jezek, Gig Harbor, WA; one grandson, Jacob; one sister and one aunt; Pastor Don Burnett, funeral service.

Reducing or Avoiding Federal Estate Taxes

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

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

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

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

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

1) Pay the tax. Obviously, that's the most expensive alternative for the estate.

2) Postpone the tax. Under certain circumstances, where there is a family business, there is an option which allows you to postpone estate taxes for up to 15 years, with interest only for the first five years at rates as low as four percent. Or,

3) Avoid the tax. To avoid the tax, the property subject to tax is transferred to a specially designed charitable trust that pays income to a charitable organization for a period of years. At the end of the trust period, the property is distributed to the family members, either at a greatly reduced tax or totally tax-free, depending upon the design of the trust.

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Please use the coupon to request your copy. ☐

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

Pastors volunteer to serve in Bulgaria

A new opportunity for Volunteers-in-Missions begins in September as three N.A.B. Conference pastors travel to Bulgaria on September 27. Following the annual meeting of the Baptists in Sofia, September 20-25, the pastors will travel to various churches to preach the Gospel, evangelize, encourage, and fellowship with the Baptists.

The first group of pastors to serve will be Harry Haas, South Dakota area minister; Don Richter, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR; and Ralph Cook, pastor, South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD.

"Most of our members are new Christians, and they have a need to be taught how to grow in Christ," says the Rev. Bozhidar Igoff, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. "In the last three years, there has been explosive growth in our churches, but now, because of strong attacks from the Orthodox Church and political parties, the growth has started to decline." The Union is composed of 30 churches with about 3,000 members. ☐

On Witnessing

When the Brazilian soccer team won the World Cup, Jorginho lifted the Cup high and said, "To God be the Glory!"

Of the nine Christian believers on the team, four are Baptists.

A tract containing the written testimony of Jorginho, known for his Christian witness on the team, was distributed during the World Cup games. A woman who received one of the tracts threw it away. Later, she wished she would have kept it and asked for another. After reading it and upon her return to Brazil, she called a Baptist pastor in the city where she works. He met with her and led her to the Lord. She is General Manager for American

Ministerial Changes

North American Baptist Seminary Administrators Change Positions

Four administrators assumed new positions effective July 1.



Ben Engbrecht's role at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, from Administrative Vice President to Vice President for Planned Giving. Engbrecht has served at the Seminary since 1981.



Marvin Dewey has been at N.A.B. Seminary since 1982. On July 1 he was promoted from Director of Development to Vice President for Seminary Advancement.



Formerly the Director of Business Affairs at N.A.B. Seminary, **Betty Poppens** has been promoted to Vice President for Business Operations. She began her service in 1989.



Linda (Pelzer) Outka's role changed from Director of Public Relations and Marketing to Director of Public Relations and Human Resources on July 1. She has been at N.A.B. Seminary since 1989.

Mr. Warren Schmidt to youth pastor, Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB. —*Helga Riemer*

Mr. Larry Dyck to pastor, Lakeview Heights Baptist Church, Kelowna, BC.

The Rev. Marvin Rust to pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, effective July 1.

The Rev. Allan Strohschein concluded 14 months of interim

ministry at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, effective May 31, 1994.

Mr. Shane Valouch to youth pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Vernon, BC.

Dr. David Korb to pastor, Village Green Baptist Church, Glen Ellyn, IL, effective July.

The Rev. Harley Betzolt to pastor, Bible Baptist Church, La Crosse, WI.

The Rev. Scott Pickard from pastor, North Freedom Baptist Church, North Freedom, WI, to pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Kyle, TX, effective July 2.

At a farewell service, the First Baptist Church, Sumner, IA, honored **the Rev. Arnie and Mrs. Loleta Kirschner** for their years of service. We thank God for their loving kindness in serving our congregation over the years. —*Retha Menke*

The Rev. Doug Schultz and his family recently left Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, to serve Zion Baptist Church in Terrace, BC. "We have very much appreciated the ministry that Doug and Janet have had with us; they will be missed." —*D. Panton*.

On May 15, Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS, welcomed the **Rev. Don and Cathy Mashburn** and daughters as its new pastor and family. The Rev. Herb Vetter, Spearfish, SD, served as interim pastor for several months. —*La Norma Kreutziger*

The Rev. Ken MacDonald, Edmonton, AB, received the Doctor of Ministry degree from N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, on May 21, 1994.

The Rev. Morley Schultz retired from full-time pastoral ministry, effective August 31, 1994. Ordained Upper Falls Baptist, Red Lake Road, ON, May 30, 1961, he

served as pastor First Baptist, Ridgedale, SK, 1957-59; Upper Falls Baptist, Red Lake Road, ON, 1959-62; Fridhem Baptist, Ferintosh, AB, 1962-65; Wiesenthal Baptist, Millet, AB, 1965-69; Central Baptist, Yorkton, SK, 1970-78; Emmanuel Baptist, Morris, MB, 1978-87; Central Baptist, Winnipeg, MB, 1987-90; and Whiteshell Baptist, Seven Sisters Falls, MB, 1991-94.

The Rev. Alan Ingalls, pastor, Creston Baptist Church, Creston, NE, was ordained into the Christian ministry, March 20, 1994. Participating in the service were the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area minister, ordination sermon, "The Ultimate Aim of the Christian Minister"; the Rev. Richard Lute; charge to the church and to the candidate; the Rev. Milton Zeeb, welcome to the Baptist ministry and ordination certificate; the Rev. William Effa, ordination prayer; Lowell and Carol Otto special music. —*Henrietta Scheffler*

Dr. Glen G. Scorgie, academic vice-president of N.A.B. College, has been appointed to a two-year term as President of the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association (CETA). This Association provides a forum for scholarly contributions to the renewal of theology and church in Canada. CETA's recent meetings in Calgary included an extensive discussion of Stanley Grenz's recent work on *Revisiting Evangelical Theology* (IVP, 1993).

The General Council appointed **Raymond Desjardins** of Nepean, ON, and **Al Fritz** of Lethbridge, AB, to the CEIF Board and **Bill Konner** of Vancouver, BC, and **Barbara Fiegas** of Lynbrook, NY, to a second six-year term on the N.A.B. Seminary Board of Trustees.

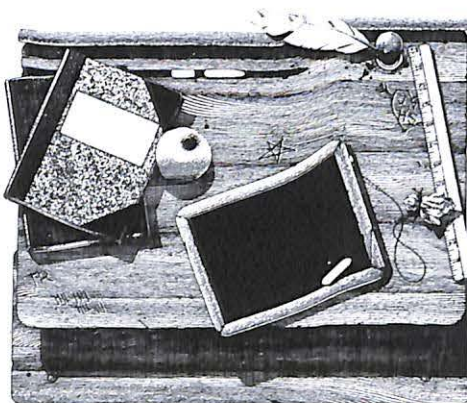
Mr. Walter W. Grosser, 98, La Grange Park, IL, moderator of the N.A.B. Conference, 1952-58, died June 9, 1994.

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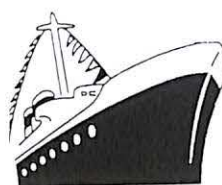
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Dedication Sunday: Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA

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