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BAPTIST HERALD



A Song of Loneliness

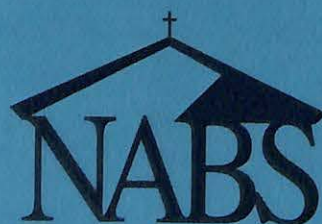
Psalm 42:1-11

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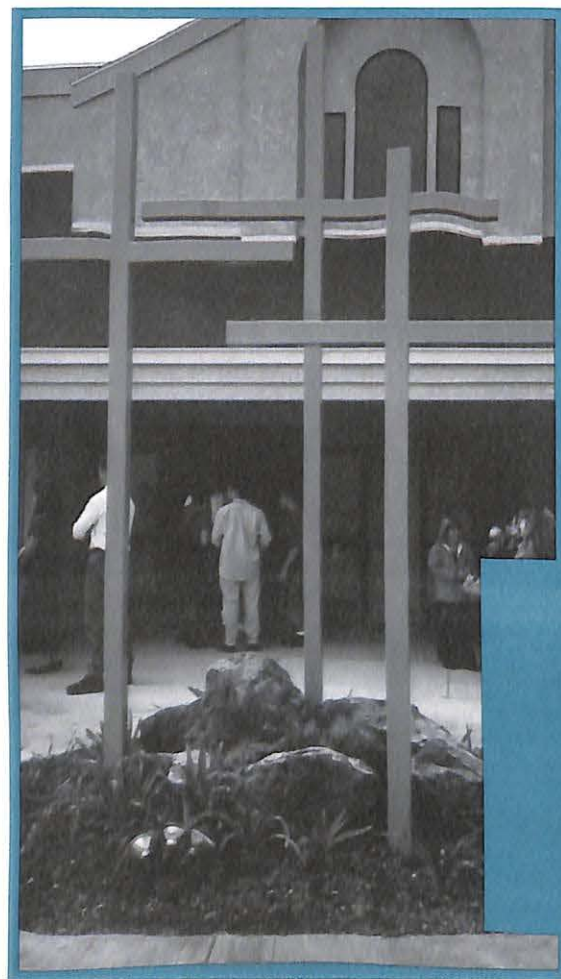
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Barbara J. Binder, *editor*
Phyllis Hill, *subscriptions*
Holly Fann, *assistant*
Jean Gingrich, *assistant*
Dorothy Eisaman, *typesetting*
Joyce Wagner, *design*

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Our Passion for Reaching a Lost World

by Dennis Dearmin



had found in his experience was to identify the needs of the people you were trying to reach, meet that need, and then share the love and provision of Jesus Christ with them.

It seemed so simple to me. No fancy programs, no limiting buzz words, just identify the

and in another book, *The Acts*, written by Paul. I was sure it was relative to a quote I had read from Jesus Christ in *Matthew*. I decided that this would be my methodology for reaching people for Christ if I were ever put in such a position.

Less than one year later, my Lord called me from an extensive career in law enforcement into full-time vocational Christian ministry. A simple telephone call to my friend Wayne Bibelheimer, associate pastor, Quail Lakes Baptist Church, resulted in my becoming a church planter in Tracy, California.

The marching orders: Build a church with a desire to bring light into a darkened world, to find the lost and set them free with the person of Jesus Christ, and to build them up for the purposes of them going out and doing the same thing.

With this in mind, it wasn't too hard to set our desires in the form of what some now call a mission statement, "Meeting the Needs of the Community through the Truth of God's Word."

Having been a police officer for more than 17 years made it rather simple for me to understand how

dark the world was. It helped as well to understand the significant needs of the people. I saw that the only true remedy that met any of man's needs was a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The battle plans were identified: identify the physical need, meet that need, bridge the gap, love them, share with them, and stay with them. It wasn't flashy, yet it was very costly because it meant going into a sin-soaked world and bringing the lost out.

Need: Develop an Expository Preaching Ministry

In developing the vision God had given me to reach and rear a lost people, I realized the first need was to develop a preaching ministry that would expositionally exhort the truth of the Word of God. I had seen that one of the problems of the church was that the exhortation from its pulpit had begun to mask the message of God to such an extent that it began to become difficult to discern whether you were listening to a top ten seminar on health, wealth, success, love, or anger, or a message from the Word of God.

I knew from dealing with humanity from its pit, that though people didn't like the boldness of the message of truth from God's Word, that it was that truth that could only bring change. I knew that Paul had instructed both Timothy and Titus of the importance of preaching sound doctrine and not that which entertained or tickled the ears.

Paul pointed out in I Corinthians 1:21-25 that the wisdom which came from man was spiritually ineffective. I realized that all of the human philosophies failed to provide one single shred of remedy for sin. Though I knew not why, I realized that God had chosen the preaching of His Word as the primary means of seeing people saved.

It became apparent that of the utmost importance in reaching and rearing those we came in contact with was a strong, Biblical, expository preaching ministry. From this ministry, many persons were drawn by God to examine the claims of Christ and commit their lives to Him.

Need: Reach the Youth of the Community

The second need I realized was that of reaching the youth of our community. If statistics hold any value, I knew that anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of the decisions made for Jesus Christ were made before their 18th birthday. Therefore, we needed to have a passion to reach the largest group of those responding—the youth.

Within the first six months of our ministry and through some absolutely miraculous events, we hired Ron Bylow as our youth pastor. His responsibilities are to solely reach out to lost youth, to nurture those youth, equip them for ministry, and implement these youth into ministry.

Through that ministry, more than 250 youth from sixth grade through college age have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Many were brought, taught, and led in their commitment by one of the youth in the ministry.

Need: Deal with Dependencies

Thirdly, I realized that if we were going to reach the adult population of a community we would have to be poised and prepared to deal with dependencies. Meet this need of helping some understand, others overcome, and all of them encouraged to be dependable, not dependent, and we would have opened a massive door to sharing God's plan of salvation.

One of the very first adults to receive Christ at Valley was a man

who came out of such imprisonment. After a time of restoration and mentoring, he began a ministry patterned after one begun at Sunrise Baptist Church in Fair Oaks, California, by the acronym ADAM—Alcohol and Drug Abuse Ministry.

Out of this ministry have come more than 100 persons who have made first-time commitments. Without exaggeration, approximately 25 percent of the core membership has come to Christ or in recommitment to worship at Valley either directly or indirectly through this ministry.

We then expanded this ministry to reach the youth who had been forgotten, imprisoned, or impoverished. The MOSTLY, Ministry of Saving the Lost Youth, ministry began. Through this outreach, whose primary force is into the juvenile detention centers, we continue to see an average of about five first-time decisions for Christ a month, with more than 100 decisions having been made since we began.

Need: Experiences through Missions Project

Though evangelism begins at home, it must not end there. Through our youth ministry, we teamed up with Quail Lakes Baptist Church in Stockton for a hands-on-mission project into Mexico. Since that time, Pat, one of the dedicated men in our Church, has directed our missions ministries and orchestrated trips that have involved more than 20 percent of our regular attendees and seen well over 100 persons make first-time decisions through the Bible schools, *JESUS* film, and other outreaches.

Through this ministry, Rich and Laurie, a young couple who received Christ here at Valley, made a full-time commitment to missions. They plan to begin serving in Mexico in spring 1996. Valley will be the sending agency.

Dr. Harold Hunter, speaking to my graduating seminary class in 1986, issued a challenge that in starting new churches or bringing growth to existing churches that the key he

need, meet it, and use that to bridge the gap to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ—the One True Needs Meeter with them.

I remember reading that in a book on church growth by James

We've implored our people to bridge the gap to a lost and dying world. We've given permission to succeed and fail. Our people are partners in the ministry of the Church to reach the lost, restore the failed and fatigued, and to build up the body to regenerate the Christian faith to the next generation.

This personal involvement caught on with "partners in ministry" beginning ministries that meet the special needs of reaching and rearing the women of the church and community, the men, and the boys and girls as well as adults who don't believe but want to examine the Bible.

We have licensed Becky, one of our women, to a ministry as a hospital chaplain. We have vision to start a live-in ministry to Youth without Hope, a placement center for educational, vocational, and Biblical training, where we can give those youth reached in our MOST-LY ministry a real opportunity to see their lives changed by building a solid foundation.

We are soliciting resumes for a Hispanic speaking pastor to begin a mission outreach church, within Valley, to reach the 22 percent first generation Hispanics in our community. It is an attitude of identifying a need, praying for the resources, and taking Jesus to them.

Perhaps a key scripture that identifies the desire is found in Paul's letter to the church at Philippi:

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers, for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the beginning until now" (1:3-5). □



The Rev. Dennis Dearmin is the pastor of Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA.

A Lay Leader's View of the Vineyard

by Pat McMaster

Have you ever entertained the question . . . Do I really have a passion for the Gospel and a heart for the lost?

I have to answer both questions with a simple "no." I don't have that passion, and I don't have that heart, but God does. I praise Him for fueling that process in me.

"God is God, and I am not" is a statement that reduces it all to the lowest common denominator. We are not capable of any good in and of ourselves. When God calls and justifies through the deposition of faith and the Holy Spirit, we then begin to develop that passion for God and His purpose. It is then that we begin to understand in agreement with God our role as missionaries.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "Have you no wish for others to be saved, then you are not saved yourself; you can be of sure that." I believe this to be true. If the Spirit

of God truly dwells within us, won't we adopt the same desires as God?

Until the time God broke my heart for His global purpose in the darkness of the Sonora Desert in Mexico, I don't really recall the salvation of others (other than that of family and friends) being something that came to mind often.

We need to pray that God will remove the peripheral trash from our minds and lives and cause us to concentrate solely on His purpose and our individual roles in accomplishing that purpose.

I've discovered that the wonderful stories and accounts of missionaries have a common thread among them. They have adopted a "limitless confidence" in Jesus Christ. We, too, can have that confidence if we will only build our relationship with God on His terms and not ours.

Pat McMaster is the Missions Director at Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA.

Trying to Live a Christ-like Life

by Richard Barcelona

On December 23, 1989, my family experienced a heart-softening, eye-opening moment. My step-brother and his friend were in a fatal accident that left one young man (21 years old) dead and my step-brother in a coma with little chance to live.

We praise God for some close friends who shared God's love with us during this time. To God be the glory, for He used this situation to bring my wife and me into a relationship that has grown and blossomed into a wonderful and event-filled walk with our Lord.

In Matthew 9:36, Jesus feels compassion for the crowd before Him because of their helplessness . . . like sheep without a shepherd. It is this helplessness that has become most apparent to me since my redemption. I pray each day for the Lord to lay His compassion for the lost on my heart. He knows there are days I feel like Jonah (Jonah 4).

It hurts my heart to see people groping in the dark, like I once was, bumping into each other, stubbing toes and getting hurt

deeply because they don't know how to turn the light on. They just need to see: "People need the Lord."

It is for this reason, I try to live a Christ-like life and share my faith

not only through words, but also through, what I believe, is even a more powerful statement, my walk. My friends and family cannot deny the changes in the lives of my wife and me. There are still many struggles. The Lord reminds us daily

that we need Him, every second of every minute, every minute of every hour, 24 hours a day.

Richard and Lori Barcelona are missionaries-elect to Mexico from Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA.

My Chains Turned into Tools

by Kathy Lautenslager

In my life, I have never been one who did anything well or for any length of time unless my whole heart and mind was captured by it. When Jesus came into my life not only did He capture my heart and mind, but also He ransomed them and set me free.

His mercy and grace took a sad,

self-absorbed lost young woman and is changing her to a strong, balanced, directed woman in Christ, for Christ, and because of Christ. It is for this that I will spend every moment I am allowed to share the wonder and hope that is Jesus. To share His transforming Word of Life that others, too, can experience renewal and restoration.

I want a front row seat to see the light of God come into their eyes

and the snapping of the chains that bind them one by one.

It is such a privilege to be able to witness and teach God's Word. He took my chains and turned them into tools to do His will and to help others to refashion their chains.

Kathy Lautenslager is a member of Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA.

My Passion for Sharing the Gospel

by Bobby Utter

My passion for sharing the Gospel comes from the depth and the intensity of my relationship with Christ. It comes from my times of prayer and meditation. It comes from my time in His Word as I see His will and desire for me (and all His children). My passion to share the Gospel comes from obedience and being totally committed and submitted to Him.

God wills that none be lost and all be saved (Acts 16:31). He wills that all be forgiven (1 John 2:1-2). That all be born again (John 3:3-7) and that all have eternal life through and with Him (Romans 6:23).

My passion to share the Gospel comes from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), "that the Holy Spirit was given that we would be His witnesses to the ends of the earth."

My passion comes from seeing people reconcile first to God and then to others. It intensifies as I see

people's lives restored and their needs being met. What an honor and privilege to be used by God—that God would give us the compassion of meeting these needs of others.

"Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? (Luke 14:13-14, 18-19). The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:37-40).

This passion comes from seeing the battered and abused child not only becoming a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) but also forgiving and seeing this same child praying for the salvation of the abuser (Matthew 6:14-15).

My strength to carry the Gospel comes from Him alone. When I

enter into His throne room of mercy and grace and fall face down before Him, it is here where all my weaknesses and His strength finally meet. Where my confession rolls and His forgiveness flows...where my soul retreats and is restored...where my passion is once again stimulated and increased to an overflowing state...uncontained, unhindered, and unstoppable ("For greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world"). All this while I am joyfully being prepared to get up, go out, and make disciples of all nations...knowing He is with me to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).


So I'll finish as I started. My passion for the Gospel comes from the depth and intensity of my relationship with Him.

Bobby Utter is a member of Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA.

A Song of Loneliness

Psalm 42:1-11

by Frank Veninga



England's former educator, W. Monk Gibbon, painted a gloomy picture of man's quest for knowledge. He divided man's life into four stages. The first was *Childhood*—when he knows a lot but is unaware that he knows anything. The second is *Youth*—when he knows nothing but is under the impression that he knows everything. The third is *Middle Age*—when he begins to acquire a little knowledge and understanding of what should have been obvious a long time ago. The fourth stage he classifies as the *Senior Years*—when he has really learned something but has either forgotten it or else is unable to find anyone to impart it to. Rather gloomy, isn't it?

Based on my observation of contemporary life and living there is for many, including Christians . . . more trouble than peace . . . more sorrow than joy . . . more darkness than sunshine . . . more evil than good . . . more fear than faith . . . More hate than love . . . more misunderstanding than understanding . . . more storms than tranquility . . . more disunity than unity.

Is what we sing in the pew really true in our lives? You see the mind and the mood of our day spells TROUBLE — trouble in society, trouble in the home, trouble between husband and wife, trouble between children and parents, and some times trouble in the church.

Now I'm not a pessimist or alarmist. I like to be a realist. Is the following still true in our confused and bewildered twentieth century? "In my heart there rings a

melody." "I'm happy in the service of the King." "There is sunshine in my soul today." "You taught me how to watch and pray, and live rejoicing every day." "God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way."

The psalmist understood loneliness

With the above background, read Psalm 42 . . . a gold mine of truth. The Psalmist brings his need to the One who can meet it. He knows the source of his need, namely God. Here is the innermost expression of a man in exile.

The Psalm has no heading. If there were, it would likely read, "A Song of Loneliness." Two key thoughts are expressed: The soul's thirst for God (42:2) and an expression of fading joy (42:4).

Here we have one of the most powerful utterances of the heart-sick and despondent. The Psalmist is immersed in the sea of misery. He's overwhelmed by sorrow and surrounded by scoffers. However, the author is a man of deep faith who is somehow removed from Jerusalem and the Temple, which he loved. God seems momentarily removed and absent. The absence of God is bitter.

The psalmist affirms: we are not alone

He cries out for God with all the intensity of one who knows God and cares supremely for Him. This longing is described as a "thirst." The body cannot live without water; the soul cannot survive without God. He's convinced that no one can rescue him but the Living God.

Twice he says: "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, My Savior and my God."

Twice his friends and neighbors say, "Where is your God?" He

himself says, "My soul is downcast within me." Again he pleads, "Why have you forgotten me?"

Does God forsake us? Does God forget us? No! Listen to the assuring words of David in Psalm 138:7-10:

"Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

The Psalmist gives us assurance that God is with us in all experiences of life. He's with us in joy and sorrow, in life and death, in health and illness, in wealth and poverty, in loss and success.

In spite of these marvelous assurances, we seem to be questioning and doubting. Perhaps it's true today what the prophet Joel said, "Surely the joy of the people is withered away" (1:12).

The joy of living is gone — life is drab.

The joy of marriage has faded — the spark is gone.

The joy of parenting is a burden — kids are a problem!

The joy of conversation (communication) — is vanished.

The joy of friendship — disappeared.

The joy of spiritual fervor — evaporated.

Are you lonely? Perhaps you can memorize the one-liners of Scripture, namely, "Happy is the man who has God" . . . "Happy is he who finds life" . . . "Happy is he who trusts in the Lord" . . . "Happy is he who keeps the law" . . . "Happy is he who fears the Lord" . . . "Happy is he who finds wisdom and understanding."

Living in a retirement center, I find numerous people, although surrounded by others, downhearted, discouraged, and lonely. This

may be equally true of individuals in the church or community. Their attitude is akin to the Psalmist.

Recently, a lady in a wheelchair said to me as tears rolled down her cheeks, "My family and friends have forgotten me. Nobody calls; nobody visits me in the retirement home. I'm all alone."

If you are a vibrant Christian, may I propose a meaningful and much appreciated ministry. Mark Twain said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment." Abraham Lincoln gave this formula, "A drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall."

Resolve to pay a lonely soul a compliment. Spur the downcast on with praise. Use your phone. Send a card. Offer a prayer.

Dr. James L. Lynch in his inspiring book, *The Broken Heart*, shows that lonely people live significantly shorter lives than the general population. As a specialist in psychosomatic disease, he cites a wealth of statistics to demonstrate the unhealthy aspects of isolation and the magical powers of human contact.

Someone has wisely said, "All the water in the ocean cannot sink a ship unless it gets in the ship." All the sorrow, sadness, contrariness, and loneliness cannot sink a person unless these get in the heart and mind.

Dr. B. C. Schreiber in his thought-provoking book, *Meditations for Mature Christians*, quotes the late Billy Sunday as having said, "if you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere." Says Schreiber, "Let us repair the leak."

"Why are you downcast, O my soul . . . Put your hope in God." □

Dr. Frank Veninga, former N.A.B. Seminary president, lives in Minneapolis, MN.

FAMILY LOYALTY

Being True to Each Other

• A couple arrives late for dinner, and the husband announces with irritation, "I'm awfully sorry we're late, but Anne didn't get it together in time."

• The parents get together with relatives and start talking about 13-year-old Virginia who is sitting with them. "She's an emotional wreck — if you correct her she bursts into tears and any little disappointment becomes a major event."

• The little boy with a speech difficulty looks to his older brother for help when other boys make fun of him, but older brother joins in their mockery.

by Kevin Perotta



© Cleo Photo

Little things—but little disloyalties can do a lot to destroy family relationships. Loyalty is not only a quality needed in extreme circumstances. It is also part of the glue that keeps our everyday relationships together.

The model of loyalty, of course, is God. He is loyal to us — steadfast, trustworthy, faithful. He wants us to be loyal to Him and one another. What does it mean to be loyal to one another?

Scripture offers us examples of people who were "loyal under fire," like Jonathan who stuck with David despite Saul's fury, and Paul's friends who demonstrated loyalty even after his imprisonment. A lot of Scripture's teaching, however, is contained in its instruction about "how we ought to speak about each other and how we ought to handle situations when someone seems to have done something wrong."

For example: You have finished an early morning raquetball game and are dressing in the locker

room. Your friend remarks that a Visa card in his wife's hands is a passport to bankruptcy and asks if you have similar problems.

Suppose you and your wife do have disagreements about money. What do you say? You could unload the frustration you feel. But to do that would, in effect, be accusing your wife of irresponsibility, of wrongdoing.

When Jesus said to "condemn not" in Luke 6:37, He offered His command not far from Luke 6:31: the Golden Rule. The question is: Would I want my wife condemning me in front of a crowd of people in a similar gripe session?

Rather than condemning a spouse or anyone else in the family in the court of public opinion, Jesus said in Matthew 18:15-17, we ought to go directly to the person and discuss matters privately. The Lord tells us to protect the person from embarrassment, from falling in the estimation of other people. In other words, be *loyal* to the person. This is very important in our relation-

ships with our children. Unfortunately, we often feel free to ignore relational principles when dealing with children, perhaps because they are less able to let us know what they think of our remarks.

The principle of correction in private applies to children, too, with modifications. Anyone with more than one child cannot avoid giving a fair number of corrections when other people are around. But some kinds of correction involving a child's character are best given one-on-one. Spanking, which can be deeply humiliating when administered before an audience, should be given in private.

Loyalty to our children is often tested when they are accused of doing something wrong. What do I do, for instance, if an irate neighbor calls to tell me that my boys have put a BB hole in his thermopane door? There is his \$300 door filling with condensation and fogging over. Here are my boys who own BB guns and never could hit the bull's eye.

The neighbor's report may sound so plausible that I am tempted to summon the boys, chew them out to my neighbor's satisfaction, and announce that they will have to pay for the door from their paper route earnings. The neighbor would be placated, and peace would be restored.

That wouldn't be loyal to my sons. The challenge is to go through the process of investigating the accusation in a way that is both loyal to my sons and concerned with justice. As their parent, I should stand with them and not automatically assume they are at fault. They should know that I care about them, even if they're in the wrong. The first step is to hear their side of the story in private and weigh it carefully. If it conflicts with the neighbor's, I have to be ready to judge as fairly as I can, no matter who is left unhappy by my decision.

If the boys are responsible for the damage, some parental anger, a punishment, an apology to the neighbor, and compensation may be appropriate. But I can still be loyal to my children, guiding them through the process of facing the problem and working it out.

Only if we, as parents, set an example of loyalty can we train our children in it. Husbands or wives who cut down spouses or children to their friends will not be able to instill a sense of family loyalty in their children.

Training children in loyalty often involves dealing with little things. One goal my wife and I have is to teach our children to stand with each other when one of them makes a mistake. A brother or sister ought to be able to ask a dumb question or mispronounce a word without being laughed at.

While school children often practice an exaggerated loyalty to one another, children also pick up the world's way of spreading reports about others' wrongdoing. Into dinner conversation, pop comments, such as "Today Jimmy Robertson threw Bob McNutt out of his desk and ripped his shirt 'cause Bob laughed when Jimmy didn't know what the Declaration of Independence was."

We are teaching our children to be loyal to their classmates by telling the stories but leaving out the names. I have never met Jimmy Robertson, but if I ever do, I don't want to begin the relationship burdened with the opinion that he is a lousy historian with a short fuse.

A proverb says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity (Proverbs 17:17). Loyalty to one another in adversity should be part of our definition of what it means to be a family in Christ. □

Kevin Perotta is the managing editor of *Pastor Renewal*, a magazine for Christian leaders. Reprinted by permission of David C. Cook Publishing Co., Elgin, IL.

Words that Hurt, Words that Heal

by Mary Vaughn Armstrong

"Mom, hurry! John fell off his bike and hurt his leg!"

Matt's words swept through the kitchen window, their urgency unmistakable. I punched off the stove burners and ran outside. At the edge of the porch, nine-year-old John rocked back and forth, clutching one leg.

"My bike hit a rock, and I slid on the dirt. It hurts so much." Tears filled his eyes. "Do we have something that'll take the sting out, Mom?"

We did, and fifteen minutes later John was outside again, the angry abrasion covered with soothing ointment and a non-stick bandage.

Maybe you haven't fallen off a bike, but the sting of a family member's hateful words to you is every bit as painful. Or perhaps, in a moment of impatience and hurry, you've said cruel things to a loved one. Now you'd give anything to take those words back.

In 2 Timothy 1:1-4, Paul refers to Timothy as "beloved," a term more soothing to its recipient than any ointment. Paul's example provides an antidote for things once said and now regretted—the transforming, two-way power of a gentle word.

Take a minute right where you are to think of five words that especially touch your own heart. Say them out loud, the way you'd like to hear them spoken to you. Then pray: "Forgive me, Lord, for inflicting pain by the things I say. Please infuse every word I speak today with Your soothing love." □

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Marriage *or just living together?*

We hear the arguments given for cohabiting. When they are compared to marriage, we believe marriage is much more reasonable. You be the judge.

Marriage spells permanence; cohabitation spells postponement

In 1974, Eleanor Macklin, quizzed undergraduate cohabiting couples at Cornell to see if they considered themselves to be married. The answer was a definite no. More interesting was her finding that "they rarely considered marriage as a viable alternative to their present cohabitation. . . . Marriage might be seen as a possibility for the future, but for the distant future."

Keith Melville in his book, *Marriage and the Family Today*, questions the meaning of cohabitation. He asks, "Is the experience of living together defined by most young people who practice it as a form of trial marriage — an occasion for testing compatibility — or is it defined as a permanent alternative to marriage? Given the reality that people are waiting much longer to get married, it appears cohabitation is postponing the trip to the altar."

Remember, it is not marriage that is the problem. It is the living together that is the problem. The advantage to marriage is that everyone knows it is to be permanent. In 1986, Burch and Madan discovered that after 10 years of studying legally married couples the ratio of dissolution of marriage is 17 percent for those who had cohabited and 10 percent for those

Commitment is what keeps the relationship coming back again and again to the vows two people made at the altar.

who had not. Which all means you are more likely to divorce the cohabitation partner you had married. If you date and get married, the statistics reveal you are less likely to get divorced.

Marriage spells commitment; cohabitation spells convenience

In 1973, Arafat and Yorburg, determined that the most frequent reason males chose to cohabitate with a woman is sexual gratification. Females listed sexual gratification only 50 percent as often. For women, the most common reason for cohabitation was "That it might lead to marriage."

Years ago, an arrangement of convenience meant that the woman had become pregnant, and a wedding was to happen. Today, this term has taken on a whole new meaning in that couples live together out of convenience of sexual gratification, sharing the rent, and pseudosecurity. Certainly not for the commitment.

In 1972, Davis, Liputz and Lyness, discovered through study that couples who date and do not cohabitate reciprocate feelings (need, respect, happiness, involvement, or commitment to marriage) far ahead of those who cohabitate.

Marriage spells standards; cohabitation spells promiscuous

Strange culture we have. Men are seen to be macho by the boasting of their sexual conquests where women are meant to come as virgins to the altar. According to Webster, promiscuous means, "Confused or indiscriminate." We've seen married folk get confused in life, but they always know who their spouse is.

There is a gross misunderstanding within our society concerning cohabitation. People who live together hope that if they separate the pain will be less than if they had been married. For some of these dear souls, they have had to endure the pain of a sour marriage, either their own or a loved one. If we are entirely honest, we know that the pain happens, even within a cohabitant relationship, when it dissolves.

Let us conclude by saying the obvious. If there is not commitment in a relationship, then marriage should not occur. Commitment is the thread which pulls the fabric together, even when it is ripped by strife.

Commitment is what keeps the relationship coming back again and again to the vows two people made at the altar. This is a standard our country needs in a big way. Let's not be fooled into believing that living together can accomplish such a goal! □

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Yntema and Effa visit Mbingo

by Ernest Talla Kaninjing

The Mbingo II Baptist Church was privileged to be the first Cameroon Baptist Convention Church to receive the Rev. Phil Yntema, the new N.A.B. Executive Director, on his first journey to Cameroon, Sunday, Dec. 4, 1994. Yntema, as well as N.A.B. Missions Director Dr. Herman Effa and Field Secretary Dr. Oryn Meinerts, were given a very cordial welcome.

Located some 35 kilometers north of the Provincial Capital Bamenda, the Church was opened in 1957 with 40 Christians. This Church today counts a membership of 542 Christians, composed mainly of farmers and health personnel working with the Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Bohe D.C. Fointama, one of the pioneer Christians of this Church said during the worship service, "... the seed was sowed with tears, watered by the Holy Spirit, and God has blessed it to grow to the level in which you find it today."

The major challenge facing this Church today, as with many CBC churches, is that of constructing a conducive sanctuary for her growing membership.

In response to a welcome speech, Yntema encouraged the Christians from Paul's letter to the Romans 1:16-17 saying, "The righteous shall live by faith." He urged them not to be ashamed of the gospel, rather that they should make it a duty to proclaim it to everyone in Cameroon. He added "What schools cannot teach; what hospitals cannot heal; the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to do."

N.A.B. Missions Director, Dr. Herman Effa, also encouraged the Christians not to relent in their faith but to remain faithful until that last day when we shall all celebrate in God's kingdom regardless of race, culture, or language.



The visit to Mbingo ended with a familiarization tour of the Mbingo Baptist Hospital later in the afternoon. Opened in 1952, mainly as a leprosy settlement, the Hospital has over the years enjoyed assistance from the N.A.B. Conference in the form of drugs and trained health personnel. In addition, there is always an N.A.B. resident doctor for the Leprosy Department. It is thanks to this that the hospital has contributed tremendously towards the

treatment and near eradication of the leprosy disease in Cameroon.

Yntema and Effa also visited the New Hope Village (rehabilitation section for former leprosy patients), where they spent some time chatting with the people. They also handed them Christmas gifts as a sign of Christian love and concern. □

Ernest Talla Kaninjing, Nkwen Baptist Centre, Cameroon, Africa.

Volunteers Needed to Serve Overseas

Persons with the following abilities or training are needed as volunteers to serve in Cameroon:

Mechanic - to set up a mechanical workshop at Bango Baptist Hospital and to trouble shoot and advise in operations of the mechanical workshop at Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Home Management Teacher - to help secondary school students develop skills in home management.

Industrial Arts Teachers - to help secondary school technical students develop skills in building construction, electricity, and automotive mechanics.

Cameroon Church Builders - to provide materials and labor for roofs on the Baptist churches at Tobin and Wum and to work and witness alongside members of these churches.

Music Teachers - to help students develop skills in music.

JESUS Film Evangelism - participate in the Cameroon Baptist Convention Crusade Ministry using the JESUS film.

TEACH '95 - join a Cameroonian leadership team to conduct teaching seminars for Cameroon Baptist Convention church leaders (deacons and pastors).

Auditor - to audit the accounts of the Central Accounting Office of the Cameroon Baptist Convention.

Chaplaincy Trainer - to upgrade the ministry skills of hospital and health center chaplains serving in the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Department. □

If the Lord is calling you for one of these volunteer ministries, please apply to N.A.B. International Missions Department, Attention: Fred Folkerts, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Banso Baptist Hospital

One of a Kind

by Eric Mangek Ngum



Dr. Julie Stone

Rafael at the Douala International Airport and escorted them to Bamenda, and further assistance from other Good Samaritans, Mrs. Pons and Rafael reached Banso Baptist Hospital with few or no problems.

At once, Rafael was admitted to

the Children's Ward. Dr. Julie Stone, a North American Baptist Conference missionary doctor, examined Rafael and ordered tests, which confirmed that Rafael had Burkitt's Lymphoma.

Dr. Stone began treatment, which slowly but steadily has been effective. The massive swelling gradually subsided to where, upon Rafael's discharge from Banso Baptist Hospital, it was comparatively unnoticeable.

Dr. Stone is a young and talented doctor in her first term in Cameroon. Alongside other doctors at Banso Baptist Hospital, she applied her expertise as an internist.

Dr. Stone, the other doctors, nurses, ward aides, chaplains, administrators, and a host of other Christians showed their love and concern by giving appropriate treatment, visiting and often providing food and donating money. Throughout the hospital and in other parts of the nation, faith-filled Christians prayed for Rafael's recovery. Dr. Stone and others did not lack in determination to minister to Rafael and his mother.

Within two months and four days after Rafael was admitted, he left Banso Baptist Hospital well enough to return to his home in Malabo, where he will continue treatment administered by Dr. Vallejos. He came sick and sad; he left feeling much better and happy. He came not knowing what would happen; he left looking forward to going back to school and playing



with his mates. He celebrated his ninth birthday in December 1994.

Watching her son beaming with life again, Mrs. Pons could not hide her emotions. She said, "The doctors and nurses at BBH are wonderful people. The foreign missionary doctors, the Cameroonian doctors, and the Cameroonians attached to the hospital are special people. I have never seen a hospital like this in all my life. If it were not for distance and lack of money, I would encourage everyone in my country to go to BBH for healing."

Mrs. Pons and her family are Catholic Christians. They are indebted to a Baptist missionary doctor, Dr. Stone; Dr. Vallejos; and a Cameroon Baptist Convention missionary couple, Rev. and Mrs. Ilaja Jam, in Equatorial Guinea for all the assistance given them.

When asked about all that has happened to them, Mrs. Pons replied in Pidgin English, "God dey." God is alive, and He acts through His people. That is why she has now seen a place like Banso Baptist Hospital. □

Eric Mangek Ngum, Cameroon Baptist Convention, Communication Ministry.



Rafael, a Burkitt's Lymphoma patient and his mother returning from Banso Baptist Hospital to Equatorial Guinea.

Ten Benefits of Tithing

by G. Roger Schoenhals

Part V

The ten benefits of tithing are not new, but you sort out this issue for yourself. We discussed benefit one in the April issue, benefits two and three in the May issue, benefits four and five in the September issue, and benefits six and seven: Tithing Protects Worthy Priorities and Tithing Provides Needed Support in the December 1994 issue. Benefit eight is listed below.

8. Unlocks Blessings

The Bible makes a connection between giving and receiving. Abraham discovered this after he gave a tithe. We read: "Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great" (Genesis 15:1b).

In Malachi, the connection is even more explicit: "Bring the whole tithe . . . and test me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows" (Malachi 3:10).

Jesus puts it like this, "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over . . . For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return" (Luke 6:38).

Paul echoes the equation in his second letter to the Corinthians, "He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).

To the Philippians he writes, "I have received everything in full and have an abundance . . . and my

God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:18-19).

These Scriptures, and others, cause some to preach a gospel of prosperity. Live right, give right, and you will prosper in a material way. They tell us that God intends for his children to be healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Others perceive a deeper meaning. While they agree that sometimes God does seem to bless in material ways, they point to the more universal experience of joy and liberty in the Lord. Selfless giving sets people free, whether they live in poverty or on easy street.

My own experience teaches me that I simply cannot outgive God. In one way or another, He more than makes up for any sacrificial gift I give.

I heard of a man who worked overtime just so he could have more money to give to the Lord's work. He delighted in giving. John Wesley got such a bang out of giving that he lived austere on one tenth of his income just so he could give the other 90 percent away. He understood what Jesus meant when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35b).

When we give in order to get, our giving ceases to be "a fragrant offering, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice" (Philippians 4:18). We lose the deeper blessing God intends for us to have.

Those who live to give enjoy a spiritual high unknown to the "bean-counters." In giving, motive is everything. □

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

ALONE

in a world of pain

by Sue Baron

"I heard you were coming, and I had to talk to someone—another lady. I couldn't stand it anymore. I decided to tell you everything."

The pretty Mayo Indian woman with her brown eyes brimming with tears unburdened her heart at the Pastors' and Wives' Conference in the Mayo Indian village of Etchojoa.

Flora had seen our prayer card that her pastor brought back to their village from the Spring Conference. Now it was time for the Fall Conference. Word came that there would be a daily Bible study for the women, as well as the meetings for the men. This was a first for some of the women.

Flora had never met us. She had only seen our picture. But she had to find relief from the deep ache that threatened to destroy her. She needed a solution to her problems. She had to know that someone

cared. She felt that the woman in the picture, who was coming to teach the Bible to the ladies, would surely listen and care.

Raising four children wouldn't be as difficult if she didn't have to share the husband she loves with a woman in the nearby village. When he would come to the house for the night and mention "the other one," she felt the knife in her heart being turned around and around. It never failed that a neighbor would see "the two of them" together and come tell her about it. The knife would make another turn.

As one of the few Christians in Pozo Dulce, Flora prayed constantly for the salvation of her husband and teenage boys. But it seemed that the more she prayed the more they drank and partied, spending money that was needed at home for food and clothes.

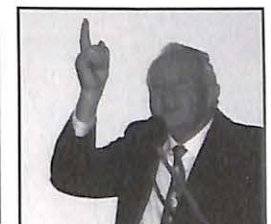
Often Flora had wanted to take the younger children and run. But what about the 14 year-old boy at home, who still needed her love

and witness, and who refused to go with her? What if the law took the younger children away from her and gave them to their drunken father, saying she had abandoned the home? All of these thoughts and more whirled in her mind as she made her way from the village to where the Conference was being held.

That day Flora sat with me and the other women in the Bible study out under the grapefruit tree. She shared her burden, and we prayed together. Somehow she found the strength to go on. She no longer felt so alone in her world of frustration and pain.

Flora's case is multiplied again and again in Mexico, where our N.A.B. Conference missionaries are working. Pray that God will give wisdom as they seek to counsel people in need. □

Mrs. Sue Baron and her husband, Royce, are N.A.B. Conference missionaries serving in Mexico.





Petrie Resigns to Return to Pastorate

Dr. Lewis J. Petrie has accepted the call to be senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Minot, ND, effective Jan. 15, 1995. He concluded his work as N.A.B. Conference Development Director December 16.

Petrie joined the Executive Staff at the International Office in 1988 as Associate Director in the Development Department. In 1989, he was appointed Development Director.

"Petrie is an unusually gifted man of God," says Dr. John Binder, who served as Executive Director of the Conference during the years Petrie served at the Office. "He is unreservedly committed to reach people with the message of hope and new life in Christ. God's blessings rest upon his ministry as evidenced by the hundreds who have responded positively to his preaching and personal witness. The investment of his gifts and devotion have made a vital and far reaching impact on the cooperative ministries of the N.A.B. Conference. I will always cherish him as an outstanding team player and loyal personal friend."

■ Petrie wrote the material for the Biblical Imperative, *Challenged to Grow, A Spiritual Renewal Retreat*, which was used in many pastors and lay retreats.

Among the responses from those involved in the retreats are "God was with me and with us in a most unusual way. There was a real

breaking and a spirit of renewal that was refreshing and very much needed. My own heart was deeply touched. We thank God for him; he is appreciated more than he will ever know."

"Our Men's Retreat was beyond anything I had experienced before. There was clear evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of our men. The Lord worked through Lou in a great way."

■ Petrie is also well-known for his crusade ministry. The elders of one church wrote: "It was a challenging, uplifting, and motivating experience. We commend him for a ministry well done, and for his sincerity."

"As a result of special meetings he conducted at our church, numerous members as well as attendees made significant spiritual decisions."

■ In his ministry to local churches, responses included: "So often we fail to do things in God's way. Lou's timely message brought encouragement to lift our hearts and our eyes to God for that direction. We thank him for filling the pulpit for a hungry congregation."

"Lou represented the Conference in a splendid fashion, but most importantly, he represented our Lord in a beautiful way. Our congregation was challenged to a 'Christian Vision' that resulted in numerous decisions and rededications to a dynamic godly life first and foremost."

"Many lives were touched and encouraged through his ministry as he shared from his heart."

"God used Lou in a mighty way in our service. We were richly

blessed and challenged. He is desperately needed in the development ministry of our Conference, but he is, also, desperately needed in the pulpit."

■ As Development Director, Petrie also helped churches lay the plans for their capital funds campaign. A church planter wrote: "Lou did an excellent job in the training and presentation of basic material for our church's capital funds project to help us move toward God's desire to build in our church, but Lou also set a new spark to an already burning church. When he presented the invitation following his message, 'Building on God's Way,' the entire congregation, 140 adults, came to the front of the church to make first-time commitments or recommitments to Christ."

■ When asked about what has been a highlight during his seven years of ministry, Petrie replied: "It's been great personal satisfaction to work with Dr. John Binder and the directors at the International Office and to see the legacy of a unified Conference committed to fulfilling the Great Commission as we head toward the 21st century. The Conference has never been healthier in terms of our commitment to spiritual values and in our financial condition. We give the glory to God for His blessings on our people."

"As the Development Director, I've appreciated the opportunity to be in many of the churches and to witness the sacrificial giving of our people for the Conference Giving Goal. As we continue to emphasize the Biblical Imperatives, God will

(Continued on page 29)

Zeeb Retires from Area Minister Position



In August the General Council presented a Citation of Appreciation to Milton Zeeb in appreciation of his 34 years of ministry with the North American Baptist Conference. Zeeb retired as South Central Area Minister on Dec. 31, 1994, a ministry in which he served since 1972. Prior to that he served as pastor of three churches. Zeeb is a 1960 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary and was ordained by Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha, WI, Oct. 14, 1960.

Reflecting on his years of service, Zeeb states: "Each step in the pilgrimage with the Lord, we have known what it was to trust in the Lord. Our own understanding would have caved in shortly after beginning the journey, but trust in our Heavenly Father made the pilgrimage possible and filled it with great hope and fulfillment."

His wife Alice served along with him as she supported and encouraged him in his work for the Lord.

Several speak of Milton's ministry:

Encourager . . . that is, perhaps, the one word that best describes Milton Zeeb. He has regularly encouraged and supported me, both as a pastor and as a person—not only me but also my family and the people of the churches I have served. His caring and compassionate spirit, love for people, and strong confidence in God have enriched all of us who know him. He has given good leadership and has done it without drawing attention to himself. I am thankful for the years he has spent as my Area Minister, fellow-worker, and especially as my friend.

—Dennis Dewey, pastor of Hope Fellowship Church, Kansas City, MO.

Two men trekking a wildlife preserve in Africa spotted a man-eating lion about to sense their presence. Immediately, one of the men began changing his hiking shoes for his running shoes. The other man remarked that changing shoes wouldn't do any good because the lion could outrun him anyway. The one changing his shoes replied, "I don't need to outrun the lion. All I need to do is outrun you."

It seems first place always goes to push and shove, our competitive spirit stays high, and we're always looking out for number one. But unlike most people today, the Rev. Milton Zeeb would be the one to say, "You go on ahead, I'll take care of business."

Throughout his ministry, whether it was uprooting his family to move to a new ministry responsibility, getting mugged in a hotel room, or taking on a new pastorate ministry a few days before retirement, Milton demonstrates what being a humble Christian servant of our Holy Father truly is. Other people's lives are more important to him than his own and whatever it takes for them to grow spiritually he is willing to give.

All over our N.A.B. Conference, there are folks who are closer to God because of Milton Zeeb's witness as an area minister; peaceful, loving churches; and new churches. All those Milton influenced for our Savior over his long ministry learned what it was like to sacrificially give, be a team player, and be a loving mediator in resolving conflicts.

As we run ahead in all directions, Milton quietly takes care of the Lord's business. The words of that popular song, 'Thank You' by Ray Boltz

were written with people like Milton in mind.

—Jackie Loewer, Branch, LA, N.A.B. Conference treasurer and former moderator and Church Planting chair, Southern Association.

Iam deeply grateful for the friendship and partnership with Milton Zeeb, a friendship that began 46 years ago when we attended the Christian Training Institute together in Edmonton.

Our families developed close ties when Milton served as student pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, 1959-60, and these ties continued while he served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Kenosha, WI, (1960 to 1966), as pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA, (1966 to 1972), and as South Central Area Minister for 22 years.

I have especially appreciated Milton's devotion to Christ, his high commitment to the churches he served, and his loyalty and cooperation. He is a man of impeccable integrity with a deep compassion for people and their various needs. He gave his very best to reach people with the gospel and encourage them to grow to maturity as they moved through the various experiences of pain, disappointments, and joys of life. He encouraged and blessed people wherever he went. People everywhere enjoyed his friendship and positive word.

"Thank you for a job well done!" from a friend and partner in ministry.

—John Binder, former executive director, N.A.B. □

Programs or Small Groups?

by Lyle E. Schaller

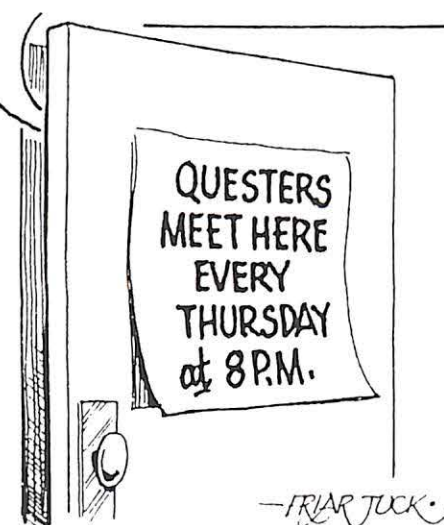
One of the contemporary discussions in American Protestantism concerns the successor to the 1920s church that was organized largely around preaching, one adult choir, an attractive Sunday school, inherited denominational loyalties, powerful kinship ties, geographical convenience, and Sunday evening worship. Thousands of church buildings were constructed to house that definition of church.

In the 1950s, it began to become apparent that was not a fully viable model for the age of the automobile. One widely followed alternative was to stick with that model and watch the congregation grow older and smaller. A second was to relocate and seek to recreate that model in the suburbs.

A third was to expand and diversify the entire program. In a relatively few congregations, this eventually led to two or three or four different worship experiences every weekend, a huge variety of choices under the umbrella of the teaching ministries, an extensive ministry of music, a growing array of mutual support groups, a large singles ministry, programs for senior citizens, mission trips, a pastoral counseling staff, trips to the Holy Land, a huge youth program, two or three drama groups, and a variety of other programs. At least 98 percent of all Protestant congregations, however, wrote off that alternative with the comment, "We're too small to do all of that."

More recently, a fourth response

BEFORE WE STARTED MEETING,
I DIDN'T CARE IF I CAME,
GAVE OR EVEN BELONGED!



Small groups
can raise a church's
commitment level!

has been to conceptualize the church as a congregation of congregations, each of which includes several groups with the large body gathering once or twice weekly for celebration and to praise God.

The recent publication of *Sharing the Journey: Support Groups and America's New Quest for Community* by Robert Wuthnow (The Free Press, 1994) plus the possibilities of adapting the Korean concept of cells to the American religious culture have given new momentum to a fifty-year-old emphasis on the power of small Bible study and prayer groups.

Why?

Among the many attractive aspects of this concept are a) it can

be adapted to and utilized in smaller congregations that average fewer than sixty at worship and do not have the resources to become a program-centered church; b) it offers a meaningful response to the millions of people born since 1940 who are on a self-identified religious quest; c) it does not require a large staff or a big building (but it does require a high level of competence in the person who will initiate and oversee this approach to ministry); d) it can be added to the existing local church schedule without disrupting either the present schedule or any of the established programs, services, groups, choirs, or organizations; e) it can be a meaningful response to the current concern about individual low self-esteem; f) this small-group

approach to ministry can provide several attractive entry points for potential new members; g) it is consistent with the contemporary emphasis on individualism (Wuthnow points out that most current small groups affirm individualism); h) it does not require a high level of individual commitment (although implementing this approach to ministry is far more difficult in low-commitment congregations than in churches that project high expectations of anyone seeking to become a full member); i) while far from automatic, if the small groups meet in the church building, rather than in homes, these weekly gatherings can be a valuable component of a larger strategy for the assimilation of newcomers into the larger fellowship;

and j) perhaps most distinctive of all, the small-group movement is an excellent way for congregations to focus on the concerns of people rather than to follow the natural institutional goals of that congregation or the denomination.

One of the valuable fringe benefits of small groups is that, in addition to nurturing the growth of the individual, they can become the "third place" in people's lives. (The concept of the individual's need for a third place, beyond home and work, was identified by Ray Oldenburg in his book, *The Great Good Place*, Paragon House, 1989. A highly visible example of a third place was illustrated by the television series *Cheers*.) Professor Wuthnow contends that, for many, the small group is a place where participants are accepted, affirmed, and taken seriously—which is an excellent definition of a good third place. He also points out the number one reason for joining a small group is "to grow as a person."

Finally, the small-group concept can be adapted to meet a variety of needs. One approach is to focus on nurturing the spiritual and personal growth of the individual. A second is the recovery or "twelve-step" theme. A third is learning with a primary emphasis on content. A fourth is service. A fifth is caring. A sixth is creativity. A seventh is for those contemplating uniting with that particular congregation. An eighth is disciplining. A ninth is the prayer cell.

What's the Problem?

Unfortunately, this renewed emphasis on the value of small groups has created a diversionary debate that often is voiced in either-or terms. Should we concentrate on expanding our program as we seek to become a seven-day-a-week church? Or should we focus on

expanding that network of small groups?

The best answer is BOTH-AND! To be more precise, taking advantage of the strength of conventional large-group programming and also expand that network of small groups.

Large-group programming, which usually means groups of 12 to 300 individuals, often is more appropriate than small face-to-face groups for a) the corporate worship of God, b) vocal choirs, c) instrumental groups, d) adult Sunday school classes, e) children's ministries, f) youth programming, g) mission trips, h) entry points for newcomers, i) the assimilation of new members, j) content-centered learning opportunities, k) work teams, l) religious drama, m) ministries with never-married adults, n) senior citizen programming, o) festivals and concerts, p) rallies, q) issue-centered ministries, r) community outreach programming, s) community development efforts, and t) financial campaigns.

Three Differences

Unlike the small-group movement, the organizational skills required for conventional church programming are skills that have been mastered by large numbers of the laity in the workplace, while serving as leaders in other voluntary organizations, as parents, and as volunteer community leaders. A different set of skills is required to create, nurture, and oversee small groups.

Perhaps the two most widely neglected distinctions between the program approach to ministry and the small-group movement are 1) the former is easier than the small-group concept to implement in low-commitment churches and 2) the latter requires a higher level of skill

among the paid staff and more persistence than does lay-owned and lay-operated programming such as the Sunday school or the women's organization or the men's fellowship.

Three Key Variables

Both small groups and program-centered ministries have their place in contemporary church planning. Which should receive the top priority in your congregation?

If your number-one goal is to expand the number of variety of attractive entry points for future new members, and if you have the resources to do this, the best approach probably is to expand the total program, schedule an additional worship experience that is not a carbon copy of your present worship service, add new classes to your teaching ministry, and create new programs in response to narrowly and precisely defined needs such as a new mothers' club or a ministry with younger childless couples, or work camp trips for mature adults.

If your primary focus is on enriching the personal and spiritual journeys of today's members and of raising the commitment level of your members, the small-group approach may be where you should concentrate your resources.

The critical variable, however, is to build on the strengths, gifts, experiences, and skills of your pastor. Is your pastor more comfortable with creating, nurturing, and overseeing small groups? Or with expanding the total program? That answer may determine your next steps.

A Both-and Goal

A challenging goal would be that for 40 percent of the members the number-two point of involvement, (Continued on page 26)



Mrs. Linda J. Weber

*Women's Ministries
Director*



Mrs. Pam Arends

*President
Shady Grove Baptist
Church, Gaithersburg,
Maryland
Vice President I -
1991-1994*



Mrs. Coral Lehman

*Vice President I
West Meadows Baptist
Church, Edmonton,
Alberta
Vice President II -
1991-1994*

Women's Missionary Fellowship 1995

Who We Are

The purpose of the North American Baptist Conference is "to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ 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."

Using Acts 1:8 as the foundation, the Women's Missionary Fellowship was founded "to reach women in our neighborhoods, communities, nations, and the world for Jesus Christ." Our goal has been to establish women's ministry groups that plan for a balanced ministry providing solid Christian fellowship, challenging individuals to grow spiritually, and enabling women to do service and outreach at home and around the world. The Women's Missionary Fellowship is the binational umbrella organization for all women's ministry groups in our North American Baptist churches.



Mrs. Judy Dryer

*Member-at-Large,
US East, Immanuel
Baptist Church, Kenosha,
Wisconsin*

The horizon is full of opportunities for women's ministries in the second half of this decade and on into the 21st Century. Women we know, as well as women touched by our Conference missions, are facing increasing pressures due to domestic abuse, poverty, loneliness, illiteracy, pregnancy issues, child rearing, and crime. In small towns and large urban areas, on farms and ranches, and in the suburbs, women need ministries of reconciliation, healing, friendship, and hope to give their lives meaning.

On first consideration, these needs and challenges may appear too overwhelming to be addressed and impacted by the average North American Baptist woman or the average North American Baptist church. But that view does not take into account God's limitless resources which He makes available to us, His children. We have God's Word, the Scriptures, through which we may be "thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must continue to grow as disciples through the study and practice of God's Word and the exercise of our spiritual gifts. With God's empowerment He can use us mightily in ministry with and to women. We gather encouragement from one another and **together** we can accomplish great things for God.

The Women's Missionary Fellowship executive committee and our women's ministries director desire to be team players with you for the purpose of encourag-

ing, informing, teaching, and equipping our N.A.B. women for ministry. Each N.A.B. woman has a vital role to play in her own corner of God's Kingdom and **together** we can combine our efforts to multiply the results. We are committed to strengthening the effectiveness of our WMF ministry by offering leadership training workshops in each Association. By training and mobilizing our women at the Association and local church levels, we can have a great influence for Christ in our churches, homes, and communities—even worldwide through our Conference missions.

In several Scripture passages, the Christian pilgrimage is pictured by the Apostle Paul as a race. I'd like to think we can run our race in the same spirit as one which was run several years ago during the Special Olympics. The mentally and physically disabled children lined up at the starting line eagerly anticipating the 100-meter race. The starter's gun sounded and the runners lurched forward with uneven and not so swift strides, but with great determination. Somewhere around the halfway mark, a runner stumbled and fell to her hands and knees. Seeing her plight, all other runners stopped in their tracks and waited until the fallen runner struggled to her feet. Then, **together**, all the runners finished the race.

I can't wait to see what we, in God's power and grace, are going to do **TOGETHER!**



Miss Carol Ann Bender

*Vice President II
Century Baptist Church,
Bismarck, North Dakota*



Mrs. Janice Hiller

*Member-at-Large,
Canada, Whyte Ridge
Baptist Church,
Winnipeg, Manitoba*



Mrs. Donna Boyd

*Member-at-Large, US
West, First Baptist
Church, Elk Grove,
California*

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

■ MANITOWOC, WI. The Rev. Gilbert Benson Moore, interim pastor at First Baptist Church, baptized six youth, five of whom were Hmong. —*Alice Gates*

■ EUREKA, SD. Pastor Perry Schnabel baptized a youth and welcomed him into the fellowship of First Baptist Church. —*Irene Kusler*

■ ALPENA, MI. Word of Life Baptist Church held a baptismal service in which six people were baptized. The hand of fellowship was extended to nine others. The Rev. Fred Sweet is the pastor. —*Helen Ehman*

■ WISHEK, ND. Pastor Gordon Huisinga baptized six persons at First Baptist Church, and seven were given the right hand of fellowship. —*Peggy Bettenhauser*

■ JAMESTOWN, ND. Temple Baptist Church shared a combined baptismal service with First Baptist Church, Medina, ND. Pastor Randy Jaspers baptized one child from Temple Baptist and two adults from First Baptist. —*Leona Meisch*

■ WINNIPEG, MB. The Rev. Richard Grabke baptized seven people at Mission Baptist Church. He welcomed them and two others who joined the Church by testimony. —*Anne Pohl*

Kitchener youth continue Christmas tradition

■ KITCHENER, ON. For more than 25 years, the youth at Central Baptist Church have hosted an evening for senior members and friends. The program of music, a skit, a poem, and sharing Christmas memories is held in German, even though several of the youth cannot speak German. The Rev. Ronald

Kelway is pastor. —*Karen Yahn*

Golden Prairie church uses drama as outreach

■ GOLDEN PRAIRIE, SK. First Baptist Church held a dessert theatre as a means of outreach to their rural community. The Hillcrest Drama Team, Medicine Hat, AB., presented two dramas, "The Beauty Operator" and "The Rag Man."

In "The Rag Man," the monologue speaks of Jesus as the Rag Man who comes to people to collect their rags of loneliness, sin, and hopelessness. In exchange, He gives them new cloth—new life. The Rev. Eric Spletzer is pastor.

Oklahoma Fellowship meets; honors Zeebs

■ CORN, OK. On Sunday, October 2, Calvary Baptist Church hosted



PHOTO BY KATHY DOBRINSKI

the Oklahoma Fellowship, with Pastor and Mrs. Bob Burkle in charge.

The Rev. Milton Zeeb brought the morning message, and Mrs. Zeeb sang.

Each church presented a musical number. After the noon meal, the group gathered for a retirement party honoring Mr. and Mrs. Zeeb (pictured) for his 22 years of service as South Central Area Minister. The Zeebs were presented with a pair of crystal lamps.

A local band and Gospel singers entertained the congregation prior to the evening meal. All five Oklahoma Churches were well represented, along with their pastors: the Rev. and Mrs. Merv Noah,

Bethel Baptist Church, Cherokee; the Rev. and Mrs. Tony Dickerson, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene; the Rev. and Mrs. Curtis Weins, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Shattuck; and the Rev. and Mrs. Roger Frelander, Immanuel Baptist Church, Loyal. —*L. Hook*

Alpena church hosts Association

■ ALPENA, MI. Word of Life Baptist Church hosted the annual Great Lakes Association meeting, Oct. 21-22, 1994. Delegates from 19 churches heard the Rev. Jim Fann, keynote speaker, address the theme, "Through the Church We Build." Missionary to the Philippines, Jon Duba, spoke at the men's breakfast.

A group of people from Stony Creek Church, Shelby Township, MI, a church plant, presented an example of one of their services.

The Association discussed the possibility of starting a new church plant in the near future. —*Helen Ehman*

Alpena church holds retirement party

■ ALPENA, MI. Word of Life Baptist Church held a retirement party for the Rev. and Mrs. George Dee, who served for 40 years in Zimbabwe, Africa. —*Helen Ehman*

Atlantic Association women hold retreat

■ LONG BEACH ISLAND, NJ. Harvey Cedars Bible Conference grounds was the site of the Atlantic Association's Women's Fall Retreat on Oct. 28-30, 1994; 69 women attended.

Carol Ann Bender, second vice president of the National WMF, served as speaker on the theme, "Designer Hats . . . Designer God." She also told of her work as a domestic violence counselor and

challenged the women to be concerned Christians.

Other activities included workshops, Bible studies, and crafts. —*Audrey Dorozowski*

Temple church dedicates pew Bibles

■ JAMESTOWN, ND. Four teens assisted in the dedication service for 48 pew Bibles presented to Temple Baptist Church. They were purchased with the memorial gifts for Emanuel Brenneise, who passed away in July. Pastor Randy Jaspers led in a dedicatory prayer. —*Leona Meisch*

Christmas Tea held as a community outreach

■ JAMESTOWN, ND. The Women's Missionary Fellowship of Temple Baptist Church held its annual Mother-Daughter-Friends Tea. Eighty-four women from three neighboring churches in Valley City, Medina, and Gackle attended as well as women from churches in Jamestown.

"It was a time to put the true meaning of Christmas in its proper perspective," reports Leona Meisch. The Rev. Randy Jaspers is the pastor.

Sacramento church in process of relocating

■ SACRAMENTO, CA. Dr. Ron Mahood, the new pastor at Cornerstone Baptist (formerly Willow Rancho), reports an attendance of 90 at the morning worship services in October. The church rents a Reformed Church facility from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. It has sold its building to First Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church. Cornerstone Baptist Church is purchasing 5.6 acres of land to build its new facilities on.

Pastor's retreat held at Hume Lake

■ CALIFORNIA. A four day pastor's retreat was held at the summer youth camp facilities, Hume Lake. 350 pastors and wives, representing 34 N.A.B. Conference churches, heard speakers, Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Colleen Evans.

West Center Street church holds missions conference

■ MADISON, SD. West Center Street Baptist Church held its "Missions Alive" Conference with special speakers, Dr. Rod Zimmerman, missionary to Cameroon, and Lucille Wipf, missionary to Japan.

Various programs included a pizza party and video for the youth, a meeting with the church board, an emphasis on how to pray for missionaries, and meetings with missionaries in members' homes.

Lucille Wipf related how contacts outside the Tsu Christian Center and Tsu church in Japan have brought people to the place where they want to learn more of Jesus Christ.

The Annual Harvest Festival meal, which is open to the public, was served Sunday evening bringing to a close the "Missions Alive" weekend activities. The Rev. Steve Vetter is the pastor. —*P. Frerichs*

Winnipeg church provides urban pastoral internship

■ WINNIPEG, MB. Respected in Winnipeg's inner-city for its diversity of ministries and positive impact on the community, New Life Ministries affords great opportunities for ministry and continued training for individuals heading for full-time pastoral ministry.

Larry Gregan, a graduate of Providence Seminary (M.Div.), has started working with New Life Ministries for one year as part of its

continuing internship program. Larry has roots in all four Atlantic provinces. Fredericton, New Brunswick, is now his family home. While awaiting a full-time pastorate, Larry is presently supporting himself through carpentry. He is quickly getting involved in many aspects of church and community ministry. Larry's gifts are greatly appreciated at New Life. He plans to serve in a community-oriented pastoral ministry. Rev. Harry Lehotsky serves as pastor/director of New Life Ministries.

Northgate church celebrates the family

■ EDMONTON, AB. Northgate Baptist Church culminated its celebration of "The Family" with a musical called "Bind Us Together," presented by 30 member families. The celebration focused on challenging families to build and strengthen their individual families with Jesus Christ as their centre.

For six Sunday evenings, the Church became home. Here families enjoyed and spent time doing activities they would do in their own homes. The kitchen was open for coffee and conversation; the living room (the fellowship hall) was set up with videos; the library was available for quiet time with a good book; the basement was the recreation room with Lego Land, Barbie Land, ping pong, board games, craft activities, and toys for the little ones.

"The Church is grateful to Kathy Korner for her willingness to allow God to use her gifts to help us to worship our Lord and King," reports Lori Reiter. The Rev. Siegfried Koslowski is the pastor.

Altizer commissioned for anniversary celebration

■ STOCKTON, CA. Mary Kay

Altizer was commissioned by Quail Lakes Baptist Church to arrange a musical composition in celebration of the church's 35th anniversary. This piece, arranged for organ and trumpet, was premiered at the worship services on November 23. She was featured on the piano during the Triennial Conference.

Quail Lakes church holds day of prayer

■ STOCKTON, CA. On Nov. 19, 1994, Quail Lakes Baptist Church held a Day of Prayer to specifically pray for the unsaved loved ones of the Church family.

As the congregation came to have their pictures taken for the new directory, they were asked if the Church would be allowed to pray especially for family and friends who need to know Jesus in a personal way. The Rev. Fred Jantz is the pastor.

Christmas offering designated for outreach

■ LODI, CA. The Christmas Eve offering this year at Temple Baptist Church was designated to fund two special outreach programs to reach the unbelievers in Lodi.

Part of the mission statement of the church is "going into our community to turn unbelievers into believers in Christ," which means that we need to find ways to make an impact on unbelievers and present the gospel in an effective way to them.

Testimony tree featured program at Brookfield church

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. An especially meaningful service held on a December Sunday evening featured Christmas Tree Testimonies. Almost all persons in attendance brought an ornament depicting why the person or couple was thankful to the Lord

in 1994. After giving a testimony, the individual or couple hung the ornament on the tree.

The two-hour service closed with the singing of the carol, "Silent Night," with only the Christmas tree lights lit. Associate Pastor Harry Anderson led the service.

Hillcrest Church celebrates 100th anniversary

■ SULTAN, WA. Hillcrest Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Association meetings, Oct. 6-8, 1994. Throughout the weekend, it was emphasized that God has been sufficient yesterday, is sufficient today, and will continue to be into tomorrow.

The Rev. Phil Yntema, N.A.B. Conference executive director, challenged the group to be in personal relationship with God as they step into tomorrow to make disciples who in turn will make more disciples.

An evening was set aside specifically to commemorate the 100th anniversary with 250 people attending the banquet. The program included reminiscing about those who served Hillcrest and the ministry that had taken place throughout the years. The Rev. William Neuman is the pastor. —Deanna Rode

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

■ Mr. and Mrs. William Erbach of River Hills, WI, celebrated their 51st anniversary, Sept. 13, 1994. They are members of Ridgewood Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI.

■ Mr. and Mrs. Peter Maerzluft of Parma, OH, celebrated their 65th anniversary, Nov. 10, 1994. They are members of Redeemer Baptist Church, Parma, OH.

Programs or Small Groups? . . .

(continued from page 21)

after sharing in the corporate worship of God, would be in a small group.

For another 40 percent, the number-two point of personal involvement would be in a program area such as a vocal choir or the women's organization or the Sunday school class.

For 10 percent, that number-two point of involvement would be as a leader or policymaker, but all of these leaders also would be faithful members of one of the small groups. The remaining 10 percent are not interested in any of these alternatives and attend Sunday morning worship when they have nothing else to do.

This would enable the pastor to boast, "Ninety percent of our people are actively involved in a small group on a continuing basis or in some programmatic aspect of our church or both or as an active leader."

Approximately 90 percent of the laity who hear that boast would be filled with envy while 90 percent of the clergy would be filled with disbelief. □

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Emmanuel Baptist Church Morris, Manitoba

invites all former pastors,
members, and friends to share
in celebrating 100 years
of God's grace

July 26-28, 1996

Plan to join us for this time
of thanksgiving and praise.

The Family Trust

There is an interesting change occurring in our society today. Many individuals, especially those with wealth, are having second thoughts about how they will distribute property to the next generation.

It is estimated that approximately \$6 to \$8 billion will be transferred:

■ From a generation whose philosophy concerning money has its roots in the depression and who is known as the deferred gratification generation,

To a generation which has never experienced a depression and is perceived to be an instant gratification generation.

■ From a generation who may have thought about divorce, but if they did, never followed through,

To a generation where the divorce rate is now in excess of 50 percent.

■ From a generation who would never really consider bringing litigation against a fellow man,

To a generation that seems to be obsessed with litigation.

■ From a generation who never perceived that they would own wealth,

To a generation whom they often do not perceive able to manage wealth.

When we combine these differences in perception concerning money with a federal estate tax rate as high as 55 percent payable by each generation, we have a tremendous need for creative planning.

For example, if we assume a 50 percent estate tax rate, a \$10 million estate distributed to children would be reduced to \$5 million. If the children added this inheritance to their personal wealth and continued to be in a 50 percent estate tax bracket, the grandchildren would receive \$2.5 million of the original \$10 million



(\$600,000 per spouse) to the trust during lifetime. The remainder of the estate would be transferred to the trust at the time of death.

An Interesting Concept?

Regardless of the size of your estate, you might wish to consider this planning to protect assets as you provide for family members.

Naturally, the estate must be large enough that it will be practical to manage the assets. And if your estate is large enough to be subject to federal estate tax, then this concept becomes even more interesting.

Our staff has prepared a special planning report, "The Family Trust, How to Make a 'Safe' Gift to Your Family," which explores this concept in further detail. Please request your free copy today. There is no cost or obligation. □

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

estate. And if the grandchildren were also in 50 percent tax brackets, the great-grandchildren would only receive \$1,250,000 of the original \$10 million. The remaining \$8,750,000 would have been paid in taxes.

The Family Trust Is One Solution

As a solution to this dilemma, many individuals are considering a family trust. The trust is established either during lifetime or at death. It is designed to pay income to any living beneficiary based upon need.

The trustee can be given the right to use any of the assets of the trust to maintain the standard of living of any of the beneficiaries, which would include health care, providing income was not sufficient.

The trustee can loan assets to family members to purchase a home or start a business. Assets in the trust will not be subject to divorce or litigation claims and will be protected against spendthrift tendencies of family members. And because the family members do not actually own the assets, they will not be subject to tax at the death of the children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren.

When designed properly, life insurance can be placed into the trust during lifetime. In addition, you can make gifts to the trust of \$10,000 per year, per spouse. And if it is practical to do so, you can also transfer the amount that can be offset by the tax credit equivalency

YES! Please send me the special planning report, "The Family Trust, How to Make a 'Safe' Gift to Your Family." I understand there is no cost or obligation.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Code _____
Birthdate _____
Spouse's birthdate _____

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North American Baptist Conference
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Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994
Phone: (708) 495-2000
Fax: (708) 495-3301

Youth News

Elgin church hosts Iowa Association Fall Youth Retreat

■ ELGIN, IA. The Iowa Association Fall Youth Retreat was hosted by the youth of First Baptist Church. The theme, "Hands Across Iowa," was visually expressed in the youth-designed shirts worn by the teens.

Craig Johnson, George, IA, ministered to the youth through music with the message that each of us are a temple of God of intrinsic value and designed with a distinct, unique purpose.

Competition was hot as teens matched up for their own version of "Family Feud." (The Elgin youth surveyed their church with Bible questions for the 'top 5' answers). The fun continued Saturday afternoon as the teens headed up to Village Creek Bible Camp for crafts, horseback riding, hiking, volleyball, and archery.

The youth who participated were from Aplington Baptist, Aplington; First Baptist, Buffalo Center; Oak Street Baptist, Burlington; Central Baptist and First Baptist, George; Calvary Baptist, Parkersburg; First Baptist, Steamboat Rock; and Victor Baptist, Victor.

"We commend the congregation of First Baptist Church for opening their hearts and homes to 160 youth and sponsors," reports Leanne Carlson, youth sponsor. "The only glitch in the weekend was an outbreak of chicken pox and the flu. This prompted someone to suggest changing the theme from 'Hands across Iowa' to 'Spread It across Iowa.'"

Temple youth "Feed Their Faith"



■ JAMESTOWN, ND. The youth group at Temple Baptist Church, under the leadership of Kristy Jaspers and Doris Giedt, went door-to-door gathering nonperishable and canned food items for the Salvation Army and Social Services in Jamestown. Their motto was

"Feed Your Faith and Feed Your Face."

"After 'feeding their faith,' Kristy and Doris served them lunch," reports Leona Meisch. "They had a wonderful time serving the Lord as they served the less fortunate." The Rev. Randy Jaspers is the pastor. □

Temple church children raise money for Angel Tree

■ JAMESTOWN, ND. The first through third grade Sunday school class at Temple Baptist Church, under the teaching of Doris Giedt, compiled a cookbook. All of the 494 copies were sold and together with some donations, the students raised \$365. With this money, gifts were purchased for prisoners' children

whose names were selected from the "Angel Tree."

In addition, the youth presented food baskets to needy families, served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army for a day, and published a paper called, "The Sunday School Sun."

"They are learning what it means to 'serve the Lord with gladness,'" reports Leona Meisch. The Rev. Randy Jaspers is the pastor.

IN MEMORIAM

■ LEHMANN, WILHELM (77), Harper Woods, MI; born March 15, 1917, to Ferdinand and Emma Schultz at Lublin, Poland; died Nov. 24, 1994; married Hildegard Lehmann (nee Large), Oct. 17, 1953; member, Ridgemont Baptist Church, Eastpointe, MI; and Conner Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, MI; survived by his wife, Hildegard; one daughter, Dorothy (Dave) Trost, Millgrove, ON; two grandchildren; brother, Arthur; two sisters: Waldina Jaeger, Alma Kwek; the Reverends Arthur Boymook, L. Chase, and G. Johnson officiating.

■ MALMBERG, ARNOLD T. (86), Hamden, CT; born Dec. 4, 1907, to Carl and Sophia Anderson Malmberg in Grand Rapids, MI; died Nov. 16, 1994; married Emily Moulty; ordained at Berachah Church, Philadelphia, PA, 1937; served as pastor at Prestonburg Presbyterian, KY, 1930-34; Bible Church, New Brunswick, NY, 1939-50; Evangelical Free Church, New Haven, CT, 1950-65; and Central Baptist Church, Hamden, CT, 1967-1994; predeceased by his wife, Emily; survived by two daughters: Elizabeth Van Seters, Chapel Hill, NC; Eunice Murphy, Statesboro, GA; three sons: A. David, Hamden; John C., West Haven; and Thomas T.,

Brimfield, IL; one brother, Carl; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

■ NULL, ELNORA GLENDA LEE (59), Flower Mound, TX; born March 13, 1935, to Jacob and Louella Ellis in Grundy County, MO, and raised by her grandparents, Syllas and Jennie Albers; died Nov. 21, 1994; married George Null, March 7, 1964; member, First Baptist Church, Lamar, CO; active member, children's Beginners Class teacher, CrossTimbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, TX; predeceased by her parents; survived by her husband, George; one son, James (Tami); two daughters: Carol (Nathan) Douglas; Meloney (Glen) Norris; stepson, David (Rhonda); three stepdaughters: Barbara, Ruby, and Susan; a "brother," Owen Albers; two "sisters": Ina McMillen and Margie Albers; nine grandchildren; the Rev. Ron Presley officiated.

■ WESSELER, DELMAR L. (71), Hutchinson, KS; born Feb. 7, 1923, to Walter and Frances Wessler in Lorraine, KS; died Nov. 15, 1994; married Thelea Schroeder, March 28, 1948, who predeceased him, May 14, 1990; married Joyce Keast, June 6, 1992; life-long member as well as deacon, Centennial Committee chair, and Pastoral

Search Committee chair, First Baptist Church, Lorraine, KS; N.A.B. Conference Moderator: (1973-'76); chair, International Office Relocation and Building Committee chair; General Council member; Church Extension Committee chair; Finance Committee member; Executive Committee member; chair, LAC Triennial Conference, Wichita 1970-'73; General Council and Finance Committee member of Baptist World Alliance; board member, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; board member, N.A.B. College/EBS, Edmonton, AB; trustee, Judson College, Elgin, IL; vice president, Kansas Association of School Boards and member of its Legislative Committee; member, Gideons International; active associate member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Hutchinson, KS; survived by his wife, Joyce; two sons: Delmar II of Kansas City and David of Lorraine, KS; a stepson, Jeffrey Greenhaw; a step-daughter, Linda Rayl; two sisters: Dorothy Danford and Nelda Margason; six step-grandchildren; Dr. John Binder and the Rev. Monty Loudenslager officiating.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ministerial Changes

■ The Rev. James Regehr to pastor, Central Baptist Church, George IA, effective Jan. 1, 1995.

■ The Rev. Howard Boyd to interim pastor, Greenvine Baptist Church, Burton, TX.

■ The Rev. Paul Baumbach to church planter, Boise, ID.

■ Mr. Alan Powell from pastor, Esterhazy Baptist Church, Esterhazy, SK, to pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB.

■ Mr. Walter Moser to pastor, First Baptist Church, Avon, SD, effective Nov. 15, 1994.

■ The Rev. Harvey Motis from pastor, New Leipzig Baptist Church, ND, to pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND, effective Feb. 1, 1995.

■ Mr. Rob Magwood to associate pastor, worship and discipleship; and Mr. Brian Sloan, to associate pastor, youth and outreach, Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB.

■ The Rev. Phil Zylla from pastor, Greenfield Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective Feb. 28, 1995, to study.

■ The Rev. John Fraser, from pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA, to a non-NAB church in Bridgeport, WV.

Petrie resigns . . .

(continued from page 18)

continue to grant growth and spiritual vitality in our local churches and in our Conference ministries. Thank you for your generous support of my ministry at the International Office."

Petrie's secretary, Joyce Kells, speaks for the Development Department personnel when she states, "In reflecting over the past seven years working for Dr. Petrie, I found his humor to be CONTA-GEIOUS, his manner CONSIDERATE, his management CONCILIATORY, and his behavior CONSISTENT. He will be missed very much by all in the Development Department. We wish him well as he continues to serve God in a different CAPACITY." □

Executive Committee hears Discipleship Campaign Proposal

Executive Director Phil Yntema encouraged all members of the Executive Committee to memorize the purpose statement of the N.A.B. Conference: To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. "The statement redirects our Conference from focusing on just evangelism to the greater scope of discipleship which includes evangelism," said Yntema. Yntema noted that less than four percent of all local church giving is designated for making disciples overseas. And less than one percent of giving is designated for making disciples at home through church planting.

"North American Baptists have done international missions right; so there is no need for change there, but we must focus more on established churches at home," states Yntema.

Some of the key components of the strategy are as follows:

- 1) Emphasis will be placed on concerts of prayer. Prayer covenants will be constructed to get each N.A.B.'er seeking God's direction.
- 2) Pastors are designated as the key individuals to equip the saints for discipleship (Ephesians 4).
- 3) Our pastors will be equipped in discipleship and encouraged to grow both spiritually and professionally.
- 4) Full-time area ministers will be sought for each area. They will

be primarily strategists, stimulating each association in disciplinmaking.

5) Each association will be treated as a unique ministry. Working models of discipleship that fit each type of N.A.B. church will be sought and encouraged. The Conference involvement will vary according to the need of each association.

Business conducted included the Executive Committee approving that the Conference change from Minnesota Mutual to MetLife for its Pension Program for the U.S. pastors and Conference personnel beginning Jan. 1, 1995.

The Executive Committee also approved searching for a consultant firm to analyze the Development Department and the Management Services Department.

The Committee approved promoting Karen Dickau from Assistant Director to Associate Director for Administrative Services in the Management Services Department; appointed the Rev. Jim Fann, church planting director, to serve as Acting Church Ministries Director, also; and approved the Rev. Phil Yntema to act as Interim Development Director.

"We plan to do fewer things and do them better. Less International Office means less service," said Yntema. □

BUILDING CHURCHES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Camp Caroline provides opportunities for changed lives

by Jim Crozier
Camp Caroline Executive Director

He came a dedicated Mormon and left a dedicated believer in Jesus Christ.

He came a complacent believer and left saying, "I'm back. I'm reformed and alive again."

She came a solid Christian and left with an even deeper understanding of servant leadership.

This is what camping is all about: breaking into the world of non-believers as well as believers and changing people's lives for eternity. What an investment! What a privilege!

God has changed so many lives in significant ways through the camping ministry. Just ask yourself: Did you make any significant decisions in a camp setting as you were growing up?

Statistics tell us that well over 80 percent of people who become Christians have made some form of significant decision at camp. Christian Camping is one of the most exciting and vital ministries our N.A.B. Conference has (but then again, I'm just a tad biased.)

It doesn't matter what size the camp is. What matters is that the camp provides a concentrated amount of time to dig into who God is and experience His nature in a

natural setting. What better way to get to know the Creator?

Camp Caroline is a multi-faceted year-round retreat center owned and operated by the Alberta Baptist Association. Nestled on 320 acres in the wooded foothills six km south of Caroline, AB, it provides facilities for training sessions, retreats, and just "getting away from it all."

Camp facilities include two lodges, meeting rooms, indoor pools and hot tub, game room, sports fields and numerous hiking trails. The camp can accommodate up to 225 people.

A complete summer camping program for grades two through twelve offers a wide variety of activities. The camp staff is dedicated to providing campers an understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Camp Caroline also offers week-long family camps and an intensive two-week summer leadership/discipleship training course for high school students.

The camp endeavors to make disciples, not just decisions. In the summer of 1994, out of 926 campers, 92 made first-time decisions and 109 rededicated their lives.

Camp Caroline is grateful for the ministry of CEIF. To help complete the most recent building projects—the Aspenridge Lodge and the Pool/Office Complex—the camp received

CEIF loans. While we don't like borrowing money, it is easier to take knowing the interest we pay is used for a cause we believe in.

If you haven't been to your local camp lately, get out there and see the exciting programs offered. If you don't like what you see, get on the board and bring about change. If you like what you see, get on board and support your local camp, not just financially, but in prayer and volunteering, using the gifts God has blessed you with in service to Him through camping. □

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES!



Rev. Lyle Buyer
Is One Of The Reasons.

Pastor Lyle Buyer
McKernan Baptist Church

Upon his graduation from Edmonton Baptist Seminary in 1989, Lyle became the pastor of Faith Community Church in Airdrie, Alberta. Since 1994 he has served as senior pastor of McKernan Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, where his strong pulpit ministry and innovative pastoral care and outreach styles have resulted in significant congregational renewal and growth. Lyle, we're proud of you and pray God's continued blessing on you, your family and ministry.

EDMONTON BAPTIST SEMINARY

is the Canadian seminary of the North American Baptist Conference that God has commissioned and equipped to prepare His special servants for effective ministry.

If you would like to explore your ministry aspirations or receive further information about how Edmonton Baptist Seminary can help prepare you for ministry, please contact:



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