

JULY/AUGUST 1995

BAPTIST HERALD



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(see page 11)

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NEWS

General Council votes to cease publication of the Baptist Herald

During its annual business session, held June 2 and 3 in Oakbrook, Illinois, the General Council (reduced to half its previous size as the result of Triennial Conference action)

■ Approved cutting, redirecting, and raising additional funds to meet the projected 1996 Conference budget shortfall of \$630,000 and provide \$200,000 to fund the disciple-making vision. The first cut affects the *Baptist Herald* and its staff. The Council voted to cease publication of the *Baptist Herald* effective with a fall issue in 1995.

■ Adopted the Vision Statement to be used by the General Council as a management document. It envisions • a growing "concert of prayer" in associations and churches; • ministry characterized by listening, serving, and equipping; • becoming more effective in making disciple makers; • a new set of champions: pastors, staff, and lay leaders; • resourcing pastors to help them grow spiritually and professionally, accountable to the area ministers; • providing 10 full-time area ministers as enabling leaders and catalysts to ensure the health and success of local churches, pastors, and associations; • effective, regional approaches to discipling; • local churches and associations developing their own church planting efforts; • revitalizing established churches; • realigning discipling in international missions; • motivating N.A.B. Conference youth and mid-career adults to respond to God's call and attend N.A.B. Conference schools; • partnering with schools to provide disciple-making skills, ministry assessment, and retraining of present pastors; and • helping associations to raise funds to fulfill their dreams in relation to discipling.

■ Endorsed the formation of an Executive Committee (already in place), a Home Missions Committee (replacing the Church Ministries/Church Planting Board), an International Missions Committee (replacing the Missions Board), and a Management Services Committee. The membership of the last three committees is formed from the General Council with several at-large people on each.

■ Approved the formation of a Home Missions Department, combining the functions of Church Ministries and Church Planting Departments and appointed the Rev. James Fann as Home Missions Director.

■ Moved the development functions into the International Missions and Home Missions Departments leaving a scaled down development staff or Communications Department.

■ Reappointed the Rev. Dennis Dewey and Mrs. Lois Uptigrove to the Conference Executive Committee, and added the Rev. Wayne Bibelheimer, international missions committee chair, and Mr. William Kauffeldt, home missions committee chair, to the Committee. These serve along with the elected Conference officers: the Rev. Ron Norman, moderator; Mr. Wayne Wegner, vice moderator; Mr. Jackie Loewer, treasurer; Mr. Richard Russell, past moderator, and the Rev. Phil Yntema, executive director. Mr. Al Friesen concluded his term.

■ Upon recommendation of their respective Association Executives, appointed Mr. Alex Muz (Alberta and British Columbia) and the Rev. Wayne Jorstad (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario) as Canadian representatives-at-large to the General Council.

■ Endorsed the move toward a balanced budget funded by general and designated offerings by Dec. 31, 1999.

■ Set the 1996 Conference budget goal at \$6,200,000.

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Disciplemaking at Rowandale

by Ken Dueck

At the Triennial Conference in Dallas, TX, in 1994, the North American Baptist Conference recommitted itself to the task of winning new disciples to Christ and discipling them so they would become disciplemakers.

Soon after the Conference, Jim Fann, acting director of church ministries, was given the task to search out quality discipling resources that the Conference can recommend to our pastors and churches.

Churches Alive! is one of the ministry tools. A number of N.A.B. Conference churches are using this discipling resource effectively.

Rowandale Baptist Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is one of these churches. Associate Pastor Ken Dueck and some of Rowandale's members talk about this discipling ministry in their church.

How did Rowandale get started in the discipling ministry?

Ken Dueck: Back in 1991, the Rowandale congregation agreed it needed a more intentional means of discipling people. The leadership looked at various models and settled on the one developed by *Churches Alive!* The congregation decided to embark on a three-year consulting relationship with *Churches Alive!*



"Changed lives! That is why Rowandale Baptist Church has a discipling ministry—to provide a tool for people to embark on a path of Spirit-directed, intentional, gradual, accountable spiritual growth," says Dueck, discipling director.

Why does Rowandale have a discipling ministry?

Ken: Changed lives! That is why Rowandale has a discipling ministry—to provide a tool for people to embark on a path of Spirit-directed, intentional, gradual, accountable, spiritual growth.

What is the purpose of the discipling ministry?

Ken: To glorify God by producing equipped disciples. I agree with Bill Hull, author of *Jesus Christ Disciple Maker*, that for too long evangelical churches have not been concerned enough about the quality of disciples they are producing.

How do you define an equipped disciple?

Ken: I adapted Willow Creek's definition to define an equipped disciple as someone who 1) walks with

God—is growing in his/her relationship with the Father, obedience to Jesus Christ, and dependence on the Holy Spirit; 2) lives the Word—studies and applies the Bible to all areas of life; 3) contributes to the work—uses his/her spiritual gifts, talents, and resources to help the growth and ministry of the local church; and 4) impacts the world—is prepared for and involved in personal evangelism.

Are people becoming equipped through the discipling ministry?

Richard: The Growth Group experience has been a

real stretching exercise for me. I have found the balance between Bible discussion, sharing, outreach, and prayer refreshing. I am becoming more aware of the non-Christian people around me, and I'm beginning to feel more comfortable in developing relationships with them. The application of Scriptural truths to my personal life and memorizing Bible verses have strengthened me in my walk with God. Prayer time has given



"Jeanne Dueck (r.) is our Growth Group Director and leader of our Growth Group leaders," says Ken.

me the privilege of opening my heart to God and worshipping Him.

Mary: To put it metaphorically, I've had the cookbook for years, but in Growth Group, I'm being challenged to use the recipes I am familiar with and to try new ones that I've set aside as too difficult because I haven't fully understood the directions.

Susan: Growth Group taught me how to see God's direction in my life. Our studies are geared for where we are now. I certainly grew in my spiritual life and am thankful for the opportunity to have been involved in a Growth Group.

Ken: The key to Growth Groups is changed lives—taking people from where they are and helping them move closer toward the goal of being an equipped disciple. Growth Groups are our long-term accountability groups.

Each group meets weekly for about two years. Each member is held accountable to 1) prepare his or her Bible studies, memory work, and outreach assignments; 2) attend the meetings and outreach events; and 3) participate in the discussion, sharing, training, and prayer.

Our desire for people in Growth Groups is two-fold: 1) that they would become more like Christ; and 2) that they would be better equipped to launch out into Spirit-gifted, discipling-oriented ministry.

Are Growth Groups the only type of discipling groups you have?

Ken: No. We also have short-term (six to twelve weeks), discussion-oriented Discovery Groups. They are designed to introduce or re-examine the basics of Jesus' love, salvation assurance, Christian life, and the church. Our "Friends" class has been particularly successful in assimilating new people into our church and introducing them to a life of discipling. It is a very informal group that values interaction and developing relationships above "getting through the lesson." During the six weeks, participants examine how Jesus made friends with others and desires to be friends with them.

Gary/Rita: We've enjoyed our involvement with Discovery classes. It's neat to see friendships develop after only a few weeks together. It is also encouraging and exciting to be able to interact with people who may be new in their Christian walk and are actively looking to grow in their faith and understanding.

Are Discovery "grads" moving on into Growth Groups?

Ken: We have found that our Discovery ministry acts as a "farm team" for our Growth Groups. The more



"The Growth Group experience has been a real stretching exercise for me," says Richard Kauenhofen, who will become the Growth Group Director. "Through the Leadership Development Conference, I received a lot of tools, but what impacted me most were the times of worship," says Valerie Kauenhofen.

people we have go through Discovery, the easier it is to fill a Growth Group.

How often do you launch Discovery and Growth Groups?

Ken: It depends on need and leaders. We try to have Discovery classes running all the time as part of our

Adult Sunday School ministry. We launch new "Friends" Discovery classes when there are enough newcomers and interested regulars to warrant. We avoid launching new Growth Groups if there aren't experienced leaders available to lead them. We have found that our size (270 attendance) and makeup of church can manage one new Growth Group a year.

Is leadership training important in your ministry?

Ken: We have a strong emphasis on leadership training; not that everyone in a Growth Group is trained to be a leader, but that those who become leaders would continue to be trained for their ministry. Thus, as Discipling director, I train, equip, and support the Discovery and Growth Group Directors.

The Directors in turn train, equip, and support the Discovery and Growth Group leaders, who, in turn, do the same for the people in their respective groups. The Growth Group Director meets weekly with our Growth Group leaders for sharing, prayer, and training. This weekly meeting is essentially the leaders' Growth Group.

Have you seen results through this leadership training?

Ken: I will give one example—Dean and Nora Reimer were members of our first short-term Discovery Group. Dean then co-led our second Discovery Group. Later, Dean and Nora became leaders of Rowandale's second long-term Growth Group.

Shortly after that, my wife Jeanne became the Growth Group Director. I met weekly with Jeanne for training and planning. She met weekly with Dean and Nora for support and training. They, in turn, weekly disciplined their Growth Group members.

A couple from that group, Richard and Valerie Kauenhofen, became leaders of our third Growth Group. Now, Jeanne and I are preparing Richard to take over Jeanne's position as Growth Group Director in January 1996. Jeanne will then probably assist in the leadership of our Discovery ministry.



"It is encouraging and exciting to be able to interact with people who may be new in their Christian walk and are actively looking to grow in their faith and understanding," say Gary and Rita Streuber.

Are there other training opportunities for your leaders?

Ken: Yes. In May we hosted our third annual Growing by Discipling Seminar. We worked together with Whyte Ridge Baptist. It was a one-day seminar designed to introduce the ministry to other churches, and provide practical skills training for present and potential discipling leaders from our churches.

So Rowandale desires to help other churches launch discipleship efforts?

Ken: It is much like sharing Christ with another person. Both Rowandale and Whyte Ridge desire to share our ministry with other churches. Our ministries multiply as other churches launch into discipleship ministries, and the Kingdom of God is advanced.

Whyte Ridge introduced this discipleship concept to Rowandale, and we, in turn, introduced it to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Saskatchewan.

Recently, I had the opportunity to share our ministry with Saskatchewan and some Manitoba churches at a consultation in Yorkton. In April, I shared with Oakbank Baptist Church, and a week later, together with Pastor Dave Henkelman and Dave Wynne from Whyte Ridge and Jim Dickson, our *Churches Alive!* consultant, with a gathering of area Salvation Army churches. I'm excited about such opportunities.



Susan Dueck (l.) was a member of our first Growth Group; she presently leads a seniors Bible study. Mary Harder (r.) is a member of our fourth Growth Group.



Three generations of disciplemakers are from left: Ken and Jeanne Dueck, who disciplined Dean and Nora Reimer, who disciplined Richard and Valerie Kauenhofen in Growth Group 2. They are now discipling members of Growth Group 3. Incidentally, Dietmar and Hannelore Potschka also were in Dean and Nora Reimer's Growth Group. They took on leadership of Growth Group 4 when their group ended.

Are there other training opportunities for your leaders?

Ken: Each August, *Churches Alive!* puts on a Leadership Development Conference. Churches from all over North America and beyond come together for sharing, training, and worship. It has been invaluable in not only equipping our leaders with skills but instilling and renewing a vision for discipleship in Rowandale.

Valerie: The first time I went to LDC, I did not know what to expect. Our Growth Group had not started yet so I was looking for a lot of information. I was not disappointed, and I went home with a lot of tools. But what impacted me the most were the times of worship. To have a group of people totally dedicated to God and spending time singing His praises was an uplifting and new experience for me. It was also interesting to see how even though we claim different names (i.e., Baptist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc.) we are all one in the body of Christ. These labels were not a barrier.

Richard: LDC has been the place where I have acquired some of the tools to do discipleship. The many sessions provided me with practical helps in leading a Growth Group. It was also during this time that I was encouraged and inspired to be a part of changing lives through honest, biblical discipleship.

From your experience, what makes the Churches Alive! model effective for use in the local church?

Ken: There are a number of factors: 1) an experienced consultant works with the Discipling Director (initially a pastor; usually the senior pastor) of the church to train and help him lay a solid foundation of discipling in the church; 2) the church is encouraged to start small and multiply carefully. A sure way to render a ministry ineffective is to get ahead of trained, available leaders, and multiply errors before having a chance to correct them; 3) accountability and ongoing training is built into the entire ministry from outside consultant to Discovery participant; 4) *Churches Alive!* encourages churches to keep their existing ministries and add to them Discovery and Growth Groups. As more people become disciplined, discipling principles begin to permeate every ministry of the church. Thus the church is transformed gradually into a discipling center; 5) effective and quality annual Leadership Development Conferences bringing together churches from across North America and beyond; and 6) the many testimonies from people in Rowandale of how their lives have been changed to the glory of God. □

Ken Dueck is Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Adult Education at Rowandale Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.



Studying future church building plans in the Baptist Union and Seminary building in Moscow are (seated l. to r.) Svetlana, Dr. Harold Dressler, the Rev. Walter Kroguletz, Lydia Kroguletz, and Pastor Alexander (standing at right).

Faith of Our Fathers . . . Living Still

by Wally Kroguletz

Was it jetlag or the narrow sleeping couch my wife and I were sharing? I awoke very early and couldn't fall asleep again. Suddenly it hit me. I'm in Moscow, the famous Russian capital with its rich, vivid, and long history!

Indeed, Moscow is the city where my grandfather, Heinrich Challier, served as pastor of the German Baptist Church. My mother grew up in this city as a school girl during World War I. Later, she worked at the Moscow Baptist Seminary, where grandfather served as part-time instructor and where father studied for the Gospel ministry. It was here where father proposed to mother—once, twice, and thank God, a third time. They

were married in 1930, the year the Communist persecution against Christian leaders began. This resulted in the closing of the Baptist Seminary.

Now I could clearly see the connection. Almost exactly a year ago in February 1994, Dr. Herman Effa reported to the N.A.B. Conference pastors of the Portland, Oregon, area about the "open doors of Russia," and a new Bible school in Samara, Russia.

When I saw the video of the newly constructed Baptist Seminary in Moscow, a familiar chord was struck in my heart. It was as if God nudged me to respond to the call, return to my "roots," and continue even in a small way where my fathers had left off.

We prayed about it, and God marvelously opened all of the doors. The church, which I pastor, Riviera Baptist Church of Salem, Oregon, not only gave me its blessing, but also insisted my wife,

Lydia, accompany me on this trip. The Church raised all of the necessary funds.

I was to teach Evangelism and the Book of Acts, both favorite subjects of mine. With God's help, I prepared nearly 60 new lessons for my assignment besides performing my regular pastoral responsibilities.

The morning we arrived at the Moscow airport, we received another confirmation in a providential meeting, as we met "professor" Myles Beck, pastor of Holiday Park Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA. He had completed his two week teaching stint at the Bible School and was returning home from Samara. With words of encouragement, a few helpful hints and prayer, he handed me the "baton of professorship" for the next two weeks.

Our first Sunday at Transfiguration Baptist Church, which houses the Bible School, proved to be a moving experience for me. By the time the Church and the choir sang

the second hymn, I was in tears. I was suddenly taken back to 1943, when as a six-year-old, I sat with my mother in the choir loft, listening and singing those same Gospel hymns which we sang with just as

much feeling in that familiar "minor key." It was as if I had "come home" after a long time.

The Church warmly welcomed us. The few Russian words I remembered helped in our basic communication. However, I learned even in that first service that there is a difference in the ways we worship.

In all of the Baptist worship services in which I participated, there were always three preachers sharing the Word. Every service extended well past two hours. We heard at least four choir selections and as many as five or six vocals or recitals. Some were spontaneous and freely included in the open order of service. Certainly, God is pleased to see His house filled to capacity with worshipers who love to sing, to pray—and they pray fervently—and who also love to listen



"What took you so long to get here?" the Director (center) of the Baptist Seminary in Moscow asks Lydia (l.) and Wally Kroguletz (r.)

and organizations, as well as delegates from Finland, Holland, and South Africa. Together, they mapped out a plan for the Billy Graham Global Mission Special and another mission outreach in the Samara region for the summer.

One of the participating churches was the St. George Lutheran Church of Samara. I spoke there twice in German as their midweek service is still in German. We shared in their joy. These evangelical Lutherans had also been persecuted, their church having been locked up from 1936 to 1990.

The Lord is obviously blessing the new missionary zeal of our sister churches there. All of the reporting churches are showing growth. Two of them mushroomed from about 15 to nearly 300 members in less than three years. Praise

to God's Word.

We witnessed an exciting ground-swell of missionary endeavors while in Russia. In Samara, we participated in a Missionary Conference attended by a dozen local evangelical churches

and organizations, as well as delegates from Finland, Holland, and South Africa. Together, they mapped out a plan for the Billy Graham Global Mission Special and another mission outreach in the Samara region for the summer.

God for that! All of these new church plants need shepherds and that is where our Bible School comes in. Having been primed by Dr. Harold Dressler (see his report in the April *Baptist Herald*) and the Rev. Perry Kallis (see his report in the December *Baptist Herald*), who were the first to break the academic ground at the Samara Bible School, I was pleasantly surprised with the ease my interpreters communicated my English lectures. I found it fulfilling to teach those eager pastoral students the lessons on evangelism and the methods of follow-up and discipling.

It was a joy to interact with those congenial students. They took their studies very seriously and busily copied every possible word they heard into their notebooks.

My wife, Lydia, assisted me in three of my lectures. She spoke twice to the weekly women's meeting and teamed up with me for a few duets.

We had a lot of fun singing with the students during the half-hour chapel service prior to the lectures, and they already knew a couple of English choruses. During the chapel services, I asked each one to share his testimony. That was part of our practical assignment in evangelism.

These relatively new Christians told how God entered their lives, how "they repented of their sins," and how they became new. Almost all had served their terms in the military. Two were former engineers; one had studied law; one was a farmer; and one had been a part-time entertainer.

He confessed, "I was not only a bad sheep; I was a destructive goat; but now I thank God for the love of Jesus and the new life He gave me."

Remarkably, at least five students recalled the powerful influence of their "babushkas" (grandmas), who were instrumental in drawing them to Jesus.



"As I look at the class photo, I thank God for each of them, praying that they may all continue to be true men of God," says Kroguletz.

It was most enriching to visit families in their homes. The Russian believers are cordial and generous people, so loving and so giving.

We experienced divine protection during our missionary assignment in Russia. During the two weeks we were in Samara, we lived in a five-story apartment block of 160 units and no elevators. The pastors told us not to talk at all outside our apartment, and not to open the door to anyone but a few designated people, such as our driver and Alexie, our friendly shadow. All of this because Westerners had been repeatedly targets of hold-ups and even murder.

So, every evening when we came home, we made our way through the dimly lit stairwell to the fourth floor. The second floor had no light at all. One night during the second week, we entered the stairwell and immediately heard muffled voices upstairs. We kept going—slowly and deliberately. As we suspected, we could see shadows cowering on the second floor landing. Being dark, we saw the cigaret butts glow. We just about froze when we made out five men sitting there in silence, waiting. Thank God, none of them moved or said a word . . . not until we reached our apartment and locked up did we hear their voices again. We



Lydia, (front right), and half of the student body take a break.

thank God for having sent His angel who walked ahead of us.

Saying farewell to the students, now friends is coupled with a sense of personal loss. I am privileged to have been instrumental in their spiritual development and in preparing them to communicate the message of hope in today's hopeless world. Very few have the opportunity to complete the cycle of service which was begun by their forefathers many years ago.

I was one afforded that opportunity because of the vision and commitment of our N.A.B. Conference to "go and make disciples of every nation." Indeed, this has been the greatest missionary adventure for us in our 31 years of service. Praise the Lord! □



Pastors Benjamin and Victor of Transfiguration Baptist Church in Samara, with translators, Nadja and Alexie, and Rev. Wally Kroguletz (l. to r.).

Visiting Places of My Childhood

by Wally Kroguletz

Riviera Baptist Church granted us a third week for travel, so we went to Moscow and to Nikolajev, my birthplace. In Moscow, we visited the Baptist Union Office and Seminary, where we had a refreshing visit with Dr. Harold Dressler, who was lecturing there that week.

Among various other notable sites we visited, was the historic Central Baptist Church, where we met old Pastor Zhidkov, advanced in years, who personally remembered my father.

We flew to Odessa, Ukraine, where we visited the new Baptist Bible College and a rapidly growing evangelical church. This Church still meets in a big tent, while its new sanctuary is being constructed.

Pastor Victor drove us to Nikolajev where we saw the places of my childhood. We saw the jail where both my grandfather and my father were imprisoned because of their faith in Christ. Grandfather died shortly after his release in 1937. My father was picked up by the KGB six months later and spent three months in that jail before being sent to the concentration camp in Siberia, where he died seven years later at age 40.

Tears welled up in my eyes as we looked at those prison walls and gratefully remembered the faith of our fathers.

The day we returned to Moscow, Listyev, a famous and very popular conservative TV personality, was murdered in the shadows of the stairwell of his apartment building. □

The Rev. Wally Kroguletz is the senior pastor of Riviera Baptist Church, Salem, OR.

40 Secrets for a Better Marriage

by Victor M. Parachin

"Marriage should be honored by all," states the writer of Hebrews (13:4). Here are 40 secrets to deepen love and make a good marriage better.

♥ Always treat each other with mutual respect. This is a key foundation upon which a healthy marriage is based. Keep in mind the biblical command: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

♥ Say "I love you" upon rising and before retiring and many, many times in between.

♥ Remember, the couple that prays together stays together. Statistics reveal that couples with an active faith life have far less divorce than those who do not worship and pray regularly.



er. Read and discuss the same books periodically. Participate in a Bible study.

♥ Don't let it all hang out. While genuine honesty is vital for a good marriage, there is a time to hold back, particularly if you are angry. One aspect of maturity is the ability to restrain the expression of emotion.

♥ Make kindness a habit.

♥ Be liberal with praise and cautious with criticism.

♥ Turn off the TV for 20 minutes one evening a week. Sit together and just talk. Find out what your spouse is feeling, thinking, and experiencing.

♥ Laugh. While the foundation of marriage is serious, com-

mitted love, the fundamental nature of romance is lighthearted. So, do things to elicit laughter. Read a jokebook. Watch comedies. Periodically surprise each other with outrageous, zany behavior.

CLEO PHOTO

♥ *Listen. Don't talk; don't problem solve; don't give advice; don't agree; don't disagree; don't become defensive.* Just listen. By listening, you will validate your spouse.

♥ Read inspirational passages together. Do this each evening if possible. Read from the Bible as well as other good inspirational books and magazines.

♥ Remember the three magic sentences: "I love you." "I thank you." "I am sorry." Use them often. They have the power to transform hurt into healing and pain into peace.

♥ Also remember to say, "I forgive you." Be gentle and sincere when using it. Then forget the reason you used it. Each partner has a profound responsibility to make it safe for the other to admit wrong. Recall the words of St. Paul: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

♥ Be your spouse's cheerleader in life. Every day find reasons to encourage, applaud, and compliment something about your partner.

♥ Teach but don't nag. For example, if you want your partner to be more sensitive, try being more sensitive yourself. Example is a powerful teacher.

♥ Periodically place post-it notes all over your house with expressions of love, admiration, appreciation, and praise.

♥ Make a private list of what you think is most nurturing and affirming to your partner. Then follow through with at least one activity from your list each week. As you complete the list, begin the cycle again.

♥ When your partner has had an *exceptionally tough day*, hold your spouse in your arms for 15 minutes, giving permission to relax completely.

♥ Exercise patience. The ability to see beyond the immediate moment to the big picture will help weather a stormy time in a relationship. This is what St. Paul had in mind when he wrote: "Love is patient" (I Corinthians 13:4).

♥ One day this week take a postage stamp and go to a greeting card store. Carefully select a card. Write a tender message to your partner. Address the envelope to your spouse's work address. Mail it.

♥ Get physical. There are times when a long bear hug beats all words. Do this often. A touch has the power to soothe hurts and ease fears.

♥ Look back. Always remember that shared memories deepen and rekindle love. Today, pull out an old photo album and look back.

♥ Celebrate your anniversary every month this year.

♥ When you both hear a romantic song over the radio, dedicate it to your spouse.

♥ Surprise your spouse with a favorite meal, either at home or in a restaurant.

♥ Write a love letter in which you tell your spouse some of the reasons you are in love. Don't worry about being poetic or lengthy. Just express yourself simply and sincerely.

♥ Celebrate every accomplishment and achievement at a favored restaurant—a pay raise, new job, graduation, the purchase of a new home. . . whatever comes along, celebrate.

♥ Give your partner loads and

loads of reassurance. Identify good qualities. Compliment abilities and talents. Reinforce everything good about your spouse.

♥ Praise publicly. Compliment your spouse in front of others. This adds value to the compliment.

♥ Get creative. Roses are nice. However, if you really want to make a lasting impression give a Bonsai tree. Or buy a large plant which is at least as tall as your spouse. Make sure it sits in a beautiful planter. The roses will die off, but the Bonsai tree and the plant will live for years and be a continuous reminder of your love.

♥ Practice courtship after marriage. Always treat your partner as if you were still dating.

♥ Spend a weekend on a marriage retreat. You will both feel renewed, refreshed, relaxed, and even reawakened.

♥ Share your feelings not just your facts. Partners need to know each other intimately. That means opening up your heart as well as your mind.

♥ Learn the art of compromise. Occasionally, do something with your partner that you hate to do. And, do it graciously, cheerfully, with enthusiasm and energy.

♥ Be a bit surprising. Always be on the lookout for ways to please and surprise each other with unexpected thoughtfulness, treats, and gifts.

♥ Mind your manners. Show to your mate the same courtesy that you displayed when courting. Extend the same kindness to your partner as you do toward acquaintances.

♥ Say your mate is worth it through actions. Make life easier for your partner by filling his gas tank,

(Continued on page 14.)

Working Out a Racial Problem

IN PHILADELPHIA



"Different races have to work together to solve problems. We have to focus on the problem, not on the color of our skin, to get things done, but I am still sad about my Shaquille O'Neal."

by Joseph Correnti

Over the summer, there was a problem. It happened to me two different times. Our neighborhood is mostly black, but there are also white families here. Mostly everyone gets

along and has fun times together, but this time we had a problem.

My friends and I were riding our bikes in the tennis courts. One of my friends and I are white. The tennis courts are behind some houses away from the street, so if you are behind there and someone hurts you, no one can see you to come to help you.

Some black boys came over to us. One was very tall. We later learned he was 14. The other was smaller. He was about 12 years old. He had a scarred up face. By the way they walked, we knew there was going to be trouble. They walked toward us.

My friend said, "This does not look good." My friend and I were thinking the same thing.

My friends took off on their bicycles. However, I did not get away because both black boys went after me. The smaller one pushed me off my bike. I started to run away. He gave me back my bike. He said, "Here man, take your bike. I was only playing." Maybe he knew I would tell my mom, but I do not know.

Something that I will always remember is that when I left, I saw one of my friends coming back to help me. When he saw me with my bike, he was surprised I still had my bike. My other friend went to

tell my family. Both my friends were good friends. They helped me a lot.

The second time we met these two boys, I was biking with my friend Matthew. He is the friend that came back to see if I was okay. We were two blocks from my house, and we saw the same two black boys standing on the corner with their bikes. Matthew noticed them first. They came on both sides of me, and I stopped.

First they said, "Get off the road so that you don't get hit."

The younger one said, "This time we are not playing with you."

Then they asked me if I had anything valuable on me. I said that the only thing valuable that I had on me was my Eagles cap.

They said, "We don't want that sweaty piece of junk."

Then they asked Matthew for his sneakers. Matthew said, "No."

So they said they did not want them anyway. They held on to Matthew and his bike.

They said to me, "Go home and get something valuable, and you can have your friend and his bike back. I biked to my house and went to my room. I got two baseball cards and one basketball card of Shaquille O'Neal. The Shaquille O'Neal is worth a lot of money . . . maybe around ten dollars.

I returned to where Matthew was being held and gave them my cards. They took the cards and said that if they ever got us again, that we should make sure that we had something valuable on us.

Matthew and I went back to my house and started telling some of our other black friends about what happened. We were still scared and shaking.

Two of our black friends, Oliver and Shavoy, said that these two boys took other stuff from them and other kids. Oliver said that they took his watch. Shavoy said that they took five dollars from him when he was on his way to the corner store.

Just then, my mother came out. She saw my face and said, "What's wrong?" We told her about what happened and what these boys took from us and the other kids.

Mom said, "These boys need to be spanked!" She got everyone that had something stolen from these boys and put them in our car.

First, we drove around the neighborhood looking for them. Shavoy knew what block they lived on, so we headed over toward their block. He also knew that their names were Levi and Eric.

When we got to the block, Mom asked people if they knew where Levi and Eric lived. They pointed out their houses to us, so Mom parked the car. All of us walked up to the door of Levi's house and then to Eric's house. We found that they were not home.

Mom told the parents about the problem. She said that if we could solve this on our own, she would not call the police. She said that we would come back in an hour, that we would want all our things back, and that we would like to have a meeting to make sure that this was stopped. The parents said that they

wanted it solved, so we could come back to meet with them.

An hour later, we came back with everybody—and also Matthew's dad. The families of both boys were in the dining room of Eric's house. They had set up enough chairs so that we could all gather around the table. We told what had happened.

Eric's mom was really surprised that all this was going on. She said to Eric, "So that's where you got the watch. You told me that you found it!"

Just then Eric began to cry like he was very, very sad. His mom made him go to his room and get the rest of the things he had taken.

Levi wasn't sad. He said, "I didn't do nuthin'."

His mom said he did.

My mom said, "Go get the cards you took from Joseph."

He said, "I don't have the cards."

My mom said, "Go get all your cards and let Joseph pick out some that will equal what you stole."

Levi went to his house and got his cards. I picked out some to make up for what he took. I was still sad about my Shaquille O'Neal.

Levi gave up his cards, but never admitted that he did anything wrong.

Eric was still crying a lot. Mom said, "Eric, you are just the age of these boys from whom you are stealing. You should be playing with them instead of helping Levi steal from them. Why don't you come to our block to play?" Eric said he would do that.

We didn't invite Levi because he still didn't look sad about what he had done.

Several times that summer, Eric came over to play on our block. We traded cards and played Sega.

Different races have to work together to solve problems. We have to focus on the problem, not on the color of our skin, to get

things done. But I am still sad about my Shaquille O'Neal. □

Joseph Correnti is in grade six and is a member of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA, where his parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Jim Correnti serve.

(continued from page 12)

washing her car, cutting the lawn, making a meal. These actions show you care enough to lighten the load by doing what is not expected of you.

♥ Schedule brief vacations.

Today's pace can stifle intimacy. Intentionally block off a few days periodically during the year when you can vacation. Then, enjoy a late, leisurely breakfast or take a long moonlight stroll. Brief vacations can open new territory while recovering old ground.

♥ Have rules for fighting. All married people have disagreements which can lead to a heated argument. Early in your relationship establish rules to fight fair. Here are some basic ones: Always avoid any physical abuse; never leave the house and run home to your parents or to a bar; always sleep in the same room; try to resolve an issue before falling asleep.

♥ Make yourself available.

Couples drift apart when they don't give each other the time a relationship demands. □

*The Rev. Victor M. Parachin is a freelance writer and author of the book, **Ties That Bind: Remaining Happy as a Couple after the Wedding** (Chalice Press). He resides in Virginia Beach, VA.*

Mamfe Memories

by Lena Schroeder and Ed Cyrankiewicz

On March 12, 1995, excitement and anticipation filled the air as the song, "Look What God Is Doing All Across the Land," resonated through Zion Baptist Community Church. We, the Mamfe church builders, shared our experiences in Cameroon, Africa.

The seeds for this celebration service were planted in January 1994, when Gus and Lena Schroeder participated in the Cameroon Sunrise *JESUS* film outreach in Mamfe and surrounding villages. The outreach proved to be a phenomenal victory for Christ as people experienced salvation; believers were restored; and many enrolled in follow-up Bible studies.

Gus and Lena returned with a renewed zeal for missions and an appeal from the Calvary Baptist Church in Mamfe for financial assistance with its new church building. The N.A.B. Conference Missions Department approved this request and recommended that Zion Baptist Community Church organize a team to assist with the roof construction.

"When the brothers and sisters of my congregation in Mamfe learned our project was approved, they spontaneously sang songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Redeemer of mankind," responded Richard Wanki, the chair.

Because God is truly at work in Mamfe, the Church has grown from 40 to 90 members, and the pastor baptized three persons within six months. There 150 children learn about God in the Sunday School.

It is now one year later, and the dream of the Mamfe Church is reality. Glory be to God! The people of Zion Baptist Community Church had responded joyfully and generously to the challenge.

Under the direction of the Zion Missions Committee, various fundraising activities were initiated. A total of \$11,070 was contributed toward the Mamfe Building Fund.

The challenge remained for a volunteer team to go to Mamfe. After much prayer and recruiting, five men committed themselves to the project. Richard Wanki later described them as dynamic, serious-minded, and above all, competent gentlemen.

On February 4, after three months of planning and preparation and an arduous 54-hour journey, Daryl Martin, Charles Nsah, and Richard Wanki greeted our team at the Douala Airport at 6:50 a.m.

Our first stop was at Saker



"O What a Happy Day," sang the Mamfe Church people as the Mamfe Church builders arrived.

Baptist College, a renowned residential school for 800 girls. There we saw Wilma Binder, a missionary whose heart is in education with a Christian emphasis, in action. The school is completely self-supporting. A new chapel and conference center are under construction.

We had hoped to see the Baptist Camp at Bimbia in the afternoon. Due to a torrential rain, the road was impassable. Daryl took us to Eleven Mile Beach Resort instead. The beautiful, sandy beach stretched for miles. It was completely deserted. Daryl explained that the locals don't have the means to enjoy this facility, and tourists are few.

After an indescribably refreshing swim, we headed north to Kumba. Here we enjoyed the hospitality of Betty Buchholz, a missionary serving in the Central Treasury. She served a traditional meal of fish and roasted plantain, which we relished African style . . . with our fingers.

Sunday morning, we joined hands with our African brothers and sisters in praising the Lord at the Berean Baptist Church.

After lunch, Dennis Panches, a Wycliff Bible translator, arrived to take us to Mamfe. The African transportation system needs to be experienced to be believed. The roads are bone-jarring, and horns honk as goats and chickens scurry out of the way. Everything along the road is covered with a thick layer of red dust.

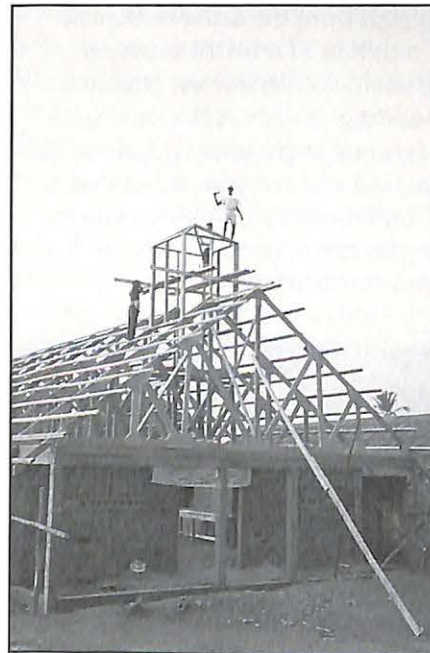
We expected life in Africa to contrast sharply with life in Canada;



Many hands make light work as Africans and Canadians unite to build a roof.

however, we were not prepared for the cultural and economic differences we witnessed as we drove through towns and villages, police posts, and market places. We observed countless adults and children going about their daily duties, carrying heavy loads on their head, and infants on their back.

At 5:45 p.m., we approached Mamfe. A large crowd had gathered on the road—an accident we



Martin, a prisoner, serving 18 months for fighting, impressed us with his agility and music. His favorite song was "No more fighting, love everybody." He helped us daily.

us with flowers as the procession advanced to the church. We were deeply touched by this expression of love. Tears welled up in our eyes. Two choirs sang to greet us as everyone rejoiced and thanked God for our safe arrival.

We set to work early Monday morning. Progress was initially slow due to electrical problems. Nonetheless, by the end of the day, we made three trusses and almost completed the installation of the wall plates.

For six days we labored hand in hand under the hot equatorial sun with local church members and apprentice carpenters from the mission in Bamenda and Limbe. When extra manpower was needed to lift and position the trusses on the walls, a group of 35 prisoners were released to assist us.

Inquiries about the temperature (possibly 35 degrees C) evoked the same response daily — "more hot today!"

By Saturday, the installation of the metal cladding was almost complete on one side of the roof. Local workers completed the project the following week.

Our faith was strengthened as we recognized God's provision of health and safety throughout the project. That night the team, dressed in traditional African attire,

surmised. To our amazement, the Rev. Gabriel Besong, Richard Wanki, and hundreds of eager, joyful Africans of all ages surrounded us singing, "O What a Happy Day!" They danced and waved palm branches and showered

joined the congregation in celebrating the goodness of God — and the answer to their prayers.

We realized that economic conditions in Cameroon made it impossible for a small congregation to construct the roof, the most costly part of the building, without outside assistance. Considering their meager resources—very few have some type of income—the accomplishment of the Mamfe Christians is miraculous. They had finished the foundation, made 4,000 cement blocks, and erected the walls.

It was a blessing to worship with our African brothers and sisters in their new church on Sunday morning. We have never experienced the

expression of appreciation and love for the Lord with such exuberance. We found it difficult to say goodbye after the service.

Richard Wanki declared, "The marvelous roof project you have accomplished is a milestone in our church's history. It has brought great rejoicing in the Lord and serves as a challenge to be faithful in building His Kingdom."

We left by helicopter for Bamenda, where the Cameroon Baptist Convention headquarters is located. There we experienced the warm-hearted hospitality of Field

Secretary, Dr. Oryn Meinerts, his wife, Pat, and other sagacious mission staff who provide leadership to advance God's Kingdom in Cameroon.

On Monday morning, we visited the Cameroon Baptist Seminary at Ndu where Alfred Bumuh, the assistant director, gave us a tour of this great complex, which provides training for pastors and wives. Alfred and his wife, Mary, had studied at N.A.B. College in Edmonton, previously.



The chief of the Mamfe region (third from left) joined in the roof project festivities.

In the afternoon and evening, we enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Dr. Dieter and Mrs. Marliiss Lemke, volunteers in missions, serving at Banso Baptist Hospital. We were deeply moved by the commitment and sacrificial service of medical staff and volunteers. Their accomplishments through God's power

are truly remarkable, considering their limited resources. We sensed a deep love for the Lord among the young people from the school for the blind, as they sang and challenged us with "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God."

On Wednesday, Daryl took us to Mbingo Baptist Hospital, a combined general hospital and leprosy care facility. Here staff is committed to extending a healing touch to ailing bodies and sin-sick souls as well as rehabilitating the disabled.

Therapy includes making prosthetics, wheelchairs, orthopedic shoes, baskets, and cloth goods.

Our tour of the mission field gave us a fresh understanding of the commitment

and dedication of our missionaries as well as a new appreciation for our heritage and life in Canada.

As we reflect and share these experiences with friends and the Zion Church family, we marvel with the Psalmist, "Many O Lord our God, are the wonders you have done. The things you have planned

for us, no one can recount." □



Zion Baptist Community Church Sunday School children raised \$175 for the Mamfe Church Project. They pasted a "brick" with their name on it to the model church for every dollar they contributed.

Lena Schroeder was the Mamfe Project Coordinator, and Ed Cyrankiewicz was a Mamfe Team Member from Zion Baptist Community Church, Edmonton, AB.

Sunday evenings take on a new look at Sioux Falls church

by Christine Okken

When an area of ministry has been a certain way for a long time, the challenge of doing it differently brings about many possibilities. Evening services at Hillcrest Baptist Church had been done the same way for as many years as everyone could remember, but attendance began to drop. People were not responding to the evening service in the same way, and they became non-committal. Though Hillcrest had grown dramatically, people remarked that the evening service was not meeting their needs of fellowship and discipleship.

The challenge: To do Sunday nights differently than we had ever done before. So, the senior pastor, Harry Kelm, began a brainstorming process. The results of that brainstorming have brought about a whole new focus on Sunday evening ministry in this Sioux Falls, South Dakota, church.

In early spring 1993, the deacons and the Church voted to make changes to Sunday evening. We formed TLC groups (Tender Loving Care)—small group studies focusing on prayer, learning, and fellow-

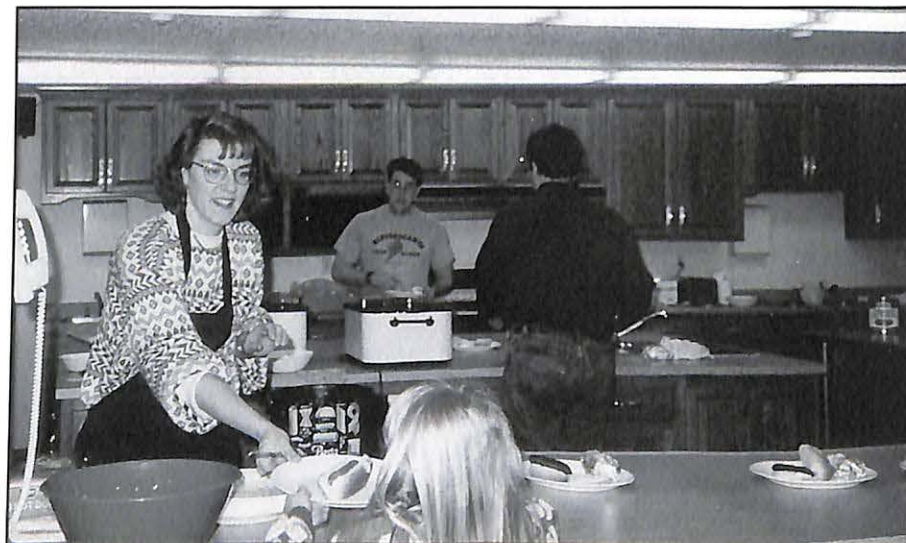


ship. Initially, we tried this on a trial basis. Its format looked much different than today's.

To begin with, some groups met

in homes; others met at the Church two to three times a month. If they were interested in participating, people signed up and were assigned to groups. These TLC groups interacted on the morning sermon through questions that Pastor Harry constructed each week. Later, the groups changed to study a specific topic, with all groups studying the same material.

The pastor chose the leaders for each group. He then led them through four to five sessions of training. The group leaders continued to have regular monthly meetings to keep everyone headed in the same direction . . . and to troubleshoot any issues that came up.



Each week, one of the TLC groups trades off to help with the preparation and clean-up.

After a year, the leadership re-evaluated the program. We decided to allow people to have input on what the groups would study. They filled out a survey to determine possible topics of interest. The top choices became the topics for the fall.

"It seems to make more sense for people to choose a study that appeals to them and then form groups by common interest," says Pastor Harry.

The positive result of the topical choices: People study what appeals to them. The studies meet them at their point of need. Choices for the fall included marriage, parenting, prayer, discipleship, the Book of Ephesians, and an intergenerational study. We have already surveyed the congregation to determine their new choices for the next year of study.

We also made a major change in location. With the completion of our new Family Life Center, we finally had the needed space for all groups to meet in the Church. This seemed a big plus for families, as we saw the need to make it a night for the whole family.

The Children's Choir meets for a half hour, then the children go into their own groups for the last half hour. People are excited about their children plugging in. So, the

evening also involves: Nursery Care, Children's Choir practice, King's Kids Junior (ages 3 - kindergarten), King's Kids (grades 1-5), Middle School and High School Bible study.

As fellowship is a primary need of our people, and a goal of the church, we explored the idea of bringing everyone together before the TLC groups for a common meal. As it came together, Lee Tigner, a chef in our Church, became the point man planning and preparing meals for us.

Each week, one of the TLC groups trades off to help with the preparation and clean-up. The meal begins at 5:15 p.m. for a \$2.50 per person cost (\$10 maximum per family). This has been one of the most positive additions to the program. People are truly enjoying the fellowship time together, and the cost of the meal is reasonable. It also brings all of the people together in one place before they break up into small groups.

TLC groups begin at 6:00 p.m. and meet for one hour. The response has been tremendous. Our attendance at evening services had averaged less than 60 people. Now our current attendance at TLC groups is more than 150 people.

People are seeing it as a time to really grow together and to come to

know a small group of people on a more intimate level. Our newer families have found it a great way to plug into the Church. Since the Church has grown dramatically in the last few years, people need to feel like they belong to a smaller group that cares for them and is concerned for them and their growth.

Chantelle Sneath, one of the members of the Ephesians group, said, "I like the sharing in a smaller group. You build a closeness that way. It's also more relaxed in a small group, and you feel comfortable to share."

Ann Born, another group member, said that the first thing to come to mind about TLC groups is "it gives you a chance to really get to know someone beyond the surface level. You can come into the meal and see someone you don't really know well, yet have a meal with them. Then you have another person you can call a friend."

Groups still meet two to three times per month, September through November, and then in December and January we meet in combined events. We start TLC groups again in February and go through May. During the summer months, we meet in special combined events.

People enjoy the varied schedule. Not only do our people have the opportunity to try out new groups, but also they still have other special events they can attend at the Church on a regular basis.

So, Sunday evenings at Hillcrest are completely different! Yet that difference has really impacted the face of ministry here. People are learning, growing, fellowshiping, laughing, building relationships, and praying. We really are experiencing Tender Loving Care. □

Christine Okken is Director of Youth and Administration at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD.



Adding a reasonably priced meal that brings all of the people together in one place before they break into small groups has been one of the most positive additions to the program.

Redefining Large

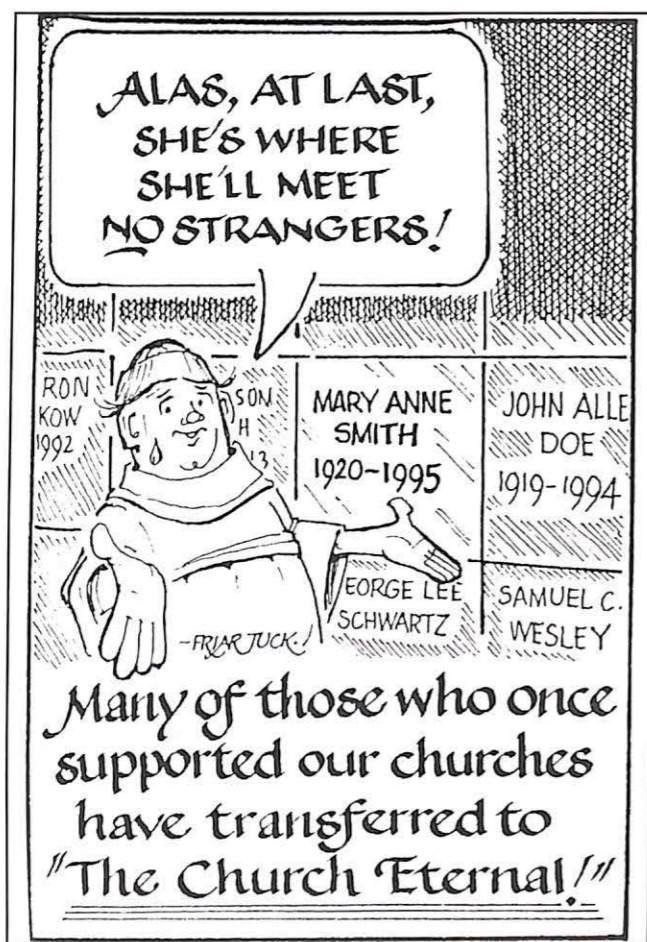
by Lyle E. Schaller

The second half of the twentieth century has brought a redefinition of the descriptive term **large** to nearly every facet of life on the North American continent. One example is that the proportion of farms in the United States that covers at least 100 acres has increased from 35 percent in 1900 to 42 percent in 1950 to nearly 60 percent in 1992. The average (mean) size of America's farms has more than doubled from 195 acres in 1945 to 465 acres in 1992. Other examples are • the size of retail stores, • the enrollment in the large tax-supported research universities, • the size of hospitals and medical clinics, • the size of community high schools, • the four-to-twenty-screen theater that is the successor to the one-screen motion picture theater of 1955, • the size of the budget of the federal government, • the size of the parking facilities at shopping centers and sports arenas, • the size of airport terminals, and • the volume of business of new car dealers in today's world.

What Are the Price Tags?

Before discussing what has happened with the churches in North American Protestantism, it may be useful to reflect on a few of the price tags that are attached to this redefinition of the term **large**.

Perhaps the most subtle, but certainly one of the most influential, products of this change in the size of institutions is reflected in how



children are socialized into our culture. During the first four decades of the twentieth century, this socialization process was largely carried out through a network of the small social institutions. The family; kin-folk; the neighborhood; elementary school; a variety of small voluntary associations, such as scouting, 4-H Clubs, and sandlot athletic teams; the church; various community events and activities, such as Memorial Day services and parades; relationships with a family doctor and the local merchants; a strong emphasis on patriotism; and the influences of neighbors were among the social forces that shaped the values, behavior, language, aspirations, loyalties, self-image, and skills of children growing into adolescence in the early decades of

this century.

That local culture socialized the majority of children to be comfortable in a world dominated by relatively small social institutions.

Among other changes in a culture dominated by large institutions, anonymity has replaced familiarity and intimacy. Institutions must earn and re-earn the loyalty of newcomers rather than expect that institutional loyalties will be inherited from one generation to the next.

Customer service has replaced institutional loyalty as the number-one motivating force in why people return. For millions of suburbanites, the word subdivision has replaced neighborhood when people explain where they live.

One of the luxuries offered by large institutions is an unprecedented range of choices — whether it be the curriculum in the high school or breakfast cereals in the grocery stores or models at a new car dealer's showroom or shoes in a specialty store or the size of the circle from which one can meet and make new friends.

Five Points of Impact

■ One place where this redefinition of that descriptive term **large** is being felt is in the small church. The small congregation was a natural and valuable component in a culture filled with small institutions. It was in harmony with its institutional surroundings. The small church was a compatible player in a culture that defined community in geographical terms,

that valued intimacy over anonymity, that placed predictability higher than choices on the contemporary scale of values, and that placed the quality of relationships above the quality of functions whether it be health care, teaching, retail trade, or music.

Today, most small churches are encountering difficulties in competing for new members in a culture dominated by large institutions. One reason is that every year an increasing proportion of the population who, as children and adolescents, were socialized into a culture dominated by small institutions are to be found in retirement centers, nursing homes, and cemeteries.

■ The second point of impact of this new definition of **large** is being felt in what once were perceived to be large congregations. The old threefold system of classification of small, mid-size, or large church has been expanded with a fourth category of "very large" or "giant" or "super" or "mega." This new category is needed to accommodate the changes in the size of professional football players, packages of laundry soap, soft drinks, cereal, and pantyhose as well as churches. What once was the largest Protestant church in town may be the same size as it was in 1955, but it now ranks only seventh when compared to other congregations.

■ A third point of impact is being felt in denominational circles. In a world of small institutions, a denominational label helped to define the identity of nearly every church. Most congregations also were heavily dependent on denominational agencies for Sunday school materials, hymnals, a supply of replacement ministers, camping facilities, channels for supporting both national and world missions, guidance, rules, boundaries, rallies,

a pension system for retired clergy, and for operating a network of what were avowedly Christian and denominationally closely related institutions such as colleges, theological seminaries, orphanages, hospitals, and homes.

As parachurch organizations and private entrepreneurs have come along to service congregations, dependence on the denomination has shrunk. The big exception, of course, is the increasing number of smaller congregations that look to denominational offices for an annual financial subsidy.

By contrast, the leaders of many large churches have concluded that in today's world "the denomination needs us more than we need it."

■ Overlapping this is the fourth point of impact. Arkansas-based WalMart and other discount stores are coming in to compete with the local merchants. Privately owned hospitals are replacing the church-related and municipally supported hospitals. Japanese-owned factories are competing with Detroit as a source for millions of new cars. On the ecclesiastical front, the new, large, and independent congregation is coming in to compete with the long-established and denominationally related churches.

■ The fifth, and perhaps the most significant point of impact, is that the small-group movement has emerged during the past five decades to compete with the traditional Sunday school that was organized by the gender, age, and marital status of the participants. Attendance in Sunday school has been dropping for more than three decades while the number of participants in weeknight Bible study classes, mutual support groups, recovery programs, prayer cells, and other expressions of the small-group movement have grown into

the tens of millions. Instead of offering three to a dozen Sunday school classes every week, more and more congregations are concentrating on expanding the number of their small face-to-face groups that meet weekly from 20 to 40 to 80 to 200 or more.

Among the many implications of this change, six stand out: a) the smaller churches could compete when the focus was on Sunday school classes, but few can offer people choices from among 20 or 60 or 100 small groups; b) a higher level of staff competence is required to create, support, and nurture, and oversee a network of 40 small groups than is required for a half dozen lay-owned and lay-operated Sunday school classes; c) the generations born before 1945 tend to be more comfortable with the Sunday school approach to the group life of a congregation, while the generations born after 1945 tend to prefer the small-group approach; d) many church buildings were designed to house a Sunday school, not a network of scores of small groups that meet at various times during the week; e) people tend to be more comfortable parking a block or two away when coming to church on Sunday morning, but they expect to be able to park within a few yards of the door when coming to church after dark during the week, and, perhaps most significant; f) the Sunday school was organized on the basis of what that congregation could offer the members while the small-group movement flourishes when designed in response to a variety of needs of people including scores of nonmembers.

How has this redefinition of **large** affected your congregation? □

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The Blessing of Belonging

The following testimonies tell how working with women's ministry has blessed the lives of several women from Parkland Baptist Church in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

"Challenges have always appealed to me. Yet, when I was asked to coordinate the Women's Ministries at Parkland Baptist Church, I hesitated. Although I had stated during my baptism only a few weeks earlier that I wanted to be obedient to God, I was now hedging. But I knew God wanted me to do this. My reluctance was based on my experience with women in the secular world. Developing friendships with women was not a priority for me because of disappointments suffered due to lack of trust and confidence.

On several prior occasions, God had given me this Scripture: "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (*Jeremiah 29:11*).

God is fulfilling His promise. In times of doubt or confusion, I have often referred to this Scripture and reflected on the times it was presented to me; and I realize that God is in control.

When I finally put my own agenda aside and agreed to listen to God, He started immediately to bless me. He knew what I needed, and He began accomplishing it through Women's Ministries. I realize now that I was a vessel He wanted to use in Women's Ministries to fulfill a purpose in my own life. Through it, He blessed me and changed my life dramatically.

Prayer was the catalyst that put

Women's Ministries into motion. Everything discussed, every project undertaken, every meeting called to order, was bathed in prayer. We wanted to be in the will of God. This was His organization, and we were His vessels. He wanted to bless us, and we wanted the blessing.

As I watched the individual committees work together, pray together, and grow together in love, my heart really opened to the women, and I felt myself letting them into my life. This opportunity that God presented to me had a more far-reaching ministry than I ever imagined. My accepting God's offer to work in an area totally unfamiliar to me, allowed me the privilege of new insight into women of God.

Just as the fall season was starting with fresh ideas and programs and the anticipation of another blessed year, my marriage fell apart. Prior to my time in Women's Ministries, I would have had no one to share my pain. Now I had many friends who reached out to me in my time of loneliness and devastation. They were truly showing me the love of Jesus. Not one day went by over a six-month period that I didn't have contact with one or more women from the church.

If I had not been obedient, I would have missed the blessing. The blessing continues today with the friendships that have been formed and nurtured by God.

My husband and I are together again by the grace of God and His love for us. We are serving in our

church and are involved in various kinds of ministry in our area. Without the love and prayers of our loving Christian friends, we would be very lonely, and without God in our lives, we would not be living in victory. He does have a plan, and He is working it all out according to His purpose. I give Him thanks, praise, glory, and honor for He is love. —*Arliss Liggett*

It was interesting and thrilling to be chosen as a member of the Steering Committee to bring back into existence the Women's Ministries of our Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the leadership of Arliss Liggett. It was a joy to see women getting involved and growing in the different areas set up in the ministry. Arliss found it necessary to step out of the leadership role, thus leaving a need for a new leader. Not wanting to see this good work disappear, I offered to carry on the work which God had begun in the women.

Five years earlier, when I was asked to take on the task of coordinating Women's Ministries, I declined. This time I desired in my heart to see the ministry carry on. Had I said yes to the invitation to the leadership role in Women's Ministries when first asked, which would have been contrary to God's plan, I feel it would have been a struggle or even failed. We needed Arliss's gifts of organizing to set the plan in place, and God has used my

gifts to carry the ministry forward.

It has been a very rewarding experience to serve the Lord with my wonderful sisters in Christ, who have worked so faithfully and diligently. We have grown closer to our Lord through prayer and Bible studies, through caring for one another in time of need, through fun and fellowship, and through raising funds for missions at home and abroad.

—*Marlene Swinamer, chair*

I have been home raising four children for the last 15 years. As a wife and mother to these four "gifts from heaven," ages 15, 13, 3, and 1, it has been a decision that I have never regretted.

Like every stay-at-home mother, I have always felt that I should have done more in my life. I would hear about all these other moms who raised wonderful children yet had managed to earn a university degree and get a well-respected job. This, I felt, was what I should have done to feel satisfied with my life. Then, I would feel depressed because I felt so guilty for not being thankful and grateful for what I had.

I have never been creative: I can't knit a stitch or sew an apron. My talents? Raising kids and cooking! How can I use these "special talents" to make my life seem full and complete? The answer—WOMEN'S MINISTRIES!

Being involved with Women's Ministries has done so much for me spiritually as well as emotionally. I feel I am a much better wife and mother, and I have grown as a new Christian. I have a much closer relationship with God. I always struggled with praying to Him; now I pray every day. I have learned to think more of others, to give more

of myself, and to open up more to those in our church. By doing this, I have made many wonderful friends. I don't feel so alone in my struggle as a housewife and mother.

Women need each other for support and to help each other shine and show their natural gifts. Being involved with the church and providing a useful service to others makes our hearts glad. Simple acts of kindness can keep us busy and make our lives more complete. One of the cures for depression is helping another person. We simply don't have time to think of ourselves.

I feel now that I am contributing and making a difference; therefore, I am much happier and content. I don't need a degree any longer to feel complete. Serving God and having Him in your life can make this possible. It certainly has made a difference for me.—*Kelly Shepherd*

I accepted the Lord through the friend who brought me to a women's Bible study at my church. Several other ladies asked me to be part of their ministry, "The Sunshine Ladies." We planned different fellowship functions for the women and did visitation. Then we had a more formal Women's Ministries start, and I was asked to be on the executive committee. I was involved in several different areas.

I have made numerous friends through Women's Ministries, and several have become more like sisters. I have spent many hours with these women and have had countless laughs, cried many tears, and prayed many prayers. Accepting the Lord into my life and becoming part of a group of women who genuinely care about me as a person has changed me inside. Therefore, my

outer presentation towards others is much more open and giving.

To simply say that our women's ministries has touched my life is an understatement. To be a part of the family of God and then work within His family, has caused me to grow closer to Him and to discover who I am and why I am here. The Lord has my life planned. Only through a closer walk with Him can I listen and do as He commands. He said, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (*John 15:12*), and our women's group has shown that to me and others time and time again.

—*Sharron Berglund*

Women's Ministries at Parkland Baptist Church supported me through a very traumatic time in my life. I lost my husband about a year and a half ago, and they reached out to me both spiritually and physically.

I took part in a Bible study within the group, and they supported me in every way as God enabled me to slowly put my life together again. The Lord has blessed me through these wonderful sisters in Christ.

I have just finished my second semester at North American Baptist College in Edmonton as a part-time student. I have achieved so much in such a short time, and so many of my prayers have been answered.

I thank the Lord each day for leading me to this group of women who have given me so much support and encouragement. □
—*Jean Lang, student, sister in Christ*

More information and details on how the women of Parkland Baptist Church organized their women's ministry group are written up in the annual WMF Program Resource for 1996, available from the WMF Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

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

■ MADISON, SD. After studying a course on baptism led by Pastor Steve Vetter, 12 youth and two adults were baptized. These people along with 12 others, who came by transfer of letter, were welcomed into the fellowship of West Center Street Baptist Church. —Phyllis Frerichs

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. Four babies were dedicated by their parents to God during two Sunday morning services at Ridgewood Baptist Church in services led by interim pastor, Dr. John Binder. The Rev. Harry Anderson is Minister of Christian Education.

■ SOUTHEY, SK. Pastor Darold Sauer baptized two young couples and one youth and welcomed them into the fellowship of Southey Baptist Church. —Annette Lang

■ LACROSSE, WI. The Rev. Harley Betzolt baptized four youth and welcomed them into the fellowship of Bible Baptist Church.

■ SUMNER, IA. First Baptist Church rejoices with two youth who accepted Christ as their Savior and were baptized. Pastor Doug Sathren extended the right hand of fellowship to them. —Retha Menke

■ KITCHENER, ON. Pastors Ron Kelway and Felipe Rodriguez baptized seven people and welcomed them and one other person into the membership of Central Baptist Church. Three of these people are also members of the church plant, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Jerusalem, in Kitchener. —Karen Yahn

■ CHANCELLOR, SD. Pastor Harald Gruber baptized 11 young people and one adult at First Baptist Church.

Youth Pastor Jeff Mills and eight youth participated in the South Dakota-Wyoming Association

youth retreat at Inspiration Hills. —Ray Deneui

■ CALGARY, AB. Pastor Sig Schuster and Youth Pastor Daniel Schuster, Brentview Baptist Church, baptized three adults and six youth who gave their testimony and made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ. —Elsie Wright

Edmonton church seeks to be a mission-sending church

■ EDMONTON, AB. Central Baptist Church has a history of strong support for missions. Its missions budget supports many N.A.B. Conference missionaries as well as other ministries around the world. "We are also seeking to be a sending church," says Kurt Remus. "In 1994, 20 people from our Church served on short-term mission outreaches."

Doctors from Central Baptist Church have offered their skills at N.A.B. Conference-sponsored hospitals in Cameroon. Volunteers have gone to Cameroon with the JESUS film campaign. Others from the Church have gone to Zaire, Rwanda, to the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, the Dominican Republic, and to the native people in Canada.

Some joined teams from North American Baptist College to teach English and evangelism in Poland and do relief work and evangelism at the Romanian orphanages.

One of the strong mobilizers for missions is the church-based "Mission Bridge" school which trains people in the philosophy and practice of missions and seeks to form teams which are sent on short outreach ventures. Some of these locally trained individuals have found their way into mission career opportunities.

Dr. Ron Mayforth is senior pastor, and the Rev. Allen Effa is missions pastor of the Church.

Brentview families spend weekend at Camp Caroline

■ CALGARY, AB. Many families from Brentview Baptist Church joined with Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, for a family camp weekend at Camp Caroline in Alberta. The theme, "Strengthening Your Grip," was supplemented by Chuck Swindoll videos. The Rev. Sig Schuster is the pastor. —Elsie Wright

Paul women attend annual retreat

■ PAUL, ID. The Paul Baptist Women's Annual Retreat was held in Twin Falls, ID, with Heather Stone, West Jordan, Utah, as the featured speaker. The focus for the retreat was "Rejoicing in the Lord!" The Rev. John Ziulkowski is the pastor.

Waco WMF raise money for missions

■ WACO, TX. Central Baptist Church's WMF Dorcas Circle and Kittlitz Circle sponsored suppers to raise funds for missions. Linda Weber was the speaker at the Mother-Daughter Brunch. The Rev. Ronald Miller is the pastor. —Lendal Lippert

Women's retreat held at Village Creek Camp

■ LANSING, IA. The 18th Annual Women's Retreat was held at Village Creek Bible Camp with 40 attending. The theme was "Ewe Are Special" using the Scripture text of Psalm 23.

Guest speaker Becky Gruis, Dundee, IL, spoke on "Ewe Are Special . . . in Green Pastures," "Ewe Are Special . . . through the Valley," "Ewe Are Special . . . at the Table," "Ewe Are Special . . . in the House of the Lord."

"We enjoyed horseback riding, shopping, crafts, and fellowship,"

reports Linda Bergman, secretary/treasurer for Iowa Women's Association.

Buffalo Center church reaches community youth

■ BUFFALO CENTER, IA. First Baptist Church has 110 children attending its midweek program, most of whom attend churches of other denominations. "The children invited their friends and some made decisions for Christ," says Pastor Gary Bergman.

Alpena church uses magic program as outreach

■ ALPENA, MI. Close to 900 people packed Word of Life Baptist Church to see Andre Kole perform his Magical Spectacular Program and give his testimony.

"There were 85 first-time decisions for Christ, and 90 more who wanted more information on the assurance of salvation," reports Helen Ehman.

Miss Arizona 1992 performed several musical numbers on her violin. The Rev. Fred Sweet is the pastor.

Churches perform "The Choice"

■ GEORGE, IA. The combined choirs of First Baptist Church and Faith Baptist Church, Rock Rapids, IA, presented the musical drama, "The Choice," under the direction of Pastor Michael DeLong.

Four evening performances were given, two at Rock Rapids and two at George, to full capacity audiences each time.

"'The Choice' that Marcus had to make, whether to follow the Romans or Jesus, was clearly brought out," reports Mrs. John Arends.

■ MINOT, ND. More than 1,000 people attended the music/drama "The Choice" at First Baptist Church which was presented four

nights. One evening featured a dinner theater.

Jill Martinson directed the music, and Pam Kelshaw the drama. The Rev. Dr. Lewis Petrie is the pastor. —Inez Rhone

Minot church holds women's retreat

■ MINOT, ND. "The Promise of Joy" was the theme for the annual women's weekend retreat at First Baptist Church. Guest speaker, Carole Mayhall from Navigators, Colorado Springs, CO, spoke to the 150 women attending. Nancy Harsch served as worship and praise leader. The Rev. Dr. Lewis Petrie is the pastor. —Inez Rhone

Unique annual meeting at Temple

■ LODI, CA. Temple Baptist Church began its annual meeting with an all-church potluck followed by a video of the Church in action. The meeting included testimonies and the election of officers.

Temple church hits the airwaves

■ LODI, CA. Temple Baptist Church began a six-month "flight"—short for advertising schedule—on various cable television channels. Four different commercials rotated within the six-month period.

According to Church member Tracy Mitchell, an executive with TCI Cablevision in Vacaville, each commercial targets a particular type of lifestyle and circumstances (i.e., family values).

"Our prayer is that the spots will motivate viewers to seek God's truth and a place to worship," explains Mitchell. "Hopefully, they will choose Temple as that place."

Calvary church youth receives award

■ CORN, OK. Calvary Baptist Church presented Mary Ann Dobrinski the Grand Award for completing seven years of Scripture memory work in the Discovery Club.

The Discovery Club Annual Program was dedicated to the memory of the late Peggy Burkle. Peggy implemented the Discovery Club in 1987, when she and her husband, Pastor Bob Burkle, accepted the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church.

South Canyon church holds missions conference

■ RAPID CITY, SD. South Canyon Baptist Church held its Missions Conference with the theme, "We Are World Christians!" Missionaries Dr. Rodney and Mrs. April Zimmerman, Cameroon, and the Rev. Bill and Mrs. Lucy Lengefeld, Japan, were the guest speakers. The Zimmerman and Lengefeld children as well as Chris Angelov, Sofia Baptist Church, Bulgaria, who is a student at Baylor University, Waco, TX, participated in the Children's Mini-Conference.

The Conference included separate sessions of discussion with questions and answers for the women and one for the men, an International Progressive Dinner, and activities for every age group.

The Church participated in the National/World Day of Prayer in May "by praying that many would come to Christ, for revival, for the government officials, and for the healing of our land," says Wanda Decker. The Rev. Ralph Cooke is the pastor.

South Canyon youth go on mission trip

■ RAPID CITY, SD. Several youth from South Canyon Baptist Church participated in the summer mission

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ministerial Changes

■ **Mr. Thomas Kelly** from pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Carpentersville, IL, effective May 1995.

■ **The Rev. Don Johnson** from pastor, East Olds Baptist Church, Olds, AB, effective July 25, 1995.

■ **The Rev. Brian Landrum** to pastor, Vaca Valley Baptist Church, Vacaville, CA, effective June 1, 1995.

■ The Executive Committee appointed **the Rev. Arthur Helwig** as Associate Director for Recruitment and Development in the International Missions Department effective July 1, 1995. He has served as an Associate Director in the Development Department of the N.A.B. Conference since 1983.

Ordinations

■ **The Rev. Rob Houts** was ordained into the Christian ministry on May 7, 1995, by Calvary Baptist Church, Parkersburg, IA. Participants included the Rev. Marlin Mohrman of Aplington Baptist Church, the message, and the Rev. Bruce Rulapaugh, Iowa association area minister, the prayer of ordination.

■ **The Rev. David Winters**, youth pastor, Round Lake Baptist Church, Gladwin, MI, was ordained into the Christian ministry on May 7, 1995. Dr. Jim Speer, gave the Charge to the Candidate address; the Rev. Nathan Winters, Dave's brother, the Ordination Prayer. The Rev. Robert Brown, pastor, gave the Charge to the Church

Degrees granted

■ **The Rev. Phil Yntema**, executive director of the N.A.B. Conference, was granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Edmonton Baptist Seminary at the 54th N.A.B. College/EBS Commencement Exercises on April 30, 1995.

■ **Professor Jerry Shepherd**, assistant professor of Old Testament at Edmonton Baptist Seminary, successfully defended his 700 page doctoral dissertation, "The Book of Psalms as the Book of Christ: A Christological Canonical Approach to the Book of Psalms," at Westminster Theological Seminary. He was awarded his Ph.D. degree in May.

■ Fifty-nine N.A.B. College students and 13 Edmonton Baptist Seminary students, graduated on Sunday, April 30, in Edmonton, AB.

outreach in New York City. The youth worked with Immanuel Baptist Church in Woodside, NY. —Wanda Decker

Promise Keepers held at Pontiac Silverdome

■ DETROIT, MI. Ninety-five men from Grosse Pointe Baptist Church were among the 72,000 attending Promise Keepers at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Speaker Tony Evans said to the group, "White doesn't matter; black doesn't matter; yellow doesn't matter; brown doesn't matter; the only color that matters is red—the shed blood of Jesus Christ."

"At Grosse Pointe Baptist Church during the Sunday worship service following these two days, the men shared for 40 minutes in a constant, unprompted stream, telling how God had touched their hearts and changed their lives," reports the Rev. David Wick, pastor at Grosse Pointe Baptist Church.

Ground breaking . . . a step of faith for Ridgewood Church

■ BROOKFIELD, WI. A very significant day in the life and history of Ridgewood Baptist Church occurred April 30 when the Church broke ground for a new 17,500 square foot addition.

The new multipurpose facility will give the Church many more opportunities for educational, recreational, administrative, and outreach ministries. It will provide more space for nursery, children's, youth, and adult ministries.

It is expected that the project will take about eight months to complete. "We have been bountifully blessed by God with people who have dedicated their talents and resources to reach people with our Savior's love," says Dr. John Binder, interim pastor. Helmuth Sawall, building committee chair and general contractor for the project, and Art Schmorr, church moderator, spoke. Church members and friends

stood on the proposed outline of the building and with their shovels turned over the sod. The Rev. Elvin Schuelke, German pastor, led in prayer. The Rev. Harry Anderson serves as Minister of Christian Education.

Vineyard Congregation observes Holocaust Remembrance Day

■ LONG GROVE, IL. Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed at Vineyard Congregation, N.A.B. Conference's Jewish/Christian church, on April 30. The Rev. Eliezer Maass, pastor, showed slides of victims of the Holocaust and recalled how his grandparents had died in Auschwitz.

East West Community Church is four years old

■ ANAHEIM, CA. East West Community Church, started in 1991, celebrated its fourth anniversary, April 22, at Magnolia Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA.

The celebration, attended by 150 people, included a welcome, prayer, congregational singing, special music, and Dr. Ken Fischer, founder of Magnolia Baptist Church and Area Minister of the California area, offering congratulations on the Church's progress. Guest speaker, Dr. Samuel Kamalesan, a vice president at World Vision, gave the message. Pastor Gnaniah concluded the celebration with a communion service.

In his annual report, the Rev. N. Jawahar Gnaniah, pastor, mentioned the Church had grown from 35 members to 131 in four years and called East West Church unique because its members are from different ethnicity and language groups. Though most of the members are from India, some members are from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Canada, and the U.S.

Thirteen languages are spoken by the congregation. They are Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kanarese, Korean, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

Library Director Position Open

North American Baptist Seminary announces an opening in its library staff for a library director. The position will begin Aug. 1, 1995. Current plans include working one year as an associate to the current library director and assuming the position of director Aug. 1, 1996.

The Kaiser-Ramaker library of the seminary houses a 65,000 volume collection in a two story, relatively new building of 16,000 square feet. It is the regional graduate, theological library for a four-

state area. The Seminary is located in Sioux Falls, SD, a city of 115,000 known for its high quality of life. The library staff is made up of four full-time and three part-time members with a budget of \$170,000.

The library director needs experience in original cataloging in the LC classification system, using the OCLC database, reference services, library automation, collection development, bibliographic instruction, and administration.

Qualifications are an ALA accredited Master of Library of

Science degree, a graduate theological degree, and at least three years of library staff experience.

The compensation is competitive, based upon capability and experience; it includes faculty status and generous benefits.

Applications should include a letter of application, resume, and three professional references.

Applications should be sent to Dr. J. Gordon Harris, vice president for academic affairs, North American Baptist Seminary, 1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

IN MEMORIAM

■ **KREGER, FRED** (98), Abbotsford, BC; born July 14, 1896, Warsaw, Poland; died April 16, 1995; married Lydia, Oct. 4, 1928; active member, secretary/treasurer, Spring-side (SK) Baptist Church; member, Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, MB; Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC; predeceased by his parents, seven brothers, one sister; survived by his wife, Lydia; the Rev. Matt Dressler officiating.

■ **KWAST, ALFRED** (79), Lansing, MI; born Oct. 22, 1915, to Gustav and Bertha Kwast in Germany; died Jan. 10, 1995; married to Walda Jeschke, June 12, 1937; faithful and active member, Colonial Village Baptist Church, Lansing, MI; predeceased by his parents, one brother, Rudolph, and one sister, Olga Powell; survived by his wife, Walda; one daughter, Terrlyn (Dean) Brodberg, Lansing, MI; two grandchildren; 2 great-granddaughters; two brothers: Reinhard and Harold; one sister, Erna Strauss; the Reverends Donald Kirkland and H. Randolph Morgan officiating.

■ **LIPPERT, MILTON J.W.** (74), Waco TX; born Nov. 3, 1920, to the Rev. J. J. and Mrs. Amelia Lippert in Ashley, ND; died April 5, 1995; married Lendal Bynum, July 6, 1954; faithful member, deacon, music director, Central Baptist Church, Waco, TX; survived by his wife, Lendal; one son, John M., Dallas, TX; two daughters: Jill (Danny) Rodgers, Ft. Worth, TX; Jan (Charles) Dunn, Austin, TX; mother, Amelia Lippert, Waco, TX; three grandchildren; one brother, L. L. Lippert; one sister, Alethea Preston; the Reverends Ron Miller, Stephen Reilly, and Jerry Walters officiating.

■ **MOSER, ARTHUR J.** (81), McLaughlin, SD; born Jan. 12, 1914, to Christian and Emma (Becker) Moser in McLaughlin, SD; died April 15, 1995, in Apache Junction, AZ; married Alice Strobel, Sept. 8, 1940; active member, usher, trustee, custodian, McLaughlin Baptist Church; survived by his wife, Alice; two sons: Larry (Martha), Napoleon, ND; Dean (Elaine), Spokane, WA; one daughter, Jaynie (Larry) Hepper, Portland, OR; six grandchildren; two great-

grandchildren; six sisters: Lydia Schott, Clara Flemmer, Alvina Gartner, Ann Crowder, Linda Bello, Edna Schmeichel; one brother, Oscar; three step-brothers: Herbert Pfaff, Walt Strobel, Delbert Strobel; the Reverends Edward Kopf and David Ling officiating.

■ **SCHROEDER, JOHN WILLIAM "JACK"** (85), Chancellor, SD; born Jan. 22, 1910, to Abbo A. and Wippie (Folkerts) Schroeder near Chancellor, SD; died March 29, 1995; married Lillian A. Scheufler, June 23, 1937, at Ellinwood, KS; active and faithful member, church clerk, Sunday School teacher, trustee, usher, First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD; predeceased by his parents, one infant brother, one sister, Hazel Harms; survived by his wife, Lillian; one daughter, Janet (James) Esterly, Spencer, IA; one son, John E. (Sharon), Dell Rapids, SD; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one sister, Esther Schroeder; the Rev. Harald Gruber officiating.

■ **TRIEBWASSER, CARL** (91), Sioux Falls, SD; born Jan. 1, 1904, to Simon and Louise

(Lang) Triebwasser near Emery, SD; died April 24, 1995; married Ella Leischner, Sept. 9, 1936, in Parkston, SD; active member, Plum Creek Baptist Church, Emery, SD; active member, deacon, trustee, Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD; volunteer worker, N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD; predeceased by his parents, four brothers, two sisters; survived by his wife, Ella; two daughters: Carol (Vern) Lemke, Kelowna, BC; Joann (Delbert) Roupp, Denver, CO; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; the Rev. Gordon Stork officiating.

■ **WOODS, VIVIAN** (86), Chilliwack, BC; born July 26, 1908, Saskatchewan; died April 9, 1995; married Emma, Sept. 25, 1955; member, Evergreen Baptist Church, Chilliwack, BC; survived by his wife, Emma; three stepsons; one step-daughter; 15 step-grandchildren; 15 step-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-grandchild; the Rev. Matt Dressler officiating.

There is an \$8.00 charge to print an obituary. There is no charge for the obituaries of N.A.B. Conference ministers or missionaries.

Youth News Youth News

Seeing vs. knowing a celebrity

by Alan Luedemann



My cousin went to high school with Brad Pitt. My parents have some neighbors who are related to President Bill Clinton. I have a friend at Texas A&M who is the niece of Ted Nugent. I also have a friend who is a personal friend of George W. Bush and Phil Gramm. A friend of mine from high school is in the Corps at A&M, and he got to escort Barbara Bush around one day. My girlfriend had her picture taken with Ollie North. My dad saw Julia Roberts and Lyle Lovett in the Dairy Queen one day.

Everyone has a story about someone famous they saw, or know, or passed in an airport. Conversations always end up more exciting because of an interesting tidbit about being buddies with someone famous.

But how many people do you know that make a big deal about knowing Jesus Christ? The answer to that is *not enough*. And that really disturbs me because Jesus is so much more accessible than any of the aforementioned celebrities.

I don't have to be in the right place at the right time at just the precise, exact, once in a lifetime moment to talk to Jesus. I can be at home, or in my car, or doing the laundry—wherever. So while it is always exciting to know or see a famous celebrity, don't forget how easy it is to personally know a celebrity above all the rest. And it doesn't take sitting outside the Dairy Queen on Highway 290 to do it either!

Alan Luedemann is a finance major at Texas A & M University. He is employed at First National Bank of Bryan/College Station and is Youth Coordinator for Greenvine Baptist Church, Burton, TX. Reprinted by permission from "The Grapevine from Greenvine," March 1995.

Lodi youth participate in 30-Hour Famine

Pledges were collected from Temple Baptist Church's youth group's 30-Hour Famine to raise funds to feed the hungry.

During the Famine, held on February 24 and 25 in Lodi, CA, the youth went without food from 7 a.m. on Friday to 12 p.m. Saturday.

People pledged a designated amount of money per hour. Though it was very hard, especially the last six hours, everyone made it through without eating. The two days were designed to give participants an idea of what it feels like to be hungry.

During the Famine, participants watched videos on World Vision Ministry and conducted Bible studies and prayer times. In addition, the youth completed two service projects. Friday evening, the group went to downtown Lodi, where they distributed blankets and Bibles to the homeless as well as witnessed to some of them. On Saturday, they cleaned up Lower Sacramento Road. — Matt Newby, Minister of Christian Education at Temple Baptist Church, Lodi, CA.

The Value of Challenging Service

by Michael Tachuk

The youth of Fort Richmond, Baptist Church in Winnipeg, MB, took on an immense challenge: To minister to others through an hour long drama, "Catacombs" by Paul McCusker. As Kymberley Earl, a member of the youth group, says, "Its strong message powerfully portrayed that we shouldn't be ashamed of our Christianity even if it means facing persecution or death. This drama is a story of persecution, faith, and survival."

"We wanted to send the message out to everybody," says Kymberley. "So over our Spring break, we took our youth drama to Edmonton, Alberta, where we performed at several churches. After we returned, we did several more performances in the Winnipeg, MB, area."

In and through this drama, we learned some valuable things about people and ministry, and in particular . . . **Challenging service.** Here are four things that challenging service can do for your youth group or church.

Gives Your Group a Goal to Work Toward

When you do something that is going to be difficult to accomplish, everyone needs to pull together to see it through. As youth begin to own the project, they pull together to make it come alive. That brings your group closer. Excitement grows and builds when the group performs and ministers to others.

"Our youth group started working on this play at the beginning of October and continued working on it non-stop," says Kimberley. "Together 31 youth put a lot of hard work into this drama. We put dedication, determination, and our hearts into it."

Another bonus: Challenging service attracts other youth to the

group. They want to take part. We found we have the opportunity to share in their lives.

Furthermore, youth who have been on the fringe get more involved. This builds greater relationships. Everyone can take part whether it is up front or behind the set! Everyone's gifts can be used and stretched.

A vision for what God can do grows in the leader's life as well as that of the flock. God can do incredible things when we ask Him to. As people catch the vision, they are drawn to it and to what God wants to accomplish in and through them.

Stretches Us All

When the task that God has called us, leaders and students, to do is just out of reach, we are forced to call out to Him for His mercy, strength, and wisdom. The drama we ministered with was such that it was technically and dramatically demanding for someone in University. We did it with Junior and Senior High School students! We needed a substantial amount of money to pull this off. We needed God's Spirit to bless us and use the drama for His glory. In other words, we needed to pray.

Challenging service drives you to your knees in prayer. As a pastor, I found it beautiful to see my students go to the Lord in prayer and seek His face over this ministry. I found myself needing to go to prayer and asking for His help, mercy, and power to be demonstrated.

We Witness God Work Mightily

I have never witnessed so many answers to prayer in such a short time! When God wants something to go, it goes! It really encouraged my students to see how God took care of all the details and made it possible for us to do this project. God really does answer prayer. He can do what we think is impossible.

Witnessing His providence has changed our group. We can go ahead with the things that we think are impossible. If God wants it to happen, then it will.

"Over these past six months, we've all grown closer to each other and especially to God. He has supported us and been with us the whole time," says Kymberley.

Accomplishes Great Things for God

God used our youth group to bring honor to Himself. He did it during the six months of preparation and while we performed. We felt exhilarated over the fact that He used our group. He changed us! Relationships between students were strengthened. It was beautiful to see each one reach his or her limit and then exceed them to God's glory. We overcame every opposition by the power of God, and that changes people's hearts. Faith has become both personal and something that is publically expressed. For that, we give God the glory!

I encourage you, my brothers and sisters in Christ: To dream big dreams! Respond to the vision that God lays on your heart. See God do immeasurably more than all you could have ever asked or hoped for. Don't listen to those who try to discourage you by telling you, "It can't be done." God can make it happen and make it better than you ever dreamed it would be.

This experience will be with my youth for a lifetime. It will be one of those special, significant moments in their spiritual pilgrimage. I hope that this has encouraged you. I pray that God would do great things in your group as you take up His challenge. □

Michael Tachuk is the youth pastor at Fort Richmond Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.

NEWS . . .

(continued from page 2)

■ Set a second General Council meeting (at association expense) for Nov. 10-11, 1995, to address the 1996 budget and to discuss the matter of possible partnership/affiliation with the Korean Baptist Association.

■ Accepted the invitation of the NorCal Association to host the 46th Triennial Conference of N.A.B. Churches in Sacramento, CA, in the year 2000.

■ Chose Edmonton, Alberta, as the site of the 1996 General Council meeting and set the date as May 30-June 1. The meeting will be held jointly with the N.A.B. Seminary and N.A.B. College/Edmonton Baptist Seminary Boards.

■ Appointed Dr. Ron Mayforth and Mr. Alfred Krinke to the N.A.B. College/Edmonton Baptist Seminary Board of Trustees to fill unex-

pired terms expiring in 1997, and appointed Mr. Morris Schmeltekopf to fill an unexpired term on the N.A.B. Seminary Board.

■ Heard a report concerning the N.A.B. Ministers' Family Conference scheduled for July 30-Aug. 2, 1996, in Sioux Falls, SD.

The issue causing most discussion was the Illinois Association's recommendation to "withdraw (the Council's) present guidelines on ordination and refer all future inquiries regarding ordination to the associations and local churches."

The Council acknowledged the positive spirit of the Illinois Association and noted that there is confusion on people thinking the Guidelines are Conference policy statements, which they are not, instead of only guidelines. The Council voted not to withdraw the Guidelines because they "are not binding but uphold the autonomy of local churches as well as the integrity of

individual associations and churches to make their own decisions." It was pointed out that some associations have already dealt with the issue; some used the Guidelines as a basis for their stand; and others have chosen not to.

In Committee business, the International Missions Committee

■ Appointed Pierre and Kelly Martial of Edmonton, AB, as short-term missionaries to Cameroon, pending medical clearance and raising support.

■ Approved new sites for the Bible School in Russia. Final arrangements are being made by Dr. Harold Dressler to move the Bible School from Samara to Georgiyevsk. He is looking at a site for a second school, also.

■ Approved mission work projects in Brazil, Mexico, and Nigeria.

Conference moderator, the Rev. Ron Norman of Elk Grove, CA, led the sessions. □

BUILDING CHURCHES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

CEIF Helps Chinese Church Construct a Building

by Ed Hohn

A number of years ago, a group of young Chinese Christians in Vancouver, BC, sensed the need for a church targeting second-generation American-born Chinese. The pastor of a similar church in San Francisco, CA, the Rev. Chanson Lau, had relatives in Vancouver and helped the fledgling ministry take off. Today that group is Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church in Richmond, BC.

The Church bought a building and quickly outgrew it. In 1985, it sold the building and purchased a 14-acre site in Richmond, a Vancouver suburb. During that time, the Church met in Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, on Sunday afternoons. Dr. Harold Dressler served as interim pastor.

In 1991, the Church moved to portable units placed on its Richmond property and has been there since.

During this time, I, as British Columbia Area Minister, made contact with the Church. Eventually the Church joined the N.A.B. Conference in May 1992.

In October 1994, I became pastor of the Church. Since that time, 12 have committed their lives to Christ, and nine were baptized on Easter Sunday 1995.

Cornerstone's main ministry began and remains in English, but because of close cultural family ties and the potential of reaching target group families, a Chinese ministry was begun. The Church conducts effective outreach, making many initial contacts through a planned recreation program. Over 70 percent of the English-speaking congregation is under 30 years of age.

Hear the testimony of Christina:

"Because my dad is an atheist and my mom a casual Buddhist and/or Catholic, I've never had the guidance to pursue a Christian life. One day, Vivian of Cornerstone asked me to a play she was involved with at church. I went, but left in skepticism. We discussed it afterward, and I decided to attend Cornerstone with her. I was struck by the love and friendliness of the members and the pastor. At first, what I thought would be a few visits turned into weeks of fellowship, worship, Sunday School, and now orientation . . . On February 20, 1995, at 7:11 p.m., with Vivian at my side, I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord."

And Sharon: "I grew up in Viet Nam with a Chinese background. My parents became strong Buddhists, so I went along with them to the temple. We later moved to Canada.

"One day in September 1994, Jonathan of Cornerstone, a co-worker, invited me to Tuesday night badminton. I went and felt comfortable with these people. I soon wanted to know more about their new religion. I started reading the Bible and Christian books and soon started attending services. Learning about God and Jesus, I felt I had found what I wanted, but I went through a real struggle. I felt very guilty, lonely, and miserable because Buddhism was still in my heart. But I had already learned to pray, and I spoke to God, explaining how I felt and asked for guidance.

"A few days before last Christmas, I realized that God had chosen me. I sincerely invited Christ into my life as Saviour and Lord. Many thanks to my friends at Cornerstone

through whom I had the opportunity to become a child of God."

In order to minister more effectively, the Church needs more adequate facilities. Phase one, a facility with a sanctuary and classrooms, of four proposed building phases is under way. CEIF is our answer to prayer for funding this project. We thank the CEIF staff and investors for their help and encouragement. □

The Rev. Ed Hohn is pastor of Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church, Richmond, BC.

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES!



Rev. Graham Kern
Turtle Lake, ND

Rev. Graham Kern Is One Of The Reasons.

After graduating from Edmonton Baptist Seminary in 1984, Graham became the associate pastor of Century Meadows Baptist Church in Camrose, AB. Responding to a growing desire to serve in a rural setting, he accepted the call of a two-point charge—Raymore and Nokomis Baptist Churches in Saskatchewan—in 1987. His own farm upbringing and love for people resulted in an effective eight-year ministry here. In February 1995, he became pastor of Turtle Lake Baptist Church in North Dakota.

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August 6, 1995

Theme: "To God Be the Glory"

Text: Hebrews 13:8

Sunday School for all ages

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Morning Worship

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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