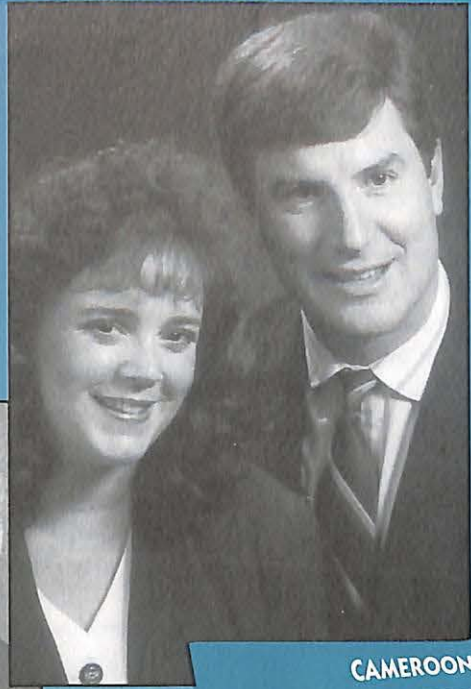


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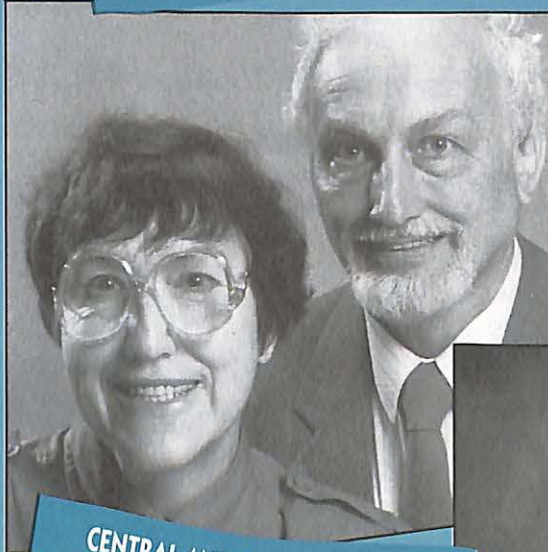
BAPTIST HERALD



BRAZIL



CAMEROON



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE



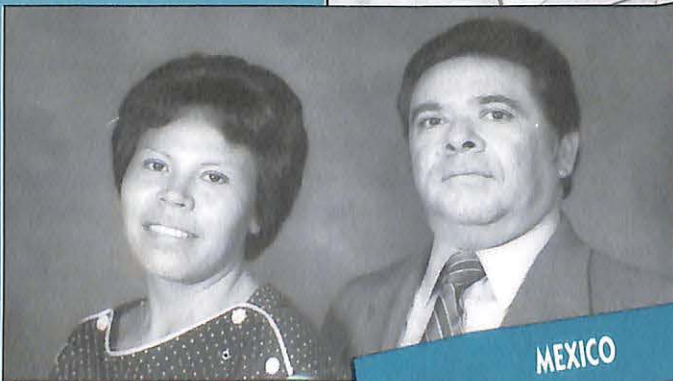
JAPAN



NIGERIA



PHILIPPINES



MEXICO

Partners in Discipling
through International Missions
(see page 15)

Church attendance remains stable, but other measures of the Christian faith decline

The results of a new nationwide survey conducted by the Barna Research Group indicate that Christianity is a faith at risk. Based on 13 measures used annually to evaluate the health and stability of Christianity in America, Barna Research reported that three measures experienced a decline: Bible reading, adult Sunday school attendance; and identification as a Protestant.

The nine measures that have remained statistically unchanged in the past year were church attendance; church volunteerism; four measures of belief in Christian doctrines; the proportion of adults who are born again Christians; the proportion who are evangelical Christians; and the percentage who

embrace a biblical definition of God.

The one measure which showed an increase was the number of adults involved in a small group which meets for Bible study, prayer, or Christian fellowship, other than a Sunday school class or 12-step group. The upturn in small group involvement stemmed a two-year decline.

One new measure was added which produced an astounding result. More than two out of every five adults (42 percent) contended that when Jesus Christ was on earth He committed sins. Amazingly, more than one-quarter of all born again Christians (27 percent) and church attenders (30 percent) agreed with this view.

George Barna, president of the company which conducted the research, found the results sobering. "The survey revealed that millions of adults are frantically searching

for something to believe in, for values to live by, and for relationships that make life worthwhile.

Although Christian churches in America spent more than \$40 billion on domestic ministry in 1994, not much new ground was gained. A mass movement cannot sustain its strength amidst public indifference to the goals, demands, and products of that movement. The next several years may well determine the vitality of the Christian faith in this nation for the next several decades."

Several significant facts

Four years ago, 53 percent of the people attending church services on a given weekend were not born again Christians. That proportion has dropped to 45 percent. Barna explained that this is not because churches are becoming more effective evangelistically. "The proportion of born again Christians in America has not changed. What's happened is that non-Christians have simply left the church."

Baby Boomers are the generation most likely to hold "born again" beliefs. However, they are also increasingly inactive in their faith, demonstrating declining levels of church attendance, Sunday school participation, and Bible reading.

Although evangelicals get a lot of media attention, they represent only about six percent of the adult population. This is a 50 percent decrease in magnitude since 1992.

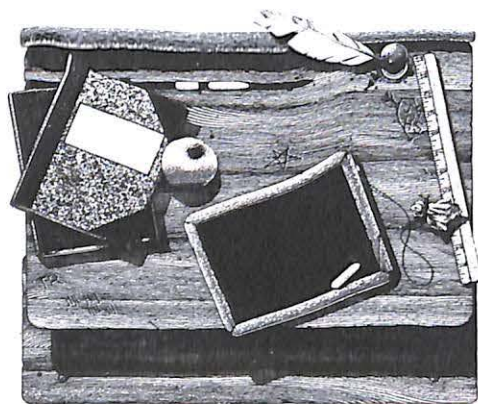
Church attendance, which crested at 49 percent per Sunday in 1991, has leveled off at 42 percent, the lowest level since Barna began tracking this in 1985.

Bible reading during the week is lowest among the Baby Bust generation. Currently under 30 years of age, only 21 percent of the Busters read the Bible during the week, just half the level of people 65 or older.

Only half of the people who attend a church service during the

(continued on page 19)

We Get Back to the Basics



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Cameroon Sonrise 1995

by Roy and Gloria Weiss

"We are not doing right. This is a day of good news, but we are keeping it silent; . . . now therefore come, let us go and tell. . ." (II Kings 7:9)



Roy (l.) with Grace and Marten Jam and their children, Alma, Verna, and Linda, and Gloria Weiss. Martin is the administrator of Bansa Baptist Hospital.

Are we evangelizing, or are we like the lepers in II Kings, keeping the Good News silent? Cameroon Sonrise 1995 was an excellent opportunity to be part of telling the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Dr. W. Muller of Edmonton and eight students from North Ameri-

can Baptist College and Edmonton Baptist Seminary and 14 other "ordinary" people from British Columbia and Alberta went to Cameroon to tell the Good News.

We went as a joint effort of North American Baptist College and Campus Crusade, using the tools of the *Jesus* film and the "Four

Spiritual Laws."

When we arrived in Cameroon, students from the Mambilla Baptist Theological School in Nigeria joined us.

Learning that "witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the

results to God," helped us depend on the Lord. Be available and be flexible was also useful advice, which we were given.

In fact, my most interesting counselling experience resulted when I was just being available.

The film showing for the evening was complete, and counsellors were busy speaking to those who came forward. There seemed to be nothing for me to do so I just stood there, "being available" (although I didn't realize it at the time.)

A young man approached and asked if he could ask some questions. When I said yes, he asked who came first: people or God? I explained about creation by God. He then asked about a story he had heard about people trying to reach God. I related the story of the Tower of Babel. This provided me an opportunity to explain that we cannot reach God by our own efforts, but only by believing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When more questions were

answered, he simply stated that he was now ready to pray. After prayer and some verses regarding assurance and spiritual growth, he went on his way. Pray that he will grow to be a real man of God.

Since we returned to Canada, people have asked, "Did you have good results"? I know there were more results than there would have been if we had stayed home. I don't really know what the results were, except that many people did respond to the hearing of the gospel. I also know that there were results in my heart and life. It was a unique three weeks of holiday time sacrificed but certainly filled with incredible experiences almost beyond description.

Let's tell the Good News. Jesus died for us! Do we believe it? "Why sit we here until we die"? (II Kings 7:3).

Roy and Gloria Weiss of Medicine Hat, Alberta, served on the Cameroon Sonrise 1995 team.



Cameroon Sonrise 1995 at Bamenda.

Why share your faith?

During the preparation for the film showings, we considered carefully: "Why share our faith and witness? Why go to the expense and effort to tell and show people about Jesus? Most of the reasons we know quite well, but often we forget or neglect to obey. Why witness?"

- Jesus told us in His Word to GO (Mark 16:15)
- The need is so great (Matthew 9:37-38)
- So few are willing to go, making the need even greater (Romans 10:11-14).
- God gives special guidance, anointing, and grace to those who leave their own land, people, and culture to do God's will (Genesis 12:1-3).
- North America and other Western nations are literally drenched with the Gospel, while certain other nations have no relevant witness for God at all (Romans 15:20-21).
- No one has the right to hear the Gospel over and over, while there remains someone who has never heard it before (II Corinthians 4:3-4).
- The time is short — doors may close (John 9:4).
- God the Father and the Holy Spirit desire for there to be a great final missionary thrust with the Gospel before the end of the age (Acts 1:8 and 2 Peter 3:9).

It is a gift from God to have the privilege to be a part of this seed planting, relational, and evangelistic experience. ☐

Finding God *Erasing the Pain of Hopelessness*



by Judy Hall

As a young girl, I collected pretty mugs and coffee cups. One birthday, my mom and dad bought me a pretty, colorful cup. When I opened the box, I found this beautiful cup broken in a thousand pieces. My mom explained that the box dropped on their trip to visit me, but they would replace it with another one exactly like the broken one.

They replaced the gift with another cup, as they said, but along side my new mug stands the broken one all glued back together. Each tiny piece has been carefully put back in its place. Even though there are thousands of lines running through it and chips in it, that cup means more to me than the shiny new replacement.

How similar this is. My earthly father spent so much time mending together the tiny pieces of my cup . . . so patiently . . . so caringly . . . he did that for me.

How clearly that shows me how my Heavenly Father has been to me. So patient, so caring, He spent so long on one of His broken children. After 20 years of broken, shattered pieces strewn along life's path of sin and disobedience, He mended me together.



At 14, I asked Jesus into my heart. I expected that some kind of miracle would happen in my life.

For three years, I waited. Nothing changed. I was a good girl. I went to church and Sunday school every Sunday. I was president of the youth group. I pleased my teacher by learning memory verses and earning pins and badges.

I was one of four children. My mother, a Christian, insisted we go to church. My dad simply dropped us off at the church doorstep. After the children were grown and away from home, my dad accepted Jesus and was baptized.

As the years unfolded in my life, I moved to a big city, took a job, and lived with relatives who showed me the love and attention, which I thought I lacked at home.

My mother wrote me off as lost forever. My dad, however, never lost confidence in me. He always said I'd be alright.

As years passed, I did get swallowed up by the lies and destruction of the world. Convinced that I could be happier accepting that I belonged to the world and all it offered, I began the journey of corruption and sin. I made wrong choices of friends. I turned away from my family. I created a distance from them so that they would not know what was going on in my life.

One of the visible mistakes I made was to get married so that I could earn my mother's trust and confidence. Because my marriage was not based on God's will and my reasons were off balance, a divorce occurred two years later.

My family no longer knew me as the person they raised and loved. I no longer knew this person who was so desperate and lost in the world of darkness. The friends I had were NOT trustworthy, and I became afraid of them.

Eleven years ago, one of those friends convinced me to leave Vermont where I was born and raised and journey with her to Montana. We would buy some gov-

ernment land and become self-sufficient.

We stopped in Minot, North Dakota. There new problems began. With no money left, we needed to find jobs so we could continue our journey.

We spent one whole winter living at a campground. Our shelter was an old school bus and an old van camper . . . no water, no phone, wind chills at 90 below zero for 17 days.

A homemade wood stove that burned railroad ties kept us warm. Two dogs and two cats kept the school bus door swinging.

Jobs were scarce, and we had \$79 a week. By Spring we had a housecleaning business started. We depended on each other for survival.

On a trip to town one day we stopped for a shower at the YWCA. But on that particular day, they were out of hot water, so we decided to drop in at one of the churches. They have hot water, we thought . . . maybe even a shower.

Iwalked into First Baptist Church but I didn't find a shower.

Instead, I found myself at 14 years old again walking through the halls bobbing my head into each room. The sounds were familiar, but something was different. I found my way to the auditorium, and as I walked toward the front, something inside me said, "You stepped away from Him, but He didn't step away from you."

I went back to First Baptist the next day—then again and again. The pastor spoke about Abraham . . . how he was willing to sacrifice his only son for God. I had never heard it said quite like that before. If that were true, then who was I to

deny God's existence?

When the pastor finished, he called those to come to the front who needed Jesus. I got out of my seat and walked down the aisle—crying. It was then I was told that I could be forgiven; that Jesus died for my sins, and it was not too late. For the first time, I started to believe it.

My friend and I hadn't planned on staying in Minot very long, but a year later, we were still here. We tried leaving twice, and the engine blew on the old bus and my van camper. The cleaning business was getting better. I found a place to live on my own, but soon it became too costly, and I still had no vehicle. I decided to go back home to Vermont to start over.

One evening I went to the Church service very discouraged and angry at God. As I was leaving the service, a woman tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I don't believe I've met you." I started cry. She sat me down. I told her about my disappointments and the difficulty I was having. She said, "Let's pray about it right now."

My life began a new path. I soon found myself moving into a home where there were three beautiful children. This family took me in knowing that I had no money, no car, no clothes, and lacked trust in the Lord. I spent three wonderful years of my life in that home. It was like being in a hospital where I could have "round the clock care" physically and spiritually. I was being fed from the inside out. I was given unconditional love . . . love that I never had experienced in my life.

When I began counseling with a Christian counselor, it was difficult

to understand why it was important to walk back through my past. Digging up 20 years of hate, emptiness, and loneliness, I was assigned books to read and letters to write to people in my past, asking forgiveness and telling them I was forgiving them. Thus the healing process began.

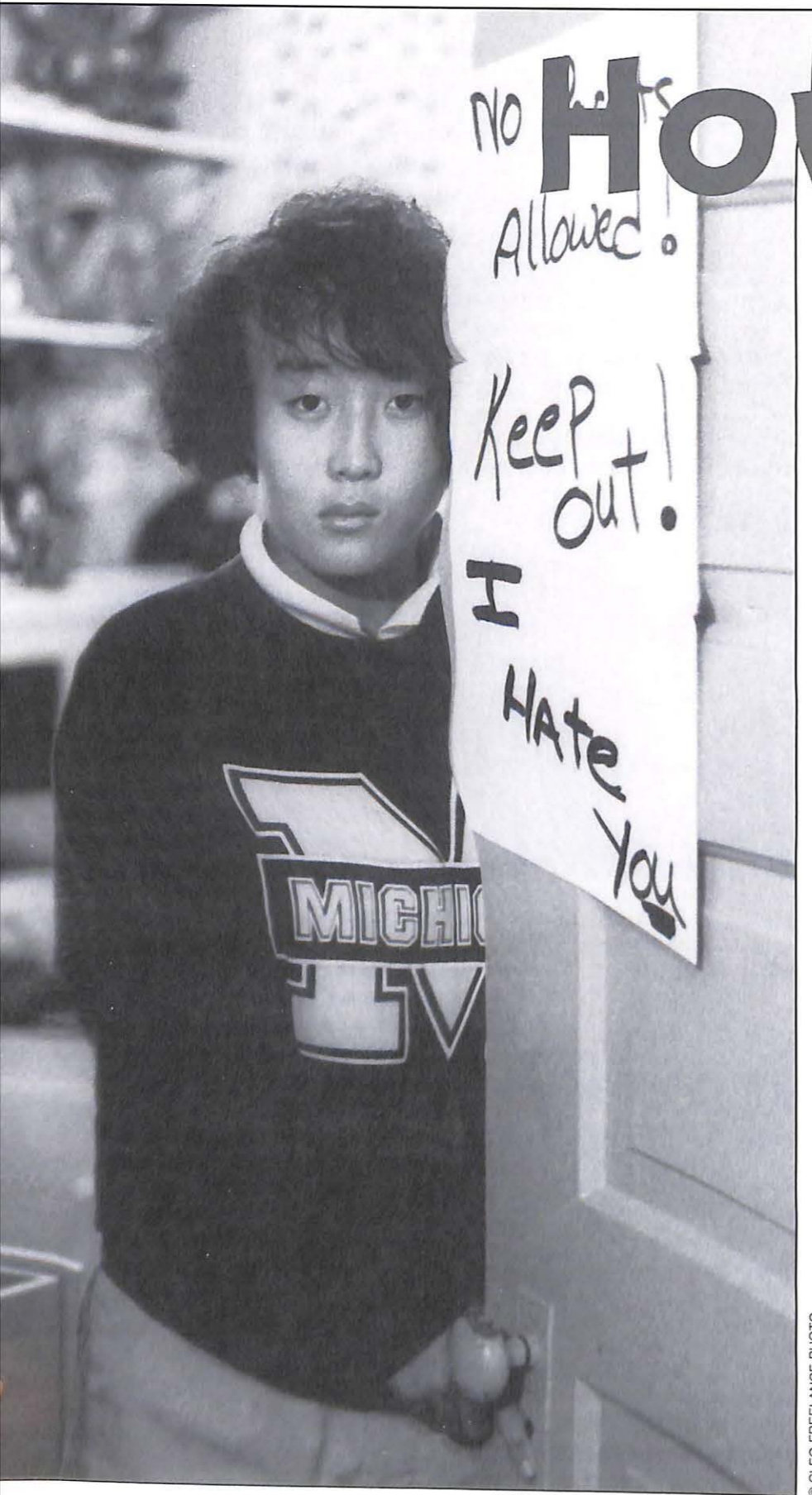
It was also necessary for me to return to Vermont to meet with my exhusband whom I had not seen or talked with for 17 years. I asked him to forgive me for hurting him and not being obedient to our wedding vows. I had found that God demands obedience, and He does discipline.

When I gave my life back to Jesus Christ seven years ago, I didn't realize the pain and brokenness that I would experience. I didn't realize His healing power. But when I claimed the verse in Psalm 51:10 that He would create in me a clean heart and renew a right Spirit within me, He began with my mind and then with my heart.

When we sin, we are forgiven, as it says in I John 1:9, but there are consequences. Some are visible; some are not.

I came across my wedding album one day, and I remembered that day so clearly. I have such sorrow in my heart. I can't erase that time in my life. Now, 25 years later, I find the consequences of the sin of divorce are in the present: never experiencing the joys of motherhood and experiencing times of real loneliness. These pains I do experience today, but NEVER will I have to experience the pain of hopelessness. My God is sufficient for me. □

Judy Hall is a member of First Baptist Church, Minot, ND.



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How Guilt Cuts the Heart Out of Parenting

by Les Parrott III

As a parent, which trait would you prefer your child to develop: tolerance for others or obedience to authority?

If you are like most parents today, you probably chose tolerance. However, if you were a parent 60 years ago, you would likely have chosen obedience.

The traits parents want to see in their children have changed dramatically during this century. In the 1920s, the top three qualities emphasized by parents were loyalty to the church, strict obedience, and good manners. In a more recent survey, the most valued traits by parents were independence, tolerance, and social mindedness.

There is also a different attitude toward being a parent today. Before the First World War, parents were much more confident. They knew who they were and did not hesitate to impose their ideas on their children. Parents today, broadly speaking, are more hesitant and insecure about their authority role.

However, a child's most funda-

mental need remains constant—the need for unconditional, constant love. Guilt, however, undermines that love, and parents can learn how to overcome parental guilt so as to become a more loving and effective parent.

“Is it remotely possible that any other parents in any other age have had the opportunity to feel as guilty in as many ways as we have?” asks Glen Collins in *How to Be a Guilty Parent*. “Did they have PG movies? Dinky Donuts breakfast cereal? Video games at the checkout counter?”

Parental guilt stems from two sources: 1) failing to meet unreasonable expectations and 2) feeling parents alone are responsible for the behavior of their children. Regardless of its source, however, when guilt shows up in a parent-child relationship, it undermines authentic love.

When parents do not recognize and resolve their feelings of guilt, they will project their guilt onto

their children, punishing their children for what are, in fact, the parent's sins. The child then gets a distorted self-image. However, when parents feel good about themselves, are loving and kind, provide a safe home environment, and encourage the child's growth, they offer positive reflections of a child's worth.

Guilt cuts the heart out of effective parents because it prevents a parent from empathizing with a child. Four “parenting styles” result from different combinations of love and guilt.

■ **Pleasing parents** are permissive and indulgent. They place few demands or controls on their child. And the child never learns to abide by rules and regulations.

■ **Controlling parents** are preoccupied with producing the perfect child. They see children as accessories to make the parents look good. Controllers anxiously promote the success of their children.

■ **Withholding parents** often believe children are thoroughly selfish and require harsh discipline. While Withholding Parents do not

typically inflict blatant neglect on their children, their dysfunctional family lifestyle and legalistic belief system create a home that is as cold and unnurturing as any asylum.

■ **Loving parents** balance law with love and rules with relationship. They give to their child out of love, not out of guilt.

Empathy unlocks the power of parental love. Without it, parents cannot understand the heights and depths of their child's emotional experiences. But with empathy, parents can avoid the mistake of projecting their own feelings, needs, and desires onto the child. Empathy allows parents to discover their child's uniqueness. With empathic love, a parent builds a solid foundation of self-worth and dignity that will support a child through the rest of her days. □

Taken from the book, *Love's Unseen Enemy*, by Dr. Les Parrott III. Reprinted by permission of Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Practical Ways to Help the Hurting

by M. Gregory Richards



© CLEO FREELANCE PHOTO

When someone you know is hurting because of a crisis or loss, there are a number of ways you can offer practical help. Listed below are a variety of suggested actions.

Choose ideas that seem appropriate to the situation—or let this list stimulate your thinking to come up with a caring act of your own. Before you do anything for friends or relatives facing a crisis or tragedy, however, prayerfully look for cues that will indicate what will be most helpful.

- ♥ Write a note.
- ♥ Send a card.
- ♥ Send flowers.
- ♥ Call on the telephone.
- ♥ Send postcards when you are away on a trip.
- ♥ Take a flower from your garden.
- ♥ Take home-grown fruit or vegetables.
- ♥ Take a portion of a special meal or dessert you've prepared for your family.
- ♥ Telephone before going to the market to check for needs.
- ♥ Wash their car.
- ♥ Mow their lawn.
- ♥ Have your children draw a picture or make a card and help you deliver it.
- ♥ Buy a card for a group to sign.
- ♥ Gather funds as needed and appropriate.
- ♥ Prepare a casserole to be frozen for a future meal.

- ♥ Ask if you can let their pastor know of their needs.
- ♥ Ask if you can place their name on the prayer list of a congregation or prayer group.
- ♥ Take letters or packages to the post office for them.
- ♥ Get them information on local support groups.
- ♥ Invite them to your home for lunch or dinner.
- ♥ Take them out for a meal.
- ♥ Give them a tape or CD of their favorite music.
- ♥ Give them a book by their favorite author.
- ♥ Cook and deliver a complete meal.
- ♥ Organize others to provide meals.
- ♥ Telephone them while you are on an extended trip.
- ♥ Make telephone calls for them.
- ♥ Answer their telephone for them at their time of loss.
- ♥ Help their children with homework.
- ♥ Drive children to school and other activities.
- ♥ Call to check in on them when you get home from work.
- ♥ Bake them some cookies.
- ♥ Check on them during a storm or heat wave or natural disaster.
- ♥ Send a friendship card or note weekly.
- ♥ Remember birthdays, holidays, and other special times.
- ♥ Water their yard.
- ♥ Shovel their sidewalk.
- ♥ Walk their dog.
- ♥ Invite them to join you on a special occasion.
- ♥ Cook something special on their new diet and deliver it.
- ♥ Take their newspapers and parcels to the door.
- ♥ Send comforting and inspirational news clippings (but no preaching, advice, or cures).

- ♥ Write a newsy letter over several days.
- ♥ Send photographs of special experiences.
- ♥ Send a plant.
- ♥ Plant their vegetable garden.
- ♥ Send dried fruit.
- ♥ Send a special assortment of teas.
- ♥ Mail small gifts periodically.
- ♥ Play ball with their children.
- ♥ Baby-sit their children.
- ♥ Take their clothes to the laundry or dry cleaner.
- ♥ Sit quietly with them in the hospital.
- ♥ Clean their house.
- ♥ Transport relatives to and from the airport.
- ♥ Put up out-of-town guests in your home.
- ♥ Rent a movie for them at the video store.
- ♥ Invite them to your home to watch a big game or special video.
- ♥ Drive them to church.
- ♥ Help schedule a meeting of their own club, study, or prayer group to meet in their home.
- ♥ See if they would like to ride along while you do errands.
- ♥ Take your children for brief visits, especially on holidays.
- ♥ Send a tribute donation to their favorite charity.
- ♥ Deliver a pie or cake.
- ♥ Take them to an inspirational exhibit at an art museum.
- ♥ Drive them to the library to choose a book.
- ♥ Send a copy of your favorite poem.
- ♥ Send a poem you composed yourself. □

M. Gregory Richards is the author of *When Someone You Know Is Hurting: What You Can Do to Help* (Zondervan/Harper Paperbacks, 1994).

VOLHYNIA July 8 - 25, 1995

An opportunity to visit your place of birth (or your relative's), as well as other historical Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian cities, collective farms, villages, and relatives.

This tour will be organized to accommodate tour participants' wishes within this overall area, and may include Kiev, Zhitomir, Korosten, Heimthal, Kulischi, Barashew, Slobidka, Pulin, Novograd Volinski (Zwehl), Lvov, Rovna, Zaporozje, and locations in between.

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SUMMER SUPREME

by Bill Malick

New York City



Would you like to go on a mission trip to China this summer? How about to India or Korea or South America or the Caribbean? Would you like to go on a mission trip to all these places this summer? You can. The ethnic areas of New York City are a microcosm of the lands left behind by the thousands of immigrants living here.

Would you like to participate in a Bible study with prisoners in one of the largest jails in the United States? Want to share the love of Christ with them? Want to tell them why you are there? You can. Would you like to take a VIP

tour of the United Nations? Want to see where the decisions that affect the entire world are made? Want to visit the Christian Mission to the United Nations? You can.

Would you like to see how the homeless live? Would you like to talk with them, pray with them, prepare a meal for them? You can.

Would you like to pray for the entire country from the top of the most famous building in the United States? You can.

Would you like to learn how to reach everyone in your community to tell them about Christ and invite them to your church? You can.

The Host Church — Immanuel Baptist

Immanuel Baptist Church in Woodside, New York, has been hosting groups of high school and college students from all over the country. They come for four to ten days during Christmas break, Easter break, and during the summer. While here, the students learn several ways to share their faith with friends and even with total strangers. They participate in local outreach programs, sharing the Gospel, offering free Bibles, and inviting people to Sunday worship. The skills they learn are transfer-

able and will enable them to return to home or school and teach others to set up the same type of outreach.

We can house up to 20 students in Immanuel Baptist Church, and we can make room for more by housing the youth in homes.

They bring their own sleeping bags (we provide the army cots), pillows, towels, Bible, notebook and pens, comfortable clothes, and "Sunday" clothes for church and a Broadway play. Actually it's more like a camping experience than staying in a hotel.

In addition to learning methods of evangelism, the students learn not only to share God's Word but also to do it. They will be able to affirm each statement in Matthew 25:35-36. They will go home with the assurance that a time will come when they will hear the words, *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."*

Why New York City?

The population of New York City is so dense that the population of 58 other major cities could fit within its borders. There are more than 100 ethnic groups here. This means that you can take a world tour right here. You can walk the streets and hear six or seven different languages being spoken. You can come with us to the United Nations and hear 20 or more different languages being spoken. You

can eat in restaurants specializing in foods from all over the world. We believe that if you change a life here . . . or if you share the Gospel with someone here . . . the word will probably travel back to that person's home country.

How about a little entertainment while you are here? We arrange for each group to see a top quality Broadway play. There is also time to go sightseeing and shopping. Of course, the work of evangelism doesn't stop during this time. This time just presents more opportunities for evangelism.

The Results

What kind of results can we see from a week at Immanuel? The following comments give an indication of what happens:

"The youth of Calvary Baptist Church in Bethlehem, PA, had a very positive experience. They returned to our Church enthused, better equipped to share



Christ, and more committed to serve Him in practical ways. The training they received and the 'hands-on' ministry experience you provided for them were tremendous. Our youth look forward to being involved again next summer. I highly recommend your "Summer in the City" program to other pastors and their youth groups."—
Larry E. Burd, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Bethlehem, PA

"I, along with the entire SWAT Team, thank you and your entire congregation for your gracious hospitality last summer. It was a great privilege for us to stay at your Church and have the opportunity to minister through the VBS program, street witnessing, outreaches to the homeless, and so much more."—
Vaughn VanSkiver, Youth Action

Some of the comments we received from the students who spent some time with us are "... When you hear of a missions trip, you think of going somewhere far away to a foreign country, but this was just as good or even better. I would like to come back again, maybe for more than a week."

"The Lord challenged me to become more vocal in sharing my faith. I was challenged to become more involved in the unsaved community to try to meet their needs."

"I've learned that New York City is not as scary a city as I've always heard. Many people are starving for the Word of God."

"The Lord gave me a boldness to

speak His word, a desire to serve others and to reach as many as I can for Christ. He allowed me to have a greater love for them and His people, along with a growing faith in His promises. The fear that I had is removed, and I can minister in New York City. I have faith that God can use me anywhere."

When we get comments like that, we know that we can't stop, can't



even slow down. If you have a week off this summer or would like to have your youth group visit us, call or drop us a line. We are waiting to serve you.

For detailed information, contact Pastor Bill Malick, Immanuel Baptist Church, 68-10 31 Avenue, Woodside, NY 11377. Office phone: (718) 335-1623; home phone: (718) 762-9122. Cost while at Immanuel Baptist Church: Tuition, which includes the play, Ellis Island, food, lodging, and materials, is estimated at US \$250. Travel to and from New York City, shopping, and sightseeing is extra. □

"Working together with Immanuel Baptist Church to bring evangelism teams to the New York City area benefits our Church, our community, and our relationship as North American Baptist Conference churches as well as the young people who give of themselves to come and serve. By joining with and caring for visiting teams of young people, our Church, Valley Stream Baptist, has grown in zeal to reach our community for Christ.

"We have seen many new people come to worship here. Some have already become members. By blanketing the neighborhood with attractive, personal invitations to share in our ministries, we have reestablished our visibility as a church that serves the community. We also enjoy a deepening fellowship with our sister churches as we pray, strategize, and evangelize side by side.

"When young people come to us, they are exposed to a variety of urban and multicultural ministries, they are stretched in their ability to trust God in new and unfamiliar settings, and they leave with a greater zeal for the Kingdom of God. I challenge you to consider Greater New York City as a place where you can grow and serve."

—Bill Shoemaker, pastor,
 Valley Stream (New York)
 Baptist Church

Partners in Discipling through International Missions

The international missionaries of the North American Baptist Conference are partners or laborers together with you in telling the Good News of Jesus Christ and in nurturing or discipling Christians in planting churches, in providing theological education, in leadership education, and in medical services. You may use this pictorial guide to help you pray for these missionaries.

BRAZIL

In partnership with the Brazilian Baptist Convention



Richard and Beth Rabenhorst
 Field treasurer, Church Growth Director for State of Rio Grande do Sul, Seminary teacher
 Porto Alegre, Brazil



Ralph and Martha Nelson
 Evangelism and church planting
 Florianopolis, Brazil



Keith and Lilyane Bienert
 Field secretary, church planting, teachers, Rio Grande do Sul Baptist Theological Seminary
 Cachoeirinha, Brazil



Ken and Jerilyn Bayer
 CHAIN of Love Ministries and church planting
 Novo Hamburgo, Brazil

CAMEROON

In partnership with the Cameroon Baptist Convention



Wilma Binder
 Vice principal and teacher, Saker Baptist College
 Limbe, SW Province



David and Mary June Burgess
 Librarian and teachers, Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary
 Ndu, NW Province



Scott and Ruth Clark
 Fulbe evangelism and church planting
 Allat, Cameroon (return to field Summer 1995)



Daphne Dunger
 Nurse and trainer for the Life Abundant Programme (LAP)
 Nso, NW Province



Walter Grob
Comptroller,
Cameroon Baptist
Convention
Kumba,
SW Province



Nancy Grover
Teacher of mission-
ary children
Ndu,
NW Province



**Annemarie
Hattenhauer**
Teacher, Cameroon
Baptist Theological
Seminary
Ndu,
NW Province



Dale and Marcella Hufnagel
Church planting
Bafoussam, West Province



Kathryn Kroll
Director, Cameroon
Baptist Convention
Training School for
Health Personnel
Nso,
NW Province
(returns to field
Fall 1995)



Patricia Lenz
Physical therapist,
Mbingo Baptist
Hospital
Mbingo,
NW Province



**Elizabeth
Mantay**
Nurse, Etoug Ebe
Baptist Dispensary
Yaounde,
Central Province



Oryn and Patricia Meinerts
Field secretary (Oryn); nurse and
women's advisor (Patricia)
Bamenda, NW Province



**Helen Marie
Schmidt**
Surgeon, Bansa
Baptist Hospital
Nso,
NW Province



Julie Stone
Physician, Bansa
Baptist Hospital
Nso,
NW Province



Rodney and April Zimmerman
Physician, Mbingo Baptist Hospital
Mbingo, NW Province (return to
field Summer 1995)

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

In partnership with Baptists
in Russia, Ukraine, Serbia,
Czeckia, and Bulgaria



Harold and Ruth Dressler
Seminary and Bible school professor
and liaison for N.A.B. mission work in
Eastern and Central Europe
Chilliwack, British Columbia

JAPAN

In partnership with
Japan Baptist Conference



Reimer and Nobuko Clausen
Church planting and field treasurer
Kyoto Fu, Japan



* **Lara Frey**
English as a Second
Language and Bible
study teacher
Mie Ken, Japan



William and Luci Lengefeld
English as a Second Language and
Bible study teachers and administrators
of Tsu English Center
Tsu, Japan (return to field Summer
1995)



* **Yuri Nakano**
English as a Second
Language and Bible
study teacher
Mie Ken, Japan



Ron and Joan Stoller
Church planting and evangelism
Nagoya Shi, Japan



Lucille Wipf
English as a Second
Language and Bible
study teacher and
manager of Tsu
Christian
Education Center
Mie Ken, Japan



Doug and Sharon Woyke
Field secretary and church planting
Osaka Fu, Japan

MEXICO

In partnership with
Bible Baptist Fellowship



Royce and Sue Baron
Evangelism and leadership training
Sonora State, Mexico



Juan and Amanda Luna
Church planting
Mexico City, Mexico



* **Moises and Carolyn Ruiz**
Church planting and evangelism



Derek and Alyse Zahnd
Church planting

NIGERIA

In partnership with
Mambilla Baptist Convention



Peter and Susan Aaldyk
Field secretary (Peter), treasurer
(Susan), and teachers at Mambilla
Baptist Theological School
Gembu, Nigeria



**Elsie
Lewandowski**
Teacher, Hillcrest
School
Jos, Nigeria



* **Karen Wegner**
Teacher, Hillcrest
School
Jos, Nigeria



Clyde and Barbara Zimelman
Teachers at Mambilla Baptist
Theological School
Gembu, Nigeria

PHILIPPINES

In partnership with Baptist Conference of the Philippines



Leland and Jennell Bertsch
Field secretary, church planting, and teacher at Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center
Legazpi City (return to field Summer 1995)



Gregg and Maria Evans
Church planting and teacher at Bicol Baptist Theological Training Center; field treasurer (Maria)
Legazpi City



Scott and Karen Hug
Church planting
(to be placed in Legazpi City)

* Indicates short-term missionary

Praying for Our Missionaries

(Submitted by Manetta Hohn)

DAY 1 - The Missionary's Own Relationship to God
Feeding on the Word
Prayer life
Filling with the Holy Spirit
Maturity, growth in grace
Victory over Satan and the flesh

DAY 2 - The Missionary's Physical and Emotional Life
Adaptation to climate
Health in the midst of disease
Safety in danger
Victory over loneliness and depression

DAY 3 - The Missionary's Family
Husband/wife relationship
Children
Relationships with others
Family life as a model to nationals
Single missionary

DAY 4 - The Missionary's Ability to Communicate
Language study
Continual improvement in fluency
Cultural adaptation and understanding

DAY 5 - The Missionary's Ministry
Teaching, preaching, witnessing
Boldness, open doors
Prepared hearts, fruitfulness

DAY 6 - The Missionary's Relationship to
Fellow workers
Other missionaries
National evangelists, pastors, and teachers

DAY 7 - The Missionary's Country of Service
Government - national and local
Political situation
Visas, continued open door
Outreach to cities, villages, tribes
Economic conditions

International Missions Department

North American Baptist Conference International Office



Herman Effa
missions director



Fred Folkerts
associate missions director



Support staff: Betty Draewell (front), Marylou Bonesteel (l. to r.), Frances Bryant-Cripe, and Ardath Effa, along with the Management Services and Development Departments provide support services.

Many volunteers provide their services throughout the year in medical work, education, evangelism, building construction, and leadership training.

If you are interested, please contact the International Missions Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994. Phone: (708) 495-2000; Fax: (708) 495-3301.

Your giving toward the \$6,325,000 1995 Giving Goal helps provide funding for these ministries. Thank you for your prayers and gifts.

McCullough Retires

Gary McCullough retired as assistant to the executive director at the N.A.B. International Office effective December 1994. McCullough has held this position since the spring of 1988. His major responsibilities included serving as Triennial Conference Manager for two triennial conferences and making a preliminary survey for the third. He also served as Personnel Director for the International Office support staff and negotiator with a travel agency and hotels in the Oakbrook area to arrange for General Council board, and committee meetings.

Although he retired in December, he has continued to serve as consultant through June 1995.

Imagine a business where every three years all the vendors change; all the employees are new; the headquarters is relocated (usually in a new culture); and the company vision, policy, and strategy starts from scratch. Sound impossible? That's what the N.A.B. Triennial Conference Manager encounters. For two triennials, Gary McCullough has more than met this challenge. He has done so with diplomacy, patience, compassion, and the necessary sense of humor.

It was my privilege to work side by side with Gary in preparing for the Conference in Milwaukee in 1991. I not only greatly coveted his help and expertise but also delighted in the fact that he became a very good friend. May God bless you in your retirement, Gary, as much as you've blessed others in your work. —Dr. Dave Dryer, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Kenosha, WI, and 1991 Local Arrangements Committee chair, Milwaukee, WI.

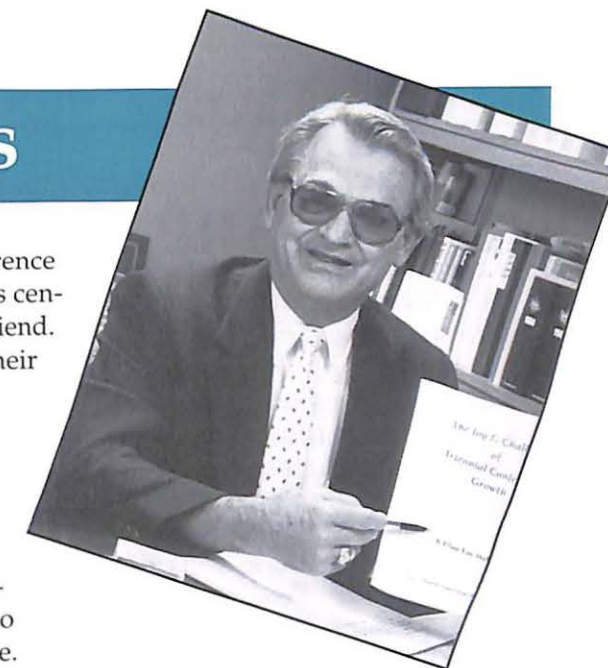
Many outstanding qualities come to mind when one thinks about Gary McCullough. Most will remember the tremendous

job he has done for our Conference family, but only one thought is central in my heart—Gary is my friend. Many people are defined by their job. Gary, on the other hand, defines the job and keeps his person central in his relationship with others. With a successful civil service career behind him, Gary came to the International Office with a servant's heart that had nothing to "prove" and everything to give.

Focusing on people, he is thoughtful and considerate of people, their needs, their feelings, and always doing the "right" thing, even if that choice brings great cost. He is a rare individual who does what he says and whose word is his abiding bond. It is not hard to give your heart, or your very best, to a person like Gary. He brings out the very best in those with whom he works because he believes in, encourages, and even pushes one towards the development of talents and abilities one never knew he/she had. He is a "grower" of people, not a user of them. That is what makes his leadership so rare and so special.

While not having the theological education usually found with those at the International Office, which he is often quick to point out, his practical and deeply personal faith of many years gives him a strong, vibrant faith and a zeal for our mission. That fervent commitment often meant taking on more than he should, with the medical problems that confronted him during the last few years. His work always came through shining with his ability to process huge amounts of information in the variety of responsibilities he has had.

Unlike a workaholic, Gary is able to recognize talent, delegate responsibility, and take the time for family



and friends. Never was there a time when Gary did not have the time to listen, give seasoned counsel when asked, and take time to combine pleasure with a monumental work load. This special perspective of this professional businessman and his love for the Lord Jesus Christ will be deeply missed by our Conference of churches he served so well.—The Rev. Ron Presley, pastor of CrossTimbers Baptist Church, Flower Mound, TX, and 1994 Local Arrangements Committee chair, Dallas, TX. □

News . . .

(continued from page 2)

week also read the Bible during the week, other than while they are at church.

There has been an increase in the proportion of Catholics who are born again Christians. Twenty-two percent of those who call themselves Catholic fit the born again criteria used in the survey.

The survey was conducted among a random sample of 1,006 adults, age 18 or older, in the 48 continental states, from January 18 through January 30, 1995. □

Reprinted from Barna Research Group, Ltd., 647 W. Broadway, Glendale, CA.

Evaluating Your Congregation's Health

by Lyle E. Schaller

What is the "cholesterol count" for your congregation? One answer is we do not have measurements comparable to a patient's cholesterol count or blood pressure or the Dow Jones stock market average or the Consumer Price Index.

Five Statistical Criteria

A second response is we can use a series of statistical criteria, but they are more useful in identifying the direction of change rather than in providing reassurance or provoking alarm. Five examples will illustrate the limitations of widely used criteria.

1) What proportion of today's members joined during the past ten years? Is that proportion higher or lower than it was seven years ago?

If the answer is 50 percent of today's members joined during the past decade and that is down from 63 percent seven years ago, that is a double dose of good news. First, 50 percent is the norm for a healthy congregation.

Second, that drop from 63 percent suggests an increased capability to attract, welcome, receive, and assimilate newcomers. (That is comparable to a drop from 230 to 180 in your cholesterol count.) The problem is few congregations know the comparable figure for seven or ten years ago, so they do not have a



benchmark for comparison.

2) What is the ratio of your average worship attendance to your membership? How does that compare with the ratio for all other congregations in your community and/or your denomination? The ideal answer is at least 100 percent and that is higher than for other churches in our community or in your denomination.

The limitation on this criterion is the absence of uniform standards for defining membership or for calculating worship attendance. Some congregations follow an exceptionally relaxed standard for member-

ship while others use a very demanding standard. Likewise, some congregations count only those who are in the worship service for the full period in calculating worship attendance while a few count everyone in the building at that hour. In calculating the annual average, some pastors include every Sunday while others use only 44 or 48 weeks in calculating that annual average.

As a general rule, if that ratio is below 50 percent, that is either a cause for alarm or an indication of a relaxed standard of membership.

3) How many new members do you receive annually? The healthy churches usually report at least eight to ten new members received each year for every 100 members on the roll at the

beginning of the year, but in some communities that figure has to be at least 15 to 20 in order to remain on a plateau in size.

The big variable, however, is age. If the primary focus on congregational life is on adults born before 1935, four to six new members per 100 members usually will be adequate to remain on a plateau in size. If, however, the focus is on reaching and serving people born after 1955, it may be necessary to receive 10 to 18 new members annually for every 100 members.

A second variable is the turnover rate in the local population. If only

five percent of the residents of that community moved in during the past year, it may be more difficult to attract new members than if 15 to 20 percent of the current residents arrived during the past year.

4) The easiest yardstick to use is size. What was your average attendance at worship last year? What was it three years ago? Ten years ago? What is the trend? For comparison purposes, well over one-half of all Protestant congregations in the United States founded before 1970 report their average attendance is either approximately the same or lower than ten years earlier.

5) Has our giving kept up with inflation? The Consumer Price Index at the end of 1993 was double the 1979 figure and 47 percent higher than the 1983 average. Were your receipts from member contributions in 1993 double the 1979 total?

Subjective Criteria

On a more subjective level, seven other criteria provide a basis for self-evaluation. Each one resembles a spectrum with congregations scattered all along it.

1) Are you a Sunday morning church or a seven-day-a-week congregation? Back in the 1950s, the big crowds in church were Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening. Today, a growing number of churches are offering a variety of ministries, events, and programs seven days a week. In 1955, it was not unusual for two-thirds or more of the people entering a church building during a typical week to come on Sunday.

Today, many congregations report that more than one-half of the total attendance at worship services, teaching programs, special events, and other ministries consists

of the people attending on Monday through Saturday. Thus an attendance of 200 at worship on Sunday morning plus 150 in Sunday school plus 50 on Sunday evening may be exceeded by the attendance at Monday through Saturday ministries and events. (Both counts exclude the people who drop by to check on how things are going with the church secretary or the pastor. Both also exclude attendance at administrative or program committee meetings or rehearsals of music groups.)

At one end of that spectrum are the congregations in which Monday through Saturday attendance is triple Sunday attendance. At the other end are those congregations in which Sunday attendance is quadruple the Monday through Saturday attendance. Where is your congregation on that spectrum?

2) Who comes to Sunday morning worship? Is it largely adults born before 1955? Or increasingly adults born after 1955? This can be a useful indicator to discern whether your congregation is able to reach the "under-forty crowd." Where is your congregation on that spectrum?

3) What drives the decision-making processes in your congregation? At one end of that spectrum are found a) a compelling vision of a new tomorrow and/or b) a sensitive and relevant response to the religious needs of unchurched people and/or c) missions and community outreach and/or d) a desire to create new ministries to reach younger adults. At the other end of that spectrum are found a) tradition and/or b) local precedents and/or c) a decision to do yesterday over again and/or d) inertia or drift. Where is your congregation on that spectrum? Which direction is it moving?

4) An overlapping spectrum has ministry goals at one end and institutional survival goals at the other end. In the *ministry-goal-oriented congregation*, the governing board spends most of its time discussing renewal, worship, new teaching ministries, missions, community outreach, evangelism, music, tomorrow, and expanding the schedule.

In the *survival-goal-oriented congregation*, the governing board usually spends more time talking about money, real estate, cutting back on the schedule, why the members are not more responsive, personnel, the shortage of volunteers, the financial squeeze, and yesterday. Where is your church on that spectrum?

5) For a dwindling number, the most attractive spectrum reflects the *theological stance, Biblical interpretation, and doctrine*. The liberals denounce the fundamentalists. The theologically conservative Christians laugh at the blunders of today's liberals. Much of the discussion about priorities, direction, and goals is directed at what we are not. The fundamentalists and conservatives do not want to be perceived as liberal. The liberals do not want to be perceived as fundamentalists.

At the other end of that spectrum are the people who find it more useful to identify congregations by what they are doing in ministry rather than by a theological stance or an approach to Biblical interpretation. Which end of this spectrum do your leaders find to be most attractive?

6) How many *first-time visitors* return week after week? At one end of this spectrum are those congregations that keep a record of all first-time visitors and report that 75 to 90 percent return week after

(Continued on page 28)

This Is the Plan . . .

By Marj Hadlington

Isn't it a pity that motherhood doesn't come with a step-by-step manual? We're not born knowing the rules and methods that apply to child rearing. Getting pregnant doesn't ensure that we now know how to be a good mother—just as making a commitment to Christ doesn't qualify us to be an elder in the church. There's a maturation process required in order to become the best you can possibly be. It takes time and experience. We learn as we go.

Becoming an effective mother, like becoming an effective disciple, is a three-fold process:

- *First you learn:* Find someone to mentor you.
- *Then you practice:* Practice makes perfect!
- *Then you teach:* You become a mentor to others.

When I was pregnant with my first child 17 years ago, neither my husband Ken nor I were Christians. God blessed us with a job transfer that placed us next door to believers who, over the intervening years, have helped disciple and mentor us. They were instrumental in bringing us both to the Lord. My neighbor was my mothering mentor, and both prayed and talked me through many anxious moments. In fact,

now that I have two teens and a six-year-old, she really has her work cut out for her. The six-year-old I have a handle on, but those teen years . . . !

In turn, as I have gained experience on the mothering battlefield, I have had moms with younger children turn to me for advice and help based on my experience. It always amazes me when they tell me how much I have encouraged or helped them. But that is the biblical way. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 sets God's example . . . *"The God of all comfort who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."* Christ Himself followed the plan when He chose His disciples, taught them, then commissioned them to go and do likewise.

There's an old German saying: "We get too soon old and too late smart." I'm so thankful that God had a plan to smarten us up and that the Lord Jesus set the example of learning, becoming, and sharing. As a body of believers, we have many privileges

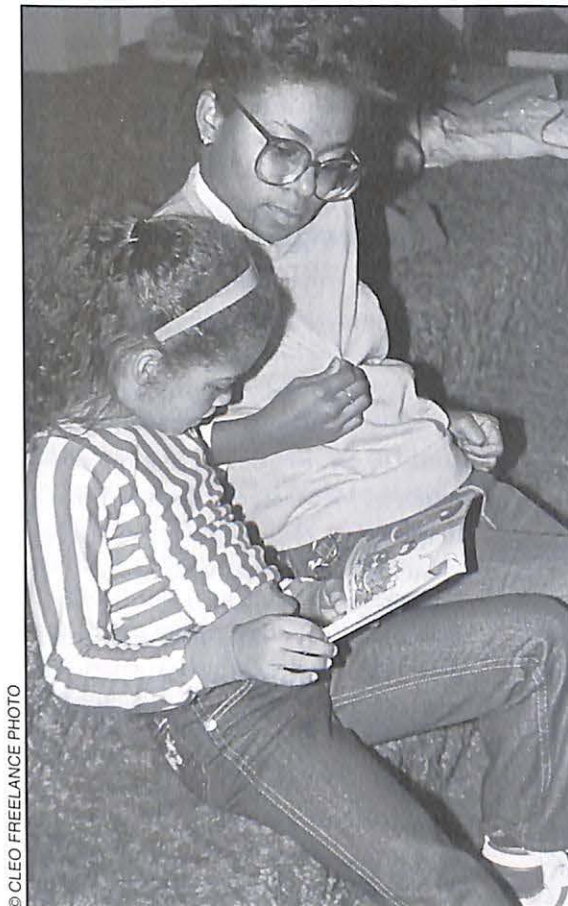
- following His example and helping each other
- discovering who we are and what gifts we have
- developing our potential to serve the Lord, His church, and our families
- becoming the best we can possibly be

As mothers, we have a double privilege. First, we can use "The Plan" to help our children discover who they are and disciple them in preparation for them to become disciplers. Then we can use "The Plan" to help each other develop our mothering skills . . . teaching each other out of the experiences God gives us.

I challenge your women's groups to get organized and develop a plan whereby you can help young moms get through the difficult moments of parenting. Our women, under the title W.O.M.E.N. (Women's Opportunities for Ministry and Encouragement Now) are doing this in many ways. The CARE ministry is a volunteer list of women willing to go one-on-one or in a group to deal with a variety of needs. The PRAYER ministry is a vibrant active voice in offering comfort and strength to each other. The STUDY ministry is actively involved in discipling and growth. The MISSION ministry works with the church and children's groups to encourage missions awareness. This is "The Plan" in action. It works!

The strength of the church is discipling—Spirit-led Christians sharing their life experiences, helping each other grow to be more Christlike, as a mother guides her children to maturity.

Food for the Family



©CLEO FREELANCE PHOTO

Mothers, is there any room in your house that you occupy more often than your kitchen? Add up the hours spent in meal planning, preparation, and presentation for your family. It represents a significant portion of your lifetime.

I have, at times, felt guilty about the lack of preparation or planning that I've expended on the spiritual food my children require. I'm often guilty of being a "fast food" Mom. There have been times when, feeling tired, I've allowed myself to send the children out to eat—the church has the best food available anyway. Or there are times when I allow their immature demands to

sway my menu choice—"I don't wanna go to Youth Group; it's boring." (When others find it stimulating?)

There are also times when, in spite of knowing that spiritual nourishment is a daily requirement, I allow them to skip a meal. "Do we HAVE to do devotions tonight? I've so-o-o much homework!" (When they were younger, this was accomplished by significant squirming and whining designed to stifle mother's "culinary" inclinations.)

How thankful I am that God doesn't have my shortcomings. He has prepared a banquet for you and me that is without restraint. He has more than enough room for all—no seating limitations in heaven. His

menu is complete, nourishing, and always available. His Word is our appetizer, and, if we allow ourselves to partake, it will whet our appetite for the greater banquet to come. I challenge all Mothers: Let us bring our children to the Father's table daily. (Read Proverbs 31:14-15 and John 21:15-17.) □

Marj is the wife of Ken Hadlington and mother of three children: Beth (17) in her senior year of high school; Christian (16) in grade 10; and Geoffrey (6) in grade one of a French Immersion School. They attend Parkland Baptist Church, Spruce Grove, AB.

TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

Getting Out of Kids' Faces and into Their Hearts

by Valerie Bell (Zondervoan)

Do you spend more time nagging than nurturing your children? Drawing on experience with her two sons, the author has words of wisdom about developing quality relationships with children.

Faith Training

by Joe White (Focus on the Family)

Subtitled "Raising Kids Who Love the Lord," this book offers principles that will guide parents, enabling them to understand their responsibility of passing the baton of faith to the next generation.

Single-Parent Family

(Published by Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995 or P.O. Box 9800, Stan. Terminal, Vancouver, BC V6B 4G3 / \$12.00 per year)

A 32-page monthly magazine designed to help single parents tackle the challenges of single parenting. They will learn how to be an effective parent despite the many demands on their time; build new relationships; excel at their jobs though parenting responsibilities make it difficult; cope with loneliness, depression, and isolation; maintain at least a truce with their exs; deal with difficult parent-child relationships; stretch family dollars.

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

■ MILLET, AB. Pastor Herb Radke baptized six youth, one being his daughter, and welcomed them into the fellowship of Wiesenthal Baptist Church. —Annie Hoffman

■ HERREID, SD. Pastor Merle Hoots welcomed two young adults into the membership of Herreid Baptist Church. —Wanda Berndt

■ CALGARY, AB. Brentview Baptist Church was filled with family and friends as 17 youth were baptized. Pastor Daniel Schuster, associate pastor for youth, had recently conducted a series of baptismal classes, which led to decisions made by the candidates to obey the Lord and be baptized.

Pastor Schuster gave each candidate a word of encouragement and a special text of Scripture as he baptized 15 of the youth. Pastor Reid Galbraith, associate pastor of Christian Education and Music, baptized his two sons. These 17 youth as well as two adults were welcomed into the fellowship of the Church. The 19 new members are already serving in many ways at Brentview Baptist Church. —Elsie Wright

■ MORRIS, MB. The Rev. Del Bertsch baptized two young people and welcomed them into the fellowship of Emmanuel Baptist Church. —Cynthia Bergstresser

■ HAMILTON, ON. Pastor Hero Ulrichs baptized seven people at Mission Baptist Church. —Irene Noack

■ KELOWNA, BC. Pastor Larry Dyck baptized four people and welcomed a total of 16 people into the fellowship of Lakeview Heights Baptist Church in 1994. —D.G. Fritzsche

■ KITCHENER, ON. A joint baptismal service was held at Central Baptist Church with church plant, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Jerusalem. Pastor Ron Kelway baptized four

people from his congregation, Central Baptist, and Pastor Felipe Rodriguez baptized a husband and wife and also welcomed another person into the fellowship of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Jerusalem.

■ GETTYSBURG, PA. Gettysburg Baptist Church praises God that its newly formed Sunday school has good attendance; for 14 people who have joined the church; for 12 being baptized; and for five who recently accepted the Lord. The Rev. Bill Mummert is the pastor.

■ VALLEY STREAM, NY. Valley Stream Baptist Church praises God for its four new weekly prayer groups and nine new members. The Rev. Bill Shoemaker is the pastor.

Wiesenthal church challenged to read the Bible

■ MILLET, AB. Pastor Herb Radke challenged the congregation at Wiesenthal Baptist Church to read through the Bible in 1995. He suggested various plans to follow and one-third of the congregation are reading the Scriptures.

"We are talking about God's Word in our fellowship times and encouraging each other to continue," reports Annie Hoffman. "As a result, we are growing."

Richmond church resumes construction

■ RICHMOND, BC. After a nine-month delay, construction on Cornerstone Evangelical Baptist Church resumed in February. The congregation hopes to be in the new building by late fall. The Church body is also being built. Pastor Ed Hohn said 10 people have accepted Christ since last fall, and a baptismal service was held Easter Sunday.

Hamilton church provides day care for a day

■ HAMILTON, ON. Hamilton

Baptist Church provided day care for a day to give parents of the Church as well as those from the neighborhood time to go shopping without their children. The cost was one non-perishable food item per child.

This service, meant as an outreach ministry, was gratefully accepted by the neighborhood. The Rev. Hero Ulrichs is the pastor. —Irene Noack

Kerstan serves as German Bible study leader

■ HAMILTON, ON. Due to some rearranging of Mission Baptist Church's pastoral duties, the Church found it necessary to hire another pastor for the weekly German Bible studies. Dr. Reinhold Kerstan, professor at McMaster University, is helping out. The Rev. Hero Ulrichs is the pastor. —Irene Noack

Kyle church sees growth and dedicates new parsonage

■ KYLE, TX. The Wednesday night Bible study and prayer service at Immanuel Baptist Church continues to increase in numbers under the ministry of the Rev. Scott Pickard, who became pastor of the Church in July 1994. During this time on Wednesday evenings, Karen Pickard leads "Kids' Klub," an outreach program to the neighborhood children.

The Church also dedicated the new parsonage. Dr. Dennis Koger, former interim pastor, led the service with a message and prayer. Pastor Pickard and Morris Schmeltkopf, deacon chair, also participated in the service. The Church has added a choir and song director to its staff. —Esther Lengefeld

Round Lake WMF holds English tea

■ GLADWIN, MI. "Oh my!" exclaimed one woman, "How do I look in this hat?" This is what you heard

as you entered the foyer of Round Lake Baptist Church. Mary Jane Hilton from Harrison, MI, hosted an English Tea Luncheon for the women of the Church and their friends.

A Hat Shop was set up in the foyer, and each woman selected a hat to wear during the luncheon.

The program included a women's trio and speaker, Mrs. Jean Thayer. Mrs. Wanda Foust is the WMF president. —Jean Jurgensen

Morris church reaches out to the community

■ MORRIS, MB. Emmanuel Baptist Church is reaching out into the community through the Women's Ministries and the youth work. Ladies Night Out is offered twice a month with a special feature and small group Bible study ideally suited for inviting others.

The Sunday school is reaching out to the youth with skating, films, and food.

Plans are being made as the Church anticipates celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1996. The Rev. Del Bertsch is the pastor.

—Cynthia Bergstresser

Edmonton church sends roofing team to Cameroon

■ EDMONTON, AB. In the fall of 1994, the Missions Committee of Zion Baptist Community Church approached four to eight individuals to go to Mamfe, Cameroon, to assist Calvary Baptist Church in the construction of its roof.

By Jan. 1, 1995, \$11,070 had been raised for the materials and forwarded to Mamfe for their purchase. A team of five men, Gus Schroeder, Rudy Renz, Assaph Redschlag, Wally Finkbeiner, and Ed Cyrankiewicz, committed to undertake this project.

The team members left February 2 and, thanks to God's grace, adjusted well to the local climate and conditions. They worked hand in hand

with local church members to construct and erect roof trusses and install the metal cladding before they left. It became apparent to the team that the economic conditions in Cameroon make it impossible for the local congregation to raise the means to construct a roof without other assistance.

"The overwhelming thankfulness expressed by the local congregation toward the contributors and the team is extremely difficult to describe in words," says Ed Cyrankiewicz, construction team secretary.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Arnprior church celebrates 125 years

■ ARNPRIOR, ON. First Baptist Church celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1994. The ministry originally began with 11 members and serves people in Arnprior and the surrounding area.

"One Hundred and Twenty-Five Years and Beyond," the anniversary theme, served to remind the congregation that without the past the Church would have no future. Without a future, the present ministry

would have no purpose or meaning.

The anniversary celebration went on all year. It included a look back to the time the Church had a German ministry and reviewed how the people remained faithful in serving the Lord even though they endured many hardships. The highlight of the celebration was the banquet with music, reminiscing, and memories shared by former pastor, the Rev. Eldon L. Janzen, and son of the Church, the Rev. Henry Ramus. The Rev. Rod Thompson, a former interim pastor, served as guest speaker.

Eunice Perneel compiled the anniversary book, *The First 125 Years, an Imaginary Trip Through Time*. The Rev. James Liske is the pastor. —Gerald Kuehl

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

■ A number of couples at Wiesenthal Baptist Church, Millet, AB, celebrated anniversaries. We congratulate the Rev. Ernest and Annie Hoffman, 50 years; Walter and Rosie Lessing, 65 years; Martin and Gladys Smith, 66 years; and Gustav and Wilhelmina Ertman, 72 years.

SEVENTEENTH

BAPTIST

WORLD  CONGRESS

AUGUST 1-6, 1995 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

CELEBRATE CHRIST: THE HOPE OF THE WORLD!

LeRoy Schauer



LeRoy Walter Schauer, (65), was born July 26, 1929, to Carl and Christina Schauer in Eureka, SD. He died serving the Lord while working with the new church planting project in Boise, Idaho, on Jan. 6, 1995. He is survived by his wife, Carol M. Schauer; five children and their spouses: Michaelle and Terry Buford of Zambalus, Philippines; Jocelyn Schauer of Longview, WA; Carlene and Dan McNabb of Kent, WA; Bob and Alaine Schauer of Santa Ana, CA; and John and Kim Schauer of Spokane, WA; a sister, Mrs. Robert Rowe of DeRuyter, NY; and eight grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his parents.

The younger of two children, LeRoy's caring spirit was instilled in him by his parents. Growing up in Ashley, ND, he obtained his dream to plant churches from his father.

After graduating from Ashley (ND) High School, Sioux Falls (SD) College, and N.A.B. Seminary, he was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD.

LeRoy married Carol Engleman on Aug. 17, 1951. Together, he and Carol nurtured their family and ministered to churches through strong communication and abundant love. This love for people was demonstrated by those N.A.B. Conference churches he shepherded in Mott, ND; Shattuck, OK; Columbus, NE; Waco, TX; and Tacoma, WA.

LeRoy's calling changed from pastoring churches to shepherding pastors in August 1982 when he became Western Area Minister for California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and then in 1985, when he became Northwest Area Minister responsible for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Caring about each pastor, his desire was to be their advocate by listening, praying, and responding to them through God's wisdom. Being one who loved where God had placed him in his life's work, he consistently strove to attain per-

fection through integrity. Always being gracious, he was extremely sensitive and intuitive about others' feelings. LeRoy loved looking for ways to share Christ and searched for new ways to minister to people's needs. Having a silent strength, but a unique sense of humor, he was a true lover of all people.

His personal goals were a growing love for the Lord, a deeper knowledge of God's word, genuine love and appreciation for Carol, an on-going generous love response for each member of his family, and a ministry that was more than what he was. His purpose was to have a supreme overall transcending growing relationship with Jesus Christ through worship . . . growth . . . a shared faith.

Schauer of Blessings

LeRoy Schauer's pilgrimage was a run by faith, and he accomplished much for the Lord.

I believe LeRoy was motivated to "run by faith" out of thanksgiving and gratitude to God for God's

great work in His life. Out of a heart of thanksgiving, he simply wanted to please God.

But while LeRoy ran, he also empathized with those around him. LeRoy knew how to laugh with tears in his eyes. He also knew how to hurt for others with tears in his eyes. He definitely has been a "Schauer of Blessings" to many people over the years.

LeRoy had a very special place in his heart for all pastors' children and pastors' wives because he knew what they go through.

LeRoy Schauer is a patriarch of faith for many of us, his family, and the many churches and ministries up and down the coast and beyond. —Gordon Bauslaugh, pastor, Christ Community Church, Puyallup, WA.

An Encourager

LeRoy Schauer, a very dedicated servant of God, was an "encourager" and was someone who never tried to force his agenda on someone else. He was always ready to listen and pray about any problem or situation that arose. LeRoy was always ready to help if a church needed someone to preach or to give a report on the N.A.B. Conference. He kept the Association well informed about the Conference and other churches. You would always find LeRoy enthusiastic and upbeat about his ministry, the Lord's work. —Douglas Graf, moderator, Central Pacific Association

LeRoy had an urgency to get the work done, and he was excited about every church planting project in his area. He had a burden for every church and every pastor and wife. His last morning he especially had an urgency about the work in Boise, ID, to which God has called Paul and Val Baumbach.

My last memory is my arms underneath him praying with him. —Bob Walther, associate director for church planting □

■ BUCK, ALEX (96), Jamestown, ND; born Oct. 31, 1889, to Ludwig and Christina (Neuman) Buck in Logan County, ND; died Jan. 22, 1995; married Lydia Roth, May 5, 1919, Napoleon, ND; active member, teacher, trustee, deacon, First Baptist Church, Streeter, ND; active member, teacher, trustee, deacon, custodian, Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND; predeceased by his parents, wife, infant daughter, one granddaughter, two brothers, five sisters; survived by two sons: Melvin (Edna), Bloomington, MN; Arnie (Lenora), Fargo, ND; four daughters: Lorraine Wolff, Fargo, ND; Adeline Tahrn, Lodi, CA; Rita (Stanley) Herr, Minneapolis, MN; Clara (Ben) Staiger, Fargo, ND; 14 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; the Rev. Randy Jaspers officiating.

■ DAVID, MIRIAM REUSCHER (94), Hillsboro, KS; born April 12, 1900, to Louis and Margaret Reuscher near Ramona, KS; died Oct. 17, 1994; married Otto David, Jan. 14, 1926, in Stockton, CA; member, lampa Mennonite Brethren Church; active member, Bible studies, church services, member of King's Daughters; treasurer, Women's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church, Durham, KS; predeceased by her husband, Otto, in 1974; survived by two sons: Fred (Doris) and Eldon, Hillsboro, KS; four daughters: Vera (Dr. Raymond) Beach and Dorothy, Lincoln, NE; LaVada (Lewis) Hagen, Hillsboro, KS; Darlene (Gordon) Helberg, Orlando, FL; eight grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; 14 step-great-grandchildren; one step-great-great-grandchild.

■ HAAS, VERGIL (68), Turtle Lake, ND; born Jan. 30, 1926, to Theodore and Bertha (Braun) Haas in Turtle Lake, ND; died Dec. 29, 1994; married Louise Sitch, June 24, 1951; active member, Sunday school treasurer, trustee, moderator, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; predeceased by his parents and one brother; survived by his wife, Louise; four daughters: Cherie (LeRoy) Anderson, Fargo, ND; Cynthia (Don) Hoffert, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Rondi (Bill) Baker, St. Anthony, MN; Kathryn (Mike) Midgette, Roseville, MN; four grandchildren; one sister, Edith Mae (Richard) Broschat; the Rev. Gordon Voegelé officiating.

■ GEIS, MARGARETH TIEMANN (95), Hillsboro, KS; born Dec. 15, 1899, to Charles (an N.A.B. Conference minister) and Christina Tiemann in Chicago, IL; died Feb. 17, 1995; married Harry H. Geis, June 17, 1920, in Okeene, OK; active member, Sunday school teacher, soloist, choir member, Bible school director, missionary society officer, Zion Baptist Church, Okeene, OK; active member, Sunday school teacher, Triple L Retirement Organization, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Enid, OK; member, Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS; predeceased by her husband, Harry, who died Nov. 4, 1993; survived by a son, Duane, Houston, TX; a daughter, Bettie (Dean) Batt, Marion, KS; three grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; Dr. Harry Friesen and the Rev. Elton Kirstein officiating.

■ LOVE, LINCOLN STANTON, (86), Cooper City, FL, formerly of Erie, PA; died Jan. 14, 1995; former active member, Dorchester Road Baptist Church, Erie, PA; member, Flamingo Road Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale, FL; member, Finance Committee, N.A.B. Conference (1969-1973); survived by his wife, Marion; one son, Frederic, Orebro, Sweden; three daughters: Barbara Moore, Old Saybrook, CT; Marlin Moore, Seekonk, MA; Linda Ericsson, Chesterfield, MO; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

■ MAERZ, GEORGE (83), Calgary, AB; born Feb. 18, 1911, to George and Elisabeth Maerz in Bikal, Hungary; died Nov. 8, 1994; baptized in 1927 by Pastor J. Lehmann in Raczkozar, Hungary; served as youth leader and choir director; married Christine Weiss, Sept. 1, 1932; immigrated to Lethbridge, AB, in 1951 and joined Grace Baptist Church; member, Temple Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, since their move to Calgary in 1963; survived by his wife, Christine; one son, George (Ingrid), Scottsdale, AZ; two daughters: Elizabeth (Art) Klettke; Erika (Howard) Maerz, Calgary, AB; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; the Reverends Dieter Gohl and Gerhard Poschwatta officiating.

■ REMPEL, JOHN H. (94), Corn, OK; died Dec. 9, 1994; charter member, member of Board of Trustees that organized Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK; lifelong farmer, cattleman, and custom wheat harvester; survived by his wife, Jessie; one son, John E. (Erna) Rempel Jr.; one daughter, Margie (Gerald) Schmidt; three grand-

children; and two brothers.

■ SCHLOTTHAUER, ANNA (89), Hillsboro, KS; born in Dobrinka, Russia, to Alexander and Elizabeth (Lockman) Batthauer; died Feb. 14, 1995; married Elmer Schlotthauer, Aug. 9, 1938, in Marion, KS; member, Mennonite church at Dorrance; member, Strassburg Baptist Church, Marion, KS; predeceased by brothers, Alex and David, and sister, Linda Batthauer; survived by her husband, Elmer, Hillsboro, KS; one brother, Jonathan; three sisters: Frieda Schlotthauer, Lydia Hensley, and Mary Elizabeth Batthauer; the Reverends Don Mashburn and Chris Gorman officiating.

■ WAHL, RUBY (70), Turtle Lake, ND; born Oct. 14, 1924, in rural Sheridan Co., ND, to Katie and Fred Lauer, Jr.; died Jan. 20, 1995; married Lawrence Wahl, Nov. 30, 1940; member, Turtle Lake (ND) Baptist Church; served as WMF treasurer, in AWANA, flower and social committees; survived by daughter, Judy Polsfut, Minot, ND; sons: Richard, Bismarck, ND; Dennis and Fred, Turtle Lake, ND; and Jim, Pick City, ND; 14 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; brothers: Rudy, Raymond, Ted, Melvin, LeRoy, and Lloyd; sisters: Edna Reile, Freda Broeckel, Violet Murray, and Shirley Wilson; preceded in death by her husband in 1982; the Rev. Gordon Voegelé, funeral service.

Correction to page 27, March issue *Baptist Herald*: Wilbert Staiger was from Medina, ND. In addition to one surviving sister, there is one brother, Ben.

If the North American Baptist Conference will not have the use of assets until after I die, why should I consider a charitable trust during my lifetime? Wouldn't it be better to give a percentage of my estate at the time of death?

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Our staff has prepared a special planning report, **Design Your Own Charitable Gift**. We believe you will find it to be a valuable source of information. It will help you gather the data needed to design your personal gift plan.

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Evaluating the Health . . .

(continued from page 21)

week. At the other end of this spectrum are the congregations that do not keep any records on attendance and have no factual basis for reporting how many first-time visitors ever return.

7) While many factors influence *how much money people contribute* to a religious organization, a useful yardstick for self-evaluation is to divide total receipts from member contributions by the average weekly attendance at worship. At one end of this spectrum are the churches in which the result is \$40 to \$80 from member contributions every week times the weekly worship attendance. Thus the congregation with an average worship attendance of 100 may receive an average of \$4,000 to \$8,000 in contributions from members every week. This may indicate a remarkably high level of giving or a remarkably low worship attendance-to-membership ratio.

At the other end of this spectrum are those churches in which the contributions from members average \$7 to \$10 times the average worship attendance. This may indicate a low level of giving or a thrifty finance committee or a low income membership or an exceptionally high worship attendance-to-membership ratio.

In the middle of this spectrum are those congregations in which weekly member contributions average \$16 to \$22 times the worship attendance. Where is your congregation on this spectrum?

Which of these 12 criteria are the most useful yardsticks for evaluating the health of your congregation?

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ministerial Changes

- **The Rev. Marc Maffucci** from pastor, Latta Road Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, to senior pastor, Cascade Park Baptist Church, Vancouver, WA, effective June 1, 1995.
- **Mr. Lowell Ethier** to pastor, Elim Baptist Church, Beausejour, MB.
- **Mr. Ben Terlesky** from pastor, Summit Drive Baptist Church, Kamloops, BC, effective April 1995.
- **The Rev. Gregg Donaldson** from senior pastor, Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA, effective April 16, 1995, to secular work.
- **Mr. Lorne Potter** to associate pastor of music and outreach, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC.
- **The Rev. Edward A. Kopf**, pastor of Napoleon Baptist Church, to retire from the pastorate effective June 25, 1995. Mr. Kopf was ordained by North Freedom Baptist Church, WI, June 3, 1952. He served the following churches: summer pastorate, Mound Prairie, MN, 1950-51; pastor, First Baptist, Appleton, MN, 1952-56; Odessa Baptist, WA, 1956-62; First Baptist, Plevna, MT, 1962-70; Herreid Baptist, SD, 1970-81; Zion Baptist, Okeene, OK, 1981-84; and Napoleon Baptist, ND, 1985-1995.
- **Mr. Kent Mulkey** to associate pastor of small groups, Oak Hills Baptist, Folsom, CA, effective March 1995.
- **Teresa Noack** to Christian education coordinator, Mission Baptist Church, Hamilton, ON.
- **Miss Sheryl Grunwald** to director of Christian education, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB, effective June 15, 1995.
- **Mr. Matthew Wilks** to minister of youth, Grace Baptist Church, Calgary, AB.
- **Pastor Ken Wutzke** preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, Feb. 26, 1995, at First Baptist Church of

Goodrich, ND. The morning service was followed with a potluck dinner and different organizations of the church presented Pastor and Pat with special gifts. — *Norma Felchle*

■ **The Rev. Graham Kern** was installed as new pastor, Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND, on Feb. 12, 1995. Pastor Graham, his wife Miriam, and children, Shawna, Mark, and Shannon, moved to Turtle Lake from Raymore, SK, Canada. The Rev. Herb Schauer, area minister, guest speaker, spoke on "The Relationship between Pastor and People."

The Rev. Gordon Voegele, Bismarck, ND, had served as the interim pastor before the Kerns' arrival. On Feb. 5, 1995, a church potluck meal and a short program was held in appreciation of Mr. Voegele's service. — *Darlene Sloboden*

Church Name Change

■ **Whitemouth Baptist Church**, MB, has changed its name to **Whitemouth Fellowship Church**.

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BAPTIST WORLD AID



Bible Commentaries needed in the Russian Language

At the request of Baptists in the former Soviet Union, the Baptist World Alliance, through the Division of Baptist World Aid, has worked to produce commentaries on the Bible in the Russian language. This project is being carried out in partnership with our Mennonite friends and the Baptists of the CIS.

The first commentary to be translated was the *Commentary on the New Testament* by William Barclay. Baptists in the Soviet Union chose this particular commentary feeling that it was most suitable for their particular use. Ten thousand complete sets, or 150,000 individual volumes, have been delivered and distributed.

Translation of the Old Testament is now complete. After studying sample volumes from a number of commentaries, the brethren in the former Soviet Union chose a combination of the *Layman's Bible Commentary on the Old Testament* and the *Daily Study Bible*. Newer computer techniques and equipment have sped up the process of preparing final texts for printing.

Final printing is now being undertaken at the printing press of the Odessa, Ukraine, Baptist Seminary. Many other Christians, in addition to Baptists, are expressing an interest in purchasing this commentary, and BWAid is excited about the long-term potential of this project.

Your contributions designated for Bible Commentaries in Russian may be sent to North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-3994.

Argentina Baptists to Host Baptist Congress

WASHINGTON, DC (BWA) Baptists in Argentina are opening their homes to Baptists from around the world for the 17th Baptist World Congress to meet in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-6, 1995.

"Even if you can afford to stay in a hotel, you might consider staying in one of our Baptist homes," says Raul Scialabba, head of the Local Arrangements Committee. "To share their faith with people around the world will be an extraordinary experience for our people," Scialabba said.

The Congress theme is "Celebrate Jesus Christ, the Hope of the World."

Using the Congress themes, Douglas Inglis, a Scottish businessman and vice chair of the Congress Program Committee, shared how Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.

"In a world of loneliness and disease, Jesus is our friend. In a world of synthetic care, Jesus is the Lord who cares; in a world of despair and despondency, Jesus is the King who is coming back, and in a world where people need to know Him, Jesus is the Lord who sends out workers."

During the Congress, there will be many opportunities to work for Jesus Christ in hospitals, shelters, and clinics, as well as to give out gospel tracts.

Outstanding speakers from Zimbabwe, Korea, England, and the USA will preach each evening and Sunday morning. The theme will also be explored in small group morning Bible studies.

Billy Graham and Jimmy Carter will be honored — Graham for his work in evangelism and Carter for his work in human rights.

For more information, write to Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101-6005 or phone: (703) 790-8980 or fax: (703) 893-5160. □

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES!



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Pastor Jim Calamunce
Walnut Grove Baptist Church
Langley, BC

Upon his graduation from Edmonton Baptist Seminary in 1964, Jim became the youth pastor of Sunshine Ridge Baptist Church in Surrey, BC. Two and a half years later, he accepted the challenge of planting a church in Langley, BC. After eight years of tireless work and witness in this burgeoning community, Walnut Grove Baptist Church will soon begin the construction of its church building. Jim, we're proud of you and acknowledge your devoted pastoral leadership.

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The selection process continues until the position is filled.

Starting Date: July 1995

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September 24, 1995

BUILDING CHURCHES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Disciplemaking through CEIF

by Melissa Krispense

How does Church Extension Investors Fund work with the North American Baptist Conference to "make disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ at home and abroad?"

Look at the churches that are making disciples and growing, churches who have approached CEIF for loan funds in the near future:

- Rochester, NY - Latta Road Baptist Church
- Vancouver, WA - NW Community Church
- Steamboat Rock, IA - First Baptist Church
- Monclova, OH - Southside Baptist Church
- Sacramento, CA - Antelope Springs Baptist Church
- Troy, MI - Fellowship Bible Church
- Sacramento, CA - Cornerstone Baptist Church
- Bismarck, ND - Century Baptist Church
- Bismarck, ND - First Baptist Church
- Lodi, CA - Temple Baptist Church
- Hutchinson, MN - Bethany Baptist Church
- Maple Grove, MN - ElmCreek Baptist Church
- Flower Mound, TX - CrossTimbers Baptist Church
- Galt, CA - Horizon Baptist Church
- Sacramento, CA - Land Purchase
- Bloomington, IL - Edgewater Community Church
- Sheboygan, WI - Bethel Baptist Church
- Calgary, AB - Hawkwood Baptist Church
- Stony Plain, AB - Stony Plain Christian Fellowship
- Edmonton, AB - N.A.B. College
- Langley, BC - Walnut Grove Baptist Church
- Ebenezer, SK - Ebenezer Baptist Church



Horizon Baptist Church planters Steve and Jill Lemke in Galt, CA.



Landsite of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Langley, BC.

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