

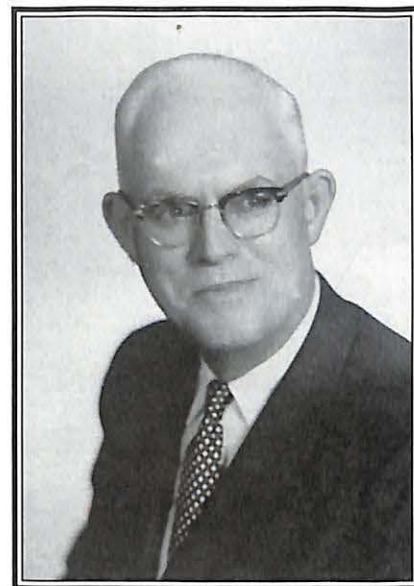
BAPTIST HERALD

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1995

Celebrating
73 Years
of Baptist Herald
Ministry
1923 - 1995



A. P. Mihm
1923-1935



Martin L. Leuschner
1935-1966



John Binder
1967-1971



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1971-1980



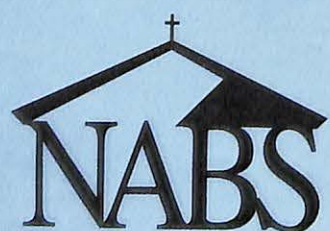
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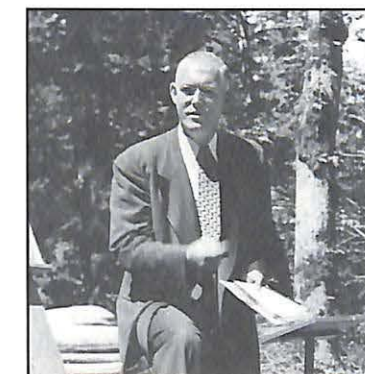
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BAPTIST HERALD

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Publications Dispute Hastens Organization of Conference

by Frank H. Woyke

The dispute over two Conference publications hastened the organization of the General Conference.

In 1852, the Second Conference delegates asked Konrad Fleischmann to begin publishing a German periodical which he began in 1853 under the name of *Der Sendbote des Evangeliums* (The Gospel Messenger).

In 1859, with pressure by Philip Bickel, the Western Conference was formed, and it launched a new periodical, *Die Biene* (The Bee on the Mission Field) with Bickel as editor.

Fleischmann wrote a long editorial (in *Der Sendbote*) sharply critical of this action. Failing to understand the reasons given for starting such a project, he asked whether *Der Sendbote* was considered unworthy of support. . . . When the Western Conference insisted on continuing its periodical, he resigned as editor, pleading pressure (as pastor of Fleischmann Memorial Church, Philadelphia) and turned *Der Sendbote* over to the Eastern Conference the end of 1862.

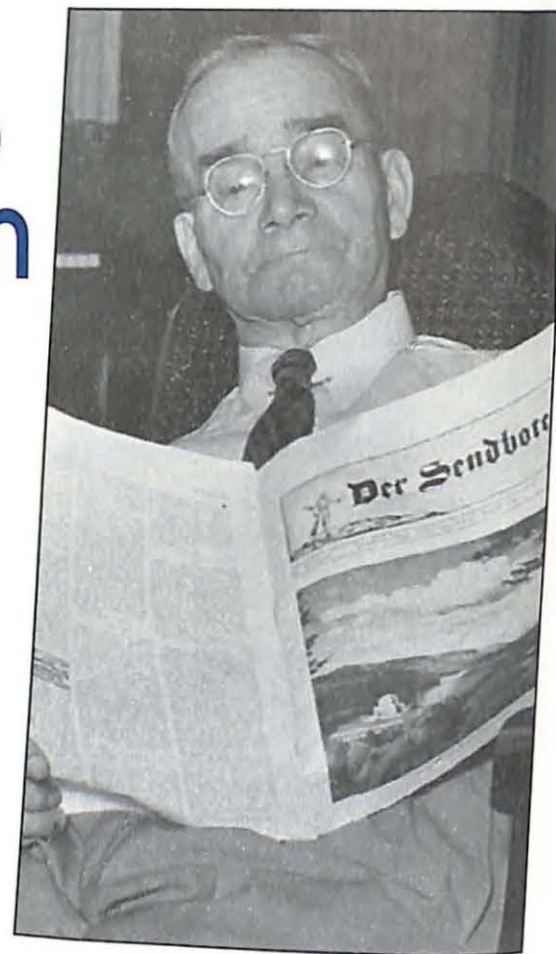
Andreas Henrich took over the editorship with the first issue of the next year. Although he took a conciliatory attitude, the continuing rivalry between the two periodicals worried the leaders of both Conferences. Time also revealed that

Bickel was an unusually able manager and editor. After some back and forth discussion, it was agreed that a General Conference would need to be called in order to avoid fragmentation of the work.

The first General Conference was held in Wilmot, ON, Sept. 14-20, 1865. . . . All of the delegates had come with the conviction that the unity of the fellowship must be preserved at all costs. In this spirit, the necessary compromises were reached, although the record indicates that there was much agonized prayer and discussion, both behind the scenes and in the open sessions.

The major parts of the final decision were these: 1) The two publishing houses were to be combined into one; this to be located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and to be responsible to a publication committee of the General Conference. 2) *Die Biene* was to be merged with *Der Sendbote* under the latter name. 3) There was to be a full-time editor and a part-time associate editor. Philip W. Bickel was chosen as editor, and Andreas Henrich as associate editor. When Henrich declined, the position was offered to Fleischmann.

Looking back on the 1865 General Conference, . . . one must say that the organization of the General Conference on a permanent



basis was of far greater importance than the merger of the two publishing enterprises. An organization had now been created of the two publishing enterprises of the Eastern Conference and the Western Conference. An organization had now been created that was to serve, with only modest alterations, as the coordinating agency for all the activities of the denomination for many years to come. However regrettable the dispute (over two papers: *Die Biene* and *Der Sendbote*) may have seemed at the time, it did hasten the organization of the General Conference, a unifying instrument that withstood the test of time. God truly performs His wonders in mysterious ways. (Reprinted from *Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference*, Frank H. Woyke, pp. 31 and 106.) □

Youth Ministry--the Roots of the Baptist Herald

The various Conferences, including the General Conference, had for many years been arranging for youth meetings at their sessions. Yet these meetings had not really been youth meetings; they had been meetings for youth, meetings that young people were expected to attend but in which they participated only to a very limited extent. Basically, pastors participated in the services . . . not youth.

The situation soon changed, for now everyone was agreed that young people would have to be given a more prominent place if the denomination was to continue to flourish. At that same Conference, the Publication Board reported a language study showing that 34 young people's societies were using the German language, 63 the English, and 32 were bilingual. With such a large majority of the societies either English or bilingual, it was decided to discontinue the *Vereins-Herald* and instead to publish two periodicals, a German paper under the name *Der Jugend-Freund* (The Friend of Youth), with G. Fetzer as editor, and an English paper under the name of *The Yoke-Fellow* with the Rev. Frank Kaiser, pastor of Andrews Street Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, as editor.

Meanwhile, the general missionary secretary, the Rev. William Kuhn, was still in charge of the youth program. In 1921, the General Missionary Committee took the important step of appointing two youth secretaries, the Rev. A. P. Mihm and the Rev. F. A. Bloedow.

A major change came in 1922, when the Young People's and Sunday School Workers' Union was organized. Though designed to promote both youth and Sunday school work, the young people generally took a leading part in this organization.

Since the two youth papers had not been successful, the Conference, at that time, decided to have only one paper under the name of the *Baptist Herald*. A. P. Mihm was chosen by the Young People's Council to be the editor of the new paper, which was to appear monthly. In order that the German youth might not feel totally neglected, F. A. Bloedow was assigned the task of editing a youth page in *Der Sendbote*.

Editor Mihm experienced his best success with the paper during the first triennium, so that he could report in 1925 that the list of subscribers had grown to a total of 4,634. The Conference also decided at that time to publish the paper semi-monthly and to increase the subscription price to \$1.25 per year.

There was some confusion as to who was responsible for the paper, since the editor was chosen by the Youth Council even though all other matters were handled by the Publication Society. In 1928, the Publication Board recommended that appointment of the editor be made subject to confirmation by the Board, that as editor, he be responsible to that body. The Conference approved the recommendations.

The popularity of the *Baptist Herald* declined in spite of these clarifications, so that the list of subscribers reached a low of 2,315.



A. P. Mihm was chosen by the Young People's Council to be the editor of the new paper, the *Baptist Herald*, which was to appear monthly.

Although the economic depression obviously was a factor, it was a discouraging trend, especially since the English-speaking constituency was growing rapidly at the same time. The editor, A. P. Mihm, resigned as General Secretary of the Young People's and Sunday School Workers' Union in 1934, apparently in the hope that he would become the editor of both *Der Sendbote* and the *Baptist Herald*, serving entirely under the Publication Society. This was strongly opposed by the Publication Board.

Accepting the position of the Board, the Conference proceeded to elect a German editor and referred the question of a *Baptist Herald* editor to a combined meeting of the Youth Council and the Publication Board. It was decided to leave the editing of the *Baptist Herald* to the Board of Trustees of the Publication Board in cooperation with the Young People's Council.

After Martin L. Leuschner, the young pastor of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA, had been elected the new secretary of the Union, the same combined group also chose him as editor of the youth paper. Another action of the Conference requested that the periodical be changed to become a "denominational" paper during the following three years.



It was inevitable that the periodicals, with the exception of the *Lektionsblätter*, generally had to be produced at a financial loss. The potential in such a small denomination simply was not there. By 1940,

it became necessary to appeal to the denominational Finance Committee for a subsidy.

Mr. Leuschner made many changes in both the appearance and content of the paper, but it took

until 1944 before the *Baptist Herald* officially became a denominational organ. By 1946, subscriptions reached 9,460 for the *Baptist Herald* and declined to 4,703 for *Der Sendbote*. □

Literary Milestones of the Baptist Herald 1923-1934

A publication has the right to consider some of the literary milestones along the way. What articles or series of articles stand out above others?

The first issue of the *Baptist Herald* on Jan. 1, 1923, was a notable launching of the paper under the able editorship of the Rev. A. P. Mihm.

The editor called attention to New Year's resolutions and wrote appropriately: "We will not grow better unless we resolve to be better."

The Rev. O. E. Krueger began a series of articles on his faith by pointing out why he believed in God. His message was lighted up by colorful stories from the old pioneer days of the Dakotas and from his early pilgrimage.

An editorial milestone in those early years was certainly the popular feature entitled, "Our Musical Page," edited by Dr. H. von Berge of Dayton, OH. It brought song anecdotes, announcements of new hymnals and choir publications, suggestions for organizing, inspiring, and robing a church choir, and exhortations as how to get a song into your heart!

The Nov. 1, 1927, issue was another literary milestone with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of our (North American Baptist) Seminary, at that time located in

Rochester, NY. An array of striking pictures, an article about the anniversary by Dr. John Leypoldt, and the scholarly historical treatise by Prof. A. J. Ramaker, make this "a classic number" in the *Baptist Herald's* ministry.

The Rev. A. P. Mihm served as editor for almost 12 years with editor Martin L. Leuschner beginning his ministry on Jan. 1, 1935. — An excerpt from an editorial by Martin L. Leuschner, *Baptist Herald*, Volume 30, No. 16, July 31, 1952. □

SUPPLEMENT TO The Baptist Herald

PRESERVE FOR REFERENCE

Volume Four

CLEVELAND, O., MAY 15, 1926

Number Ten

Know Your Own Pastors

Information supplied through this German Baptist Directory

Prepared by WILLIAM KUHN, General Missionary Secretary

Atlantic Conference

Church Bridgeport, Conn.
Rev. Emil Berger
Born Silesia, Germany, of Baptist parents; converted at 17 years. Present church membership 76. Sunday school 65. Y. P. Soc'y 21. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church Jamesburg, N. J.
Rev. Ralph T. Wegner
Born Wisconsin, of Baptist parents; converted at 20 years. Present church membership 191. Sunday school 118. Y. P. Soc'y 26. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church First German, Union City, N. J.
Miss Anna Trieloff, Missionary
Born Germany, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 28 years. Present church membership 120. Sunday school 81. Junior Soc'y 20. Services bilingual, predominantly German.

Church New Britain, Conn.
Rev. Gustav Schneck
Born Stuttgart, Germany, of non-Baptist parents; converted in 1893. Present church membership 146. Sunday school 100. Y. P. Soc'y 45. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church Pilgrim, Jersey City, N. J.
Rev. Victor H. Prendinger
Born Pottenstein, Austria, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 18 years. Present church membership 87. Sunday school 45. Y. P. Soc'y 21. Services bilingual, predominantly German.

Church Second German, Union City, N. J.
Rev. William M. Swyter
Born Emden, Germany, of Baptist parents; son of pastor; converted at 8 years. Present church membership 85. Sunday school 75. Y. P. Soc'y 15. Services bilingual, equally divided.

Church New Haven, Conn.
Rev. Julius Kaaz
Born Pommern, Germany, of Baptist parents; converted in 1888. Present church membership 127. Sunday school 94. Y. P. Soc'y 46. Services bilingual, neither predominant.

Church Evangel, Newark, N. J.
Rev. Frederick Niebuhr
Born Hannover, Germany, of Baptist parents; converted at 14 years. Present church membership 160. Sunday school 800. Y. P. Soc'y 72. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church West New York, N. J.
Rev. John Lehnert
Born St. Peter, Hungary, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 20 years. Present church membership 150. Sunday school 178. Y. P. Soc'y 46. Services bilingual, equally divided.

Church Miller Memorial, Baltimore, Md.
Rev. R. A. Schmidt
Born Germany, of Baptist parents; converted at 9 years. Present church membership 121. Sunday school 73. Y. P. Soc'y 18. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church Evangel, Newark, N. J.
Miss Lydia Niebuhr, Missionary
Born Newark, N. J., of Baptist parents; converted at 14 years. Present church membership 160. Sunday school 800. Y. P. Soc'y 72. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church First German, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. Paul Wengel
Born East Prussia, Germany, of Baptist parents; converted in 1894. Present church membership 260. Sunday school 200. Y. P. Soc'y 37. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church West Baltimore, Md.
Rev. Gustav Schmidt
Born Poland, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 21 years. Present church membership 95. Sunday school 60. Y. P. Soc'y 23. Services German.

Church Walnut Street, Newark, N. J.
Rev. George Hensel
Born Milwaukee, Wisconsin, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 15 years. Present church membership 105. Sunday school 75. Y. P. Soc'y 35. Services bilingual.

Church First German, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Miss Alethea S. Kose, Missionary
Born La Crosse, Wis., of Baptist parents; daughter of pastor; converted at 12 years. Present church membership 260. Sunday school 200. Y. P. Soc'y 37. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church Egg Harbor City, N. J.
Rev. John Pastoret
Born Philadelphia, Pa., of Baptist parents; converted at 13 years. Present church membership 60. Sunday school 30. Y. P. Soc'y 20. Services bilingual, predominantly German.

Church Passaic, N. J.
Rev. Eli G. Kiese
Born Jackson, Wis., of Baptist parents; converted in 1888. Present church membership 82. Sunday school 46. Y. P. Soc'y 31. Services bilingual, predominantly English.

Church Second German, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. W. J. Zirbes
Born Rochester, N. Y., of non-Baptist parents; converted at 20 years. Present church membership 273. Sunday school 225. Y. P. Soc'y 60. Services bilingual, equally divided.

Church Hoboken, N. J.
Rev. William L. Schoeffel
Born Bucharest, Roumania, of Baptist parents; converted in 1906. Present church membership 80. Sunday school 55. Y. P. Soc'y 30. Services bilingual, predominantly German.

Church First German, Union City, N. J.
Rev. Philip Potzner
Born Hungary, of Baptist parents; converted at 17 years. Present church membership 120. Sunday school 81. Jr. Soc'y 20. Services bilingual, predominantly German.

Church First German, New York City
Rev. Henry Grossman
Born Danzig, Germany, of non-Baptist parents; converted at 18 years. Present church membership 80. Services German.

A supplement to the *Baptist Herald* provided biographical sketches of the pastors.

This was written by former editor, Dr. Martin L. Leuschner, following the conclusion of his years of ministry as editor of the BAPTIST HERALD 1935 to 1966.
Reprinted from the December 1969 issue of the BAPTIST HERALD.

This Paper Partnership

by Martin L. Leuschner

The entrance to the imposing Archives Building in Washington, DC, has these words prominently chiseled into the marble at the head of the stairway: "The past is only the prologue to the future." A glimpse into the past years of the *Baptist Herald's* ministry, and the early days of this editor's apprenticeship almost 35 years ago will soon convince the reader that those early editorial efforts were only the prologue to a greater future. Many of the early hopes and dreams of years ago are now being realized with this new monthly edition of the *Baptist Herald* serving our entire denominational family with more colorful attractiveness under the leadership of Rev. John Binder (as editor).

First Editorial — "WE"

But one outstanding feature has not changed over the years. Thirty-five years ago, as the editor took on the reins of leadership, when sub-



Whatever Dr. Leuschner did, he did with his whole heart...His laughter and his word of greeting could be heard throughout the halls. Friendliness, congeniality, counsel and advice, and inspirational describe him. He acknowledged articles and thanked his hosts on picture postcards while he rode the train to various parts of North America.

He brought enthusiasm and inspiration to an entire generation of young people. Both in his preaching and teaching, he displayed great animation, the words sometimes tumbling out so fast from his mouth that they could hardly be separated from one another.

scriptions were at a low ebb and interest was waning . . . determined that this should be a partnership with all of our people and with God's directiveness. We felt that as our people became identified personally with this publication and could sense that it belonged to them that this "paper partnership" would result in a better and more influential *Baptist Herald*.

The first editorial written for the Jan. 1, 1935, issue was entitled "WE." It stated significantly: "This publication belongs to all of us. It will always represent our composite experiences and needs. It is WE who will make this publication a meaningful contribution to our religious life. The consciousness of this fellowship will always be a source of renewed inspiration to me."

The greatest joy of more than 30 years of an editorial ministry in guiding the *Baptist Herald* to its greater heights of service has always been this "paper partnership." Literally, hundreds of people from all walks of life were enlisted in the ministry of this publication to deepen the interest in its pages and to strengthen the elation of participation in its objectives.

Changing Covers

The cover appearance of the *Baptist Herald* was one of our first concerns. Its attractiveness to the reader at the first glance was our objective. Instead of going to art professionals in these first years, I tried to enlist some of our people with artistic talents to make their contribution.

The cover for the 1935 issues was designed by Mr. Frank Kuenne of Philadelphia, PA, a leading member of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church, a youth leader in the Atlantic Conference, and in later years, the president of the Board of Directors of the Home for the Aged. He is a nephew of the late Dr.



Seven different *Baptist Herald* covers used during the past 32 years. In the bottom row (r. to l.), 1927 Seminary faculty on a front cover used from 1923 to 1934; wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. David Williams at Soppo with Missionaries Carl and Hedwig Bender (1935); the Austrian scene on a cover in use from 1951 to 1954. Top row (l. to r.), cover from 1942-1946; Pioneer Family, Bismarck, ND, (1947-48); dedication of the Carl Bender Memorial at Soppo, Cameroon, (1949-50); Paul Gebauer's mother on a cover used 1936 to 1941.

William Kuhn, and he has always been a strong denominational supporter. Mr. Kuenne's cover design was uniquely different and very artistic, but it lacked some of the simplicity that was being widely used at that time on the covers of many religious periodicals.

So a contest was held toward the end of 1935 requesting our people to submit new designs. A dozen or more readers submitted an array of covers. Mrs. Clara Gebauer, who had recently become the bride of Rev. Paul Gebauer of Cameroon, Africa, submitted eight art covers. As a student at the Chicago Art Institute, she was eminently qualified for this ministry and one of her designs was selected and used for several years. It symbolized simplicity and permitted a practical use of pictures to be featured on the front covers.

This was the first of many con-

tests held by the *Baptist Herald* for greater reader interest. These included snapshot contests, the submission of photographs, brief essays on "Why I Like the *Baptist Herald*," and suggestions for improving the paper. Literally hundreds of people sent in their entries to those several contests.

Special Feature Articles

All of us have heard the proverb that "variety is the spice of life." The *Baptist Herald* has endeavored to make a variety of such changes in layout, headings, type, features, and art designs. As soon as the limited budget permitted it, we featured occasional colored covers for Easter, Christmas, and Publication Month. For years, we dreamed of such covers for each issue, and now this, too, has become a reality. Indeed, the past is a prologue



In 1939, the editor published a series of six articles about his missionary trip with Dr. William Kuhn and Dr. Carl Fuellbrandt to the Balkan countries, climaxed by the visit to the Gypsy Baptist Church at Golinzi, Bulgaria.

opening a door of opportunity for the future!

In the earlier years of our editorial ministry, we sought to give our readers articles of unusual interest that might be regarded as "editorial scoops." During 1935, at least four such articles were featured which still have interest value. Dr. Paul Gebauer with a prophetic voice wrote about "The Pentecostal Field of the World" in which he portrayed the indigenous church of Cameroon. "There will be strange music flowing from their lips, but the same faith which they will confess. An African Christ will hang upon the cross. An African Church, the tribe of Jesus, will arise to the glory of God." That message was prophetic in its vision, heart-burning in its fervor, thrilling in its presentation. It appeared in the April 1, 1935, issue of the *Baptist Herald*. Even at that time, Paul Gebauer felt that our missionaries should be fluent in French to be ready for God's

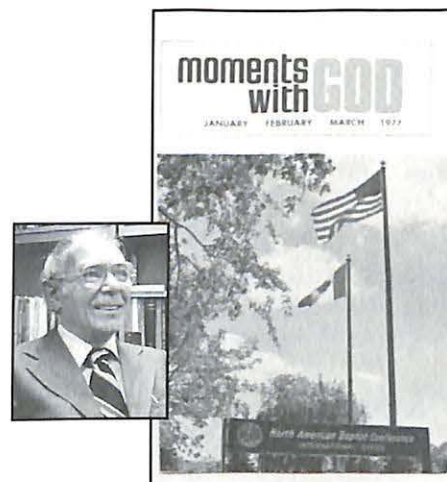
open doors for missionary service.

In 1935, Mrs. Lydia Heinrichs, the only living child of Rev. and Mrs. Anton Fleischmann, founders of the Fleischmann Memorial Church of Philadelphia, PA, gave us an intimate personal account about her mother, Maria Margaretha Fleischmann, who was a pillar of strength behind her husband.

Miss Anna Jarvis, the founder of Mother's Day, gave us an exclusive article on the early beginnings of this observance and the story of her home life and of her associations with her mother. Dr. Herman von Berge with his musical knowledge wrote an article about Johann Sebastian Bach on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of this German composer.

Forerunner of Other Publications

Special single features soon grew into memorable series of articles.



The *Baptist Herald* has been the forerunner in helping to instigate other denominational publications. Mr. H. P. Donner, business manager of the Roger Williams Press, believed strongly in devotional pages and insisted that this feature, edited by Prof. Lewis Kaiser, be incorporated in the *Baptist Herald*. Later, our paper published daily prayer requests to be followed by our people. Ultimately, these early beginnings were enlarged and incorporated into the popular devotional quarterly, *Moments With God*, edited by Bruno Schreiber (pictured).

Dr. William Kuhn, general missionary secretary, found it impossible to publish his memoirs in book form, and so he gave *Baptist Herald* readers the thrill of reading his 22 articles with his life story over an entire year. His testimony, "Why I Preach the Calvinistic Theology," aroused more comments than any other article ever published.

The history of our Conference was reviewed by Rev. Charles F. Zummach in a series of articles before the book, *These Glorious Years*, was published.

The trip to eight South American countries was colorfully described by the editor in 1959 shortly before the Baptist World Congress convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The various missionary publications, *Now We Are 22*, *Now We Are 55*,

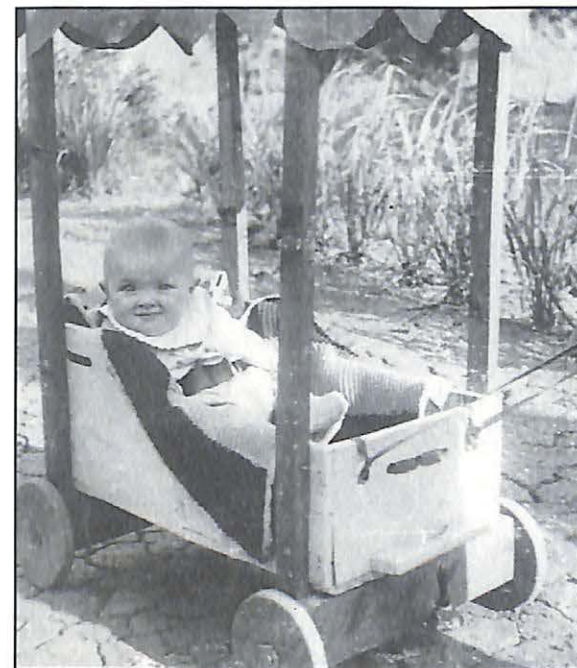
and *Now We Are 88*, received their inspiration through the popular introduction to our missionary personnel featured in our paper.

Several articles were too long to be published in the *Baptist Herald*; this gave us the vision for the preparation and distribution of *The Annual*.

A Channel of Communication

This "paper partnership" with our people kept the channel for news into our churches wide open through the years. The one feature that has remained largely unchanged since the first issue of the *Baptist Herald* in 1923 has been the "What's Happening" page. The serial story for many years was a popular feature with some readers, but it

was finally crowded out because of more important articles. One of the highlights of the earlier years was the theological presentation of



Daphne Dunger as a baby riding in the hand-made wagon built by her father, Missionary George A. Dunger.

important questions and subjects. Older readers still remember with nostalgia the feature, "From the Professor's Desk" by Dr. Ralph E. Powell, seminary professor.

In closing, a few personal references may be permitted from one who can look with joy over the past 35 years. My heart was strangely warmed when many readers said or wrote that they first read the editorial page when the *Baptist Herald* arrived. This little personal pulpit for this editor was a sacred, inspiring place behind which he could stand in the Presence of his Christ and Savior.

Picture Windows

Over the years, several thousand pictures from our mission fields have passed through our hands

and been filed away for future use. Every missionary in Cameroon, Japan, the Balkans, among the Indians and Latin Americans during these three decades has given us a pictorial record for our publications and for the denominational archives. Among these choice pictures has been one of Daphne Dunger as a baby riding in the hand-made wagon built by her father, Rev. George A. Dunger.



Indian chiefs on the Bull and Montana Reserves of Alberta attending mission church services.

(Daphne is now a missionary-nurse in full-time service among the Cameroon people.) Other pictures show Paul and Clara Gebauer in their first home in Cameroon, a primitive thatched-roofed hut; Laura E. Reddig distributing dapsone pills to the first wretched leprosy patients at the New Hope Settlement; and the Indian chiefs on the Bull and Montana Reserves of Alberta, Canada, attending the



The 32nd General Conference voted to relocate the N.A.B. Conference publishing house from Cleveland, OH, to Forest Park, IL. The print shop was closed and the type-setting and printing of the periodicals "farmed out." The Roger Williams Bookstore opened on Madison Street in Forest Park in late 1960. Customer Minnie Pankratz (l.) makes a purchase from Virginia Priestley (Neumann) (r.), as Rev. Larry Bienert, manager, (2nd from right) look on. (Kurt Finzel Photo)

mission church services.

Most of all, we rejoiced to witness the tremendous growth of our North American Baptist Conference in its missionary outreach, its denominational service, its total church membership, and its beautiful new church edifices. The *Baptist Herald* tried to keep pace with this onward progress by

means of pictures, reports, inspirational articles, and annual statistics.

This has been an adventure in "paper partnership" over the years working with God's people who have been wonderful friends in our churches. Above all, God continues to be the present editor's Guide and Partner in demonstrating dramatically that the past, however

interesting and meaningful it has been, is only the prologue to a greater and brighter future! □

In the Feb. 1, 1935, issue of the *Baptist Herald*, we read:

"We, as German Baptists, are the only Missionary Society having a fully organized work among the Gypsies. It is interesting to note that our Gypsy work in Bulgaria was assigned to our Society by the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, meeting in London in 1920. There are Gypsies among the members of almost every one of the churches in Bulgaria. In the village of Golinzi, located near the city of Lom on the Danube River, we have our Gypsy Church."

In the July 15, 1935, issue of the *Baptist Herald*, it was noted that a letter had come from an Eastern Orthodox priest requesting Bibles, Testaments, evangelical tracts, and books.

A Prayer for the Church

by Walter Rauschenbusch

"O God, we pray for thy church, which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task. We remember with love the nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the tasks she set for our growing strength, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted. When we compare her with all other human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in pity and contrition. Oh, baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus!"

Dreams of Exciting Possibilities 1967-1971

The First Editorial Dreams and Deadlines

by John Binder

Introducing a new editor

"We have seen new designs and programs developed under the competent leadership of the Rev. John Binder during his service as Assistant General Secretary, Christian Education Department, and Director of Youth Work since 1960. The new Christian education curriculum for youth, the campus chaplaincy ministry and annual seminars, our special ministry with college students, youth congresses, our continued ministry through student service programs, development of youth-to-youth ministry plan, and tours to Baptist World Youth Conferences are some of the areas that provided new and special opportunities for youth to participate in learning, doing, and sharing responsibilities to develop a mature Christian faith," wrote Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, general secretary, Christian Education Department. "We are confident that the new area of responsibility for him as Editor of English Publications and Promotional Coordinator will provide the opportunity for more of our people to benefit from his creative, stimulating, and spiritually helpful ministry."



at the influential ministry performed by the former editor (Martin Leuschner) of this magazine.

The editorial ministry probably lacks the exhilaration of public preaching services. Writing is lonely, often hidden, work. It is easier to feel that one is an ambassador of Christ when standing in a pulpit preaching or when counseling in the dead of night with a couple threatening to abandon their marriage than when one sits down at a desk alone, searching for the right word, rebuilding a paragraph, or brooding prayerfully over the state

of the church and the world. But when you note that a potential audience of about 20,000 people every two weeks is expecting a message through this magazine, one realizes the importance of this ministry.

If the Christian writer is to be a teacher, an analyst, a catalyst, a prophet, a seer, he desperately needs to be caught up into the presence of God and remain there until something of the Divine perspective permeates his work. The editor may dream of a new format, new style, variety, and increased circulation, but unless the hand of God is in it, his work is vanity.

Dreams of exciting possibilities are abruptly halted by the unyielding movement of deadlines in the preparation of a magazine for publication. All the dreams we have for the *Baptist Herald* may not become reality because of deadlines and other limitations. □

To better prepare himself for this new ministry, John Binder took magazine editing and design at Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, and reporting, copy editing, and photography at Northern Illinois University.

During these years of *Baptist Herald* ministry, you would have read

■ Articles written by youth in recognition of youth week in the January issues.

■ An emphasis on social issues and Christians' responsibility, such as "war and peace" and "poverty." These articles drew positive and negative feedback through "Open Dialogue" started in February 1968.

"Our hope is that the opinions expressed regarding the content of the magazine or any other contemporary issue of concern to Christians will prompt all of us to evaluate our Christian views and commitment," wrote the editor.

■ News of the 1968 General Council Actions: • Approved the Publications Board appointing an Editorial Committee of nine members to be subdivided into three three-member subcommittees, one responsible for the *Baptist Herald*, another for *Der Sendbote*, and another for *Moments with God*.

• Voted to discontinue the publication of the *Annual*, a yearly magazine, since the biographical sketches of the pastors and denominational workers now appeared in the *Annual Conference Report Book*, and other special features could be carried in the *Baptist Herald*.

• Voted to discontinue *Der Wegweiser* and incorporate it into *Der Sendbote*.

• Voted to change the publication of *Der Sendbote* from bi-weekly to semi-monthly beginning Aug. 1, 1968, and that only three issues be published during June, July, and August.

• Voted to change the publication of the *Baptist Herald* to only three issues rather than bi-weekly during June, July and August, and increase those issues from 24 to 32 pages.

• Approved a capital funds campaign, Mission Advance Program, with a goal of \$1,000,000: "Building to Teach and Witness" with the Rev. Everett Barker as director.

• Elected Gideon K. Zimmerman Executive Secretary of the N.A.B. Conference on May 25, 1968.



Zimmerman (l.) had served as General Secretary of the Department of Christian Education from 1955 to 1968. He succeeded Dr. Frank Woyke who



resigned to become Associate Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance for World Relief and Study Commissions. Woyke (l.) served as Executive

Secretary of the Conference for 21 years (1946-1968).

■ A special stewardship issue — Aug. 1, 1968.

■ That North American Baptist Seminary received accreditation by the American Association of Theological Schools in June 1968.

■ "North American Baptist Conference will participate in the Crusade of the Americas, a great simultaneous evangelistic crusade as approved by the General (Triennial) Conference in Detroit (in 1967)," wrote the Rev. Daniel Fuchs, Conference director of evangelism and church extension.

■ That Christian Training Institute changed its name to North American Baptist College in 1967; the new campus was constructed in 1968.

■ The Rev. Bruno Schreiber succeeded James Schacher as editor of the Sunday School Lessons pages, and continued writing book reviews and "Chuckle with Bruno."

Chuckle with Bruno

"Son," a father told his growing boy, "just remember one thing: I know a lot more about being young than you do about being old."

All of us know the difference between right and wrong. What we need is a foolproof way to know the difference between temptation and opportunity.

■ That the Board of Trustees of the Roger Williams Press appointed the Rev. Reinhold J. Kerstan as Editor of

German Publications effective April 1, 1968.



■ The Rev. John Grygo (l.) retired as Editor of German Publications for the N.A.B. Conference, May 31, 1968, and became chaplain, Central

Baptist Home Norridge, IL. He had served since 1961.

■ "Our Stewardship Record and Contributions Summary of the Local Conferences" and seen contribution graphs.

■ Articles by the Women's Missionary Union president, Mrs. Herbert Hiller, appearing in the "We the Women" column.

■ Church Extension pages featuring new churches and asking for support.

■ That the Rev. Henry Ramus succeeded Miss Ruth Bathauer as Director of Children's Ministry, July 1, 1968.

■ News of the Baptist World Youth Congress, Berne, Switzerland, July 1968, and that 70 N.A.B. Conference youth attended.

■ Presentations of N.A.B. Seminary seniors and N.A.B. College graduates and articles by professors.

■ "Ideas for Christian Education," which first appeared in the February 1969 issue. Articles were authored by N.A.B.s and edited by Dorothy Pritzkau.



■ "As I See It" became a regular column in which religious news was analyzed by Paul Siewert (l.).

■ Reports from God's Volunteers

Teams I and II with Edgar Klatt and Connie Salios as co-directors. Salios resigned in 1969 to return to the pastorate. Ray Harsch was appointed in his place.

■ A column, "Problems of the Christian Life," by T. B. Maston. One on "One-Issue Christians" stated: "There are one-issue voters. There are also one-issue Christians. The former is unfortunate. The latter is more unfortunate. The one-issue Christian may judge his own life on the basis of one particular issue. From his perspective, he is right on that issue; and he considers himself to be a good Christian."

"More frequently, the one-issue Christian judges other Christians on the basis of one issue."

"One may be right, at least from our perspective, on one issue and be entirely wrong on equally important issues . . . the same thing may be true of us. Let us . . . do unto others as we would have them do unto us . . . one may differ with us on what we consider to be the supreme issue or test of the Christian life, (yet) over all, he may be a better Christian than we are."

A New News Service

In 1969, a new news service with John Binder as managing editor and Reinhold Kerstan as editor was launched: "N.A.B. News." "The 'N.A.B. News' is a new news service combining separate news releases that were being mailed from the (N.A.B.) Office in Forest Park, IL: The "Denominational Newsletter," "Missionary News and Needs," "Church Extension Informer," and the "Stewardship News Bulletin" as well as additional news from other Conference agencies.

Editorial — (Reprinted from December 1969)

A New Look

by John Binder

It's a monthly! It has more color! It has a new design! This new look of the *Baptist Herald* is a result of the editor, the Editorial Committee, and the Board of Trustees of the Roger Williams Press seeking answers to some significant questions.

What is the purpose and function of the *Baptist Herald* today? A news magazine? A promotional magazine for the denomination? Educational? A combination of these things? The best format for the future?

It was agreed that the appearance of the magazine should give an impression of aliveness, conviction, and contemporaneity. To accomplish this, better photos, more readable type, at least two colors in every issue, and professional assistance in design were needed.

It was agreed that the content must be made more relevant to the readers' life situations. The magazine must be more than a cheerleader for the denominational team. It must deal with controversial issues in some depth from a Christian perspective. It must speak to the concerns of people.

In order to make some significant and necessary improvements, and still keep the cost down, it was recommended to the General Council and approved that the *Baptist Herald* change from a semi-monthly to a monthly magazine with the December 1969 issue and increase the number of pages from 24 to 32 pages with some special issues having 36 pages. At least two or three colors will be used in each issue, and four colors on the cover of some issues.

To achieve some of our objectives, it was also necessary to

change our printing process from letterpress to offset. Herald Book and Printing Company (United Printers) of Newton, KS, had been printing the *Baptist Herald* since 1960. The *Baptist Herald* is now being printed in Grand Rapids, MI, by Dickinson Brothers (Press), Inc.

In 1970, you would have read

■ *Der Sendbote* changed from a semi-monthly publication to a monthly



publication in January 1970.

■ In December 1969, a column or open forum "in which various opinions of our constituency may be debated and in

which questions of pertinence may be discussed" began: "Ask the Professor" by Gerald L. Borchert (pictured). The column answered readers' questions on such topics as eternal security; pastors' salaries; church leaders that hold office too long; if two people have the same approach to life, does it really matter what their religion may be, for example, Catholic and Protestant or Baptist and Pentecostal?

The first question by a reader asked: "Why are some of our 'Christian' young people becoming so involved in marches and other so-called peace efforts, which help the Communists . . . Don't they



know what they are doing?"

■ Youth Scene appeared in the *Baptist Herald*. "WOW! We finally made it — a page for young people in the

Baptist Herald," wrote Bruce Rich (above), Conference youth director. Program ideas, personal testimonies, articles, and interesting notes on

trends and ideas among youth in school and church, and questions about youth programming, problems, and service opportunities will be answered in the 'Rich Replies' column."

■ News of General (Triennial) Conference (held in Winnipeg, MB, in 1970): Delegates voted to

- Increase denominational Pension Fund benefits.
- Eliminate the Office of Secretary of Higher Education and the Committee of Higher Education. David Draewell had served as director. He became President of N.A.B. Seminary.
- Approved a new election procedure: the Nominating Committee would not be required to obtain more than one name for each position on the ballot when the candidate is an incumbent, salaried, elected officer, but a provision is to be made on the ballot (when there is only one candidate) next to the name of the candidate, for a place to vote for (yes) or vote against (no) the candidate.
- Approved the association becoming the basic unit through which denominational business was transacted and denominational objectives achieved at the local level. Associations elect representatives to the General Council (effective 1971 for the 1972 Council), and provide statistics and financial reports to the Conference Office rather than to local conferences.
- Elect a 12-member Board of Missions, a six-member General Christian Education Committee, and a six-member Board of Trustees of the Roger Williams Press.
- Establish two additional Area Secretary positions: Central Area (1971) and Eastern Area and change the name to Area Minister.
- Elected G.K. Zimmerman, executive secretary; Richard Schilke, general missionary secretary; Bruce A. Rich, general secretary, Department of Christian Education; Eldon Janzen, manager, Roger Williams

Press; Aaron Buhler, moderator; Henry Fluth, vice moderator; and Milton Hildebrandt, general and mission treasurer.

■ Joseph Sonnenberg became president of N.A.B. College.

■ The 1970 General Council approved the Board of Missions appointing 18 new missionaries to Cameroon and Nigeria.

• Changed the title of the Promotional Coordinator, John Binder, to Director of Communications.

■ 1970-73 Triennial Theme: "Renewing the Church in a New Day" emphasis in articles.

■ "We the Women" page changed to "Woman's World" with the March 1971 issue. Jeannette Stein, president of the W.M.U., wrote a monthly column.

■ N.A.B. Conference delegation visited Baptist churches in Russia, March 17-April 6, 1970.

■ Sixth team of eleven short-term missionaries appointed in 1970.

■ College Singers from Cameroon sang in our churches and in Washington, DC (1970).

■ 65 N.A.B.s participated in a tour to the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, Japan.

■ News of the N.A.B. Family Conference to be held in Green Lake, WI, July 10-16, 1971.

■ Intercultural ministry introduced with new Spanish church in Union City, New Jersey, with Pastor Marcelina de la Cruz.

■ In 1971, the General Council voted

• that the German magazine, *Der Sendbote*, become an insert in the *Baptist Herald*, beginning with the December 1971 issue. The *Baptist Herald* will retain its present size, and *Der Sendbote* will be reduced to eight pages. The copies with the insert will go to the present *Der Sendbote* subscribers only.

• That the Stewardship and Communications Departments be combined into one department with the

Rev. John Binder as Secretary of Stewardship and Communications, the Rev. Everett Barker as the Director of Stewardship Advance, and Dr. Reinhold J. Kerstan as Director of Publications and Editor of the *Baptist Herald*. This reduced staff by one person. In 1973, Triennial Conference delegates affirmed this new structure.

■ Two pages of Bible study, written by David Priestley, began in 1971.

■ "Baptists Join Fight Against Proposed School Voucher Plan" appeared in one of the "News and Views" columns: "Baptists have joined a score of national organizations with membership over 34 million to oppose proposed educational voucher experiments which would provide public funds to private and parochial schools as well as to public schools. We point out that there is a dangerous blurring of separation between church and state as public funds are channeled into religiously owned and operated schools." □

Chuckle with Bruno

"One good thing to be said about tight shoes," said Mark Twain, "they make you forget all your other troubles."

Joe: "I sure feel like telling the Sargeant off again."

Tom: "What do you mean, 'again'?"

Joe: "I felt like it yesterday, too."

It's all right for you to be proud of your family tree if it has produced a lot of good lumber and not a lot of nuts.

1971-1980 The Kerstan Era

Introducing the New Editor

"This is my last editorial as editor of the *Baptist Herald*, since I have accepted the call by the General Council to become the Secretary of Stewardship and Communications for our Conference.

"I have greatly appreciated the exciting opportunity of serving our Conference as editor of the *Herald*. No ministry has made greater demands or been more rewarding than this. The many gracious responses to the *Herald* have been most gratifying. The written contributions and the suggested ideas of board members and a host of others have helped immensely to make the *Herald* a rather significant and meaningful magazine for thousands of people in various parts of the world.

"The photo above illustrates that the *Baptist Herald* is being transferred to a new editor. Dr. Reinhold J. Kerstan has been appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Roger Williams Press as Editor of the *Baptist Herald*. During the last three and a half years, he has served as Editor of German Publications, which included editing *Der Sendbote*, a 24-page monthly German magazine. He will continue to edit *Der Sendbote*, though it will become an 8-page insert into the *Baptist Herald* with the December 1971 issue for German subscribers only. Reinhold Kerstan has also been appointed by the General Council as Director of Publications in the newly formed Stewardship and Communications Department.



John Binder welcomes Reinhold Kerstan to role of editor of *Baptist Herald*.

"Dr. Kerstan comes to this position with a broad background of experience and education. He was born in 1931 in Schwentainen, East Prussia, Germany. His father was pastor of the Baptist Church (there). After taking his high school in Germany and Czechoslovakia, he took some pharmaceutical studies in Berlin and completed five years of study at the University of Frankfurt. He graduated in 1957 with the equivalent of the Master of Science degree. He married Inger Nilsson in Sweden in 1958. After working as a pharmacist for two years, he sensed the call to the gospel ministry. (He studied) at the Theological Seminary, Rueschlikon, Switzerland. He completed the third year of his theological studies at the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, in 1962, graduating with the Bachelor of Divinity degree. (He) received a Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, in 1971.

"Dr. Kerstan has had considerable pastoral experience." (He served) as a student pastor in Switzerland; associate pastor, McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB; and as pastor of German Zion Baptist Church,

Milwaukee, WI. Since 1955, he has been a free-lance writer for a daily newspaper in Frankfurt, Germany, and for several German Baptist periodicals. "We are confident that he will give very competent leadership in this position as Editor of the *Herald* and Director of Publications for our Conference." — John Binder □

During these years, you would have read

■ Articles on Personal Estate Planning written by Everett Barker, Larry Bienert, Alfred Weissner.

■ A column, "Putting It Together," by Dr. Ernie Zimbelman. He wrote



"Persons who in any way protect the abuser are referred to as 'enablers.' As a well-meaning, sincere Christian, don't get caught in the role of an

enabler."

■ "Der Sendbote" became an insert into the *Baptist Herald*.

■ Church Extension Builders' Reports featuring a church extension project a month and presenting its need for building funds.

■ Our Conference in Action featuring news from local churches and Associations.

■ In 1973, because of a \$20,200 subsidy in 1972, the Roger Williams Press Board and the General Council decided to close Roger Williams Bookstore in Forest Park, IL, but to continue the sale of Sunday

school materials to the constituency, and to continue to subsidize the *Baptist Herald* and "Der Sendbote" in recognition of the fact that this was a primary promotional effort and contact with the denominational constituency.

■ Bible study series on the Church written by Professor Werner Waitkus.

■ An annual "Missions Digest" edited by Barbara Binder as an insert in the *Baptist Herald* in 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980.

■ The name of North American Baptist General Conference changed to North American Baptist Conference.

■ Woman's World with a column written by Jeannette Stein, W.M.F. president, and later Dorene Walth.

■ News of the adopted goal to make "One Million Contacts for Christ" 1973-76.

■ Editorials by R. J. Kerstan with titles such as, "A Lesson from the Jonestown Tragedy" and "God Lives Also in the Country." In the latter, he stated: "... the life of our Conference, without the support of our rural churches, is unthinkable... there may be more glamour in the activities of a city church. But a closer look at our churches reveals that God is... in both the country and city churches. Let us have respect for each other's work. Let us pray for each other. God wants our very best. He does not measure our ministries by the standards of demographers and city planners. He is not impressed with slick city methods of bolstered growth. His Spirit guides us in whatever church we are. Praise the Lord!"

■ News of the dedication of the new N.A.B. International Office in Oakbrook Terrace, IL, May 22, 1976.

■ An article by William Sturhahn celebrating 50 years of immigration in Canada in 1978.

■ An insert, "Historic View of N.A.B. Missions" written by Richard Schilke in the *Baptist Herald* in 1978.

■ N.A.B. delegation visited Baptist churches in Russia in 1978.

■ 1978 General Council News:

• "The most radical departure from Conference policy came when the General Council granted the Boards of Trustees of the schools the opportunity to determine their own operating budgets, plus the responsibility of raising funds in the amount of their budget beyond approved denominational subsidy. Any staff or program expansion beyond that necessary to carry on presently approved program must have prior General Council approval."

• General Council approved having Editor R. J. Kerstan visit some German churches to sound them out in regard to the possibility of discontinuing "Der Sendbote."

■ Tributes to Lyle Wacker who served as General Secretary of the Church Extension Department from 1976 through December 1978, when he died in office.

■ The 1979 General Council Report:

• It adopted a firm policy that no department will be allowed to expend more than its approved budget or the actual income in 1979, whichever is less. About \$300,000 was cut in programs and staff, which originally had been approved in June 1978.

• Appointed Connie Salios as Acting Secretary of Stewardship and Communications.

■ The Annual Report stating there were 355 churches with 57,241 in 1978. Alberta Association ranked first in giving: \$418,089 and Michigan second: \$326,675 and Manitoba first in per capita giving with \$91.

■ The Triennial Conference met in Bismarck, ND, in 1979.

• The Rev. Kenneth Fischer, (pictured at right), Conference moderator, 1976-79, presented a citation of appreciation to the outgoing executive secretary, Dr. G. K. Zimmerman and Mrs. Eleanor Zimmerman at the close of the Conference.

• Approved formation of an Executive Committee of the General Council with the Moderator, Vice Moderator, General Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship Committee Chair, the most recent past Moderator, and the Executive Secretary as members.

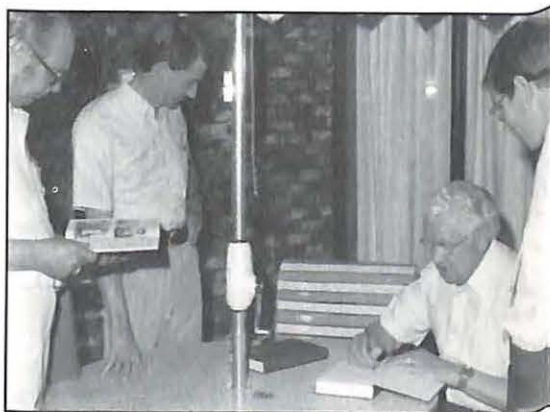
• Approved the formation of a Long-Range Planning Committee as a standing committee.

• Strengthened the role of the Executive Secretary by granting that position the power to vote on all boards and committees.

• Approved suspending the Church Ministries Board for three years and use task forces instead.

• Elected John Binder as Executive Secretary of the Conference; Fred Folkerts as General Secretary of Missions succeeding Dr. Richard Schilke, who had served for 28 years and who retired from this position; John Ziegler as General Secretary of Church Extension; Bruce Rich as General Secretary for Christian Education and Director of Youth Work.

• Book signing by Dr. Frank H. Woyke (pictured below), author of *Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference*.



Leaving You in Gratitude

(reprinted from October 1980 *Baptist Herald*)

by Reinhold J. Kerstan

"This is my last editorial as editor of this magazine. Beginning with Oct. 1, 1980, I am the Associate Secretary of Communications and Study/Research of the Baptist World Alliance, with headquarters in Washington, DC.

"Looking back at the 12 1/2 years of my work as editor, I cannot praise the Lord enough for his daily gift of strength, health, joy, friends, and thankful readers.

"Frankly, when I began this new ministry on April 1, 1968, I felt a mixture of both eager anticipation and hesitant fear. Although I had free-lanced for daily newspapers and Christian magazines in Germany and America, I did not know how well I would fit into the mold of an editor rather than a reporter and writer. The Lord helped marvelously.

"For three and one half years, I did my job excitedly and gratefully as Editor of German Publications, until in September 1971, I became the Director of Publications, which included being the editor of the *Baptist Herald*. However, already as editor of German Publications, I was involved in more and more English publications, such as "N.A.B. News," *N.A.B. Directory*, and "Mission Profiles." From 1971 on, I could put all of my energy and

skill into the production of just about anything in printed form that our Conference Office published. In addition, I visited and spoke at many, many camps, retreats, associations, and churches. Attending our Triennial Conferences was almost like an anticlimax compared to the work that had gone into the preparation and promotion of such meetings.

"Yet, in all of these varied tasks and duties, I experienced a never-ending happiness. The more North American Baptists I came to know, the more I was convinced that they are among the dearest and most cooperative people in the world... just about all of them radiated the joy of being children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ.

"North American Baptists, you have been my inspiration! The many gracious responses to the *Baptist Herald* issues have been most gratifying. Whenever I was in the midst of your congregations or conferences, you made me feel at home. When a sudden ruptured appendix a few years ago brought me close to death, it was you, my brothers and sisters, whose prayers helped guide the doctor during hours of delicate surgery and me in the ensuing days of recovery.

"... I treasure the fact that I am a child of God and a servant of Jesus Christ... Over the last 12 years I have attempted to be your "ear" and "mouth" to share the Good News of salvation and of Baptist life and activity." □

Schreiber Concludes 27-Year Ministry



The Rev. Bruno C. Schreiber, who served for 27 years with the N.A.B. Conference International Office, brought his semi-retirement ministry to a close officially with the Office on Dec. 31, 1980.

Schreiber served in various capacities at the Office since 1953. In 1960, he was appointed Communications Assistant and served in this position until 1976 when he retired. He continued as editor of *Moments with God*, book review columnist for *Baptist Herald*, and editor of the 1979 N.A.B. *Association Reports and 39th Triennial Conference Minutes* on a part-time basis. He also edited *Heritage and Ministry of the N.A.B. Conference* by Dr. Frank H. Woyke.

Schreiber's articles in the *Baptist Herald* and his devotional messages on Every Sunday Bulletin backs and in *Moments with God* have been meaningful to many readers. Many enjoyed his "Chuckles with Bruno." □

1980-1995 Of, By, & For N.A.B.s



In September 1980, when Editor Reinhold Kerstan resigned to accept a position with the Baptist World Alliance, the present editor, Barbara Binder, set the following goals:

- To tell the story of how God is working in and through our Conference churches, schools, and other ministries in North America as well as on our international mission fields and through the larger Baptist world body.

- To print distinctively North American Baptist Conference articles with people from our churches and schools as well as missionaries as authors . . . to tell the N.A.B. story by providing articles not found in print in other publications.

- To choose an equal representation of authors from Canada and the U.S.A., since we are a bi-national Conference. One of the early articles, written by Dr. Harry Hiller of Calgary, AB, gave advice to parents and youth anticipating entering college in "Preparing a University Survival Kit."

- To provide accountability in regard to constituents' prayers, service, and contributions.

- To feature a photo essay on the center spread of the magazine. (Some of these were posted on church mission bulletin boards.) These featured a ministry on a mission field or a laypersons-in-action project. The first photo essay featured LAP, a primary village health care program ministry in Cameroon with Missionary Daphne Dunger. Others followed with Nancy Palmer, Pat Meinerts, Ken Priebe, and Sue Baron, among others, providing the stories through photos.

Photo essays depicted laypersons-in-action, also. These included persons from Quail Lakes Baptist Church serving at Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia; the California Darrell Schuh crew in Africa and South America; and the Walter Kerber team from Alberta serving in Brazil.

- To provide educational and motivational material for support of the Conference budget goal by focusing on Conference missions and ministries.

- To provide articles concerning singles and family life.

The goals were implemented, and an overview of the Baptist Herald during these years highlights how this happened through responses from readers

A Letter from Family

Many considered the *Baptist Herald* a letter from family members from around the world. Readers wrote: "Each month, we waited for the *Baptist Herald* like one would wait for a letter from a relative or friend." "The denominational magazine must tell the story of the work God entrusted to us, as the N.A.B. Conference of churches. In no other Conference publication could one find more detailed accounts of churches' and international ministries." Several readers belonged to another denomination before joining an N.A.B. Conference church; others were new Christians. "The *Baptist Herald* helped me become a part of the N.A.B. Conference family."

Special Issues

As editor, the issues that consumed the most time and energy were the special issues, but they were among the most rewarding.

■ **100 Years of Missions.** The complete July/August 1982 issue of the *Baptist Herald* featured *100 Years 1883-1983 — A People with a Mission*, written by Harold Lang. This issue celebrated 100 years of mission effort in North America. Although the initial purpose for the formation of the General Missionary Society was the evangelization of German-speaking persons in North America, there was a worldwide vision from the very beginning.

The vision grew as mission (sta-

tions) churches were opened in North America, and missionaries were sent overseas, first to India and the Telegus in 1882; then to German-speaking people in Europe, and then to the people of Burma, China, West Africa, Japan, Brazil, and the Philippines.

The German and English publications of the growing denomination vividly pictured the progress of the mission work.

■ **The "annual report" summer issue,** a means of accountability, evolved from an insert in the *Baptist Herald* to a 36-page issue featuring current ministry stories and financial reports. This issue featured one Biblical Imperative — Worship, Grow, Witness, Give, Serve, or Care — a year from 1989 to 1994 and drew stories from North America and overseas to demonstrate how Christians grew as they responded to the Biblical Imperatives.

Many pastors used these issues to introduce new members to the N.A.B. Conference. Others used them as an educational piece with their church boards or missions committees. Other churches used it to determine if the N.A.B. Conference was a Conference they would want to join.

A reader from Edmonton, AB, wrote that he, "most of all, appreciated the special issues because they gave a report on all the Conference ministries and goals." Others expressed appreciation for the Conference membership and financial statistics printed there. It was important to the editor to relate to the readers where the contributions

came from and how they were used.

■ **Theme issues** featured mission fields, hospital and military chaplains, or church planting. One year, a 22" by 17" fold out center-spread depicted missions and ministries in North America.

In 1987, the Missions Board developed "A Philosophy of Missions." As a result, the September 1988 issue of the *Baptist Herald* provided 16 discussion articles on each of the points of the philosophy. This was reprinted to use as a study guide for adult Sunday school classes or small groups in the church.

Educational Series

■ **Statement of Beliefs.** The November 1982 issue of the *Baptist Herald* reported the following: "In a spirit of unity and prayer, the 1,004 delegates representing 366 N.A.B. churches conducted the business of the North American Baptist Conference during its 40th Triennial Conference in Niagara Falls, NY, in August with almost unanimous decisions. In what was considered could be a divisive subject in 1979 at the 39th Triennial Conference (in Bismarck, ND), the exact opposite happened. The adoption of the 'Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference' came to be an extremely unifying force."

Moderator Peter Fehr pointed out that the "Statement of Beliefs" was drawn up by the Baptist Beliefs Committee consisting of 21 representatives, one from each association, with the Conference moderator as chair and the executive direc-

tor (John Binder) also on the Committee. This Committee received input from the 21 associations, after the statement was drawn up.

During the next two years, a study guide on each "Statement of Beliefs" was printed in the *Baptist Herald* with Dr. David Priestley and Dr. Stanley Grenz alternating as authors. This series was later printed in booklet form and is still available to individuals and churches for group study.

Each year in the special issue, a condensation of "Statement of Beliefs" appeared. Readers wrote: "We appreciated the emphasis on Baptist beliefs and articles on why I am a Baptist explaining to new members why and what Baptists do locally and internationally."

■ **Baptist Distinctives.** An article, "Isaac Backus and the Baptists' Struggle for Religious Liberty" by Stanley Grenz stated: "God had not called Baptists merely to settle down as a respected denomination among the American churches, but rather to continue to champion the cause for which they had fought for two centuries, the cause of religious liberty for all. Only total disestablishment; that is, the separation of church and state, would give the Baptists what Backus saw as their natural, legal, and Christian rights . . . Partly due to his efforts, the U.S. Constitution included a Bill of Rights guaranteeing religious liberty and forbidding Congress from establishing a national religion. Religious taxation (to the established churches) ended 27 years later."

1980-1995 Of, By, & For N.A.B.s

■ **Biblical Imperatives.** Five Biblical Imperatives were adopted by Triennial Conference delegates in 1985 in Anaheim, CA. During the next three years, small groups met across the Conference and added a sixth. These became the foundation for *Vision 2000* adopted in 1988 in Calgary, AB. Each year from 1988 through 1994, thought-provoking articles on the six Biblical Imperatives supported the emphasis for the year. "We liked reading about changes with regard to worship services throughout our many N.A.B. churches." "I liked the features of churches who were dying and who changed their emphasis and now are growing; our church was one of these," wrote a reader.

In connection with the emphasis on the Biblical Imperative to Grow, a series on spiritual disciplines with discussion questions appeared over a year and a half in the *Baptist Herald*. Twelve authors provided the articles. Readers wrote: "The articles on spiritual growth are excellent."

■ **Disciple Making.** In the fall of 1994 and through 1995, articles featuring churches in Canada with discipling strategies and interviews with pastors and Conference personnel were published. Missionaries continued to write about their discipling ministries.

Readers have said they appreciated "... articles on discipleship and Christian living." "I enjoyed some of the new ideas churches have and are using in their discipleship ministry."

■ **Personal Problems.** In 1988, Marvin Faust provided articles of help on subjects, such as "Assessing Suicide Potential" and "Depression."

In 1987-88, Dr. J. Walter Goltz provided a series, "Forging Family Intimacy," in which he talked about how marriages are strengthened or weakened.

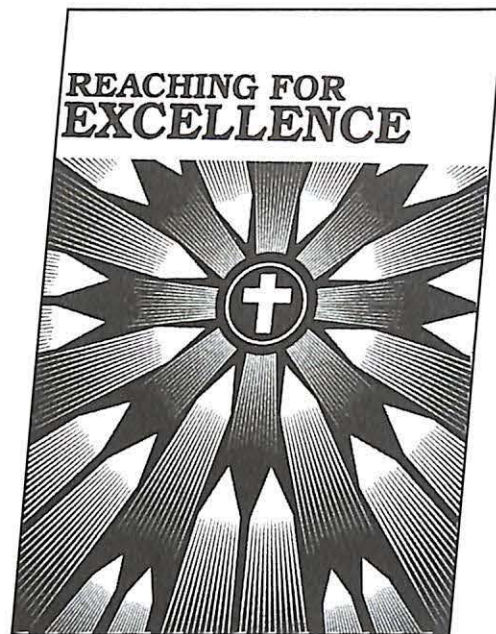
Fascinating Interviews

Interviewing pastors, area ministers, and laypersons served to be an exciting aspect of this editor's ministry. One early interview that drew mixed reaction was that of the area ministers concerning church and pastor relations. A few pastors called and said: "You pulled the rug out from under me." Laypeople wrote stating the interview was excellent, relevant, and on target.

Some early interviews included Bruce Merrifield, then pastor of Park Meadows Baptist Church in Lethbridge, AB, about their church planting philosophy; Don Gansstrom, acting church planting director; Barbara Kieper concerning the village health ministry on the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria; and later, Marty and Cathay Wagantall, a church planting team in Lloydminster, AB.

In another interview, five pastors serving as Church Extension Chairs in their associations answered the question: Why is your Association involved in church extension? Leon Bill of the South Dakota Association answered: "We have a responsibility to Christ to be His witnesses. Church Extension is one way of fulfilling His command to make disciples."

Most recently, the editor interviewed Bob Walther, Bill Gould, and Marlin Mohrmann and heard their excitement about the possibilities of rural church planting. In another interview this year, Executive Director Phil Yntema and Home Missions Director Jim Fann talked about their vision for a renewed emphasis for our Conference: Making Disciple Makers.



Reaching for Excellence

■ Another leap forward in the life of the Conference came with the adoption of the Long-Range Plans (at the Triennial Conference in 1982). As a beginning point, the Long-Range Planning Committee had wrestled with values: "Why do we exist as an N.A.B. Conference?" "To whom do we minister, and why?" Through this planning, values evolved relating to the churches, the individuals in N.A.B. churches, pastors, and church staff, associations/Conference, Conference staff, finances, and humanity. Objectives to meet the goals that were related to the seven values in the plans supported the purpose of the Conference: "To glorify God and advance His Kingdom through the cooperative ministries and fellowship of Conference churches."

■ Through 1983, we provided "Der Sendbote" as an eight-page German insert for about 1,000 of the *Baptist Herald* subscribers. We are deeply grateful to Ilse Mollenhauer, who in addition to her full-time responsibility as secretary to the Executive Director, assumed the responsibility



Ilse Mollenhauer

of editing "Der Sendbote" from the end of 1980 to 1983. When she resigned as editor of "Der Sendbote," due to a heavy workload, she graciously consented to edit a substitute four-page insert, "Botschaft und Nachrichten." This publication was discontinued later following a survey that revealed that only 200 to 300 subscribers could not read English. It was deemed a cost-cutting measure. This was a traumatic time for the subscribers as well as for those of us who edited and published it.

We empathized with the German-reading constituency and their loss.



Vision 2000 special issue

■ The 150th anniversary of the N.A.B. Conference and *Vision 2000* Witness (emphasis) in the July / August 1991 issue of *Baptist Herald* is a masterpiece!" wrote a subscriber. "Congratulations! Excellent pictures and reports about all members of our N.A.B. family! *Vision 2000* is a challenge

we will accept because we have a great God. Working together as we witness, grow, serve, give, and care, we will continue toward that goal God has planned for us. I loved the 35 pages of history through the time line ... I praise God ... and I appreciate the many prayers God has answered."

The special *Vision 2000* issue "covered every aspect of our Conference. It gave us insight into what's happening now and goals for the future."



Florinda Serafin

■ "We enjoyed the testimonies of people who experienced problems or lack of faith, then overcame them with faith and God's wonderful love. He always keeps His promises." "Testimonies by many within our Conference have helped to strengthen me as a Christian."

One of the articles read: "Doctors diagnosed her case as 'Throat cancer' and declared her incurable. ... the whole church was there, crying and praying, 'not expecting to see me alive again,'" said Florinda Serafin (pictured), now a national missionary in Brazil. "I felt not only my pain, but the pain of the entire church, but I tried to encourage them and to remain always happy in spite of my condition. Through my illness, two doctors, one doc-

tor's wife and his son, and five members of my own family were saved, including my mom and dad! The thing I wanted most in the world was to see my parents converted, and this blessing God gave me!"



Harold Johns

■ The *Baptist Herald* included tributes to Conference workers. One of the tributes was to Harold Johns, a layman: "His most important leadership assignments were as chair of

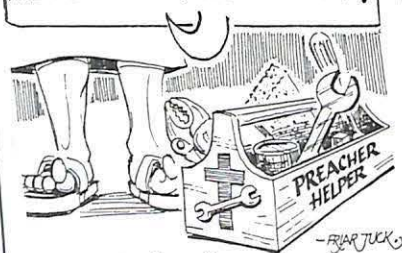


Triennial Conference Pressroom.

the Board of Trustees of the Publication Society, concerned with all Conference literature; as chair of the Pension Fund Committee, concerned with the need of pastors and pastors' widows; and as chair of the Committee on Constitutional Changes, concerned with N.A.B. Conference policies." — Frank Woyke

■ It was the responsibility of the *Baptist Herald* editor to promote and report on Triennial Conferences. One note of appreciation read: "I express my sincere appreciation for the excellent job you (and your staff) did in the pressroom during the Triennial Conference. I appreciate the high quality, variety of content, and comprehensive coverage of Conference activity you provide for us through the *Baptist Herald*. You have always and are doing a great job!"

AFTER THE LAST HYMN,
WILL ALL THOSE WITH LEAKY FAUCETS,
RUNNING TOILETS,
AND LOW WATER PRESSURE
PLEASE LINE UP IN THE NARTHEX!



In the future,
many clergy may
need to be bivocational!

"Lyle Schaller's writings were always interesting and gave focus on possibilities for small rural churches." "Schaller's articles help the local church consider changes that will challenge vision to draw new people to church."

■ Pastors called to request more copies of the *Baptist Herald* in which "Ministering in the 90s" by Lyle Schaller was published. One wrote: "I appreciate that the Schaller articles are in the *Baptist Herald* so laypersons can be prepared by reading them for new ideas."



President Hiatt with N.A.B. Seminary students

■ Until recently, the January/February issues featured graduating seniors from the N.A.B. Seminary and Edmonton Baptist Seminary as well as articles by professors, presidents, and students on the schools and how the schools focused on the Biblical Imperatives. Graduates stated their Vision for Ministry.



Temple youth "Feed Their Faith"

■ This past year, we introduced the "Youth News" page. "The *Baptist Herald* gave us encouragement because we read of young people walking down the right road." "It was such a joy to read the 'Youth News' to hear how many young people went to help where they were needed."



■ "Creative ministries in individual churches," were interesting wrote some readers. "For example, 'Sunday Evenings in Sioux Falls Church ...' for outreach and discipling."



Dorene Walth

■ The Women's Missionary Fellowship faithfully provided two pages in each issue. From 1980, five different W.M.F. presidents — Sara Pasiciel, Dorene Walth, Manetta Hohn, Nancy Lennick, and Pam Arends — as well as the W.M.F. "editors" wrote.

■ "We enjoyed the testimonies of people who experienced



problems or lack of faith, then overcame them with faith and God's wonderful love. He always keeps His promises." "Testimonies by many within our Conference have helped to strengthen me as a Christian."

"Practical topics related to Christian living, such as 'Ways to Help the Hurting,' and 'Parenting' have helped us." "Articles like '40 Secrets to a Better Marriage' made an impact on our lives."

"Articles on different topics covering problems we face in our daily living and God's answers to them encouraged us."

Sometime ago, the article by Verda Schalm relating her pilgrimage following the sudden death of her husband Bernard helped many. Dr. Daniel Leininger's articles told of his experiences in articles such as, "When a Mother Dies," and offered help in "Is It Time for a Family Council?", which explained how a family council can put an end to the war between parents and children.

Most recently, Dr. Frank Veninga's article on loneliness drew a large response. Readers wrote that they became more caring and alert to the needs of others as a result of this article.

In other articles, pastors opened their hearts revealing the hurts over failed church planting projects or over the fact that they were "churchless pastors."

Other readers appreciated the articles dealing with current issues, for example, child abuse, divorce, abortion, single parenting, or pornography."



Dr. Peter Fehr at General Council.

■ Reports of General Council, Board, and Committee actions were published. For example, the General Council approved a new N.A.B. organizational structure, effective July 1981, of five departments: Missions, Church Extension/Church Growth (1982), (the proposed name change was to Home Missions, but the Atlantic and Alberta representatives initiated considerable discussion that opposed this name), Area Ministries, Development, and Financial Services.

In 1994, the Triennial Conference delegates voted to separate the Bylaws from the Constitution giving permission to the General Council to act on the Bylaws.

"We appreciated reading about Conference happenings, current decisions, and meeting highlights, e.g., General Council News as in the July/August 1995 issue."



■ "Stories about how people have become Christians and stories about how a Christian has made an impact on another person — whether to influence them to accept Christ or to challenge them to do and try great things for Christ meant a lot to us." "It was especially interesting to hear of people accepting the Lord Jesus Christ and being baptized." "We appreciated reading news of

how churches and pastors used new methods to witness."



■ God's Volunteers and later New Day provided many service opportunities for youth in personal witnessing, evangelistic services, drama, and music. Their reports appeared in the *Baptist Herald* regularly. One emphasized the family: "New Day draws a real picture of the family through a musical drama, 'Home Again: Portrait of a Family' ... The importance we put on the family unit now will determine what our families will be like for generations to come," wrote John Kiemele and Connie Kaiser.



■ International mission news and articles revealed struggles and

progress — spiritual growth in Christians' lives and the struggles of others to come to the point of accepting Christ. Readers wrote: "The articles are more indepth than simple news bits. Maps are included in the special issues." "I appreciated information about our missionaries. For our monthly WMF programs, I used the *Baptist Herald* as a source of information." "Missionary reports helped us understand the adjustments to be made, and we prayed more personally and intelligently for them." "We appreciated special reports by our ministers who taught classes to seminary students in Russia."



■ "Being a part of a church plant, we enjoyed reading up on other church plants as well as the established churches."



■ The *Baptist Herald* provided news about "Intercultural ministries, inner-city missions, and multicultural outreach in our Conference churches that we would not otherwise know."



■ News about Baptists in other parts of the world, Baptist World Congresses, and "news about the needs and then to read how Baptist World Aid helped in various places around the world."



■ What's Happening, In Memoriam, Biblical Imperatives in Action, and Church News were among the first read.

A Chapter Is Closed

"The *Baptist Herald* has been a connecting and informative link with the Conference, its activities, people, programs, and churches."

"We have enjoyed the diversity of the *Baptist Herald*. Sorry to see it go."

"Thank you for the *Baptist Herald* — our best source of current information about the Conference and many areas of concern to the church today."

This chapter in the history of the N.A.B. Conference — the *Baptist Herald* — is closed; now a new one begins in the life of the Conference publications' ministry. □

A Heart Full of Gratitude

I am grateful to God for His faithfulness, His wisdom and strength, and to all of you who faithfully wrote articles, sent photos, gave leads for news items or ideas for news articles, promoted the *Baptist Herald*, subscribed to the *Baptist Herald*, prayed for the staff and me, and sent or called in words of encouragement. Your participation in so many ways was invaluable.

I'm grateful for competent, dedicated support staff over the years: Ruth Hunter, Gwen Dickau, Ann Johnson, Nancy Shawl, Kim Dillard, Gloria Baumgartner, Marilyn Schneider, Amie (Gray) Liebenow, Jean Gingrich, Phyllis Hill, Dorothy Eisaman, and Holly Fann. Some served several years, some eight or nine. These people worked for both the editor of *Moments with God* and me. They made our responsibilities enjoyable. We were a team; that made the difference. Some even accompanied us to the Triennial Conference, where they worked diligently in the pressroom.

Also, I deeply appreciate the working relationship and service of the people at Dickinson Press in Grand Rapids, MI, and its President Vern DeWeerd. They provided excellent quality and service at low cost in a true Christian spirit. A special thank you to graphics designer, Joyce Wagner of Rockford, MI.

To all of you, *Thanks so much!* —Barbara J. Binder

It was Good Friday 1966 that Martin L. Leuschner entered the hospital with back pain. It was also the day my husband, John, left the hospital — alive and healthy — having survived viral myocarditis. A month earlier, I had been told that John would not live. The prayers of N.A.B.s across the continent and the healing power of God restored him to health and to an even greater desire to serve the Lord.

In May 1966, the Rev. Eldon Janzen, manager of Roger Williams Press, and Dr. Frank H. Woyke, Conference executive director, contacted me to ask if I would serve as editor of the *Baptist Herald*, while Dr. Leuschner was in the hospital.

Although in awe of Dr. Leuschner and feeling inadequate, I agreed. Little did we know that Dr. Leuschner would never return to edit the *Baptist Herald*. It was discovered that he had a malignant tumor at the base of his spine; surgery left him paralyzed. So from May 1966 through October 1967, I served as acting editor.

Exciting, challenging, trying to walk in the footsteps of Martin Leuschner, yet I needed to carve out my own editorial style. At the time, the *Baptist Herald* was a bi-weekly publication — 24 pages — deadlines constant. The *Baptist Herald* went with our family everywhere.

With the help of Viola Wahl Nelson (Rasmussen), Dr. Leuschner's secretary, the manuscripts were sent to a printer in Newton, KS, where the copy was typeset. They returned the galleys to me for proofreading and layout. Following the return to Newton, page proofs came back to me, and then back to Newton. The next time we saw it; it was the magazine.

The excitement of printing church and mission news and choosing feature articles, as well as

the luxury of Conference personnel writing the editorials . . . this was fulfilling.

On Nov. 22, 1966, I put off going to the hospital to finish the layout and package the *Baptist Herald* for shipment to the printer. Then I dropped the package off at the Oak Park Post Office on my way to the hospital. Douglas John was born one hour later! Five days later, we returned home to find the page proofs waiting for us.

The summer of 1967 included reporting on the Triennial Conference held in Detroit. A new editor was appointed, and his first issue appeared in November 1967.

About 10 years later toward the end of 1976, Dr. Bruno Schreiber, who had become Communications Assistant in 1960, took semi-retirement. Dr. Reinhold Kerstan, then Editor of German and English Publications, asked me to assume the other part of Bruno's responsibilities. Bruno continued editing *Moments with God* and providing book reviews and "Chuckles with Bruno" for the *Baptist Herald*. Ruth Job Hunter, secretary, fluent in German and English, and Lois Vanderpool, in subscription fulfillment, graciously supported us. I served in this capacity until early 1979.

In September 1980, Dr. Reinhold Kerstan accepted the call to become Communications and Study/Research Director for the Baptist World Alliance. With his knowledge of various languages, his vibrant spirit, and love of visiting other countries and people, this provided a new challenge for him.

Meanwhile, Dr. Connie Salios, development director, searched for someone with a seminary degree and an English or Journalism degree to succeed Dr. Kerstan. During this time, I was asked to work full-time "temporary." This "temporary" position lasted through Dec. 31, 1982.

On Jan. 1, 1983, I was called to the position of Associate Director/Editor *Baptist Herald*. I recall my husband saying that I could accept or reject this position, but that I needed to know that he could not "go to bat for me" as he would someone else because of nepotism. "You are responsible to your Department Director!" That I understood. Over the years this included Dr. Connie Salios, Walter Swanson, and Dr. Lewis Petrie. I appreciated the support of the International Office staff as well as the "freedom of the press."

Subscription fulfillment had been outsourced in the latter 1970s. Subscribers and staff struggled in adjusting to this change. Vicki Crawford served as the liaison between the subscribers and the outsourcing company.

In 1980, subscription fulfillment was brought back to the International Office with the purchase of a new computer. Ann Johnson was employed, and Steve Pace programmed the system and later Al Keller.

In 1991, the Office purchased a new computer system with new programs. The publications personnel went through the agony and challenge of a subscription fulfillment system insufficiently programmed due to lack of financial resources to meet our needs. Phyllis Hill graciously "stuck with" subscriptions fulfillment.

October 1995 closed my ministry through the N.A.B. Conference International Office. I pray that you, as individuals and churches, will continue to grow, seek unity through Christ, and experience spiritual growth and joy in serving the Lord through our N.A.B. Conference churches. —Barbara J. Binder

REMEMBERING

The Baptist Herald touched lives

Schilkes meet through the Baptist Herald



I feel fortunate to have been born into a North American Baptist Conference church family near Corona, South Dakota. During my growing-up years, the *Baptist Herald* was one of the few periodicals in our home. All of us read it with much interest. It kept us connected to other N.A.B. churches and to the mission work of our Conference. Little did I realize what an impact this "habit" would have on my whole life. Here's how it happened.

Following the death of my young husband, Harold Bleeker, as the result of a farm accident in 1940, I wondered how my grief and loss and the comfort and strength that I found in my faith and my Heavenly Father's provision could be put to some use for God's glory and to help others in similar circumstances. So I began to watch the weekly community newspapers for such accounts and write letters to these families, expressing my sympathy and concern and pointing them to the Lord.

About this time in 1941, the Rev. Richard Schilke and his wife Annette were serving First Baptist Church in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Annette died in childbirth on their second wedding anniversary. Their infant was not delivered and also died. Subsequent to this tragedy, there was a report of it — guess where? — in the *Baptist Herald*! When I read it, it really touched my heart, so I wrote to him as I had done to many others.

He answered my letter, and we were pen-pals for almost a year before we met personally in the summer of 1942. Following a brief courtship, we were married on Nov. 28, 1942. It has been our privilege to serve together in our Conference for 53 years — in three churches that we pastored, then for almost 29 years in the N.A.B. Missions Department, and now in Forest Park Baptist Church in our retirement years. We have four adult children and seven grandchildren.

God has been very good to us. We are grateful that the *Baptist Herald* brought us together. We will miss our paper — our friend — a lot, and truly wish there could have been another way. We send our greetings, love, and prayers to all of you. — *Kay Schilke, Oak Park, IL* □

Our courtship began through Baptist Herald

It was raining that evening in Washburn, ND, and leaving work, Ruby Wolf had about a mile to walk home. Along came Earl Aipperspach, who offered her a ride. Earl was from Cathay, ND, and worked with a construction team in Fessenden. His work had brought him to Washburn, where Ruby was working.

Earl and Ruby had met before, but this evening something was different. He noticed that in the mail that she was carrying the *Baptist Herald*.

"Oh, I see you read the *Baptist Herald*," he said. "I do, too. Are you a Baptist?" "Yes," said Ruby. We found that we had a lot in common Ruby recalls. That began a friendship that eventually blossomed into marriage.

The Aipperspachs live in Lennox, South Dakota, and are members of First Baptist Church in Chancellor. □

Rutsch finds church through Baptist Herald

I was in the Navy for nearly 20 years. All these years, I enjoyed the *Baptist Herald* because I was able to keep up with what the N.A.B. churches were doing around the country. I was never stationed in a location where an N.A.B. church was located, so it was nice (to have the *Baptist Herald*), since I grew up in N.A.B. churches.

Now that I am out of the Navy, I found our church because of the *Baptist Herald*. An article was in there . . . and praise the Lord . . . it was a church close to our new home. I will miss the *Baptist Herald*. — *Arno Rutsch, Golden Valley, MN* □

You should know me; I read the Herald!



Laura Reddig

Ed and Verna Michelson had been appointed as missionaries to Cameroon. "We attended the Dakota Conference along

with Missionary Laura Reddig," recalls Verna. "We spent every moment we could together with her between sessions to get information and advice concerning Cameroon and being missionaries there."

One day while talking and walking together, someone came up to us and said to Laura, "Do you know me?" She replied, "No, I do not." He then said, "You should

know about me as I read all about you in the *Baptist Herald*."

Laura replied, "I'm glad you read the *Baptist Herald* and about the missionaries and their work, but I am sorry I just don't know everyone who reads about me in the *Baptist Herald* as I haven't met them all face to face." — *Verna Michelson, Denver, CO* □

A young Baptist Herald enthusiast



Sharlene Mueller of Winnipeg, Manitoba, says when she is reading a magazine she asks her daughter Allison to get one, too. Every time, Allison will

pick the *Baptist Herald*. How is that for starting young?

Allison is the granddaughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Ed Hohn of Richmond, British Columbia. □

Growing with the Herald

I was a new bride some 35 years ago, when we first received the *Baptist Herald*. Being a new Christian, as well, I found it tough going to plow through it.

Through the years, the magazine improved with more pertinent arti-

cles, pictures, and illustrations. I grew to know the missionaries and where they worked. This became news about people and places I knew personally. — *Norma Bergstresser, Morris, MB* □

Two editors leave International Office

Barbara Binder concluded her publications ministry as Associate Director/Editor of the *Baptist Herald* at the N.A.B. Conference International Office in October 1995. Her training, experience, and love for the ministries of the Conference ably equipped her for her task.

Barbara's roots go deep into the life of the Conference. Her great-grandfather Christian Weisser was instrumental in planting churches in South Dakota, Oregon, and Alberta. Her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Weisser, served Calvary Baptist Church near Stafford, KS, where she was born, as well as churches in the Dakotas and Connecticut.

Barbara is a true North American Baptist through and through. Her love for the ministries of the Conference has been evidenced all of the years I have known her.

She served as interim editor of the *Baptist Herald* during Dr. Martin Leuschner's illness in 1966 and 1967 and again in 1980 through 1982 following Dr. Reinhold Kerstan's resignation to accept a position with the Baptist World Alliance.

In 1983, she became Associate Director/Editor of the *Baptist Herald* in the Development Department and served until October 1995. In addition to the *Baptist Herald*, her various responsibilities included writing and/or editing "N.A.B. News," "Missions Digest," *Association and Conference Report Books*, bulletin messages, the *N.A.B. Directory*, some *Vision 2000* materials, as well as some direct mail fundraising pieces.

Barbara Binder Concludes Ministry at Conference Office

by Connie Salios



Barbara Binder

Almost any publication or piece provided by the Conference from 1976 to early 1979, when she served as assistant editor for the *Baptist Herald*, Barbara has had a hand either in writing or editing. She is an excellent editor. Her expertise has been demonstrated through the *Baptist Herald* for almost 20 years. She paid fierce attention to detail and has made certain that she was accurate in whatever she was responsible for writing and publishing.

She served as Publicity Committee Chair and Conference newsletter editor for five Triennial Conferences from 1982 to 1994.

Barbara deserves a "well done" for the tremendous job she has done.

Following her graduation from N.A.B. Seminary in 1960, she married the Rev. John Binder, and they moved to Forest Park, IL.

She authored several junior camping books and a number of CBYF yearly theme books.

Barbara has served faithfully in her local church, First Baptist Church of Bellwood, IL, in a number of capacities. Her specialty was working with children and youth and representing the mission work of the Conference. She told the story so well that First Baptist Church has been one of the most generous of our churches in supporting the mission and ministry of the Conference.

Barbara is a gifted lady. She is not only a good editor but is able to put together a good speech and deliver it in a meaningful and exuberant manner. Her staff commends her for her help and encouragement in developing their abilities. She has, as long as I have worked with her, had a sense for fundraising and was always aware that funds needed to be raised to accomplish the annual ministry goals of the Conference.

Barbara, we salute you for performing sometimes difficult tasks very ably, and we wish God's blessing and direction for your future ministry and life. □

Dr. Connie Salios, former development director, presently serves as associate director/ Estate Planning.

After 28 years of ministry in various departments, Dorothy Ganoung retired Sept. 30, 1995, from her ministry at the N.A.B. Conference International Office. She and her husband, Don, have moved to Kerrville, Texas, to retire. She will continue part-time in the Development Department editing "Opening Doors Through Prayer," the new publication, that replaces *Moments With God*.

Moments With God began publication in 1965 with the Rev. Bruno Schreiber as editor. Following Schreiber's retirement in 1980, Dorothy transferred to the Development Department where she succeeded him as editor of *Moments With God*. After 30 years, *Moments With God* ceased publication with the final October-December quarter of 1995.

In the quiet of the morning before office hours officially began, Dorothy would be in her office reading, researching, and recording. Her faithful ministry resulted in contributions to numerous publications, Christian literature, and programs that she skillfully edited. Churches, pastors, and individuals have been recipients of her insight and talent.

Letters reveal the impact of her work: "Thank you for the part you share in *Moments With God*. These timely messages tune us into new beginnings each day." "Thank you for your effort of assembling these beautiful and meaningful devotions helping to bring us closer to God." "I look forward to the devotions and find them so refreshing."



Without the support staff for the publications, it would have been impossible to produce all the publications that Dorothy Ganoung and Barbara Binder edited. We thank the support staff from the past as well as the present staff who are (l. to r.) Dorothy Eisaman, desktop publishing; Jean Gingrich, N.A.B. Directory, and proofreader; Holly Fann, assistant to the editors; and Phyllis Hill, subscriptions fulfillment.

Dorothy Ganoung Retires as Editor



Dorothy Ganoung

In addition, she edited "Chaplain's Newsletter," "Stimulus," "N.A.B. Link" (for pastors and church staff), *Association, General Council, and Triennial Conference Minutes Report Book* (1984-95),

Vacation Bible School Missionary Stories, edited *They Gave Themselves First* by David Draewell, and assisted in editing *Vision 2000* material.

Dorothy (Pritzkau) was born in Napoleon, ND, and her home church was Napoleon Baptist Church. After graduating from North American Baptist Seminary in 1961, she served as Director of Christian Education at the Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, Iowa. On Sept. 1, 1967, she accepted the call to the newly created position of Editor of Christian Education Literature in the Christian Education Department at the N.A.B. International Office.

Dorothy's faith in God is manifested in calmness and confidence. Fellow workers could always count on her gentle, sweet spirit. The topic in one of her chapel messages at the International Conference office was "Warm Fuzzies" — giving a compliment to a fellow worker. To nurture and build up a person is important to Dorothy and that was evident in her personal relationships and in publications she edited. She is also gifted with a beautiful voice and shared a message in song from time to time.

Dorothy will be missed by her coworkers at the International Office and by others that she worked with through correspondence, but everyone wishes Dorothy and Don Ganoung God's blessing in retirement as they continue to serve Him in new capacities. — Joyce Kells, development department secretary □

Ministerial Changes

■ **The Rev. Barry Thiessen** to senior pastor, McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB, effective June 25, 1995.

■ **The Rev. Keith Heyn** from pastor, First Baptist Church, Underwood, ND, to senior pastor of a Conservative Baptist church in Plainwell, MI, effective Oct. 15, 1995.

■ **The Rev. Robert Burkle** from pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Corn, OK, effective Oct. 1, 1995.

■ **The Rev. Milton Zeeb** to interim pastor, First Baptist Church, George, IA, effective September 1995.

■ **The Rev. Kent Hinkel** to associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Minot, ND. He is a 1994 graduate of N.A.B. Seminary.

■ **The Rev. David Zimbelman** from pastor, Carbon Baptist Church, Carbon, AB, to pastor, Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, effective September 1995.

■ **Mr. Harold Mindeman** to pastor, Napoleon Baptist Church, Napoleon, ND, and Lehr Ebenezer, Lehr, ND, effective September 1995.

■ **Mr. Darryl McAuley** to pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Jansen, SK.

■ **Dr. David Mitchell** from pastor, First Baptist, Lodi, CA, effective Oct. 8, 1995, to a non-N.A.B. church in California.

■ **Mr. Allen Finger** from pastor, Isabel Baptist Church, Isabel, SD, to pastor, First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND, effective November 1995.

■ **The Rev. Dave Follack** to interim pastor, Steele Heights Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, effective September 1995.

■ **Mr. John Stone** to associate pastor of youth, Valley Community Baptist Church, Tracy, CA, effective September 1995.

■ **The Rev. Mike Lueken** from co-pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Racine, WI, to begin ministry with the Rev. Kent Carlson, pastor, Oak Hills Baptist Church, Folsom, CA, for 12 months in an "impact church model," effective Nov. 1, 1995. After 12 months, Mike and Julie Lueken plan to start a new church in Stanford Ranch, CA, with a core group from Oak Hills Baptist.

■ **Dr. Sam Berg** resigned as Interim Area Minister for the Eastern Association effective Aug. 31, 1995, to assume a teaching position in the counselling department of the Briercrest Biblical Seminary, Caronport, SK.

■ **The Rev. Harold and Mrs. Ruth Weiss** rejoice for the privilege of having served as chaplain and volunteer at the Evergreen Baptist Home in White Rock, BC, for seven and a half years and have retired from this position. They will remain in the Lower Mainland area of British Columbia and will be available for volunteer ministries.

■ **The Rev. Larry Neufeld** to serve as the Northwest Area Minister effective Nov. 1, 1995. Neufeld has served as pastor of Northside (Hillcrest) Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, and at Hollywood Baptist Church, Boring, OR; as church planter pastor, Timberline Baptist Church, Lacey, WA, and Cascade Baptist Fellowship, Federal Way, WA.

In accepting the position Neufeld said, "One of the more compelling reasons I found to accept this position was the summary of the vision statement in the *Baptist Herald* which stated the role of the area minister is "... to ensure the health and success of local churches, pastors, and associations."

■ **The Rev. Howard Anderson** to pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND, effective Sept. 3, 1995.

■ **The Rev. Albert Luesink** to senior pastor, Creston Baptist Church, Creston, BC, effective September 1995.

■ **The Rev. Ray Kapp** to pastor, Berlin Baptist Church, Fredonia, N.D.

■ **Mr. Don DenHartog** to pastor, New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, N.D.

■ **Mr. Michael Beach** to youth director, Riveria Baptist Church, Salem, OR.

Degree Granted

■ **The Rev. Lyle A. Richards**, senior pastor, Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB, received the Doctor of Ministry degree from N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, May 20, 1995. His project was "Development of a Conciliation Program for the Local Church." A recognition service was held on June 18,

1995, at Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, with the Rev. Ron Berg, Alberta area minister, giving the message.

Ordination

■ **The Rev. Rob Magwood**, associate pastor of discipleship and worship, Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church, St. Albert, AB, was ordained into the Christian ministry by Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church on Feb. 19, 1995. Pastor Rob, Kathleen, and son Jonathan will be leaving Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church December 31, to complete a year of language study in Kiev, Ukraine. They plan to serve as career missionaries with SEND INTERNATIONAL in Russia.

Faculty Appointments

■ **Dr. G. Michael Hagan** was inaugurated as Vice President for Academic Affairs on Sept. 7, 1995, at N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. He assumed this position on July 1. He began his teaching ministry at the Seminary in 1984 in Old Testament. Dr. Connie Salios delivered the inauguration message.

■ **Douglas McComiskey** is the new Assistant Professor of New Testament at N.A.B. Seminary. He came to Sioux Falls from Aberdeen, Scotland, where he was studying to complete his Ph.D. in New Testament. He earned his Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Much of Doug's ministry experience has been in Australia, where his role at Pingelly Baptist Church included Biblical teaching, preaching, pastoral care, and visitation. His wife, Robin, is a native of Australia.

■ **Steve Perry** is the new Library Director and Assistant Professor of Hebrew at N.A.B. Seminary. Steve came to N.A.B. Seminary from Dallas, TX, where he was the head of the technical services department for Turpin Library at Dallas Theological Seminary. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Foreign Language Education and his Master of Library Science from the University of Texas at Austin. His Master of Divinity is from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and his Master of Arts in Religion is from Eastern New Mexico University. Steve

has undergone much advanced study in Hebrew and has extensive experience in library science on the graduate level. Steve and his wife, Sandra, have four children.

NABC/EBS Dedicate New Building

On Oct. 15, 1995, the new Edmonton Baptist Seminary building complex, which includes a lecture theatre, *Jubilee Hall*, was dedicated. The Seminary building provides excellent administration, classroom, and student services space. The lecture theatre commemorates the 50th anniversary of NABC/EBS and provides exceptional classroom, chapel, drama, and recital accommodations for both the College and Seminary.

N.A.B. Students Increase by 55% at N.A.B. Seminary

In 1992, N.A.B. Seminary set a goal to increase by 10% each year the number of students from the N.A.B. Conference enrolling at N.A.B.S. This has been accomplished each year. This fall that goal was dramatically exceeded. As of Oct. 6, 1995, registration reports state that N.A.B. Conference students enrolling at the Seminary increased by 55% over last year. The number of N.A.B. Conference students in the Master of Divinity degree increased by 62%.

N.A.B. Seminary also set new records in total fall enrollment with 253 students, the highest in the history of the school. Full-time students totaled 121, an additional new record set.

Please join with N.A.B. Seminary in celebrating its record-breaking enrollment. Continue to challenge those of all ages to consider vocational ministry.

Klassen to Speak at Ministers' Family Conference

"Building Healthy Disciple Makers" is the theme of the Ministers' Family Conference to be held on the N.A.B. Seminary campus, July 30-Aug. 2, 1996. Dr. Ron Klassen, executive director for the Rural Home Missions Association, will be the keynote speaker. Timely workshops and activities for all family members will be offered.

This Conference promises to be a time of refreshment and re-tooling for N.A.B. pastors and their families. For more information, contact N.A.B. Seminary at (605) 336-6588 or the Home Missions Department, N.A.B. Conference Office at (708) 495-2000.

Webster to Offer Expertise at Youth Leadership Forum

Refreshing worship and dynamic interactions are what you will find at the third annual Youth Leadership Forum to be held on the campus of N.A.B. Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, Jan. 19-20, 1996. Youth workers from all over North America will interact with one of the nation's top ministers to students: Dan Webster.

The Youth Leadership Forum is organized by First Priority of Sioux Falls, a multi-denominational network of churches. First Priority unites, encourages, and prays for youth ministers;

combines the church youth ministry resources of Sioux Falls to reach teenagers for Christ; and partners with N.A.B. Seminary to offer comprehensive youth ministry training.

Anniversaries

■ **The Rev. and Mrs. Milton Falkenberg** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 30, 1995. The Falkenbergs served N.A.B. Conference churches in Manitoba, North Dakota, and Colorado.

■ **Immanuel Baptist Church**, Brookfield, WI, celebrated its 140th anniversary on Sunday morning, November 12, 1995, followed by a dinner and program. The Rev. Fred Blue is the interim pastor.

■ **First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA**, celebrated its 90th anniversary on November 19, 1995.

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Announces its **Centennial** and gives a general invitation. A weekend recognizing God's faithfulness in the ministries of Salt Creek Baptist for the past 100 years is set for **July 19-21, 1996**.

If interested in information regarding plans for the weekend, you may write, or call (503) 623-2976

Ruth Buhler
Centennial Anniversary Chair

First Baptist Church

Fessenden, North Dakota

invites former members and friends to its

Centennial Observance
June 22-23, 1996.

*For more information, contact Pastor Oliver Bender
111 6th Ave. N., Fessenden, ND 58438
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Letters

I want to personally thank you for your exceptional work on the *Baptist Herald* over the years. As a General Council member . . . the decision to cease its publication was not an easy one to make . . . Our decision affected more than a monthly magazine, but also the lives of Conference personnel who have labored faithfully month after month to bring us a quality communication vehicle for North American Baptists . . . All of us appreciated the skill and talent it took to provide us with the *Baptist Herald* each month.

Thank you for your ministry to all of us. We appreciate your dedication and service to the Lord, the Conference, and to many North American Baptists throughout the

U.S.A. and Canada. — *Steve Opp, General Council Representative, Central Pacific Association*

Thank you for the excellent job you have done of editing the *Baptist Herald*. It will be an old friend that is hard to say good-bye to. I (Elmer) have been a continuous subscriber since my early teens . . . for 49 years. We will certainly miss this publication with its mix of missions and N.A.B. family news, as well as its inspirational articles.

— *Elmer and Ellen Breitzkreuz, Edmonton, AB*

Your years of good editorship are appreciated and must certainly give you much satisfaction.

— *Reuben Kern, Sarnia, ON*

The *Baptist Herald* has blessed me because I know I am a part of an

important denomination that follows Biblical teachings. Information obtained in the *Herald* has taught me to be proud to be a North American Baptist because I have met so many wonderful Christian laypeople and pastors who have inspired me to grow in my own Christian life. — *Eleanor Quiring, Rochester, NY*

I was the reporter for the *Baptist Herald* beginning when we were members of First Baptist Church in Lodi, CA, then Swain Oaks Baptist (now Quail Lakes), and then when we came to Temple Baptist, I was asked to report for TBC. It was a delight to work with the various editors: Dr. Leuschner so long ago; Barbara Binder in the past years—always encouraging. — *Thelma Forsch Fischer, Lodi, CA*

I looked forward every month to receiving the *Baptist Herald*, and I will sure miss it. My scrap books are full of interesting items from the *Heralds*. I have been the publication agent for McDermot Ave. Baptist Church in Winnipeg for several years and rather than cut off some subscribers, I paid for their subscriptions. — *Mrs. Alice Parr, Winnipeg, MB*

I always read the *Baptist Herald* on the go with what seemed to be a hurried reading, but it still stirred my heart with the stories and articles. I will miss the *Herald*. It gave me current issues and family oriented stories. One publication that anyone could see. Thank you. — *Mr. and Mrs. Tom Haberl, East Amherst, NY*

Please accept my deep appreciation for the service you have so well rendered as editor. You have lifted the *Baptist Herald* from that of an ordinary publication to professional journalistic heights. Thanks! — *Frank Veninga, former president, N.A.B. Seminary, Minneapolis, MN*

Lyle Schaller series—ALWAYS meaningful. In-depth reporting, such as in the July/August issue: "Disciplemaking . . .," "Blessing of Belonging," "Faith of Our Fathers," and "Sunday Evenings Take on a . . ." The youth news was important. — *Betty Goding, Denver, CO*

We express our THANKS to the (*Baptist Herald*) staff for the magazine, which has been well laid out and is very interesting to read from month to month. — *Gerry and Ruth Luck, readers of the Baptist Herald for more than 25 years, Kelowna, BC*

Informing, well balanced and frequently inspiring articles about personal faith, pertinent social issues, and spiritual challenges in Christian life. News about missionaries and mission projects both at home and abroad. Love hearing "What's Happening" in the great network of God's kingdom. Excellent layout . . . a very visually pleasing and readable magazine. The *Herald* will be greatly missed in our household." — *Bradlee Gerrish, Snohomish, WA*

Thank you for being a servant of our loving God. You have been a "friend" to all of us through your faithful, dedicated service. Thank you for the years of ministry you have so lovingly done for us . . . — *Pastor Don Schmid, Harvey, ND*

My family has received the *Baptist Herald* and *Der Sendbote* for 100 years plus. — *Ron and Lillian Pinkel, Mauldin, SC*

My church (Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Newnan, GA) and I are relatively new to the N.A.B. Conference. I have really enjoyed ALL of the *Herald*, but I have DEPENDED on it to help us find ways to participate in N.A.B. Conference life. — *Rev. Winston Skinner, Newnan, GA*

Many thanks for your faithful service as editor of the *Baptist Herald*. I will truly miss the publication of this informative and inspirational magazine. — *Lil Sass, Edmonton, AB*

I have so enjoyed the *Baptist Herald* for years. There is some information that never finds its way to the general membership in the church. It has been a picture of God at work in our midst. — *Hildegard E. Wagner, Portland, OR*

I will miss this "ongoing history" of our denomination. I have taken the *Baptist Herald* for so many years and have kept specific issues that are very precious to me. Thank you for a JOB DONE VERY WELL! — *Erma Jean Krueger, Colfax, WA*

I considered the *Baptist Herald* a "denominational life-line," devoid of contemporary trash other monthlies are publishing. — *Erhard Knull, chaplain, Parma, OH*

For young people, the continued stories (when Dr. Leuschner edited) were an asset to their lives and mine as a young teacher in a German-speaking community. I remember "Beauty of Ashes." — *Maisie Pfaff (89), Fessenden, ND*

When I was nine, my mother got me started reading the *Baptist Herald*, and I've read every issue for the past 60 years. She told me not to read trashy books or magazines, but to enjoy the Christian novels that the *Baptist Herald* printed at that time, a chapter in each issue. They made an impact. I still recall some titles. — *Mavis Goehring, Lodi, CA*

The pictures and first hand information are so helpful to promote interest in praying and giving. Growing churches and what has helped to make this happen—

both new church starts as well as older established ones. Keeping in touch, remembering names and faces of people I have met through the years. — *Myrna Goodman, Crystal City, TX*

I liked the article recently "40 Secrets to a Good Marriage," and I (showed) this to a newly married couple. — *Barbara Kelley, Lodi, CA*

We appreciate the article that was written in the *Baptist Herald* about this new ministry, "CHAIN of Love," and all the pictures that you included with it. We had them up on the bulletin board, and the children could actually see who they were praying for and what the needs were. Thank you for doing this. — *Loren and Karen Unger, Olds, AB*

Congratulations on the excellent job you've done on the *Baptist Herald*! It has been . . .

- Pictorial
- Mission Building
- Conference/fellowship building— help to strengthen the family
- Instructive—like Lyle Schaller articles
- Current—updated from time to time
- Supportive of all Conference Ministries
- Affirmative, as different persons were able to share what God has done to them, with them, and through them.

I realize, too, that so much of your work depends on the creativity and cooperation of so many others. Thanks for your superintendence of so much of the Conference printed material. — *Dr. Ron Mayforth, Edmonton, AB* □

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR GRADUATES!



Sheryl Grunwald
Grace Baptist Church
Calgary, AB

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Sheryl graduated from Edmonton Baptist Seminary in the spring of 1995, and shortly thereafter joined the church staff of Grace Baptist Church in Calgary, AB, as Director of Christian Education. Sheryl is very gifted in this area of ministry and served in a similar capacity at Greenfield Baptist Church in Edmonton on a part-time basis during her last two years of studies at EBS. Sheryl, we're proud of you and pray for God's full blessing on you and your ministry at Grace.

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